Organization *for* Responsible Governance

Project Summary: Climate Justice Unlocked – Access, Awareness, Action

The *Climate Justice Unlocked* initiative, led by the Organization for Responsible Governance and funded by The Commonwealth Foundation, is a two-year, national project, designed to strengthen inclusive climate governance in The Bahamas by improving **public access to information, awareness, and citizen participation** in climate-related decision-making.

Recognizing that The Bahamas faces severe climate risks—while many citizens, particularly in Family Islands, remain **underrepresented and disconnected** from climate information and policy processes—the project focuses on bridging the gap between **climate policy frameworks and community-level engagement**.

Core Objectives

- Increase public understanding of climate change, climate justice, and adaptation policies
- Expand access to reliable climate information and transparency tools (
- Strengthen the capacity of civil society, community leaders, and youth to engage in policy dialogue and advocacy
- Amplify the voices of women, youth, and marginalized communities in climate decision-making

Key Activities

- **Community Engagement:** 8 workshops and national dialogues across multiple islands (including Abaco, Grand Bahama, Eleuthera, and Exuma)
- **Information Access:** Development of a national climate information and resource hub, including guides and infographics
- **Capacity Building:** Training sessions for civil society and local leaders on advocacy, data use, and policy engagement
- **Youth & Creative Advocacy:** Arts-based campaigns and storytelling initiatives to broaden public awareness and participation
- **Policy Feedback:** Mechanisms to capture community input and translate it into actionable recommendations

Partnership Approach

The project will be implemented in collaboration with committed partners including **BREEF (Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation)** and **The Perry Institute for Marine Science**, alongside regional partners. There is also strong opportunity to engage additional local nonprofits and community-based organizations whose missions support environmental conservation, strengthening national reach and local ownership.

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Strategic Value

The project directly supports The Bahamas' commitments under regional and international frameworks, including **the Escazú Agreement**, by operationalizing its pillars of **access to information, public participation, and accountability in environmental governance**.

It also aligns with national priorities under Vision 2040 and broader climate resilience efforts by ensuring that **climate action is inclusive, locally informed, and participatory**.

ORG's Implementation Strength

ORG Bahamas Foundation brings over a decade of experience in **community engagement, participatory governance, and capacity building across the archipelago**, including extensive work in Family Island communities. The organization has a strong track record of delivering practical, community-based programming that connects policy to people.

This includes youth-focused initiatives such as the **Tide Turners environmental education programme**, climate adaptation engagement with high school students at **The Leadership Academy**, and youth climate advocacy work with university students at the **University of The Bahamas**. These efforts demonstrate ORG's ability to translate complex policy issues into accessible, locally relevant programming that builds long-term civic engagement and leadership.

Expected Impact

- More informed and engaged citizens participating in climate governance
- Stronger civil society capacity to support transparency and accountability
- Increased inclusion of vulnerable communities in climate policy processes
- Practical pathways for translating national and international climate commitments into community-level action