

MAY 2025

ACCESS GRANTED

A CALL TO ACTION FOR GENDER-RESPONSIVE CLIMATE FINANCE

Impact Report



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A CALL TO ACTION FOR GENDER-RESPONSIVE CLIMATE FINANCE

- Campaign Duration: 17 January 2025 - 7 April 2025
- Lead Organizations: The Crystal Clear Initiative of Trinidad and Tobago & The Climate Conscious Podcast
- Funding Support: Climate Action Small Grant Facility by CANARI, supported by Open Society Foundations

About the Report Cover

Kyla Foster has captured the essence of gender-responsive climate finance with a stunning piece that will be featured on our campaign report cover. Their artwork reflects the urgent need for inclusive climate solutions that empower women, Indigenous communities, and marginalized voices.

"While doing some research on the connection between climate finance and gender justice a question just pops up in my head, who is most likely to be vulnerable to the impacts of natural disasters from climate change? I thought of the children, the elders, the disabled, low income households, farmers and indigenous communities etc. The factors I mentioned can be of any gender therefore I believe that climate finance should indeed prioritize the most vulnerable despite their gender. So after looking at the title access granted the symbols give me an idea why not put both genders in my artwork? The tree is a symbol of development, when development is maintained it can help places that are developing and also places that are not developed. To be honest when I heard about climate finance the first thing that came to my mind was money or funds that reduce the causes of climate change or to help the ones affected by climate change so I decided to use the corks to make coins to resemble that part. The globe in the man's hand would resemble the world but I tend to show the Caribbean countries in their flags in order to focus on the Caribbean specifically." - Kyla Foster.

Acknowledgements

The Crystal Clear Initiative of Trinidad and Tobago & The Climate Conscious Podcast wish to sincerely thank the contributors who provided invaluable insights and perspectives, helping to expand the understanding of gender-responsive climate finance in the Caribbean context.

Our donors, the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) and Open Society Foundations (OSF).

Paula Joseph and the team at The Market Aide
Kwasi Robinson
Kwesi 'SupaHype' Lee

Workshop attendees
Talya Mohammed
Joshua Brizan

The Southern Academy for the Performing Arts
Participants in the Regional Art Competitions
Judges for the Regional Art Competition

All individuals and organisations who engaged with the campaign resources.

Executive Summary

Access Granted: A Call to Action for Gender-Responsive Climate Finance was a regional campaign led by The Crystal Clear Initiative of Trinidad and Tobago and The Climate Conscious Podcast, supported by CANARI's Climate Action Small Grant Facility. Running from January 17 to April 7, 2025, the campaign aimed to address gender inequality and advocate for equitable access to climate finance across the English-speaking Caribbean.

Core Objectives

- Public Education – Raise awareness on gender-responsive climate finance.
- Capacity Building – Equip underrepresented groups with knowledge and tools to access climate finance.

Key Activities & Achievements

- Social Media Campaign: Reached over 670,000+ people across platforms and generated over 573,000+ organic views. Engaged 8 Caribbean countries and built an active email list.
- Regional Art Competition: Engaged 40 artists to express themes of gender justice and climate finance.
- Capacity-Building Workshop: Trained 15 grassroots, Indigenous, and social entrepreneur representatives on climate finance systems, partnership development, and proposal writing. Delivered by expert facilitator Talya Mohammed.
- Voices from the Frontlines: Shared powerful testimonies from Indigenous leaders, women entrepreneurs, and persons with disabilities, emphasizing the diverse needs and solutions for inclusive climate finance.

Outcomes

- Increased regional dialogue on the intersection of gender and climate justice.
- Strengthened community capacities for proposal development and funding access.
- Fostered cross-sector collaboration and artistic engagement.
- Identified key community needs: more workshops, flexible scheduling, child/youth-friendly initiatives, and one-on-one mentorship.

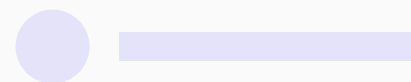
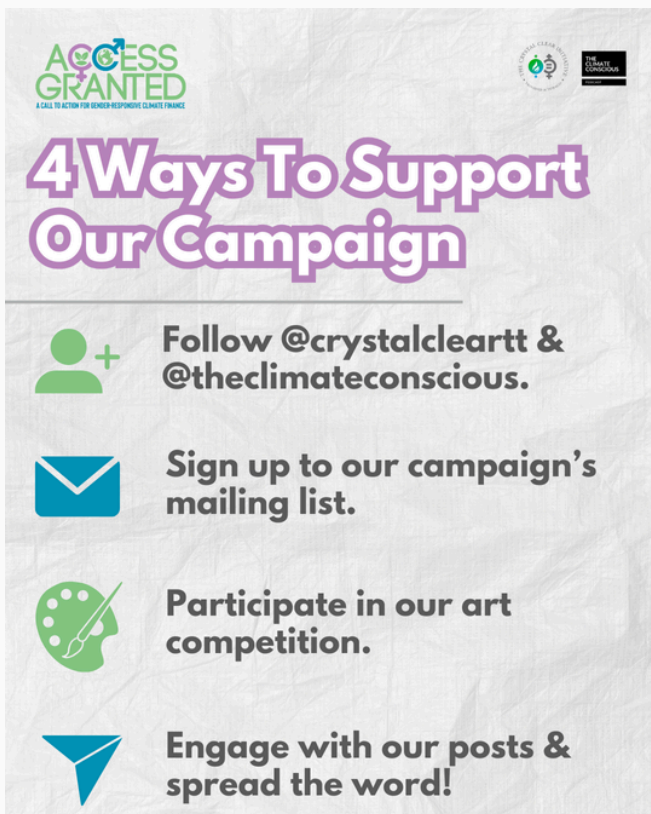
The campaign effectively bridged advocacy, creativity, and education, setting a precedent for inclusive climate finance initiatives in the region. While structural challenges persist, Access Granted laid critical groundwork for sustained, equitable climate action.

Introduction

Addressing Gender Inequality Through Gender-Responsive Climate Finance

Women continue to face significant barriers to participation in decision-making and equitable access to resources, driven by entrenched societal norms and persistent gender inequalities. These challenges include systemic gender discrimination and the burden of long workdays due to the dual demands of paid and unpaid labour.

Gender-responsive climate finance presents a powerful opportunity to transform communities. Evidence shows that women and men often bring different but equally valuable perspectives to addressing climate challenges. When women are actively engaged in climate initiatives, outcomes tend to be more inclusive, effective, and sustainable for entire communities. Investing in climate solutions through a gender lens not only promotes climate resilience but also advances gender equality and empowers women and girls.



Access Granted sought to tackle two core issues:

- Integrating women's voices and knowledge into climate action, finance mechanisms, project design, and decision-making processes.
- Removing barriers that limit women's access to the financial resources and capacity-building opportunities needed to lead and participate in climate resilience efforts.

Messages from the Co-hosts



Derval Barzey

Founder & Host, The Climate Conscious Podcast

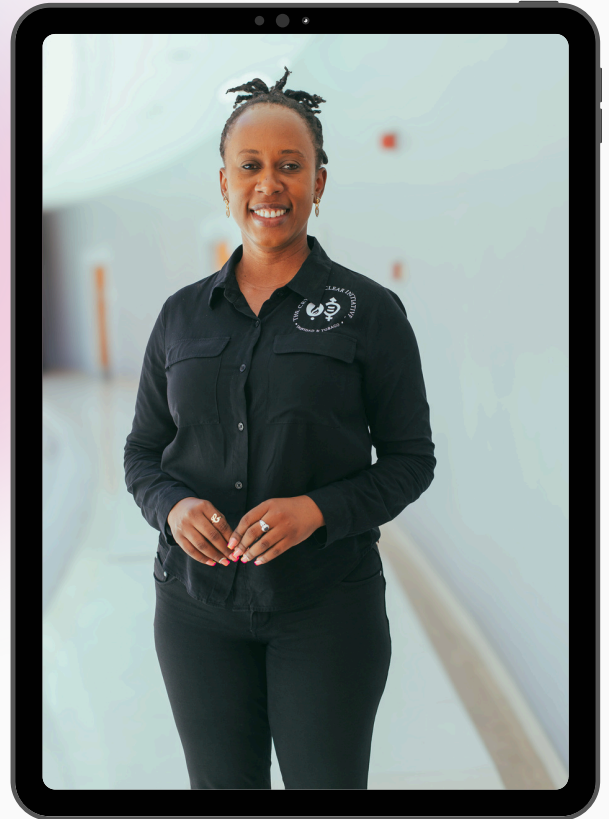
This work is important. It is about ensuring that the people on the frontlines of climate change are not just seen but are supported, not just included but are also leading.

Through storytelling, shared learning, and creative expression, Access Granted became much more than a campaign—it became a powerful call to action, a platform for connection and change.

We advocated for increasing flows of financial resources that empower women and other underrepresented groups in the Caribbean. We strengthened public awareness of gender-responsive climate finance in the English-speaking Caribbean, and equip underrepresented groups with knowledge and skills to participate in decision-making processes and access climate finance.

Let's continue to amplify the call for gender-responsive climate finance. Let's continue to grant access, not as charity, but as justice.

Messages from the Co-hosts



Crystal Roberts

Founder, The Crystal Clear Initiative of T&T

The Access Granted campaign was a powerful and multifaceted initiative that effectively raised awareness and fostered engagement on the intersection of gender equality and climate action.

The social media campaign amplified key messages, reaching a broad audience and sparking meaningful conversations about the need for inclusive financing.

The regional art competition creatively highlighted diverse perspectives, allowing artists to visually express the impacts of climate change on women and marginalized communities, while emphasizing solutions.

The capacity-building workshop equipped stakeholders with practical tools and knowledge to advocate for and access gender-responsive climate finance.

Together, these activities not only educated and inspired but also strengthened collective efforts to ensure climate finance addresses gendered vulnerabilities and promotes equitable resilience. The campaign successfully bridged advocacy, creativity, and empowerment, leaving a lasting impact on participants and audiences alike.

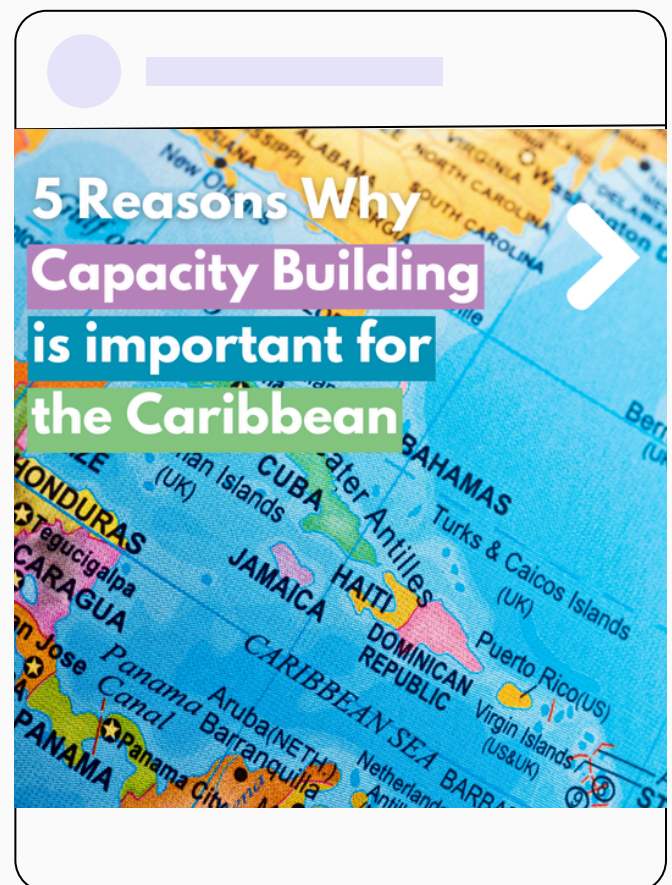
Women perform **76.2%** of total hours of unpaid care work, more than three times as much as men.

SOURCE: INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION



Campaign Objectives

- Public Education - Engage the public and strengthen awareness and understanding of gender-responsive climate finance in the English-speaking Caribbean
- Capacity Building - Equip representatives of traditionally underrepresented groups to develop knowledge and skills to participate in decision-making processes and access climate finance.



Key Activities and Outcomes

Social Media Campaign

Excerpt from Social Media report generated by The Market Aide

The Access Granted: A Call to Action for Gender-Responsive Climate Finance campaign successfully amplified awareness, built capacity, and encouraged advocacy around climate justice across the Caribbean region, based on the social media analytics. Through a multi-platform approach leveraging social media, email marketing, a capacity-building workshop, storytelling, and an art competition, the campaign engaged diverse audiences and highlighted the importance of inclusive climate finance. With content shared across Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Mailchimp, and Meta Ads, the campaign demonstrated strong reach, engagement, and regional visibility.

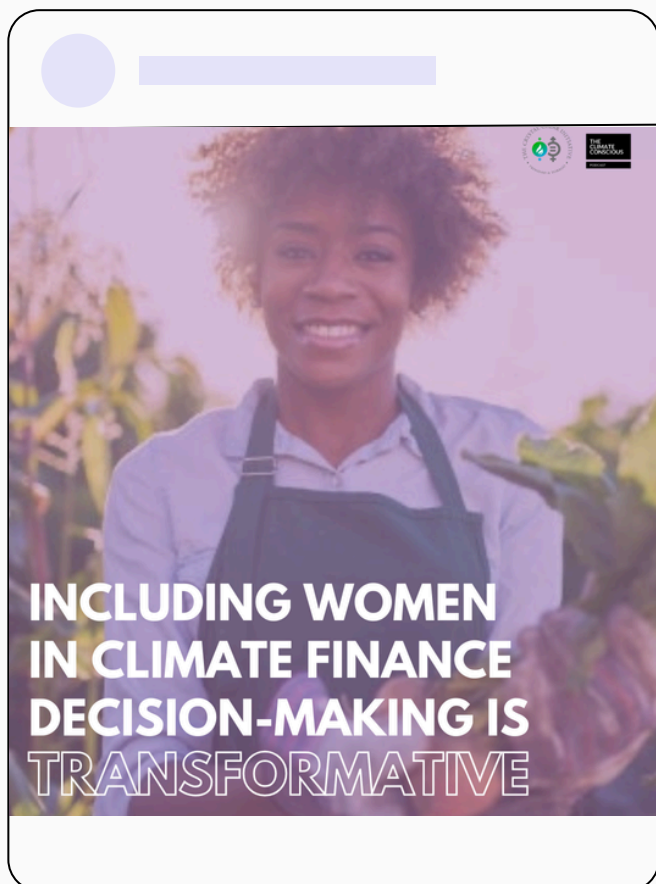
Key Achievements:

- Reached over 670,000+ people across all platforms combined.
- Engaged audiences across 8 Caribbean countries through email marketing.
- Organic social media content alone generated over 573,000+ views.
- Facilitated a well-attended workshop equipping NGOs, entrepreneurs & CBOs with skills to access climate finance.
- Hosted an art competition showcasing regional talent & visual storytelling on climate justice.
- Grew an email list from zero to 162 engaged contacts with a 60% average open rate.
- Captured authentic voices and stories of women & Indigenous leaders impacted by climate finance.

Audience Feedback

Audience feedback highlighted a strong interest in:

- More workshops, particularly combining technical and creative outcomes.
- Infographics were suggested as a more engaging way to present content, especially for visual learners.
- There was also a call for more arts and crafts competitions for children and increased prizes for art competitions.
- Several attendees expressed the need for workshops to be held at more convenient times, such as weekends or after work hours, with options for online or recorded sessions.
- There was a desire for one-on-one consultations, Zoom forums, and online resources.
- One respondent to the post-campaign survey also expressed interest in financial support for events they were participating in.



45% of Caribbean
women
experience intimate partner
violence during their lifetimes.

SOURCE: WWW.GOV.UK



Voices from the Frontlines

Features and Highlights:

Shailina Lingard, a member of the Lokono tribe, also known as the Arawak tribe in Suriname. She represents the Bureau Vereniging van Inheemse Dorpshoofden in Suriname (Bureau Association of Indigenous Village Leaders in Suriname) as known as VIDS. VIDS advocates for the legal recognition of Indigenous collective rights. With the Association, Shylina works to engage Indigenous people especially Indigenous youth, and raise their awareness on Indigenous rights, biodiversity, the effects of climate change and the [#GlobalsGoals](#) SDGs!



Indigenous Communities deserve Climate Finance

- Shylina Linaard, VIDS

Hi, my name is Shailina Linaard. I am part of the Lokono tribe, also known as the Arawak tribe in Suriname. I represent the Association of Indigenous Village Leaders in Suriname, formerly known in Dutch as VIDS, who is the institute of all 52 Indigenous traditional authorities in Suriname, and our main goal is to gain legal recognition of our collective rights, because as Indigenous peoples, we are the first people of Suriname, who is the only country in South America that has not enacted legislation to recognizing our collective rights, in particular our land rights.

We do not receive climate finance yet, but the VIDS, with support from donors, has carried out projects on climate awareness and research in Indigenous communities, as well as partaking in international processes like the Climate COP. One of the many challenges that Indigenous communities face with the effects of climate change is that it endangers our Indigenous livelihood due to extreme weather, heavy rainfall causing floods, but also extreme and prolonged drought. It has an effect on our health, on our food systems, our food security, our ecosystems, the loss of biodiversity, relocation to other areas, but also loss of cultural traditional practices as well as Indigenous knowledge.

A positive impact that the climate funding for Indigenous communities can bring is improving climate adaptation by creating awareness programs, training programs, as well as providing tools for, for example, water resource management, preserving food security, as well as capacity building for Indigenous leaders so they can advocate for their land rights, but also to partake and engage in decision-making and planning processes on a national as well as an international level.

Continued support for Indigenous communities is important because Indigenous people, we are not only vulnerable to the effects of climate change, and even though we make up less than 5% of the world population, we fulfill an important role when it comes to protecting and guiding OF 80% of our world's biodiversity, our nature. We are protectors of our forests, our water, our animals.

Indigenous livelihood also causes zero carbon emission. So why would you not want to support us? One of the ways Indigenous peoples can continue our livelihood is to be a part of policymaking processes or let our voices be heard, create opportunities where we can tell our stories and share our experiences and our knowledge. That's why I support the Access Granted campaign.

Minkako boboratinde da. Thank you.

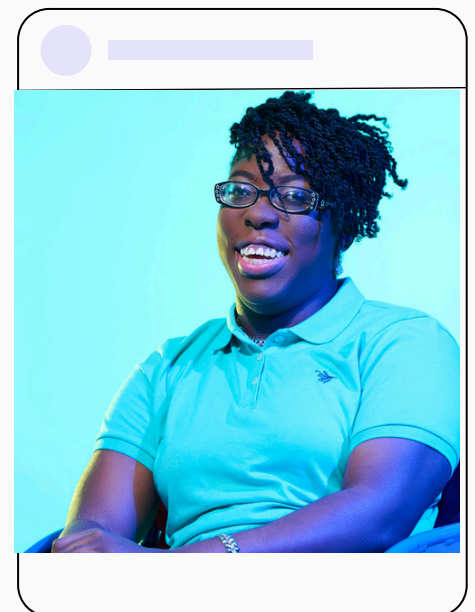
Voices from the Frontlines

Features and Highlights:

Bevon Chadel Charles, the visionary CEO of Akata Farms in Grenada. Bevon shared her journey in securing climate finance to advance sustainable agriculture in Grenada. She discussed the transformative impact of funding from initiatives like the Eastern Caribbean Business Resilient Challenge and the UNDP’s Blue-Green Innovation Challenge, which enabled her team to implement greenhouses, rain harvesting systems, and empower small farmers—especially women.



Richelle T. Henry, a Jamaican advocate, writer, and podcaster, uses her platform to inspire others through her journey with cerebral palsy. She reminds us that climate finance must work for everyone—including persons with disabilities. “For example, during high school, I hated earthquake drills because of the swiftness of the moment. During disasters, I face higher risks, from inaccessible evacuation routes to limited recovery resources.” Proper funding can ensure accessible infrastructure, inclusive green jobs, and tailored disaster response plans—but if climate action overlooks disability inclusion, it deepens inequality. A truly climate-resilient future means ensuring that solutions in housing, employment, and disaster preparedness are designed for all.



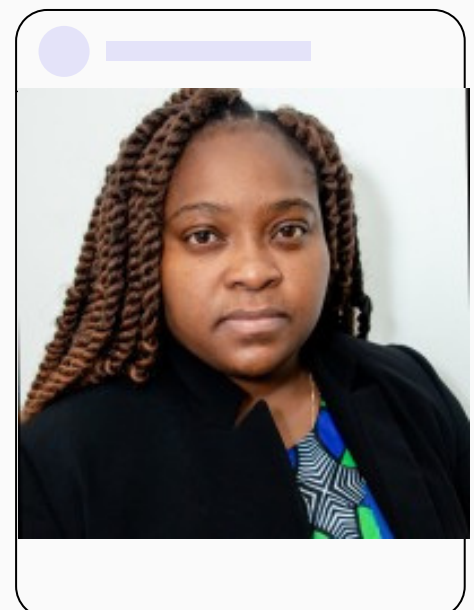
Voices from the Frontlines

Features and Highlights:

Aleeyah Amanda Ali, Co-Founder & Executive Director of The Foundation for Heritage Preservation & Legacy Creation, is on a mission to preserve Indigenous knowledge while building climate resilience and empowering underserved communities. At the heart of her work is the Heritage Learning Resource Centre, Nature Park, and Animal Sanctuary in Arima, which serves as a hub for: Food Security Initiatives, Environmental Conservation, and Sustainability Programs. With over 30 years of experience in business and innovative entrepreneurship, Aleeyah and her Foundation are committed to scaling these impactful programs island-wide, focusing on climate-smart agriculture, skills training, and rural development.



Sheena Zuniga, the President of the National Garifuna Council in Belize. Sheena shared insights into the pressing climate challenges facing the Garifuna communities, particularly the impact of coastal erosion, rising sea levels, and changing fish populations. As indigenous people deeply connected to their environment, the Garifuna rely on traditional knowledge for survival. The lack of access to resources limits their ability to adapt to climate change and its impact.



Regional Art Competition

As part of the *Access Granted* campaign, we present 'Caribbean Art for Gender & Climate Action' an art competition inviting **Caribbean nationals or organisations, 16 or older**, to express their unique perspectives on the intersection of gender and climate finance. The winning artwork will be featured in our campaign materials, showcasing actionable recommendations for achieving gender-responsive climate strategies in the region.

Theme: "Climate Finance and Gender Justice in the Caribbean"

Objective: Encourage Caribbean artists to depict themes of gender equity and climate finance.

Outcome: Engaged 40 artists across the region, fostering creative dialogues around climate finance and gender equity.








Capacity-Building Workshop

The Workshop provided insights on:

Strategic Alignment: Discover how to align projects with funders' priorities and set impact metrics.

Best Practices: Understand technical requirements and learn how to craft competitive proposals for success.

Leveraging Partnerships: Understand how to collaborate and co-develop projects for greater impact.

 Workshop Date: Thursday, March 27, 2025

 Location: San Fernando, Trinidad



Participants: Civil society members, social entrepreneurs, and grassroots organizations.

Focus: Navigating climate finance mechanisms and developing proposals.

Result: Enhanced skills and knowledge among participants, leading to increased engagement with climate finance opportunities.

Impact: Trained 15 representatives from grassroots and Indigenous, organizations and entrepreneurs on navigating climate finance systems.

Capacity-Building Workshop

Meet Our Workshop Facilitator: We're thrilled to introduce Talya Mohammed, an inspiring leader and advocate for sustainable development, as the facilitator for our upcoming Access Granted capacity-building workshop!

Talya is a Private Finance Advisory Network (PFAN) Advisor for Latin America & the Caribbean (LAC). She boasts over two decades of dynamic expertise in environmental science, compliance and systems integration. She now focuses on climate and sustainability policy and projects.

Her extensive experience, locally and regionally includes waste management, recycling, climate change and multi-stakeholder environmental initiatives. She is a director at Ideas i Foundation and regional Project Director at the Caribbean Philanthropic Alliance.

Talya excels in community-based engagement and capacity building; encouraging the use of best practice and management systems and promoting co-creation. She recognizes the value of both tradition and innovation; promoting blending the best of both worlds to create a better future. She abides by the words of Vincent Van Gogh, "Normality is a paved road: it's comfortable to walk, but no flowers grow." And Talya's all about making sure those flowers have a chance to bloom!





Capacity-Building Workshop

Excerpt from workshop report by Talya Mohammed

The workshop successfully delivered on its overarching aim of raising awareness and building capacity for gender-responsive climate finance in the Caribbean. Through a carefully curated series of sessions ***Climate Finance 101, Tips, Tricks & Tools for Competitive Project Proposals, and Building Partnerships: Effective Networking and Meaningful Alliances.***

Participants gained practical knowledge and were empowered to better engage with climate finance mechanisms. Additionally, the guest speaker's segment on ***Harnessing Virtual Spaces for Education, Advocacy & Relationship Building*** added an innovative and timely dimension to the training. This talk along with ***Session 4 : Group Activity – Social Media Analysis on Climate Perspectives & Responsibility as Climate Leaders*** with emphasized the importance of trustworthy and transparent digital presence in advocacy and funding pursuits, resonating strongly with participants who acknowledged the value of responsible online engagement to amplify their climate efforts and funding applications.

The pre-workshop survey highlighted that while participants broadly recognized climate vulnerability and the importance of local and international climate action, they faced significant barriers to accessing funding, including a lack of technical knowledge, difficulty navigating complex application processes, and limited opportunities for mentorship and collaboration. Many had never applied for climate finance before, and confidence in proposal writing was generally low. Furthermore, feedback highlighted that the workshop enabled a stronger sense of connection among organizations, and many now plan to apply for funding within the next year. These findings confirm that the target objectives were achieved in support of the overall project:

- Increased Awareness. Participants demonstrated a deeper understanding of gender and climate finance linkages.
- Improved Access. Confidence in navigating funding systems increased significantly.
- Strategic Roadmap. Participants left with practical tools and a clearer direction for integrating gender-responsive approaches.
- Collaboration Networks. New relationships were formed, with many participants eager for follow-up sessions and joint initiatives.

Participant Testimonials

The "Access Granted" workshop, focused on proposal writing for funding in the crucial areas of climate change and sustainability advocacy, was an exceptionally valuable experience. As a participant, I was thoroughly impressed with the well-executed structure and the quality of the content delivered.

The workshop fostered a highly interactive environment, perfectly suited for the small group of dedicated professionals who are already actively championing diverse aspects of climate action and sustainability. This intimate setting allowed for rich discussions, the sharing of practical insights from various fields, and personalized feedback, which significantly enhanced the learning process.

The content itself was both comprehensive and directly applicable. The facilitators expertly guided us through the intricacies of crafting compelling proposals, covering key elements such as identifying funding opportunities, clearly articulating project goals and impact, developing robust methodologies, and constructing persuasive budget justifications. The practical exercises and collaborative activities ensured that theoretical knowledge was immediately translated into tangible skills.

What stood out was the workshop's ability to cater to a diverse group of advocates, acknowledging the unique challenges and opportunities within their specific areas of focus. The interactive nature allowed for cross-pollination of ideas and the development of a supportive network amongst participants.

Overall, the "Access Granted" workshop was a powerful and empowering experience. It provided the necessary tools and knowledge to effectively articulate our advocacy efforts in a language that resonates with funders. I wholeheartedly recommend this workshop to any professional actively involved in climate change and sustainability advocacy who is seeking to enhance their proposal writing skills and unlock crucial funding opportunities. It was a worthwhile investment of time and energy, leaving participants feeling more confident and equipped to make a tangible difference.



Sheree Welch



Participant Testimonials

It's not every day that a battle scarred volunteer like myself is made to feel hopeful and re-energized. This workshop made me remember why we do the work, for the good of the work, but also the importance of community, communication and collaboration in this climate crisis. In order to do the work we must have financial literacy as well, and the amazing presenter and organizers ensured that we understood that this is within reach. We advocate and we effect change, and amplify only when we work together. Thank you to The Crystal Clear Initiative of Trinidad and Tobago and The Climate Conscious Podcast.



Katrina Khan





Conclusion

The Access Granted campaign has been an incredible journey of advocacy, awareness, and action for gender-responsive climate finance! From storytelling and social media engagement to an inspiring art competition and a transformative capacity-building workshop, we've made strides toward a more inclusive and equitable climate finance system.

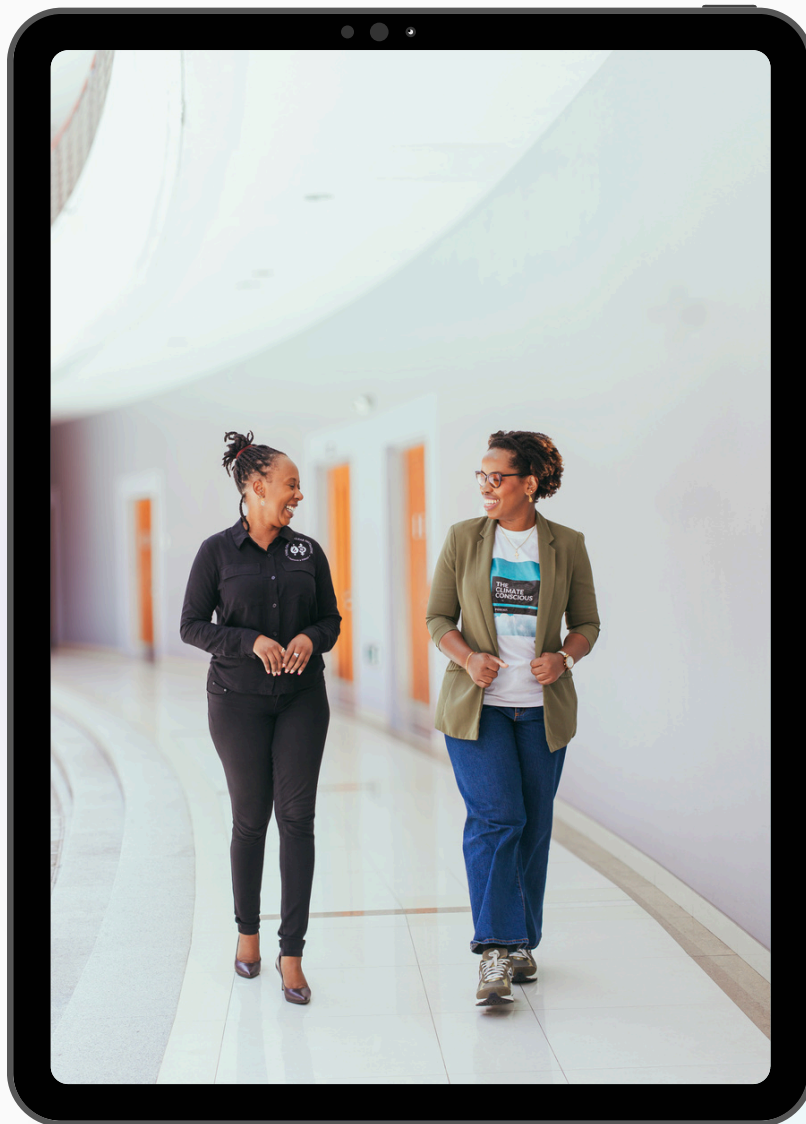
The campaign successfully brought attention to the necessity of gender-responsive climate finance in the Caribbean. While structural barriers remain, this campaign has laid critical groundwork for more just, inclusive, and effective climate solutions. With continued collaboration, increased resources, and grassroots leadership, we move closer to a climate finance system that truly serves all.



Thank you!



Thank you for taking the time to read this report. If you have any questions or would like to discuss our findings further, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.



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