



Action Document

for the Second Caribbean Regional Triologue

Integrated Approach for Sustainable
Ecosystem Management

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Contents

Acknowledgements	3
Opening Statements	6
1. Introduction	8
2. Key Messages	11
2.1 Mainstreaming nexus approaches to governance across the Caribbean is critical	11
2.2 Transformative change is not about scale but quality and direction of the change (its breadth, depth and dynamics)	13
2.3 Strategic re-directions are the foundations to move away from piecemeal conservation or donor-driven “project mode” towards sustained and systemic transformation	16
3. Planting the seeds of action	18
3.1 Regional thematic sets of actions	19
3.1.1 Blue Tourism	19
3.1.2 Food Security	21
3.1.3 Nature-based Solutions Scale-up	23
3.2 Country-level sets of actions	25
3.2.1 Antigua and Barbuda	25
3.2.2 Cuba	27
3.2.3 Dominica	29
3.2.4 Dominican Republic	31
3.2.5 Grenada	33
3.2.6 Guyana	35
3.2.7 Trinidad and Tobago	37
4. Conclusion	40
Annexes	42
Annex 1: List of participants	42
Annex 2: Agenda of the Triologue	46

List of Figures

Figure 1:	Summary of takeaways and windows of opportunity identified by the participants	10
Figure 2:	Response options' impacts on the five nexus elements of biodiversity, water, food, health and climate change	12
Figure 3:	Transformative change framework for a just and sustainable world	13
Figure 4:	The three interwoven dimensions of transformative change: views, structures and practices as the breadth of change	13
Figure 5:	The relations between the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and nature's decline, the five main challenges to transformative change and the direct drivers of biodiversity loss and nature's decline	14
Figure 6:	The challenges and related barriers to transformative change manifesting in different ecosystems and different geographies	15
Figure 7:	Strategic directions to advance transformative change and nexus approaches in the Caribbean based on the Second Caribbean Regional Trialogue	17

Opening Statements



Small Island Developing States face development challenges that are increasingly interconnected, spanning biodiversity, climate resilience, food and water security, and economic development. Addressing these challenges requires integrated approaches that consider multiple objectives and perspectives simultaneously.

The Second Caribbean Regional Trialogue provided a valuable opportunity for countries in the region to engage in dialogue on these issues. By bringing together policymakers, scientists, practitioners and community representatives, the Trialogue enabled shared reflection on how global evidence, including insights from IPBES assessments on nexus interactions and transformative change, can be considered within Caribbean planning and development contexts.

Holding the Trialogue in Trinidad and Tobago supported meaningful exchanges grounded in regional realities. The discussions highlighted the importance of coordination, collaboration and long-term thinking in shaping effective and inclusive responses. The outcomes of this process offer useful reference points for continued dialogue and cooperation, contributing to efforts to strengthen evidence-informed and integrated approaches to sustainable development across the Caribbean.

Ms. Candice Ramsaran

Deputy Permanent Secretary

Ministry of Planning, Economic Affairs and Development, Trinidad and Tobago



The importance of sound, evidence-informed approaches in addressing biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation is widely recognized. As countries navigate increasing environmental pressures alongside development priorities, access to credible knowledge and opportunities for exchange across sectors and regions remain essential.

The Second Caribbean Regional Trialogue offered a timely opportunity for such exchange. Bringing together participants from across the Caribbean, the Trialogue created a space to reflect on shared challenges and consider how findings from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) can be interpreted in diverse national and regional contexts.

Germany has supported the work of IPBES since its establishment and hosts its Secretariat in Bonn. Through the International Climate Initiative, Germany also supports initiatives such as the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net), which facilitate dialogue and learning across science, policy and practice.

This Trialogue reflects the outcomes of these exchanges and may serve as a useful reference for continued discussion and cooperation among Caribbean partners as they pursue context-specific approaches to sustainable development.

H.E. Dr. Christophe Eick

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Trinidad and Tobago



The Caribbean faces a set of interconnected challenges where biodiversity loss, climate impacts, food and water security, and development priorities increasingly intersect. Addressing these challenges requires approaches that move beyond sectoral responses and strengthen collaboration across institutions, knowledge systems and scales.

The Second Caribbean Regional Trialogue provided a timely space for such engagement. Convened under the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net), the Trialogue brought together policymakers, scientists, practitioners and community representatives to engage with the latest evidence from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and reflect collectively on its relevance for Caribbean contexts. The Trialogue also benefited from collaboration with the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme, whose engagement helped connect regional dialogue with community-level experience and practice.

The Trialogue captured the shared insights and areas of convergence that emerged through dialogue and co-creation. It is not a prescriptive roadmap but a reference to support continued learning, alignment and collaboration across national and regional efforts. The United Nations Development Programme remains committed to supporting inclusive, evidence-informed processes that strengthen the science–policy–practice interface and contribute to resilient and sustainable development pathways in the Caribbean.

Mr. Ugo Blanco

Resident Representative

United Nations Development Programme, Trinidad and Tobago



1. Introduction

This Action Document presents the key messages and agreed sets of actions generated during the [Second Caribbean Regional Trialogue: Integrated Approach to Sustainable Ecosystem Management](#) (hereafter “the Trialogue”) held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from 2 to 4 December 2025. The Trialogue convened over 60 participants from seven Caribbean countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago), alongside stakeholders from key local, regional and global organizations (see list of participants in [Annex 1](#)). Participants included scientists, policymakers, practitioners and community representatives, reflecting the diversity of actors involved in sustainable ecosystem management across the region.

The Trialogue was convened by the [Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network \(BES-Net\)](#), a global initiative co-implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) that works to strengthen dialogue between science, policy and practice in support of evidence-informed decision-making. BES-Net Trialogues are facilitated, multi-day dialogue processes designed to bring together diverse actors to collectively make sense of complex sustainability challenges and co-create actionable responses grounded in both scientific evidence and lived experience.

The event was designed to support participants in engaging with two major global assessments produced by the [Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services \(IPBES\)](#): the Thematic Assessment Report on the Interlinkages among Biodiversity, Water, Food and Health (Nexus Assessment) and the Thematic Assessment Report on the Underlying Causes of Biodiversity Loss and the Determinants of Transformative Change and Options for Achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity ([Transformative Change Assessment](#), TCA), which explores how societies can address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and move towards just and sustainable futures. Recognizing that such assessments can be technically complex, the Trialogue facilitation focused on translating their core concepts into practical entry points relevant to Caribbean socio-ecological contexts.



From food security to spiritual well-being, biodiversity plays a critical role, underpinning every single aspect of our lives and livelihoods. The water we drink, the very air that we breathe, the areas that we most enjoy when we want to spend quiet times with our families – all of these are dependent upon maintaining healthy ecosystems. The various IPBES assessments build momentum, and this Trialogue has allowed us to think about ways to integrate these assessments into our regional strategies and into our national strategies.

– Aria St. Louis, Grenada

The event combined keynote presentations and panel discussions with interactive co-creation sessions, regional thematic working groups, country-based dialogue circles, exhibitions and field visits (see the agenda in [Annex 2](#)). The different formats were deliberately sequenced to move participants from shared understanding to collective reflection and, ultimately, action planning. In particular, the interactive co-creation sessions, where participants worked across sectors and knowledge systems, created the conditions for trust-building, open exchange and joint problem-solving.

Rather than prescribing solutions, the facilitation process invited participants to actively engage with IPBES concepts – such as nexus response options, the breadth and depth of transformative change and its guiding principles – to reflect on their own realities, identify shared challenges and explore where they had agency to act. This approach enabled participants to move beyond isolated sectoral perspectives and co-develop pathways that could deliver multiple benefits for people and nature.



During the panel on day one, we spoke about the different aspects that would be needed to address transformative change, views, structures, practices. I think that's something that I can take away and continue to use to shape how I think about certain problems and issues that we need to address.

– Anik Jarvis, Antigua and Barbuda



The participants rated the opportunities for interaction and exchange an average of 8.5 out of 10 (10 being the highest value in experience), highlighting the value of collective reflection and dialogue across science, policy and practice. Many noted that the Triologue provided not only new knowledge but also new ways of thinking and collaborating to advance nexus approaches and transformative change (Figure 1).



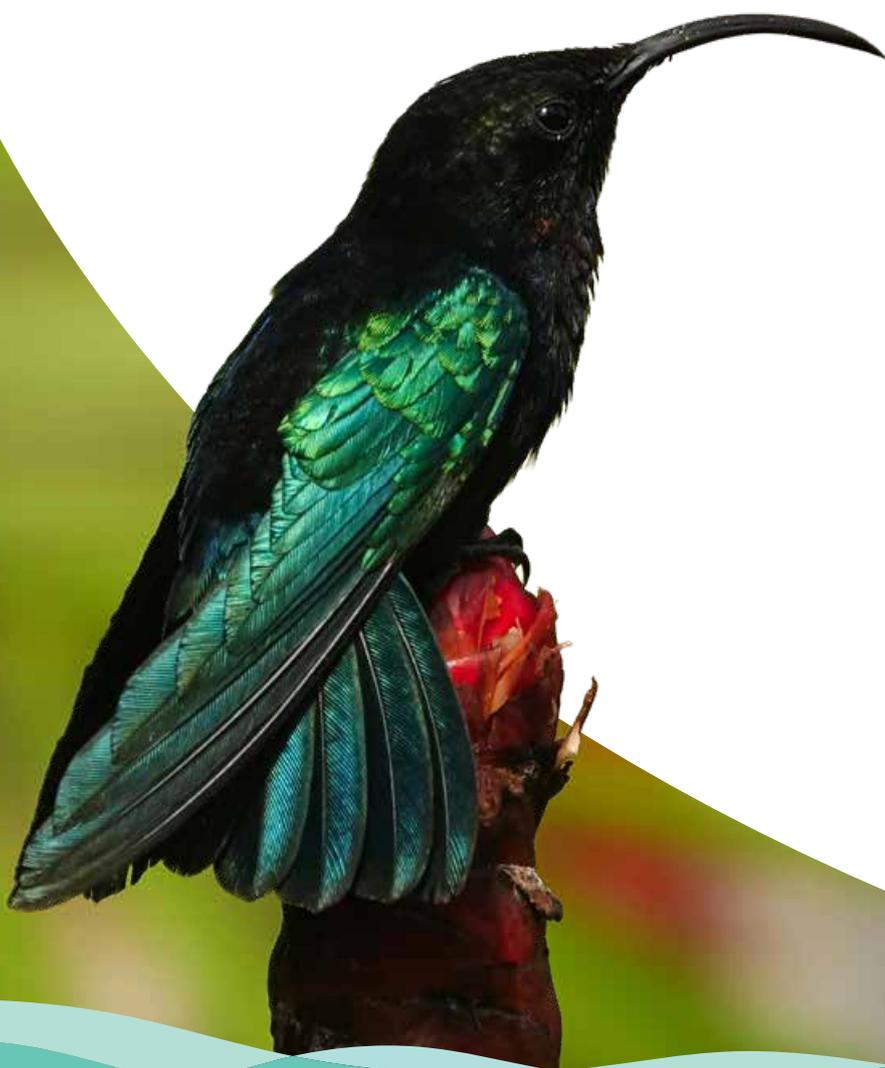
I think it's important when you have these regional interactions that there is some opportunity to test the methodology and to ensure that there is a country where you can apply some of the recommendations in a practical way. We tend to be very good at planning, but very low on implementation, and I think if there is an opportunity to put in place some of the recommendations from this Triologue, it will go a long way in allowing the other countries or the other nations to see the implementation in practice and realize what possibility might exist for them.

– Dennis Sammy, Trinidad and Tobago

This Action Document is a collective outcome of a facilitated dialogue and co-creation process. The key messages synthesize recurring discussion points that emerged across the three days, while the regional and country actions reflect priorities and entry points identified by participants themselves. The document is intended to support participants, institutions and partners in considering how to take these actions forward while also offering learning opportunities for others seeking to apply IPBES-informed, dialogue-based approaches to sustainable ecosystem management.

Figure 1: Summary of takeaways and windows of opportunity identified by the participants

Takeaways	Windows of opportunity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ We have common challenges, contexts, interests and priorities that require us to work together across the Caribbean, building on our rich diversity. ▶ Within our own space of influence, we can lead transformative change and nexus thinking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Regional collaboration, cooperation and integration in addressing these commonalities through pathways with nexus approaches and change with transformative potential (projects, strategies etc.) that allow us to also embrace our rich diversity. ▶ Nexus and transformative change mainstreaming into policies and legal instruments (structures), governments, sectors and communities of practice, including political, social and environmental activism (practices) and individual and collective awareness and attitudes (views).



2. Key Messages

The key messages presented in this section synthesize the most salient and recurring discussion points that emerged across the three days of the Trialogue. They reflect collective sense-making during plenary exchanges, facilitated dialogue and interactive co-creation sessions, rather than the views of individual speakers or institutions. The messages were shaped through structured reflection on Caribbean realities using concepts and evidence from the IPBES [Nexus Assessment](#) and the [TCA](#), combined with participants' lived experiences across science, policy, practice and community contexts. Together, they provide the analytical framing that underpins the regional and country action plans presented in [Section 3](#).

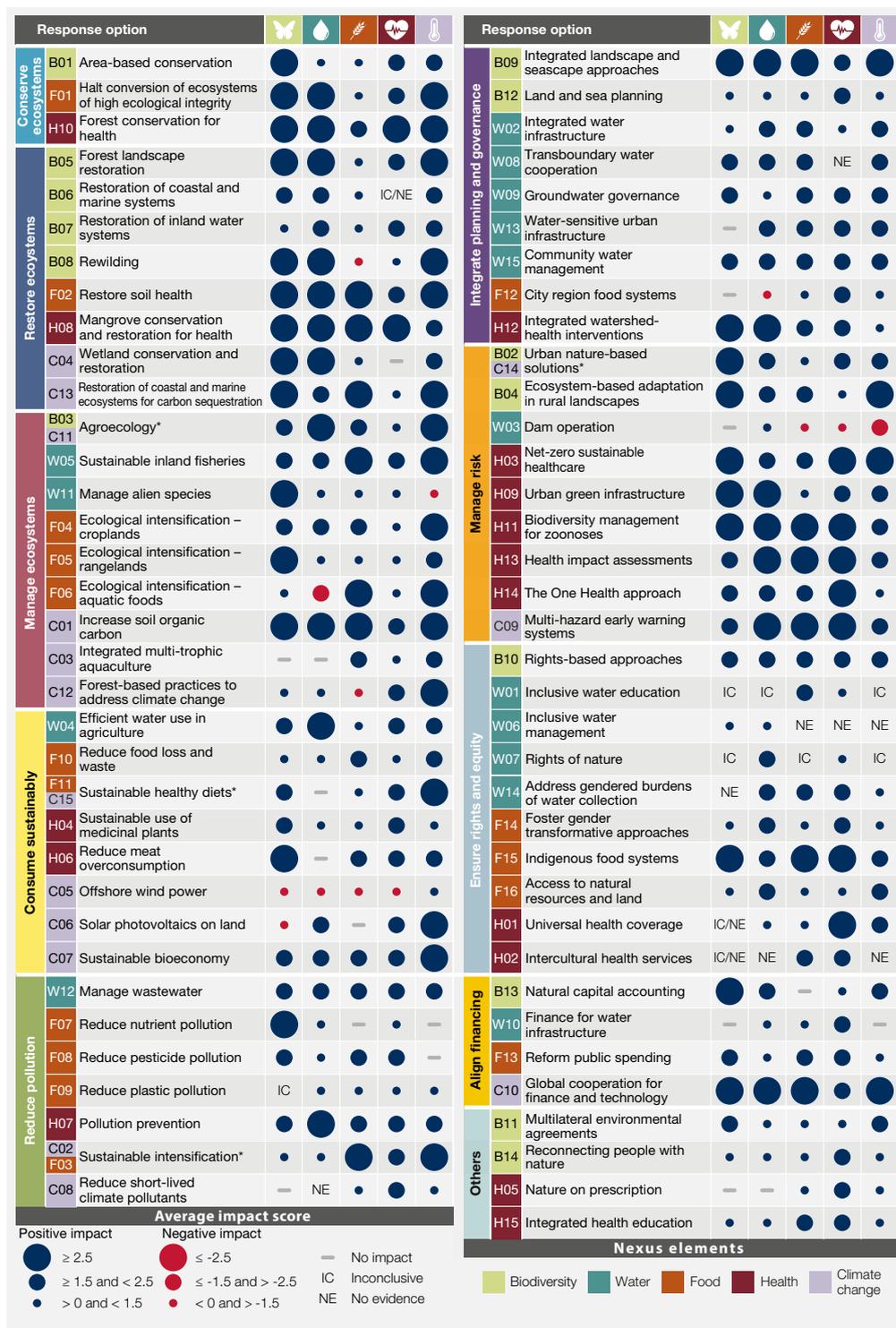
2.1 Mainstreaming nexus approaches to governance across the Caribbean is critical

Participants consistently highlighted that piecemeal, quick fix and reformist approaches are not fit for purpose in addressing interconnected biodiversity, climate, food, water and health challenges across the Caribbean. There is a clear need to [cut across silos and sectors](#). The Caribbean has limited resources and fiscal space because it operates in high debt (see [Sections B and C, Chapter I, Background Document](#)), so putting resources into response options that deliver multiple benefits across different sectors is a matter of survival. Examples of these nexus response options with an intrinsic nexus approach, as showcased by the [Nexus Assessment \(Section B, Chapter I, Background Document\)](#), are shown in Figure 2.

The Caribbean is among the regions with the [highest prevalence of non-communicable diseases](#) while being highly dependent on food imports (see [section C, Chapter I, Background Document](#)). Sustainable healthy diets are essential because they promote all dimensions of an individual's health and well-being. They also have low environmental pressure and impact, are accessible, affordable, safe and equitable, and are culturally acceptable ([Food response option F11](#)). Addressing the disconnect between the health and food production sectors across the region could help mainstream sustainable healthy diets, contributing to the individual and collective well-being of the Caribbean people.

Multi-stakeholder, multisectoral and collaborative processes to adaptively co-manage landscapes and seascapes in the long run, with an emphasis on connectivity between socioecological systems and synergistic outcomes for environmental, social and economic objectives ([Biodiversity response option B09](#)), are essential to protect people's lives and livelihoods in a context of [very high vulnerability to climate change impacts](#). For example, [the devastation caused by the Category 5 Hurricane Melissa in Jamaica's ecosystems \(e.g. mangroves\) in October 2025](#) offers [critical lessons](#) pointing at the urgency of holistic approaches to risks prevention and management that consider the interactions across sectors and nexus elements. However, mangrove ecosystem restoration projects are not often integrated with other sectors like tourism, health and food production.

Figure 2: Response options' impacts on the five nexus elements of biodiversity, water, food, health and climate change¹

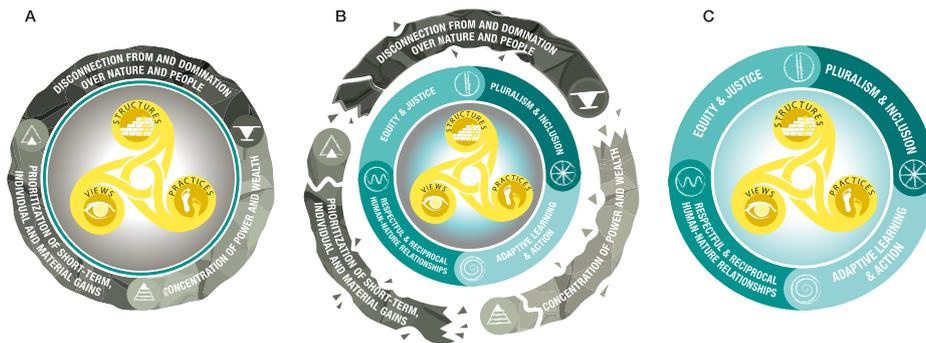


1 For each of the response options assessed, circles indicate the estimated impacts on each element of the nexus. Larger circles indicate stronger impacts on that element, and several large circles in a row indicate more widespread impacts across elements of the nexus. Most impacts are positive (blue), but a few response options have negative impacts (red) on some nexus elements. Unique alphanumeric codes for each response option indicate its nexus element (B for biodiversity, W for water, F for food, H for health and C for climate change). Impact scores are based on a thorough review of existing evidence, synthesized and averaged across several component criteria on a scale of -3 to +3 for each nexus element. In the context of the Caribbean, two prove especially relevant: Food response option F11 “Sustainable healthy diets” and Biodiversity response option B09 “Integrated landscape and seascape approaches” (taken from Figure SPM 8 of the [Summary for Policymakers of the Nexus Assessment](#)).

2.2 Transformative change is not about scale but quality and direction of the change (its breadth, depth and dynamics)

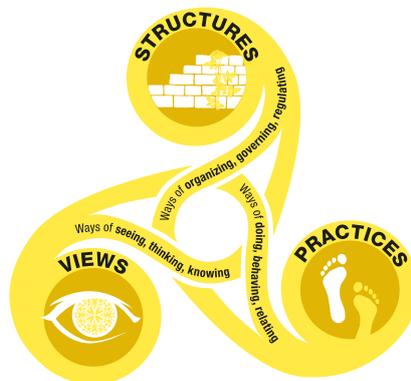
Across panel discussions and group work, participants emphasized that while change is happening everywhere at different scales and directions, transformative change towards a just and sustainable world must (1) spread across the full breadth of a fundamental systems-wide shift, (2) dive into the depth of the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and nature's decline and (3) follow the dynamics of specific principles (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Transformative change framework for a just and sustainable world²



The breadth of transformative change involves fundamental systems-wide shifts across the ways of thinking, knowing and seeing (views), the ways of organizing, regulating and governing (structures) and the ways of doing, behaving and relating (practices) (Figure 4).

Figure 4: The three interwoven dimensions of transformative change: views, structures and practices as the breadth of change (Figure 1.6 of Chapter 1 of TCA)



Participants' reflections during the Trialogue highlighted that actions in the Caribbean might be focusing on changing structures, especially policies, legislations and people's behaviours, while views seem to be less targeted. "Views" refer to internal processes of cognition with high levels of complexity. For instance, individuals often hold multiple, sometimes contradictory views that do not necessarily correspond with their practices, while structures can often act as barriers to the manifestation of views in practices. All of this can make views more difficult than practices and structures to understand, assess and monitor. Notably, over one third of the Trialogue participants are involved in actions that cover the full breadth of change.

² Panel A indicates views, structures and practices (the inner golden spirals) being strongly shaped by the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and nature's decline (solid grey ring). Section B shows shifts in views, structures and practices breaking the influence of the underlying causes when they are guided by the four key principles of transformative change (blue ring). Section C illustrates a just and sustainable world, with prevailing views, structures and practices aligned with the principles of transformative change. This framework can be used by different actor groups to help identify where and how they can promote, accelerate and scale the process of transformative change towards a just and sustainable world (taken from Figure SPM 2 of the [Summary for Policymakers of the TCA](#)).

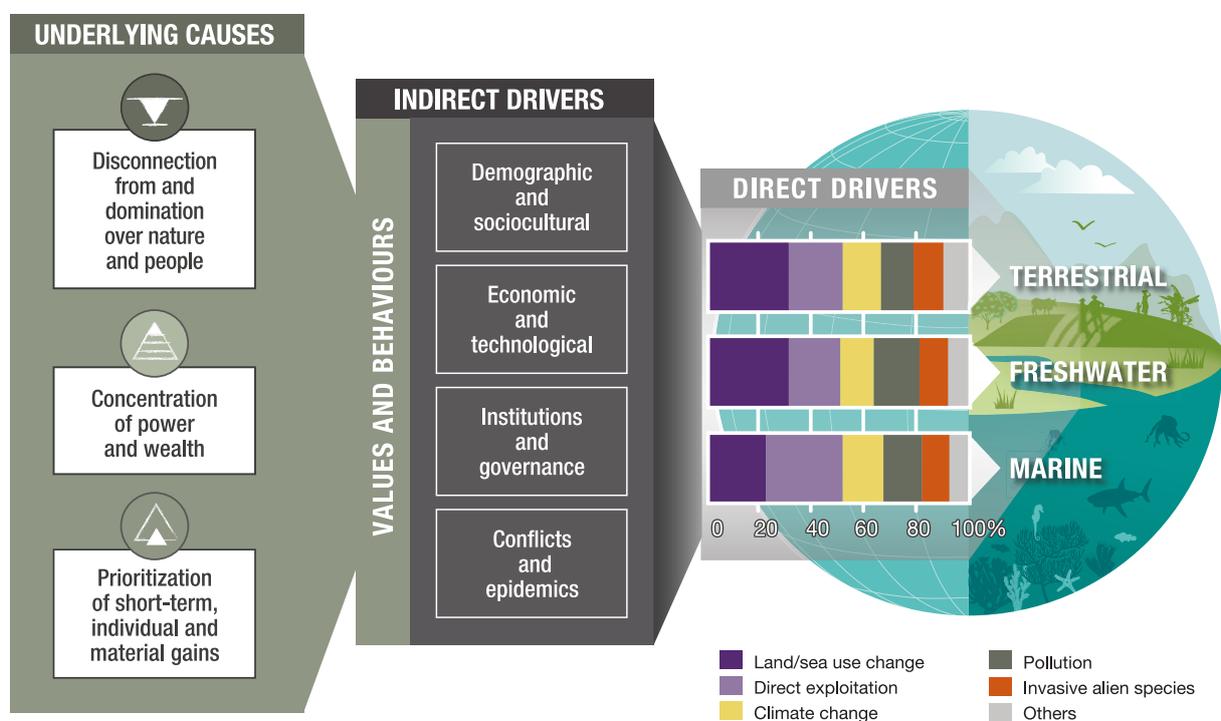


Something I learned here at the Trialogue that could make a real difference is the transformative change approach focused on practices, structures and views. You can come in at any point but ensure that you're covering all of that. I think that's a very good way of illustrating meaningful transformative change within a particular system. Thinking of it in that way, you enter where you have agency but recognizing and appreciating that, beyond your first point of agency, you've got to be able to design an intervention that impacts these other areas in order to make it meaningful.

– Calvin Bernard, Guyana

The depth of transformative change towards a just and sustainable world is linked to [the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and nature's decline: the disconnection from and domination over nature and people, the concentration of power and wealth and the prioritization of short-term, individual and material gains](#) (Figure 5). [Actions that fall short in depth can reinforce the challenges to transformative change by entrenching biodiversity-harming practices and structures, creating an illusion of action and delegitimizing and obscuring transformative efforts \(i.e. reformist approaches like biodiversity offsets and environmental impact assessment processes, see Box 4.1 from Chapter 4 of the TCA\).](#) However, transformative potential can grow step by step into addressing these social patterns across the full breadth of views, structures and practices (Figure 3).

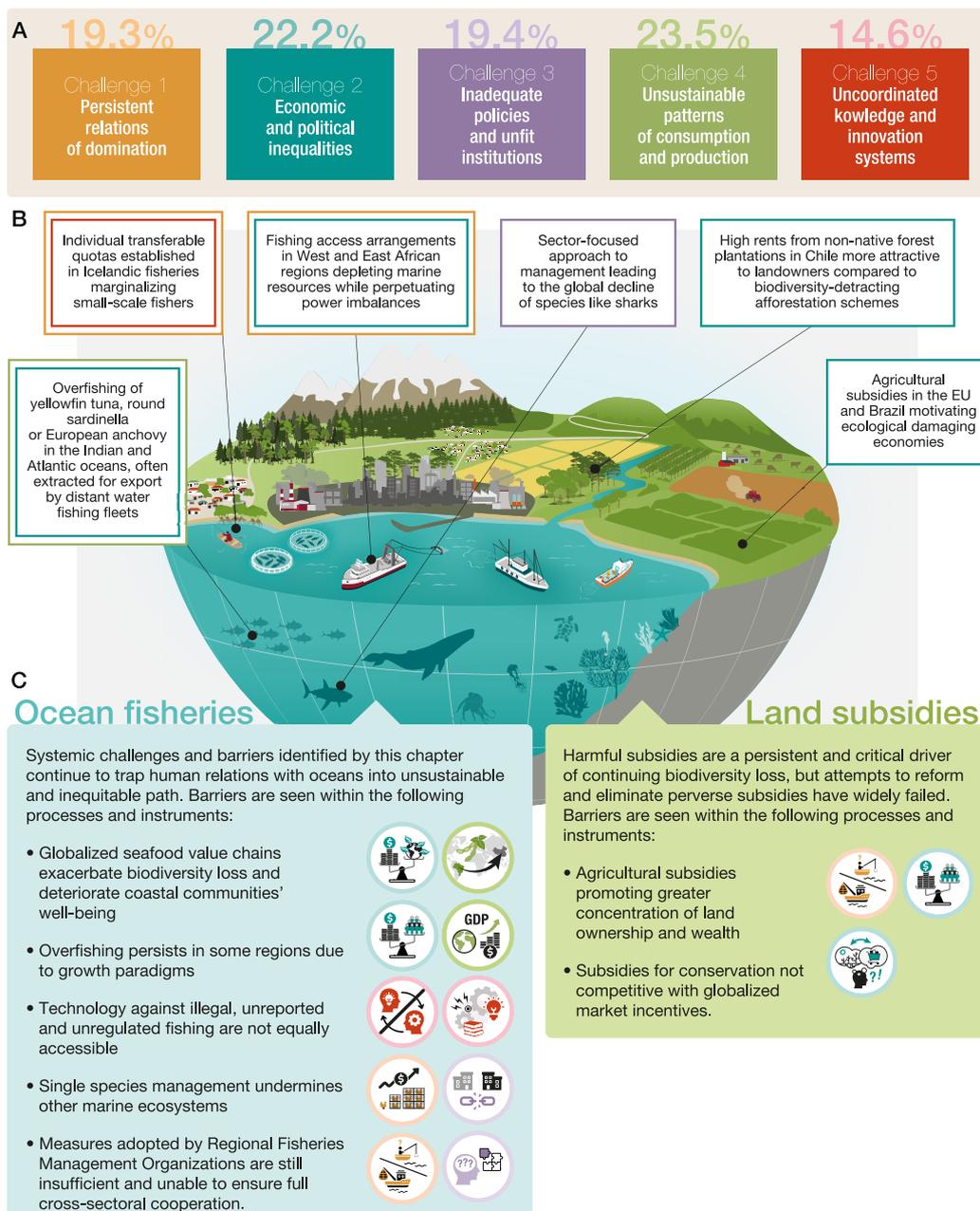
Figure 5: The relations between the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and nature's decline, the five main challenges to transformative change and the direct drivers of biodiversity loss and nature's decline (Figure 3.1 of Chapter 4 of TCA)



According to the Trialogue discussions, actions in the Caribbean might be focusing on the prioritization of short-term, individual and material gains and the disconnection from and domination over nature and people, while the concentration of power and wealth lags behind. Roughly 5% of Trialogue participants are involved in actions that address the three underlying causes. [There are deeply complex challenges emanating from these underlying](#)

causes that hinder the capacities of interested stakeholders to address them (Figure 5). Concentration of power and wealth is one of the most complex because it often operates at levels beyond our spheres of influence. The majority of case studies compiled in the TCA (61%) explicitly recognized three main challenges to transformative change vastly shaped by the concentration of power and wealth (Figure 6) (see Section C, Chapter 1 of the Background Document for more information on the manifestation of the underlying causes as challenges in the Caribbean). Ultimately, this cause articulates the ongoing targeting and discreditation of social movements, civil society organizations, citizen groups and Indigenous Peoples and local communities to impede their work towards sustainable futures, to the point of violence and killings, as noted by over 2,000 environmental defenders killed since 2002.

Figure 6: The challenges and related barriers to transformative change manifesting in different ecosystems and different geographies³



³ The percentages in panel A represent the mentioning and recognition of each of the challenges in the recorded 391 case studies in the IPBES TCA database. All five challenges are identified in the recorded case studies, and 260 out of 777 responses identify more than one challenge present in a case study of transformative change taking place. Panel B shows the subsidies case study, while panel C shows the fisheries case study (taken from Figure 3.9 of Chapter 4 of TCA).

Shifting views, practices and structures away from those that maintain the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and nature's decline towards those that support pathways to a just and sustainable world must be grounded in and guided by four principles: Equity and Justice, Pluralism and Inclusion, Respectful and Reciprocal Human-Nature Relationships, and Adaptive Learning and Action (Figure 3). These principles are the essential elements that will nurture the approaches, strategies and actions that can overcome challenges and barriers to transformative change (see Figure 5 and the fungi metaphor in Figure 1.9 from Chapter 1 of the TCA). The set of actions developed by the Trialogue participants and presented in this document intend to be guided by these principles.

Enacting transformative change can be likened to planting the seeds of a tree whose shade we may never sit under. Those who plant the seeds today may not see the fully grown tree, but they plant it because without those seeds, there will be no tree for future generations. Transformative change, like nurturing a tree, requires patience and long-term commitment. The action ideas emerging from the Trialogue aim to serve as building blocks for the bigger vision.



There are so many small-scale projects, initiatives, commitments, community actions in which you see people working for change. Now you don't see that in the everyday media, which focuses on the negative stories and all the things that are going wrong in the world. And that is absolutely true, there is a lot of work to be done. But what gives me hope is that when you actually get on the ground, like we're doing here in this Trialogue, you see that there are people who care in all these different countries of the Caribbean, and there are people who are working for change on the ground in practice but also in politics and in science. There are people everywhere working for change.

– Prof. Fern Wickson, Coordinating Lead Author of the IPBES Transformative Change Assessment

2.3 Strategic re-directions are the foundations to move away from piecemeal conservation or donor-driven “project mode” towards sustained and systemic transformation

Seven strategic directions cut across the 10 sets of actions presented in this document, broadly corresponding with the strategies and actions to advance transformative change compiled by the TCA (see Section 5.2 of Chapter 5) and reflecting nexus governance and response options compiled by the Nexus Assessment (see Figure 2 for response options). These insights reflect patterns that repeatedly surfaced across sessions and working groups, rather than isolated observations.



Figure 7: Strategic directions to advance transformative change and nexus approaches in the Caribbean based on the Second Caribbean Regional Triologue

<p>Build Knowledge and Capacity</p>	<p>Create hubs, training programs, and educational initiatives to strengthen skills, share knowledge, and integrate biodiversity and nexus concepts into formal and informal learning.</p>	<p>Broadly corresponds with the transformative change strategy 5 (Shift Shift societal views and values to recognize human-nature interconnectedness), and the complementary actions 5.4 (Facilitate transformative learning) and 5.5 (Co-create knowledge). Views are the entry point to transformative change.</p>
<p>Transform Governance and Mainstream Biodiversity</p>	<p>Embed biodiversity and nexus approaches into national policies, development strategies, and sectoral plans, while improving legal frameworks and promoting inclusive decision-making.</p>	<p>Broadly corresponds with the transformative change strategy 4 (Transform governance systems to be integrative, inclusive, accountable and adaptive), and complementary actions 4.1 (Promote integrated governance) and 4.2 (Engage in inclusive governance). Structures are the entry point to transformative change.</p>
<p>Secure Sustainable Financing</p>	<p>Develop adaptive funding mechanisms, redirect harmful subsidies, and foster public-private partnerships to ensure long-term financial support for biodiversity and nature-based solutions.</p>	<p>Broadly corresponds with the transformative change strategy 3 (Transform economic systems for nature and equity), and the complementary actions 3.1 (Mainstream innovative economic tools) and 3.2 (Support just transitions to well-being economies), and strategy 2 (Drive systemic change in the sectors most responsible for biodiversity loss and nature's decline) and complementary action 2.3 (Finance global sustainability). Structures are the entry point to transformative change.</p>
<p>Empower Communities</p>	<p>Engage local communities, Indigenous Peoples, and youth through awareness campaigns, participatory governance, and bottom-up approaches that promote stewardship and equitable benefit-sharing.</p>	<p>Broadly corresponds with the transformative change strategy 4 and complementary actions 4.1 and 4.2, and strategy 2 and complementary action 2.4 (Support civil society initiatives). Practices are the entry point to transformative change.</p>
<p>Strengthen Regional Collaboration</p>	<p>Create intersectoral platforms and regional networks to harmonize data, share best practices, and coordinate actions across Caribbean nations and sectors.</p>	<p>Broadly corresponds with the transformative change strategy 5 and the complementary actions 5.4 and 5.5, and strategy 4 and complementary action 4.3 (Secure multi-lateral action). Practices and views are the entry points to transformative change.</p>
<p>Scale Up Nature-Based Solutions</p>	<p>Expand and mainstream nature-based approaches—such as agroecology, permaculture, integrated management—to enhance resilience, food security, and climate adaptation.</p>	<p>Broadly corresponds with transformative change strategy 1 (Conserve and regenerate places of value to nature and people) and complementary action 1.4 (Shift towards regenerative systems) and 1.5 (Advance integrated spatial planning). Practices are the entry point to transformative change.</p>
<p>Implement Adaptive Learning and Monitoring</p>	<p>Establish systems for continuous monitoring, scenario planning, and adaptive management to track progress, inform policy, and adjust strategies based on evidence.</p>	<p>Broadly corresponds with transformative change strategy 4 and complementary action 4.4 (Strengthen learning through adaptive governance). Practices and structures are the entry points to transformative change.</p>

3. Planting the seeds of action

The sets of actions presented in this document are the result of facilitated dialogue, collective reflection and co-creation among participants during the Trialogue. They reflect shared strategic priorities (see [Section 2.3](#)) identified during national and thematic (regional) working groups. Each set of actions builds on the key national socio-ecological contexts and drivers outlined in the [Trialogue Background Document](#), including core nexus interactions and systemic challenges identified for each country and the region.

Prior to the Trialogue, this [Background Document](#) highlighted that the Caribbean region is particularly vulnerable to the current global polycrisis, characterized by interconnected ecological, economic and social challenges that are actively reshaping people–nature relationships and threatening sustainable development. The region is experiencing deep declines in natural ecosystems, high levels of water and food insecurity, complex epidemics and conflicts, and widening inequalities – all of which compound existing vulnerabilities and reinforce the systemic barriers to just and sustainable futures.

The IPBES [Nexus Assessment](#) underscores that siloed sectoral responses often have unintended consequences because they fail to capture cross-sector interdependencies. Nexus governance, in contrast, seeks integrated responses that maximize mutual benefits across systems (see [Section 2.1](#)). The [TCA](#) points to underlying social patterns – domination over and disconnection from nature and people, concentration of power and short-term material priorities – as the fundamental causes of biodiversity loss and nature’s decline. It also identifies principles and strategies that can support systemic changes (see [Section 2.2](#)). This shared evidence base helped shape the logic of the sets of actions developed by the participants and provided a broader analytical lens for understanding the entries that follow.

An overarching vision guides each set of actions, based on specific principles of [transformative change](#) and [nexus governance](#) (see [Sections A and B, Chapter I, Background Document](#)). A cycle matrix conveys the proposed actions to materialize the vision. The actions are categorized as short-term (up to two years), mid-term (up to five years) and long-term (more than five years) based on the level of difficulty and time needed to execute such actions and experience the changes that those actions intend to drive. Stakeholders and partners that are involved or need to be involved for implementation are highlighted for each action. The cycle matrix aims to represent the interdependency and interlinkages of actions and stakeholders that use different entry points across the [full breadth of change needed to bring about transformative change](#). A brief text precedes each cycle matrix to unpack its rationale, while another brief text follows after to specify sub-actions and the synergies with other sets of actions.

Taken together, the sets of actions reflect a regionally grounded and evidence-informed response logic, rooted in the participants’ understanding of nexus interdependencies and the structural drivers of biodiversity loss and systemic inequality. They are intended to support follow-up implementation, learning and exchange across countries and thematic areas in the near future.





3.1 Regional thematic sets of actions

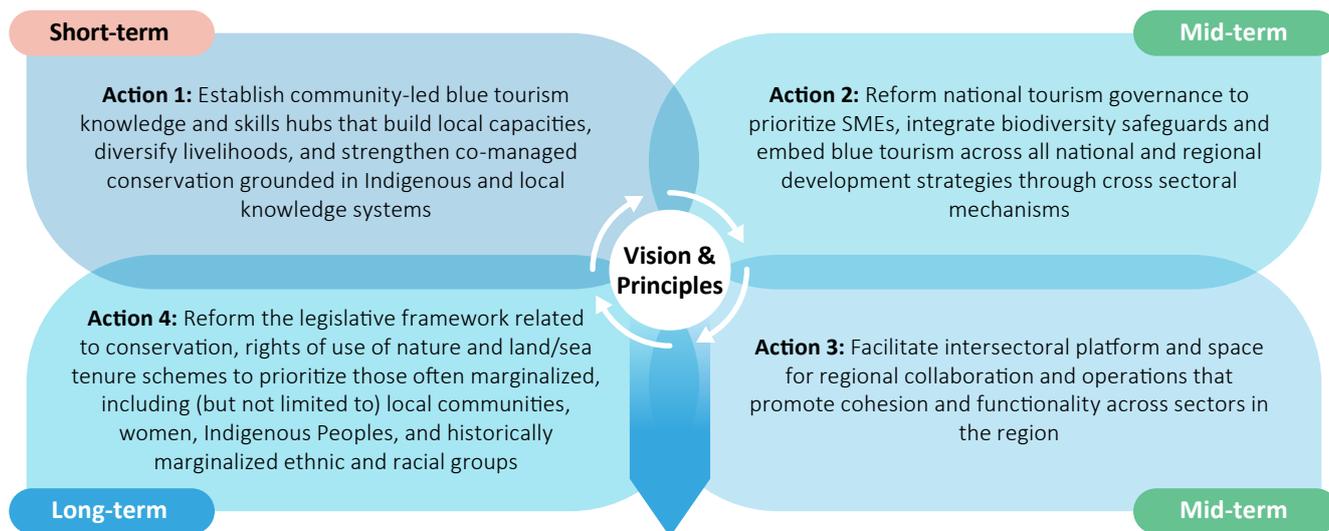
3.1.1 Blue Tourism



We are hoping to start to unpack those discussions so that we can understand the full value of the range of goods and services provided by biodiversity and how those impact our fisheries sector, our tourism sector – the traditional ones – as well as things like blue economy, which are our newer incoming sectors.

– Aria St. Louis, Grenada

Tourism is a major economic pillar across Caribbean Small Island Developing States, contributing significantly to national income and employment in countries that rely heavily on healthy coastal and marine ecosystems. However, a considerable amount of tourism revenue does not stay in the local communities because the ownership of tourism facilities is concentrated in the hands of foreign corporations, while coral reefs, mangroves and beaches are increasingly degraded by climate change, coastal development and pollution, reducing their capacity to provide coastal protection and sustain livelihoods (see [Section C, Chapter I, Background Document](#)). The Trialogue’s focus on blue tourism reflects the need to realign tourism development with equity, justice and ecosystem integrity, ensuring that the economic benefits for the local people are sustained through nexus response options such as sustainable bioeconomy coupled with the restoration of coastal and marine ecosystems.



Vision: A resilient, inclusive and biodiversity-positive blue tourism sector that empowers communities, safeguards ecosystems and delivers equitable social and economic well-being for all Caribbean people

Principles: Equity, Justice, Inclusion, Pluralism, Participation, Transparency and Fair Share of Benefits

Action 1	Action 2	Action 3	Action 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local communities and Indigenous Peoples Government ministries and agencies across the region Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and larger private sector Regional and global tourism organizations (e.g. CTO, CHTA, WTTC) Academic and research institutions Regional organizations (e.g. CARICOM, OECS, CELAC) Funding bodies and financial institutions (e.g. Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, Caribbean Natural Capital Hub) Regional projects and initiatives (e.g. Blue Tourism Initiative) Education sector Media sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government ministries and agencies across the region SMEs and larger private sector Regional and global tourism organizations (e.g. CTO, CHTA, WTTC) United Nations agencies Regional organizations (e.g. CARICOM, OECS, CELAC) Policy and decision makers Regional projects and initiatives (e.g., ProCaribe+, Blue Tourism Initiative) Media sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional organizations (e.g. CARICOM, OECS, CELAC) Regional and global tourism organizations (e.g. CTO CHTA, WTTC) Government ministries and agencies across the region Private sector, including SMEs Regional projects and initiatives (e.g. ProCaribe+, Blue Tourism Initiative) International, regional and local NGOs (e.g. Conservation International, Grupo Jaragua, CANARI, South Rupununi Society) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local communities and Indigenous Peoples Policymakers, legislators and decision makers Landowners Regional organizations (e.g. CARICOM, OECS, CELAC) Government ministries and agencies across the region Private sector, including SMEs Media sector



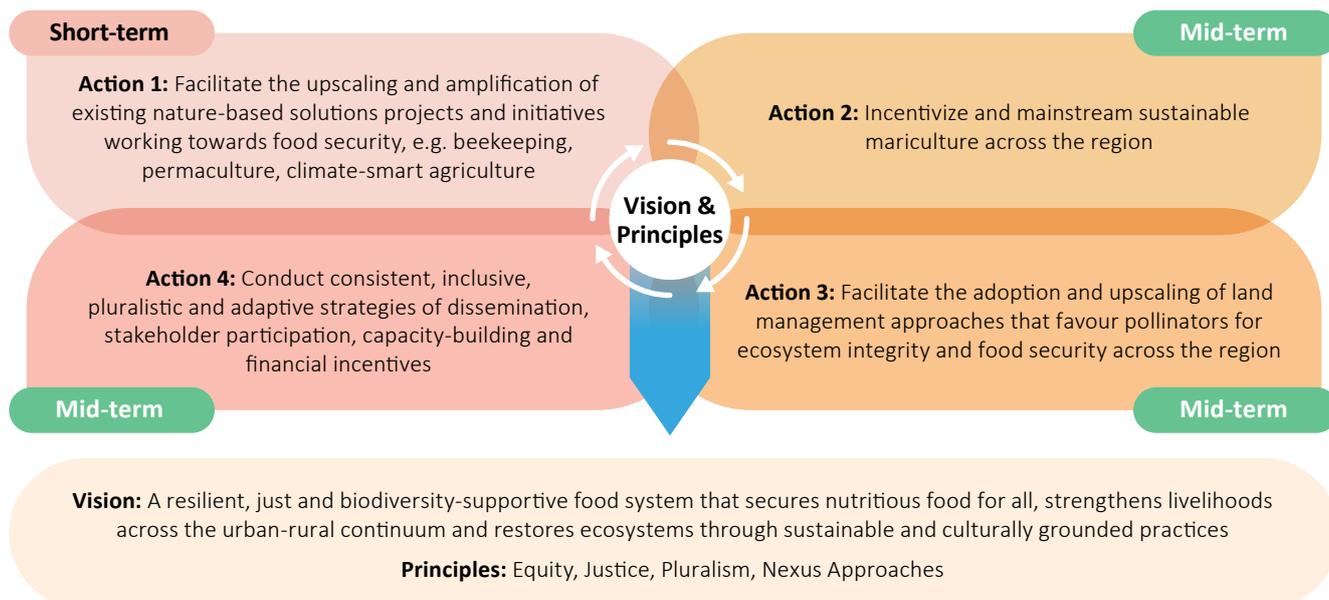
3.1.2 Food Security



When it comes to food, [the Caribbean] is one of the most food import-dependent regions in the world. So when the assessment says sustainable healthy diets, what it is saying in effect is if we can produce more of our own food, if we can promote healthy diets, if we can get them in our national guidelines, if we can get them mainstream in our thinking, our consciousness, then we will have a solution, a response option that is able to deliver across multiple sectors.

– Prof. Donovan Campbell, Lead Author for the IPBES Nexus Assessment

Caribbean countries import a large majority of their food – often more than two thirds – while also experiencing some of the highest rates of diet-related non-communicable diseases globally. These challenges are closely linked to land use change, water availability, climate variability and biodiversity (see [Section C, Chapter I, Background Document](#)). Prioritizing food security through integrated and sustainable approaches responds to the need to strengthen local production, improve nutrition outcomes, reduce vulnerability to external shocks and increase nexus-wide positive impacts.



Action 1	Action 2	Action 3	Action 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional nature-based solution projects, systems, and alliances (e.g. Conscious Food System Alliance, Permaculture Movement) Government ministries and agencies across the region involved in food production Regional organizations (e.g. CARICOM, CELAC, OECS) United Nations agencies International and regional NGOs (e.g. Caribbean Agroecology Institute) GEF Small Grants programmes across the region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fisheries divisions Research institutions Fisherfolks Local communities Consumers Private sector Government ministries and agencies Regional organizations (e.g. CARICOM, CELAC, OECS) Regional projects (e.g. ProCaribe+) International and regional funding bodies (e.g. Caribbean Biodiversity Fund) United Nations agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local communities and Indigenous Peoples Land and urban planners Government ministries and agencies Regional organizations (e.g. CARICOM, CELAC, OECS) United Nations agencies International and regional NGOs (e.g. Caribbean Agroecology Institute, CANARI) Regional projects (e.g. IWEco) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local communities and Indigenous Peoples Government ministries and agencies Regional organizations (e.g. CARICOM, CELAC, OECS) United Nations agencies International and regional NGOs (e.g. Caribbean Agroecology Institute, CANARI) Regional projects (e.g. IWEco)

Sub-action 4.1: Establish the Caribbean Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) Knowledge-to-Implementation Accelerator, which serves as a regional platform to 1) identify and document successful CSA practices already implemented across the Caribbean (e.g. drought-resilient cropping, agroforestry), 2) facilitate peer-to-peer learning and scaling-up of practices through community demonstration plots and farmer field schools, 3) promote integration of CSA into national agricultural extension programmes and rural-urban development initiatives and 4) support the co-creation of climate risk-informed planting calendars, localized CSA advisories and early warning systems.



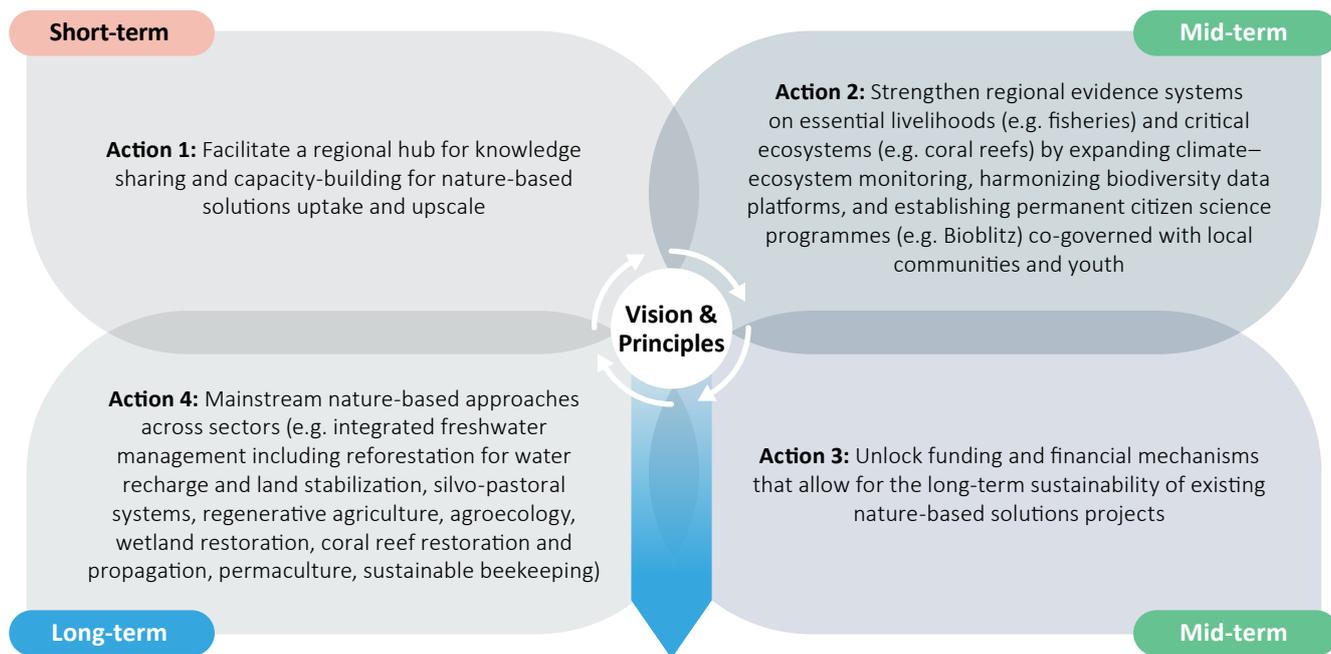
3.1.3 Nature-based Solutions Scale-up



On day three, we discussed and had an opportunity to unpack a little bit more about how we would be addressing coral reef work and coral reef restoration work. Part of that involves discussions between the islands on what it is they have been trying. So we became aware as Grenada that Trinidad is thinking of doing work, that Antigua has done some work, that the Dominican Republic is currently doing work, and by coming together and having an opportunity to discuss with each other, not only were we aware of what others were doing, but what is happening that is successful, what is not happening that's not successful, and then opportunities through regional parts where we could come together, think about crafting regional-level proposals that would help us to tackle critical issues like how do we move forward with our coral reef restoration work with projected IPCC reports that are indicating that we may move past 1.5 degrees C above pre-industrial levels.

– Aria St. Louis, Grenada

[Climate-related disasters routinely cause economic losses equivalent to a significant share of annual GDP in Caribbean SIDS](#), exposing the limits of conventional, infrastructure-heavy responses (see [Section C, Chapter I, Background Document](#)). The Trialogue highlighted how nature-based solutions can deliver cost-effective benefits for climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation and disaster risk reduction (along with wide cascading benefits on public health), yet remain fragmented and underscaled. Focusing on nature-based solution scale-up addresses the need to move beyond isolated projects towards coordinated, long-term enabling conditions that allow these solutions to deliver systemic benefits.



Vision: A coordinated, Caribbean-wide enabling environment where nature-based solutions are scaled through strengthened regional capacities, sustained political commitment, inclusive governance and long-term financing mechanisms

Principles: Respectful and Reciprocal Relations among Humans and between Humans and Nature, Equity and Adaptive Learning and Action

Action 1	Action 2	Action 3	Action 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local, regional and global networks, groups and movements (e.g. Permaculture movement, Association of Caribbean Beekeepers' Organisations, Caribbean Agricultural Alliance, Conscious Food Systems Alliance) Regional organizations (e.g. CARICOM, OECS, CELAC) GEF Small Grants Programmes across the region Regional projects and instruments (e.g. IWeco, regional beekeeping policy) Local communities, Indigenous Peoples and Youth Government ministries and agencies across the region Education sector Academia and research institutions Media sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local communities, Indigenous Peoples and Youth Local, regional and global networks, groups and movements Regional organizations International, regional and local NGOs Government ministries and agencies across the region Academia and research institutions GEF Small Grants Programmes Media sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial sector and institutions (e.g. Caribbean Natural Capital Hub) International and regional funding bodies (e.g. Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, RP-Caribbean, BIOFIN initiative) Government ministries and agencies across the region United Nations agencies Private sector Local governments Regional organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local communities and Indigenous Peoples Government ministries and agencies across the region Local governments Education sector Regional organizations United Nations agencies International, regional and local NGOs Media sector

Sub-action 1.1: Amplify the regional space across Trinidad and Tobago and the eastern and northern Caribbean nations to exchange knowledge, including techniques and resources that enable the conditions for upscaling stingless beekeeping as a nature-based solution with nexus benefits (see also the synergies with the [Regional Set of Actions on Food Security](#)).

3.2 Country-level sets of actions



3.2.1 Antigua and Barbuda

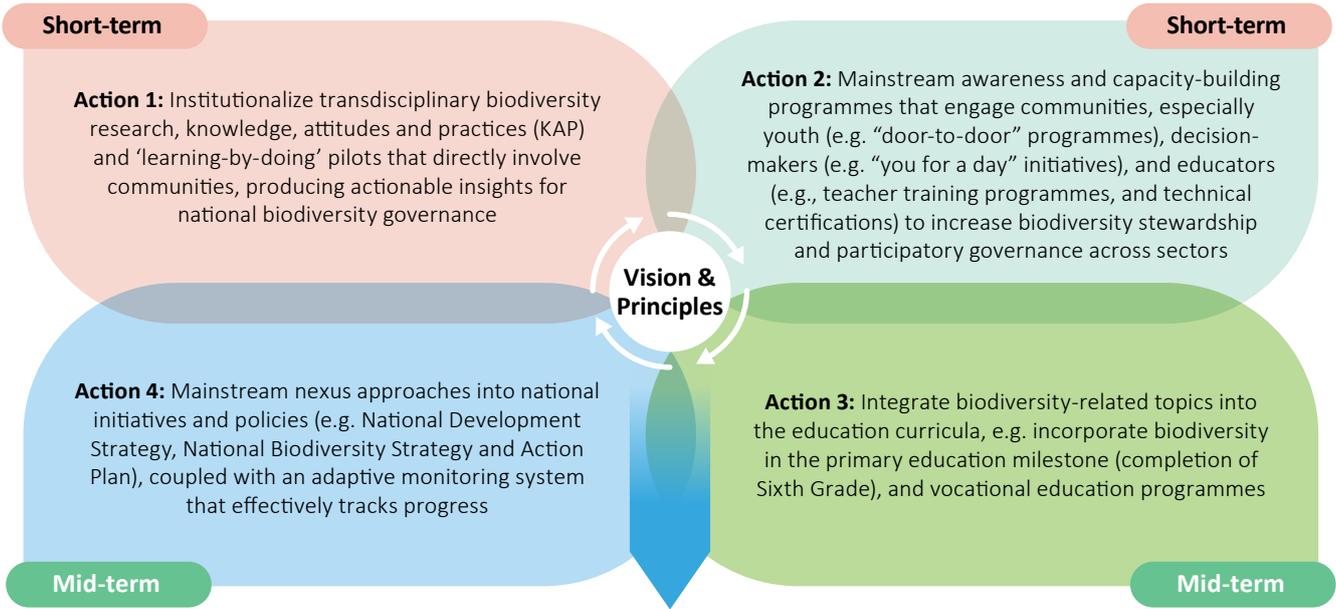


Education is a big thing at all levels, but outside of just talking and trying to demonstrate the importance of different things, I think taking action in certain ways, having tangible evidence will help. You can see that in different initiatives that take place in different countries, especially like the examples that we see here in Trinidad and Tobago. So I think that's what people see and believe.

– Anik Jarvis, Antigua and Barbuda

As a small island state with limited land area, high climate exposure and constrained fiscal space, Antigua and Barbuda faces particular challenges in sustaining biodiversity and ecosystem services over the long term (see [Section A, Chapter III, Background Document](#)). Youth and local communities play a central role in managing and benefiting from natural resources, yet often have limited access to decision-making. Emphasizing empowerment, participation and equitable benefit-sharing reflects the importance of strengthening local stewardship and governance capacity under conditions of high vulnerability.





Vision: Antigua and Barbuda’s people, especially youth and local communities, act as stewards of biodiversity, empowered through knowledge, governance participation and equitable benefit-sharing

Principles: Empowerment, Nexus Approaches that Realize Nexus Benefits, Adaptive Learning and Action, Equity and Justice (No One Left Behind)

Action 1	Action 2	Action 3	Action 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academia and research institutions (e.g. University of West Indies) • Environment Department and Environmental agencies • Ministry of Education • Media sector • Private sector • United Nations agencies • NGOs (e.g. Environmental Awareness Group) • International and regional funding bodies (e.g. Caribbean Biodiversity Fund) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local communities, youth, and traditional knowledge holders • Government ministries (e.g. Ministry of Education) and decision makers • Academia and research institutions (e.g. University of West Indies) • Schools • Media sector • NGOs (e.g. Environmental Awareness Group) • Community-based organizations • United Nations agencies • International and regional funding bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education sector, from schools to ministry • Regional education organizations (e.g. Caribbean Association of Principals of Agriculture, Caribbean Examinations Council) • Community-based organizations • NGOs (e.g. Environmental Awareness Group) • Community-based organizations • United Nations agencies • International and regional funding bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government ministries (e.g. Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment) • Private sector • Community-based organizations • NGOs (e.g. Environmental Awareness Group)





3.2.2 Cuba

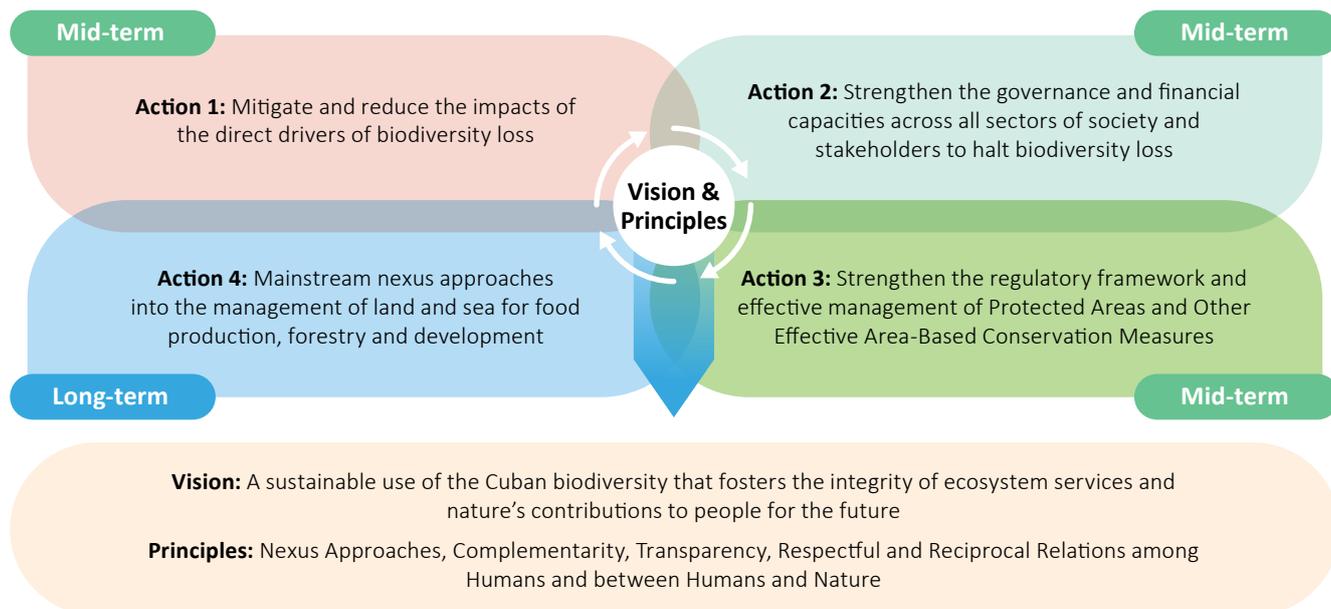


If we want to implement science-based governance, it has to be by listening to expert knowledge, and at the same time with the participation of communities, which is something that Cuban legislation still needs to develop further – giving these local communities the opportunity to participate in the projects and in the benefits of the projects that are implemented in the country.

– Daimar Cánovas González, Cuba

Cuba's sustainable future is challenged by insufficient harmonization of biodiversity conservation and sustainable goals within the country's development policies and implementation of financial mechanisms (see [Section B, Chapter III, Background Document](#)). Centring this set of actions on enabling the conditions for the sustainable use of biodiversity reflects the importance of using nexus approaches that allow for economic development that delivers nexus-wide positive impacts on both Cuban nature and people's well-being.





Action 1	Action 2	Action 3	Action 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministries and government agencies (e.g. Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment) Local communities and civil society organizations Academic and research institutions United Nations agencies Regional and national projects (e.g. Mi Costa, ProCaribe+) Private sector Communities of practice (e.g. permaculture and agroecology movements) Government companies, (e.g. Flora y Fauna, CUPET) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministries and government agencies (e.g. Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment) Local communities and civil society organizations Academic and research institutions United Nations agencies Regional and national projects Private sector Government companies Local governments Communities of practice International and regional funding bodies (e.g. Caribbean Biodiversity Fund) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministries and government agencies (e.g. Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment and Ministry of Agriculture) Local communities, including traditional and Indigenous knowledge holders Government companies Communities of practice Private sector International and regional funding bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministries and government agencies (e.g. Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment) Local communities and civil society organizations Academic and research institutions United Nations agencies Regional and national projects Private sector Government companies

Sub-action 4.1: Design and implement a regional project (potentially with Trinidad and Tobago) that 1) restores coastal and marine systems (e.g. wetlands, seagrasses, coral reefs) to improve habitat integrity and connectivity, ecosystem functioning and resilience and secure nature’s contributions to people from these ecosystems (nexus response option B06), 2) implements multi-stakeholder, multisectoral and collaborative processes to adaptively co-manage coastal and marine systems with an emphasis on connectivity between socioecological systems with mutually beneficial outcomes for environmental, social and economic objectives (nexus response option B09), 3) uses biodiversity and nature’s contributions to people found in coastal and marine systems to reduce human vulnerability to climate change by facilitating adaptation and building resilience to the impacts of climate change (nexus response option B04) and 4) applies human rights principles, including recognizing the rights of local communities and of women to land and territories, water, food, health and a safe and clean environment, and account for the rights of nature and the rights of non-human entities (nexus response option B10) (see also the synergies with the [Regional set of actions on Blue Tourism](#)).





3.2.3 Dominica



Wa Samaki [Ecosystems] Permaculture was turned from a citrus farm into almost a forest, and it is something that mimics a lot of places in Dominica – a lot of areas where we could have similar opportunities focused on biodiversity, nature, the absence of chemicals. Dominica boasts a lot of nature, so almost every part of the country that you go, you can have these green opportunities – small spaces to start that are similar to that one.

– Liam Sebastien, Dominica

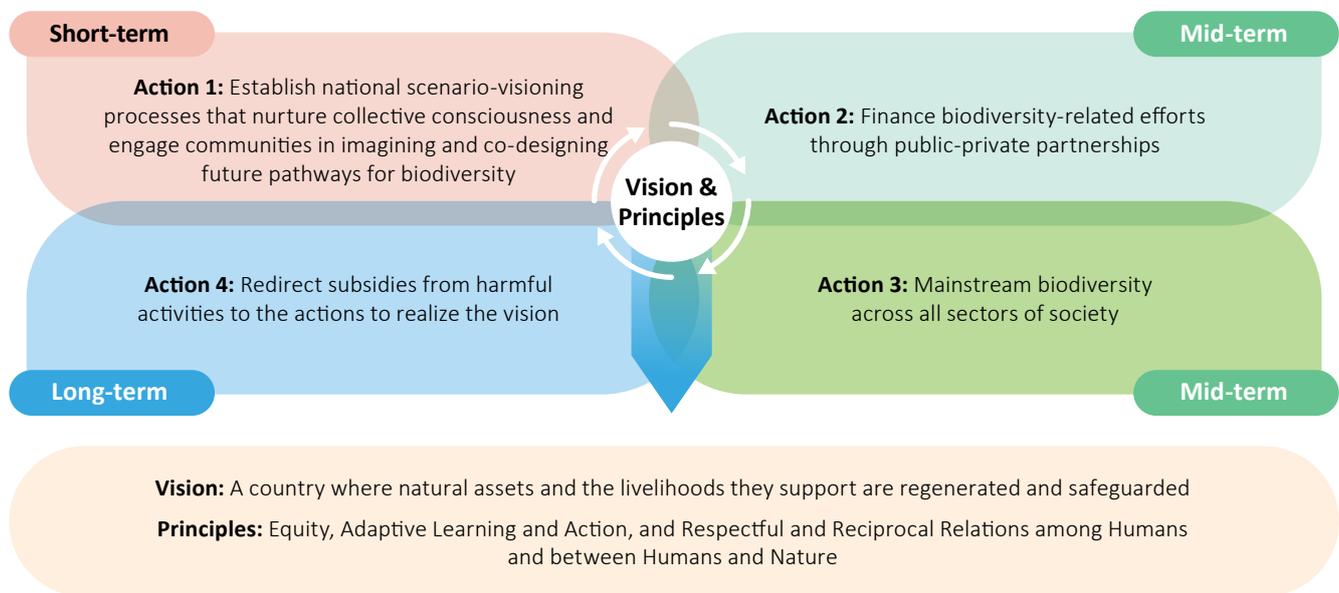
Box 1: Wa Samaki Ecosystems

Wa Samaki is a family permaculture project system in Trinidad, which Trialogue participants visited on Day 2 (see agenda in [Annex 2](#)). It was founded in 1997 in a 33-acre estate where a conventional citrus farm existed. It has undergone a permaculture restoration to include a cut flower business, an aquaculture business of tropical fishes, a thriving agro-forest, space that allows wildlife to travel along corridors throughout the site and housing infrastructure for the family. The project has facilitated the regeneration of an ample mixed forest buffer zone around the largest natural gas facility in Trinidad using permaculture principles. The project also offers guided tours, Permaculture Design Courses, consulting in several knowledge areas (e.g. land rehabilitation, permaculture) and volunteering opportunities.



Wa Samaki also houses a demonstrative pollinator garden and stingless bee hives established as part of the [BES-Net TT project](#), one of the key practical outcomes from the [First Caribbean Regional Trialogue](#) financed through the [BES Solution Fund](#) to support the uptake of the IPBES Global Assessment on Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production (see more of the BES-Net TT's nexus and transformative change potential in [sub-section 3, Section G, Chapter III, Background Document](#)).

Dominica’s mountainous and forested landscapes provide critical ecosystem services, including water regulation, slope stability and protection from extreme weather events. [Recent hurricanes such as Hurricane Maria in 2017 have caused damage equivalent to a substantial share of the national GDP](#), underscoring the role of intact ecosystems in disaster risk reduction (see [Section C, Chapter III, Background Document](#)). The focus on regenerating and safeguarding natural assets reflects an understanding that ecosystem resilience is foundational to national resilience, particularly in the face of increasing climate extremes.



Action 1	Action 2	Action 3	Action 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local communities and Indigenous Peoples, especially Kalinago Peoples and youth Kalinago Council Faith-based organizations Private sector Social media and influencers Media sector Local, regional and global networks, groups, cooperatives and associations Government ministries (e.g. Ministry of Environment, Rural Modernisation, Kalinago Upliftment and Constituency Empowerment) International, regional and local NGOs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private sector Financial sector and institutions Government ministries (e.g. Ministry of Finance, Economic Development, Climate Resilience and Social Security, Ministry of Environment, Rural Modernisation, Kalinago Upliftment and Constituency Empowerment and Ministry of Tourism) Dominica Hotel and Tourism Association Dominica Association of Industry and Commerce International and regional funding bodies International, regional and local NGOs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Societal sectors, including (but not limited to) education, tourism, health, culture and sanitation Ministry of Environment, Rural Modernisation, Kalinago Upliftment and Constituency Empowerment Ministry of Finance, Economic Development, Climate Resilience and Social Security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government ministries Kalinago Council Private sector Civil society organizations Local communities, especially youth International, regional and local NGOs United Nations agencies BIOFIN initiative





3.2.4 Dominican Republic

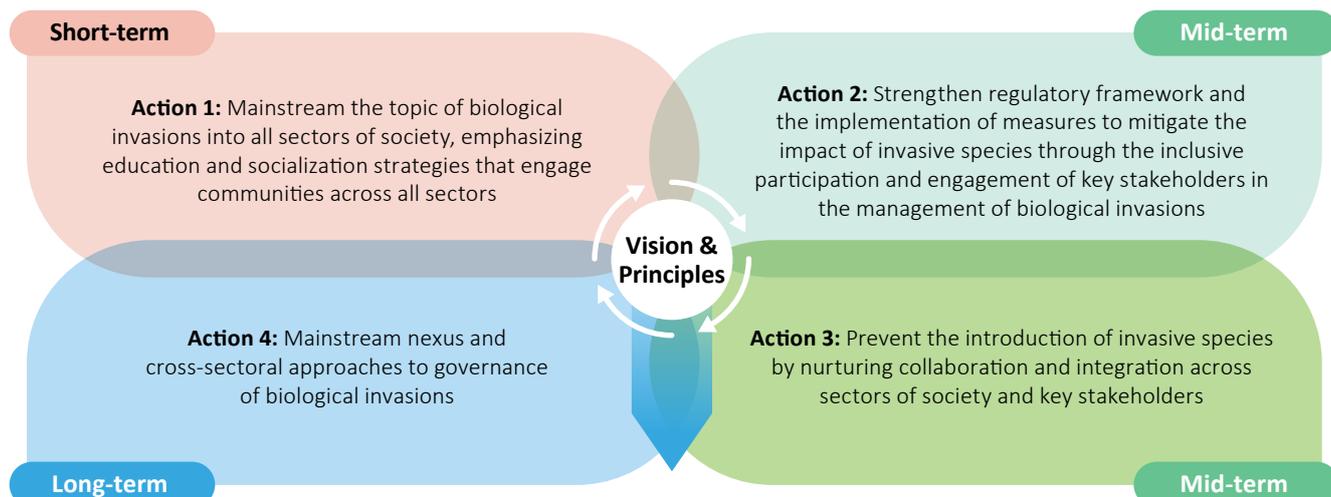


Many people in the Caribbean, sometimes even well-educated ones, when asked about the native nature of our country, of our island, don't know much about it. They only know many species brought by colonizers. We first need to educate ourselves about our biodiversity. For example, coconut palms – people associate them with the Caribbean, but they aren't native to the Caribbean. So, when you start telling them about all the unique species we have, or some that are even found only in one region, they feel proud.

– Yolanda León, Dominican Republic

Invasive alien species are a significant and growing direct driver of biodiversity loss globally, with particularly acute impacts in island and coastal ecosystems. In the Dominican Republic, biological invasions interact with land use change, climate stressors and pollution, affecting agriculture, water systems and ecosystem health (see [Section D, Chapter III, Background Document](#)). Prioritizing invasive species governance through nexus approaches reflects the need to address these pressures as cross-sector challenges with cascading impacts on biodiversity, food security and human well-being.





Vision: The impact of invasive species is reduced in Dominican Republic through nexus approaches to the governance of biological invasions

Principles: Inclusion, Pluralism and Gender Focus

Action 1	Action 2	Action 3	Action 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local communities Civil society organizations (e.g. women’s associations, youth groups) Government ministries (e.g. Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Education) International, regional and local NGOs (e.g. Grupo Jaragua) Educational and research institutions (e.g. Museum of Natural History, Botanical Garden and Aquarium) United Nations agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local communities, including traditional and Indigenous knowledge holders Civil society organizations (e.g. women’s associations, youth groups) Peoples with invasive species-related livelihoods (e.g. hunters) Government ministries (e.g. Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and the Ministry of Agriculture) International, regional and local NGOs Private sector Financial sector and institutions International and regional funding bodies (e.g. Caribbean Biodiversity Fund) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local communities, including traditional and Indigenous knowledge holders Airport and seaport customs authorities Government ministries and departments (e.g. Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Ministry of Agriculture and the Dominican Fishing and Aquiculture Council) Private sector (e.g. courier companies) Groups and associations from sectors that drive introductions (e.g. Nursery associations) International and regional funding bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local communities, including traditional and Indigenous knowledge holders Civil society organizations (e.g. women’s associations, youth groups) Government ministries (e.g. Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources) International, regional and local NGOs Private sector Financial sector and institutions International and regional funding bodies





3.2.5 Grenada

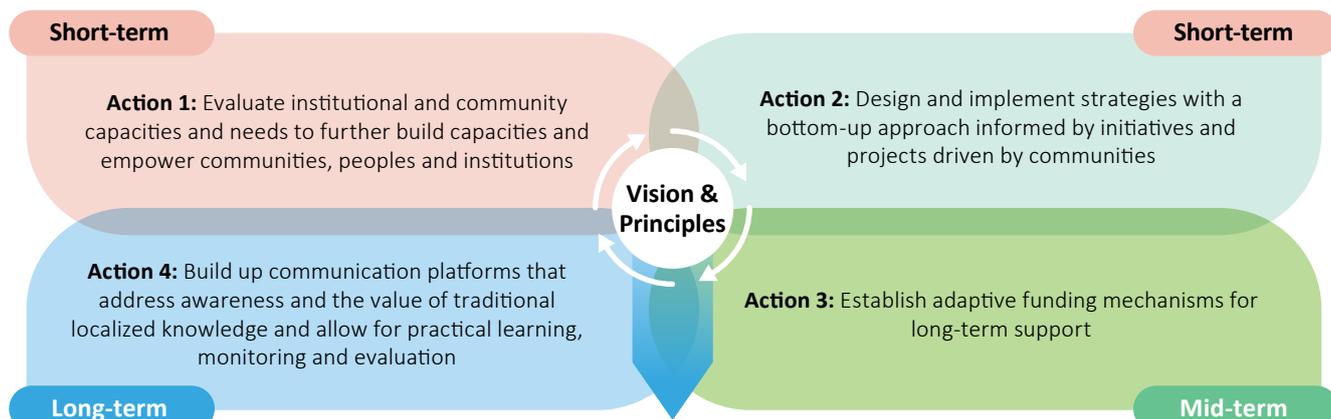


Grenada was lucky enough to have representation from the gender specialist in the Ministry of Social Development, the youth representative or communications expert, as well as non-government representation along with environment, so that we could actually come from multiple contexts to merge what we have learned at this Triologue, particularly for the mainstreaming of those IPBES assessment products.

– Aria St. Louis, Grenada

Climate-related shocks in small island contexts disproportionately affect vulnerable communities and exacerbate existing social and economic inequalities (see [Section E, Chapter III, Background Document](#)). Ecosystem degradation, livelihoods and care responsibilities are closely intertwined, particularly at the community level. Centring the set of actions on care and justice reflects the recognition that climate resilience requires not only technical solutions, but also inclusive and cross-sectoral governance and special attention to social dimensions of gender and well-being.





Vision: A just climate-resilient Grenada that places care at the core of actions where communities, institutions and ecosystems thrive through equitable governance, shared stewardship, and sustainable livelihoods

Principles: Care, Justice, Pluralism, Empowerment, Adaptive Learning and Action

Action 1	Action 2	Action 3	Action 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local communities, including Indigenous traditional knowledge holders Community-based and civil society organizations International, regional and local NGOs Government ministries, departments and agencies (e.g. Ministry of Finance, Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Social and Community Development, Housing and Gender Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Economic Development, Planning, Tourism, Creative Economy, Culture, Agriculture and Lands, Forestry, Blue Economy, Marine Resources and Cooperatives) United Nations agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community leaders and planners Government ministries, departments and agencies (e.g. Ministry of Climate Resilience, the Environment and Renewable Energy and Ministry of Economic Development, Planning, Tourism, Creative Economy, Culture, Agriculture and Lands, Forestry, Blue Economy, Marine Resources and Cooperatives) Media sector (e.g. Grenada Information Service) Social media and influencers UN agencies Regional projects/initiatives (e.g. ProCaribe+, UBEC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government ministries, departments and agencies (e.g. Ministry of Finance) International and regional funding bodies (e.g. Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, RP-Caribbean) Financial sector and institutions UN agencies Regional organizations (e.g. OECS) Private sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media sector (e.g. Grenada Information Service) Social media and influencers Government ministries, departments and agencies (e.g. Ministry of Social and Community Development, Housing and Gender Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Climate Resilience, the Environment and Renewable Energy, Ministry of Youth and Sports and Ministry of Health, Wellness and Religious Affairs) Local communities and Indigenous traditional knowledge holders Community-based and civil society organizations Regional projects/initiatives (e.g. ProCaribe+, CCoral)





3.2.6 Guyana

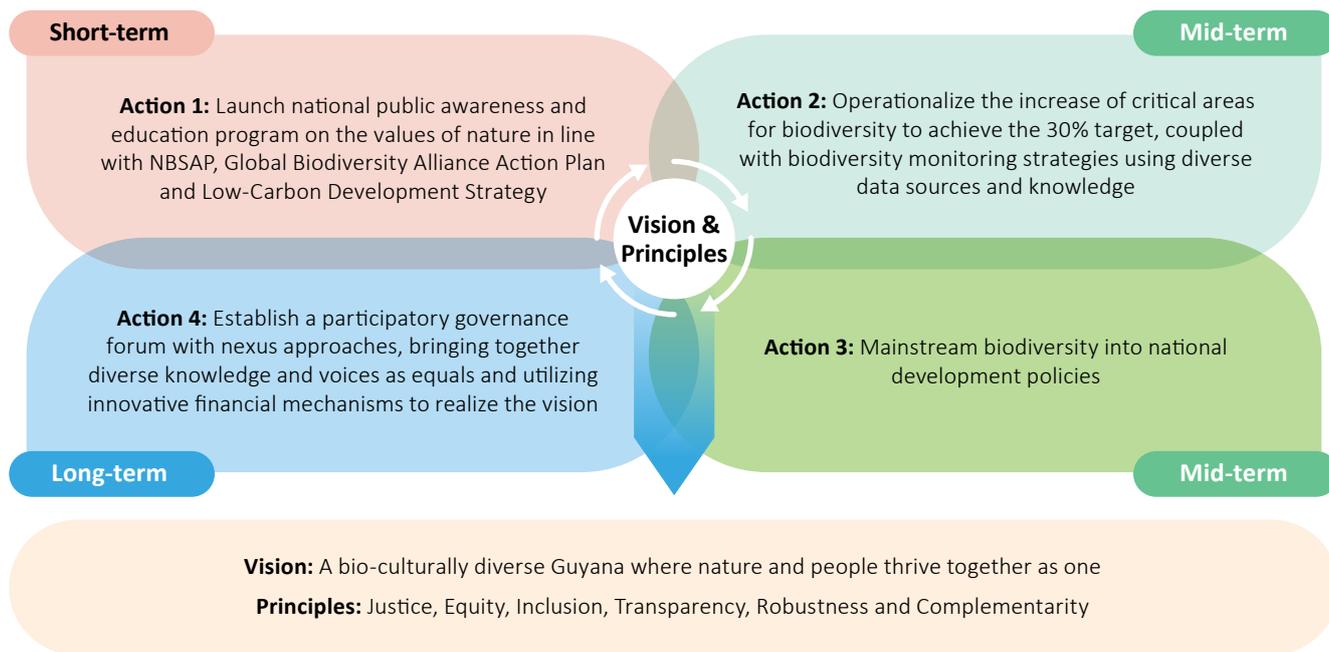


In the early 2000s, there was a Darwin initiative-funded project in the North Rupununi savannas at the Aonu. It started out with a very Western science kind of approach to determining the critical lakes and ponds and river patches to survey and collect data from. Over a year of collecting data, we had more conversations with the communities and realized that there was a shortfall in characterizing what was important because we had not factored in the community element. The second phase was significantly influenced by the learning from the first phase: it was more about engaging with the communities and getting them involved. That's what we were working on, getting people engaged in a way that what was important to them was considered and addressed. I think that critical learning is what influenced everything that came after."

– Calvin Bernard, Guyana

Guyana is characterized by a high forest cover and significant bio-cultural diversity, including extensive Indigenous and local community territories that underpin livelihoods and ecosystem stewardship. At the same time, development pressures increase incentives for ecosystem conversion and resource extraction (see [Section F, Chapter III, Background Document](#)). The focus on nature-based enterprises and biodiversity finance reflects an effort to align economic opportunities with conservation outcomes, strengthening local economies while reducing pressures on ecosystems.





Action 1	Action 2	Action 3	Action 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local communities and Indigenous Peoples Government ministries and agencies (e.g. Office of the President, Ministry of Natural Resources and Ministry of Education) Toshaos Council National, regional and global programmes (e.g. Sustainable Wildlife Management Programme) International, regional and local NGOs (e.g. South Rupununi Conservation Society) Community-based and civil society organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government ministries and agencies (e.g. Protected Areas Commission, Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission, Environmental Protection Agency and Ministry of Natural Resources) Department of Energy and Climate Change Academic and research institutions (e.g. University of Guyana, Centre for Study of Biological Diversity, and National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government ministries and agencies (e.g. Protected Areas Commission, Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission, Environmental Protection Agency and Ministry of Natural Resources) International, regional and local NGOs Academic and research institutions (e.g. University of Guyana, Centre for Study of Biological Diversity, and National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government ministries and agencies (e.g. Ministry of Amerindian Affairs, Toshaos Council, and Office of the President) Local communities and Indigenous Peoples International, regional and local NGOs Community-based and civil society organizations United Nations agencies

Sub-action 2.1: Reduce pressure on ecosystems by promoting green livelihoods that are biodiversity-supportive and culturally grounded.

Sub-action 2.2: Support nature-based enterprise development that strengthen local economies through capacity-building, inclusive financing and sustainable value chains rooted in traditional knowledge and biodiversity, and the empowerment of Indigenous and local communities.

Sub-action 4.1: Establish a national biodiversity finance system that tracks biodiversity-related finance, reward positive conservation actions and re-direct harmful subsidies, with a focus on local communities, youth and small and medium enterprises engaged in nature-based activities.





3.2.7 Trinidad and Tobago



Part of [our work at Fishers Future] involves ensuring that fishers have the right to fish, the right to access the resource and the right to enjoy a sustainable livelihood in the process. Included in having the right to fish is also understanding the importance of critical and valuable species, like sharks, sea turtles, dolphins and stingrays – species that contribute to the natural ecosystem. It's important that fishers understand that protecting these species improves the long-term viability of the fish stock. And protecting these species keeps the ocean healthy so that they can have a longer, sustainable livelihood in the process. The coexistence of critical species is important for long-term biodiversity, and it's also important for sustaining community livelihoods, but also ensuring you have natural resources for a long time to come.

– Dennis Sammy, Trinidad and Tobago



Box 2: Futures Fishers

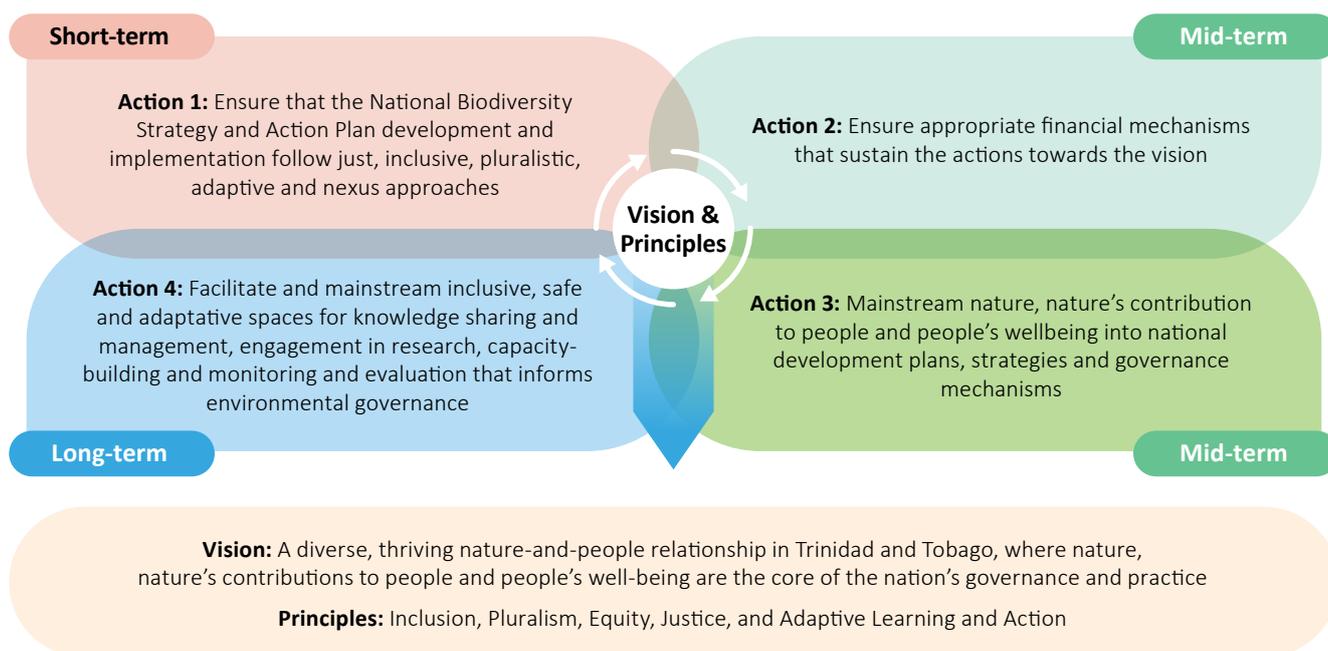
Futures Fishers is a non-profit organization with the mission to improve sustainable use and management of Trinidad and Tobago's coastal and marine resources while improving opportunities for better governance, economic growth and social advancement of the fishing community. Participants of the Trialogue had the opportunity to get to know and share experiences with a Fishers Future's representative on Day 3, during the Innovation Corner session, where multiple projects and organizations exhibited their bright ideas and practices (see agenda in [Annex 2](#)).

Their approach is based on [fostering partnerships and collaboration with rural-coastal communities and other relevant stakeholders](#), sustaining the [5 pillars of their strategy](#): Improving Habitat and Nursery Areas; Managing the Cost of Fishing; Expanding Downstream to Increase Value; Promoting Sustainable Fishing; and Improving Policy and Legislation.

Among the many activities and projects in their portfolio, the [Smoke Fish and Expo Competition](#) and the [Fishers Graduation and Fishing Competition Prize Distribution](#) have been supported by the [Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme in Trinidad and Tobago](#).



Governance fragmentation and sectoral silos are persistent barriers to addressing interconnected environmental and development challenges in the Caribbean. In Trinidad and Tobago, historical reliance on extractive industries intersects with land use change and climate impacts across ecosystems and communities (see [Section G, Chapter III, Background Document](#)). Emphasizing participatory governance and community co-management and redirecting finance towards nexus-aligned actions would meet the need to shift institutional practices towards more integrated, inclusive and adaptive approaches.



Action 1	Action 2	Action 3	Action 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local communities, Indigenous Peoples and leaders Government ministries (e.g. Ministry of Planning, Economic Affairs and Development and Environmental Management Authority) Local governments International, regional and local NGOs (e.g., CANARI) United Nations agencies Community-based and civil society organizations Academic and research institutions People whose livelihoods directly relate to nature (e.g. hunters, farmers, fishersfolk) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government ministries (e.g. Ministry of Planning, Economic Affairs and Development) Regional projects/initiatives (e.g. ProCaribe+, UBEC) United Nations agencies International and regional funding bodies (e.g. Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, RP-Caribbean) Private sector (e.g. Natural Capital Hub) International, regional and local NGOs (e.g. CANARI) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local communities, Indigenous Peoples and leaders Government ministries (e.g. Ministry of Planning, Economic Affairs and Development, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Culture and Community Development) Local governments International, regional and local NGOs Community-based and civil society organizations Academic and research institutions Media sector Content creators (e.g. social media influencers) Local, regional and global networks, groups and movements (e.g. Permaculture movement, Association of Caribbean Beekeepers' Organisations, Conscious Food Systems Alliance) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local communities, Indigenous Peoples and leaders Government ministries (e.g. Ministry of Planning, Economic Affairs and Development, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Culture and Community Development) Local governments International, regional and local NGOs Community-based and civil society organizations Academic and research institutions Media sector Content creators (e.g. social media influencers) Local, regional and global networks, groups and movements Private sector

Sub-action 2.1: Advocate the redirecting of public and private funds towards projects that implement nexus response options (e.g. agroecology) and nexus approaches to governance (see synergies with [Regional set of actions on Food Security](#) and [Regional set of actions on Nature-based solutions](#)).

Sub-action 3.1: Establish community co-management bodies for specific ecosystems (e.g. the management committees proposed under the [GEF project "Improving Forest and Protected Area Management"](#)) to help formalize the decision-making roles of local communities, as well as communities of practice for groups such as fisherfolk and farmers, advocating participatory governance.

Sub-action 4.1: See sub-action 4.1 in [Cuba's set of actions](#) above.

4. Conclusion

Nexus approaches to governance and transformative change are complex because they require systemic shifts and strategic redirections. For the Caribbean, complexity combines with the urgency for sustainability and survival. Embarking on the nexus and transformative change journey requires long-term commitment, perseverance and hope in our collective capacities and agencies.



Nexus is a way of thinking. It forces us to contemplate outside of our own areas of expertise, to think beyond our national borders. Nature does not respond to political borders. When we think about the challenges we're facing, we have to elevate the transboundary cooperation and the transboundary thinking. And I think that point came out strongly during the Trialogue because we have a mixture of people from different parts of the Caribbean. Recognizing the role of regional cooperation in tackling some of these challenges would have only been possible because of a workshop of this nature, where you're bringing diverse perspectives together. And suddenly we discover that we have the capacity as a region to cooperate around some of these challenges.

– Prof. Donovan Campbell, Lead Author for the IPBES Nexus Assessment

This Action Document brings together the shared reflections, priorities and proposed actions that emerged through the facilitated dialogue and co-creation process of the [Second Caribbean Regional Trialogue](#). It reflects a collective effort by participants from across the Caribbean region to make sense of complex socio-ecological challenges through the lenses of nexus approaches and transformative change, grounded in both global evidence and lived experience.

The sets of actions presented here were initially shaped during the Trialogue and subsequently refined through feedback shared by participants. This iterative process has strengthened the coherence of the document and reinforced its character as a collectively held outcome, rather than a prescriptive plan or a set of externally defined recommendations.

Taken together, the key messages and action sets point to a common understanding: addressing biodiversity loss, climate vulnerability, food and water insecurity, and human well-being in the Caribbean requires moving beyond fragmented, sectoral responses. Integrated approaches, long-term perspectives and attention to underlying social drivers are essential, alongside governance processes that are inclusive, adaptive and grounded in equity, care and pluralism.

At the same time, this Action Document does not seek to offer final answers. Instead, it captures a moment of convergence – a shared articulation of where participants see opportunities for action, agency and collaboration within their respective contexts. The actions outlined are intentionally diverse, reflecting different entry points, capacities and realities across countries and thematic areas, while remaining connected through common principles and directions.



What makes the Triologue different from a classic conference or meeting is that it's actually all about putting IPBES reports into practice, into action on the ground, in specific locations and contexts. In a conference, we just talk about the ideas of the report. At a Triologue, we're talking about how to do it in practice, how to put it into action, and that's unique and incredibly important.

– Prof. Fern Wickson, Coordinating Lead Author of the IPBES Transformative Change Assessment

The value of this document lies not only in its content but also in the process to produce it and the relationships it reflects. It is offered as a reference, a point of alignment and a source of learning, to support continued dialogue, collaboration and reflection among participants, institutions and partners, as they navigate pathways towards more just, resilient and biodiversity-positive futures in the Caribbean.



Annexes

Annex 1: List of participants (in country order)

Country	Name	Job Title	Organization/Initiative	Email
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Country	Name	Job Title	Organization/Initiative	Email
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Country	Name	Job Title	Organization/Initiative	Email
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Annex 2: Agenda of the Trialogue

Day 1: Tuesday 2 December 2025

Location: Hyatt Regency, Port of Spain

Opening and Diverging (Co-Initiating + Co-Sensing)

Big-picture framing, hearing multiple voices, mapping challenges and opportunities

Time

08:30 – 09:00
09:00 – 10:00
10:00 – 10:30
10:30 – 10:50
10:50 – 12:00
12:00 – 13:00
13:00 – 14:00
14:00 – 15:00
15:00 – 16:30
16:30 – 17:00
17:00 – 18:00
18:00 – 21:00

Session

Registration
Inaugural Opening and Vision Sharing
Coffee Break and Group Photo
Setting the Stage: What is a Trialogue?
Keynote Dialogue: Nexus and Transformative Change in the Caribbean
Collaborative Exploration: Mapping Locus of Control
Lunch
Panel: Multiple Evidence Base (MEB) Bringing Diverse Voices Together
Co-Creation Lab I: Designing Integrated Solutions
Daily Wrap-Up
Free Time
Official Dinner and Networking Evening



Day 2: Wednesday 3 December 2025

Site visits outside Port of Spain

Deepening (Sensing and Presencing)

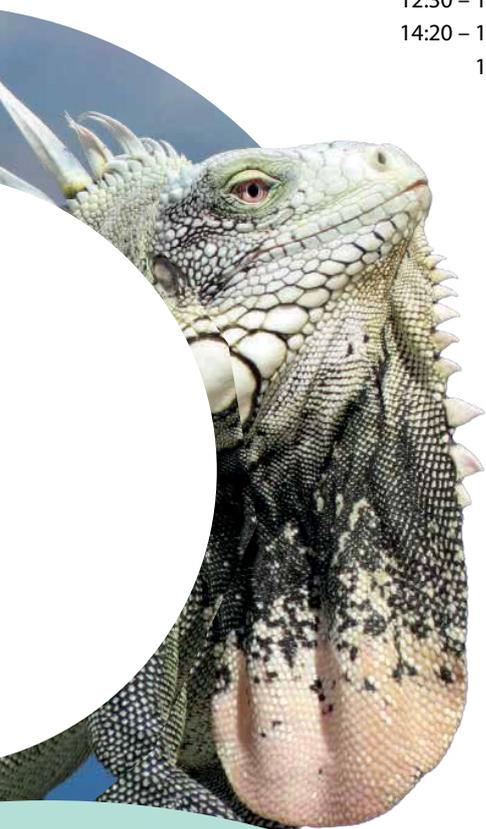
Immersive field experiences, connecting head–heart–hand, silent reflection

Time

8:00
9:00 – 11:30
12:30 – 14:00
14:20 – 15:30
16:30

Session

Departure from Hyatt Regency
Field Visit 1: Wasamaki Permaculture
Networking Lunch at Freebird Restaurant
Field Visit 2: Pointe-à-Pierre Wildfowl Trust
Return to Hyatt Regency



Day 3: Thursday 4 December 2025

Location: Hyatt Regency, Port of Spain

Converging (Co-Creating and Prototyping)

Building national roadmaps and regional synergies

Time

08:30 – 10:00
[Parallel]
10:00 – 10:30
10:30 – 11:00
11:00 – 13:00
13:00 – 14:00
14:00 – 15:00
15:00 – 15:30
15:30 – 16:00
16:00 – 16:30
16:30 – 17:00
17:00

Session

Parallel Sessions:
• Innovation Corner: Prototyping Ideas
• High-Level Breakfast Dialogue
Plenary Feedback
Coffee Break
Co-Creation Lab II: Regional Synergies
Lunch
Country Group Co-Creation Lab III: National Roadmaps
Sharing and Reflection
Coffee Break
Closing Dialogue
Evaluation
End of the Trialogue

