



## MAJOR NEWS

- Designation of PISLM as an IGO
- Meet the PISLM Scholars
- PISLM Initiates Post Beryl Response

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## PISLM DESIGNATED AS AN IGO

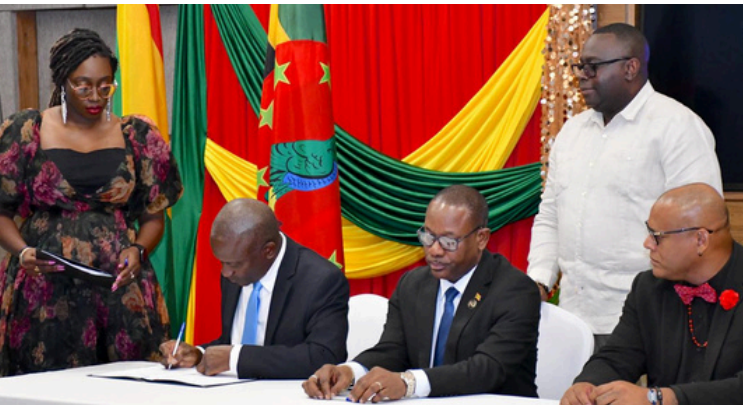
The Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management (PISLM) is set to operate under a new governance framework following an agreement signed by sponsor countries' Ministers responsible for the UNCCD. This agreement was formalized at the PISLM's Gala and Award Ceremony held on April 11, 2024, at Royalton Resorts Grenada, and was further reinforced during the 1st Ministerial Council on April 12, 2024.



**Left to Right: Minister's from Sponsor Countries: Hon. Alfred Prospere—Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Rural Development in the Government of Saint Lucia, Sen. the Hon. Adrian Thomas former Minister for Agriculture and Lands, Forestry and Marine Resources Grenada and Hon. Frederick Cozier—Minister for the Environment, Rural Modernisation, Kalinago Upliftment and Constituency Empowerment**



# Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management



Minister Alfred Prospere, Minister Adrian Thomas and Minister Frederick Cozier, and respectively—officially signed the agreement, establishing PISLM as an Inter-Governmental Organisation (IGO).



## PISLM DESIGNATED AS AN IGO CONT.D

Ministers from Dominica, Grenada, and St. Lucia—Minister Frederick Cozier, Minister Adrian Thomas, and Minister Alfred Prospere respectively—officially signed the agreement, establishing PISLM as an Inter-Governmental Organisation (IGO).

The Ministerial Council also guided the PISLM Executive Committee and Secretariat in promoting sustainable land and soil management practices, integrating climate change adaptation strategies, and exploring further collaboration with international and regional institutions.

PISLM, which will be headquartered in Grenada, aims to support Caribbean Small Island Developing States (CSIDS) by enhancing land use planning and addressing issues like land degradation, soil erosion, and drought, which affect food security and livelihoods.



Minister Alfred Prospere, Minister Adrian Thomas and Minister Frederick Cozier, and respectively—officially signed the agreement, establishing PISLM as an Inter-Governmental Organisation (IGO).

As part of the Caribbean Small Island Developing States (CSIDS) multicounty soil management initiative for Integrated Landscape Restoration and climate-resilient food systems (SOILCARE), Phase 1 project, the Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management (PISLM) is working with regional member states that have been devastated by Hurricane Beryl's passage last week to develop appropriate response interventions.



SOILCARE Project Manager Trevor Thompon engages farmer in Dumfries to assess their damages

The project countries impacted by Hurricane Beryl were Grenada (including Carriacou and Petite Martinique), Barbados, Jamaica, and St. Lucia. They were identified as priority countries during a strategic Post Beryl Disaster Response Meeting which was convened on Monday, July 8, 2024. PISLM staff and various stakeholders from the affected countries discussed updates and formulated a robust response to the land and soil challenges exacerbated by the hurricane's passage. The aim of this meeting was to evaluate the current situation and assess ongoing projects including the Integrated Landscape Management Project (Carriacou) and SOILCARE Project's intervention sites in Grenada (Chambord) and St. Lucia.



SOILCARE Project Manager Trevor Thompon assesses damages Limlair Livestock Station



SOILCARE Project Manager Trevor Thompon engages farmers in Dumfries to assess their damages

PISLM has set up a 'Hurricane Response Team' and will be aligning resources to facilitate effective land and soil management, as there is an urgent need to intensify efforts and address the vulnerabilities revealed by this Climate Change driven disaster. The organisation's response strategy will also focus on critical areas including an assessment of the damage caused by Beryl—particularly related to soil erosion, land degradation and soil health. Additionally, PISLM will utilize existing projects and identify opportunities to ensure an effective response.

PISLM is also looking forward to collaborating with stakeholders; fostering partnerships with local governments, non-governmental organisations and community groups to tackle the challenges presented by the passage of Hurricane Beryl.



SOILCARE Intervention Site at Belle Vue South- devastated by Hurricane Beryl



SOILCARE Grenada visit farmer in the Dumfries Area to conduct damage assessment

## PISLM INITIATES REGIONAL RESPONSE POST BERYL

## LAND HEROES RECOGNISED



Dr. Renata Clarke (FAO)

Jose Miguel Torrico

Shane Edwards

Trevor Thompson

In an era where land sustainability is critical, recognizing and celebrating stewards who have contributed to the preservation and enhancement of land and soil is paramount.

These efforts are essential for improving livelihoods and increasing food and nutrition security in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (CSIDS). The PISLM recently honored notable individuals and organizations for their significant contributions to soil quality and land productivity.

At the 6th High-Level Forum in Grenada on April 11th, Trevor E. Thompson, former Chief Agriculture Officer and Chief Land Use Officer of Grenada, received a 'Lifetime Award' for his efforts towards healthier soils and more productive lands. Thompson, who served as the National Focal Point for Grenada to the UNCCD from 2015-2022, also chaired several organizations focused on combating climate change, preserving biodiversity, and supporting agricultural communities.



Left to Right: Hon. Adrian Thomas- Former Minister for Agriculture and Lands, Forestry and Marine Resources Grenada, Permanent Secretary Isaac Baghwan, Trevor Thompson (Lifetime Award Recipient) , Darron Williams (Scholarship Recipient) and Shane Noel (Green Generation Award Recipient)

Additionally, Shane Edwards, a 36-year-old farmer known for his regenerative agricultural practices, was awarded PISLM's first 'Green Generation Award'. Edwards' sustainable farming methods, which include crop rotation and climate-smart technologies were recognized for enhancing soil nutrients, reducing erosion, and contributing significantly to local food security.

The PISLM also recognized the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for its support in developing and implementing the CSIDS-SOILCARE project phases. The FAO, led by Dr. Renata Clarke, is instrumental in creating systems to support Technical Officers and policymakers within CSIDS, ensuring that LDN becomes more achievable. The PISLM congratulates all recipients, acknowledging their dedication and perseverance as an inspiration for global and local actions toward land sustainability.



Minister Sabato Caesar (St. Vincent and the Grenadines) embraces colleague Hon. Adrian Thomas (Grenada)

Shaun Baugh (CARICOM) chats with Sen. The Hon. Adrian Thomas (Grenada)

Trevor Thompson & Shane Edwards (Grenada) chat with Hon. Alfred Prospere (St.Lucia).

## MEET THE PISLM SCHOLARS

### MICHELLE HOWARD-WILSON



Michelle sits on the Working Group on Biodiversity, oversees youth agricultural programs, serves as a TVET assessor, and volunteers with local organizations. This scholarship opportunity aligns with her commitment to advancing sustainable land management and positively impacting lives and the environment.

### OMALI DARE



Mr. Dare will be pursuing a PhD in Soil Science, specializing in Organic Waste Management and Utilization, at the University of West Indies St Augustine's Campus.

PISLM POSTGRADUATE SCHOLAR



PISLM POSTGRADUATE SCHOLAR



### DAMION ADJODHA



Damian expresses creativity by transforming spaces into vibrant agroecosystems healing soils. His 20 years of experience yielded low-input methods increasing soil life. His mission is developing these methodologies to reduce farmers' costs while supporting regional institutions through this PISLM/UWI opportunity demonstrating Caribbean agricultural wisdom globally.

### DARRON WILLIAMS



With career aspirations in scientific agricultural applications to improve farmers' economic returns, this scholarship will provide crucial resources and skills. Deeply grateful, Darron is committed to maximizing this opportunity's impact in his community and beyond.

PISLM POSTGRADUATE SCHOLAR



PISLM POSTGRADUATE SCHOLAR



### ABIDAS ASH



This scholarship will further her understanding of climate-smart, sustainable practices integrating biodiversity like using birds as environmental indicators. Her aspiration is bridging agriculture and natural resource management through studying birds across landscapes.

PISLM POSTGRADUATE SCHOLAR



## PISLM AND BCRC SIGN MOU THAT PROMOTES CAPACITY BUILDING AMONG CSIDS



The Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management (PISLM) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean (BCRC-Caribbean), that allows both organisations to collaborate on sustainable soil and land management.

The memorandum of understanding signed on June 19 allows for the strengthening of capacity among Caribbean Small Island Developing States that are implementing the Multi-country Soil Management Initiative for Integrated Landscape Restoration and Sustainable Food Systems (CSIDS-SOILCARE) Phase 1 Project. It will also assist BCRC-Caribbean as they execute two (2) significant projects, under the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in Small Island Developing States (ISLANDS) Programme in collaboration with its implementing agencies, UNEP and FAO.

The partnership will also extend support to the Caribbean countries that are not part of SOILCARE but are involved in the ISLANDS Programme the BCRC-Caribbean as the two collaborate on activities that brings co-benefits. PISLM, recognises the importance of synergies with the BCRC-Caribbean to promote actions that will result in land degradation neutrality and strengthen the ability of participating countries to manage landscapes and restore degraded lands.



Ms. Jewel Batchasingh, Director of the BCRC-Caribbean.

“This is the first of many partnerships between the BCRC-Caribbean and PISLM. We are grateful for the opportunity to foster the complementary use of resources in the agricultural sector through this MOU, with a vision to enhance capacity among the Caribbean SIDS,” said Ms. Jewel Batchasingh, Director of the BCRC-Caribbean.

Project Manager for the CSIDS SOILCARE Project Mr. Trevor Thompson explained that one of the PISLM CSIDS SOILCARE Phase 1 Project deliverable is to strengthen collaboration amongst stakeholders is , “To support sustainable Soil and Land Management, while addressing risks and reducing impacts, because Soil Pollution is a growing threat to sustainable food production and security in the region, sharing of data and information from project activities can help to reduce the negative impacts of these risks.”



Project Manager for the CSIDS SOILCARE Project Mr. Trevor Thompson

Through this MOU, BCRC-Caribbean and PISLM will forge information exchange, collaboration in developing training materials, organizing workshops, managing project, deliverables and enhancing the success of their outcomes.

## COMMUNITY ACTIVIST WELCOMES SUPPORT FOR FARMERS IN CHAMBORD GRENADA.

Claudette Pitt, the Chair of St. Patrick's Environment and Community Tourism Organisation (SPECTO), Grenada and a well-known community activist has welcomed the work that would be done in her community by the Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management's (PISLM's), Caribbean Small Island Developing States Multi-country Soil Management Initiative for Integrated Landscape Restoration and Sustainable Food Systems (CSIDS SOILCARE, Phase 1) project.

Pitt is known for her relentless commitment to community and environmental initiatives and was one of the eighteen (18) stakeholders, who participated in Grenada's, one-day SOILCARE Project Intervention Sites Validation workshop held at the National Stadium on Friday, May 10, 2024.



**Claudette Pitt, the Chair of St. Patrick's Environment and Community Tourism Organisation (SPECTO), Grenada**

The Workshop in Grenada was held to inform stakeholders on the Driver-Pressure-State-Impact-Response (DPSIR) analysis and present findings on land capability and soil fertility in each of Grenada's intervention sites. While Pitt was present to understand and analyze information from the project intervention site at Chambord, she spoke of her enthusiasm for this project.

According to her, "Chambord has long been an area of concern to SPECTO when we learned that the lack of and absence of proper soil management practices was flagged by the Land Use Division of the Ministry of Agriculture."

Stakeholders coming from the Public Service, Private sector, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Community-Based Organisations (CBOs), and Farmers like Pitt, SPECTO approved actions that would be taken at the five (5) intervention sites in Grenada and Carriacou. Chambord is among five intervention sites in Grenada and Carriacou- the others are Les Avocat also in Grenada and Dumfries, Limlair, and Belle Vue South in Carriacou.

Ms. Pitt believes, "The opportunity for farmers to be engaged wholeheartedly in a project that can support them and benefit them with practical and climate-friendly solutions, will have a domino effect on food security in the parish."



### PROUD SPONSOR OF TWO CATEGORIES OF THE 35TH NGC CBU CARIBBEAN MEDIA AWARDS:

- BEST TV PRODUCTION ON LAND DEGRADATION NEUTRALITY & BEST
- PRINT ARTICLE ON LAND DEGRADATION NEUTRALITY

"We are thrilled to be a part of the Caribbean Media Awards and to sponsor these two significant categories focusing on land degradation neutrality, by supporting these awards, we hope to inspire impactful storytelling and reporting that raises awareness about the importance of sustainable land management in the Caribbean and beyond."



**Calvin James, Executive Director PISLM**

## SOILCARE VALIDATION WORKSHOPS HELD IN PROJECT COUNTRIES



During the month of May, PISLM completed nine (9) validation workshops in St. Lucia (1), Grenada (1), Guyana (1), Barbados (1), Jamaica (2), Belize (1) and Haiti (2). A total of 384 stakeholders participated in the validation workshops. The workshops for all participating countries, except Haiti were executed by PISLM Consulting team lead by the Regional Land Expert, Dr. Ronen Francis. Haiti's validation workshop was coordinated and executed by the Project Assistant, Mr. Constantin Joseph with support from PISLM and the respective Ministries.



The workshops aimed to engage directly with key stakeholders on the findings of Driver-Pressure-State-Impact-Response (DPSIR) Framework Report. Moreover, they sought to validate the proposed SOILCARE responses with the stakeholders of the various national intervention sites. The objectives were to:

1. To brief countries on DPSIR analysis;
2. To present findings on land capability and soil fertility in each assessment unit in the intervention sites;
3. To discuss the planned SSM/SLM strategies for each intervention site based on components 2.1, 3.1 and 4.; and
4. To present a Draft Procurement plan for intervention actions.

Over 250 stakeholders benefitted directly from the workshops and unanimously endorsed the SOILCARE responses to address land degradation and improve soil health. Stakeholders also made recommendations to enhance some of the proposed interventions. These recommendations will be reviewed and addressed in the final DPSIR Framework Report. The DPSIR framework report for each participating country was developed based on national soil surveys and assessments conducted in each participating country in 2023.

The intervention sites were also assessed and measures to address the deficiencies formulated.

The soil samples from the national surveys are being analyzed for over 20 parameters by the University of the West Indies, Trinidad. Following the analysis of all the soil samples, participating countries will have comprehensive data on the status of the soil for informed decision-making.

Participants expressed satisfaction with the workshop's content and delivery and provided feedback on immediate procurement actions. PISLM expresses gratitude to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), governments of participating countries, Nations Framework Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Focal Points, the Project Assistants, PISLM team and all stakeholders for their pivotal role in the success of the workshops.







## MAJOR GROUPS MEET TO CHART THE WAY FORWARD FOR SOILCARE PHASE 2

The PISLM recently hosted a series of pivotal meetings with regional stakeholders to discuss and refine technical guidance on soil and land management initiatives within the Caribbean region. Held from May 22-24, 2024, at the Brix Hotel & Conference Centre, these gatherings included the 3rd meeting of the Sustainable Soil and Land Management Framework Group, the 2nd Session of the Caribbean Soil Lab Network (CarSOLAN), and the Caribbean Soil Support Group (SSG). The primary objective was to secure written commitments from key regional bodies responsible for natural resources, such as soils, land, water resources, and biodiversity, to integrate soil and land management strategies into their respective frameworks and programs.

Another significant goal of these meetings was to update various Agencies and Groups within the Caribbean Community Regional Policy Frameworks. These frameworks emphasize the importance of incorporating environmentally sound and climate-resilient measures, thereby strengthening and mainstreaming sustainable land management (SLM), sustainable soil management (SSM), and Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) principles. By doing so, the PISLM aims to enhance the integration of these practices into regional policy instruments, ensuring a cohesive and comprehensive approach to environmental sustainability and meeting the LDN targets by 2030.

The meetings also facilitated cross-agency collaboration and the sharing of expertise from regional and international organizations, including the University of the West Indies (UWI), Caribbean Agriculture and Research Development Institute (CARDI), Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM), and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), among others. These collaborations are crucial for the development and execution of SSM, SLM, and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) projects. Additionally, discussions focused on advancing phase II of the SOILCARE project, which aims to enhance land and water productivity and improve farmers' livelihoods across participating countries.

## PISLM SAYS THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN OUR SIDS4 SIDE EVENT.



The Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management expresses a heartfelt thank you to all stakeholders who joined us at UN International Conference for Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) in Antigua and Barbuda, both in person and virtually!

Your participation made our PISLM side event a success. We showcased the incredible journey of the CSIDS SOILCARE Project, including soil surveys, lab upgrades, and establishing regional stakeholder groups. Special thanks to Executive Director-Mr. Calvin James and Dr. Cesar Luis Garcia for enlightening us on the tech and data aspects supporting SDG 15.3, and the journey of the PISLM to achieving Land Degradation Neutrality in the region.

## PISLM MOVES TO MAKE C-SAC THE CLIMATE SMART ASSESSMENT TOOL FOR SOILCARE PROJECT



The PISLM has made a crucial advancement in its CSIDS - SOILCARE Phase 1 Project by adopting the Climate-Smart Agriculture Compliance (C-SAC) Tool as the new standard for assessing climate-smart agriculture.

This tool, developed by Caribbean scientist Steve Maximay, will replace the previously used High Nature Value Index (HNVI) tool. The C-SAC Tool is a comprehensive mechanism designed to evaluate the degree of Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) compliance through a twenty-question evaluation protocol across five operational arms, providing a detailed compliance score on a hundred-point scale. This score is further interpreted through a visual C-SAC pentagon, offering a nuanced understanding of CSA compliance.

## PISLM MOVES TO MAKE C-SAC THE CLIMATE SMART ASSESSMENT TOOL FOR SOILCARE PROJECT (CONT.D)

Dr. Allan Williams, who designed the HNVI tool, emphasized the need for a more precise vision to execute sustainable agricultural strategies in the face of changing climatic conditions. Steve Maximay highlighted that Caribbean governments have long aimed for a Climate Smart Agriculture Approach but lacked a quantitative and qualitative means to define it, which the C-SAC now provides. The Project Manager for the CSIDS SOILCARE Project Trevor Thompson welcomed the new tool, noting that it would facilitate the evaluation of CSA practices' impacts and enhance farmers' capacity to achieve higher crop values.

The adoption of the C-SAC Tool represents a significant step forward for the SOILCARE Project, promoting a forward-thinking approach to Land Degradation Neutrality and climate-resilient food systems. This tool, available in manual-based, excel-based, and mobile application formats, is expected to improve the project's ability to address the unique challenges faced by Caribbean Small Island Developing States, fostering a more sustainable and resilient agricultural future.

### A LOOK AT WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2024 - DOMINICA



The Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management (PISLM) participated in World Environment Day (WED) celebrations on June 05, 2024, under the theme "Land restoration, desertification, and drought resilience." PISLM Chief of Staff Kiefer Jackson in her WED message emphasized the critical need to restore degraded lands and build resilience against droughts and desertification. During the celebration held in Dominica she highlighted that the theme aligns with Dominica's goal of becoming the world's first climate-resilient nation by 2030. This goal aims to ensure that the benefits of land restoration and enhanced drought resilience are experienced across all societal sectors.



Minister Cozier Frederick in his message highlighted the significance of sustainable land management practices, noting that these efforts can boost farm productivity and contribute to the country's resilience against environmental challenges. He praised the collaborative work of PISLM, other partners, and the government in sustaining Dominica's lands. The minister also stressed the collective responsibility to preserve the land, honoring the heritage of the Kalinago ancestors.

Despite the lingering impact of Hurricane Maria in 2017, PISLM has been instrumental in Dominica's reforestation and sustainable land management efforts. The initiative has supported projects like the Sustainable Land Management Project; and Strengthening the Resilience of Forests and Agriculture Lands in Dominica. These projects have achieved significant milestones, including targeted reforestation in the Coulibistrie, Batali, and La Plaine watersheds, and the development of land use maps from data collected in five Parishes. Dominica's journey towards climate resilience offers valuable lessons and a blueprint for other nations facing similar environmental challenges, underscoring the importance of integrated and sustainable land management approaches.

## WORLD DAY TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CALVIN JAMES



Today, we mark 50 years of World Desertification and Drought Day celebration. This day is dedicated to raising awareness and galvanizing action against the persistent challenges of land degradation. As the Executive Director of the Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management, this day represents the heart of what we endeavour to help countries address in the Caribbean, daily. What I've dedicated a portion of my life to helping the region combat.

This year's theme, "United for Land. Our Legacy. Our Future," resonates profoundly, especially for us in the Caribbean. Our region, known for its vibrant cultures and rich biodiversity, faces unique challenges in sustainable land management. The impacts of desertification, drought, and climate change are acutely felt here, threatening our food security, water resources, and the very livelihoods that depend on our land.

In the Caribbean, our struggles with sustainable land management are multifaceted. From the pressures of urbanization and tourism to the impacts of hurricanes and sea-level rise, our lands are under constant threat. Soil erosion, deforestation, and the degradation of our coastal areas further exacerbate these challenges, putting our ecosystems and communities at risk.

Yet, amidst these challenges, there is hope and resilience. The theme, "United for Land. Our Legacy. Our Future," reminds us that by coming together, we can turn the tide. Sustainable land management is not only an environmental necessity it is how we preserve our legacy and ensuring a thriving future for generations to come.

At the Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management, we are dedicated to implementing and promoting practices that restore the health and vitality of our lands. From development and study of innovative agricultural techniques at our Regional Research, Advisory and Capacity Building Facility on New Adaptation Technologies (RAC/NAT) facility to community-centric projects like SOILCARE, we strive to make a tangible impact on the ground. Our work is driven by the belief that every piece of land restored is a step towards a more resilient and equitable Caribbean.

Today, we reaffirm our commitment to this cause. We continue to engage governments, international organizations, civil society, and local communities—to combat desertification and drought. By uniting our efforts, we can create a legacy of sustainable land management that ensures a flourishing future for our region.

The road ahead is challenging, but it is also filled with hope and possibility. Together, united for land, we can turn the tide on desertification and drought. Let us act with urgency, compassion, and unwavering resolve to secure our legacy and our future.



Partnership Initiative for  
Sustainable Land Management



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