

Building Resilience and Social Cohesion by Leveraging Cultural Capital and Community Empowerment

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Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago



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Challenges

- Negative fallout of the **global financial crisis**;
- **Crime and violence** – exclusiveness from governance process;
- **Degraded ecosystems** – livelihoods & food security;
- Undemarcated borders – national security;
- **Climate change**;
- **Natural disasters** – increasing risk;
- **Rapid urbanisation**, decline in rural livelihoods; and the growth of unplanned human settlements
- Vector-borne **diseases** – loss in productivity.



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The Response....

- **expenditure programmes**, tax waivers and reliefs and selective credit availability;
- Governments have led in **establishing crime and violence prevention plans and programmes**, but NGOs and community groups have also contributed;
- numerous national and regional interventions have been designed to **control such degradation** – Belize and Barbados;
- CARICOM established the **regional Crime and Security Framework** in 2005;
- **CCCCC, CCRIF, REDD+**;
- **Social housing** and related projects to improve living circumstances – Trinidad & Tobago, Saint Lucia.



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Building social resilience

- **A new paradigm for building social resilience in the Caribbean**
 - creating social capital at the community level;
 - developing capacities at the community and individual household levels;
 - building social resilience and cohesion through community networks, social safety nets, civil society organisations
- **Using culture and cultural industries to build social resilience**
 - cultural heritage, cultural and creative industries, sustainable cultural tourism, and cultural infrastructure as strategic tools for revenue generation;
 - harnessing greater social inclusiveness and rootedness, resilience, innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship for individuals and communities;
 - the use of local resources, skills, and knowledge.



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