



# ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

## NATIONAL GENDER SUBMISSIONS

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*This gender submission has been produced by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda's, Department of Environment Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment.*

### BACKGROUND

Antigua and Barbuda is a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) and Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 1992 (UNFCCC) and its Paris Agreement 2015. As a party to the Convention, Antigua and Barbuda affirms Decision 3/CP.25, the Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan. The enhanced Gender Action Plan sets out objectives and activities under five priority areas and sets the framework for gender responsive SIDS commitments in developing countries' NDCs, including Antigua and Barbuda.

In line with the Decision 20/CP.26, the following constitutes Antigua and Barbuda's formal submission to the following actions:

- Invites Parties, United Nations entities, other stakeholders and implementing entities, in accordance with their respective mandates and priorities, to take stock of and map progress in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in line with the priority areas of the gender action plan.
- Invites Parties and observers to submit via the submission portal,7 by 31 March 2022, information on the progress of implementation of the activities contained in the gender action plan, areas for improvement and further work to be undertaken, including, as appropriate, information on the multidimensional impacts of the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic on progress, and consideration of other diverse challenges that may impact future implementation of the gender action plan at all levels.
- Reminds Parties and observers of the invitation for submissions, by 31 March 2022, on the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change, the role of women as agents of change and opportunities for women.
- Encourages Parties to be more explicit about the gender-responsiveness of climate finance with a view to strengthening the capacity of women and furthering work under the gender action plan to facilitate access to climate finance for grass-roots women's organizations as well as for indigenous peoples and local communities

- Recalls that the intermediate review of the progress of implementation of the activities contained in the gender action plan is due at the fifty-sixth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (June 2022)

### What are the country's high level priorities areas related to the climate agenda?

As a small island developing state (SIDS), Antigua and Barbuda is among the most vulnerable countries to climate change impacts such as sea level rise, hurricanes and tropical storms, rising air temperature and drought conditions. This vulnerability is exacerbated by the country's long-standing macroeconomic and financial problems with extreme climate events having significant impacts on the lives and livelihoods of local communities, as well as the local economy. Making the climate agenda a top focus for the Government of Antigua and Barbuda. As part of the climate agenda, Antigua and Barbuda has highlighted the following as its high-level priorities:

- Advocate for the increase of climate financing and access to financing for adaptation in light of climate change impacts
- Support an inclusive, gender responsive approach to the energy and just transition of the workforce with special focus on women fully participating in the new economy and providing support for men working within the power and transportation sectors as the transition advances
- Support a Loss and Damage Response which provides a programme via insurance to affordably manage and transfer risks resulting from increasing climate variability
- Debt-for-climate swaps initiated with willing creditors with the objective to support implementation of NDCs

### What are the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change in your country? Including examples and evidence of the gender differentiated impacts of climate change on men

Climate change impacts have and will continue to dramatically transform the natural and socio-economic environment by furthering developmental issues generally faced by SIDS countries and increasing gender inequalities for men and women. Rigorous data collection and analysis in Antigua and Barbuda has identified differential vulnerabilities from climate change for men and women, particularly single-parent female headed households, the youth, persons with disabilities, Barbudan's farmers and fishers which are male dominated and has also recognized transitional risk for men from Antigua and Barbuda targets in the energy and construction sector.

Hurricanes and tropical storms are one of the main climatic hazards affecting Antigua and Barbuda. During the 2017 hurricane season where Antigua and Barbuda faced for the first time a Category 5+ hurricane, in Antigua, at least 16% of the population, overwhelmingly within the north coast, experienced damages from torrential rainfall with women in these communities' noting expenditure of over 85% compared to male respondents.<sup>1</sup> In Barbuda, where the brunt of the hurricane was harshest, hurricane expenditure for the year 2017

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Environment. Rep. *National Gender Assessment Survey: The Economic Impact of Climate Change on Men and Women in Antigua and Barbuda*. St. John's , Antigua: Department of Environment, 2021.

accounted for 50% to over 100% of annual income.<sup>2</sup> In Antigua, less than 20% of households reportedly had house/property insurance with female-headed households less likely to have house/property insurance.<sup>3</sup>

In addition to physical damage, the damage to economic access and livelihood in Barbuda particularly, was substantial, with persons receiving income through the tourism and fisheries sector most affected. The single most impacted sector was the tourism sector which accounted for 44% of total damage costs, followed by housing which accounted for 37% of all damages.<sup>4</sup> Although the vast majority of Barbudans are hired through local government via the Barbuda Council, many Barbudans also engage in the private sector via tourism and fishing (formal or informal) to supplement their primary income. The tourism sector was identified as critical for the female labour force in Barbuda where almost half (48%) were found to be employed in elementary occupations which falls into the lowest scale pay category. In the Fisheries Sector, official statistics for Barbuda listed 101 registered fisher persons as of 2016. Informants indicated that almost all men on the island of Barbuda are involved in the fishing industry through various fishing activities while women were usually engaged in selling and preparing fish foods for sale. Using the sale of lobsters within the sector, three (3) months lost within the fisheries sector due to the impact of Hurricane Irma was estimated to cost as much as USD\$ 72,000.<sup>5</sup>

Drought conditions in Antigua and Barbuda have also been prolonged by climate change events. During the period 2013-2018, it became more evident that water supply originated from rainfall accumulation in wells and run-off was not sufficient to meet the country's water demands. In addition, sea level rise forced the country to abandon wells near coastal areas due to sea water intrusion to the freshwater lens. A combination of these factors resulted in overwhelming dependence on desalination plants with as much as 60% of water generated from reverse osmosis. This is an energy intensive activity, making the provision of water expensive for the country due to the dependence on imported fuel.<sup>6</sup> Due to the expense of water provision, the country experienced water rationing in 2014 for the first time in 40 years, affecting 81% of the population whose main water supply is provided through the government<sup>7</sup> and forcing those, who were able, to purchase water from private companies in addition to paying their monthly utility bill when their cistern/tanks ran empty. Nationally, during this period, 12-13% of Antiguan households spent an average of XCD \$300 – 900 a month for additional provision of domestic water with rural communities paying over XCD\$1,000 on domestic water due to more severe water rationing in rural communities; female headed households in rural communities paid even more due to the frequency with which they purchased domestic water during a month.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> ibid

<sup>3</sup> ibid

<sup>4</sup> Government of Antigua and Barbuda. 2018. Hurricane Irma Needs Assessment. Available at: <https://www.gfdr.org/en/publication/hurricane-irma-and-maria-recovery-needs-assessment-antigua-and-barbuda>.

<sup>5</sup> ibid

<sup>6</sup> *Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and Management Plan for Variable Renewable Energy Integration to Decentralize Generation on Antigua*, 2019

<sup>7</sup> 2011 Census of Population and Housing. Report. St. John's, Antigua: Statistics Division (Ministry of Finance and Economy), 2014.

<sup>8</sup> Department of Environment. Rep. *National Gender Assessment Survey: The Economic Impact of Climate Change on Men and Women in Antigua and Barbuda*. St. John's, Antigua: Department of Environment, 2021.

Persons within the farming community are one of the most economically vulnerable due to drought conditions as well as the additional impact to water security caused by hurricanes and tropical storms. Formally, the farming sector is male-dominated, with men accounting for over 70% of registered farmers in Antigua. During severe drought conditions, crop farmers in particular indicated losses of 30-40% of their income despite the use of mitigation measures such as wide use irrigation, mulching to prevent evaporation from the soil, planting crops more resistant to dry spells or simply preparing the grounds for planting in the wet season which generally runs from September to November each year.<sup>9</sup> Farmers noted harmful effects on crops caused by intense drought periods, including the rise in pesticides which attributed to additional losses.

**How are women of agents of change in the country in relation to climate change? and what opportunities have arisen from climate action for women in your country? What opportunities have arisen for parties, relevant organizations, and the research community?**

Women have served as agents of change in the country in relation to climate change primarily through the Department of Environment as the government's negotiator for climate change and main implementing body of the Paris Agreement. As of 2021, the staffing of the Department of Environment (including administrative and technical) is primarily female and is led by a female Director. The increase of women in a technical capacity at the Department of Environment was mainly due to the DOE's Internship and Apprenticeship programme which aimed to provide work opportunities for university students in climate action, with the possibility of a permanent position at the DOE. Under this programme, women have accounted for the majority of technical officers under the programme and on contract at the DOE

Women also serve as agents of change in non-governmental organizations that are directly connected to climate action (through the Environmental Awareness Group) and those indirectly connected via churches, labour unions, etc

**What actions or measures has the country taken to include gender and social inclusion approaches in the updated NDC, National Adaptation Plans, Long Term Strategies?**

Antigua and Barbuda has sought to strengthen the inclusion of gender and social inclusion in its updated climate Ambitions through legislative and policy action as well as gender-specific commitments. Under the Environmental Protection Management Act (EPMA) 2019<sup>10</sup>, Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) and Environmental Management Plan must include evaluation of environmental and social impacts for any development. The Sustainable Island Resource Framework Fund, a financing mechanism established to fund environmental and climate change related programmes is mandated to:

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<sup>9</sup> Department of Environment. Rep. *Baseline Gender Assessment of Antigua and Barbuda Climate Change Programme in Agriculture*. St. John's, Antigua: Department of Environment, 2021.

<sup>10</sup> Environmental Protection Management Act (EPMA) 2019  
<http://laws.gov.ag/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/No.-10-of-2019-Environmental-Protection-and-Management-Bill-2019.pdf>

- provide support to reduce the vulnerability of the most vulnerable groups during periods of disaster response, recovery and rehabilitation, and for disaster relief to vulnerable groups, communities and sectors when the Fund considers it appropriate to do so; and **(Section 93.k)**
- ensure that all funding decisions are made in accordance with the highest environmental and social safeguards and in a manner that is non-discriminatory (Section 95.1.c)

The Department of Environment (DOE), as the lead government agency for climate change, has adopted Environmental and Social Safeguard and Gender Policies which formalize the DOE's commitment to promote environmental and socially sustainable projects as well as mainstream gender nationally and achieve gender sensitivity in all areas. In the generation of its updated National Determined Contributions (NDCs), Antigua and Barbuda has mainstreamed gender in a more comprehensive and ambitious manner by including gender-specific targets which seek to address gender differentiated vulnerabilities and has also ensured that gender considerations are included in Adaptation and Mitigation targets

### What specific gender commitments the country included in their NDC, National Adaptation Plans, Long Term Strategies?

Antigua and Barbuda has mainstreamed gender in its NDC process by including specific gender commitments based on rigorous data collection. These are as follows:

- Develop a gender-responsive approach to the just transition of men in the energy and construction sectors (Baseline: currently approximately 95% men in these sectors)
- Gender-responsive green business development programme particularly focused on (1) providing support to SMEs to access to green technologies and climate-related investment; (2) providing support to green entrepreneurs via the EDP Fund and other means, (3) providing support to businesses in their transition towards a low-carbon development
- Farmers and their families are provided with support needed to recover from drought and hurricanes in order to prevent the accumulation of unsustainable debt and its corresponding increased risks, while supporting food security, taking into account the differential needs of male and female farmers (e.g., loan default, foreclosure, etc.)
- 50% reduction in the average annual preparation costs for hurricanes on single-parent households (*Baseline average preparation costs hurricane: USD 2,000 per year or 20% of annual median income*)
- 100% of community businesses and organizations that support women in their post-extreme weather event recovery are identified and provided with support for their efforts to facilitate women's ability to resume work/livelihoods (and potentially return to their homes/communities) within seven (7) days after such an event
- 100% of female-headed households have all barriers removed to access back-up renewable energy generation and storage systems (i.e., 20,000 homes)
- 20% increase in the number of women-led businesses implementing renewable energy and adaptation interventions
- All students from primary to tertiary level have access to relevant climate change education
- 25% increase in access to financing for businesses related to the transition to a low carbon, high resilient economy

- Provide apprenticeship programme for 100% of all students at secondary and tertiary institutions<sup>11</sup>

### What progress has the country achieved in implementing the gender commitments in the UNFCCC decisions and the LWPG?

The implementation of gender commitments in the UNFCCC decisions and the LWPG has raised greater awareness of the importance of gender mainstreaming in developing and implementing more sustainable projects, greater commitments for gender considerations and increased institutional capacities in the field of gender and climate change. The requirement for social inclusion in environmental assessments and funding within national legislation (EPMA 2019) and specific commitments to gender in the updated NDC's 2020, demonstrate Antigua and Barbuda commitment to gender mainstreaming at the highest levels. The Department of Environment, guided by its ESS and Gender Policies, has increased its capacity through the assignment of ESS and Gender staff and as a result, its gender-related data for mainstreaming gender in project development.

### Has the country face any challenges countries related to the implementation of the LWPG and its GAP? What have been these challenges? Are they related to policy, governance, planning or budgeting?

The challenges associated with the implementation of the Enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and its Gender Action Plan are mainly related to planning and budgeting. Further guidance is needed for countries on the role of the national bodies when implementing the LWPG and its GAP, particularly for National Gender Focal Point (NGFP). Further, the ways in which NGFPs as well as the country itself are technically and financially supported to implement the LWPG and its GAP are not clear.

### What have been the multidimensional impacts of the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic on progress, and consideration of other diverse challenges that may impact future implementation of the gender action plan at all levels?

One of the biggest impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic on the implementation of the Gender Action Plan in Antigua and Barbuda was the increased cost of adaptation measures. As the lead government agency for climate change in Antigua and Barbuda, the Department of Environment is implementing projects which seek to provide access to climate finance for low-income households to build the climate adaptability of their homes. These households which include single-parent female headed households, the elderly, persons with special needs or disability, households who live at least a 100ft distance from a waterway and low-income households, are not able to access financing through traditional institutions in order to further adapt their homes due to their high vulnerability. Under projects funded through

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<sup>11</sup> Antigua and Barbuda Updated National Determined Contributions 2021  
<https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Antigua%20and%20Barbuda%20First/ATG%20-%20UNFCCC%20NDC%20-%202021-09-02%20-%20Final.pdf>

the Global Environment Facility (GEF)<sup>12</sup>, the Adaptation Fund (AF)<sup>13</sup> and the Green Climate Fund (GCF)<sup>14</sup>, the Department of Environment deployed a Revolving Loan Programme through its Sustainable Island Resource Framework Fund (SIRFF) which provides 2% concessional loans to these households in order to increase the resilience of their homes to climate change. Further to the loans, the projects also provide grants to community groups who provide shelters during a hurricane (e.g churches) to increase the resilience of their buildings and provide space for households who are still unable to access the loans through the Revolving Loan Programme.

Baseline data indicate that persons in SIDS (whether households or businesses) pay twice the costs of construction mainly due to importation costs associated with building materials. The supply chain challenges under the COVID 19 pandemic has further increased the costs of supplies for SIDS by at least 25%, thus further increasing the cost of adaptation. As a result, less households borrowed to increase the resilience of their homes as they waited for supply costs to decrease and for those households who continued to borrow, they had to borrow increasing amounts. Grantees under the programme are also forced to request larger amounts to finance the adaptation costs. This has placed enormous limits on the ability of these projects to finance more homes and shelters or for the climate finance itself to meet the adaptation costs of climate change. This also leads to further discussions on the adequacy of current climate finance targets under the UNFCCC to meet the ever-increasing adaptation needs of SIDS countries

The capacity of the lead government climate change agency to implement the GAP was also affected by the COVID 19 pandemic due to decrease of staff productivity. The COVID 19 pandemic in 2020 resulted in the closure of all schools and children were forced to engage in virtual learning at home. This placed a burden on working parents, particularly those with small children, to remain at home in order to provide support for their children at home, resulting in loss of economic opportunities for some households, particularly single parent headed households who do not have the support of another parent. This was evident at the Department of Environment where staff with children had to work on shift and reduce their working hours, thus delaying the implementation of the climate change portfolio and gender action plan. Other impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic include:

- The economic fall-out of the COVID 19 pandemic and the resulting impact on the economy for SIDS governments, particularly Antigua and Barbuda, affecting the ability of the government to provide co-financing for climate change projects or increase debt to mitigate against climate change. These economic impacts are likely to remain paramount for SIDS government and raises the importance of increasing climate financing for SIDS, particularly to support the implementation of the LWPG and its GAP
- Stakeholder Engagement was affected initially. While the DOE was able to overcome some of these challenges through virtual mediums, these challenges remained for vulnerable groups who are without internet connection or suffer from low internet

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<sup>12</sup> “Building Climate Resilience through Innovative Financing Mechanisms for Climate Change Adaptation” project, <https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/projects/5523>

<sup>13</sup> “An Integrated Approach to Physical Adaptation and Community Resilience in Antigua and Barbuda’s Northwest McKinnon’s Watershed” project <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/project/integrated-approach-physical-adaptation-community-resilience-antigua-barbudas-northwest-mckinnons-watershed/>

<sup>14</sup> “Integrated physical adaptation and community resilience through an enhanced direct access pilot in the public, private, and civil society sectors of three Eastern Caribbean small island developing states” project, <https://www.greenclimate.fund/project/fp061>

connect and cannot access consultations through virtual mediums. To overcome those challenges, the Department had to wait for the lifting of restrictions, thus delaying implementation of its climate change programme

## What progress has the country achieved in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in line with the priority areas of the gender action plan?

Antigua and Barbuda has achieved immense progress in advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in line with the as its relates to the following priority areas of the LWPG and the Gender Action Plan:

- **Capacity-Building, Knowledge Management and Communication** – As the lead government agency for climate change in Antigua and Barbuda, the Department of Environment has built human capacity for mainstreaming gender through appointment of specific ESS and Gender Officers and National Gender Focal Points as well as a Data Management Unit which provides support in developing methodologies and collecting gender and climate change data. Throughout 2020 and 2021, the Data Management Unit provided capacity building workshops to the Antigua and Barbuda Statistics Division in the use of Data Collection and Analysis Tools such as Kobo ToolBox when collecting data and also provided lessons learnt for collecting data during the COVID 19 pandemic; for example, prior to the 2020 COVID 19 pandemic, the Statistics Division carried out surveys in-person. Due to the restrictions of the pandemic, the DOE, when collecting data for its NDCs, was restricted to the use of telephone surveys to collect data. Lessons learnt from this experience were shared with the Statistics Division in order to strengthen their data collection capacity. As a result of its built capacity as well as partnerships with other organizations such as Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), the DOE strengthened the evidence base and understanding of the differentiated impacts of climate change on men and women and the role of women as agents of change and on opportunities for women through studies such as
  - National Gender Assessment Survey: The Economic Impact of Climate Change on men and women in Antigua and Barbuda
  - Baseline Gender Assessment of Antigua and Barbuda Climate Change Programme in Agriculture
  - Gender Assessment of the Just Transition of the Workforce - Baseline Analysis for the Electricity and Road Transport Sectors in Antigua and Barbuda
  - Gender Baseline Assessment - Baseline Conditions for the Mainstreaming Financial Resilience to Climate Change in Antigua and Barbuda Project
  - Acceptability and Affordability of Renewable Energy Household Survey
- **Gender Balance, Participation and Women's Leadership** – Antigua and Barbuda has sought to increase the participation of women in its UNFCCC negotiation in recent years. At the UNFCCC COP 26 in Glasgow, Scotland, for the Antiguan and Barbudan Delegation from the Department of Environment, women accounted for more than half of the delegates, including Antigua and Barbuda's Lead Negotiator as well as the National Gender Focal Point and the youth (persons under the age of 30) also accounted for more than half of the delegation. Since the UNFCCC COP 25, Antigua and Barbuda has included in its delegation a negotiator for Gender and Climate Change



- **Gender Responsive implementation and means of implementation** – During the process of updating its National Determined Contributions 2021, Antigua and Barbuda has enhanced the availability of sex-disaggregated data for gender analysis (see above) as well as engagement with women stakeholders. During this process, the Department of Environment and its partners engaged over 2,000 stakeholders which included male and female residents in Antigua and Barbuda, the Directorate of Gender Affairs and NGOs, including women organizations. This not only allowed the updated NDC's to include gender specific commitments but also allowed the Department of Environment to include budgets for gender in its projects through accurate data..

Does the country have examples of sectoral considerations/activities that contribute to the implementation of LWPG and the 5 pillars of the GAP? Are they related to capacity building, gender balance, coherence, gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation and monitoring and reporting?

- **Capacity Building** – As the lead government agency for climate change, the Department of Environment has deployed an intern and apprenticeship programme which has provided both work opportunities and capacity building for persons who have an interest in climate action. Under this programme, the DOE has seen the increase of female technicians in the field of climate change and are further providing work opportunities for women in STEM. The Department has also conducted capacity building exercises in data collection across other government agencies such as the Statistics Division. The Department will be developing an ESS and Gender Manual in the year 2022 which will provide further guidance to its National Gender Focal Point as well as other local agencies who seek to mainstream gender in their activities
- **Gender Balance** – The Department of Environment has increased the participation of female delegates as well as the youth in its UNFCCC negotiations with female delegates and youth delegates (persons under the age of 30) accounting for over 50% of its UNFCCC delegation to COP 26 in Glasgow, Scotland. It has also sought gender balance in its representation of gender by appointing a male and female national gender focal points
- **Gender-responsive implementation and means of implementation** – Through data-driven gender analysis and assessments, Antigua and Barbuda has enhanced gender considerations in its legislation, policy and more recently, its updated NDC's which now include specific gender commitments. The Gender analysis and assessment generation has also fed into its project development process as well as its local financing mechanism (the Sustainable Island Resource Framework Fund) which will finance the implementation of its NDCs and other climate commitments

Has the country implemented integrated gender considerations systematically into climate policy and action? Has the country facilitated outreach, knowledge-sharing and the communication of activities undertaken to enhance gender-responsive climate action and its impacts in advancing women's leadership, achieving gender equality and ensuring effective climate action?

Antigua and Barbuda has conducted stakeholder engagements with over 2,000 stakeholders included government and non-governmental agencies as well as the average citizen during

the process of updating its NDC's. This not only allowed the Department of Environment (DOE) to collect data from these agencies but has also increased the importance of gender mainstreaming for these stakeholders. During the development of its various projects, the Department of Environment has facilitated outreach and knowledge sharing with these stakeholders to ensure that their views are captured in the project. In 2022, the DOE will be conducting further outreach and stakeholder engagement on the activities of the updated NDCs including gender-specific activities and the role which stakeholders will play in advancing gender equality and mitigating against gender differentiated climate impacts.

### **What action has the country taken to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in climate governance and action?**

Through its Department of Environment, Antigua and Barbuda has engaged female stakeholders (the average citizens, NGOs and women organizations) in its various climate activities including its updated NDCs as well as climate change projects. Currently, the Department of Environment, the lead agency for climate change, has over 50% female technical officers and negotiators including the lead negotiator. Due to the DOE's internship and apprenticeship programme, women are able to gain work experience in climate change which are not only administrative but also in technical areas. Currently, the Board for the Sustainable Island Resource Framework Fund (SIRFF), Antigua and Barbuda's financing mechanism for environmental and climate action, is over 50% female including the Deputy Chair

### **Has the country conducted any activities to engage women's groups and national women and gender institutions in the process of developing, implementing and updating climate policies, plans, strategies and action, as appropriate, at all levels?**

As the lead agency for climate change in Antigua and Barbuda, the Department of Environment engages regularly with the national women and gender institution, the Directorate of Gender Affairs as well as NGO's including women NGO's during the development of its projects in order to ensure gender considerations are accounted and budgeted. During the development of its updated NDC's, the DOE engaged with over 2,000 stakeholders including the average female citizen as well as women organizations. This allowed the DOE to collect data which developed the gender commitments which are currently in the updated NDCs

### **Has the country implemented actions to ensure gender parity in their UNFCCC delegations? Has the country proposed specific gender mandates during the negotiations?**

Antigua and Barbuda is one of seven AOSIS member state which has appointed national gender focal points - Antigua and Barbuda appointed a male and a female gender focal point to ensure gender parity. As of UNFCCC COP 25 in 2019, Antigua has also assigned a negotiator specifically for gender and climate change and has achieved near gender parity in its delegation with women and youth (persons under the age of 30) accounting for over 50% of the Department of Environment's delegation to UNFCCC COP 26 in Glasgow, Scotland

**What actions has the country taken to ensure the respect, promotion and consideration of gender equality and the empowerment of women in the implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement?**

Antigua and Barbuda's updated NDC to the UNFCCC has included specific gender commitments which includes commitments such as the increase in the number of women-led businesses implementing renewable energy and adaptation interventions, support for women in their post-extreme weather event recovery and their ability to resume work/livelihoods, the development and implementation of a gender responsive transition of men in the energy and construction sectors as well as increased work opportunities for the youth in climate change through an apprenticeship programme. The Department has also built its ESS and Gender capacity to collect gender-disaggregated data as well as engage stakeholders for gender mainstreaming and budgeting in its projects

**What efforts has the country taken to improve tracking of the implementation of and reporting on gender-related mandates under the Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan? Has the country integrated gender considerations as part of their climate transparency framework?**

Antigua and Barbuda has set several gender responsive targets within its updated NDCs and will be completing its Gender Action Plan for its NDCs in 2022. In anticipation of this work, the Department of Environment has increased its ESS and Gender Capacity to implement and report on its NDCs. For reporting on gender related mandates under the Lima work programme on gender and its gender action plan, the DOE has also appointed its national gender focal points which will be supported by its internal ESS and Gender Team

**What actions has the country taken to ensure climate finance is gender responsive?**

Antigua and Barbuda, through its Department of Environment has increased the availability of gender-disaggregated data which would support greater climate financing for gender. For example, due to data collection on the economic impact of climate change on men and women, Antigua and Barbuda was able to include specific figures in its NDCs on how much women particularly spend on climate change and on energy costs and their access to financing to cover the costs. This thus allows the inclusion of a climate financing commitment which seeks to reduce by 50% the annual preparation costs for hurricanes on single-parent households as well as provide access to comprehensive and tailored national programmes which would allow them to affordably manage and transfer risks resulting from increasing climate variability

**Have any actions been taken to facilitate access to climate finance for grass-roots women's organizations? for indigenous peoples and local communities?**

In Antigua and Barbuda, the Environmental Protection Management Act (EPMA) 2019 provides the means of climate financing through the establishment of the Sustainable Island Resource Framework Fund (SIRFF) which, among other functions, is required to "provide

support to reduce the vulnerability of the most vulnerable groups during periods of disaster response, recovery and rehabilitation, and for disaster relief to vulnerable groups, communities and sectors when the Fund considers it appropriate to do so. **(Section 93.k)**. This fund is administered by the Department of Environment. Through projects funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Adaptation Fund (AF) and Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Department of Environment is able to facilitate access to climate finance for men, women and local communities including grass-roots women's organizations through the following means:

- Through a Revolving Loan Programme which provides 2% concessional loans to vulnerable households, the DOE has been able to provide access to climate finance for single-parent households, female-headed households, persons with disabilities, the elderly and the youth. Currently, well over 50% of women have received or been approved for climate financing and at least 30% of the most vulnerable groups
- Through a Grants programme, the DOE provides grants for climate financing to grassroots community groups who provide hurricane shelters for local communities. These groups are mainly churches who continue to play a significant role in local communities in Antigua and Barbuda and for which women are major contributors and beneficiaries.

In its updated NDCs, the Antigua and Barbuda has included targets to increase access to financing for the most vulnerable, including single-parent female-headed households to respond to climate change

**Has the country conducted any capacity-building activities on gender budgeting, including on the integration of gender-responsive budgeting into national budgets to advance gender-responsive climate policies, plans, strategies and action?**

Gender-Budgeting for climate change policies, plans, strategies and actions led by the Department of Environment is based on accurate data collection and analysis, which is included in an overall project budget. The Department of Environment will be provided capacity building support to executing entities on gender budgeting in their related activities

**Based on the examples and the challenges proposed, what could be some key elements that future LWPG and its GAP should strengthen?**

Based on the examples and challenges provided, key elements that future LWPG and its GAP should strengthen include the following

- Calls for guidance on the role of the National Gender Focal Points (NGFP) in the implementation of the LGWP, including specific roles and responsibilities of the NGFP
- Calls for specific technical and financial support of National Gender Focal Points and national countries in the implementation of the LWPG and its GAP on a national level and greater reporting and monitoring on the provision of support to NGFPs and national countries
- Calls for increased financial commitments to support the increasing cost of climate change and associated adaptation costs for SIDS countries and greater reporting and monitoring on finances provided to SIDS
- Calls for specific technical and financial support to national countries to increase and continually update its evidence base on sex-differentiated for gender analysis in climate

change as well as the just transition for men and women in a net-zero world and greater reporting and monitoring on support provided to SIDS