

Banking on Nature

In a nutshell

The ANSA Merchant Bank Group, which includes ANSA Merchant Bank in Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados, and ANSA Bank in Trinidad and Tobago, are integrally involved in financing the needs of the Caribbean region.

Given the centrality of nature to the economies of Caribbean nations and the well-being of the islands' people, the banks have prioritised **natural capital** within their sustainability strategy.

In this case study, we focus on the initial natural capital vulnerability analysis of the banks' financial portfolios. This assessment marks the start of the banks' reporting journey towards meeting the requirements of Target 15 of the GBF. More importantly, the banks intend to use this analysis to support other objectives of the GBF that can be influenced through sustainable financing.

Project details

Organisations involved:

ANSA Merchant Bank (Trinidad and Tobago & Barbados)
ANSA Bank (Trinidad and Tobago),
in collaboration with The Cropper Foundation

Publication Year: 2024

Location: Port of Spain, Trinidad

Read more about the project here:

<https://tt.ansamerchantbank.com/natural-capital/>



The Beginning of our Natural Capital Journey

Our ambition is that by 2030, a significant percentage of our financing will be redirected to support the protection and enhancement of nature in the Caribbean, especially for the purpose of building regional climate resilience.

In 2023, the ANSA Merchant Bank Group conducted the first natural capital vulnerability assessment of our financial portfolios. This assessment marked the beginning of the banks' journey towards the development of more sustainable approaches to financing and investment, in line with the combined goals of Net-Zero & Nature Positive (NZNP).

The analysis paid special attention to the nature-dependent issues of highest priority for Caribbean countries, particularly in the context of climate change. These include: (1) Natural Hazard Protection; (2) Freshwater Availability; (3) Sustainable Agriculture; (4) Sustainable Tourism; and (5) Sustainable Energy.

The vulnerability assessment highlighted several sectors that are of high and medium risk to the enterprise, as shown in the diagram below. Based on the findings, our banks have zeroed in on protection of the following natural capital assets under our sustainable financing strategy: (1) Freshwater resources and habitats; (2) Coastal and marine habitats; and (3) Terrestrial habitats. The banks will also pay special attention to greenhouse gas emissions reduction in high-impact financed sectors such as construction, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, manufacturing and transportation.

