

12 – 14 July 2023

Calvin James
Executive Director

**The Eleventh Plenary Assembly
of the Global Soil Partnership**

**Addressing soil health
in the Caribbean SIDS:
the SoilCARE project**



Mission of PISLM

To harmonize policies, provide innovative solutions and capacity building in collaboration with Caribbean Small Island Developing States to meet their obligations on sustainable land management and soil health

Mission Statement:

We envision becoming the premier sustainable land and soil management inter-governmental organization in the Caribbean by 2025



Partners of the PISLM



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification



south-to-south
cooperation on land
and environment

ACP



THE GLOBAL
MECHANISM

UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION
TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION



GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND



OECS

ORGANISATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES



Country Parties



1 NO POVERTY


Reduce land abandonment, forced migration and poverty

2 ZERO HUNGER


Produce sufficient and nutritious food

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING


Ensure healthy life and prevent toxic exposure to chemicals

4 QUALITY EDUCATION


5 GENDER EQUALITY


Enhance water purification and the access to clean water for all

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION


7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY


Contributes to the reduction of soil pollution

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH


Contributes to the reduction of soil pollution

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE


10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES


Make cities clean and sustainable, especially urban green areas

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES


Contributes to the reduction of soil pollution

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION


13 CLIMATE ACTION


Maintain healthy soils and enhance carbon sequestration potential to combat climate change

14 LIFE BELOW WATER


Conserve marine resources by reducing soil pollutants transported by runoff

15 LIFE ON LAND


Halt biodiversity loss and reverse land and soil degradation

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS


17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS


Contributes to the reduction of soil pollution



Land degradation is the result of human-induced actions which exploit land, causing its utility, biodiversity, soil fertility, and overall health to decline.

Caribbean has challenges with various types of land degradation, including:

- Soil erosion by water
- Acidification and pollution
- Loss of soil life
- Soil fertility decline
- Pest and disease infestation

The main causes identified, includes:

- Deforestation
- Overgrazing
- Inappropriate agricultural practices
- Climate variabilities

Background Information on Land Challenges in The Caribbean



Caribbean LDN Targets



Land Degradation Neutrality
Target Setting Programme

Caribbean LDN Targets

Most Countries have set voluntary Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Targets to be achieved by 2030.

These include the following:

- Increase the Fertility and Productivity of Cropland
- Transform abandoned Cropland into Agro-forestry.
- Implement Soil Conservation measures.
- Rehabilitation Degraded land.
- Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests
- Increase Forest Carbon Stocks

CARICOM LDN STATUS

COUNTRY	LDN REPORT SUBMITTED
ANTIGUA	• 2020
BELIZE	• 2020
DOMINICA	• 2021
GRENADA	• 2015
GUYANA	• 2017
JAMAICA	• 2020
ST. KITTS & NEVIS	• 2019
ST. LUCIA	• 2018
SURINAME	• 2020
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	• 2020

BARBADOS, ST. VINCENT, HAITI, DONE BUT NOT CABINET APPROVED
BAHAMAS –STARTED PROCESS IN JUNE 2023

SOIL ORGANIC CARBON

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OUTCOMES of the 3rd Session of the PISLM High Level Forum

inter alia....

Decision 01/PHLM.3: PISLM's Work on Soils

Decision 06/PHLM.3: Caribbean Land Degradation
Neutrality (LDN) Transformative Project



UNCCD (PISLM) + FAO (GSP)

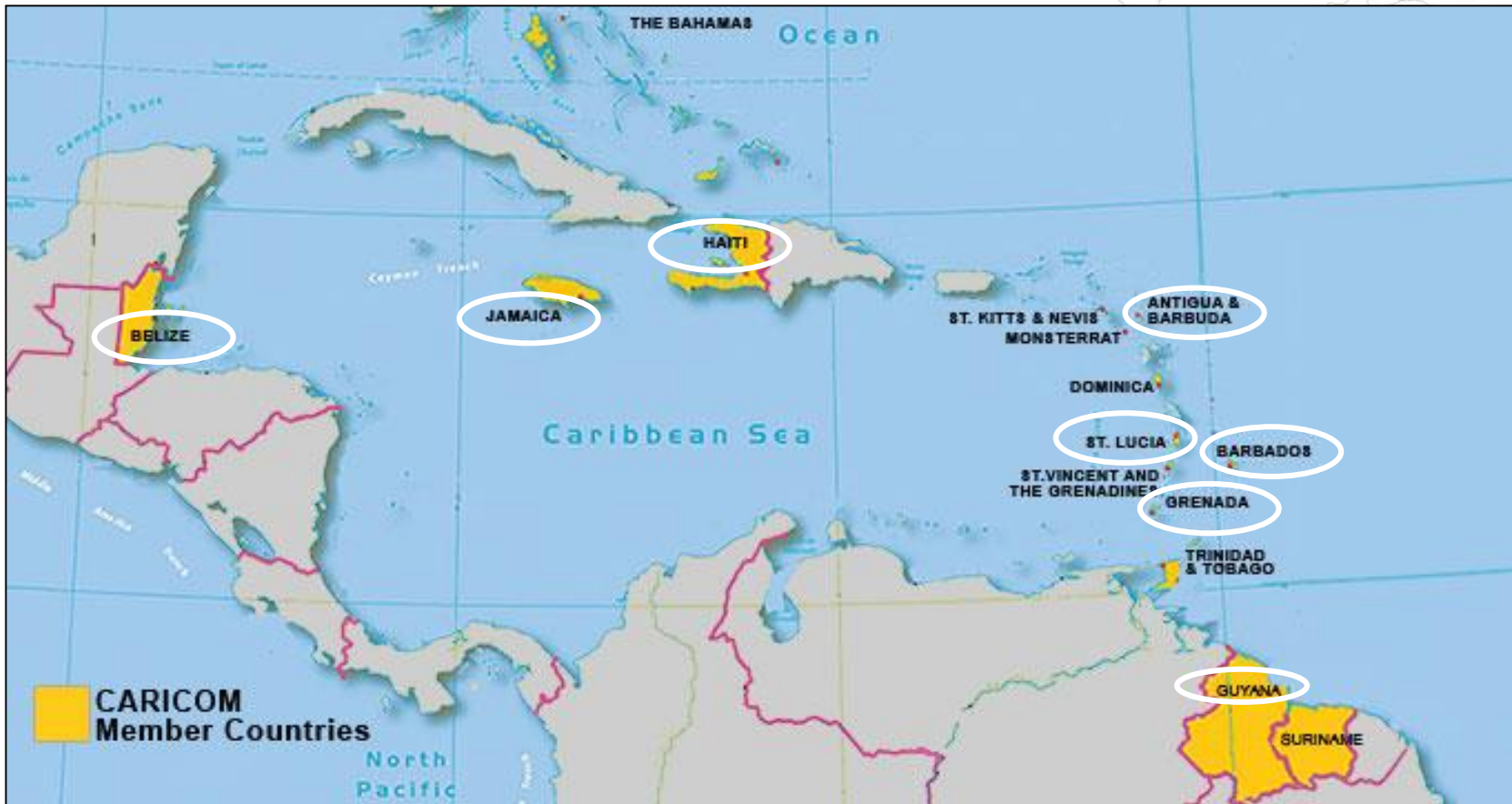


Partnership Initiative on
Sustainable Land Management



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations





10th Plenary Assembly of the Latin America and the Caribbean Soil Partnership (ASLAC) | June 19 to 22, Mexico City



Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Multi-country Soil Management Initiative for Integrated Landscape Restoration and Sustainable Food Systems: Phase 1

OBJECTIVE

To Strengthen Caribbean SIDS with the necessary tools for adopting policies, measures and reforming legal and institutional frameworks to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality LDN and Climate Resilience



Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Multi-country Soil Management Initiative for Integrated Landscape Restoration and Sustainable Food Systems: Phase 1

Project Cost

- GEF Project Financing : 8,155,205 USD
- Co- financing: 25,797,816 USD

GEF Focal Area

- LAND DEGRADATION





Project Core Indicators

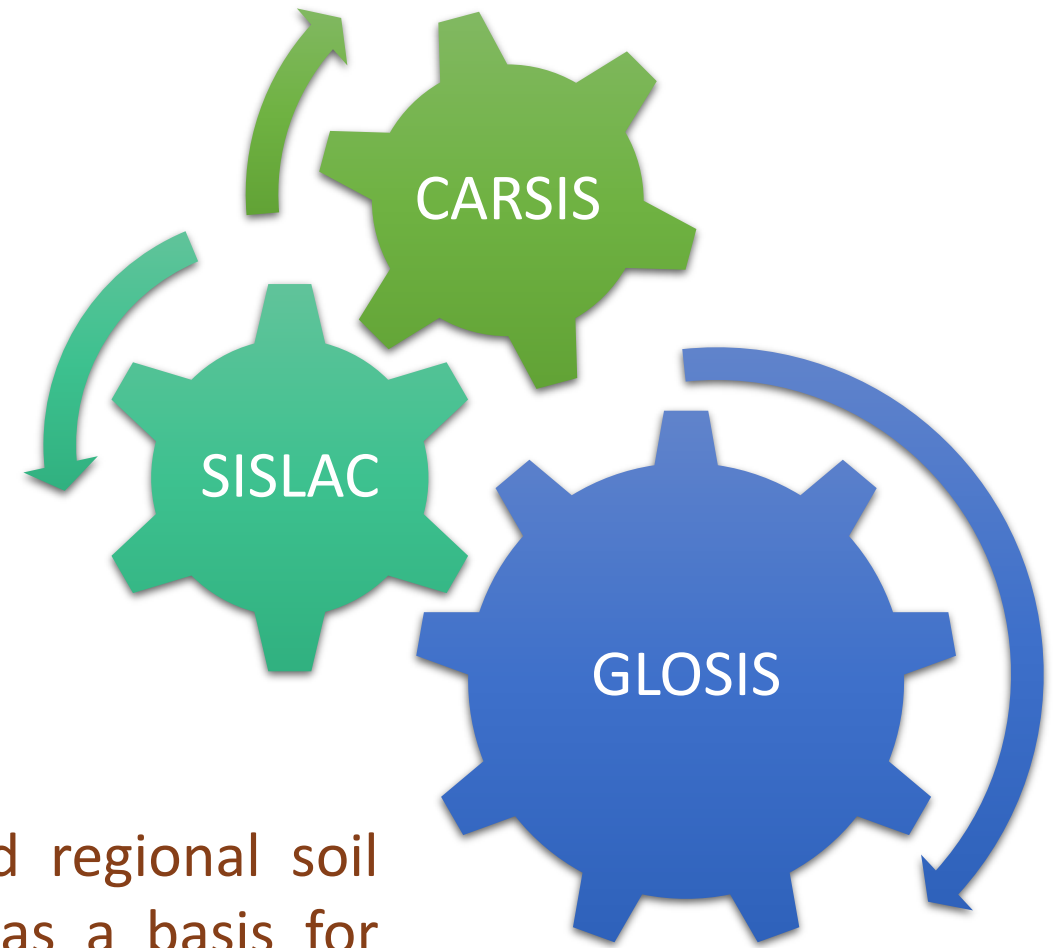
Area of land restored (Hectares) - 29,000

Area of landscapes under improved practices (excluding protected areas) (Hectares) - 26,000

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated (metric tons of CO₂e) 5,412,443

Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment; 5900 (2400 female + 3500 male)

Component 1



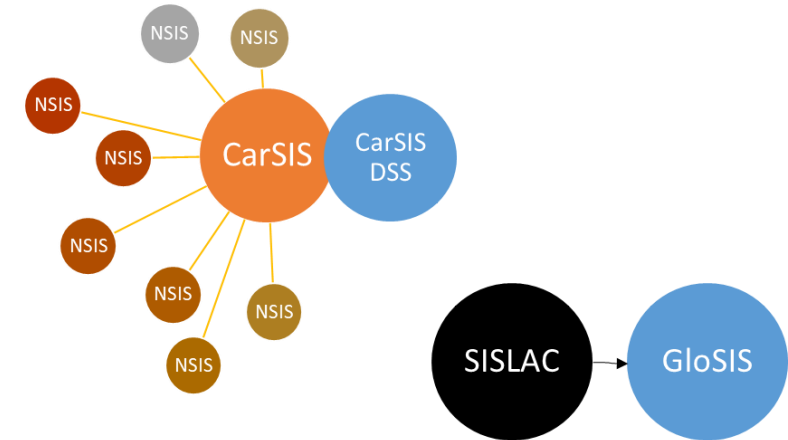
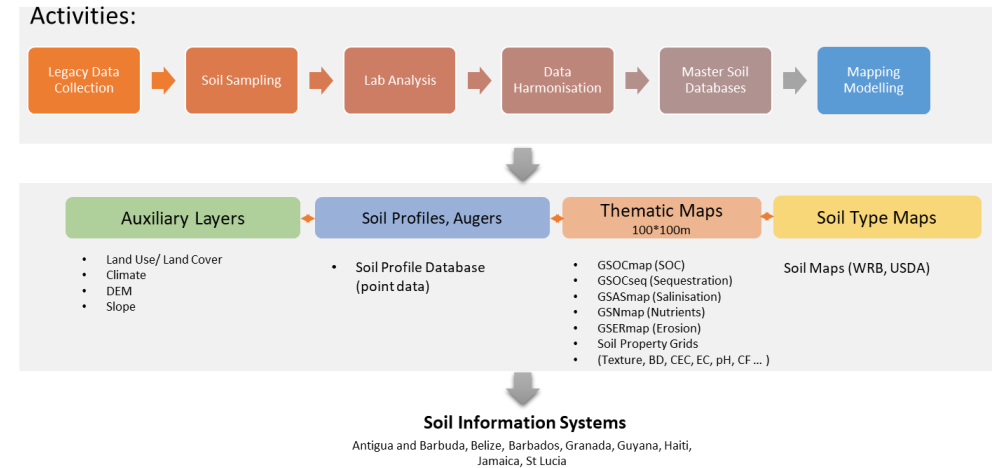
Establish, update and strengthen national and regional soil information systems and technical capacities as a basis for Evidence-based Decision Making for Sustainable Soil Management (SSM) and Sustainable Land Management (SLM)

ACCCOMPLISHMENTS



- managed by the Caribbean Soil Support Group (CSSG)

- Soil Laboratories Surveyed & Assessed
- Register of Regional Labs on GLOSOLAN Laboratory Platform. This information will form the basis for the establishment of a Caribbean Soil Laboratory Network (CARLAN)



- development of the Caribbean Soil Information System (CARSIS). These will be integrated both at the regional and international level. Feeds Decision Support System (DSS).



First Sample since 1960
St Lucia National Soil Survey
21st February 2023

PISLM SOILCARE Phase 1

First Sample since 1960
St Lucia National Soil Survey
21st February 2023



**Partnership Initiative for
Sustainable Land Management**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- National Soils Survey Completed for St. Lucia & Grenada & Carriacou.
- Antigua & Barbuda Soils Survey ongoing
- Sampling Design Mapping ongoing for Barbados, Belize, Jamaica
- Preparation for Procurements of Lab Equipment

A group of people are participating in an ecosystem restoration activity. In the foreground, a man in a light blue short-sleeved shirt and blue jeans is using a shovel to dig in the soil. He is surrounded by other people, including a woman in a blue shirt and dark pants, and a man in a white shirt. They are standing in a field with some green plants and dry grass. The background is slightly blurred, showing more people and the natural environment.

Component 2

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

Addressing Land Degradation through the Rehabilitation and Restoration of Degraded land/soils and the Promotion of Integrated Landscape Management for providing Livelihood Alternatives for Communities.

Climate-Smart Agriculture



Helps farmers
build resilience
to adapt to
climate change



Sustainably
increases
agricultural
production
and incomes



Reduces
greenhouse
gases, where
possible

To achieve all this, Climate-Smart
Agriculture advocates for the use of farmers'
local knowledge to ensure easy adoption.

Component 3

Soil productivity
restored through
climate smart
agriculture and the
establishment of model
farms on selected agri-
landscapes

Component 4



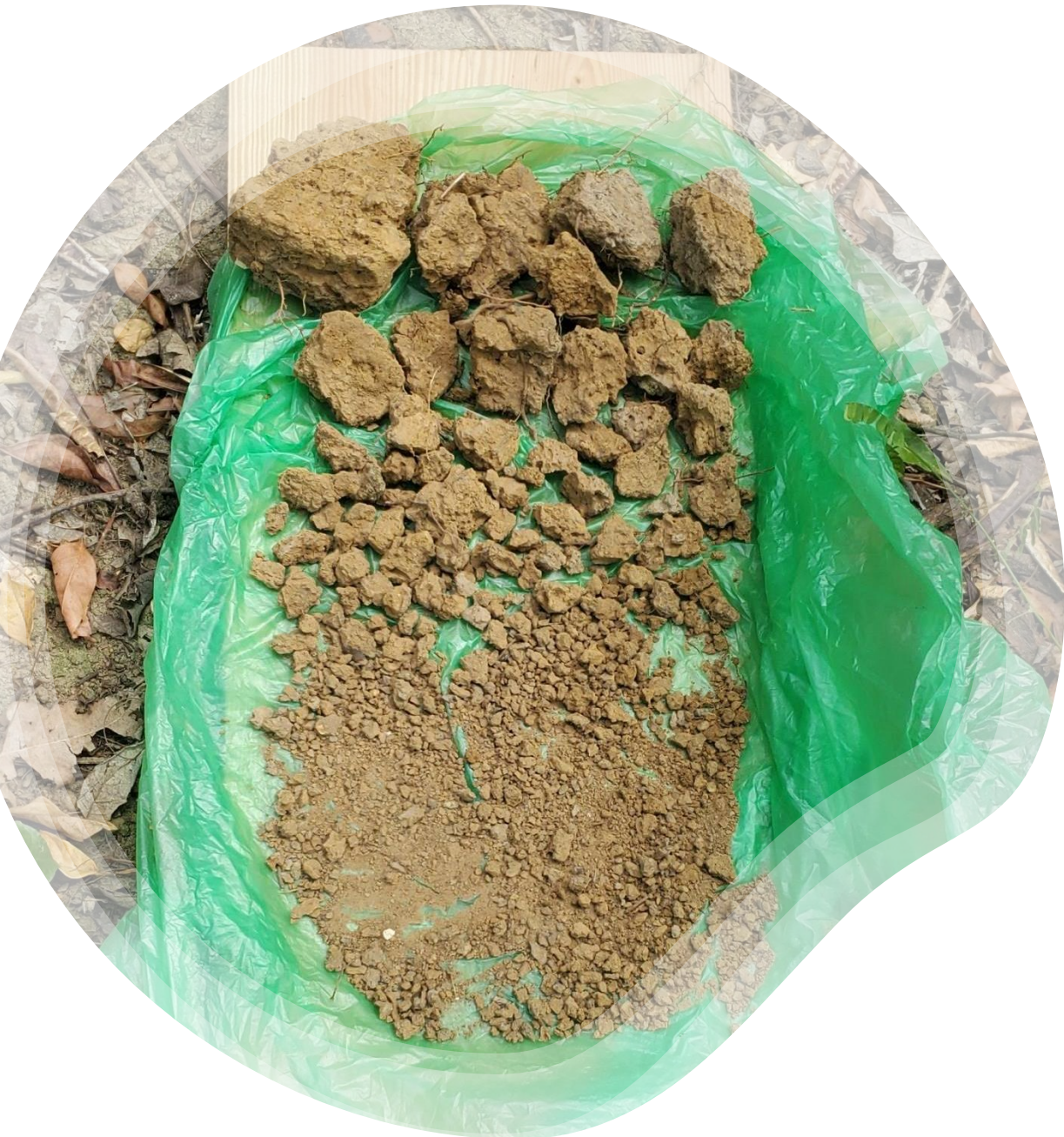
Enhancement of Food Systems and Alternative Livelihoods through the promotion of innovations in agriculture and livestock production systems and Mobilisation of the Private Sector in Support of LDN



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Study areas, Assessment Units and sampling sites delineated as per the SSM Protocol User Manual for the 15 implementation sites listed in the project document
- **Intervention Sites Field Assessments/Sampling for St. Lucia, Grenada, Barbados, Jamaica, Belize Completed**
- **June – Scheduled Visits Guyana. Haiti Sampling Ongoing**
- **Reports Submitted For St. Lucia & Grenada.**





Intervention Site Assessment

- Soil visual assessment provides a preliminary indication of soil quality parameters.
- These soil inherent parameters and soil carbon stocks are affected by landuse and landuse changes that are motivated by livelihood pursuits.
- Land productivity is sustained by carefully managing soil parameters through regular assessment and planned programmes to maintain optimal conditions for productive capacity.

Soil Samples Being Prepared for Analysis.



Component 5



Mainstreaming SLM and Sustainable Soil Management (SSM), Strengthening Knowledge Management, Enhanced Training and Capacity Development, the Building of Financial Capability to Implement SLM, the Regional LDN Strategy and Monitoring and Evaluation.

CAPACITY BUILDING



- Inception Workshop July 2022
Men 11 Women 9 **Total 20**
- Regional Lab Webinar Oct 2022
Men 16 Women 10 **Total 26**
- Introductory Soil Sampling Jan 2023
Men 9 Women 7 **Total 15**
- Soil Sampling Jan 2023
Men 20 Women 10 **Total 30**
- Grenada Soil Sampling In-Country
Training Men Women **Total 52**
- St. Lucia Soil Sampling In-Country
Training Men Women **Total 40**
- Jamaica Soil Sampling **Total 32**
- Belize Soil Sampling **Total 35**
- **GRAND TOTAL 250** Extension
Officers, GIS Technicians, Soils
Experts, Laboratory Technicians

CAPACITY BUILDING C'ont.



PISLM SOILCARE Phase 1

ACCCOMPLISHMENTS

- MOU with the Faculty of Food and Agriculture, UWI to Support Work of the RAC/NAT.
- 25 Acres Allocated
- Mapping of Facility Boundaries
- Contract for Farm Operations
- Procurement of Equipment and Construction of Shade Houses.
- Rehabilitation Works on the Existing Well and Irrigation System.
- Agronomist and Aquaculture Specialist Recruited.
- **Identification of Priority Crops by Countries**
- Developing Workplans Along With CSA, Land & Capacity Building Experts
- Staff Training in Agriculture Practices



REGIONAL INITIATIVES

- Launch Of The Caribbean Soil Support Group,
- Sustainable Land/ Soil Management Framework Group
- Regional Network Supporting Indigenous Peoples
- SOILCARE YOUTH INITIATIVE
- **CSSG, CARLAN and Framework Agreement Group Approved at HLF. CARICOM Mandate Sought to Strengthen Caribbean LDN Governance**



PISLM SOILCARE Phase 1



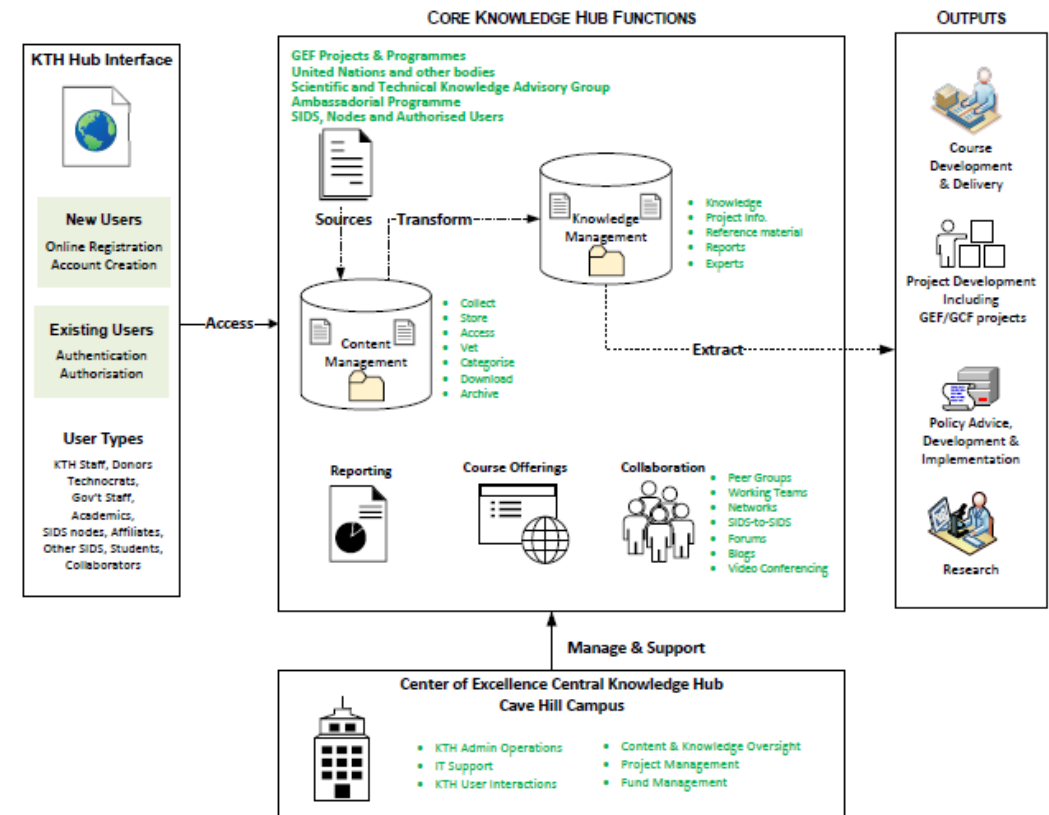
Knowledge Hub



10th Plenary Assembly of the Latin America and the Caribbean Soil Partnership (ASLAC) | June 19 to 22, Mexico City



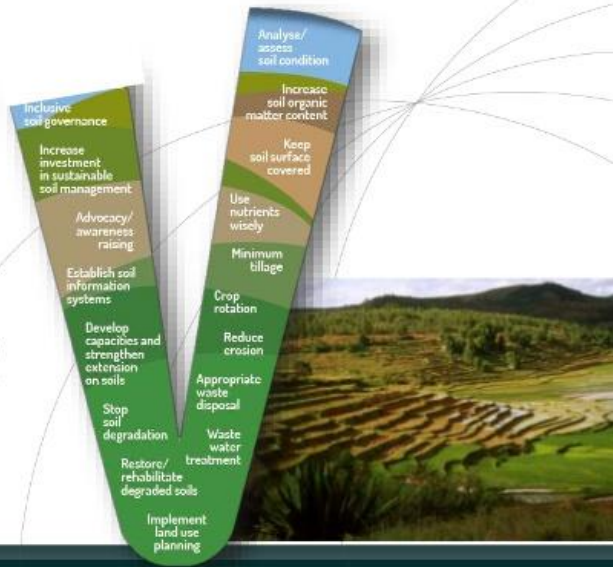
GREEN-BLUE ECONOMY KNOWLEDGE HUB OVERVIEW



Outcomes

Sustainable Soil Management

“Soil management is sustainable if the supporting, provisioning, regulating, and cultural services provided by soil are maintained or enhanced without significantly impairing the soil functions that enable those services of biodiversity.”



Caribbean countries generate and use soil data/information to make informed decisions on climate change, land degradation and food production

Approximately 20,000 ha Adapted Land Use/ Food Production Systems and Alternative Livelihood Options implemented with innovative technologies and private sector support Belize, St. Lucia, Carriou-Grenada, Jamaica and Barbados

Land and Soil Degraded Areas in Haiti, Guyana, St. Lucia; Grenada and Barbados are rehabilitated, ecosystem services restored and sustainable livelihoods built.

Soil productivity restored through Climate Smart Agriculture, Model Farms established on selected landscapes in Guyana, St. Lucia, Haiti and Grenada



CSIDS – SOILCARE PHASE II

OUTCOMES of the 4th Session of the PISLM High Level Forum

inter alia...

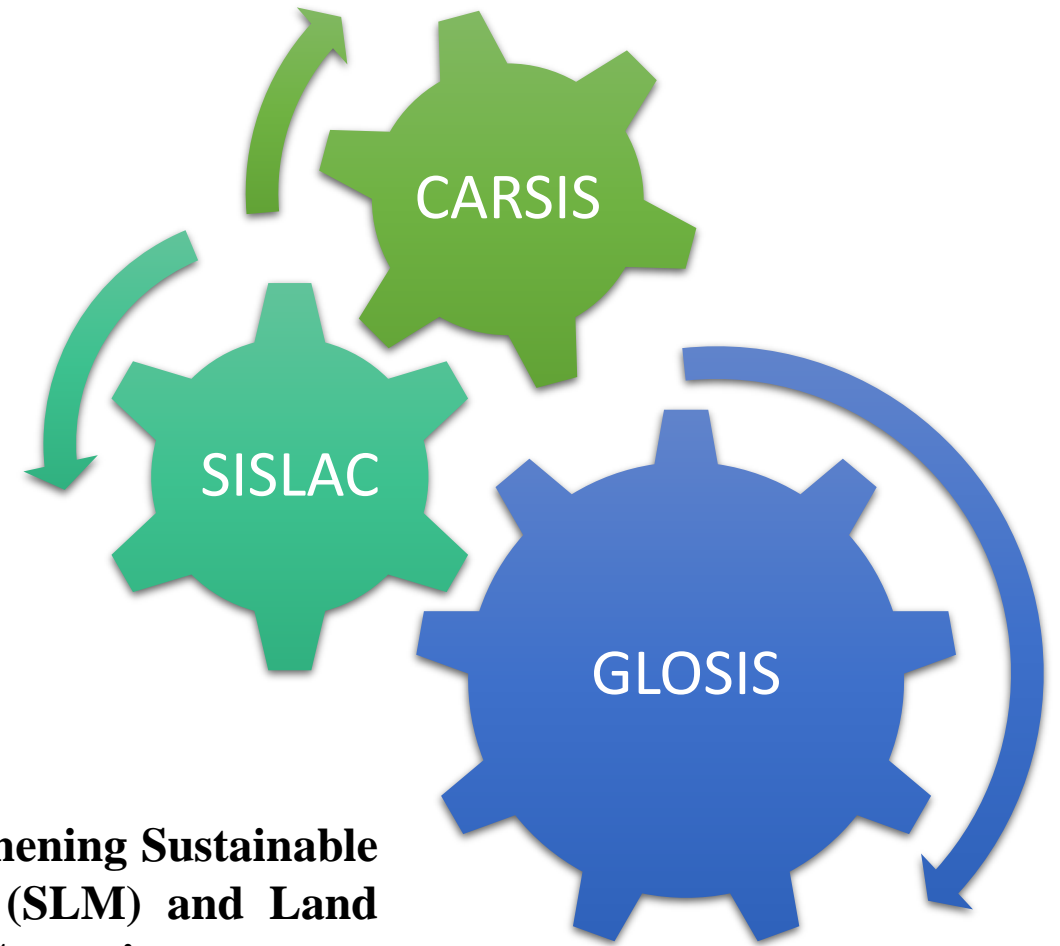
Decision 03/PHLM.5: CSIDS-SOILCARE Phase II

Decision 06/PHLM.5: Caribbean LDN Transformative Project





Component 1



Updating of Soil Information and Data as a Basis of Strengthening Sustainable Soil Management (SSM), Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) in Non-SOILCARE Phase 1 Countries

Component 2

Interventions Addressing Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands Identified by the Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Process (LDN-TSP) in the Support of the Attainment of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)

Component 3



Strengthening CSIDS Capability to Address Land Degradation Neutrality for Soil, Land and Land Resources and Water Management and Combatting Flooding and Drought



Component 4

CSIDS Scientific and Technical Infrastructure and Capacity to respond to the Effects of Climate Change as a means to enhance Climate Resilient SSM, SLM and LDN strengthened

THE END



THANK YOU



**QUESTIONS/ ANSWERS/
COMMENTS**