



FRENZ Newsletter

Issue 1 | February 2026

Alastair Brookes, FRENZ Lead Adviser

"It has been a decade of New Zealand's partnership with the Caribbean, and we are proud of the progress made towards geothermal development, with Dominica soon to realise 20 years of ambition. I am privileged to have worked with so many talented people in this time and look forward to continuing these relationships and leading FRENZ's ongoing support to the Caribbean's energy transition."

This newsletter provides highlights of FRENZ's activities undertaken in partnership with national and regional stakeholders in the Caribbean region.

COUNTRY ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Dominica

FRENZ continues to support geothermal exploration in the north of Dominica, working with the Government, Dominica State College and the University of the West Indies to undertake scientific studies to identify a sizeable geothermal resource for future exploration.

FRENZ is excited to see Dominica constructing their first Geothermal Power Plant (10 MW) in the Roseau Valley, building on the work of many partners over the years and deep engagement from FRENZ in earlier phases.



Figure 1: FRENZ team conducting sub-sea geothermal sampling in Northern Dominica.



Figure 2: Sampling geothermal features in Dominica.

About Aotearoa New Zealand - Caribbean Facility for Renewable Energy (FRENZ)

FRENZ is supported by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) through its International Development Cooperation Programme.

Since 2014, Aotearoa New Zealand has been working in partnership with Caribbean countries and partners to progress the development of geothermal energy resources in the Caribbean region.

In 2023, Aotearoa New Zealand committed a further NZD11.6M (~USD7M) to the five-year Phase 3 of the FRENZ Facility. The Facility is designed to support Caribbean countries and partners to achieve their renewable energy and climate change goals by accessing the technical resources required to obtain finance and implement renewable energy projects, with a focus on geothermal energy.

The Goal of FRENZ is access to more affordable, reliable, sustainable and resilient energy supplies able to support development in the Eastern Caribbean.

Meet the FRENZ Team



Alastair BROOKES
Lead Adviser



Yogita HARISHCHANDRA
Programme Manager



Valerie GORDON
MERL Expert



John GILLILAND
Delivery Manager



Joseph WILLIAMS
Co-Delivery Manager



Marlene JOHNSON
GSI Expert



STAY CONNECTED TO FRENZ



<https://www.caribbeanfrenz.org.nz>



info@caribbeanfrenz.org.nz

Follow FRENZ updates on social media



www.linkedin.com/company/Caribbean-frenz



Facebook.com/CaribbeanFRENZ



COUNTRY ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

Grenada

FRENZ continues to work with the Government as it prepares for drilling of two geothermal exploration wells, the first to be undertaken in Grenada. Our technical expertise has helped the government to successfully attract grant funding of over US\$20M from the international community, with drilling expected in 2027.



Figure 3: Assessing road and infrastructure in Grenada with the Geothermal Project Management Unit

FRENZ is helping to develop an **Integrated Resource and Resilience Plan (IRRP)** in collaboration with Grenada's utility, regulator and government. Through a series of workshops and meetings, the group is mapping out a 20-year plan to increasing use of renewable energy whilst keeping costs down for consumers.

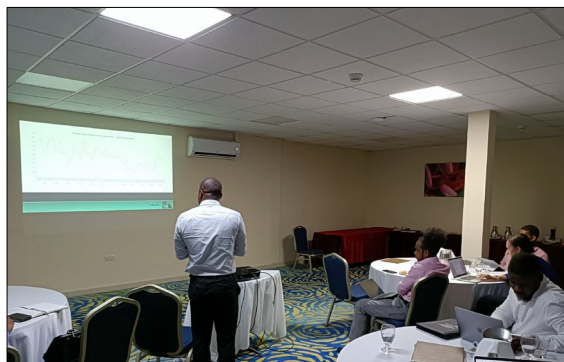


Figure 4: IRRP assumptions workshop with FRENZ

Saint Vincent and The Grenadines

FRENZ is working with St Vincent Electricity Services Limited (VINLEC) to explore options for rebuilding the Union Island and Mayreau hybrid solar-battery-diesel power plants after they were damaged by Hurricane Beryl.

Our solar team is shown here with VINLEC - testing, inspecting, and supporting preliminary clean-up of the solar plant on Union Island. A comprehensive damage assessment and report identified areas for strengthening and improving the resilience of future power plants, which are now being adopted into the scope for the rebuild.



Figure 5: FRENZ Solar Team inspection on Union Island

Saint Lucia

FRENZ is providing the Government with technical advice and backstopping services to advance their geothermal exploration drilling programme.



STAY CONNECTED TO FRENZ



<https://www.caribbeanfrenz.org.nz>



info@caribbeanfrenz.org.nz

Follow FRENZ updates on social media



www.linkedin.com/company/Caribbean-frenz



Facebook.com/CaribbeanFRENZ



Regional Activity Highlights

FRENZ has formalized a partnership with the **Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)** to bridge critical geothermal energy skills gaps by undertaking a comprehensive analysis of geothermal energy skills and training needs across the region.



Figure 6: NZ Head Of Mission Linda Te Puni signing an MOU with Director General of the OECS Dr Didicus Jules

FRENZ presented a research paper at the OECS Council of Energy Ministers meeting in February 2024 entitled *opportunities for geothermal energy beyond electricity generation*. The paper highlighted the uses and potential benefits of geothermal resources for tourism and agriculture, along with novel uses of the gases and minerals contained in geothermal fluids.

FRENZ continues to collaborate with regional organizations, such as CARICOM, Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency, and Caribbean Development Bank to ensure coordination and complementarity of actions.



Figure 7: OECS Council of Ministers: Energy Meeting, 4-5 February 2025
Credits : SKNIS/OECS Commission

SPOTLIGHT

Gender and Social Inclusion

One of FRENZ's key objectives is to meaningfully support affirmative actions, and positive inclusive outcomes in the renewable energy sector. In March 2025, FRENZ GSI Expert Marlene Johnson led an informative session at the CARILEC Conference in St. Kitts on gender inequity in the energy sector.



Figure 8: Marlene Johnson at CARILEC Conference

GENDER AND SOCIAL INCLUSION INFO PANEL

From Blindness to Balance: Rethinking Gender Equity

Construction-themed metaphors help illustrate persistent gender and inclusion barriers.

The *"sticky floor"* traps women and marginalized groups in low-mobility roles.

The *"leaking pipeline"* shows how many are lost at each career stage.

The *"glass ceiling"* blocks qualified women from top leadership, and for those facing both sexism and racism, this becomes a *"concrete ceiling."*

These obstacles are often normalized, shifting responsibility onto women to adapt rather than addressing structural inequities. Meaningful progress requires organisations to challenge outdated assumptions, recognise and correct gender blindness, and work toward genuine gender balance in participation, decision-making, and access to opportunities. True equity remains under construction in the energy sector.



STAY CONNECTED TO FRENZ



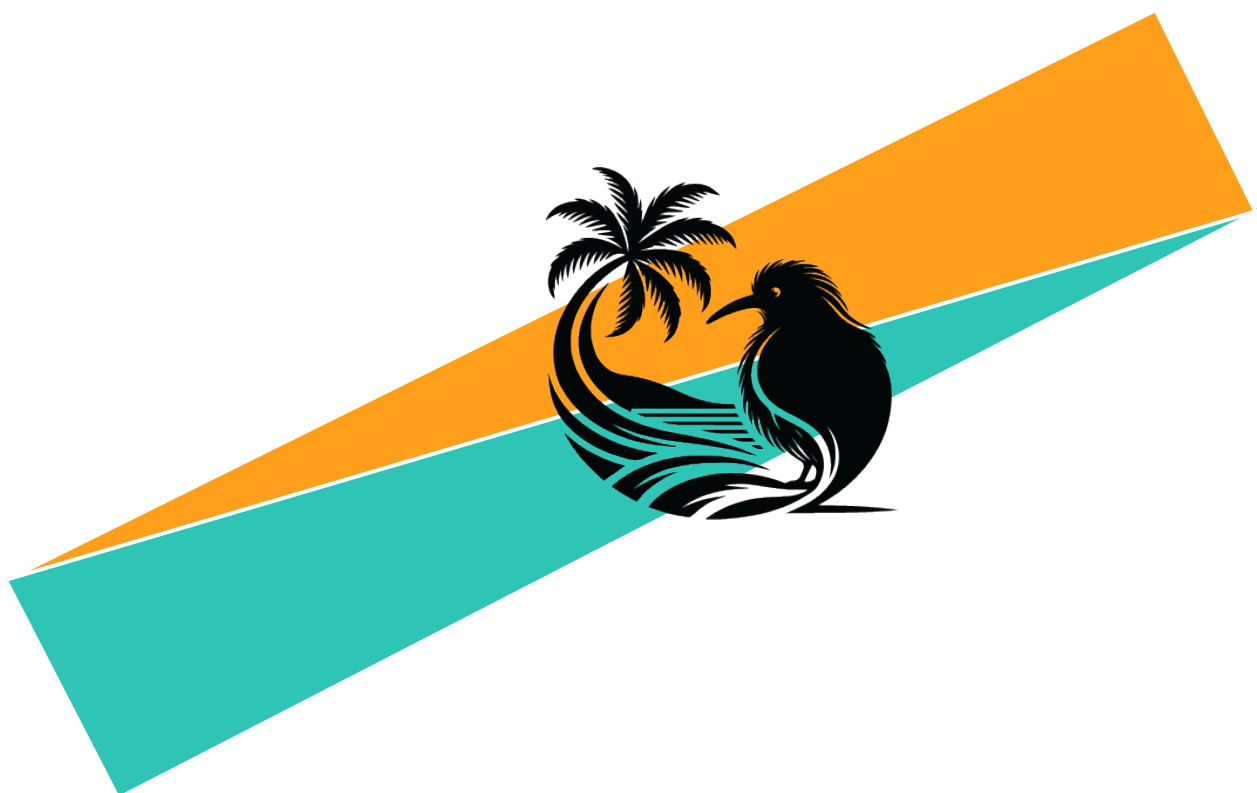
<https://www.caribbeanfrenz.org.nz>



info@caribbeanfrenz.org.nz

FRENZ is supported by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade through its International Development Cooperation Programme.





STAY CONNECTED TO FRENZ

 <https://www.caribbeanfrenz.org.nz>

 info@caribbeanfrenz.org.nz

FRENZ is supported by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade through its International Development Cooperation Programme.

