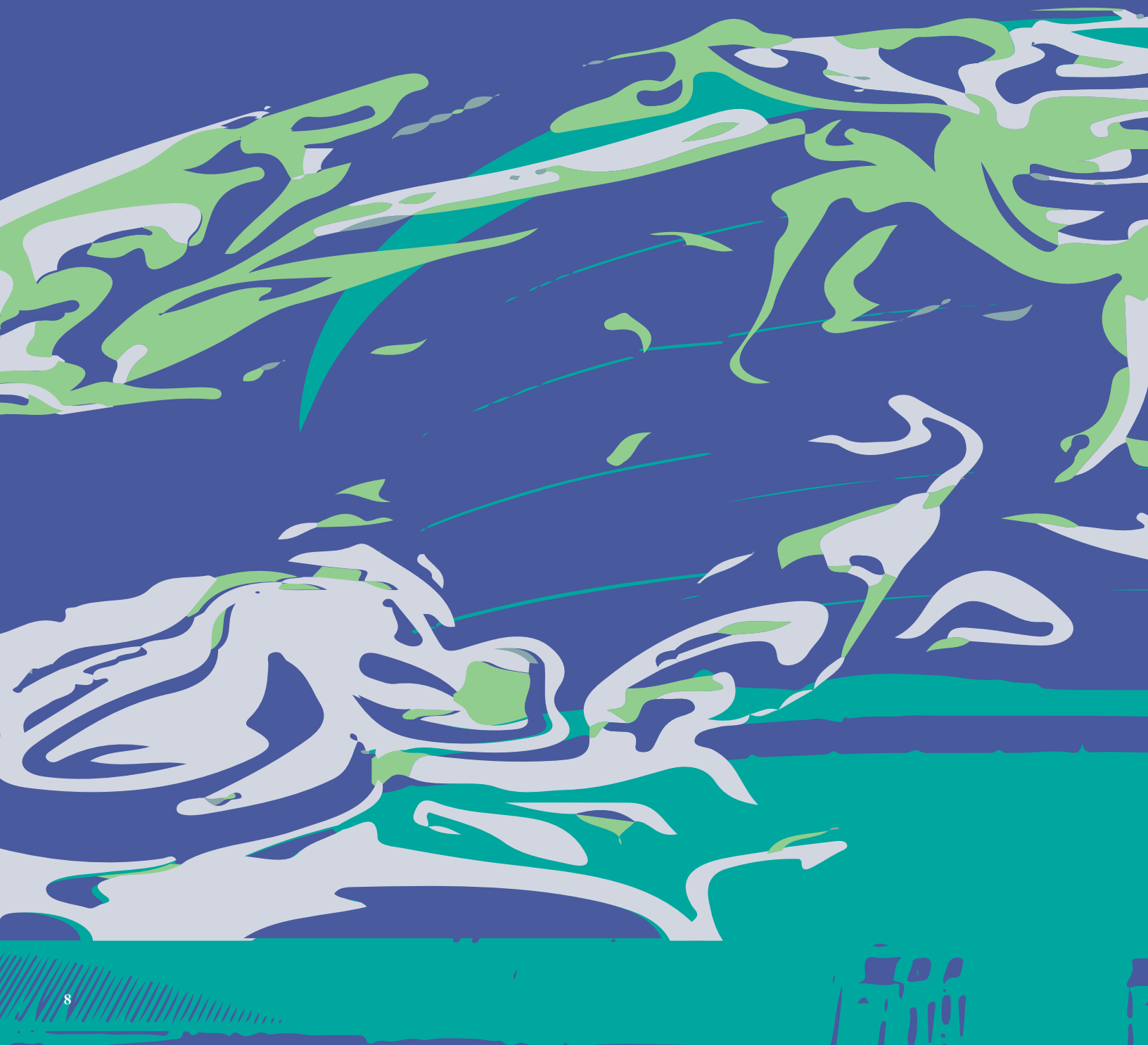


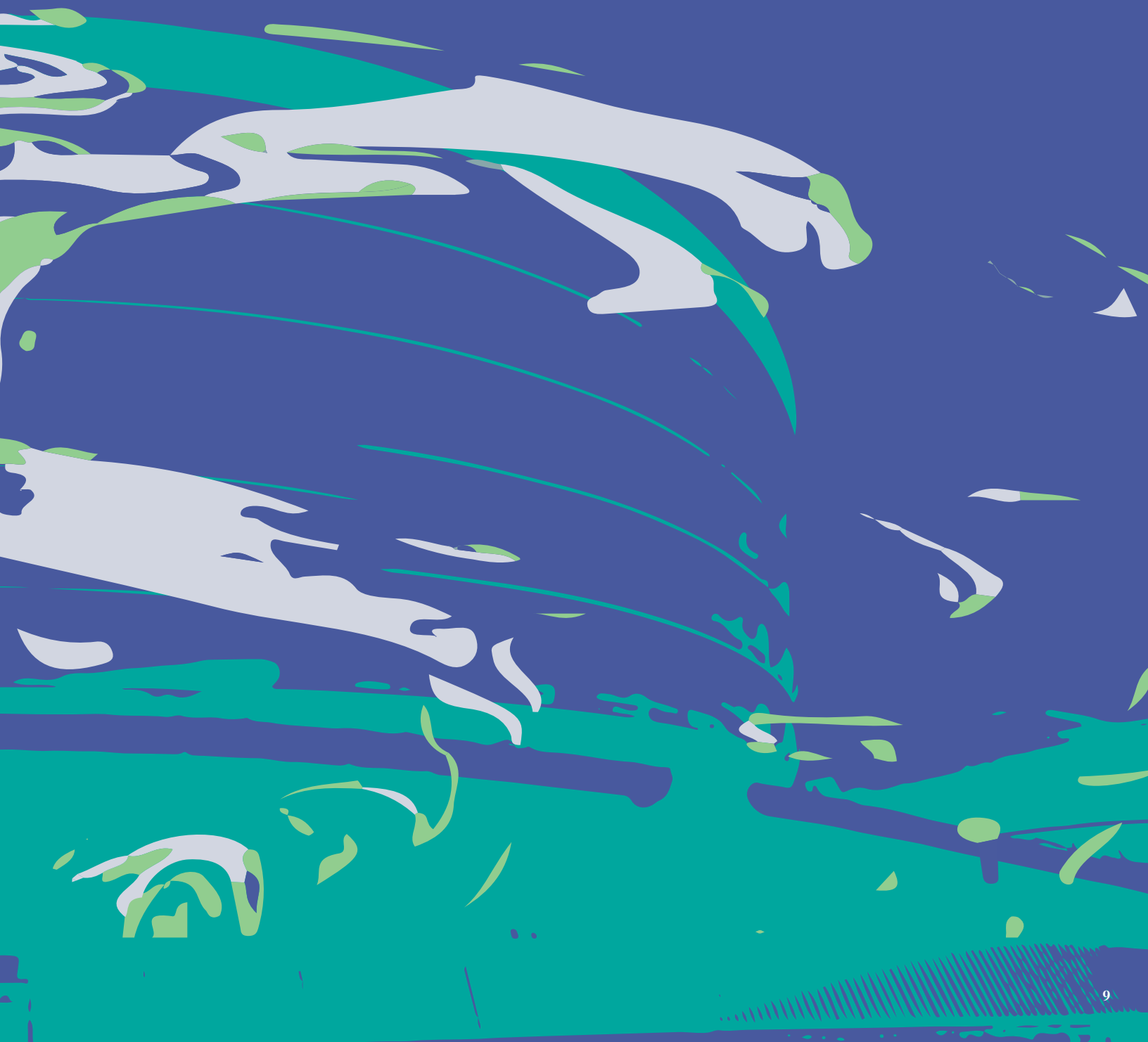
ON THE  
GREEN  
AGENDA

REFLECTIONS ON

COP26



# THE NGC GROUP PERSPECTIVE





MORE INTENSE HURRICANES ARE A SYMPTOM OF RUNAWAY CLIMATE CHANGE.



As several Caribbean leaders passionately expressed to COP 26 audiences, failure to act swiftly to address climate change will have dire implications for the region

If one were asked to summarise the rationale for the recently concluded COP 26 climate conference held in Glasgow, a single word could suffice - survival. This sobering theme was common to almost every speech delivered by leaders at the event, with unanimous agreement that climate action is now quite literally, a matter of life and death.

This is especially true for the Caribbean region. As several Caribbean leaders passionately expressed to COP 26 audiences, failure to act swiftly to address climate change will have dire implications for the region. We stand on the frontline as a small island developing state, facing the brunt of impact from a warming planet. We are already experiencing more severe weather events, coastal degradation, loss of wetlands and coral reefs, droughts, and flooding, and must brace for even worse. Rising sea levels mean saltwater intrusion into groundwater sources, impacted coastal livelihoods and destruction of the lifeblood industry of many islands - tourism.

While the writing has been on the wall for some time, many have criticised world leaders, corporations, and other stakeholders for kicking the can down the road in terms of taking the aggressive action that was needed to curb runaway climate change. Promises made since Paris 2015 — and even others before then — have failed to materialise, with political and business agendas often stymieing progress on emissions reduction. Due to insufficient urgency in collective global action, the discourse has moved from limiting warming to 1.5 degrees by 2050, to keeping the *possibility* of 1.5 alive.

In some ways, conversations at COP 26 echoed the rhetoric of years past - for example, we need to cut emissions, we need to finance clean energy and of course, we need to move past rhetoric and act now. However, there were some positive new developments which offer hope for change in the right direction if they are carried through to their successful implementation.





# ON THE GREEN AGENDA



THE PROMISE OF INCREASED FINANCING FOR CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WILL GREATLY SUPPORT DECARBONISATION EFFORTS.

We appreciate that the years ahead and Glasgow Climate Pact commitments will demand greater corporate accountability of our company. Our business is part of an industry that must take urgent and aggressive action to decarbonise operations. For The NGC Group, methane is already a front-burner issue, and we are leading the sector in terms of monitoring emissions and addressing leaks. Together with our subsidiary companies and industry partners, we are actively collaborating to make solar energy, green hydrogen, and biogas a reality for Trinidad and Tobago.

Advocacy and knowledge transfer are also priorities – we are bringing learnings from the Oil and Gas Methane Partnership (OGMP) to industry forums; we are educating the public through green agenda events and technology platforms; we are supporting the efforts of light

industrial consumers to increase their energy efficiency; and we are pushing for greater collaboration at the level of the Point Lisas Energy Association (PLEA) to address the industry's carbon footprint.

One of the notable outcomes of COP 26 was a commitment by 141 countries to end deforestation, in recognition of the centrality of forests, biodiversity and sustainable land use to the achievement of the SDGs. We at NGC have adopted a 'no-net-loss' principle in our operations and implemented a project in 2005 to replant acreage cleared during pipeline construction activities. To date, our reforestation programme has restored 315 hectares in South Trinidad with native tree species, and we are now looking to expand the project and our impact in this area.

At the same time, we continue to track and report on our emissions, offsets and sustainability initiatives through our annual Sustainability Reports, the scope of which we are progressively extending. We are committed to full transparency in our business and aspire to the highest international standards in all areas of our business, including our Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) performance.

At the end of the day, the success of COP 26 lies not in the agreement signed at the close, but in the fulfilment of commitments and implementation of action items after 2021. Even the best-laid plans offer no guarantees – we need to put in the work. For our part, we at The NGC Group are stepping forward, putting our hands up, and saying we are ready to bat for our country and our planet. The hope is that we are joined on the field, so that we can all have a fighting chance at a future. ■