



Caribbean Local Economic Development Project (CARILED) September 2016 Update

CARILED Engages New Phase 2 Communities



MOU signing in Umana Yana, Georgetown, Guyana

The Caribbean Local Economic Development Project (CARILED) continues its roll-out to Phase 2 communities within seven Caribbean countries. In its first phase, CARILED worked primarily with 23 demonstration sites in Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago. These sites were the focus of local economic development (LED) initiatives, that tested efforts at collaboration between local partners including local government in support of micro, small and medium businesses.

Based on lessons learned in Phase 1, in 2014 CARILED had shifted its approach to work directly with local governments in facilitating the crafting of local economic development plans that involved local communities and the business sector. This shaped the roll-out of the second phase which has added 11 municipalities from the participating countries. On August 15th, CARILED signed a Memorandum of Understanding with four municipalities and two Neighbourhood Democratic Councils in Guyana. The MOUs form the basis for deeper collaboration with the Local Authorities, guide CARILED's support to municipalities towards enhancing the environment for micro and small business development and strengthening the local economy in communities.

Ease of Doing Business mobilizes in OECS and Tobago



Gros Islet, Saint Lucia

In Q2, CARILED, in collaboration with local authorities, conducted the last scheduled ease of doing business local assessments in Dominica, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago. The assessments were meant to identify challenges and recommend solutions that could reduce obstacles to doing business as a priority to boosting LED.

In July 2016, Portsmouth, Dominica held its first ease of doing business assessment. The Portsmouth Town Council, in partnership with the local community, reviewed the recommendations and agreed to prioritize several areas under an overall LED strategic plan. Some areas of priority were the implementation of a traffic management plan, establishment of a small business association, a web presence and a Help Desk. In September, MSMEs from the Tobago Hotel and Tourism Association participated in a similar assessment with CARILED's assistance. The findings from this assessment will be presented to the Tobago House of Assembly Executive Committee for their consideration. In the same month, the towns of Gros-Islet, Soufriere and Vieux-Fort in Saint Lucia held similar community meetings and round table consultations with key national MSME support service agencies.

Local Economic Development Policy on Caribbean Agenda



Paramaribo, Suriname

In Q1, as part of the Caribbean Urban Forum 2016 in Paramaribo, Suriname, CARILED held a policy dialogue on the space for LED in local, national and regional development and importance of local government in LED. CARILED produced an outcome report titled, "Regional Dialogue on Factors Essential to Empower Local Authorities to Effectively Facilitate LED: Lessons from the Caribbean," from that session, showcasing the Caribbean lessons learnt since 2012. The concept paper focuses on the need for a regional position on local governments and LED, led by the Caribbean Association of Local Government Authorities (CALGA).

While sustainability has always been embedded in the CARILED program implementation, as its closure approaches in March 2017, the program has begun to focus on key deliverables that can support sustainability of LED systems, processes, practices and sharing of experiences at a regional level.

In September, CARILED consultations with the CARILED Technical Working Group and CALGA to discuss further on regional actions coming out of the dialogue in Suriname and the outcome report. It was agreed that a Caribbean Position Paper be developed that could be used for advocacy purposes both nationally in-country as well as regionally.

LED Planning, Implementation and Communications



Umana Yana, Georgetown, Guyana

CARILED continues to provide guidance to communities in the creation and implementation of LED strategic plans. In Guyana, this led to direct engagement with Neighbourhood Democratic Councils (NDCs) and Municipal Corporations. In Q2, two completed LED plans were validated and adopted by the councils of Mocha and Soesdyke.

Collaboration is ongoing to assist with implementing priority activities within the completed plans and to finalize similar LED plans in four additional NDCs by the end of October 2016. CARILED will also continue working with six municipalities (Georgetown, New Amsterdam, Rose Hall, Corriverton, Ana Regina and Linden) to update their municipal development plans to include a LED set of actions. To date, the New Amsterdam, Rose Hall, Corriverton and Linden municipal plans were adopted by the councils.

As part of the LED strategic planning process, CARILED provides assistance in the design and promotion of user-friendly instrument communication tools, to highlight key goals, objectives and activities that will take place in the communities over the next three to five years. The communications documents for the plans will be shared via print and online, using social media and other types of web presence to engage local businesses, community groups, members of the diaspora and potential investors in the area.

To view some of the completed communications plans, visit www.cariled.org Actions in LED Country pages.



Caribbean Events and Conferences



Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

The Technical Working Group (TWG) for LED held a virtual meeting on August 8, 2016, to review a policy Outcome Report on the regional policy dialogue on LED and the status of local government reform in the Caribbean.

The Group then held its Fifth Regular Meeting on September 2-3, 2016, which focused on critical national issues affecting the sustainability of LED at the local, national and regional levels. Country-specific sustainability plans were presented and discussed on Day 1. The second day was focused on a discussion on efforts to continue to promote LED, share lessons and advocate for decentralization at a regional level. In addition to the TWG members, representatives of CALGA took part in the discussions. To learn more, visit <http://cariled.org/news/local-government-reform-and-led-on-caribbean-agenda/>.

Local Development Project (LDP) Updates

CARILED continues to support Local Economic Development projects and approved support for two new projects during Q2. Currently there are 12 active projects receiving direct support from CARILED.

Assessments of closed projects are also underway. Two assessments, both in Clarendon Jamaica, took place in Q2. The Peckham Bamboo project and the Milk River Seafood & Jerk Festival II project were assessed in late September and the findings from the assessment reports will be submitted in early Q3.



San Ignacio, Belize

Financial Services

The Fireball Business Loan Program in **San Ignacio Santa Elena, Belize** was approved on September 5, 2016. The purpose of the Fireball Loan Program is to create a revolving loan fund to finance business start-ups that will contribute to increased sustainable economic growth of MSMEs within SISE and surrounding communities. The loan program will finance business ideas from a minimum of BZD\$500 to a maximum of BZD\$5,000 at an interest rate of 1.25% monthly on the reducing balance. Partners contributing to the loan are the San Ignacio/Santa Elena Town Council, the Saint Martin's Credit Union and CARILED for an initial loan total of US\$30,000.00. The Small Business Development Centre (SBDC/BELTRAIDE) will also partner with this project to offer financial management training and guidance for loan applicants.

Skills Training for Empowerment

The **Kingston & St. Andrew Corporation** Enterprise Assistance Program in **Jamaica** was approved on September 8, 2016. This project aims to provide support to new or existing micro and small businesses which are owned or operated by persons living in KSAC aged 18-29 years old. Support will be provided in Phase 1 through financial assistance, training and technical assistance in three main categories: Business Start-up, Business Development and Wage Incentives. Phase 2 will see business owners completing a mentorship period as well as workshops geared towards business expansion and accessing grants. This Assistance Program was developed as a response to the dilemma of youth unemployment within KSAC. Partners contributing to this initiative are The Kingston & St. Andrew Corporation, the Jamaica Business Development Corporation, Scotiabank (Jamaica), the University of the West Indies (Mona Campus), the Small Business Association of Jamaica, the private sector and CARILED. To learn more, visit <https://www.facebook.com/ksaceap/>.



Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation. Photo courtesy @ksaceap

Upcoming Activities

Activity	Location	Date(s)
CALGA Bi-Ennial General Meeting	Roseau, Dominica	October 06 - 08
5th UCLG Congress World Summit	Bogota, Colombia	October 12 - 15
Habitat III	Quito, Ecuador	October 17 - 20
The importance of Supporting Female Entrepreneurs (UNDP – FCM)	Webinar	October 27
OAS Sustainable Cities Course, 10th Edition	Montego Bay, Jamaica	December 6-9

CARILED Staff and Local Economic Development Officer Listing

CARILED Headquarters

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Programs

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Local Economic Development Representatives

Belize

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Ms. Jasmine Swan, Local Economic Development Officer, Belize City
Ms. Keyla Magaña, Local Economic Development Officer, Belmopan
Mr. Kenny Chan, Local Economic Development Officer, San Ignacio Santa Elena
Mr. Jorge Aldaña, Local Economic Development Officer, San Pedro

Dominica

Ms. Vincienne George, Local Economic Development Officer, (Soufriere-Scott's Head-Gallion and Woodford Hill)
Ms. Pearl Lockhart, Deputy Town Clerk (Portsmouth)

Grenada

Ms. Vinisha Cudjoe, Local Economic Development Officer, Carriacou and Petite Martinique

Guyana

Mr. Vrishaal Garbaran, Community Development Officer
Mr. Satya Dayaram, Community Development Officer

Jamaica

Mr. Damion Young, Local Economic Development Officer, Clarendon
Ms. Sophia Kerr-Reid, Director of Planning, Hanover
Mr. Dominic Cobran, Local Economic Development Officer, Kingston and St. Andrew
Ms. Angella Edwards, Local Economic Development Officer, Manchester
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