



Rallying for Success: Climate Change Champions

The Concept

Climate action is most effective when driven by people. Climate champions translate climate knowledge into practical, locally relevant action by raising awareness, sharing information, and inspiring others within their communities.

By speaking with relatives, friends, neighbours, students, and visitors, they multiply environmental knowledge and make climate change relevant to everyday life. In this way, communities are rallied for success, turning individual learning into collective action. This approach reflects lifelong learning, where knowledge is continuously acquired, shared, and applied through experience, communication, and community engagement.

Tobago in Focus

In Tobago, the Climate Change Champions Programme was launched in 2016 by the Environment Research Institute Charlotteville (ERIC) to strengthen climate awareness in northeast Tobago. Community members were trained in climate literacy and environmental communication, then shared what they learned with relatives, friends, students, tourists, and neighbours, creating a multiplier effect across the island. The programme also developed coral reef and climate change awareness snorkel tours, while some champions contributed to coral monitoring and restoration. In 2017, the North East Tobago Climate Change Champions Network received the Energy Globe National Award.

A Face to the Idea:



Susan Suchit

Susan Suchit brings the Climate Change Champions concept to life in Tobago. A resident of Speyside, Susan is a Speyside Eco-Marine Park Ranger, a certified PADI Open Water Diver, and a Reef Check EcoDiver. Through her work, she combines environmental knowledge with practical conservation action, helping protect the marine ecosystems that support local communities.

Susan has been involved in coral reef monitoring, mapping, and restoration activities, while helping residents and visitors understand the importance of healthy marine ecosystems and climate resilience. As a Climate Change Champion, she shares knowledge through everyday interactions, raising environmental awareness and encouraging others to become active stewards of their environment. Her role demonstrates how local leadership, community engagement, and a passion for conservation can inspire others and help rally communities for success.



Source: <https://www.eric-tobago.org/climate-change-champions>

The Travelling Idea

Training local residents to become climate champions creates trusted messengers who can spread knowledge, raise awareness, and mobilise climate action throughout their communities.

Takeaway



Empower one person, and they can inspire an entire community to learn, engage, and take action for a more resilient future.

