

# Gillian Cooper

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## Summary

- Over twenty years international experience in the fields of sustainable development policy, participatory governance approaches and capacity development of civil society organisations;
  - Expertise in participatory processes, organisational development, constructive engagement for policy change, policy analysis, facilitation, programme and project design and management;
  - Strong analytical and writing skills;
  - Experience in working both in rural as well as urban community contexts and at local and global levels.
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## Education

**School of Oriental and African Studies**, University of London, UK. 2008 - 2011  
MSc Globalisation and Development (part-time)

**McGill University**, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. 1992 – 1995  
B.A. (Hons). Geography (major) and Environmental Studies (minor)

## Experience

### Freelance

**Associate, Green Park Consultants**

### Evaluation

- Team member, final evaluation of a five-year GEF-World Bank funded Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Protected Areas and Associated Livelihoods (OPAAL) project for [OECS](#) (2011)
- Research for a five-year evaluation of the [SEED Initiative](#), an international partnership that supports innovative small-scale sustainable entrepreneurship (2011-2012)

### Policy Review and Analysis

- Consultant, review of the status of implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and of Biodiversity Action Plans in the European Overseas Territories for International Union for the Conservation of Nature [IUCN](#) (2010-11)  
<https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2011-046.pdf>

- Research on potential climate financing opportunities for and climate mitigation benefits of wastepicker associations engaged in recycling in India, Colombia and Brazil for Women in the Informal Economy Globalising and Organising [WIEGO](#) and [Green Hub MIT](#) (2010)
- Team member, Situation analysis of the integration of biodiversity in Caribbean government development planning policies, instruments and hotel CSR policies in hotel development plans for [IUCN](#) (2010-11)  
<https://portals.iucn.org/library/efiles/documents/Rep-2011-015.pdf>
- Research on relevant landuse and housing policies for [ILESI, Ltd](#) - Integrated Land and Environment Settlement Initiatives for Caribbean Development Bank funded human settlements development plan for St.Kitts and Nevis (1997)

#### *Capacity Development*

- Consultant, Project management support, and design and facilitation of a study tour and workshop to develop civil society capacity for conservation in the Caribbean UK Overseas Territories for the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute [CANARI](#) (2010-2011)

#### **Employment**

##### **Senior Programme Officer, Capacity Development, [Commonwealth Foundation](#), London, UK (2014 to present)**

Responsible for management and implementation of capacity development technical support to regional civil society organisations and networks involved in policy advocacy in West Africa, the Caribbean, East and Southern Africa and the Pacific to improve their engagement with institutions in governance for sustainable development policy processes.

##### **West Africa Partner Development Officer, [RSPB, International](#), Sandy, UK (2012 – 2014)**

Coordination and design of the RSPB's BirdLife International partner development programme in West Africa. This included mentoring, organisational development support, strategic planning, fundraising, facilitating multi-stakeholder capacity development support and project design, project management and policy advocacy. Working with organisations in Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Liberia.

##### **Fundraising and Programme Development, [Tourism Concern](#), London, UK (2007 – 2009 part time)**

Leading on preparation of funding bids to private foundations and bilateral funding agencies as well as supporter fundraising appeals. Tourism Concern is a UK charity that looks at corporate social responsibility within the tourism industry.

##### **Sustainable Community Development Officer, [Ocean New Deal for Communities](#), London, UK (2006 – 2008)**

Leading on assessment of capacity needs of inner-city community based organisations in the NDC area and developing and delivering bespoke capacity development programmes. Management of a small grant funding programme for local organisations. The Ocean NDC was a 10-year government funded programme to improve the quality of life of one of the most deprived neighbourhoods in East London.

**Associate Director, Caribbean Natural Resources Institute**, Laventille, Trinidad and Tobago (2001 – 2005)

Responsible for managing the Institutes work programme. Co-managed 4 technical and 2 admin staff. Development and preparation of fundraising proposals to diverse donors. Delivery of a range of programme and project commitments on capacity development for public and civil society organisations (action learning, workshops, study tours, case studies, mentoring), design and facilitation of multi-stakeholder decision-making processes, applied research on sustainable and participatory governance of natural resources. CANARI is one of the Caribbean's foremost regional NGOs addressing participatory processes to environment and development issues.

**Executive Director, Environmental Awareness Group, St. John's Antigua** (1995 – 2000)

Responsible for a core team of 3 staff and up to 5 volunteers. As the first Executive Director I lead the organisation's programme development, staff team, partnerships and fundraising to become a key player in the emerging civil-society sector, nationally and regionally. Project activities: developing multi-stakeholder conservation projects and programmes, environmental education campaigns and environmental and wildlife research.

## Relevant publications and technical reports

Commonwealth Foundation. (2015) *Commonwealth Insights: The SAMOA Pathway: Recommendations from Commonwealth civil society*. Commonwealth Foundation.  
[http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com/sites/cwf/files/downloads/Commonwealth-Insights\\_SAMOA-Pathway.pdf](http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com/sites/cwf/files/downloads/Commonwealth-Insights_SAMOA-Pathway.pdf)

Commonwealth Foundation. (2014) *Commonwealth Insights: Constructive Engagement*. Commonwealth Foundation  
<http://www.commonwealthfoundation.com/sites/cwf/files/downloads/Commonwealth%20Insights%20-%20Constructive%20Engagement.pdf>

Cooper, G. (2011) *Half a century of civil society participation in biodiversity conservation and protected areas management: A case study of Bonaire*. CANARI Technical Report 397, Laventille.

Cooper, G and Y. Renard (2011) *Impacts of hotel siting and design on biodiversity in the insular Caribbean: a situation analysis*. A report prepared as part of the IUCN Business and Biodiversity Programme and the IUCN Caribbean Initiative "Integrating Biodiversity in the Caribbean Hotel Sector". Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.  
<https://portals.iucn.org/library/efiles/documents/Rep-2011-015.pdf>

Cooper, G. (2010) *Review of the Status of Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and of Biodiversity Action Plans in the UK Overseas Territories*. IUCN  
<https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2011-046.pdf>

Cooper, G. (2010) *Analysis of Regional Mechanisms of collaboration in the field of biodiversity conservation and participation of EU Overseas Entities*. IUCN

Geoghegan, T and G. Cooper. (2009). *Climate Change Finance Mechanisms and their Potential Applicability to Informal Sector Recycling Activities*. Internal discussion paper. WIEGO and Green Hub, MIT.

Lum Lock A, G. Cooper and S, McIntosh. (2005) *Next steps for Nature Seekers: Report on an organisational evaluation of Nature Seekers Incorporated* CANARI Technical Report 330, CANARI, Laventille, Trinidad and Tobago.

<http://www.canari.org/next-steps-for-nature-seekers-report-on-an-organisational-evaluation-of-nature-seekers-incorporated-canari-technical-report-no-330/>

Cooper, G. (2004). *Community-based tourism in the Windward Islands: a review of their impacts*. CANARI Technical Report No. 327: 28pp.

CANARI, (2003). *Spreading the benefits of tourism: directions for improving the policy development process*. CANARI Policy Brief Series No. 2

Cooper, G. (2002). *Beyond community involvement: lessons in protected area management in the insular Caribbean*. CANARI Communications Paper. Caribbean Conservation Association 36<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and Conference, 2-5 October 2002.

Daltry, J. C., Bloxam, Q., Cooper, G., Day, M. L., Hartley, J., Henry, M., Lindsay, K., & Smith, B. E. (2001). *Five years of conserving the 'world's rarest snake', the Antiguan racer *Alsophis antiguae**. *Oryx* 35: 119-127.

CANARI. (2001). *Workshop on community based tourism for rural development, Dominica May 2001*. Workshop report.

Varnham, K., Ross, T., Daltry, J., Day, M., Cooper, G., & Lindsay, K. (1998). *Recovery of the Antiguan racer*. *Aliens (Journal of the IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group)* 8: 21