ADAPTATION FUND

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15 September 2025

Project and Programme Review Committee
Thirty-sixth Meeting
Bonn, Germany, 7-8- October 2025

Agenda item 7

PROPOSAL FOR LLA REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, BELIZE, GRENADA, JAMAICA, SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENANDINES

Annex 2: Review Template

ADAPTATION FUND BOARD SECRETARIAT TECHNICAL REVIEW OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME PROPOSAL

PROJECT/PROGRAMME CATEGORY: LLA Regional Concept note

Country/Region: Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines .
Project Title: Scaling-up Local/Community-Led Action for Resilience Building in Caribbean SIDS to the Impacts of Climate Change
Thematic Focal Area: Disaster risk reduction and early warning system
Implementing Entity: Caribbean Development Bank
Executing Entities: National: Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Housing and the Environment; and Ministry of Social Transformation, Human Resource Development and the Blue Economy (Antigua and Barbuda). Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour and Local Government; and Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment (Belize). Ministry of Social and Community Development and Ministry of Economic Development, Planning, Agriculture, Lands, Forestry, Marine Resources and Cooperatives (Grenada). Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation; and Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (Jamaica). Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology; and Ministry of National Mobilisation (St. Vincent and the Grenadines).
Regional: Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) – tbc; Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) - tbc
AF Project ID: AF00000458
IE Project ID:
Requested Financing from Adaptation Fund (US Dollars): USD 24,860,469
Reviewer and contact person: Alyssa Gomes **Co-reviewer(s): -**
IE Contact Person:

Technical Summary	The project "Regional Programme for Community-Based Early Warning and Locally-Led Climate Adaptation in the Caribbean" seeks to strengthen resilience in Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines by devolving decision-making and resources to local actors through the four components: Component 1: Multi-hazard Community-Based Early Warning Systems (USD 8,000,000) Component 2: Community Climate Adaptation Action Plans and Grant Financing (USD 10,625,000) Component 3: Capacity Building for Community Readiness (USD 1,500,000) Component 4: Monitoring, Knowledge Management and Dissemination (USD 800,000) Requested Financing Overview: Project/Programme Activity Cost: USD 20,925,000 Execution Cost: USD 1,987,875

	Implementing Entity Fee: USD 1,947,594 Total Financing Requested: USD 24,860,469 The first technical review finds the programme well aligned with LLA objectives and national priorities but raised concerns on execution cost levels, justification of "full cost of adaptation," systematic operationalization of all eight LLA principles, safeguards for unidentified sub-projects (including the need for an initial ES screening and gender assessment), and clearer articulation of regional added value, sustainability, and knowledge management. These are raised in the clarification requests (CRs) and corrective action requests (CARs) in the review below.
Date:	4 September 2025

Review Criteria	**Questions**	**1st Technical Review [4 September 2025]**
Country Eligibility	1. Are all of the participating countries parties to the Paris Agreement and/or the Kyoto Protocol?	**Yes.** All five participating countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) are parties to the Paris Agreement.
	2. Are all of the participating countries developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change?	**Yes, page 4.** The proposal clearly establishes the vulnerability of the participating Caribbean SIDS in paragraphs 1.01, 1.05, and the country-specific contexts in Section 3 (pages 7-9).
Programme Eligibility	1. Have the designated government authorities for the Adaptation Fund from each of the participating countries endorsed the project/programme?	**Yes.** The Letters of Endorsement have been signed for all countries.
	2. Does the length of the proposal amount to no more than one hundred(50) pages for the concept note including its annexes?	**Yes. The concept note is 50 pages, well within the limits.**
	3. Does the proposal describe how the project/programme components will contribute to climate resilience? Does the proposal describe how it will source locally-led small grant proposals, and screen them for the potential to support concrete adaptation actions to assist the participating countries in addressing the adverse effects of climate change and build in climate resilience?	**Yes, but needs clarification.** The proposal provides a description of how each component contributes to resilience. Section C (paragraphs 41-48) details the sourcing of grants through inclusive outreach, simplified application processes, and a two-stream facility for CBOs and individuals. **Para 46** outlines the screening criteria focusing on alignment with community plans, sustainability, inclusivity, and innovation. While the concept note provides a strong high-level climate rationale (paras. 49–51), it is not yet clear how each unidentified subproject (USP)

		will demonstrate a direct link between the proposed interventions and specific climate change risks. **CR1:** Please clarify how the USP screening criteria will ensure that each subproject includes a sound adaptation rationale consistent with AF guidance. **CAR1 (a):** Please number outcomes, outputs etc. in the Components and Financing table and include a total per component with the sum total of all components. For regional projects IE fee and EE cost limit is 10% and 10% respectively. **CAR1 (b):** Furthermore, a PFG of USD 179,385 is requested but the management fee should be charged at 8.5 of the total requested PFG and not on top of the total. Further please use the PFG calculator to determine the correct amount for the number of countries and project size. **Use the tools below for calculation of fees and PFG amounts**. • IE and EE Fees Calculator (EXCEL) • PFG Amount Calculator (EXCEL)
	4. Does the project/programme align with the LLA principles?	**Yes, but needs further clarification (pages 20-25).** The proposal has a dedicated and comprehensive section (Section B, paragraphs 14-40) that explicitly details how the programme design integrates all eight LLA principles. It provides specific examples and mechanisms for each principle, drawing from the IE's past experience. While the proposal presents an excellent standalone description of how the eight LLA principles will be applied (paras. 43–48), there is insufficient evidence that these principles are mainstreamed across all components (e.g. KM, sustainability, governance). **CR2:** Please clarify how each

		component and subcomponent will explicitly operationalize LLA principles, including in USP selection and implementation. The governance structure (paras. 47, 81) outlines strong roles for community-based committees and multi-stakeholder oversight. However, it remains unclear how decision-making authority will be legally or institutionally vested in these committees beyond project closure. **CR3:** Please clarify how local decision-making will be secured in the longer term, including any regulatory or institutional embedding. The proposal highlights inclusivity measures such as transect walks and two grant streams (paras. 45, 71). **However, it does not yet specify whether quotas, set-asides, or differentiated support** will be applied for women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, or other marginalized groups. **CR4:** Please clarify how structural inequalities will be systematically addressed through grant selection, capacity support, and monitoring.
	5. Does the proposal describe how the project/programme would build added value through the regional or multi-regional approach, compared to implementing similar activities in each country individually?	**Yes, but needs clarification.** The proposal explains the cost-effectiveness and efficiency gains of a regional approach (paras. 52–54), including economies of scale, reduced project management costs, bulk procurement, and cross-country learning. However, the added value of a regional approach in advancing LLA principles is not yet clearly articulated. Please clarify: • How regional learning, peer exchanges, and knowledge platforms will directly strengthen local governance processes and community capacity beyond what national projects could achieve. • How the regional approach ensures equitable access to resources across countries,

		including smaller or less resourced community groups that may otherwise be marginalized. • Whether the regional oversight bodies (e.g. RPSC, CANARI, CCCCC) will establish common standards for LLA operationalization that national projects would not have the ability to leverage at scale.
	6. Does the proposal describe how it will screen small grant proposals for their potential to provide economic, social and environmental benefits, particularly to vulnerable communities, including gender considerations, while avoiding or mitigating negative impacts, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund? Does the project/programme address structural inequalities faced by women, youth, children, people with disabilities, people who are displaced, Indigenous Peoples and marginalized ethnic groups?	**Yes, but needs clarification.** The proposal describes a participatory screening process for small grant proposals (para. 46) with criteria such as inclusivity, sustainability, innovation, and alignment with community adaptation plans. It also commits to compliance with the Fund's Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and Gender Policy (GP), and notes that an ESMP and Gender Action Plan will be developed at the full proposal stage (para. 50). **At the concept note stage, it is acceptable that detailed screening tools and safeguard instruments (e.g. ESMP, Gender Action Plan, ESMF for USPs) will be finalized during full proposal development.** However, some additional clarifications are needed even at this stage to ensure alignment with the Fund's requirements: **CR5:** Please provide a clearer description of the proposed screening mechanism for small grants, even at a framework level (e.g. how economic, social, and environmental benefits will be assessed, how risks will be flagged). While the proposal's intent to be inclusive is clear, it lacks specific, binding mechanisms to guarantee that marginalized groups will benefit equitably. **CR6:** The proposal needs to specify

		how it will ensure benefits reach women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples. This could include targeted quotas or set-asides for grants, differentiated capacity support tailored to specific groups, and monitoring indicators that track benefit-sharing. **CR7:** Confirm whether the project will prepare a dedicated safeguard framework for USPs during full proposal development, consistent with AF's USP policy.
	7. Does the programme describe or provide an analysis of the cost-effectiveness of the proposed programme and explain how the regional or multi-regional approach would support cost-effectiveness	Yes but needs clarification. The proposal (paras. 52–54) provides a strong justification for cost-effectiveness of the regional approach, citing economies of scale, reduced project management costs, streamlined procurement, and shared M&E systems. It also emphasizes cross-country learning through knowledge forums. While this provides a solid basis at concept stage, additional clarity is required: **CR8:** Please provide more explicit linkages between cost-effectiveness and LLA delivery (e.g., how regional peer learning reduces costs of community capacity-building compared to country-by-country approaches). <u>At the full proposal stage</u>, clarify how cost-effectiveness will be measured in practice during project implementation (e.g., efficiency indicators). <u>At full proposal stage,</u> the programme should include a cost-effectiveness analysis, comparing the proposed regional approach against plausible national alternatives.
	8. Is the programme consistent with national, sub-national or local sustainable development strategies, national, sub-national or local development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications	**Yes, but needs clarification.** **CR9:** The proposal (paras. 55–65) maps alignment with multiple national strategies, NDCs, and NAPs across the five participating countries. This

	and adaptation programs of action and other relevant instruments. If applicable, it is also possible to refer to regional plans and strategies where they exist.	demonstrates strong consistency with national and subnational priorities. However: • The proposal should better articulate how the programme aligns with regional strategies and frameworks, such as CARICOM's Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change, to highlight added value at the regional level. • Please clarify how the project will ensure that local-level adaptation priorities identified through participatory planning (e.g. Community Adaptation Plans) are fed upward and remain consistent with higher-level strategies.
	9. Does the proposal describe how it will screen small grant proposals for meeting the relevant national technical standards, where applicable, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Fund? Does the project provide support to local actors and build their capacities to comply with the standards?	**Yes, but needs clarification.** The proposal notes (paras. 66–67) that all participating countries have EIA legislation and that USPs will comply with AF ESP. The current high-level description is welcome for the concept note. **CR10:** At concept stage, the following minimum clarifications are required: • Please describe indicatively *how* small grant proposals will be screened for compliance with national technical standards (e.g., building codes, EIAs), beyond general statements of compliance. • Clarify whether a framework or checklist will be developed to guide compliance screening during full proposal stage. • Provide further detail on how the project will build capacities of local actors (CBOs, CSOs, Indigenous groups) to

		understand and comply with these standards. This is especially important for USPs, where local actors may face barriers in meeting technical/legal requirements. • **If any of these clarification will be further defined at the full proposal stage, please explicitly state this.**
	10. Is there duplication of project/programme with other funding sources? Does the programme enhance collaboration across sectors and enhance efficiencies and good practice?	**Yes, but needs some clarification.** The proposal (paras. 68–69) states that there is no duplication and instead highlights synergies with CANARI's GA-LLA project, Belize's AF-funded coastal resilience project, and other initiatives. It also commits to mapping existing climate finance projects using Kobo Toolbox. **CR11:** This is a good starting point. However: • Please clarify how the programme will ensure ongoing coordination with other donors and initiatives during implementation to avoid overlaps (not just at design stage). • Explain how the project will enhance synergies through cross-sectoral collaboration (e.g., linking agriculture, water, fisheries, disaster risk management sectors at community level) and identify concrete mechanisms for this (e.g., inter-ministerial committees, community-level multi-sector groups). <u>At full proposal stage,</u> a revised comprehensive duplication/overlap analysis should be provided, including mapping of climate adaptation finance flows in the Caribbean region.

	11. Does the project/programme have a learning and knowledge management component to capture and feedback lessons, in particular managing traditional and/or indigenous knowledge, where relevant? Does it contribute to building and institutionalizing local capacities?	**Yes, but needs clarification.** While the proposal includes strong participatory MEL tools (para. 48, 70), it is not yet clear how learning from unsuccessful or less effective subprojects will be captured and used without penalizing communities. **CR12:** Please clarify mechanisms to ensure that "safe-to-fail" experimentation is part of the KM process.
	12. Has the proposal described what consultative process has taken or will take place, and describing the involvement of all key stakeholders, and vulnerable groups, and including gender considerations? Does the consultative process consider and address gender-based, economic and other inequalities in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?	**Needs clarification.** The proposal describes inclusive approaches (paras. 71–72), but the consultation process presented is forward-looking rather than documenting consultations already held. **CAR2:** Please provide details of the *initial consultations* conducted to date, including stakeholder categories, methods used, and key findings, and explain how these inputs shaped the current concept note. The proposal notes that a more detailed gender assessment and action plan will be prepared at full proposal stage (para. 72). However, AF requires that an *initial gender assessment* accompany the concept note. **CAR3:** Please provide the initial gender assessment and clarify how it has been integrated into the design of the project at this stage.
	13. Is the requested financing justified on the basis of full cost of adaptation reasoning?	**Yes.** The proposal (paras. 73–74) provides a narrative justification for the need for AF resources, citing that communities face major climate-related risks (flooding, drought, coastal hazards, wildfire) and lack the capacity or financing to design and implement adaptation actions. It argues that AF resources will enable urgent adaptation measures (early warning systems, climate-smart

		agriculture, participatory planning, community adaptation plans) that would not otherwise occur. It emphasizes that without AF support, urgent measures such as EWS, CSA, and participatory adaptation planning could not be implemented. It frames AF resources as filling the adaptation gap, not contingent on other funding. This demonstrates alignment with the "full cost of adaptation" reasoning.
	14. Is the programme aligned with AF's results framework?	Needs clarification. **CR13:** Please specify which AF Strategic Results Framework (SRF) outcomes and outputs the programme will broadly contribute to (e.g., Outcome 2: Strengthened institutional capacity to reduce risks; Outcome 4: Increased adaptive capacity of communities). At the full proposal stage clarify how results from USPs will be integrated into the overall project results framework, given their currently unidentified nature. At full proposal stage, the programme should present a fully developed results framework, with indicators, baselines, and targets aligned with AF SRF.
	15. Has the sustainability of the programme outcomes been considered when designing the programme, including in the screening of the locally-led small grants projects? Does the project/programme support long-term development of local governance processes, and improve the capacity of local institutions to ensure that communities can effectively implement adaptation actions over the long term?	**Yes, but needs clarification.** The proposal outlines some sustainability measures (paras. 75–77) but does not yet comprehensively address all dimensions required by AF. **CR14:** Please expand the sustainability strategy to cover: • Environmental: how restored ecosystems and natural assets will be maintained post-project. • Social: how strengthened community groups will continue to function after project closure.

		• Economic: how livelihoods supported (e.g. CSA, fisher safety) will generate lasting financial returns. • Institutional: how community committees and national agencies will be embedded into formal governance systems for adaptation. • Financial: please clarify the financial pathway, including whether communities and institutions will have access to continued financing after AF support (e.g. through national climate funds, CDB facilities, or other mechanisms). • Operation and Maintenance: provide more detail on O&M of physical systems (e.g. early warning systems, water harvesting) and social structures (e.g. steering committees), including allocation of roles, responsibilities, and costs. The plan for what happens after the project funding ends is underdeveloped. This feedback is requesting for a more robust strategy that ensures the structures and benefits created by the project will last. **CR15:** Please clarify how community committees will be formally embedded into local or national governance systems. It also needs a clear financial pathway for post-project funding and a detailed operation and maintenance (O&M) plan for both physical infrastructure (like EWS) and social structures (like committees). If this will be defined at the full proposal stage, please specify.

	16. Does the project/programme provide an overview of environmental and social impacts / risks identified, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Fund?	Needs clarification. The proposal categorizes the project as Category C, noting that USPs under Components 1 and 2 will be small-scale and not expected to cause significant environmental impacts (para. 79). It commits to preparing an ESMF for USPs at the full proposal stage. This is in line with AF USP guidance. **CAR4:** Please justify the Category C classification more clearly. While the intended USP activities may be small, some may involve infrastructure, coastal protection, or ecosystem interventions which could entail risks (Category B). **CAR5:** Clarify whether **all USP activities** will undergo safeguard screening prior to approval/disbursement, and how this will be devolved to national/sub-national decision-making bodies. Confirm that the ESMF (at the full proposal stage) will include safeguard criteria as needed (e.g., inclusivity, downward accountability, FPIC for Indigenous Peoples). <u>At the fully developed proposal stage</u> please consider the following: • The operational frameworks for managing grants and grievances to show they align with AF policies and foster genuine learning. • The screening criteria for USPs must explicitly require a sound adaptation rationale to prevent funding of general development projects. • The Knowledge Management system must include a "safe-to-fail" approach to ensure lessons can be learned

		from unsuccessful subprojects without penalizing communities, thereby encouraging innovation. • The grievance redress mechanism needs to be detailed, explaining how it aligns with the AF's Accountability Framework and how communities will be made aware of it.
Resource Availability	1. Is the requested project/programme funding within the parameters for regional LLA funding window set by the Board?	**Yes,** the requested financing is within the parameters set by the Board for this funding window.
	2. Is the Implementing Entity Management Fee at or below 10 per cent of the project/programme for implementing entity (IE) fees and at or below 10 per cent of the project/programme cost for the execution costs?	**Yes**, at 8.5% and 9.5% respectively
Eligibility of IE	1. Is the programme submitted through an eligible Multilateral or Regional Implementing Entity that has been accredited by the Board? Is the programme submitted by an entity that has been invited by the Board to do so?	**Yes.** Accreditation Expiration Date: 23 March 2028 **IE focal point signature is not included in the template. Please include.**

CONCEPT FOR REGIONAL LLA PROJECT/PROGRAMME TO THE ADAPTATION FUND

PART I: PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION

Title of Project/Programme: Scaling-up Local/Community-Led Action for Resilience Building in Caribbean SIDS to the Impacts of Climate Change

Countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Thematic Focal Area: Disaster risk reduction and early warning system

Type of Implementing Entity: Regional Implementing Entity

Implementing Entity: Caribbean Development Bank

Executing Entities:

National:

Antigua and Barbuda – Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Housing and the Environment; and Ministry of Social Transformation, Human Resource Development and the Blue Economy.

Belize – Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labour and Local Government; and Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment.

Grenada - Ministry of Social and Community Development and Ministry of Economic Development, Planning, Agriculture, Lands, Forestry, Marine Resources and Cooperatives.

Jamaica – Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation; and Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines – Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology; and Ministry of National Mobilisation.

Regional:

Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) – *tbc*

Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) - *tbc*

Amount of Financing Requested: 24,860,469 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

Letters of Endorsement (LOE) signed for all countries: Yes ☒ No ☐
NOTE: LOEs should be signed by the Designated Authority (DA). The signatory DA must be on file with the Adaptation Fund. To find the DA currently on file check this page: https://www.adaptation-fund.org/apply-funding/designated-authorities

Stage of Submission[1]:

☐ This proposal has been submitted before including at a different stage (pre-concept, concept, fully developed proposal)
☐ This is the first submission ever of the proposal at any stage

In case of a resubmission, please indicate the last submission date: Click or tap to enter a date.

Please note that fully developed proposal documents should not exceed 100 pages for the main document, and 100 pages for the annexes.

[1] At the concept note stage only Section I and II are needed.

1. PROJECT/PROGRAMME BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

1.01. The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) found that the year 2024 was the warmest year on record worldwide as average mean surface temperatures of 1.55 C, surpassed the previous year's record of 1.45.[2] Other scientific organisations such as NOAA, NASA and the UK Met Office had similar findings.[3] The WMO also reported that 2024 was the warmest year on record for Latin America and the Caribbean with temperatures +0.90ºC above the 1990 – 2000 average. Although firm conclusions about future warming should not be drawn from a single year's reading, the planet's 10 warmest years since 1850 have all occurred in the last decade. The Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) states that climate change (CC) resulting from continued global warming could significantly hinder sustainable development in the nations of the Caribbean. Caribbean countries are projected to experience the impacts of CC, which include higher intensity tropical cyclones and sea level rise coupled with storm surges, which will exacerbate coastal inundation and increase the potential for saltwater intrusion in aquifers. Changing precipitation patterns will result in reduced rainfall during the rainy season, increased aridity and more severe agricultural and ecological droughts. The following is a summary of climate trends and projections for the Caribbean region from climate models:[4]

(a) The number of consecutive dry days is increasing, as well as the amount of rainfall during rainfall events.

(b) Regional Climate Model (RCM) based projections suggest up to 25 and 35 per cent less rainfall by the end of the century

(c) The mean temperature increase (in °C) from GCMs will be 0.48-0.56°C by the 2020s; 0.65-0.84°C by the 2030s, 0.86°-1.50°C by the 2050s, and 0.83-3.05°C by the end of the century with respect to a 1986-2005 baseline over all four RCPs.

(d) For the Caribbean, the combined range for projected sea level rise (SLR) spans 0.26-0.82 m by 2100 relative to 1986-2005 levels. The range is 0.17-0.38 for 2046 – 2065.

(e) Increase in category 4 and 5 hurricanes; rainfall intensity, associated peak wind intensities, mean rainfall since 1995.

(f) An 80% increase in the frequency of Saffir-Simpson category 4 and 5 Atlantic hurricanes over the next 80 years using the A1B scenario.

1.02. Figure 1 below shows annual mean near-surface temperature anomalies, 1900–2023, difference relative to the 1991–2020 average. Figure 2 shows in situ rainfall anomalies for 2023 (percentage relative to the 1991–2020 reference period). Notably in the Eastern Caribbean, negative rainfall anomalies were predominant.

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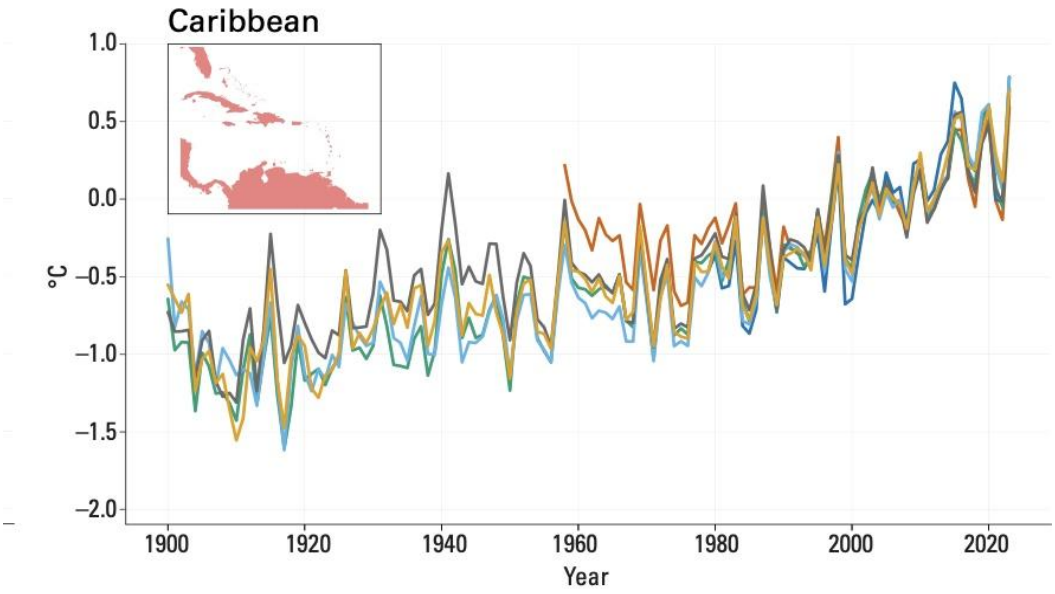
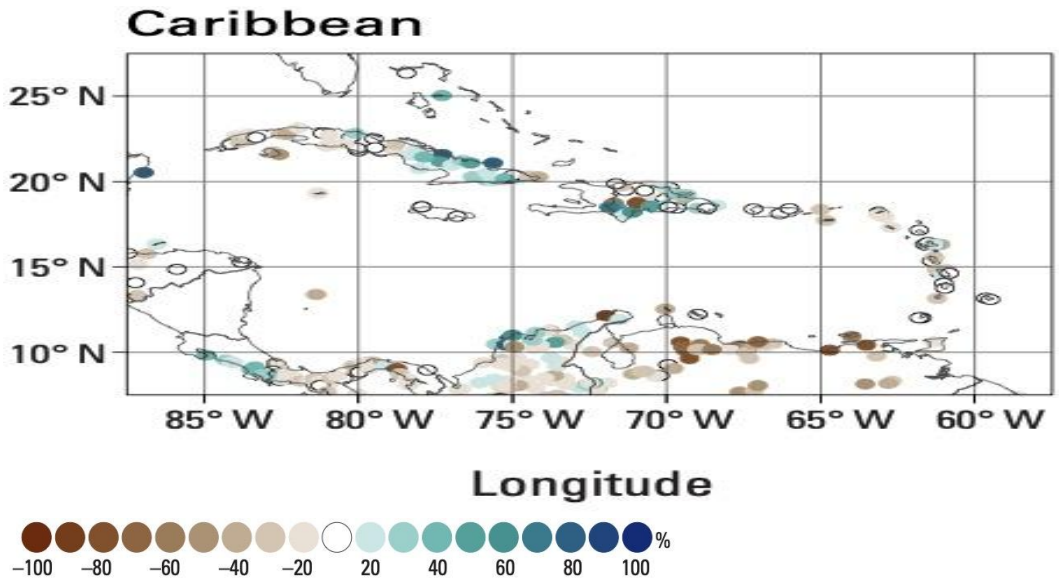
2 State of the Global Climate 2024. World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), 2024

3 Mentioned in https://www.noaa.gov/news/2024-was-worlds-warmest-year-on-record

4 Climate Studies Group Mona (Eds.). 2020. "The State of the Caribbean Climate". Produced for the Caribbean Development Bank.



1.03. Figure 1: Annual mean near-surface temperature anomalies, 1900–2023, difference relative to the 1991–2020 average. Data are from six different datasets, as indicated in the legend: Berkeley Earth, ERA5, GISTEMP, HadCRUT5, JRA-55 and NOAA Global Temp. Source: State of the Latin American and Caribbean Climate, 2023. WMO



1.04. Figure 2: In situ rainfall anomalies for 2023 (percentage relative to the 1991–2020 reference period). Source: WMO, Op. Cit.

1.05. Between 1997 and 2017, the Caribbean experienced average annual losses of US$1.2 billion as a result of disasters resulting from natural hazard impacts such as extreme weather events (i.e., tropical storms/hurricanes, floods and landslides) or slow-onset events (i.e., drought, rising temperatures, sea level

rise and saltwater intrusion in aquifers). [5]Over the same period, 1.2 million people were directly displaced due to the disasters. The 2017 hurricane season provided an example of what the future holds for the region as two Category 5 hurricanes, Irma and two weeks later, Maria, devastated the region causing over US$ 5bn in damages.[6] In 2019 Hurricane Dorian wreaked havoc on the Bahamas, tying the record for the highest maximum sustained windspeed of 185 mph in the Atlantic Basin.[7] Hurricane Beryl in June and July 2024, devastated parts of Grenada, Jamaica and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, causing an initial estimate of US$500 million in damage, and setting the record for the earliest formation of a Category 4 or 5 hurricane in the Caribbean.[8] Caribbean nations have a high vulnerability to climate change. With most of the population (in small to medium size communities) and key infrastructure located along the coast Caribbean countries are at high risk from climate change, both from extreme events such as hurricanes and intense rainfall, and slow onset hazards such as sea-level rise. These events recurrently impact economic performance, productivity, livelihood and quality of life.

1.06. The State of the Caribbean Climate Report states the following: "The region has struggled with addressing these climate-related threats in an anticipatory manner, and this has increased individual and collective vulnerability. One key example is the frequently reactive manner in which slow-onset events such as droughts are addressed." For instance, the shortage of water storage facilities and the need for emergency supplies ("trucking") during droughts has been highlighted in a number of studies.[9] The challenge to be more proactive remains despite significant efforts such as work led by the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) to improve early warning for drought. The Report suggests that based on past experience, in relation to extreme climate events occurring the guiding maxim should be *not if, but when*, so action should be taken to deal with climate hazards before they occur. The Report further recommends that planning and decision-making efforts are:

(a) Proactive

(b) not curtailed or stalled once the threat is deemed to be past, and

(c) guided by past lessons and available expertise.

1.07. Communities are on the frontline of the impact of climate change and disasters, in particular, low income communities in high-risk areas where climate shocks, such as extreme weather events or slow-onset events pose serious risks to community livelihoods and ecosystems, and damage infrastructure.[10] "The most vulnerable groups are female-headed households, children, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, displaced persons, sexual and gender minorities, older persons, and other socially marginalized groups. Their vulnerability lies in their financial, socio-economic, cultural, and gender status; and their

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5 World Bank, Disaster Risk Management in the Caribbean: The World Bank's Approaches and Instruments for Recovery and Resilience, 2018. Other estimates include $58 billion in economic costs between 1950 1nd 1917 by the IMF: Building Resilience to Climate Change and Natural Hazards in the Caribbean. IMF, 2017.

6 https://reliefweb.int/report/dominica/regional-overview-impact-hurricanes-irma-and-maria.

7 https://cdema.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=838:situation-report-1--surface-trough- dumps-rain-on-saint-lucia-november18-2010-as-at-100-pm&catid=39:situation-reports&Itemid=347.

8 "Hurricane Beryl Could Cost Private Insurers $500 million for Damage in the Caribbean." Miami Herald, July 12, 2024.

9 See for example: Assessment of the Water Sector in the Caribbean, CDB TA Project, January 2015, and Regional Strategic Action Plan for Governance and Building Climate Resilience in the Water Sector in the Caribbean, CDB, IADB, CWWA, October 2018.

10 For example, in Dominica, both Tropical Storm Ericka (2015) and Hurricane Maria (2017) destroyed the main highway linking the southern communities of Bellevue Chopin, Pichelin, Grand Bay, Bagatelle and Fond St. Jean, cutting off critical access for all social and economic activity of these respective communities, that were also affected by landslides and flooding. (Post-Disaster Needs Assessment, 2017).

limited access to resources, services and decision-making power." [11] For communities to be effective on the frontline, they require some key skills which are lacking (for e.g., the Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF)[12] 2023 assessment highlighted several gaps in relation to competencies within community-based groups and the fact that some community development professionals are lacking basic community engagement skills). Lessons from the Community Disaster Risk Reduction Fund (CDRRF)[13] also stressed the need for a more inclusive project design and implementation to secure local ownership. These lessons have to be incorporated in CC interventions at the community-level and are integral to the Locally Led Adaptation approach on which the design of the proposed project is based.

1.08. Across the Caribbean, natural ecosystems play a vital role in safeguarding the goods and services that the people depend on. These goods support livelihoods and critical national economic sectors such as agriculture, fisheries and tourism, while ecosystem services include food security, water, climate regulation and climate adaptation and mitigation as well as cultural benefits such as recreation. Degradation of terrestrial ecosystems from natural hazards (e.g., tropical storms and hurricanes, extreme rainfalls, drought, earthquakes, volcanic activity and tsunamis) and also from human activities (e.g., poor land use, overexploitation of natural resources, and unsustainable conservation practices) is a major threat to livelihoods, agriculture, water supply, tourism and a country's economy. Climate change is also impacting coastal and marine ecosystems in addition to habitat conversion, overexploitation, and pollution from suspended solids and chemicals. Natural hazard events and human activities often have a cumulative effect that accelerates the rate of degradation of these vital ecosystems, keeping people in the cycle of low income and poverty.

1.09. There has been progress in the Caribbean with the implementation of a number of community disaster risk management programmes. Forecasting and early warning have improved but given the size of the Caribbean region and the range of hazards, gaps in coverage remain. A review of early warning systems in the Caribbean by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) in 2017 highlighted the need for more early warning systems at regional, national and community levels.[14] Similarly, Knowledge Attitude and Practice (KAP) studies conducted for the CDRRF found a demand for more Early Warning Systems (EWS) at community level. In the absence of EWS, communities rely on measures such as hard structural protection measures that are expensive to build, provide limited standard of protection and have a limited-service life.

1.10. Increasing vulnerability to climate variability and CC and low adaptive capacity, are preventing households from breaking out of the cycle of low incomes and poverty. Caribbean communities face additional barriers in reducing the vulnerability of natural resource-based livelihoods in the face of climate change. These include:

(a) shortage of technical capacity in climate smart agriculture;

(b) shortage of alternative livelihood opportunities; and

(c) limited awareness about how these issues relate to community sustainability and climate change resilience.

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[11] World Bank, July 1, 2023, Blogpost. "Social Dimensions of Climate Change."

[12] The BNTF is a multi-donor Trust Fund managed by the Caribbean Development Bank

[13] The CDRRF is a multi-donor Trust Fund managed by CDB that was operated between 2012 and 2021

[14] Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2018. CREWS Caribbean

1.11. There are other capacity gaps within the overall governance structures such as accessing development resources (due to limited ability for proposal writing and project management), the challenge with legal registration, and limited capacity of community leaders to engage the wider community. Vulnerable communities need support to address the above barriers. The WMO 2017 review, also taking account of the devastating experiences from the 2017 Caribbean hurricane season, concluded that "populations at risk require Early Warning Systems and emergency alerts that provide clearly defined actions and preventive measures to reduce the impact of climate and weather-related hazards."

1.12. Investment in Community Early Warning Systems (CEWS) can save lives of those most at risk and help to protect their property and livelihoods. In the absence of a CEWS individuals and communities threatened by hazards are unable to take the necessary preparedness measures and respond in a timely manner to reduce the possibility of harms or losses. Furthermore, the topography of the islands, ranging from low lying coral islands such as Barbuda, to volcanic islands with rugged mountainous interiors, such as Grenada, extenuates natural hazard risks including flooding, landslides, coastal erosion, drought and volcanic eruptions, amongst others. This requires a multi-hazard approach to disaster risk management and EWS. Moreover, an approach that integrates climate change adaptation with early warning systems is essential for risk reduction approaches that build household resilience and enhance livelihoods.

2. CDB EXPERIENCE OF COMMUNITY LED/LOCALLY-LED DEVELOPMENT

2.01. CDB is well placed to lead the effort in the Caribbean to help build communities' capacity to better prepare for the impacts of CC and to promote locally driven coping strategies for adapting to this changing environment. The Bank has been a leader on community led development in the region. The Basic Needs Trust Fund (BNTF) Programme is the main vehicle for pursuing poverty reduction in the Region, through the provision of basic infrastructure and skills training towards improving the livelihoods of beneficiaries in Participating Countries (PC). BNTF has implemented more than 3,000 sub-projects over the past 40 years, directly impacting the lives of more than three million beneficiaries in poor communities. Vulnerable and disadvantaged populations (such as the very young, the elderly, women, pregnant teens, PWDs, at-risk young males and the un/under-employed) were direct beneficiaries across all PCs. Projects covered: Education and Human Resource Development (including citizen security, youth at risk, livelihoods, and micro-enterprise development); Water and Sanitation and Basic Community Access and Drainage. Projects are implemented through grant financing from the Bank's Special Development Fund [Unified] [SDF (U)] and Government counterpart contributions. Under the tenth cycle (BNTF 11), the Participating Countries (PCs) are Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname. The design of the sub-projects ensures participation by communities and transparency in community decision-making in the identification and priority setting processes.

2.02. CDB's has also undertaken extensive work over the last two years to scale-up the engagement with Youth, Indigenous and Tribal Peoples across the Caribbean to include the Indigenous Peoples Forum which has been supported by CDB. These Forums have helped to identify protocols for engaging IPs. These protocols can add significant value in the design of EWS which incorporates Indigenous knowledge. Additionally, CDB in collaboration with the University of Wolverhampton is preparing an online course on Engaging Caribbean Communities, which was made available by the end of 2024 and targets community leaders and community development professionals. This is another example of a useful resource that can guide the preparation of community-based EWS.

2.03. Since 2025, the CDB has coordinated a series of online and in-person discussions with regional partners to explore effective approaches for implementing LLLA within Caribbean communities. These engagements included collaboration with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), and the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI). Key insights

and lessons from these discussions have been incorporated into the Bank's draft LLA Approach for the Caribbean.

2.04. Additionally, a representative from CDB participated in the 19th Community-Based Adaptation Conference in Recife, Brazil, where valuable knowledge was gained from global best practices shared through presentations and exhibitions. The event, hosted by the Institute for Environment and Infrastructure Development, opened avenues for continued dialogue and potential collaboration, including the development of internal knowledge exchange initiatives such as online learning sessions. In July 2025, CDB further deepened its commitment to advancing LLA by joining the international community of practice, engaging with global development partners to exchange experiences and strengthen approaches for designing and implementing locally led interventions that deliver sustainable climate adaptation outcomes.

Alignment of CDB Experience with the 8 Principles of Locally Led Adaptation

2.05. CDB's experience and lessons learned from the BNTF and the completed Community Disaster Risk Reduction Fund (CDRRF) are well aligned with the AF Principles of Locally Led Adaptation.

(a) **Principle 1**: Devolving decision-making to the lowest appropriate level. Under the BNTF approach, the design of the sub-projects ensures full participation by communities and transparency in community decision-making in the identification and priority setting processes. As mentioned above, the MTE found that its operational procedures and modalities are genuinely and directly responsive to country/community-identified needs.

(b) **Principle 2:** Addressing structural inequalities faced by women, youth, children, disabled and displaced people, Indigenous Peoples, and marginalised ethnic groups. The design of BNTF projects ensures that vulnerable and disadvantaged groups are direct beneficiaries. A gender analysis and a social assessment that considers the roles of youth and vulnerable persons is mandatory for all CDB projects. Lessons from the CDRRF also reinforced the importance of including these analyses.

(c) **Principle 3**: Providing patient and predictable funding that can be accessed more easily. A key lesson from the CDRRF was the importance of making funding available to finance the adaptation activities identified by communities. The absence of funding caused community members to lose interest and ownership of the programme, making sustainability unlikely.

(d) **Principle 4**: Investing in local capabilities to leave an institutional legacy. The importance of strengthening local organisations, community-based organisations, local government and other institutional actors was a significant lesson from the CDRRF. In the absence of such strengthening, every new project will need to provide capacity support if working through a local organisation.

(e) **Principle 5**: Building a robust understanding of climate risk and uncertainty. Under the CDRRF, Rapid Community Climate Vulnerability Assessments (RCCVA) were done, which helped establish the risk profile of a community through which community members gained an understanding of climate risks. The project in Belize underscored the importance of integrating Indigenous Peoples' knowledge with scientific knowledge, working with the Garifuna and Mayan communities.

(f) **Principle 6**: Flexible programming and learning. The Evaluation of the CDRRF recommended the importance of Performance Measurement Frameworks with SMART indicators and sufficient resources to undertake data collection. This would facilitate monitoring and learning and adaptive management.

(g) **Principle 7**: Ensuring transparency and accountability. To ensure transparency and accountability, CDB will draw on lessons from the BNTF and CDRRF, which show that the right balance needs to be struck between probity and accountability on the one hand and delegation and expedited no-objection decisions on the other.

(h) **Principle 8:** Collaborative action and investment.

3. COUNTRY CLIMATE CONTEXT

Belize

3.01. Belize is a small, low-lying country which covers 46,620 km^2 on the coast of Central America. Five per cent of the country's territory consists of small islands and offshore cayes, with the remainder being on the mainland. Culturally diverse, Belize has 13 ethnic groups and two Indigenous groups, Maya and Garifuna. Belize is vulnerable to hurricanes, storms and associated flooding, wind damage, and storm surge. The country's low-lying terrain exacerbates the effects of flooding and sea level rise. Belize is also at risk of extreme temperature events (World Bank Climate Change Knowledge Portal). Climate modelling projections for Belize indicate:

(a) an increase in average atmospheric temperature,

(b) reduced average annual rainfall, and

(c) more intense rains and longer periods of drought.

3.02. Most recently, in November 2022, Hurricane Lisa battered Belize as a Category 1 storm. The hurricane brought torrential rains, powerful winds, and significant storm surges, leading to extensive damage to infrastructure, severe economic impacts, including hundreds of acres of sugarcane land, and considerable humanitarian challenges. In early 2024, the country was also impacted by extensive wildfires, which generated the loss of homes and livelihoods and impacted natural reserves across the country amid extremely hot and dry weather conditions.

Antigua and Barbuda

3.03. The twin island nation of Antigua and Barbuda, covering 442 km^2, is located at the southern end of the Leeward Islands chain in the eastern Caribbean Sea. Owing to their location the islands are particularly exposed to a wide range of natural and anthropogenic hazards. Historically, they have been impacted by hydro-meteorological hazards such as tropical storms, hurricanes and droughts. They have also experienced seismological events such as earthquakes, as well as anthropogenic and health related hazards, COVID 19 being the most recent. The predominantly occurring hazards are: hurricanes, drought, floods and earthquakes.

3.04. With the projected and experienced impact of Climate Change regionally, given the islands low elevation and flat terrain, sea level rise and storm surges will be of significant concern. Furthermore, winds and heavy rain during storms have impacted the built and natural environment, populations, and economy. The Category 5 Hurricane Irma in September 2017, caused devastating damage to Barbuda impacting the

islands' livelihoods, housing and infrastructure and basic services such as health, telecommunication, electricity, water, sewage and waste systems, agriculture and fisheries. As a result, all 1800 inhabitants were evacuated to Antigua. Total damage for both islands was estimated at US$136 million (Reliefweb 2019).

3.05. Food insecurity was an issue mentioned by the communities consulted in Antigua and Barbuda, stemming from farmers limited access to reliable water supply, especially in drought prone areas. Training on water harvesting techniques and climate smart agriculture and support for natural resource- based livelihoods were some of the needs identified. Across the board, there was a demand for both terrestrial and marine ecosystem adaptation. Infrastructure to protect boats from hurricane damage was also important. While expressing the need for an EWS stakeholders also emphasised the importance of having sound communication systems during an emergency. There was also a desire for greater emphasis on empowering communities with knowledge to enhance their understanding of climate change and its effect on their environment.

Grenada

3.06. Grenada lies at the southern end of the Windward Islands and is a three-island state, made up of Grenada and the smaller islands of Carriacou and Petit Martinique. The total land surface area is approximately 348.5 km^2, with the main island of Grenada measuring about 34 km by 19 km, respectively, at its longest and widest points. Grenada is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, as evidenced by the recent devastation caused by Hurricane Beryl, especially on Carriacou and Petit Martinique, where 100% and 97%, respectively, of buildings were damaged or destroyed. Livelihoods were significantly affected by loss or damage to fishing boats and gear, ice machines, and cold storage equipment. Crops were destroyed as well as livestock housing. Hurricane Ivan in 2004 caused damages of over 200 per cent of GDP. There have also been occurrences of increased forest fires, crop loss, water shortages and incidence of pests and diseases occurring in recent years.

3.07. Coastal communities consulted that are dependent on tourism, emphasised coastal erosion, flooding, water scarcity and wind damage from tropical cyclones. Saltwater intrusion has affected drinking water quality and the severity of flooding is such that at times it isolates communities and prevent children from attending school. Livelihoods related to the tourism industry are particularly affected by these impacts. EWS would provide significant benefits to these communities, together with capacity building and livelihood support.

Jamaica

3.08. Jamaica is the largest island in the English-speaking Caribbean, and the most populated with 2.93 million people. Like other Caribbean countries, Jamaica is vulnerable to natural disasters – such as hurricanes and flooding – and the effects of climate change especially along coastal sectors. Both fisheries and agriculture account for the majority of rural livelihoods. Jamaica faces very serious threats from hotter temperatures, droughts and floods linked to climate change, and an existential threat due to sea level rise. Jamaica is particularly vulnerable because of its inherent physical characteristics with critical infrastructure including major economic and social assets, situated on the coast or in low-lying areas. In addition, the island is already subject to ecosystem degradation due to poor management practices and inappropriate land use, amongst others. There has been a noticeable increase in short-term rainfall variability, and there is evidence of an increase in the intensity and occurrence of extreme rainfall events which can precipitate flooding and landslides. Since the early to mid-1970s there have been several periods of drought, both short-term (3 months) and year-long droughts. More prolonged dry spells are projected.

3.09. The southern half of the island was impacted by Hurricane Beryl in July 2024. In addition to the damage to infrastructure, the breadbasket of the island, the parish of St. Elizabeth, suffered significant agriculture loss while livelihoods such as fishing were impacted in coastal towns such as Savanna La Mar in Westmoreland. As noted in State of the Jamaican Climate Report (2015) the majority of the storms or hurricanes that impact Jamaica are of Categories 3 and 4-strength. Category 4 storms have only been incident on the island within the last 90 years of record and Category 5 storms within the last 30 years of record. Projections are for increased occurrence of hurricanes of stronger intensity though not necessarily an increase in the overall frequency of storms and hurricanes. All the communities consulted identified flooding as the major issue and the need for a flood EWS to provide timely alerts. The coastal community of Treasure Beach also expressed concern about the impact on fishing from multiple threats and the need to educate fishers on actions to take before a disaster strikes. Several communities also mentioned drought as a significant issue and the need to address water scarcity.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

3.10. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is located in the Eastern Caribbean, consisting of over 30 islands, inlets and cays. These islands are part of the Windward Island chain of the Lesser Antilles. The main island is mountainous and rises 1,234 m to the volcanic cone of Soufriere. From Soufriere, the rugged hills slope to the sea and then collapse to several little islets and cays that form the Grenadines. The country is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change from extreme weather events and natural disasters which would increase the risks on its economy. It is also susceptible to salt intrusion into freshwater sources, making the islands highly vulnerable to rising sea levels. A series of overlapping catastrophes between 2019 and 2021, including a major volcanic eruption, hurricanes, and severe floods and droughts, had underscored the devastating impact of the climate crisis on the country. The Grenadines islands of Bequia, Canouan, Mareau, and Union Island were most impacted by Hurricane Beryl, with 94% to 100% of buildings affected. Agriculture and fisheries-based livelihoods were also significantly affected.

4. SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

4.01. The Caribbean region has a rich and diverse social context shaped by historical experience, notably colonialism, and more recently, migration. This diversity is represented in the countries participating in this project with a mixture of ethnicity, culture and language. They all experience in varying degrees the key contemporary social issues facing the region, namely, poverty, crime, unemployment and inadequate social security systems as witnessed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Of particular interest to this project is the role of women. Women contribute more to household income in Caribbean countries and participate more in the labour market compared with Latin America, for example.[15] In Jamaica, women contribute as much as 50% to household income. But female headed households face significant economic hardships and women hold fewer political and leadership positions. A gender equality lens will be applied systematically and explicitly in the design and implementation of the project. As indicated in Roncerel et-al (2019), a gender-responsive climate change programme recognises that the youth and women's roles are as important as men's in addressing environmental and development issues and that their needs and dependence on resources can significantly differ. When considered and planned at the start of any process, the integration of youth and women is not an additional step, but rather an integral component of the planning and development of any programme or community project.[16]

[15] Gendered Lives, Global Issues. Edited by Nadine T. Fernandez. January 2022.

[16] Building Resilience with Nature and Gender in the Eastern Caribbean - A toolkit to Mainstream Ecosystem-based Adaptation Gender Equality and Social Inclusion. Authors: Annie Bonnin Roncerel (Team Leader), Leisa Perch (Gender expert), Jonathan McCue (EbA expert) and Fernanda Zermoglio (Climate change and Resilience Expert).

4.02. Caribbean countries are small open economies susceptible to external shocks. The five participating countries are heavily reliant on the services sector, principally tourism, and agriculture. Jamaica's economy is slightly more diversified with bauxite and remittances also important, while government services play a key role in employment and the economy in Antigua and Barbuda. Many islands have fiscal challenges stemming from high debt to GDP ratios. As a result of these limited economic opportunities and high levels of debt, Caribbean countries are unable to mobilize sufficient funding for adaptation. Additionally, adaptation often competes for financing with other development priorities.

4.03. While Jamaica, Grenada and Saint Vincent (the Grenadines are low lying) are characterized by their volcanic origins and mountainous interiors, Belize is low lying and Antigua and Barbuda are relatively flat. Despite these differences in geography and geology, the participating countries face a similar range of environmental issues: land degradation, deforestation, ecosystem degradation, water scarcity, coastal erosion, biodiversity loss and waste management. The existential challenge is from climate change, which exacerbates these environmental challenges. Environmental degradation also impacts the tourism industry which is the major economic driver in these countries. Many projects have been implemented in trying to address these issues, but the extent of the problems and the large volume of resources needed requires a much longer-term engagement.

5. BARRIERS TO IMPLEMENTING CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION MEASURES

5.01. Financial constraints are perhaps the most significant barrier to addressing climate change adaptation in the target countries. This includes limited financial resources from the countries to invest in climate action, and because of the high debt ratios mentioned above, inability to mobilize the quantity of resources required. In addition, the complex application procedures that some funding agencies require are often beyond the scope of government departments technical capacity. There are also difficulties with mobilizing private sector financing, given the risks involved in climate financing and the more risk averse nature of private sector entities in the region. Also, because of their size, small islands do not have the numbers nor range of technical skills required to implement the extent of adaptation measures required to address recurring climate impacts. Highly specialized skills are particularly missing to undertake climate vulnerability and risk assessments and to access and analyse downscaled climate data.

5.02. Although all the islands have various national climate change strategies or policies, and some have National Adaptation Plans, they generally lack sector specific adaptation policies or plans, inefficient data and information management and inadequate cross sector coordination which can lead to fragmented approaches. There is also a lack community level adaptation plans. In addition, poor governance and management practices have also been identified as barriers to implementing adaptation plans. Climate change adaptation is often led by a government department which has several other responsibilities such as housing, environment, etc.[17] Governance also involves stakeholder participation in decision making on steps to be taken to address climate change, which is often lacking. These barriers are captured in Figure 1 below.

6. PROJECT/PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE

6.01. The project objective is to reduce the exposure and vulnerability of Caribbean communities, livelihoods, and infrastructure to climate-induced natural hazards through well-functioning multi-hazard community early warning systems and risk-informed locally led adaptation actions that increase resilience. This will be achieved by implementing community-based risk reduction measures which will reduce

[17] Climate Change Adaptation Planning in Selected Caribbean Countries: Is Enough Being Done? Christian Casey- Lee Virgil, Marcia Nathai-Balkissoonb and Kit Fai Pun. *The West Indian Journal of Engineering*, Vol.44, No.2, January 2022, pp.80-91

exposure and vulnerability of the most vulnerable communities[18] to climate-induced hazards and by supporting innovative adaptation initiatives.

6.02. The proposed project will be designed to equip communities most at risk with the capacity and tools to effectively respond to climate change impacts. It will focus on reaching the most vulnerable groups in these communities taking account of gender, youth, persons with disability (PWD) and Indigenous Peoples. The project will leverage the platforms developed under the BNTF and CDRRF to enhance local climate change planning and capacity, and channel funds to communities for climate resilience investments delivered through locally-led development approaches that also tap into local knowledge. It is important that communities should not only be seen as beneficiaries as they offer local knowledge and skills that are relevant for addressing climate change. It is necessary to integrate local and Indigenous knowledge with science to better address climate change. The following components will contribute to achieving these objectives:

(a) Multi-hazard Community Based Early Warning System (MCBEWS),

(b) Community CC Adaptation Action Plan (5-year plan) and Grant Financing Mechanism

(c) Capacity Building for Community Readiness

(d) Monitoring, Knowledge Management and Dissemination

6.03. The project objective and components are well aligned with the Adaptation Fund's Strategic Results Framework. In relation to Outcome 1: "Reduced exposure to climate-related hazards and threats," the project will conduct or update risk and vulnerability assessments and develop Multi-hazard Community Based Early Warning Systems (MCBEWS). The risk assessments and MCBEWS will enable communities to protect and prepare themselves and to be more resilient against the disastrous effects of climate change. The locally-led focus to be employed will also leverage local knowledge and ensure that community members are full participants in the process. The project is also consistent with Outcome 3 in the Fund's Strategic Results Framework: "Strengthened awareness and ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes at the local level." Capacity building for targeted communities, NGOs and local government officials (Component 3) is aimed at getting communities ready to undertake risk reduction activities by first strengthening their understanding and awareness of the threats. During the project, Knowledge Attitude and Practice surveys will be undertaken to determine the extent to which communities absorb these messages.

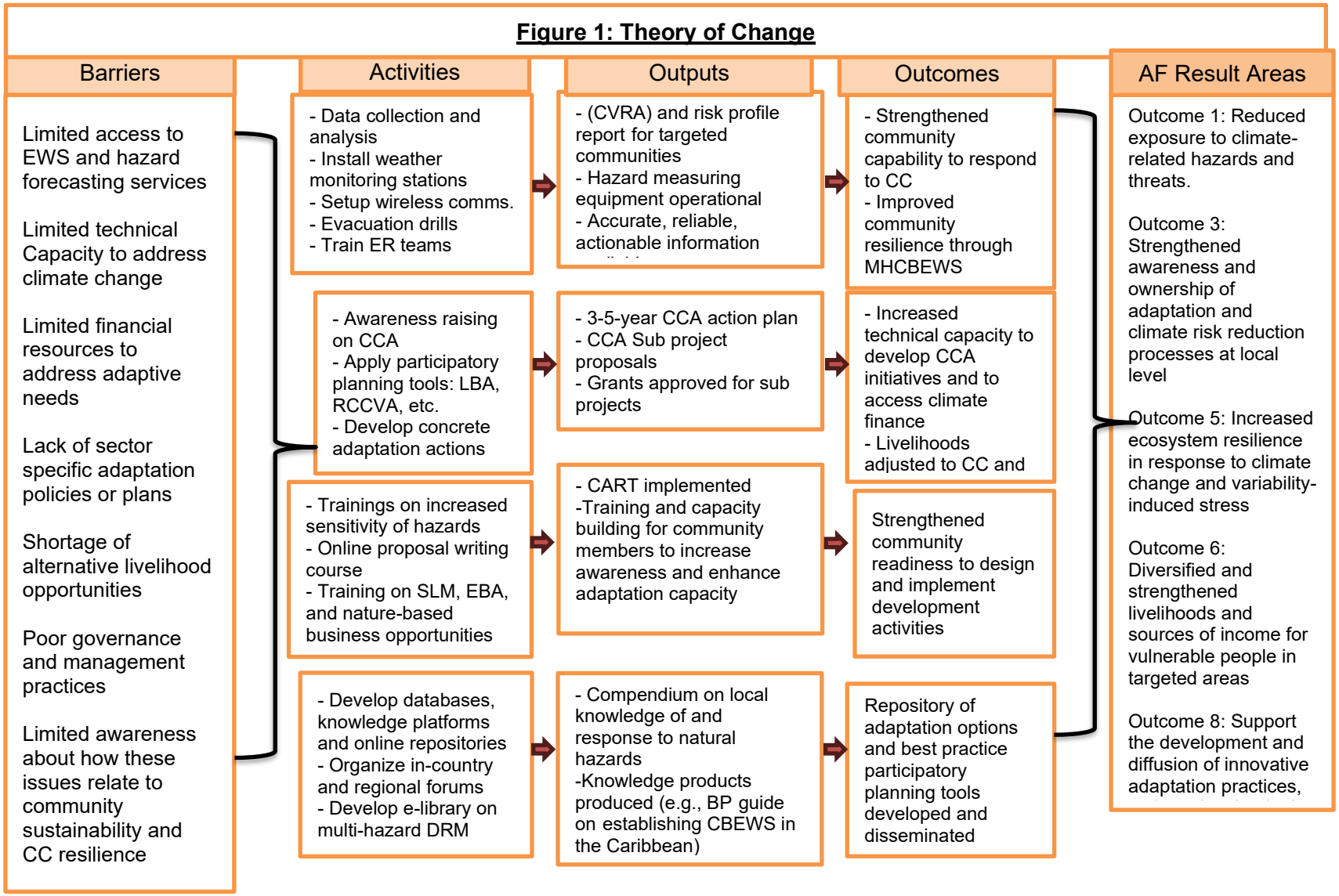
6.04. Caribbean communities are heavily reliant on ecosystems for goods and services. Through participatory processes in Component 2 the project would tap into local knowledge together with best practices in sustainable agriculture, ecosystem management and alternative livelihoods to help communities prepare adaptation plans that address the threats and provide protection to ecosystems and nature-based livelihoods being compounded by climate change or other priorities the community may identify, thus supporting Outcomes 5 (increased ecosystem resilience) and 6 (diversified livelihoods). The project is also aligned with Outcome 8 where it will make use of the innovative tools developed under earlier CDB programmes. Component 4 also supports this Outcome as it will focus on developing knowledge products and sponsoring forums to disseminate innovative practices, tools and technologies generated by the project. Ultimately, through the above activities, the project will contribute to the AF Impact level results of

[18] Some of these communities have been identified but other will be selected during the full project development phase.

(a) Increased adaptive capacity of communities to respond to the impacts of climate change; and
(b) Increased ecosystem resilience in response to climate change-induced stresses.

See Figure 1 for Theory of Change, with the AF result areas.

Figure 1: Theory of Change



PROJECT/PROGRAMME COMPONENTS AND FINANCING

Project/Programme Components	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Amount (US$)	Countries
1. Multi-hazard Community Based Early Warning System (MHCBEWS)	Strengthened capability of communities to respond to the threat of climate-related hazards in a timely and appropriate manner. Improved community resilience through the implementation of the MHCBEWS	Climate vulnerability and risk assessment (CVRA) and risk profile report completed for target communities. Equipment for measuring relevant hazard(s) and creating diverse messaging installed and operational. Accurate, reliable, actionable and understandable information is available for all in time to take action. Disaster preparedness measures, including response plans, developed and operational.	1,500,000 5,000,000 1,000,000 500,000	Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
2. Community CC Adaptation Action Plan (5-year plan) and Grant Financing Mechanism	Increased technical capacity to develop adaptation and integrated DRR initiatives and to better access climate finance. Livelihoods better adapted to the changing climate and enhanced resilience of ecosystems.	Five-year CCA action plan for each participating community. CCA sub-project proposals developed Grants approved for community CCA sub-projects for key climate-sensitive sectors (e.g., agriculture, forestry, coastal protection, etc.)	170,000 1,700,000 8,755,000	Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

3. Capacity Building for Community Readiness	Strengthened community readiness to design and implement development activities	CART implemented and capacity development plan prepared for participating communities. Training and capacity building for community members to increase awareness of CC and enhance adaptation capacity. Implementation of demonstration projects from training content.	170,000 255,000 1,075,000	Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
4. Monitoring, Knowledge Management and Dissemination	Repository of adaptation options and best practice participatory planning tools developed and disseminated nationally and regionally	Compendium on local knowledge of and response to natural hazards Knowledge products (e.g., Portfolio mapping of CCA investments across the five countries, Best Practice guide on establishing CBEWS in the Caribbean, beneficiary communities' participation in international conferences and hosting of best practices symposium on LLA	800,000	Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
6. **Project Activity Cost**				**20,925,000**
7. Project Execution cost – 9.5%				1,987,875
8. Project Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity – 8.5%				1,947,594
Amount of Financing Requested				**24,860,469**

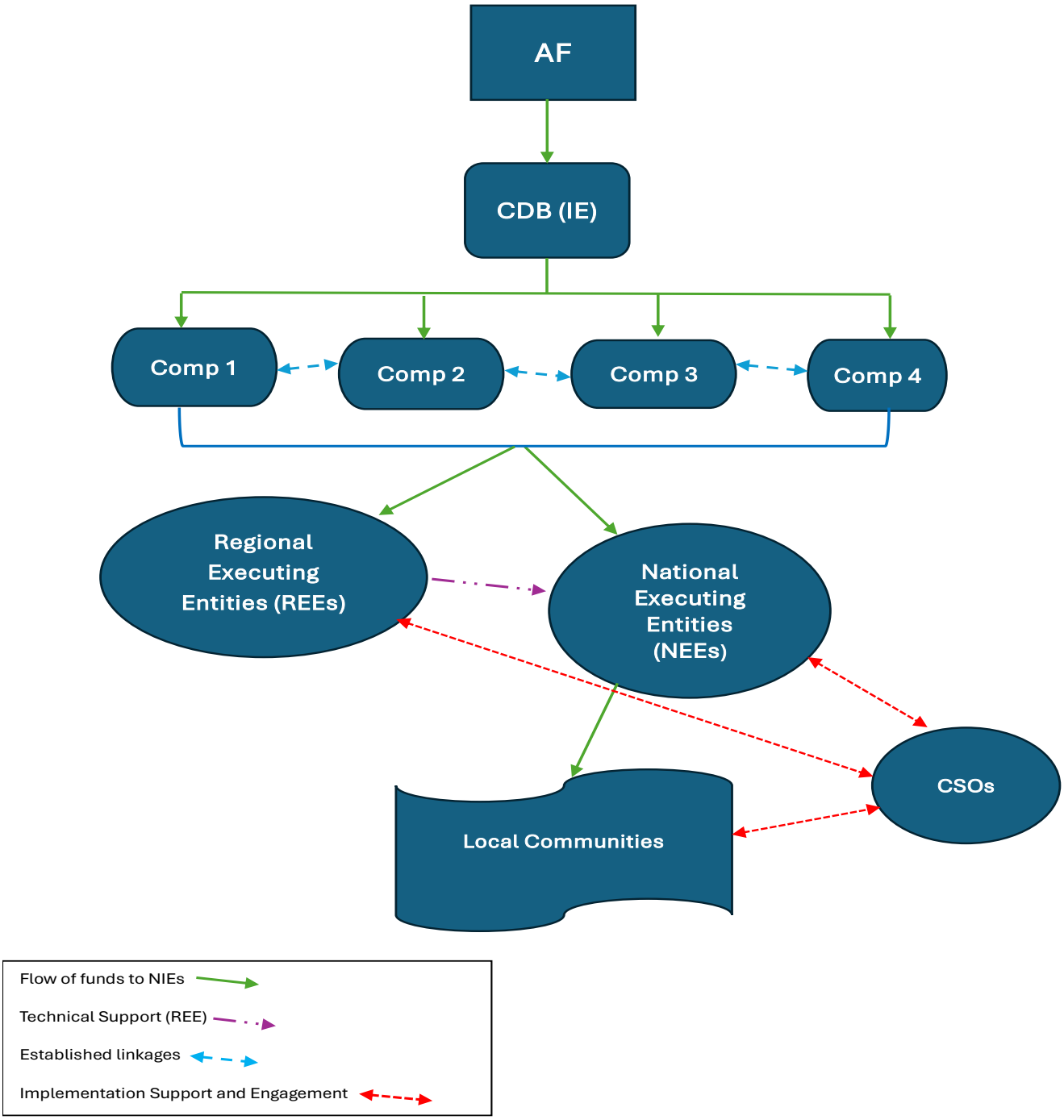
Delivery Mechanism for Flow of Funds

6.05. The following chart demonstrates the proposed delivery mechanism for the flow of funds in the proposed project. It is proposed that Regional Executing Entities (REEs) will provide technical support to the state-led agencies. This will involve support for Component 1 and 2 in delivering the early warning and sub-projects. The Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) is identified for this responsibility. The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) is identified to support the delivery of the capacity building and knowledge management under components 3 and 4. It is expected that funds will flow to the REEs to support the delivery of these components. The National Executing Entities (NEEs) will be Government Agencies namely the agency responsible for community development working collaboratively with the AF focal point ministry. These NEEs will receive technical support from the REEs and will lead on the implementation of the project components. Acting as the national governance mechanism, the NEEs, will manage the small grants under Component 2. Under the LLA structure, governments are well positioned to effectively engage with the poorest and most marginalised communities and ensure local actors are involved in the decision-making processes. For example, the ministries

responsible for community development are working within communities building relationships with local residents. As a result, these community ministries will be effective in helping to channel resources to local communities. The NEEs will receive technical support from the REEs in the channeling of resources and ensuring results are realized on the ground. Hence, we anticipate that 70-90% of the resources will reach the communities. See Figure below showing the flow of funds.

6.06. It should be stated also that Government has the advantage of drawing on other state agencies like ministries of finance during project implementation. Regarding the benefits of using Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) operating in the region, these are seen as well placed to support local communities and government as needed. In particular, CSOs can support the implementation of Components 1 and 2 by help with project identification and design. Also, CSOs can benefit from training under Component 3. It is anticipated that NEEs and CSOs will have on-going engagements during project implementation. This engagement will aid in designing strategies and utilizing the knowledge generated to inform the formulation of future LLA projects across other communities.

Delivery Mechanism for Flow of Funds



7. **PROJECTED CALENDAR:**

Indicate the dates of the following milestones for the proposed project/programme

Milestones	Expected Dates
Start of Project/Programme Implementation	July 2026
Mid-term Review (if planned)	August 2028
Project/Programme Closing	July 2030
Terminal Evaluation	January 2031

PART II: PROJECT/PROGRAMME JUSTIFICATION

A. Describe the programme components, particularly focusing on the concrete adaptation activities how these activities would contribute to climate resilience.

8. **RATIONALE FOR REGIONAL APPROACH**

8.01. Common climate threats and contexts and opportunities for learning and replication has bring together the countries of Grenada, Belize, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Antigua and Barbuda to pursue a common approach to locally-led adaptation towards improving climate resilience, early warning, and strengthening capacities across vulnerable local communities. The five countries listed are all highly vulnerable to climate change and have experience flooding, storm surges, variability in rainfall, and droughts. These have all negatively impacted local community livelihoods. The project will seek to include innovation and learning between countries that can be exported beyond the current project. While the five countries share similar vulnerabilities to climate change, they also process various experiences that can be shared. This sharing can be captured under Component 1, 3 and 4 where shared training will be undertaken and the dissemination of lessons learnt can enable synergies. The regional approach can also contribute towards implementation of the region's climate resilience framework. Also, it will provide support towards achieving the target under the EW for All that 'all people on Earth must be protected by early warning systems within five years. It will also support achieving Target G of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, which is to "substantially increase the availability of and access to multi hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to the people by 2030" (UNDRR 2022). Furthermore, the Caribbean Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy 2014 – 2030 underscores the importance of managing disaster risks within multi-hazard contexts and it prioritises "integrated, improved and expanded community early warning systems" (CDEMA, 2014).

8.02. The execution of a regional LLA programme is consistent with its approach to other successful multi-country initiatives such as BNTF and CDRRF. These programmes reflect the Bank's commitment to empowering communities and building resilience through inclusive, community-based interventions. The regional nature of the LLA programme allows for the capture of diverse implementation experiences across both small and large island contexts, reflecting a wide range of vulnerabilities, local capacities, and institutional support systems. It also enables the programme to engage with the region's varying local government arrangements, while addressing the unique challenges faced by Indigenous and Tribal communities, particularly those with limited access to technology. By documenting and analysing implementation across these diverse settings, the programme facilitates knowledge generation and learning that contribute to the development of best practices. This approach supports higher-level impact and fosters

the design of adaptable, scalable, and context-sensitive adaptation solutions that strengthen resilience across the Caribbean.

9. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

9.01. The proposed project aims to establish a well-functioning multi-hazard community early warning systems (MHEWS) and support the implementation of risk-informed locally led adaptation actions that increase resilience. The project addresses the pressing needs of vulnerable communities residing in watershed and coastal areas, focusing on managing the predominant hazard risks (floods, landslides, droughts, volcano eruptions), enhancing disaster mitigation efforts, protecting ecosystems and promoting sustainable livelihoods. Thus, the overarching goal of the project is to enhance community resilience to hazards, support climate change adaptation, and establish best practices applicable across Caribbean communities. The project will target gender and youth mainstreaming in project activities, ensuring that women participate equitably at all levels of decision-making. To this end, gender analysis will be integral to the planning and implementation of project activities, with an effort to identify and address existing gender disparities. An example of this approach includes selecting community volunteers and participants in training programmes inclusively and ensuring a balanced recruitment of male and female project assistants. All capacity-building activities within the project will ensure that men, women and youth benefit equally. The project will also ensure the collection of age and sex-disaggregated data for all activities.

9.02. An implementing entity would be selected in each country to be responsible for project coordination (see section on Institutional Arrangements below). It would place a "Call for Proposals" to participate in the project from communities partnering with local CBOs/NGOs. Selection would be based on criteria that would include the level of hazard risk the community faces (based on available local/regional/national risk assessments), community interest, experience of the CBO, etc. By using different types of partners in each country the project would generate lessons that can inform future approaches. A regional approach also provides the potential to enrich the programme by learning from the experiences in each country. The project will actively participate in regional initiatives, including forums, workshops and conferences to network with regional organisations such as CARICOM and CDEMA, as well as UN agencies such as UNDP, UNEP, UNDRR and FAO. At these events, the project will share its findings, best practices and lessons learned which could influence climate strategies and policies in those organisations. CDB's own convening power will also be utilized to host such events that can be used to showcase the project's achievements. This type of networking together with utilizing digital platforms for knowledge sharing will increase the project's visibility.

9.03. In adopting the LLA, the project will ensure that decision-making is devolved to the most appropriate level that will give local authorities and communities direct access to finance and decision-making power to define, prioritise, design and implement adaptation actions. The first step will be to identify and engage early with stakeholders. CDB has accumulated considerable experience through the BNTF in implementing sound participatory processes as discussed above, utilising a number of tools that feature the early involvement of stakeholders. These tools provide the opportunity for ensuring that the project's goals and expected outcomes align with the community's needs and priorities. Regular meetings will be held and social media will be utilised to increase the openness and frequency of communication. Importantly, there will be great transparency by ensuring that minutes of meetings and decisions taken are well documented. Dialogue and discussions among stakeholders will be encouraged to promote a sense of shared ownership. The capacity building efforts of the project will go a long way to ensure communities active participation by enhancing their knowledge about climate change and adaptation, and equipping them with skills in participatory decision making, proposal and grant writing and fundraising.

9.04. The full project proposal will include a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan that will adopt a Results Based Management (RBM) approach. RBM focuses the information generated by the M&E on

tracking progress towards achieving specific measurable results and for adaptive management. It also emphasises accountability and transparency. The M&E Plan will set out how the results of the project as described in the Results Monitoring Framework will be tracked and reported. It will define the data collection methods, frequency of collection and responsibilities. The first step will be to establish baselines (verifying the base year indicators in the RMF), either through surveys or consulting secondary information. The M&E Plan will also include a dissemination plan (part of Component 4) describing how the M&E results will be communicated internally and externally.

10. COMPONENT 1: MULTI-HAZARD COMMUNITY BASED EARLY WARNING SYSTEM (MCBEWS)

10.01. At community level there is a need to improve community resilience and capacity to understand their vulnerabilities, and respond to hazards, through the implementation of community-based early warning systems. Multi-hazard CBEWS will be implemented according to the predominant hazard(s) in each community (inland floods, coastal flooding, landslide, drought, volcano eruption) and based on full community engagement and participation. This means generating early warning messages and emergency alerts that reach all groups in an effective, timely, and safe manner that meets their special needs and circumstances followed by response, decision-making and implementation. Establishment of an EWS will limit the loss of lives and livelihoods as a result of climate hazards and disasters. This will be done in line with the four established pillars of an early warning.

10.02. The project will apply the locally-led adaptation approach where decision making is devolved to the lowest level and ensure meaningful participation of all community members including women, youth, children, PWD and Indigenous Peoples where present. Communities will assist in the design, implementation and operation of the MCBEWS and will be trained and equipped in monitoring, warning and dissemination, and maintenance of equipment in an sustainable and impactful manner. Communities will be initially engaged through the RCCVA. The initial risk assessment process will identify all relevant hazards using gender-sensitive participatory community hazard and vulnerability mapping. The tool will identify the socio-economic impacts and vulnerability of their communities and the risks they have to manage now and in the future. Training on how to use the hazard and risk maps will also be provided to raise awareness and also on how to plan development and other activities locally.

10.03. The project will be integrating the four components (elements) of an EWS, namely: risk knowledge, monitoring and predicting, dissemination of information and response to warnings. Modern technology will be introduced that alerts communities of potential floods and other risks with the most effective means of generating and disseminating information. Together with best practices from the region[19] and similar environments around the world, the project would build on the experience of the CDRRF project: Building Adaptive Capacity and Resilience to Climate Change in Toledo, Southern Belize, which successfully established early warning systems that benefited 11 communities in the area. The project also incorporated climate change adaptation measures to protect ecosystems in the area. According to the CDRRF Evaluation Report, community members continued to manage the rain gauges, river flood gauges and radio communication system after the project was closed. The report also recommended replication of the project's gender responsive approach. It is not clear at this stage what the make-up of EWS projects which may be unidentified at the time of AF approval and will have to be treated similar to the unidentified sub-projects (UPSs) in Component 2.

[19] This include the Caribbean MHEWS Checklist, Caribbean Summary Report on MHEWS and the Caribbean Community Resilience Framework.

Outcomes	Outputs	Activities
Outcome 1. Strengthened capability of communities to respond to the threat of climate-related hazards in a timely and appropriate manner and Improved community resilience through the implementation of the MHCBEWS	**Output 1.1**. Climate vulnerability and risk assessment (CVRA) and risk profile report completed for target communities.	**Activity 1.1.1**. Undertake data collection and analysis
	Output 1.2. Flood risk and wildfire risk assessment and reports prepared.	**Activity 1.2.1**. Undertake data collection and analysis
	Output 1.3. Equipment for measuring relevant hazard(s) installed and operational.	**Activity 1.3.1**. Identify sites for monitoring equipment, procure and install
	Output 1.4. Accurate, reliable, actionable and understandable information is available for all in time to take action.	**Activity 1.4.1**. Design and setup communication systems (e.g., sirens, text messages, social media, etc.)
	Output 1.5. Develop evacuation plans and emergency procedures	**Activity 1.5.1**. Familiarisation workshops for community members to understand climate information **Activity 1.5.2**. Dedicated weather forecasting and warning system for Fishers **Activity 1.5.3**. Conduct annual evacuation drills and Fire watch programme
	Output 1.6. Community Emergency Response Teams established	**Activity 1.6.1.** Train Emergency Response team **Activity 1.6.2**. Establish fisher community response networks in collaboration with coast guards

11. COMPONENT 2: COMMUNITY CC ADAPTATION ACTION PLAN (3-5-YEAR PLAN).

11.01. This component comprises Locally Led Climate Change Adaptation Planning to help communities develop 3 to 5-year plans that set out the priority measures the community would implement to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Grants would be made available for the implementation of subprojects, identified within the plan, that support alternative livelihoods (varied source of income that contributes to sustainable utilisation of natural resources), and protect ecosystems on which communities depend. There will be two streams of funding:

(a) accessible to active or revitalised community based groups and

(b) available to individuals within the targeted communities and interested in implementing demonstration projects to address a priority need outlined in the plan.

11.02. One of the lessons from the CDRRF was that communities lacked ownership of plans because there were no resources available for them to implement the adaptation activities they identified. The Locally Led approach would allow local communities to have full ownership over the adaptation process. Partnering with a local CBO, a planning exercise facilitated at the community level around climate risk and adaptation options would allow community members (including women, youth, children, PWD and Indigenous Peoples where present) to make decisions about the adaptation initiatives they would like to implement. The planning exercise would also leverage local and indigenous knowledge which has potential in reducing vulnerability to climate change and/or improving the resilience of communities.

11.03. The project would apply a number of innovative participatory community analysis tools piloted under the CDRRF, such as the Livelihood Baseline Assessment (LBA), and the RCCVA which features participatory analysis of climate risks, vulnerability and adaptive capacity (also the basis for the risk assessment in Component 1). Community adaptation plans would be developed with a prioritization of interventions, and an initial subproject proposal prepared. Based on the good practices and innovative techniques developed under previous projects in the region, the range of adaptation interventions could include: agroforestry, sustainable land management, ecosystem-based adaptation, coastal protection and various nature based alternative livelihoods. Implementation of these adaptation initiatives would enhance climate resilience by protecting ecosystems and enhancing livelihoods. These community interventions or demonstration projects will form the basis for the allocation of small grants to support Output 2.3. These small grants will be considered unidentified subprojects (USP) and, as such, the Fund policies regarding USPs, namely as per the "Guidance document for Implementing Entities on compliance with the Adaptation Fund Environmental and Social Policy" and "Updated Guidance for Implementing Entities on the Use of Unidentified Sub-Projects" (Document AFB/PPRC.30/54) will apply. If the sub-projects are not identified at the time of the development of the full funding proposal and its submission to AF, then an Environmental and Social Management Framework will be developed.

11.04. Prior project examples are the Global Environment Facility (GEF) supported Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWEco) project, and the Integrated Watershed and Coastal Areas Management (IWCAM) project. They addressed the problems of land degradation, forest cover loss and ecosystem degradation through rehabilitation of lands, provision of alternative sustainable livelihoods, capacity building and public awareness. Successful SLM practices included biodiversity enhancement measures using selective indigenous species, various cash crop/ tree crop multi storey cultivation practices and revegetating lower catchment areas to stabilise riverbanks with species carefully selected after consultation with stakeholders. Capacity-building will be provided for communities as well as Local Government (LG) officials as part of plan preparation, to build their knowledge and skills on key concepts and science of climate change contextualized to the local experiences, and adaptation planning. The plan would set out the priority adaptation actions chosen by the community over a 3- 5-year period. With appropriate training, the community (with CBO support) would also manage the funding that would be provided to implement the activities.

Outcomes	Outputs	Activities
Outcome 2. Increased technical capacity to develop adaptation initiatives and to better access climate finance	**Output 2.1**. Five-year CCA action plan for each participating community.	**Activity 2.1.1**. Launch adaptation planning process/ community mobilisation **Activity 2.1.2**. Participatory analysis of climate change

Outcome 2b. Livelihoods better adapted to the changing climate and enhanced resilience of ecosystems **Outcome 2c**. Enhanced capability of communities to make evidence-based decisions on mitigating future disasters		vulnerability and community ability to cope (LBA and RCCVA)
	Output 2.2. CCA sub-project proposals developed	**Activity 2.2.1**. Development of concrete adaptation strategies and actions **Activity 2.2.2**. Plan implementation and adaptive management
	Output 2.3. Grants approved for community CCA sub-projects for key climate-sensitive sectors (e.g., agriculture, forestry, coastal protection, etc.)	**Activity 2.3.1**. Indicative activities to be targeted: ▪ Install rainwater harvesting systems. ▪ Alternative livelihoods (according to local needs) supported. ▪ Biodiversity conservation: Habitat management (e.g. coral reef, threatened species). ▪ Coastal protection measures, e.g., mangrove reforestation; beach nourishment.

12. COMPONENT 3: CAPACITY BUILDING FOR COMMUNITY READINESS.

12.01. Capacity building and training will be provided to farmers, residents and community organisations, to get them ready to implement the project and more specifically, to support effective response to climate-related disasters, improving climate awareness and knowledge within these vulnerable communities, and ultimately saving lives and livelihoods. The approach to capacity building will ensure that communities, CBOs and other local government actors are involved in all stages of the project. It will involve shared decision making between the project and the communities and other stakeholders, be gender and socially inclusive and adaptable to the local context. Closely involving the community should ensure that existing inequalities and vulnerabilities are not exacerbated.

12.02. The CART, developed by CDRRF, aims to assess community capacity at the start of the project using criteria/checklists/guidance to determine and develop a readiness score. The CART is an innovative method for estimating the level of readiness of a community to design and implement development interventions. It can be used as both a research tool to assess levels of readiness across a group of communities or as a tool to guide developmental efforts at the individual community level. The Community Engagement Surveys will also be executed to identify communities' communication needs and preferences. The initial focus will be on awareness raising of community members, local NGOs, CBOs and municipal authorities, on Community-based Risk Assessment approaches, including the impacts of current climate variability and extremes as an entry point in discussing the future impacts. The emphasis will be on strengthening community adaptive capacity for accessing climate information and managing risk and uncertainty. The strengthening of local civil society capacity will be important in better supporting communities locally led adaptation efforts.

12.03. Training on climate resilient livelihoods, ecosystem protection, catchment management, etc., (as part of development of the community climate change adaptation plans) will be provided in a way that

short-term tangible benefits can be gleaned, alongside longer-term ones, in order to provide motivation for community members to continue to be involved. For example, individual community members (or groups) will be able to apply knowledge gained in advance of a community sub-project being approved and financed. The project will also ensure that the knowledge base for capacity development is diverse and includes knowledge from traditional, local sources as well as from science. Capacity building will also be provided for proposal writing and accessing finance to implement adaptation actions. This will be targeted at individuals working in Civil Society, NGOs and CBOs who will have responsibility for preparing proposals for grant financing to implement their adaptation projects. The University of the West Indies (UWI) offers such a course online so the project could seek partnership with them to make the course available.

Outcomes	Outputs	Activities
Outcome 3. Strengthened community readiness to design and implement development activities	**Output 3.1**. Training and capacity building for community members to increase awareness and enhance adaptation capacity	**Activity 3.1.1**. Consultations with community members to identify training needs and prepare training plan **Activity 3.1.2**. Increasing awareness and understanding of climate change, its impacts, and adaptation strategies. (CART tool and Community Engagement Surveys) **Activity 3.1.3**. Training on community engagement, and participatory decision-making processes to help build trust, collaboration, and collective action for adaptation **Activity 3.1.4**. Develop educational radio and TV programmes on climate adaptation strategies **Activity 3.1.5**. Training on fundraising, proposal writing, and resource mobilization to finance adaptation activities **Activity 3.1.6**. Training for small artisans and local contractors to construct disaster resilient buildings and infrastructure **Activity 3.1.7**. Specific Skills training for subprojects in Component 2, e.g., training in water harvesting techniques; demonstration plots established for practical training in CSA; SLM training.

13. **COMPONENT 4: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND DISSEMINATION**:

13.01. This component will involve identifying, capturing, storing, and sharing relevant information to support informed decision-making and improve project performance. It will facilitate the sharing of

knowledge, experiences, and best practices among project stakeholders, and the wider Caribbean, fostering collaboration and innovation. It will support the development of a number of Knowledge Management products, including best practice notes and guidelines, media, outreach material and knowledge forums. This will include the development of a repository of adaptation options, including designs and technologies, and identify potential areas for knowledge sharing and learning between communities across the region with similar vulnerability profiles. Various forums will be held to connect key stakeholder groups, practitioners and experts to ensure that key learning and experience is shared within and across sectors and countries. All knowledge products, generated within the project including technical reports, methodological guidelines, planning and outreach materials will be collected and archived on e-library on multi-hazard disaster risk management and climate resilience and available on-line. This will ensure access to data and information generated by the project as well as long-term access to data that can be used for evidence for policy and practice advice. Regional knowledge sharing workshops will also be hosted with community development and disaster risk management experts, as well as showcasing these knowledge products and best practices at regional and international best conferences.

Outcomes	Outputs	Activities
Outcome 4. Repository of adaptation options and best practice participatory planning tools developed and disseminated nationally and regionally	**Output 4.1**. Compendium on local knowledge of and response to natural hazards	**Activity 4.1.1**. Develop databases, knowledge platforms and online repositories **Activity 4.1.2**. Organise workshops, seminars, training sessions, online platforms, and publications
	Output 4.2. Knowledge products (e.g., Best Practice Guide on establishing MHCBEWS in the Caribbean)	**Activity 4.2.1**. Develop adaptation guides, BP notes, etc. **Activity 4.2.2**. Organize in-country and regional forums

B. **Describe how the programme would contribute to comprehensive application of all eight of the Principles of LLA together[20]. Furthermore, where relevant, promote new and innovative solutions to climate change adaptation, including new approaches, technologies, and mechanisms that are particularly suited to a regional, locally-led context.**

14. The design of this programme is grounded in the eight internationally recognized principles of LLA, ensuring that local stakeholders are not merely beneficiaries but are central decision-makers in climate adaptation efforts throughout the project lifecycle. At the core of this approach is the commitment to devolving decision-making to the lowest appropriate level, thereby enabling communities, those most affected by climate impacts, to meaningfully shape the interventions that influence their lives and livelihoods. This empowers local actors with both the authority and responsibility to lead adaptation initiatives from the ground up. The programme places strong emphasis on addressing structural inequalities by intentionally including marginalized groups such as women, Indigenous Peoples, youth, and persons with disabilities in the design and implementation processes. Adequate time will be allotted for engagement activities to ensure intervention are not merely tokenistic but transformative. This ensures that adaptation efforts are inclusive and reflect diverse perspectives. Moreover, investing in local capabilities is a key pillar, with resources dedicated to strengthening the institutional, technical, and financial capacities of

[20] Principles for locally led adaptation: https://www.flickr.com/photos/iied/52100485111/ ; chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.iied.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/2021-01/10211IIED.pdf

community-based organizations and local authorities to plan, implement, and sustain adaptation interventions. By providing patient and predictable funding, the programme ensures that local actors have access to the long-term, flexible financing necessary for sustained engagement and innovation. In line with the principle of flexible programming and learning, the initiative encourages adaptive management, where local feedback informs real-time adjustments to project design and delivery. This responsiveness enhances the relevance and sustainability of interventions.

15. To ensure transparency and accountability, the programme promotes community monitoring mechanisms, participatory budgeting, and inclusive governance structures that enable residents to track progress and hold implementing entities accountable. Through collaborative action and investment, the programme also strengthens partnerships among governments, civil society, and private sector actors, aligning resources and knowledge for greater impact. Finally, the initiative supports the promotion of locally determined priorities, recognising that local knowledge and innovation are critical to identifying context-specific, cost-effective solutions that can be delivered at greater speed and efficiency. Overall, the programme adopts a bottom-up approach that reflects the lived realities of the targeted communities on the climate frontlines. By aligning with the eight principles of LLA, it seeks to deliver more effective, equitable, and sustainable adaptation outcomes that are owned and led by the very people they aim to support. Details on the specific approaches being used in the programme design for each principle are outlined below.

Principle 1: Devolving decision-making to the lowest appropriate level: Giving local institutions and communities more direct access to finance and decision-making power over how adaptation actions are defined, prioritized, designed, implemented; how progress is monitored; and how success is evaluated.

16. Project design must intentionally shift authority and access resources toward local institutions and communities. This involves more than consultation; but rather embedding structures and processes that allow local actors to define, prioritize, implement, and evaluate adaptation actions based on their unique contexts and lived experiences. Using the lessons learned from the CDRRF and BNTF community groups capacity assessment, a similar approach will be executed to determine the capacity gaps within local governance structures and formulating strengthening interventions based on the unique gaps. These may include adaptation committees or inclusive local councils composed of representatives from key groups such as women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and persons with disabilities. The aim is to ensure the programme incorporates activities to formally empower entities to contribute to decision-making across all project phases.

17. Accompanying this, participatory planning processes such as community risk mapping, vulnerability assessments, and problem-ranking exercises will be used during the project's design phase to ensure adaptation priorities are shaped by those on the frontline of climate impacts. To support these structures, it will be critical to provide direct access to financing. Project design will also include small grants or micro-financing mechanisms that allow local organizations and community groups to implement tailored adaptation activities. These financing streams will be accompanied by capacity-building efforts focused on proposal development, procurement, financial management, and results monitoring. Strengthening these capabilities will enable communities to responsibly manage funds and sustain adaptation initiatives beyond the life of the project.

18. Additionally, community-led monitoring and evaluation (M&E) should be an integral part of the project. This could include the use of citizen scorecards, participatory dashboards, and feedback platforms that allow local actors to monitor implementation progress, identify bottlenecks, and recommend course corrections. These local M&E mechanisms should feed into the overall project evaluation framework to ensure learning and accountability are rooted in local perspectives. The project's governance framework should also clearly define the formal roles of community actors in key decision-making milestones such as

budget approvals, work plan reviews, and oversight of safeguards. These roles should be institutionalized in terms of reference to project steering committees or national adaptation platforms. Furthermore, local knowledge and innovation must be documented and integrated into adaptation plans and results frameworks, recognizing the value of traditional practices and Indigenous coping strategies in strengthening climate resilience. Through these mechanisms, Principle 1 becomes more than a guiding value but a practical, measurable framework for empowering communities and devolving adaptation decision-making. This leads to more relevant, responsive, and sustainable outcomes that are truly owned by those most affected by climate change.

Principle 2: Addressing structural inequalities faced by women, youth, children, people living with disabilities, the displaced, Indigenous peoples, and marginalized ethnic groups: Integrating gender-based, economic, and political inequalities that are root causes of vulnerability into the core of adaptation action and encouraging vulnerable and marginalized individuals to meaningfully participate in and lead adaptation decisions.

19. By embedding the second LLA principle at the heart of programme design and implementation, the initiative would not only recognize but actively dismantle the economic, social, and political barriers that limit the agency of these groups in climate-related decision-making processes. Through inclusive planning processes, the programme would ensure that representatives from these communities are engaged from the outset not just as beneficiaries, but as leaders and co-creators of adaptation solutions. This would be supported through targeted capacity development, inclusive governance frameworks, and dedicated resourcing to support their participation. Lessons from the application of the Community Engagement Survey (see link Community_Engagement_Survey_BVI_Feb10.pdf) executed under the CDRRF will be applied by administering surveys with a diverse group of community beneficiaries across the targeted communities. The aim of this data collection exercise is to identify the engagement needs and preferences of each group and using the findings to prepare a community engagement plan which outlines the preferred day, locations, times and engagement method for each group. In-country project teams will also be required to complete CDB's Community Engagement Online Course to advance their skills in facilitating meaningful engagement. Community leaders will be exposed to the in-person version of this training. This course will allow them to develop approaches to identifying and removing barriers to the participation of specific and the create a project implementation that is responsive to needs of a diverse group of community residents. Module four on the online course focusses on the provision of guidelines for engaging Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Caribbean allowing project teams develop engagement methods that are aligned with the established principles and to secure the trust of Indigenous leaders.

20. The programme would seek to facilitate the establishment or strengthening of local groups to lead conversation and actions related to environmental protection. An assessment will also be done to determine the level of representation and involvement of women, youth, and persons with disabilities, ensuring they have a voice in defining priorities, designing interventions, and overseeing implementation. Special focus would be placed on Indigenous and tribal communities in Belize and Jamaica, whose traditional ecological knowledge systems can inform locally appropriate and culturally relevant adaptation practices. Simultaneously, youth from urban and rural communities across the five countries will also be trained in climate innovation and green technologies, thereby positioning them as local adaptation champions and entrepreneurs. Women's economic empowerment would also be prioritized, with interventions supporting their access to climate-resilient livelihoods, land rights, and climate financing mechanisms tailored to their needs and constraints.

21. Moreover, the programme would promote context-specific innovation by testing and scaling up solutions that respond to the lived realities of marginalized groups. For example, the development of accessible early warning systems that consider the mobility limitations of persons with disabilities or localized water harvesting systems in drought-prone areas that reduce the burden on women and children

who typically collect water. Adaptation finance would be added to capacity building activities and be equitably distributed, with small grants allocated to women-led community groups or youth cooperatives to pilot nature-based solutions, agroecology, and circular economy initiatives. These approaches not only reduce vulnerability but also help transform unequal systems by empowering the most affected to lead and innovate in climate adaptation. Ultimately, the LLA programme would serve as a catalyst for inclusive transformation by ensuring that adaptation is not only technically sound and community-driven but also equitable and justice-centered. In doing so, it would help to shift adaptation from reactive measures to proactive systems of change, thereby reducing both climate risks and the social inequalities that underpin them.

Principle 3: Providing patient and predictable funding that can be accessed more easily: Supporting long-term development of local governance processes, capacity, and institutions through simpler access modalities and longer-term and more-predictable funding horizons to ensure that communities can effectively implement adaptation actions.

22. A strategic approach will be applied during the programme's design and implementation to comprehensively apply Principle Three by reshaping the way adaptation finance is designed, accessed, and deployed in targeted vulnerable communities. This principle underscores the importance of providing patient, predictable, and accessible funding to support the long-term capacity and governance needs of local actors a critical enabler for sustained and impactful adaptation action in the Caribbean context. These countries, often characterized by fragmented funding cycles and high administrative burdens, require a shift toward financing systems that are community-responsive, streamlined, and long-term orientation. The 2023 BNTF Pilot Assessment of Civil Society Organisations across the region highlighted a significant gap in the ability community leaders to access grant funding with 98% of those surveyed not having the skills to write award winning grant proposals. Further dialogue with community leaders around this finding also brought to the fore that how proposal writing trainings are often structure is inadequate as participants tend to the leave these workshops without knowing how to documents a grant proposal on their own.

23. To meet this need, the programme would establish simplified funding mechanisms tailored to the capacities of community-based organizations (CBOs), Indigenous groups, and local authorities. These mechanisms would feature user-friendly application processes, reduced reporting burdens, and capacity support to enable first-time applicants, particularly those from historically excluded communities to access funds without relying on intermediaries. Grant funding will include supporting the institutional strengthening of local governance bodies, climate committees, CSO and individuals in planning, resource allocation, and monitoring. The programme will establish technical assistance hubs at the national and sub-national levels to assist local actors with project development, compliance, and adaptive management. These hubs will provide continuous mentoring and coaching, allowing for iterative learning and adjustment over time, a key element of patient finance. By focusing on long-term outcomes and allowing room for experimentation, the programme would foster an enabling environment for innovation in adaptation. Community innovators, particularly women, youth, and persons with disabilities, would be encouraged to propose and test new approaches, such as digital climate monitoring tools, water-efficient farming systems, or mobile-based risk communication strategies. Further incentives will be provided to encourage relevant technologies and indigenous knowledge solutions tailored to the specific needs of each island context.

24. Furthermore, predictable funding will allow for the institutionalization of adaptation planning at the local level, such as integrating community-based adaptation strategies into municipal development plans or establishing revolving climate resilience funds managed by local cooperatives. This institutional continuity, supported by secure funding streams, would foster trust and increase the legitimacy of local governance processes. It would also enable communities to build partnerships over time, leverage co-financing opportunities, and gradually reduce their dependence on external technical and financial support. Overall, by providing long-term, accessible, and flexible funding, the LLA programme would shift the paradigm from reactive, donor-driven project cycles to proactive, community-led resilience building. In

doing so, it would strengthen the foundational capacities of Caribbean communities to lead their own adaptation journeys, ensuring that adaptation efforts are not only sustained but also scalable and transformative.

Principle 4: Investing in local capabilities to leave an institutional legacy: Improving the capabilities of local institutions to ensure they can understand climate risks and uncertainties, generate solutions, and facilitate and manage adaptation initiatives over the long term without being dependent on project-based donor funding.

25. In the Caribbean context, many local institutions, particularly community-based organisations (CBOs), and municipal bodies, often face constraints in technical knowledge, access to tools, and long-term funding. These constraints limit their ability to independently understand and respond to evolving climate risks. The programme would aim to reverse this trend by deliberately building the human, technical, and organisational capacities needed for long-term, autonomous adaptation governance. A central feature of the programme would be the establishment and strengthening of the agencies with responsibility for community development, technical units within existing local government frameworks and community groups. These entities would be equipped to conduct climate vulnerability assessments, design and manage adaptation projects, and coordinate with national agencies and external partners. On the other hand, CBOs will be provided with skills to aid in the monitoring of project implementation against targeted deliveries and outcomes, in addition to increasing local awareness through various communication tools.

26. Technical training for local staff and community volunteers would focus on climate data interpretation, use of early warning systems, community engagement, and environmental monitoring. In addition to traditional training formats, the programme would promote peer learning exchanges across the five countries, enabling cross-island sharing of best practices and innovations rooted in local contexts. To deepen local ownership and institutional continuity, the programme would support the integration of adaptation roles into existing community development mandates. This will include the incorporation of climate risk management into local disaster committees, parish councils, or Indigenous governance structures, ensuring that adaptation is not treated as a stand-alone project, but as a core component of local development planning. The development of local adaptation strategies and climate action plans, with community input and government endorsement, will further solidify institutional roles and responsibilities for adaptation, while embedding local knowledge and values in formal governance frameworks.

27. Crucially, the programme would also catalyse innovation by introducing mechanisms for testing and scaling locally generated adaptation solutions. This could involve building local capacity to apply climate-smart technologies such as GIS mapping, mobile-based risk communication platforms, and decentralized water harvesting systems tailored to island geographies. Youth innovators, local entrepreneurs, and traditional knowledge holders would be mobilized through innovation labs and community grants to develop solutions that reflect the cultural, ecological, and economic realities of their communities. Ultimately, by investing in local institutions to manage adaptation over the long term rather than relying solely on external project-based support the LLA programme would help build climate resilience from the inside out. It would leave behind not just projects, but empowered institutions capable of continuously assessing risks, managing resources, and guiding their communities through the uncertainty of a changing climate. This approach not only strengthens sustainability but also reinforces the Caribbean's regional leadership in inclusive, bottom-up climate governance.

Principle 5: Building a robust understanding of climate risk and uncertainty: Informing adaptation decisions through a combination of local, traditional, Indigenous, generational, and scientific knowledge that can enable resilience under a range of future climate scenarios.

28. These five Caribbean countries are experiencing intensifying climate threats, including hurricanes, coastal erosion, drought, and flooding placing disproportionate burdens on vulnerable communities. The programme aims to place local actors at the centre of adaptation planning and delivery, ensuring that interventions reflect lived realities, build long-term resilience, and leave a sustainable legacy. The programme devolves decision-making to the lowest appropriate level by enabling communities to lead the identification, design, and implementation of adaptation solutions. Through community planning workshops, participatory vulnerability assessments, and validation exercises, residents will have direct influence over how funds are used and how success is defined. In doing so, the programme fosters community ownership, accountability, and responsiveness to local priorities.

29. Recognizing the structural inequalities embedded within Caribbean societies, the programme will ensure inclusive participation of women, youth, persons with disabilities, Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, and other historically marginalized groups. Tailored engagement approaches will be used to amplify the voices of those often excluded from development processes. In this way, the programme will help to redress power imbalances and ensure that adaptation benefits are equitably distributed. To ensure sustained action, the programme will provide patient and predictable funding through multi-year allocations that are accessible to local organizations and community actors. This approach will support the long-term development of local governance mechanisms, allowing adaptation initiatives to evolve over time and reduce dependence on short-term, project-based cycles. It will also support community groups in planning strategically and managing risks proactively, rather than reactively. Local capability will be strengthened through targeted investments in the skills and systems of civil society organizations, community groups, and local government entities. Training will be provided on climate risk assessment, project management, financial reporting, and community engagement. These efforts will contribute to an institutional legacy that outlives the programme itself, empowering local actors to continue adaptation efforts independently and confidently.

30. A cornerstone of the programme is the integration of multiple knowledge systems to build a robust understanding of climate risk and uncertainty. This includes blending local, traditional, Indigenous, generational, and scientific knowledge to develop context-specific solutions. For example, fisherfolk in Jamaica and Grenada will contribute generations of marine knowledge to inform sea safety and coastal protection strategies, while farmers in Belize and St. Vincent will draw on both ancestral practices and modern techniques to implement climate-smart agriculture. This integration enhances community resilience to both current and future climate scenarios. The programme's design allows for flexibility and continuous learning. Adaptation activities will be monitored and reviewed regularly, with built-in mechanisms for communities to reflect on what is working, share lessons, and adjust their approaches. These feedback loops will enable communities in Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica, and beyond to course correct as climate conditions shift and new challenges emerge.

31. Transparency and accountability will be promoted through open communication channels, participatory monitoring frameworks, and tools such as community scorecards and digital dashboards. Communities will have access to timely information on funding, implementation progress, and impact, which will enhance trust and collaboration among all stakeholders. Finally, the programme will facilitate collaborative action and learning by creating platforms for peer exchange, south-south learning, and regional innovation. Community leaders from across the five countries will have opportunities to learn from each other, pilot innovative solutions, and scale what works across different geographies and contexts. These exchanges will be especially valuable for advancing locally appropriate innovations, such as low-tech water harvesting systems in drought-prone parts of St. Vincent or renewable energy solutions for remote coastal areas in Belize.

Principle 6: Flexible programming and learning: Enabling adaptive management to address the inherent uncertainty in adaptation, especially through robust monitoring and learning systems, flexible finance, and flexible programming.

32. The programme enables adaptive management by embedding flexibility across all phases of implementation. Climate adaptation inherently requires the ability to adjust plans in real time as new information becomes available, as weather patterns shift, or as community needs evolve. To support this, the programme will invest in robust monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems that allow community members, implementing partners, and government actors to jointly assess progress, identify emerging challenges, and adapt interventions accordingly. For example, in flood-prone areas of Jamaica or drought-affected farming communities in Belize, Kobo toolbox online data collection tools will be used to administer surveys and the findings used to inform real-time decisions, ensuring that adaptation actions remain relevant and responsive. This approach will be built on lessons from the World Bank and BNTF joint pilot portfolio mapping exercise.

33. For component three of the programme, focus will be placed on executing Locally Led Climate Change Adaptation Planning to help communities develop 3 to 5-year plans that set out the priority measures the community would implement to adapt to the impacts of climate change. This component will also allow communities to access grants for the implementation of subprojects, identified within the plan, that support alternative livelihoods (varied sources of income that contribute to sustainable utilisation of natural resources), and protect ecosystems on which communities depend. One of the lessons from the CDRRF was that communities lacked ownership of plans because there were no resources available for them to implement the adaptation activities they identified. The Locally Led approach would allow local communities to have full ownership over the adaptation process. Access to the grant resources will be facilitated through the overall planning process, as the final version of the Plan will clearly outline the project to be implemented, and the support required for its effective execution. This process will allow communities full access to the grant resource despite their capacity to design project proposals or to implement projects.

34. In addition, the programme will promote flexible finance mechanisms within capacity-building interventions, to allow community groups and individuals to implement demonstration projects in alignment with their improved competencies in CCA techniques. Rather than rigid budget structures, each community will be supported with streamlined grant funding processes and guidance to adjust their interventions within approved parameters, enhancing their autonomy and responsiveness. This flexibility will be tailored to the capabilities of beneficiaries to ensure full access through grant application and implementation systems that are inclusive. Project management teams and project stakeholders will benefit from training in proposal writing to allow them to provide project design and implementation support to beneficiary groups and individuals with project ideas. These professionals will be required to complete the proposal writing online course accessible on CDB's training platform.

35. Learning is not treated as a one-time event but as a continuous, participatory process. The programme will support community reflection sessions, peer learning exchanges, and regional knowledge-sharing platforms to facilitate adaptive learning among diverse stakeholders. For instance, community-based organizations in Grenada may share lessons with counterparts in St. Vincent on managing community early warning systems, or youth leaders in Antigua and Barbuda may exchange digital innovation strategies with those in Belize. These cross-country exchanges build a culture of experimentation and shared problem-solving that enriches the region's adaptation ecosystem. The programme also contributes to the advancement of new and innovative adaptation solutions that are uniquely suited to local contexts. These include nature-based approaches such as mangrove restoration in coastal areas, solar-powered irrigation systems for drought-affected farming communities and the use of traditional water catchment techniques combined with modern storage technologies in. Importantly, these innovations are not externally imposed

but co-designed with local stakeholders, blending traditional knowledge with scientific insight and technological advancement.

Principle 7: Ensuring transparency and accountability: Making processes of financing, designing, and delivering programs more transparent and accountable downward to local stakeholders.

36. At its core, the programme would devolve decision-making to the lowest appropriate level by empowering community-based organizations, Indigenous groups, and local authorities to lead in designing, prioritizing, and executing adaptation strategies. It would address structural inequalities by ensuring the meaningful participation of women, youth, persons with disabilities, and marginalized populations throughout the project cycle. Predictable funding mechanisms would be established with the Community Based Adaptation planning process to enable community actors to manage projects responsibly and implement solutions over sustained periods. Capacity development would be embedded to strengthen local institutions and enhance their technical, financial, and governance capabilities, leaving an enduring institutional legacy. The programme would integrate scientific and traditional knowledge to build a nuanced understanding of climate risks and generate solutions tailored to local ecosystems, cultures, and practices.

37. Crucially, the programme would operationalise Principle 6 by embedding downward accountability systems at every stage. Community scorecards, open budget platforms, digital dashboards, and participatory monitoring frameworks would be utilized to ensure that financing, planning, and implementation decisions are communicated clearly and consistently to local stakeholders. These tools would help build trust and legitimacy while enabling communities to hold implementing partners and institutions accountable. Additionally, feedback mechanisms would be institutionalised to ensure adaptive management and ongoing responsiveness to local priorities. The programme would also foster regionally tailored innovation by piloting and scaling new climate-smart technologies such as mobile-based early warning systems, nature-based flood mitigation infrastructure, and renewable-powered irrigation tools co-designed and tested with communities. These approaches would not only improve local resilience to climate change impacts like sea-level rise, extreme heat, and drought, but also strengthen democratic participation and ownership, resulting in a truly locally led and transparent climate adaptation model for the Caribbean.

Principle 8: Collaborative action and investment: Collaboration across sectors, initiatives, and levels to ensure that different initiatives and different sources of funding (e.g., humanitarian assistance, development, disaster risk reduction, green recovery funds) support each other, and their activities avoid duplication, to enhance efficiencies and good practice.

38. By devolving decision-making power to the community level, the programme would empower local institutions and grassroots actors to shape priorities, design interventions, and monitor outcomes (Principle 1). It would address systemic inequalities by deliberately including women, youth, Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, and persons with disabilities in all phases of programming (Principle 2). Flexible and predictable funding modalities would allow communities to take ownership of their adaptation journeys and build institutional stability (Principle 3), while sustained investment in local capabilities would enable these actors to manage adaptation efforts beyond the life of the programme (Principle 4). The programme would also integrate local, Indigenous, and scientific knowledge to inform climate risk assessments and locally appropriate adaptation solutions (Principle 5), foster adaptive management and learning through iterative feedback loops (Principle 6), and promote transparent decision-making and downward accountability using tools such as community scorecards and participatory budgeting (Principle 7).

39. Principle eight will be operationalised by aligning diverse funding streams and sectoral interventions across climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, social protection, and humanitarian

assistance. The programme would establish coordination platforms that bring together national governments, local authorities, civil society, private sector actors, and development partners map existing climate financing and co-design integrated resilience strategies and avoid duplication of efforts. This collaborative ecosystem would enable the pooling of resources and knowledge across sectors and scales, enhancing the efficiency and impact of adaptation financing and programming. For example, a community-based training programme on constructing climate resilience infrastructure in Jamaica or Grenada could foster collaboration with the national training agencies as well as the humanitarian organisations implementing low-income housing solutions for greater impact and project scalability. These efforts would be guided by shared objectives and data, enhancing interoperability and reinforcing good practice.

40. The programme would also serve as an incubator for innovative, regionally appropriate solutions, including joint portfolio map for climate financing across the five countries, digital risk communication platforms for early warning systems, and scalable nature-based infrastructure. By facilitating regional learning exchanges and showcasing scalable models of collaborative action, the programme would enhance the collective capacity of Caribbean states to respond to climate change in a harmonized, locally led, and forward-looking manner.

C. Describe how the project/programme will source locally-led small grant proposals, and screen them for the potential to support concrete adaptation actions to assist the participating countries in addressing the adverse effects of climate change and build in climate resilience.

41. The programme's small grants facility will be a main feature in the community-based adaptation plan as well as the MHEWS and capacity building interventions and designed to ensure equitable access to climate finance by addressing structural barriers commonly faced by local actors, including grassroots groups, informal networks, Indigenous and tribal peoples, women, youth, and persons with disabilities. To source high impact, locally led adaptation proposals, the programme will implement an inclusive outreach and sensitization campaign within the targeted communities using local media, community meetings, social networks, and civil society channels to reach diverse stakeholders, including those in remote and underserved areas. These efforts will be supported by partnerships with community development agencies and local facilitators to ensure that language, literacy, and connectivity barriers do not hinder participation.

42. The grant funding will operationalise the principle of devolving decision-making to the lowest appropriate level by establishing structured mechanisms that give local authorities, civil society organizations, and community groups both the authority and resources to define, prioritize, design, and implement adaptation actions. This would begin with the creation of a decentralized funding window that includes small grant facilities accessible directly by local actors, including local governments, community-based organizations (CBOs), and Indigenous or Tribal groups. To ensure inclusivity, the application process would be simplified and culturally appropriate, allowing for both written and oral submissions. Funds would be disbursed directly to these entities, with support for fiduciary training and project management to build their capacity over time.

43. The programme would also include participatory planning processes, such as Community Adaptation Planning Sessions, where community members collaboratively identify their specific climate risks and propose locally relevant solutions. These participatory sessions would feed into national adaptation planning processes, creating a bottom-up approach to climate action. To reinforce local ownership, community-based steering committees would be established with decision-making authority over project selection, implementation oversight, and grievance redress. These committees would include representatives from local government, women and youth groups, Indigenous leaders, and technical partners to ensure broad and equitable participation.

44. To strengthen local capacity, the programme would offer ongoing training and mentorship in proposal writing, monitoring and evaluation, and financial management. National and regional learning facilitators would be embedded to accompany local actors and ensure quality control. Additionally, feedback mechanisms such as community scorecards and regular reflection meetings would be used to track progress and adjust activities based on community input. This not only promotes transparency but reinforces the principle that local actors should have continuous influence over how adaptation is delivered.

45. The grant facility will operate two dedicated streams: one for community-based organizations and another for individuals with strong local adaptation ideas. This two streams approach was influenced by lessons from the CDRRF which highlighted the need to provide support to both community groups and individuals to implement demonstration projects, resulting from their access to new knowledge on CCA. Proposal calls will be publicly announced through multiple platforms with clear guidelines. Based on the capacity needs of community actors identified by the Beneficiary Assessment conducted at project design, simplified application and culturally appropriate procedure will be formulated for greater access to all residents and groups. Capacity-building workshops and one-on-one technical support will be provided throughout the proposal development phase. Support will also extend into project implementation to improve effectiveness and sustainability.

46. Grant proposals will be screened using a transparent and participatory process that emphasizes:

(a) Alignment with community-based adaptation plans

(b) Potential to deliver concrete and sustainable adaptation outcomes

(c) Inclusivity and local ownership

(d) Potential for sustainability

(e) Innovation or use of traditional knowledge

(f) Scalability and replicability

47. The governance structure of the small grants mechanism will be adjusted to ensure that local actors have genuine agency in decision-making. This will include representation of community stakeholders in proposal review panels, community validation sessions, and participatory monitoring. Final decisions will be made by a multi-stakeholder project oversight committee, which includes community development officers, civil society representatives, and relevant sectoral agencies. The grant process will be implemented over defined cycles, with clear timelines for submission, review, feedback, approval, disbursement, and reporting. The financing model will be flexible, allowing for phased disbursement, adaptive management, and cost adjustments based on evolving needs and community feedback.

48. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning will be an integral part of the small grants mechanism. A results-based framework will track outputs, outcomes, and impacts through participatory tools such as community scorecards, beneficiary feedback sessions, and digital storytelling. The programme will capture lessons from the design and execution of each grant, using these insights to inform future funding cycles and adaptation planning. Key findings will be documented and disseminated through knowledge briefs, peer exchanges, and regional learning events. Ongoing technical assistance will be provided at all stages from initial idea development to final reporting. This will include training in project design, financial management, climate risk analysis, implementation planning, and monitoring and reporting. These investments will not only improve project quality but also contribute to long-term institutional strengthening and sustainability of local adaptation action.

D. Describe how the project/programme provides economic, social and environmental benefits.

49. The regional countries are facing increasing climate-related challenges that threaten their livelihoods, economic stability, and overall resilience. Across the participating countries there has been experiences related to severe droughts, erratic rainfall, soil degradation, rising sea levels, and extreme weather events, all of which disproportionately impact local and indigenous communities. Water scarcity for these countries has become a critical issue, driving up costs for residents and leading to health concerns due to limited access to clean water. Farming and other communities have suffered significant crop losses due to hurricanes and storm surges, reducing food security and income generation. There are also infrastructure vulnerabilities that further exacerbate the situation, as people in vulnerable communities often lack the necessary skills to lead responses to build the resilience required. This has led to higher rebuilding costs and increased disaster vulnerability. Additionally, communities have limited access to climate-smart knowledge, adaptation resources, and coordinated support systems, making it difficult to implement sustainable solutions. The urgency of this crisis is compounded by slow recovery efforts and severe capacity constraints within the Ministry responsible for coordinating adaptation initiatives. Without greater coordination and adherence to climate adaptation standards, rebuilding efforts will remain fragmented, leaving communities exposed to future climate shocks. A locally led, well-structured adaptation strategy is essential to enhancing resilience, strengthening disaster preparedness, and ensuring sustainable livelihoods.

50. This project is designed to empower communities by promoting LLA solutions that directly address water scarcity, extreme weather impacts, and infrastructure vulnerabilities. The project aims to support activities that will implement LLA solutions across the five participating countries. These activities, outlined above, will be further defined during the full project preparation phase. In addition, there will be USPs to support community capacity building. These USPs will be financed using small grants defined under Component 2. The project activities and USPs will all be in compliance with the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy, and Gender Policy. As required, an ESMP and Gender Assessment and Action Plan will be completed during the full project development stage. An initial high-level gender assessment is being prepared will accompany the final submission of this Concept Note. The project will also incorporate the key CDB's safeguards for selection of proposals for the small grants. CDB already has experience from its BNTF and CDRFF programmes that can be applied to the design of selection criteria to guide the small grant element of the project. It is anticipated that the process will require clear community involvement and compliance with local and national regulations.

51. Climate change is placing increasing pressure on farmers, fisherfolk, and artisans, making it essential to implement sustainable, community-driven interventions that enhance resilience. Through climate-smart agriculture (CSA), drought mitigation, and risk management, the project will support innovative adaptation tools and technologies, including water harvesting systems, enhanced fisher safety measures, and targeted climate education programs. By equipping local stakeholders with the knowledge, skills, and resources to implement these solutions, the project ensures long-term resilience and reduces vulnerability to climate shocks. This initiative is fully aligned with national climate adaptation strategies and global frameworks such as the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 (Climate Action). By focusing on community engagement, knowledge transfer, and coordinated local action, the project fosters sustainable livelihoods, strengthens disaster preparedness, and builds long-term resilience. This approach ensures that communities are not just recipients of adaptation interventions but active participants in shaping their own climate resilience strategies.

E. Describe or provide an analysis of the cost-effectiveness of the proposed project/programme and explain how the regional approach would support cost-effectiveness.

52. The regional approach adopted by this project is cost effective in enabling economies of scale by leveraging adaptation responses that can be replicated in the participating countries as they face similar climate threats, adaptation challenges and national priorities. The countries also have limited financial resources and technical capacity to implement adaptation projects. The regional approach provides the opportunity of readily transferring learning and knowledge by replicating training or holding regional training events, capacity building and technical solutions simultaneously in several countries obviating the need for the countries to develop these themselves.

53. In the absence of financing from the AF for a regional project, the alternative would be national projects that could implement similar activities but on a much smaller scale, thereby minimizing impact. National projects would also have much higher average project costs, for example, not being able to utilise already developed training and capacity building strategies, community engagement tools, technical approaches, etc., as mentioned above. There are also economies of scale by having regional management thus reducing project management costs compared with individual national projects. For example, a single audit may be appropriate for the project. Procurement processes and logistics can also be streamlined leading to better prices and more efficient delivery of goods and services through bulk procurement. The M&E system can be readily applied across the project rather than developing individual plans per country.

54. The project will also facilitate direct learning exchanges across countries through the Knowledge Management component which will establish regional knowledge forums. This approach will readily transfer knowledge and best practices among the participating countries. Cost effectiveness will also be enhanced by the project's alignment with national adaptation strategies as described in Section F below. This means that the project will be addressing national priorities and not imposing additional costs on the countries that they might not have otherwise incurred.

C. Describe how the project/programme is consistent with national, sub-national and local sustainable development strategies, including, where appropriate, national, sub-national or local development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications, or national adaptation programs of action, or other relevant instruments, where they exist. If applicable, please refer to relevant regional plans and strategies where they exist.

55. The proposed project was developed for strategic alignment with national and sectoral development strategies as well as obligations under international conventions to which the countries are Party. In line with national priorities for development, the Project has been aligned to the various climate and national development strategies and the national determine contributions (NDCs) submitted to the UNFCCC. The Project also contributes to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 5 – Gender Equality; 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities; and 13 – Climate Action.

Belize

56. The project integrates strategic alignment with national and sectoral development strategies as well as an obligation under international conventions to which the country is a Party. In line with national priorities for development, the Project has been aligned to the Medium-Term Development Strategy (MTDS) 2022-2026[21]. The MTDS aims to support local communities through partnerships to help protect the natural environment. Some of the main programs and projects centers around strengthening coastal communities' resilience to climate change impacts and the mitigation of negative effects on rural and

[21] Belize-Med-Term-Dev-Stategy-Action-Plan-2022-to-2025.pdf

indigenous communities. The project also aligns with the Horizon 2030 Vision (2010-2030). Horizon 2030 is organized into seven thematic areas under four main pillars that speaks to environmental stewardship. A core value of this policy document is respect for the rules of law and human rights. It envisions Healthy Citizens and a Healthy Environment and emphasizes the need to put in place effective laws and regulations, information, and communication systems to protect the environment while promoting sustainable social and economic development. It strategizes that environmental protection laws will be enforced in a fair and just manner and, where needed, the legislation will be reformed (e.g. petroleum policy, mangrove legislation, and solid waste).

57. This project is also centered within the implementation of Belize's National Climate Change Policy, Strategy and Action Plan (NCCPSAP) which aims to guide the short, medium, and long-term processes of adaptation and mitigation of Climate Change and to ensure the mainstreaming and integration of Climate Change considerations at all levels of the development planning and operational processes of governance. The vision outlined in the NCCPSAP stipulates: Leadership and commitment to fully address the challenges of Climate Change and sea-level rise and harness the necessary resources in support of the development of special programs that are effective, resilient, and sustainable (NCCPSAP, 2015). Necessary adaptive mechanisms identified in Belize's Third National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and eight of Belize's adaptation targets from its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to UNFCCC have been incorporated within the Project thereby to improve the countries resiliency.

Antigua and Barbuda

58. The project is designed to complement Antigua and Barbuda's NDCs, which focus on enhancing climate resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate-induced hazards. By focusing on water challenges, early warning systems, and community capacity building, the project directly supports the NDCs' objectives of improving adaptive capacity and resilience. The project also supports the building of adaptive capacity and integrating climate resilience into national and sectoral planning. For example, Antigua and Barbuda National Action Plan 2015-2020 spoke to combatting issues of drought and improving delivery mechanisms for early warning to key stakeholders and groups. While dated, the National Action Plan aligns with Component 1 of the project where efforts to improve community resilience and capacity will be based on successful engagement and building public awareness. For Antigua and Barbuda these efforts are still on-going and relevant. There is also the National Communication on Climate Change 2009 that speaks to strengthening resilience against the hazards of climate change, including building resilience across vulnerable sectors such as water, coastal ecosystems and fisheries. The Medium-Term Development Strategy 2016-2020 would have outlined various strategies to move Antigua and Barbuda towards its long-term goals with action to reduce vulnerability to disaster and climate change risks, and to reduce or reverse adverse environmental impacts on communities. These strategies are on-going with the re-enforced aim of finding mechanisms to build the capacity needed for effective climate change related planning and management, focusing on women, youth and locally and marginalized communities.

59. Antigua and Barbuda is further seeking to increase the climate resilience of households with climate-vulnerable livelihoods that depend upon the fisheries and agricultural sectors by:

(a) Strengthening the physical climate resilience of the fisheries and agricultural sectors to slow onset and extreme weather events through the identification and implementation of priority adaptation interventions, with a focus on ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA); and

(b) Managing remaining extreme weather risk to climate-vulnerable livelihoods and food security by building the financial resilience of vulnerable households to climate shocks.

Grenada

60. Grenada is actively implementing locally led adaptation (LLA) strategies to enhance its resilience to climate change impacts. These strategies, outlined in Grenada's National Adaptation Plan (NAP), emphasize community involvement, ecosystem-based adaptation, and strengthening local capacity. The approach involves integrating climate change considerations into national planning, managing resources like water and coastal zones, and supporting community-based adaptation projects**.** In accordance with Grenada's National Climate Change Policy, the implementation vehicles for the policy's objectives, strategies and outcomes are the NDC and NAP. Delivery of the actions articulated in each document will ensure the operational components of the policy. Grenada's NAP sets out priorities and provides a roadmap to guide how communities across the tri-island state can collaborate to scale up efforts to cope with and respond to climate change.

61. By working together, local communities across the tri-island state are working together and with government to implement the NAP—accessing resources including funding for adaptation action, undertaking ecosystem-based adaptation action and other novel approaches to address climate impacts, raising local awareness of climate change impacts, piloting actions, strengthening their skills and knowledge, and seeing results. These important steps toward climate resilience need to be nurtured and protected. While local and national adaptation efforts in Grenada are crucial, they must be accompanied by global action to cut greenhouse gas emissions to prevent the worsening effects of climate change. The proposed project is also seen to be integrally linked and consistent with other relevant policies in particular, the National Climate Change Policy, The National Sustainable Development Plan 2035 and the national planning and budgeting process.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

62. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has been severely impacted by the effects of climate change over the course of several decades and as a result has had to pursue a proactive resilience building agenda and to implement measures to grapple with the myriad challenges posed by this phenomenon. Part of the island's response to the challenge has been to develop a strong national climate change framework and development agenda, that includes a National Climate Change Policy (NCCP, 2019), National Climate Change Strategy, a National Adaptation Plan (NAP)1, a Nationally Determined Contribution and the National Economic and Social Development Plan (2013-2025) among others which together encapsulate the climate response agenda of the country. The proposed project, in many ways, aligns with these national documents. The NCCP sets out the overarching framework and guidance for building resilience and mainstreaming climate change into the national development agenda, which aligns with project Component 3. The NCCP proposes an integrated and coordinated response that engages all stakeholders in collaborative actions for adaptation in SVG. It sets out a shared vision, goal and guiding principles for the climate change response.

63. The NCCP is aligned with the National Economic and Social Development Plan (2013-2025) as well as the National Adaptation Plan (2018-2030) and Nationally Determined Contributions (2015) that guide climate change adaptation and mitigation respectively. In particular, the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) provides a response to the serious adverse impacts of climate change experienced in the country particularly over the course of the past few decades, the NAP is designed to support implementation of priority climate actions by key stakeholders. The NAP is informing adaptive actions in the key sectors of - agriculture, water, forestry, tourism, health and public infrastructure, some of which is the focus of activities within the project. The National Economic and Social Development Plan offers a vision for improving the quality of life of all Vincentians based on the achievement of over-arching goals including improved physical infrastructure and environmental sustainability. Component 2 of the project aims to improve environmental sustainability through the development of adaptation action plan. These plans

espouse the need to preserve the environment and to build resilience to reduce the adverse impacts of climate change.

64. Following the passage of Hurricane Beryl, several priorities emerged from the post disaster needs assessment related to communities. Some of the key interventions[22] presented were:

(a) Develop incentives to encourage environmentally friendly practices, targeted to the private sector, communities and youth, including sustainable agricultural practices; sustainable forest management practices; mangrove rehabilitation; plastics disposal; recycling; and creation or enhancement of marine habitats.

(b) Develop and enhance Ecotourism Products in Rural Communities by capitalizing on the unique geological nature of SVG, and the rebuilding of trails and amenities at protected areas/ecotourism sites.

(c) Enhance public education and information on safe and resilient communities.

(d) Promote effective participation in decision-making by communities and vulnerable groups.

Jamaica

65. The project is aligned with Jamaica's Vision 2030 - National Development Plan. Vision 2023 is the overarching framework for sustainable development and climate change in Jamaica. It articulates national strategies including - improving resilience to all forms of hazards (e.g. expanding early warning systems), improving emergency response capability, and developing measures to adapt to climate change (e.g. through education, research, climate-proofing' policies. The four Components of the project speaks to these national strategies. It is also expected that the increased climate change impact will affect the vulnerable segments of the population hardest, especially in sectors such as agriculture and tourism. Implementation of Vision 2023 is driven by the Medium-Term Socio-economic Policy Framework (MTF). The Third National Communication (NC) also aligns with the project. The NC has identified priority sectors of - water, human health, agriculture, coastal resources and human settlement and tourism. These are all sectors vulnerable to climate change. The Jamaica Climate Change Policy Framework for Jamaica 2015 (CCPFJ) is aligned with and assists with implementing Vision 2030 Jamaica by reducing the risks posed by climate change to all of Jamaica's sectors and development goals.

D. Describe how the project/programme meets relevant national technical standards, where applicable, such as standards for environmental assessment, building codes, etc., and complies with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

66. The project meets the standards of environmental assessment, which will be enforced by the agencies within the participating countries that have the responsibility. These countries have regulations requiring Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA). The table below presents the piece of legislation under which the EIA falls. As the RIE, CDB has the fiduciary responsibility of ensuring the project adhere to the Environmental and Social Policy of the AF and to CDB's own standards. This includes full compliance with all human rights including those of marginalizes and vulnerable groups and indigenous peoples and tribes.

[22] Hurricane Beryl Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) - St. Vincent and the Grenadines | United Nations Development Programme

Country	Name of Legislation	Responsibility for Enforcement
Jamaica	Natural Resources Conservation Authority Act (NRCAA) - 1991	National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPAS)
Grenada	Physical Planning and Development Control Act	Ministry of Infrastructure and Physical Development, Public Utilities, Civil Aviation and Transportation
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	The Town and Country Planning Act	The Physical Planning Unit
Belize	The Environmental Protection Act	Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management
Antigua and Barbuda	The Physical Planning Act	Ministry of Housing, Works, Lands, and Urban Renewal

67. Under Component 3 of the project, capacity building will be provided to communities to get them to prepare and implement climate resilient projects. This will involve the provision of small grants for project preparation. While these projects are not yet identified, they will have to comply with the AF environmental and social policies and the LLA principles.

E. Describe if there is duplication of project/programme with other funding sources, if any.

68. There is no duplication of efforts from other funding sources at the time of concept development. Rather the project creates synergies with other projects and implement actions that will complement and enhance other projects further contributing to Belize's resiliency. Coordinated funding mechanisms and regional-level financial planning play a critical role in enhancing the financial stability of Caribbean countries and ensuring that adaptation investments are efficiently targeted to the areas of greatest need. By pooling resources and aligning priorities through a regional initiative, countries can access shared funding platforms, technical expertise, and strategic guidance that might otherwise be unavailable at the national level. This integrated approach promotes better risk-sharing, reduces duplication, and enhances negotiating power with international climate finance providers. To reduce duplication and strengthen project continuity, a portfolio map of climate finance projects will be developed by using Kobo toolbox online data collection platform, that has unique features such as collecting geospatial data, picture responses and translating, all of which are essential to the mapping process. Access to this data, will allow countries to plan effectively and analyse climate finance against the agreed targets real time. Development partners can also readily identify where the gaps are and improve on previous interventions.

69. This programme builds on key lessons from CANARI's *Generating Ideas for LLA* project, which was implemented across five Caribbean countries—Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Jamaica, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. The initiative focuses on strengthening local capacity by supporting 10 community groups per country through targeted training and grant financing to implement adaptation projects grounded in select LLA principles. Insights from this ongoing initiative will inform the design of the Caribbean Development Bank's (CDB) LLA programme, particularly in structuring inclusive capacity-building activities and creating flexible grant portfolios that enhance accessibility for grassroots actors. Through this regional framework, countries will be better equipped to address climate change by leveraging shared resources, cross-country expertise, and equitable access to financing for locally led solutions. Further, for Belize, the programme will complement the Adaptation Fund project – "Enhancing the Resilience of Belize's Coastal Communities to Climate Change Impacts". This project, which is locally led adaptation seeks to improve the livelihood of local coastal communities impacted by climate change. The project is currently under implementation.

F. Describe how the learning and knowledge management components designed to capture and disseminate lessons learned, particularly in a regional and locally led context.

70. The project will use various structured and unstructured processes to collect data and capture lessons learned at the regional local level. These will include feedback sessions through formal meetings/ workshops, focus group meetings, and surveys. The collected information would be documented and stored, then disseminated to feedback into adaptive management, shared to inform future projects and enhance community development efforts. In disseminating at local level, the project would present the lessons learned at community meetings or events to share insights with a wider audience. Summaries or highlights of the lessons learned would also be published in community newsletters or on the community website, where it exists. The lessons learned could also be used to inform future workshops or training sessions for community members.

G. Describe the consultative process that would take place, and how will it involve all key stakeholders, and vulnerable groups, including gender considerations the consultative process, with particular reference to vulnerable groups, including gender considerations, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

71. An effective community engagement process will be applied within the project design process to allow for the incorporation of the needs and perspectives of a diverse group of community residents. Three main engagement activities will be executed during the project design, including community and stakeholder meetings, transect walks and assessment of the capacity of project beneficiary community groups. Lessons from CDB community engagement activities highlight the significant value of community meetings as a useful tool for interaction with local residents, however this has extensive limitations among certain groups such as women, youths, persons with disabilities and the elderly who sometimes experience severe barriers to participation in these events. As a result, transect walks will be included to facilitate an inclusive engagement process, allowing the project teams to interact with local residents within an informal setting and in within their normal daily activities and spaces.

72. This process will include one and one as well as group engagements around the problem and project design to gather different local insights and collective ownership. Finally, the beneficiary community groups assessment method will allow for an interaction with the executive of active and dormant groups to determine the strengths and weaknesses of each through the administration survey, similar to that used within the CDB BNTF programme. The survey findings will be used to development a Capacity Development Plan which will outline the targeted areas for strengthening of community groups during the programme implementation. This process will also be applied during the development of the project concept to validate the project beneficiaries and stakeholders to ensure community approval and buy-in, as well as ensuring the alignment of the project conceptualisation to the eight principles of LLA. It is anticipated that at this concept note stage an initial gender assessment will be undertaken and submitted to the AF Secretariat to satisfy its requirement. A more detailed gender assessment and action plan will be prepared at the full project design stage.

H. Provide justification for funding requested, focusing on the full cost of adaptation reasoning.

73. The resources to be provided by the Adaptation Fund will enable the countries to implement urgent adaptation measures to address the significant adverse effects of climate change that they are experiencing. These are concrete adaptation activities that have been implemented previously in the region and elsewhere, that are known to be effective in building resilience to the impacts of climate change. Despite prior interventions a large adaptation gap remains in these countries. This project offers the opportunity to scale up these proven actions for the benefit if new communities that have not previously participated in previous projects. All communities consulted in the participating countries identified flooding as a major issue which

causes substantial damage to livelihoods and infrastructure and loss of lives. Coastal communities also mentioned the threats fishers faced from not having alerts on deteriorating weather conditions. Other communities also mentioned the threat of wildfires and the difference that timely alerts could make. Early warning systems have been proven to provide significant benefits in reducing loss of life and property damage during disasters. By providing timely and actionable alerts, these systems enable individuals and communities, to take preventative measures, enhancing preparedness and overall resilience. By taking early action they are able to reduce potential damage and economic losses.

74. The project will also strengthen the capacity of the target communities to adapt to climate change by enhancing their ability to understand and recognize climate threats and to actively participate in the identification and design of appropriate adaptation actions. The preparation of medium-to-long-term adaptation action plans will provide them with a consistent framework for addressing comate impacts. This will enable them to sustainably manage their ecosystems and landscapes in a way that enhances their livelihoods - both economically and environmentally. The introduction of CSA will promote the integration of climate smart technologies within communities to raise productivity and ensure food security and increased income. The incorporation of sound environmental management practices, and nature-based solutions to combating climate change, will contribute substantially to the countries' resilience. These opportunities would not be available in the absence of the project. The training and capacity building to be provided by the project will empower communities to be actively involved in decision making that is an essential feature of the LLA process. The approach will ensure that decision making is shared between the project, communities and other stakeholders. Participatory tools developed by CDB will be applied to assess community readiness and to guide development and identify community needs and preferences. In the absence of AF funding such interventions would not be available and communities would not benefit from the LLA approach.

I. Describe how the sustainability of the project/programme outcomes has been taken into account when designing the project/programme.

75. The project is being designed to help communities adjust to the impacts of climate change while ensuring their long term social, economic and environmental prosperity. The adaptation activities to be supported are well known and many have been implemented in the region through previous projects. Adequate training will be provided to project participants to increase their knowledge and application skills to undertake the planned interventions. This high likelihood of success will create incentives for participants to continue implementing these activities after the project. Furthermore, while emphasising the environmental sustainability dimension, the project is also aimed at increasing financial benefits from livelihoods, and this increase in economic well-being should also encourage continuation of the activities after the project closes and create less dependence on external support.

76. The proposed participating communities have already been consulted and will actively participate in project preparation. Having identified the need for early warning systems as their number one priority and with the familiarization training to be provided by the project there will be incentives for the communities and other stakeholders to maintain and expand the EWS installed by the project. The project will also focus on the other priority issues of importance to the communities, including protection of natural ecosystems on which they depend for food and services, or access to livelihood activities that would provide additional income. The participatory process will ensure that ownership of the project rests with the communities, which is a key component of sustainability.

77. The project will also contribute to an enabling environment that strengthens communities' ability to write proposals, apply for funding, identify and implement adaptation actions. Given the large adaptation gap that exists, it is likely that communities may still have a need for some external support. Training and capacity building will be targeted to individuals working in Civil Society, NGOs and CBOs who will have

responsibility for preparing grant proposals. This will make local communities less dependent on national organisations to facilitate access to funding. By working closely with well-established NGOs and CBOs, the long-term sustainability of the project will also be ensured as these organisations actively engage with the target communities. The strengthening to be provided by the project will give the organisations the additional capacity required to provide support beyond the life of the project.

J. Provide an overview of the environmental and social impacts and risks identified as being relevant to the project/programme.

78. The proposed project aims for full alignment with the Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) and the Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund. The initial screening detailed below addresses the safeguard areas of the ESP, identifying any potential environmental and social risks and impact that the project components may pose. The design and implementation of Components 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the project will ensure adherence to all environmental, social and gender requirements of the Fund and will ensure the representation and consultation of all beneficiary groups including indigenous peoples, marginalized and vulnerable groups. This is also aligned with CDB's own Environmental and Social Review Procedures (ESRP). The proposed project is endeavoured to produce positive economic, social and environmental impacts to the over 20 selected communities across the five countries.

79. The proposed project has been categorised as Category C with respect to the potential environmental and social impacts that can be generated during the implementation of Component One and Two. The USPs under these components for community resilience will be small and will be developed to not result in any negative changes to the natural environment across the selected communities. However, the actual environmental and social risks under these components will not be fully identified until the types of grants awarded by the programme are known. As such, the appropriate guidelines for these USPs will be prepared during full project development. In the case where these USPs are not clearly identified by submission to the AF then an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) will be designed. The ESMF will contain a process for identifying environmental and social risks for the unidentified activities/sub-projects and, when needed, the development of commensurate environmental and social management elements that will complement and be integrated into the overall ESMP. The ESMF will specify any other related procedures, roles, and responsibilities.

80. At the concept stage mechanisms for addressing environmental impacts have been identified, including the completion of an Environmental Impact Assessment. These impacts and risks will be fully addressed in the subsequent fully developed Project Proposal.

Checklist of environmental and social principles	**No further assessment required for compliance**	**Potential impacts and risks – further assessment and management required for compliance**
Compliance with the Law	Further assessment at the funding proposal stage.	*Low/No Risk* The development of the final project document and the implementation of activities under the proposed project will ensure compliance with all relevant national legislation and international laws.
Access and Equity	Further assessment at the funding proposal stage.	*Low/No Risk* The proposed project intends to apply a locally led approach, which requires access by communities

		who will be responsible for project design and implementation. The proposed project will in no way compromise access to the locally led principles which call for communities to have equal benefits from the project and for no harm being done.
Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups	Further assessment at the funding proposal stage.	*Low/Moderate Risk* The needs of marginalized and vulnerable groups would be better understood during the initial social assessment to be conducted during the full proposal development phase. Additionally, the extensive stakeholder consultations to be held during the implementation of components will provide further context to the needs of these groups. The proposed project will not impose any disproportionate adverse impacts on marginalized and vulnerable groups including children, women and girls, the elderly, indigenous people, tribal groups, displaced people, refugees, or persons living with disabilities. The proposed project is expected to improve the ability of persons within vulnerable communities to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change by building the resilience needed to address issues such as drought and water harvesting, flooding, coastal erosion, and early warnings.
Human Rights	Further assessment at the funding proposal stage.	*Low/No Risk* The proposed project will respect and adhere to all relevant national legislation and international conventions on human rights.
Gender Equity and Women's Empowerment	Further assessment at the funding proposal stage.	*Low/No Risk* Further assessment required during the full proposal development phase under the Gender/Social Assessment. The development of the proposed project will ensure the inclusion of issues related to gender and women's empowerment. All participatory and consultative processes will ensure the representation of women groups from communities, gender experts and NGOs. Gender-disaggregated data will be analysed for inclusion.
Core Labour Rights	Further assessment at the funding proposal stage.	*Low/No Risk* The proposed project will adhere to core labour laws and rights of all parties.
Indigenous Peoples	Further assessment at the funding proposal stage.	*Low/Moderate Risk* For those countries with indigenous and tribal peoples, the design of all components within the proposed project will ensure that local communities

		and indigenous and tribal peoples benefit. Extensive stakeholder consultations form the basis for all project components; some relying on the participation of local communities for implementation and long-term sustainability. These consultations will improve the involvement of indigenous people in the project development phase respecting their needs. Further interventions from indigenous peoples can be obtained under the initial social assessment during the full proposal development phase.
Involuntary Resettlement	No further assessment required.	*Low/No Risk* The components for the proposed project do not include involuntary resettlement. It is the aim of Component 2 to build community adaptative capacity through small demonstration projects. These small projects will not result in the displace of local communities.
Protection of Natural Habitats	Further assessment at the funding proposal stage.	*Low/No Risk* Under Component 1 and 2 the focus is on coastal protection through the implementation of community-based early warning systems and community CC adaptation action plans. Under Component 2, the community adaptation plans will prioritize interventions that could include coastal protection and various nature-based initiatives. This is expected to enhance climate resilience by protecting ecosystems and enhancing livelihoods.
Conservation of Biological Diversity	Further assessment at the funding proposal stage.	*Low/No Risk* No activity under the proposed project will pose any significant reduction or loss of biological diversity or facilitate the introduction of known invasive species. Furthermore, to avoid any potential harm or significant loss of biodiversity, all activities within the proposed project, such as Component 1 and 2, will require the completion of an EIA, which includes parameters for biodiversity assessment.
Climate Change	Further assessment at the funding proposal stage.	*Low/No Risk* The proposed project will contribute to the five participating countries climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts. The proposed project, in no way, is intended to increase greenhouse gas emission or contribute to any drivers of climate change.

Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	Further assessment at the funding proposal stage.	*Low/No Risk* The proposed project will strive to avoid any potential pollution and maximise resource efficiency as pertaining to human and financial resources.
Public Health	Further assessment at the funding proposal stage.	Low/No Risk The proposed project contributes to improving health through enhanced resilience in the areas of drought, flooding and development of early warning systems to improve disaster preparedness, especially in coastal communities that are significantly impacted by climate change.
Physical and Cultural Heritage	Further assessment at the funding proposal stage.	*Low/No Risk* The proposed project aims to protect physical and cultural heritage in the coastal and other communities being targeted via the implementation of components 1, 2 and 3. It is the aim of the project to increase the adaptive capacity of the communities to address issues such as flooding that would result in the loss of land and thus physical and cultural heritage.
Lands and Soil Conservation	Further assessment at the funding proposal stage.	*Low/No Risk* The proposed project speaks to farming and finding solutions to increased drought conditions that can negatively impact soils. The preparation of subproject under Component 2, focused on farming, will employ techniques that would avoid any adverse impacts to land and soil conservation. These projects should avoid issues such as vegetation removal or other approaches that would be detrimental to land and soil conservation.

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

81. At this concept stage, the CDB will take on the role of implementing entity. The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) have been identified as the regional executing entities. This will be confirmed before the full funding proposal is officially submitted to the AF. Currently, CANARI is leading implementation in the Caribbean of the Generating Ambition for Locally Led Adaptation (GA-LLA) programme, a worldwide initiative designed to support locally led adaptation efforts and ensure more equitable access to climate finance (2025 – 2028). In addition, the CCCCC has substantial knowledge in climate change project design and implementation and has worked on community focused projects. A Regional Project Management Unit (PMU) would be established to oversee the day-to-day operations of the project. The PMU, to be based at CANARI or CCCCC, will comprise a Project Manager, administrative support staff, and specialists who will provide

ongoing support. Within the participating countries, national executing entities are identified. These entities will be Departments responsible for community development. Based on lessons learnt from the CDB CDRRF programme, the project would be overseen by a committee chaired by CDB and comprising members from regional and national entities. A Regional Project Steering Committee (RPSC) will be established with representatives from each country (a maximum of 2 people). The RPSC will also include the REEs and CDB. The committee will have as its main task to provide strategic direction and ensure project deliverables are time-bound and satisfactory. Also, to ensure outputs and outcomes are achieved, and that funds are efficiently utilized. In addition, the RPSC will need to ensure that the LLA principles are maintained during project implementation. The composition, roles and responsibilities of the RPSC, along with full implementation arrangements, will be further defined during full project design.

PART IV: ENDORSEMENT BY GOVERNMENTS AND CERTIFICATION BY THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government[23]

82. Provide the name and position of the government official and indicate date of endorsement for each country participating in the proposed project/ programme. Add more lines as necessary. The endorsement letters should be attached as an annex to the project/programme proposal. Please attach the endorsement letters with this template; add as many participating governments if a regional project/programme:

(Enter Name, Position, Ministry)	Date*: (Month, day, year)*
(Enter Name, Position, Ministry)	Date*: (Month, day, year)*
(Enter Name, Position, Ministry)	Date*: (Month, day, year)*

6. Each Party shall designate and communicate to the secretariat the authority that will endorse on behalf of the national government the projects and programmes proposed by the implementing entities.

B. Implementing Entity certification

Provide the name and signature of the Implementing Entity Coordinator and the date of signature. Provide also the project/programme contact person's name, telephone number and email address

<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">I certify that this proposal has been prepared in accordance with guidelines provided by the Adaptation Fund Board, and prevailing National Development and Adaptation Plans (……list here…..) and subject to the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, commit to implementing the project/programme in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund and on the understanding that the Implementing Entity will be fully (legally and financially) responsible for the implementation of this project/programme.</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">

Name & Signature
Implementing Entity Coordinator</td></tr>
<tr><td>Date: *(Month, Day, Year)*</td><td>Tel. and email:</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Project Contact Person:</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Tel. And Email:</td></tr>
</table>

GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Department of Environment
Ministry of Health, Wellness, Environment and Civil Service Affairs
#1 Victoria Park, Botanical Garden
P.O, Box W693
St. John's
Antigua, W.I.
Tel: (268) 462-6265
Fax: (268) 462-4625
Email: doe@ab.gov.ag

July 31, 2025

The Adaptation Fund Board
c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
Email: afbsec@adaptation-fund.org
Fax: 202 522 3240/5

Subject: Scaling-up Local/Community-Led Action for Resilience Building in Caribbean SIDS to the Impacts of Climate Change

In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in Antigua and Barbuda, I confirm that the above regional project proposal is in accordance with the government's national priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in the Antigua and Barbuda.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by the Caribbean Development Bank and executed by Department of Environment.

Sincerely,

.....

Mrs. Diann Black Layne
Director
Department of Environment
Ministry of Health, Wellness, Environment and Civil Service Affairs

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE

Ministry of Finance, Investment, Economic Transformation,
Civil Aviation & E-Governance

P.O. Box 42
Ground Floor, Sir Edney Cain Building
Belmopan City
Belize, Central America

Tel: (501) 880-2526
(501) 880-2527
Email: econdev@med.gov.bz

Our Ref: IA/AF/1/25 (24)

August 5, 2025

The Adaptation Fund Board
c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
Email: afbsec@adaptation-fund.org
Fax: 202 522 3240/5

Subject: Endorsement for *"Scaling-up Local/Community-Led Action for Resilience Building in Caribbean SIDS to the Impacts of Climate Change"*

In my capacity as the designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in Belize, I confirm that the above regional project proposal is in accordance with the Government of Belize's national priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks posed by, climate change in the region.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and executed by entities to be determined.

Sincerely,

Mr. Carlos Pol
Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Economic Transformation & AF National Designated Authority for Belize

C:

Mr. Leroy Martinez, Ag. Director, Climate Finance Unit, Ministry of Economic Transformation
Mr. Jason Middleton, Senior Project Officer, Climate Finance Unit, Ministry of Economic Transformation

Ref. No. .....
In replying the above Number and date of this letter should be quoted.

Tel. No.: 1 (473) 440-2708
Email: ps@eda.gov.gd
registry@eda.gov.gd

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
PLANNING, AND CO-OPERATIVES
3RD FLOOR, MINISTERIAL COMPLEX,
SIR ERIC M. GAIRY
BOTANICAL GARDENS,
ST. GEORGE'S,
GRENADA, W.I.

Letter of Endorsement by Government of Grenada

July 28, 2025

To: The Adaptation Fund Board
c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
Email: afbsec@adaptation-fund.org
Fax: 202 522 3240/5

Subject: Endorsement for Scaling-up Local/Community-Led Action for Resilience Building in Caribbean SIDS to the Impacts of Climate Change

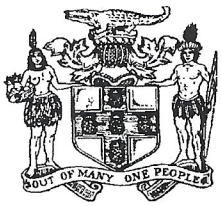
In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in **GRENADA**, I confirm that the above regional project proposal is in accordance with the government's national priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in the State of Grenada.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by the Department of Economic, Sustainable Development and Planning (formerly known as the Department of Economic and Technical Cooperation) and executed by the Ministry of Economic Development, Planning and Co-Operatives.

Sincerely,

Hon. Lennox John Andrews
Minister for Economic Development, Planning & Cooperatives; Agriculture & Lands, Forestry, Blue Economy & Marine Affairs.

..MJ/



ANY REPLY OR SUBSEQUENT REFERENCE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE PERMANENT SECRETARY AND THE FOLLOWING REFERENCE NUMBER QUOTED:
Tel Number:876-926-1690-3
926-1590-9 FAX: 754-0975

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION
25 DOMINICA DRIVE
KINGSTON 5
JAMAICA

July 23, 2025

The Adaptation Fund Board
c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat

To Whom it May Concern,

Subject: Endorsement for Scaling-up Local/Community-Led Action for Resilience Building in Caribbean SIDS to the Impacts of Climate Change

In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in Jamaica, I confirm that the above regional project proposal is in accordance with the government's national priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in Jamaica.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by the Caribbean Development Bank and executed regionally by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute.

Sincerely,

Dr Sharon Morrison, JP
Director General
Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation

cc: Mrs Arlene Williams, Permanent Secretary, MEGJC

ECONOMIC PLANNING DIVISION
Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, and Information Technology
P.O. Box 608, Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Tel. (784) 457-1746, Fax (784) 456-2430, Email: cenplan@svgcpd.com

Ref: CPU/

25th July, 2025

The Adaptation Fund Board
c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
1899 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC 20433
USA

Subject: Endorsement for the Regional Locally Led Adaptation Project – Scaling-up Local/Community-Led Action for Resilience Building in Caribbean SIDS to the Impacts of Climate Change

In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, I confirm that the above regional project proposal is in accordance with the government's national priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in the country.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by the Caribbean Development Bank and executed by the Economic Planning Division within the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Information Technology.

Yours sincerely,

.....
Recardo Frederick
Director of Economic Planning