

Annual Report 2024



Who We Are

The Foundation for Development Planning, Inc. (FDPI) is a non-profit organization registered in the United States Virgin Islands and is classified by the United States Internal Revenue Service as a public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The purpose of the FDPI is to engage in programs that lead to the sustainable development of Caribbean countries. That purpose is achieved by engaging with *"relevant stakeholders to foster sustainable development in the Caribbean, integrating social, economic, and environmental dimensions"*.

The FDPI endeavors to function as an 'Institution of Place', defined as *"an institution that serves as a steward of the communities and region in which it functions, a publicly engaged institution that plays an essential role in addressing issues of importance and facilitating the development of the communities and region it serves"*.

This report provides program highlights for the fiscal year October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024.

Corporate Governance

The FDPI continued strengthening its corporate governance systems by expansion of its policies and operating procedures. The members of the Board of Directors at the end of Fiscal Year 2023-2024 were:

- Mitchell Neaves, Vice President
- Rahanna Juman, Secretary
- Beverly Foster-Hinds, Treasurer
- Wendell Clarke, Director
- Lloyd Gardner, Executive Director

Program Highlights for 2023-2024

Information Access and Knowledge Production

Access to information, knowledge production, and peer-peer learning networks are core components of the FDPI's programs. The FDPI launched its [Information Access and Knowledge Production Initiative](#) in November 2023 to mobilize financial support from stakeholders and to stimulate interest by Caribbean professionals in collaborating in knowledge production.

Subsequent to his participation in a climate justice conference organized by the Cipriani College of Labour and Co-operative Studies (CCLCS) in October 2022, the FDPI's executive director submitted a paper on the intersection of climate justice, social justice, and just transition in the Caribbean to the

CCLCS for publication in its Caribbean Social Justice Forum journal. The paper was published in the November 2023 volume of the journal¹.

The FDPI contributed to the preparation of the Caribbean chapter of the U.S. Fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA5) report, which was published in November 2023².

To facilitate policy uptake of the findings of the NCA5 report in the United States Virgin Islands, the FDPI participated in a briefing provided to Governor Albert Bryan, Lieutenant Governor Tregenza Roach, and members of the governor's cabinet in June 2024. The briefing, provided by three of the chapter authors, highlighted the key messages from the NCA5 report, the constraints and possibilities for the United States Virgin Islands, sources for information, and potential program partnerships³.

The FDPI will maintain its efforts to increase access to information for development decision making, collaborate in knowledge production, and participate in peer learning networks.

Caribbean Just Transition Initiative

In April 2024, the FDPI reframed its environmental justice initiative as the Caribbean Just Transition Initiative, thereby placing climate justice and environmental justice within the larger framework of social justice.

The goal of the Caribbean Just Transition Initiative is to improve the lives of Caribbean peoples by facilitating investment by community organizations and worker collectives in wealth creation by and for worker collectives and community development.

The FDPI has since identified potential strategic partners, developed a theory of change for the initiative, and is in the process of identifying funding sources for undertaking the first stage of the initiative.

Participation in Inter-governmental Arrangements

1. **United Nations Environment Programme-Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP-CEP):** The FDPI continued its participation in the work of the Programme by:
 - As an Observer to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention), participating in the

¹ Vol.2, No.3, Aug-Dec 2023: <https://cclcs.edu.tt/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Vol-2-No-3-Social-Justice-Forum-Journal-Vol2-No-3.pdf>

² NCA5 U.S. Caribbean chapter: <https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/chapter/23/>

³ News report of the briefing session: <https://stthomassource.com/content/2024/06/16/usvi-receives-climate-change-assessment-by-us-global-change-research-project/>

following meetings of the Caribbean Environment Programme/Cartagena Convention in October 2023: (i) Twelfth Conference of Parties to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW COP12) of the Wider Caribbean Region (3rd October); (ii) Sixth Conference of Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS COP6) of the Wider Caribbean Region (4th October); and (iii) Twentieth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Seventeenth Conference of Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (IGM20/COP17) (5th October).

- Functioning as an expert on the Protected Areas Working Group established by the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region for the 2024-2025 biennium.

2. **Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4)**: The FDPI participated in the SIDS4 conference, which took place in Antigua and Barbuda on May 27-30, 2024. The organization was given the opportunity to make a statement during the final conference plenary on May 29⁴.

Collaboration with Civil Society Organizations

The FDPI collaborated with civil society organizations to support regional and global initiatives through:

- Continued support to the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute in its management of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund project in the Caribbean⁵ through the role of the FDPI's executive director as a member of the Regional Advisory Committee.
- Collaboration with civil society organizations and experts to establish the [SPAW Consortium](#), which was officially launched during the Sixth Conference of Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities of the Wider Caribbean Region on October 4, 2023, in Aruba⁶. The consortium is an alliance of organizations and experts that is intended to

⁴ FDPI's SIDS4 statement (UN website): <https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2024-05/Foundation%20for%20Development%20Planning%20Inc%20%28E%29%20SIDS.pdf>

FDPI's website: <https://www.fdpi.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Foundation-for-Development-Planning-Inc-Statement-to-SIDS4-Conference.pdf>

⁵ CEPF Caribbean: <https://canari.org/cepf-caribbean-islands-phase-2/>

⁶ Launch event for the SPAW Consortium: <https://monitorcaribbean.org/consortium-of-civil-society-launched-in-support-of-the-spaw-programme-of-the-cartagena-convention>

support implementation of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region.

- Functioning as the Caribbean Regional Focal Point for the Global Environment Facility Civil Society Network ([GEF-CSO-Network](#)). The FDPI was elected to that role in December 2023 and the term started in January 2024.
- The FDPI participated in the Caribbean Civil Society Summit and the SIDS4 Civil Society Forum on the sidelines of the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4), May 27-30, 2024.

Public Engagement

The FDPI routinely shared information through its social media platforms, through the electronic group that it manages for information exchange and peer learning for professionals in the Caribbean civil society sector, and via other Caribbean environment and development electronic groups.

- FDPI's LinkedIn Corporate Page: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/foundation-for-development-planning-inc>
- FDPI's LinkedIn Group: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/5027470/>
- FDPI's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/DevPlanFoundation/>
- Caribbean civil society sector e-group: <https://groups.io/g/Caribbean-CSOs>

The FDPI's Facebook page is designed to collate news and other writings on Caribbean development issues from multiple sources, while the LinkedIn Group facilitates discussion on Caribbean development.

The FDPI provides [multiple mechanisms](#) for individuals and institutions to engage with the FDPI, including utilizing the FDPI's website as a platform for publication of articles on Caribbean development.

Thank You

Your support during the past year is appreciated. We look forward to your active engagement and continued support.

FDPI Objectives and Purposes

The Objects and Purposes of the Foundation for Development Planning, Inc. (FDPI) as stated in its Articles of Incorporation are:

- (1) To develop programs of study, research, and training aimed at improving the management of natural resources and the general environment of islands and island systems throughout the Caribbean and elsewhere.
- (2) To develop methods, technologies, and programs to support the conservation of natural, cultural, and historical heritage resources throughout the Caribbean Region.
- (3) To design and develop new techniques, methods, tools, and technologies for effective management of island ecosystems.
- (4) To engage in the collection, management, and dissemination of scientific information.
- (5) To support programs that lead to the sustainable development of Caribbean communities.
- (6) To provide technical support, paid or unpaid, to community, national, regional, and other organizations in the design and implementation of studies, projects, and programs in environmental management and sustainable development.

Contributing to the FDPI

The FDPI is certified by the United States Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) public charity. As such, donations by U.S. institutions and citizens are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

FDPI Tax ID Number: 66-0763692

Donate online: <https://www.fdpi.org/contribute/>

Donations can also be sent by mail to:

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Read perspectives on Caribbean development on the [FDPI Facebook Page](#)

Join the discussions on Caribbean development at the [FDPI LinkedIn Group](#)