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LOCALLY-LED ADAPTATION SINGLE COUNTRY PROPOSAL FOR JAMAICA



ADAPTATION FUND

ADAPTATION FUND BOARD SECRETARIAT
TECHNICAL REVIEW OF PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR
"SUSTAINABLE ECOTOURISM ADVANCEMENT FOR JAMAICA (SEA-J) "

Project Title Sustainable Ecotourism Advancement for Jamaica (SEA-J)

Project ID AF00000576

Category LLA

Type Single country project

Stage Concept

Country Jamaica

Implementing Entity CCCCC

Financing Requested USD 5,000,000.00

Reviewer Linda Ogallo

Co-reviewer(s)

IE Contact Person

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Secretariat's Overall Comment

The project “Sustainable Ecotourism Advancement for Jamaica (SEA-J)” aims to address the identified barriers by equipping community-based ecotourism operators with climate-smart technologies and creating an enabling environment between public and private sector stakeholders to reduce vulnerability, build resilience and reduce emissions in the tourism sector, and provide a roadmap to financial sustainability for these operators.

A project formulation grant (PFG) is not requested.

The initial technical review raises several issues, such as cost effectiveness of the concept, duplication, availability of a learning and knowledge management component, alignment with AF’s results framework, as is discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Request (CAR) raised in the review.

The second technical review cleared some issues raised in the first review but still raises some issues, such as devolved decision making to the lowest level, compliance with ESP, availability of a learning and knowledge management component, as is discussed in the number of Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Request (CAR) raised in the review.

Country Eligibility

Is the country party to the Kyoto Protocol and/or the Paris Agreement?

Response: Yes

Secretariat: Jamaica is a party to both the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement

Is the country a developing country particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change?

Response: Yes

Secretariat: Jamaica is a developing country party particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. Jamaica is a Small Island Developing State situated in the Atlantic hurricane basin, ranked by GFDRR as the third most hazard-exposed country globally, with over 96 per cent of GDP and population at risk from two or more hazards, and approximately 70 per cent of the population and more than half of productive industry and

services concentrated in the coastal zone (p. 2). Projections drawn from the State of the Jamaican Climate Report Vol III (2022) and the Climate Information Portal indicate sea-level rise of 0.58–0.87 metres by end-of-century (maximum 1.04 m), mean daily maximum temperature increases of up to 2°C, precipitation declines of up to 9.2 per cent under RCP 4.5, and a 13 per cent increase in the proportion of Category 4 and 5 storms (Table 2), with supporting spatial analysis of coastal inundation risk to Kingston and Montego Bay, including both international airports (Figures 2 and 3). These projections are reinforced by realised losses: Hurricane Beryl (2024) triggered a 2.8 per cent contraction in economic activity and two consecutive quarters of negative growth (Section I, p. 26), and Category 5 Hurricane Melissa, which made landfall on 28 October 2025, caused damage and loss assessed at US\$12.4 billion, equivalent to 56.7 per cent of 2024 GDP (p. 7). Sector-level vulnerability is likewise well evidenced, with Table 1 linking climate hazards to tourism supply and destination attractiveness, and pp. 7 and 10 identifying the acute exposure of small-scale, informal and community-based operators, further disaggregated by gender and poverty incidence (Figures 8–9; Annex II).

Project Eligibility

Has the designated government authority for the Adaptation Fund endorsed the project/programme?

Response: Yes

Secretariat: As per the letter dated June 16, 2026.

Does the length of the proposal amount to no more than fifty (50) pages for the Concept note project document, including its annexes?

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: Yes, the concept is 50 pages.

Does the project / programme support concrete adaptation actions to assist the country and/or the local actors in addressing adaptive capacity to the adverse effects of climate change and build in climate resilience?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: The concept is not a business-as-usual tourism development project: Component 2 (US\$3,050,000, or approximately 61 per cent of activity costs) finances tangible, hazard-responsive investments: climate proofing of facilities, hurricane shutters and straps, retrofitting of windows and roofs to withstand tropical cyclone wind and rain, flood protection measures, rainwater harvesting, water conservation and coastal resilience actions (pp. 16–17); which map credibly onto the hurricane, flood and drought hazards evidenced in the background section (Table 2, p. 3; pp. 6–7). The Theory of Change (Figure 10, p. 13) is structurally complete, and component cohesion is reinforced by a deliberate sequencing device whereby access to finance under Component 2 is conditional on participation in training under Component 3 (p. 17). However, the causal chain between projected climate magnitudes and the scale or type of intervention is not established, several outcomes and indicators are unsupported by any activity, the declared thematic focal area is not reflected in the design, and the concept contains no targets or beneficiary numbers by which tangibility can be assessed.

CAR1: Component 2 will finance unidentified sub-projects. Please classify the anticipated type(s) of USPs and provide a sufficiently clear indication of their expected nature, characteristics and geographic scope to support the assessment of adaptation benefits and potential environmental and social risks. Please also justify their use by explaining why the activities cannot be sufficiently formulated at design stage, the benefits of leaving them unidentified, and how those benefits outweigh the increased risk of non-compliance with the Fund's ESP and Gender Policy.

CAR2: The concept declares Ecosystem-Based Adaptation as its first thematic focal area (p. 1) and claims Fund Outcome 5 and Output 5 on ecosystem services and natural resource assets (p. 32), yet no activity under any component delivers ecosystem restoration, protection or management; "coastal resilience actions" (p. 17) is not defined. Please clearly articulate in the concept how concrete EbA will be achieved, as it is currently not reflected, or revise the EbA focal area and the Outcome 5 / Output 5 claim.

CAR3: Outcome 2.2 and its indicators reference the ability to forecast and respond to climate events and the number of weather stations established (Table 4, p. 14; Table 8, p. 32), but no activity under Component 2 establishes weather stations, monitoring systems or any early warning or forecast-uptake function. Please add the corresponding activity and output, or revise the outcome and indicators accordingly.

CAR4: The concept does not provide direct or indirect beneficiary estimates or clearly define its local actors and beneficiaries. Please clarify the intended beneficiary groups and geographic reach, including whether both inland and coastal areas will be covered, as raised during consultations (Annex I, pp. 3, 5–7). Please provide indicative direct and indirect beneficiary estimates, disaggregated by sex where possible, and targets for operators financed under each window, facilities retrofitted, technologies installed and persons trained, including the anticipated share of finance reaching informal and unbanked operators. Please also reconcile the population figures of 2,734,092 (p. 2) and 2,839,175 (Annex II, p. 1) and confirm the baseline used for the beneficiary estimates.

CAR5: The adaptation rationale for the renewable energy and energy efficiency investments is asserted through a "mitigation as adaptation" framing (p. 18) but is not substantiated. Similarly, Outcome 3.2 (increased awareness of the ecotourism model and diversity of Jamaica's tourism products, p. 19) and the emissions-reduction and "green business" framing throughout Component 1 read as sustainable tourism development rather than adaptation. Please articulate the specific adaptation benefit of each (for example, energy and water autonomy during post-disaster grid and supply outages) and demonstrate additionality over the business-as-usual baseline.

The proposal needs to clarify the feasibility and detailed financial design of the revolving loan facility. The proposal envisages concessional loans of US\$50,000–100,000 for established operators (p. 17), within an implementation period of September 2027 to August 2031—approximately four years (Table 5). By comparison, the SIRD Fund presented as a reference model allows repayment periods of up to 20 years (Annex I, p. 9), while stakeholders indicated that at least five years would be needed to establish and implement the proposed mechanism effectively (Annex I, p. 11).

Furthermore, given that the project targets operators already vulnerable to climate shocks, income disruption and limited access to finance, the proposal needs to explain how loan affordability and repayment capacity will be assessed; how the project will avoid increasing indebtedness or transferring disproportionate financial risk to vulnerable operators; what consumer-protection, restructuring or hardship provisions will apply following climate-related losses; and how applicants will be directed to grants or other forms of support where debt financing is not appropriate.

CR1: Please clarify the feasibility of the revolving element of the loan facility. Loans of US\$50,000–100,000 (p. 17) are proposed within an implementation period of approximately four years; the comparator SIRF Fund cited at Annex I, p. 9 operates repayment periods of up to 20 years. Please explain the proposed loan terms, how reflows will be generated and recycled, and how repayment capacity will be assessed to avoid over-indebting climate-vulnerable community tourism operator, and confirm the adequacy of the overall duration, noting the stakeholder consensus that at least five years is required (Annex I, p. 11).

CR2: Please reconcile the sequencing logic. Access to Component 2 finance depends on Component 3 training and is intended to be guided by the Component 1 certification roadmap, yet the risk mitigation strategy proposes prioritising Component 2 infrastructure activities first (p. 20). A phased timeline for the components would resolve this..

CR3: Activity and outcome numbering is inconsistent across the narrative, Table 3 (p. 12), Table 4 (p. 14), the ToC figure (p. 13) and Annex I, which discusses activities 1.1.1.3, 2.1.2.2 and 3.1.3.2 that do not appear in the main text. Outcome 2.2 is also worded differently in Tables 3, 4 and 8. Kindly harmonise.

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CAR1: Cleared on pages 15-16.

The revised concept note now classifies the anticipated USP types through the tiered Direct Funding Mechanism (Loan Facility, three Grant Facility windows, and Capacity Building Window with funding caps, indicative activities, and eligibility criteria in Table 6), and justifies their use under LLA Principles 1 and 6, explaining that sub-projects cannot be fully formulated at design stage because they must respond to needs prioritized at community level (pp. 15–16, Activity 2.1.1.1). Geographic scope (island-wide, inland and coastal, with operator access and distribution targets) is indicated on p. 20, and ESP/Gender compliance risk is addressed through screening of all USPs against the 15 ESP Principles, exclusion of Category A activities, and a sub-project-level ESMP risk procedure (p. 28, Part II.K).

CAR2: Cleared on pages 1, 9-10, 16.

The thematic focal area has been revised from Ecosystem-Based Adaptation to Multisector (p. 1), and concrete EbA delivery is now embedded in the Climate Proofing Grant window, which explicitly finances mangrove and coral restoration, agroforestry and flood mitigation measures (p. 16), giving the retained Outcome 5 / Output 5 claims a clear delivery pathway. The results framework now includes a corresponding ecosystem-services indicator (hectares of ecosystem service assets with improved adaptive capacity) under Core Indicator 4 (Table 12, pp. 32–33).

CAR3: Cleared on pages 15-20.

Weather stations, early warning systems and energy/water monitoring systems are now explicitly fundable items under the Climate Proofing and Energy Resilience grant windows of Activity 2.1.1.1 (p. 16) and are reflected in Output 2.2.2 (p. 15), establishing the missing activity–output pathway for the forecast-and-respond element of Outcome 2.2. The Outcome 2.2 wording is now identical across Table 3 (pp. 9–10), Table 4 and Table 12.

CAR4: Cleared on pages 19-20.

The concept now provides direct and indirect beneficiary estimates anchored in tourism sector employment (175,000 direct; 354,000 indirect), window-level operator targets (Grant Facility ≥51; Capacity Building Window ≥30 informal/unbanked; Loan Facility ≥15; ≥150 persons trained), confirmation of both inland and coastal coverage, and preliminary sex- and vulnerability-disaggregated targets (≥30% women-led, ≥40% rural-based,

≥10% informal operators, plus ≥10% of Component 2 funding to inclusion-based organizations), with the Gender Assessment to confirm final figures (pp. 19–20). The population figure is now harmonized at 2,839,175 in both the main text (p. 2) and Annex II, and the absence of separate retrofit/technology unit targets is justified by the USP modality (p. 20).

CAR5: Cleared on pages 17-18.

The "mitigation as adaptation" rationale is now substantiated with the Hurricane Melissa case, articulating the specific adaptation benefit of energy and water autonomy during months-long post-disaster grid outages, including electricity-dependent water systems, the resulting leptospirosis outbreak, and disproportionate rural impacts (p. 15). The adaptation logic of Outcome 3.2 is now grounded in climate literacy as a recognized adaptation solution (Global Centre on Adaptation), with displays explicitly demonstrating adaptation solutions against climate risks and additionality over existing education-sector programmes addressed (pp. 17–18), while Component 1 additionality rests on the documented absence of any existing compliance or incentive programme (Table 3).

CR1: Not cleared.

The response and the added text on p. 16 are noted and partially address the request; the proposed loan terms are now specified, and the commitment to define consumer-protection, restructuring/hardship provisions and alternative-financing pathways in the full proposal, informed by the feasibility study and economic/financial analysis, is acceptable at this stage.

However, the response does not address the core issue: loan repayment periods of 5–10 years, as recommended by DBJ, are longer than the four-year implementation period (September 2027 – August 2031, Table 5), meaning no loan can be repaid and re-lent within the project, so the facility as described cannot function as "revolving" during implementation. This is a project design question that cannot be deferred to the feasibility study.

Please either revise the description of the facility and explain, at concept stage, which entity will own and administer the loan portfolio after project closure, how repayments will continue to be collected and recycled post-project, and how the adaptation benefits attributed to reflows (including capitalization of the Component 1 incentive programme) will be assured beyond the project period.

CR2: Cleared on pages 18-19.

A new Project Sequencing section (p. 18) resolves the contradiction by phasing access: Year 1 climate adaptation training as the prerequisite, mature operators accessing Component 2 finance from Year 2, proposal-preparation training rolling through Years 2-4, and equipment maintenance training in Year 3 to coincide with installations, all reflected in the phased implementation schedule at Figure 11. The infrastructure-prioritization language in the risk section is retained only as a "where possible" contingency within this phased logic (p. 19).

CR3: Cleared on pages 9 -10.

The revised concept note harmonizes activity and outcome numbering across the narrative (pp. 13-17), Table 3 (pp. 9-10), Table 4 (p. 12) and the Theory of Change figure (Figure 10, p. 11), with Outcome 2.2 wording now consistent throughout. Annex I retains consultation-stage numbering as a historical record, with an explanatory note and cross-referencing annotations mapping each superseded activity to its equivalent in the finalized concept note.

In the full proposal kindly ensure Activity 2.1.1.2 labelled "sensitization and management programme" in the ToC figure but "communication and management programme" in the narrative (p. 17), and Outcome 3.2 includes "and knowledge sharing" in Table 12 only, please harmonize language across the proposal.

Does the project/programme enable devolving decision making to the lowest appropriate level? Does it give 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.

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Yes, but clarification is needed.

p. 18 states that the specific activities conducted at each ecotourism site will be decided by local operators according to their prioritized needs, and Component 2 is structured as a direct funding mechanism through which operators apply for finance themselves rather than receiving pre-designed interventions (pp. 16–17). The tiered window design, and in particular the Capacity Building Window with Resilience Microgrants of up to US \$5,000 for unregistered and unbanked operators (p. 18), reflects a deliberate attempt to extend access down the capacity spectrum.

The shortfall is that devolution of decision-making power is asserted rather than institutionalised. At the point where authority actually sits; approval of sub-projects. p. 17 provides that proposals will be evaluated by the team responsible for grant administration, with no stated community role. The commitment at p. 18 to "ensure local community representation in the decision-making processes" is attached to a train-the-trainer activity and is otherwise undefined. No governance structure for the mechanism is described. The eligibility criteria at p. 18 risk reproducing at the sub-project level the exclusions the window exists to overcome.

CAR6: Please define the governance and decision-making architecture of the Direct Funding Mechanism, specifying the body that will approve sub-project proposals, and the extent of community tourism operator representation and voting rights within it. The present formulation at p. 17, under which proposals are evaluated by the grant administration team, does not evidence devolved decision-making authority as required under the LLA window. Focus Group 1 raised the same question; who will manage the fund and develop the roadmap, and it remains unanswered (Annex I, p. 3).

CAR7: Please clarify and address the following features of the eligibility criteria, which may still exclude the most vulnerable operators:

1. The Capacity Building Window applies a years-in-operation criterion of <3, while the three grant windows require >3. Please confirm whether this is intended. As drafted, informal operators in existence for more than three years appear ineligible for every window; a cohort that includes the long-standing unregistered operators the window is designed to serve, and which REDI II engagement identified as significantly underserved (p. 24).
2. Access to the Capacity Building Window is conditional on attendance at 80 per cent of capacity building trainings under Component 3 (p. 18). Stakeholders identified operator time constraints as prohibitive (Annex I, p. 5). Please indicate how this threshold will be applied without disadvantaging micro-operators, and whether the trainings will be delivered in ways that accommodate their operating patterns.
3. Land tenure does not appear in the criteria, yet stakeholders twice identified it as a precluding barrier for small-scale and Maroon community operators, drawing on JSIF's experience (Annex I, pp. 5, 7 and 11). Given that retrofitting typically requires evidence of tenure, please explain how sub-projects will be structured so that operators without formal title are not excluded.

CR4 . Please clarify how local and traditional knowledge will inform the definition and prioritisation of adaptation actions. Section G (p. 24) refers to such knowledge only in the context of information displays, that is, as material for dissemination rather than as an input to decision-making.

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CAR6 Not Cleared.

The response states that detailed operational procedures, terms of reference and selection protocols will be elaborated in the Direct Funding Mechanism operational manual at full proposal stage, drawing on JSIF's REDI I/II grant administration framework and the CCCCC's CABRIC community ongranting manual. However, the governance and decision-making architecture itself cannot be deferred to the operational manual, as it is the basis on which compliance with the Locally Led Adaptation window is assessed at concept stage.

The current formulation, under which sub-project proposals are evaluated by the team responsible for grant administration with community tourism operator "representation" (p. 16), does not evidence devolved decision-making authority. This can be addressed by inserting into the description of the funding mechanism in Section A; a brief statement of the intended authority structure covering, at minimum: (i) the name and role of the body that will approve or reject sub-project proposals; (ii) its indicative composition; and (iii) the share of seats and voting rights to be held by community tourism operator representatives. This could then be expressed as a design commitment to be confirmed in the operational manual. A statement of this kind, of two to three sentences, would be sufficient to demonstrate devolved decision-making at concept stage.

Where the CABRIC operational manual contains devolved-governance arrangements the project intends to replicate, please also summarize those features briefly in the concept.

CAR7 Not cleared.

Items 1 and 3 of this CAR are satisfactorily addressed and verified in the revised concept note: the years-in-operation criterion has been removed from the Capacity Building Window, and proof of occupancy is now required only for retrofitting activities, with a long-term lease or letter authorizing occupancy accepted in lieu of land title and non-retrofitting support remaining accessible to operators without any proof of occupancy (Table 6, p. 17).

1. Item 2 is not addressed. The response indicates that trainings will be tailored to operators' needs, delivered in easily accessible community locations, and timed to occur in the low season to avoid affecting operators' income; however, these commitments do not appear in the revised concept note, which retains the unqualified requirement of at least 80% attendance (p. 16; Table 6, p. 17), and the response does not indicate how the threshold will be applied. Please incorporate the stated commitments in the response sheet into the concept note to clear this CAR.

CR4: Cleared on pages 23–24.

Section G now positions local and traditional knowledge as a decision input rather than display material: adaptation actions under Component 2 will be designed and led at community level with local and traditional knowledge explicitly stated to drive the prioritisation of activities; geographic targeting during project preparation will be based on multi-hazard vulnerability assessments blending scientific data with traditional/local knowledge and informed by engagement of operators and other local knowledge bearers; USP-level indicators will be developed and tracked by local operators themselves; and the Tourism Operators Associations will convene communities of practice for knowledge exchange across operator groups. The information displays now appear as one downstream dissemination channel among several, which is the correct hierarchy.

Does the project / programme 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?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: The benefits narrative (pp. 20–22) and the Preliminary Gender Assessment (Annex II) are among the stronger elements of this concept. The gender analysis is genuinely differentiated rather than formulaic: female-headed households at 14.4 per cent of the population in poverty; women's double burden of workplace and household disaster preparation; post-disaster exposure to trafficking, domestic violence and transactional sex; and male-specific vulnerabilities including physical risk during battering and clearance, interrupted schooling for boys, and the exposure of unattached low-skilled young men in informal tourism work (Annex II, pp. 1–2). Persons with disabilities and LGBTQ persons are identified as facing compounded barriers in evacuation and shelter access. Poverty incidence is mapped against enterprise location (Figures 8–9, p. 10). Design responses follow: the Capacity Building Window as an inclusion instrument, committed funding targets for women-led and youth-led enterprises, a SEAH protocol and redress mechanism, and sex-disaggregated M&E (Annex II, p. 2). The fifteen-principle checklist at Table 7 (pp. 27–30) is completed with mitigation measures. Component 2, (61% of activity costs) is delivered through USPs, and the concept does not engage with the requirements that attach to that choice. Section K disposes of the matter in three sentences (p. 24). Under paras 3 and 26 of the guidance, the presence of USPs does not relax the obligation to demonstrate benefits to vulnerable communities and ESP/GP compliance at concept stage; it requires the proponent to acknowledge the associated uncertainties and explain how the requirements are met regardless. That explanation is absent.

CAR8: Please provide justification why these activities cannot be formulated at design stage; the specific benefits of not formulating them; and how those benefits outweigh the increased risk of non-compliance with the ESP and Gender Policy. Under locally-led adaptation grounds, the concept's own position at p. 18, that activities at each site will be determined by operators according to their prioritized needs, is the substance of the argument, but it must be made expressly.

CR5: Annex II identifies several vulnerable groups analytically, but the design responds to few. Persons with disabilities appear only as recipients of virtual reality experiences when facilities are closed or inaccessible (p. 19), with no accessibility requirement attached to financed retrofitting; displaced persons are not addressed. Please clarify if the design will include these vulnerable groups, and whether accessibility criteria will form part of the sub-project eligibility framework.

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CAR8: Not cleared.

The justification at p. 15 for the use of USPs and the benefits of leaving them unformulated are noted. The remaining requirement is narrow: the concept must expressly argue that these benefits outweigh the increased risk of non-compliance with the ESP and Gender Policy, rather than only describing how that risk will be mitigated. Please add two to three sentences following the existing text at Activity 2.1.1.1, stating that the benefits of the USP approach are judged to outweigh the incremental compliance risk because that risk is residual rather than structural; all USPs are screened against the 15 ESP Principles prior to approval, Category A activities are ineligible, and the sub-project-level ESMP procedure ensures risks are identified and managed at the point they become identifiable (Part II.K). An insertion of this kind will clear this CAR.

CR5: Not cleared.

The measures added at p. 20 clarifies the request to some extent. The rationale for not imposing a blanket accessibility requirement on all USPs is also clarifies it further, given that certain ecotourism operations cannot feasibly be modified for physical access.

1. However, the stated commitment to assess accessibility case by case at sub-project review, and to incorporate

it as a screening requirement where a facility can feasibly be made more accessible, must appear in the concept note itself to be given effect; please include it.

2. Second, the response does not address displaced persons, who are identified in Annex II but not reflected in the design. Please either state how the project will reach climate-displaced operators and workers; noting that the Capacity Building Window and Resilience Microgrants, which require no registration, bank account, years in operation or proof of occupancy, are already structurally suited to this group and need only be expressly extended to them, or provide a brief justification for their exclusion from the target population.

Is the project / programme cost effective?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Yes, however some clarification is needed.

Section C (pp. 21–22) sets out the elements of a logical case but does not draw them together into an argument for why this configuration is the right fit, and does not evidence any consideration of alternatives. The strongest element is the account of what the project inherits from REDI II) JSIF's existing operator relationships, needs assessments and institutional capacity data on community tourism enterprises) which is credited with reducing the time and cost of beneficiary identification, stakeholder engagement and baseline data collection at project inception (p. 21). The tiered structure of the Direct Funding Mechanism is also defended in principle: differentiated grant sizes and eligibility windows are said to concentrate larger investment where absorptive capacity exists while keeping smaller, more accessible instruments open to informal operators, avoiding the inefficiency of uniform grant sizes (p. 22). Both points are logical as far as they go.

However, there is no initial thinking about alternative approach or scope is identified or discussed.

CAR8: Please provide the initial thinking that led to the chosen scope and approach by identifying the principal alternatives considered during formulation and briefly explain why the present configuration was preferred. This need not be a quantified comparison; a short reasoned account is sufficient at concept stage.

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CAR8: Cleared (pp. 20–21).

The revised concept now provides a reasoned account of formulation alternatives in Section C: during the Project Working Group sessions, two principal alternatives were considered and rejected. The preferred configuration is further reasoned through the tiered mechanism design, which concentrates larger investments where absorptive capacity exists while smaller, more accessible instruments reach vulnerable and informal operators, avoiding the underspend and misallocation risks of uniform grant sizes.

Is the project / programme consistent with national, sub-national or local sustainable development strategies, national, sub-national or local development plans, poverty reduction strategies, national communications and adaptation programs of action and other relevant instruments?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Yes, however clarification is needed.

The concept mentions Jamaica's climate and sectoral planning landscape and maps its components against a credible set of instruments: Vision 2030 Jamaica (the National Development Plan and its NSDS function), the 2002 Master Plan for Sustainable Tourism Development, the National Adaptation Plan (under development), the

2050 Long-Term Strategy for Emissions Reduction (LTS), the International Climate Finance Strategy Framework (ICFSF), and the National Mangrove and Swamp Forest Management Plan. Alignment with each is described at a level of specificity that goes beyond generic invocation.

However Jamaica's Nationally Determined Contribution is not analysed in Section D. The NAP is acknowledged as under development (p. 8 and Table 6), but the concept does not describe how it will be integrated as the NAP finalises during the project's preparation and early implementation. And the Master Plan for Sustainable Tourism Development cited at p. 8 is an expired 2002–2012 instrument; the concept notes that the Ministry of Tourism is preparing a successor but does not indicate engagement with that process. Beyond climate, a small number of directly relevant instruments are absent: the Gender and Climate Change Strategy (2022–2025) is cited in Annex II but not in Section D despite its bearing on Component 2 targeting and Component 3 design, and no reference is made to Jamaica's poverty reduction instruments despite the strong poverty-incidence framing of the beneficiary population (Figures 8–9, p. 10).

CAR9: Please add analysis of the project's alignment with Jamaica's Nationally Determined Contribution and indicate how the project will align with the National Adaptation Plan as it finalises during project preparation and early implementation, given that the concept currently references the NAP only as being under development.

CR6: Please expand Section D and Table 6 to reference: Jamaica's Gender and Climate Change Strategy (2022–2025), already cited in Annex II; national poverty reduction instruments such as the National Policy on Poverty and the National Poverty Reduction Programme, given the poverty-incidence framing of the beneficiary population at Figures 8–9 (p. 10) and the intent to reach informal and unbanked operators; and any relevant sub-national instruments in the parishes most affected by Hurricane Melissa and identified as project focus areas (Westmoreland, St Elizabeth, St James, Trelawny, St Ann; p. 7); for example, parish disaster risk management plans or the Local Sustainable Development Plans prepared by the Social Development Commission.

The Master Plan for Sustainable Tourism Development cited at p. 8 and Table 6 covers the period 2002–2012. In the full proposal please indicate whether the Ministry of Tourism's successor strategy is at a stage where its priorities can be reflected, and confirm the project's alignment with that successor rather than with the expired instrument.

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CAR9: Cleared (pp. 21–23).

Table 7 now includes alignment analysis with Jamaica's NDC 3.0 (2035) through the project's renewable energy, energy efficiency and incentive-framework activities, and addresses the NAP through its tourism-sector mainstreaming priority, an express commitment to integrate NAP tourism-sector actions once implementation progresses, and institutional collaboration with the agencies responsible for NAP implementation.

CR6: Cleared (pp. 21–23) .

Section D and Table 7 have been expanded to include the Gender and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (2022–2025), the National Policy on Poverty and National Poverty Reduction Programme, and the St Elizabeth and Trelawny Local Sustainable Development Plans. The concept acknowledges the expiry of the 2002–2012 Master Plan and confirms that the updated Master Plan, expected to be finalized during full proposal development, will be the alignment reference, secured through the Ministry of Tourism's participation in Component 1.

Does the project / programme meet 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?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Yes, however clarification is needed.

Section E (pp. 23–24) demonstrates the national regulatory environment and its principal instruments. The National Environment and Planning Agency under the Natural Resources Conservation Authority Act is correctly identified as the source of environmental permits and beach licences, alongside Ministry of Tourism licensing (p. 23). The Jamaica National Building Code is noted as under review with expected inclusion of environmental and green building considerations. Compliance obligations relating to water quality, air quality and safety are acknowledged. The concept also engages directly with the capacity dimension of this criterion: it identifies limited technical and financial capacity among community operators as a barrier to compliance and positions Component 1 as consolidating the permit application process and Component 3 as building the technical institutional capacity of local operators to meet environmental standards, including specialised support for non-compliant operators to come into compliance (p. 23).

The tourism operator focus group provides a much fuller regulatory picture than Section E itself, listing business registration, tax registration, NEPA permit, beach licence, fire safety, public health certification (individual food handler permits and enterprise-level public health certification), attractions licences, Jamaica Constabulary certification, public insurance, and JNHT designation for heritage sites (Annex I, p. 5). None of this is reflected in the main text, and the operators' observation that all of these are required to obtain TPDCo certification bears directly on the feasibility of Component 1's "Roadmap to Sustainable Tourism".

CAR10: Please expand Section E to set out a consolidated register of the national technical standards, permits and licences applicable to the project's activities, drawing on the more detailed list produced by tourism operators themselves at Annex I, p. 5, together with the labour, occupational safety and equal pay instruments referenced in Annex II and Table 7. For each, please indicate whether compliance is a condition of Component 2 sub-project eligibility, a subject of Component 3 capacity building, or both.

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CAR10: Cleared (p. 23).

Section E now includes Table 8, a consolidated register of national laws, permits, licences and standards applicable to project activities, drawing on the permits identified by tourism operators during consultations and the labour, equal pay and gender instruments referenced in Annex II. For each instrument, the register indicates whether compliance is a condition of access to the Component 2 funding mechanism, a subject of Component 3 capacity building, or both, with differentiated treatment for the Capacity Building Window and heritage tourism sites.

Is there duplication of project / programme with other funding sources? Does the project enhance collaboration across sectors and enhance efficiencies and good practice?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Section F (p. 24) engages seriously with one comparator, JSIF's World Bank-funded Rural Economic Development Initiative II (REDI II) exhaustively, lessons drawn, complementarity stated, overlap avoided. Several initiatives directly relevant to SEA-I's scope, geography or beneficiary group are not identified. Some of

these are Adaptation Fund projects; one is executed by an organisation present in SEA-J's own consultation record; and one, in prospect, would materially reshape the tourism-MSME climate finance landscape SEA-J proposes to enter.

CAR11: Please expand Section F to identify and address complementarity with the principal climate finance initiatives in Jamaica relevant to SEA-J including:

1. PIOJ's AF project in Jamaica: Enhancing the Resilience of the Agricultural Sector and Coastal Areas to Protect Livelihoods and Improve Food Security, is a US\$9.965 million single-country programme covering seven parishes, several of which SEA-J targets (Westmoreland, St Ann, Trelawny, St Mary, St Thomas, Clarendon, Manchester), with a coastal resilience component in Negril.
2. GEF Small Grants Programme, and specifically the Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) portfolio in Jamaica, has funded community-driven adaptation in coastal areas including Portland Bight, executed by C-CAM Foundation: the same organisation that hosted SEA-J's field visit and is a consultation participant (Annex I, pp. 1–2). Lessons on grievance mechanisms, community capacity assessment, and the use of PES and revolving funds are directly transferable.
3. EnGenDER (Enabling Gender-Responsive Disaster Recovery, Climate and Environmental Resilience in the Caribbean): jointly implemented by UNDP, UN Women, WFP and CDEMA in Jamaica, has produced a Jamaica-specific gender inequality and climate risk study, and covers tourism as an affected sector. This is directly relevant to the Preliminary Gender Assessment (Annex II) and the Gender Action Plan foreshadowed for full proposal.
4. DBJ/GCF Blue Green Facility (in development). A proposed US\$500 million programmatic climate finance facility targeting MSMEs including in tourism, following DBJ's GCF accreditation in 2023. DBJ was a participant in SEA-J's stakeholder consultation (Annex I, p. 1) and is proposed under CR 2 elsewhere in this review as a partner for the loan facility. If this facility becomes operational during SEA-J's implementation window, the risk of duplication or complementarity opportunity is significant and needs to be addressed now.
5. IDB Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) adaptation project covering agriculture, tourism and watershed management, which directly touches SEA-J's sector focus.

It could be useful to have a table listing all relevant projects, areas of complementarity and lessons learned that has been integrated into the concept idea. Outlining how the project will create linkages and synergies with all relevant potentially overlapping projects should also be indicated.

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CAR11: Cleared (pp. 24–25).

Section F now includes Table 9, a consolidated complementarity analysis covering the PIOJ Adaptation Fund programme (with parish overlap and the Negril coastal component addressed), the GEF SGP/CBA portfolio (with lessons learned integrated into SEA-J's design), EnGenDER (informing the gender assessment and funding targets), the DBJ/GCF Blue Green Facility (with duplication risk managed through DBJ's dual administrative role), the IDB PPCR, REDI I/II and CABRIC. Areas of complementarity, integrated lessons, and institutional mechanisms for coordination and deduplication are identified for each.

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 capabilities?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Section G (p. 24) addresses knowledge management in three sentences, identifying a single activity: Sustainability Information Displays at community tourism facilities; which is a visitor-facing communications feature under Component 3 (p. 19). The concept does not indicate what lessons will be captured, how they will be analysed, how they will feed back into project delivery, how they will be disseminated, or where the KM function will institutionally reside. The traditional and indigenous knowledge dimension is also unaddressed in substance, despite the identification of Maroon and Rastafari communities in the consultation record (Annex I, p. 7) and the community-based coastal knowledge held by C-CAM and the Oracabessa Marine Trust (p. 9). No KM budget line is visible in Table 4 (p. 14).

CAR12: Please indicate how knowledge will be managed through out the project setting out what lessons will be captured, how they will be analysed and fed back into successive Calls for Proposals under Component 2 and into Component 3 training design, and how they will be disseminated nationally, regionally and to the Adaptation Fund knowledge community. Please futher indicate how traditional and local knowledge will inform project delivery, including how it will be engaged in the design of sub-project selection criteria under Component 2, the training curriculum under Component 3, and the incentive design under Component 1.

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CAR12: Not cleared.

The Section G text referenced in the response was already reviewed and its accepted: the PMEL approach, the feedback loops into successive Calls for Proposals under Component 2 and iterative Component 3 training design, and the role of local and traditional knowledge in prioritising adaptation actions and geographic targeting. The embedding of knowledge management within project activities rather than a dedicated budget line is also noted. However, no new text has been added to the concept note addressing the three outstanding elements, which remain required:

- (i) dissemination beyond the national level: please state how lessons will be shared regionally, for example through the CCCCC's networks and exchange with the CABRIC program, and with the Adaptation Fund knowledge community through project reporting and the Fund's learning platforms;
- (ii) the role of local and traditional knowledge in the design of the sub-project selection criteria under Component 2, not only in the prioritization of activities: one sentence stating that the selection criteria and scoring framework will be developed with input from community tourism operators and local knowledge bearers would suffice, and would reinforce the governance response requested under CAR6; and
- (iii) how local knowledge will inform the incentive design under Component 1: for example, that the certification roadmap and incentive structure will be shaped by operator-identified barriers and locally recognized sustainable practices documented through the consultations and the Tourism Operators Associations.

Has a consultative process taken place, and has it involved and encouraged all key stakeholders, and vulnerable groups, to meaningfully participate in and lead adaptation decisions? Did 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?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: The consultation process is substantive: a multi-stakeholder Project Working Group, a preliminary Needs Assessment survey, a field visit to an operating ecotourism facility, and a two-day Stakeholder Validation Write-shop in October and November 2025, with Day 2 rescheduled to accommodate Hurricane Melissa. Participants were briefed on LLA, ESP and Gender Policy principles before providing feedback, and the outputs demonstrably shaped the design, most notably the transformation of Component 2 into a direct funding mechanism and the mid-workshop refinement of eligibility criteria (Annex I, pp. 10–11). The Preliminary Gender

Assessment (Annex II) is included. However participation is not sex-disaggregated. More consequentially, the consultation reached organised entities but not the beneficiary populations Annex II identifies as most vulnerable (informal and unbanked operators, women-headed and youth-headed enterprises, persons with disabilities, Maroon and Rastafari community representatives, and displaced persons) a gap the IE's own Focus Group 3 flagged directly (Annex I, p. 7).

CR7: Please provide sex-disaggregated participation data for the field visit, the two workshop days and the Needs Assessment survey.

CAR13: Please indicate how targeted consultation with the identified vulnerable groups will be undertaken for the development of the fully-developed proposal, and how their concerns will be reflected in the design of Component 2 eligibility criteria and Component 3 training.

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CR7: Not cleared.

The clarification that the Needs Assessment survey collected institutional rather than individual responses is noted, noting the updated survey to be deployed during proposal preparation and the sex-disaggregation to be supported by the detailed Gender Assessment. Two data corrections remain outstanding from the previous review:

(i) please reconcile the field visit disaggregation, which reads 8 females/3 males in Annex I but 8 female/5 male in Section H, (only the latter sums to the reported 13 attendees) and correct whichever figure is in error; and

(ii) please complete the Day 1 disaggregation by including the 5 online participants, drawing on the attendance register at Appendix 1, so that the figures sum to the reported total of 30.

CAR13: Not Cleared.

The consultation approach at Section H (p. 27) clears the first element of this CAR. The second element remains outstanding: the current text states that vulnerable groups will provide input on the draft project design, but not that this input will be integrated into the design itself. Please add one or two sentences stating expressly that the outputs of the focus groups and key informant interviews with vulnerable groups will inform the finalization of the Component 2 sub-project eligibility criteria and selection framework, as well as the content, scheduling and delivery formats of the Component 3 training curriculum.

Is the requested financing justified on the basis of full cost of adaptation reasoning?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Section I (p. 26) makes a coherent country-level case for grant financing, positioning Jamaica as an upper-middle-income SIDS with constrained access to private climate finance and grounding the argument in realised losses from Hurricane Beryl and Hurricane Melissa. However the full cost of adaptation reasoning is asserted at country level but not applied to the project's own activities, and several activities are capable of being characterised as business-as-usual tourism sector development on their face: the Green Business/Ecotourism certification and roadmap under Component 1, the renewable energy and energy efficiency investments under Component 2 whose adaptation rationale rests on an unsubstantiated "mitigation as adaptation" framing (p. 18), and the visitor-facing information displays under Component 3.

The proposal needs to demonstrate, for each component, the adaptation additionality of the activities over the business-as-usual development or tourism sector baseline, giving particular attention to the Green Business/Ecotourism certification and roadmap under Component 1, the renewable energy and energy efficiency investments under Component 2, and the visitor-facing information displays under Component 3, each of which is capable of being characterised as sustainable tourism development. (See CAR5)

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: Observation on Section I (resolved via CAR5): The adaptation additionality of the Component 1 certification and roadmap, the Component 2 renewable energy and energy efficiency investments, and the Component 3 information displays is now demonstrated at activity level (pp. 15, 17–18; Table 3), resolving the characterization concern referred to CAR5.

For the fully developed proposal, the full cost of adaptation reasoning at Section I should be extended beyond the country-level case to incorporate these component-level additionality arguments explicitly, demonstrating for each component the adaptation increment over the business-as-usual tourism sector baseline.

Is the project / program aligned with AF's results framework?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Table 8 (pp. 31–33) presents a structured mapping of the project's objectives and outcomes against the Fund's Strategic Results Framework, referencing Fund Outcomes 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 and a set of associated output indicators. However the table does not follow the guidance laid out in AF's results framework.

CAR14: Kindly revise according to the guidance in the framework:

Upper section of the table:

- Please ensure Project Objectives, Project Objective Indicators, Fund Outcomes, and Fund Outcome Indicators are entered in their respective correct columns using exact AF Results Framework language
 - For each Project Objective indicator, only the single most appropriate Fund Outcome and its single most relevant Fund Outcome Indicator should be selected. Do not lump together amount for various indicators
 - Grant amounts must be entered per Fund Outcome selected, with the total equaling the project activity cost
- Lower section of the table:

- For each Project Outcome indicator, only the single most relevant Fund Output and its single most relevant Fund Output Indicator should be selected
- Use grant amount associated with fund output indicator. Do not lump together amount for various indicators.

Consistency requirement:

- All Fund Outcomes associated with Fund Outputs listed in the lower section must also be reflected in the upper section of the table, ensuring full vertical consistency throughout the results framework.

Please also revise Table 8 to conform to the revised template and excluding IE fees and EE cost. Please see relevant template and guidance: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/alignment-with-adaptation-fund-results-framework-template-and-guidance-dec-2025/> and <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/strategic-results-framework-guidance-2026/>

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CAR14: Cleared (pp. 32-33).

Table 12 (pp. 32–33) has been revised in accordance with the SRF guidance: each project objective indicator is

paired with a single Fund Outcome and single Fund Outcome Indicator, and each project outcome indicator with a single Fund Output and single Fund Output Indicator, using exact revised SRF language, with individual grant amounts per row summing in both sections to USD 4,171,200, equal to the total project activity cost. Full vertical consistency is maintained, with all Fund Outcomes parenting the selected Fund Outputs reflected in the upper section.

Has the sustainability of the project/programme outcomes been taken into account when designing the project? 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?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Section J (pp. 26–27) makes a plausible case for sustainability across several dimensions and gets the architecture right in principle, identifying institutional sustainability through the multi-agency coordination and incentivization mechanism under Component 1, community ownership through the direct funding modality under Component 2, and technical sustainability through embedded operator capacity and maintenance training under Components 2 and 3. The "whole-of-sector" framing is used to make a sustainability argument for a project of this design, and the observation that installed technologies will be owned and maintained by the operators themselves, with a maintenance plan and training built in, is a real design feature rather than a rhetorical claim.

The difficulty is that the argument rests on mechanisms whose own sustainability is not established, and the section does not address several dimensions. The Component 1 incentivization mechanism is the load-bearing element of the sustainability case at p. 26, yet its own funding source is undefined and stakeholders directly questioned its value and enforceability (Annex I, pp. 3–4). The revolving loan facility, which is in principle the strongest sustainability instrument in the design, is not addressed at all: reflow assumptions, recycling timeframes, and treatment of the fund at project close are silent. The Tourism Operators Associations envisaged under Component 1 (activity 1.1.2.2, p. 16) are a potentially powerful sustainability instrument but are not treated as such in Section J. The concept only partially address economic, social, environmental, institutional and financial sustainability: environmental sustainability is not addressed, replication and scaling are asserted rather than pathwayed.

CAR15: The sustainability case at Section J relies on two mechanisms whose own continued operation after project close is not established. Please address each:

1. The Component 1 incentivization mechanism (activity 1.1.1.1, p. 15). Section J states that project activities will be sustained through this mechanism, but its funding source is described only as a "Payment for Ecosystem Services (or other appropriate) methodology" with no committed source of capitalisation. Please indicate who will fund the incentive payments after project close, whether an existing national instrument (such as the Tourism Enhancement Fee, suggested by stakeholders at Annex I, p. 5) will be leveraged, and what institutional arrangements will keep the mechanism operational once AF financing ends.
2. The Component 2 revolving loan facility (p. 17). A revolving fund is in principle a strong sustainability instrument, since recycled capital continues to finance resilience investments beyond the grant period. Section J does not engage with this. Please indicate how reflows will be generated within the roughly four-year implementation window, who will hold and administer the capital at project close, and how the facility will continue to operate thereafter.

CAR16: Please expand Section J to address the sustainability dimensions which the concept does not treat: environmental sustainability (how ecosystem-based investments if included, will be maintained, and how the certification instrument will encourage environmentally sustainable practice over time); replication and scaling

(the pathway by which the model can be replicated, including who would replicate, with what resources, and with what supporting infrastructure); and political sustainability (how the project will secure institutional buy-in across administrations and align with the National Adaptation Plan and successor Tourism Master Plan as they finalise).

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: CAR15: Not cleared.

Sub-item 1 is cleared: the capitalisation options for the incentivization mechanism, the feasibility study, and the institutional embedding through Component 1 coordination (p. 14) are enough at the concept stage. Sub-item 2 remains outstanding. It is noted that detailed reflow modelling, administration procedures and the full sustainability plan will be developed through the feasibility and economic/financial analyses; however, the design-stage questions cannot be deferred, as the sustainability case at Section J depends on them: please add to Section J

(i) an acknowledgment of the realistic timing of reflows, given that loan repayment periods of 5-10 years extend beyond the four-year implementation period, and identification of the bridge source for the incentive programme during implementation or a corresponding tempering of the statements at pp. 15 and 27; and
(ii) a design commitment naming the intended custodian arrangement for the loan portfolio and recycled capital at project close. A commitment with details confirmed at full proposal stage, will clear this sub-item. Please also correct the reference at Section J to "the incentive programme in Component 2," which is a Component 1 activity.

CAR16: Cleared (p. 27).

Section J now addresses environmental sustainability (operator ownership with mandatory maintenance plans and training, ecosystem-service income incentives for continued conservation, and the certification instrument as a nationally-owned mechanism encouraging sustained environmentally sound practice), replication and scaling (Component 1 guidelines for new entrants, Association-based mentoring, and integration into GEF SGP, CABRIC and NCTFJ programmes as replication vehicles), and political sustainability (institutional buy-in across administrations through statutory agency mandates and collaboration with the agencies implementing the NAP and the updated Tourism Master Plan).

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?

Response: Not Cleared

Secretariat: Section K (p. 27) and Table 7 (pp. 27–30) present a completed fifteen-principle checklist with a stated categorisation, and the Preliminary Gender Assessment at Annex II provides a companion analysis of gender-differentiated vulnerabilities that is stronger than most concepts at this stage. The IE has plainly engaged with the ESP structure, has organised risk findings against the fifteen principles rather than by activity, and has attached mitigation measures to each identified risk. However, some issues remain, compounded by the fact that Component 2 (61 per cent of activity costs) is delivered through Unidentified Sub-Projects. The Category C classification is also not reasonable given the USPs. Several conclusions of "no further assessment required" are premature also given the USP scope.

CAR 17: Please revise and substantiate the environmental and social categorization. The proposed Category C classification is inconsistent with the Moderate risks identified under Access and Equity, Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, and Physical and Cultural Heritage, as well as

the proposed retrofitting and infrastructure activities. On the information presented, a Category B classification appears more appropriate. Please strengthen the preliminary risk identification for the identified activities, clearly acknowledge the uncertainties associated with the Component 2 USPs, and confirm that their risks will be assessed and managed in accordance with the Fund's ESP and Gender Policy as they are identified. Correspondingly, CAR1 should request only a clearer indication of anticipated sub-project types and the required USP justification, rather than a complete USP framework at concept stage.

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: CAR17: Cleared (Part II.K, p. 28).

The environmental and social categorization has been revised to Category B with supporting rationale, consistent with the Moderate risks identified under Access and Equity, Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups, Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, and Physical and Cultural Heritage in the strengthened per-principle assessment at Table 11 (pp. 29–31), which now also captures the risks of retrofitting and infrastructure activities. The uncertainties associated with the Component 2 USPs are expressly acknowledged, with confirmation that USP risks will be screened against the 15 ESP Principles at selection and managed through the sub-project-level ESMP procedure, risk watch and trigger list, and exclusion of Category A activities, in accordance with the Fund's ESP and Gender Policy.

Resource Availability

Is the requested project / programme funding within the size for LLA single country grants?

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: Yes.

Is the Implementing Entity Management Fee at or below 8.5% per cent of the total project/programme budget before the fee?

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: The IE fee is at 8.49%

The concept does not include a PFG request.

Are the Project/Programme Execution Costs at or below 9.5% per cent of the total project/programme budget (including the fee)?

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: The EE fee is 9.49%.

The IE does not serve as the EE.

Eligibility of IE

Is the project/programme submitted through an eligible Implementing Entity that has been accredited by the Board?

Response: Cleared

Secretariat: Accreditation valid until 30 October 2027



LOCALLY-LED ADAPTATION PROJECT/PROGRAMME PROPOSAL FOR SINGLE COUNTRY

PART I: PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION

Title of Project/Programme: Sustainable Ecotourism Advancement for Jamaica (SEA-J)

Country: Jamaica

Thematic Focal Area: Multisector

Type of Implementing Entity: Regional Implementing Entity

Implementing Entity: Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)

Executing Entities: Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF)

Amount of Financing Requested: 5,000,000 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

Letter of Endorsement (LOE) signed: Yes ☒ No ☐

NOTE: The LOE 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:

- ☒ 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: July 23, 2026

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

CLIMATE CHANGE & JAMAICA'S TOURISM INDUSTRY

Jamaica is an island archipelago state in the Caribbean with a total land mass of 10,991km², made up of one large island and approximately 49 smaller islands/cays. Jamaica is situated in the Greater Antilles and is located in the Atlantic hurricane basin. As the climate crisis worsens, Jamaica continues to experience increasing vulnerabilities to climate shocks, especially as a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) situated in the Atlantic hurricane basin. The [Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery \(GFDRR\)](#) indicates that Jamaica is the 3rd most exposed country to multiple hazards, with over 96% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) and population at risk from two or more hazards. Being on the frontlines of the most severe effects of the climate crisis, Jamaica's economic activities and continued development are extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, and further economic growth and sustainability will be dependent on the country's ability to adapt to climate shocks and build resilience across various sectors. Jamaica is highly susceptible to the key climate risks listed below:

- Sea-level rise, which is projected to threaten coastal infrastructure and livelihoods, and threaten groundwater resources due to the risk of saltwater intrusion
- Increasing temperatures, which have and continue to contribute to heat stress on people and the environment, increased water and energy demand, increases in vector-borne diseases
- Decreased rainfall, which has and is projected to contribute to increased drought events, decrease in agricultural productivity, increased water demand
- Increased variability in weather patterns, which has and is projected to cause severe unexpected rain/storm events leading to flooding, increased storm intensity, changes in wet/dry seasons

Jamaica is home to a population of 2,839,175 people ([World Bank](#)), approximately 70% of whom live along the coastline (Development Trends in Jamaica's Coastal Areas and the Implications for Climate Change -The Planning Institute of Jamaica [PIOJ]). Over 50% of the country's productive industries and service sector is located within the coastal zone, including hotels, airports, seaports and shipping facilities. Many important national assets (national banks, museums, ministry and parliament buildings) and areas of cultural significance are also located near to the coastline and are highly susceptible to the effects of sea level rise, tropical cyclones, coral reef degradation and coastal erosion. The island has been impacted directly and indirectly by severe storms and hurricanes over the years, each of which has caused billions of dollars of damage to the island. Most significantly, in October 2025, Jamaica was impacted by the passage of Category 5 Hurricane Melissa, which made direct landfall on the island, resulting in catastrophic loss of homes, businesses and livelihoods. Jamaica's main economic activities include tourism, agriculture and mining. The State of the Jamaican Climate Report 2022 observes that climate change "has the potential to derail Vision 2030 Jamaica efforts" and outlines the impact of climate change on various sectors, focused on agriculture, coastal resources & human settlements, health, water, tourism and the economy.

Tourism is a significant contributor to Jamaica's GDP, generating JM\$4.3 billion in 2024, attracting a record 4.3 million visitors ([Jamaica Tourist Board, 2025](#)). The sector employs [175,000 persons](#) directly and another [354,000 indirectly](#). Jamaica's National Development Plan, Vision 2030 states that "by the year 2030, Jamaica will have a wider choice of tourist attractions in safe and secure resort areas and that all hotels will be operated in harmony with the natural environment". Jamaica's traditional tourism model is one of "sun sand and sea" (3S) with most activities centered around coastal resources and communities. However, this existing tourism model is at risk due to climate change impacts, most notably sea-level rise, and increasing tropical cyclones and hurricanes. According to the [State of the Jamaican Climate Report Vol III \(2022\)](#), direct impacts of climate change on tourism in Jamaica pose risks to both tourism supply and tourism demand/attractiveness. Over the years, damage from climate events such as storms and hurricanes has required increased government expenditure for infrastructure repair and recovery efforts. These events also result in decreased economic benefits in the sector, loss of employment, negative impacts on food and water security, increased pressure on inland resources to supplement income lost along the coastline, and biodiversity loss and increase of vector-borne disease, all of which led to a decreased user experience. Additionally, Jamaica's two major international airports are located along the coastline; as such, the mobility of tourists is also impacted by climate events. The State of the Jamaican Climate Report Vol III (2022) outlines some of the consequences that climate impacts will have on the tourism sector, summarized below:

Table 1: Climate Change Impacts on Jamaica's Tourism Sector

CLIMATE IMPACT	EFFECTS ON TOURISM SECTOR
Sea Level Rise	• Beaches retreating inland
Increasing Temperatures	• Warmer winters in temperate areas may reduce number of visitors to the Caribbean during peak "winter season" • Sargassum blooms compromise tourism product quality • Increased incidence of heat stress and other heat related illnesses • Coral reef bleaching

Heavy Rainfall, Hurricanes & Storms	• Adverse weather conditions may lead to cancellation of reservations • Displacement of visitors • Restricted travel of hotel workers • Infrastructural damage • Additional emergency preparedness needed for visitors
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PROJECTED CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON JAMAICA

Despite the country contributing very little to global emissions, analysis done by the State of the Jamaican Climate Report Vol III (2022) and the Climate Information Portal, indicates that negative impacts of climate change on Jamaica are projected to increasingly worsen over time, as outlined in Table 2 below:

Table 2: Projected Climate Change Impacts on Jamaica by end-of-century

Climate Change Indicator/Impact	Projected Change by 2040-2070 at RCP 4.5 (source: Climate Information Portal)	Projected Change by 2070-2100 at RCP 4.5 (source: Climate Information Portal)
Daily Maximum Temperature (annual mean)	Increase by 1.5°C (1.4°C – 1.6°C)	Increase by 2°C (1.8°C – 2.1°C)
Aridity (annual mean)	Increase by 1.3% (0.43% - 2.8%)	Increase by 1.9% (1.6% - 4.5%)
Precipitation (annual mean)	Decrease by 8.1% (1.3% - 16%)	Decrease by 9.2% (2.2% – 19%)
Other Important Indicators		
Sea Level Rise (projected mean)	Projected Change by End of Century (Source: State of the Jamaican Climate Report Vol III, 2022)	0.58m - 0.87m (Maximum Rise 1.04m)
Storm Intensity		Increase by 2% - 11% (shift in distribution toward higher wind speeds)
Hurricane Rainfall Rates		Increase by 5% - 25%
Median change in the proportion of very intense storms (categories 4 and 5)		Increase by 13%

Temperature and Precipitation

Figure 1 below illustrates the expected changes in temperature (annual mean) and precipitation (annual mean by the end of the century, under a RCP 4.5 Model. (Climate Information Portal). There outlines a clear projection for an increase of the annual mean temperature to somewhere between 1.8°C and 2°C by 2100. Consequently, there is a clear projected change in the annual mean precipitation, with a decrease of somewhere between 2.2% and 19% by 2021.

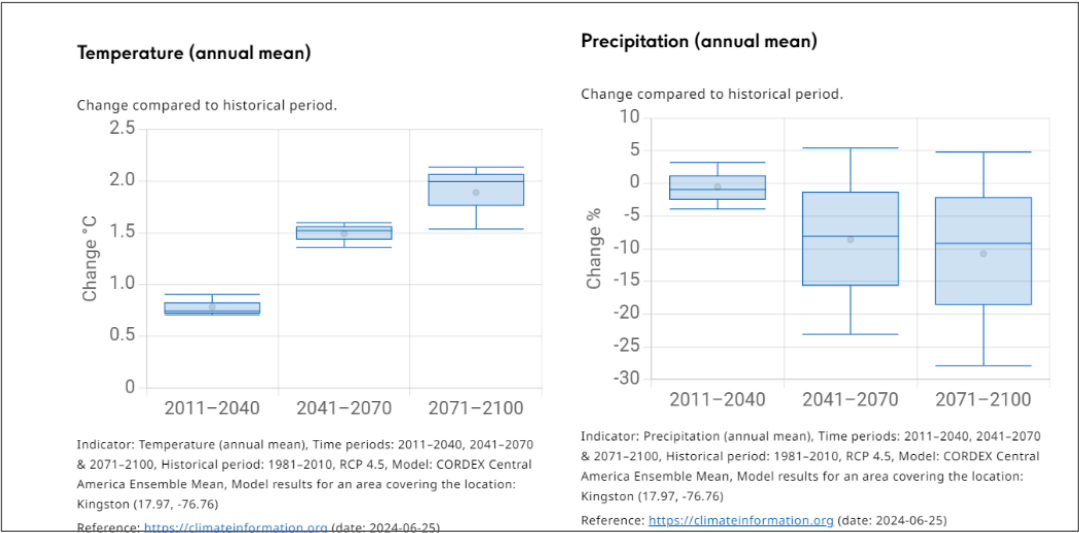


Figure 1: Expected Changes in annual mean temperature and precipitation in Jamaica by end-of century (Source: climateinformation.org)

Sea Level Rise

An important consequence of increasing global temperatures for Small Island Developing States is sea-level rise. Figure 2 below illustrates the areas of land which are projected to be below the annual flood level if global emissions and pollution continue on the current trajectory.



Figure 2: Projected Sea Level Rise in Jamaica: Areas in red represent areas of land expected to be below annual flood level if global emissions and pollution pathways continue on the current trajectory. Left: 2050, right: 2100. (Source: coastal.climatecentral.org)

This projected sea level rise threatens the security of critical infrastructure and economic areas, including Jamaica's two international airports, which are both located on vulnerable coastlines. Figure 3 below outlines the projected sea level rise around the Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston, and the Donald Sangster International Airport in Montego Bay. As an island state, with air travel being the main mode of transit overseas, the integrity and accessibility of international airports are considerations of national security.

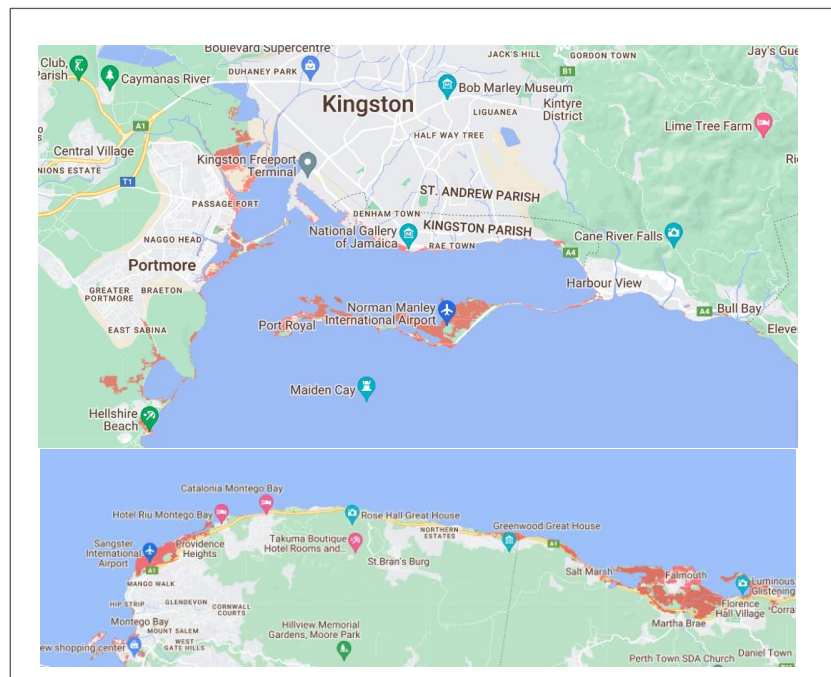


Figure 3: Projected sea level rise in major cities, Kingston (top) and Montego Bay (bottom) by end-of-century

Furthermore, it is critical to note that Figure 3 shows that capital city of Kingston is expected to be greatly affected by sea level rise, including land areas that are home to other nationally important assets such as the National Gallery of Jamaica, the Kingston Freeport Terminal Limited (major logistics hub) and residential and fishing communities along the coastline of Hellshire and Portmore in St. Catherine. Similarly, important tourist areas in Montego Bay and Falmouth, such as the Sangster International Airport and many hotel properties, are at significant risk of being impacted by sea-level rise.

Sea Surface Temperatures

The increasing number of record-breaking severe weather events is no coincidence and can be largely attributed to the effects of climate change, particularly increasing Sea Surface Temperatures (SSTs). While there is limited modelling data available for SST projections in the Caribbean, the [IPCC AR6 Sixth Assessment Synthesis Report](#) predicts “more intense and frequent extreme rainfall and associated flooding in many regions including coastal and other low-lying cities (medium to high confidence), and increased proportion of and peak wind speeds of intense tropical cyclones”.

A study on Caribbean SSTs by [Nurse and Charlery \(2014\)](#) also makes some projections:

- By mid-century, the expanding and contracting of the Atlantic Warm Pool (AWP) will be replaced by uniformly warm temperatures across the Caribbean Sea throughout the entire year
- The projected SSTs, therefore, exceed 28°C across the entire Caribbean Sea year-round and by the end of the century, years of coolest projected SSTs fall within the range of the warmest years in the present
- This projected increase in Caribbean SSTs trends will likely support the generation of more intense future hurricanes and have

increasingly negative impacts on coral health and general marine ecology (Taylor and Stephenson 2017)

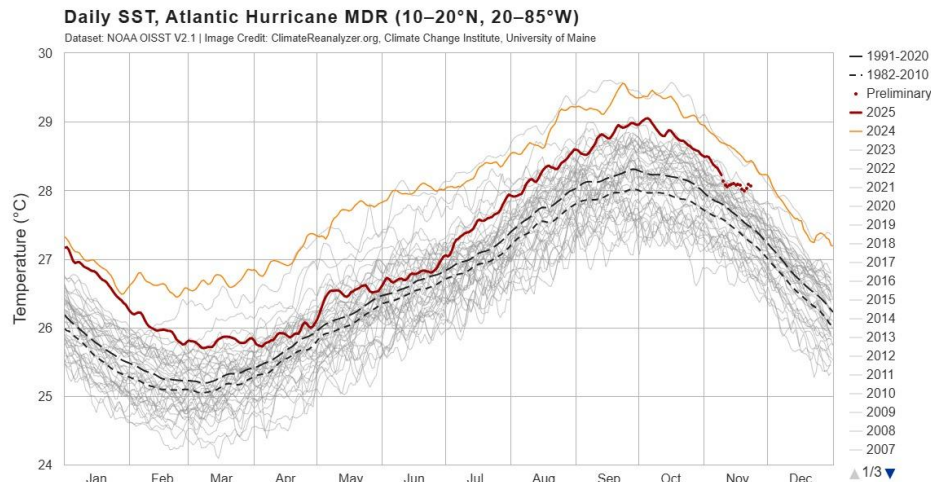


Figure 4: Daily Sea Surface Temperature Change Over Atlantic Hurricane Main Development Region (MDR) 1981-2025 (Source: ClimateReanalyzer.org)

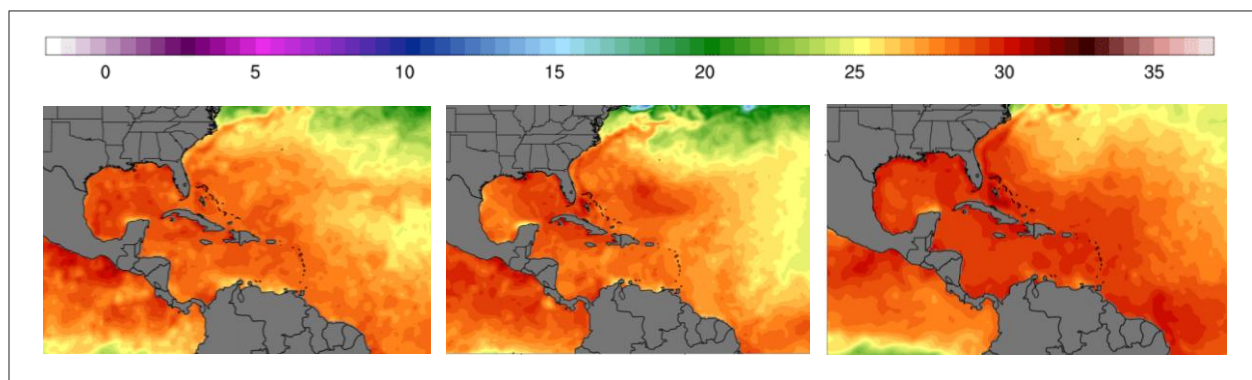


Figure 5: Increased sea surface temperatures in the Caribbean Basin over time

Increasingly warming sea surface temperatures (SST) in the Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea are already having an impact on the intensity of tropical cyclones in the region. In 2024, Hurricane Beryl offered an ominous preview of what may be expected as SSTs continue to rise. While Hurricane Beryl did not make direct landfall on Jamaica, it was still able to cause crippling economic and personal losses for its population. Resources that should have been focused on economic growth and development are now being rerouted to prioritize disaster response and recovery.

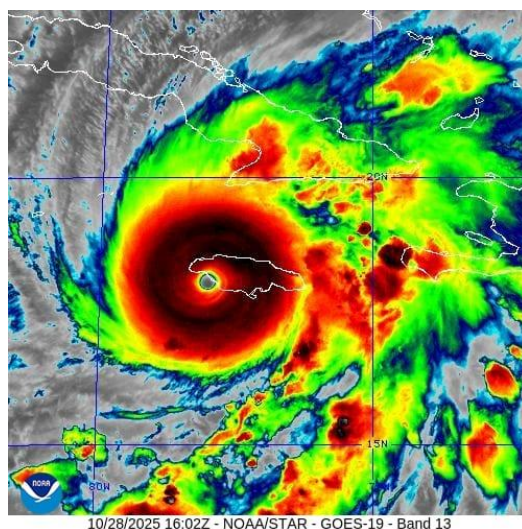


Figure 6: Hurricane Melissa making landfall in Southwestern Jamaica on October 28, 2025

On October 28, 2025, Category 5 Hurricane Melissa, tied for the strongest landfalling hurricane in Atlantic basin history made direct landfall in New Hope, Westmoreland. Hurricane Melissa decimated much of the southwestern portion of the island, tracking its devastation through

some of the country's most important tourist parishes such as Westmoreland (Negril, Bluefields Bay), St Elizabeth (YS Falls, Appleton Estate, Treasure Beach), St. James (Montego Bay), Trelawny (Falmouth, Glistening Waters) and sections of St Ann (Runaway Bay). Areas that did not sustain significant damage were still severely impacted by the destruction of critically important infrastructure such as the electricity grid, water-supply systems, road networks and coastal infrastructure.

A [Hurricane Melissa Damage and Loss Assessment Report](#), estimated the damage from Hurricane Melissa in Jamaica at US \$12.4 Billion, equivalent to 56.7% of Jamaica's 2024 gross domestic product (GDP). The report outlines significant damage to Jamaica's tourism sector, which is expected to expand beyond direct damage: *"Tourism is expected to see additional effects beyond direct damage. The tourism sector in the north of Jamaica has been particularly badly hit, with some large resorts such as Sandals and Iberostar incurring severe damage, and smaller scale boutique hotels and holiday villas also sustaining damage. Many of the country's tourism assets are in the western and northern parts of the island with large cruise berths in Saint Ann, Trelawny and Saint James parishes, so these impacts may be felt severely, even if some assets are insured."*

The urgency of the need cannot be overstated as Jamaica braces for increasing and worsening climate shocks in the future. With the considerable climate impacts projected to occur by mid-century and end-of-century, Jamaica is required to urgently adapt and prepare for the cross-cutting impacts that climate change will have on the population.

The State of the Jamaican Climate Report also outlines the following impacts likely to be faced by tourism enterprises, which are expected to be exacerbated in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa:

- **Increases in operating costs:** additional emergency preparedness and disaster response, including backup power and water systems and evacuation plan; costs for infrastructure repair; business interruptions;
- **Increases in cooling and air conditioning costs**
- **Increased costs for pest fumigation** to reduce visitor exposure to vector-borne diseases;
- **Increases in costs for coastal defence structures** to counter beach erosion (e.g. beach engineering, building additional seawalls, etc.)
- **Reduced availability of freshwater resources** due to decreased rainfall caused by climate change

The report also outlines several elements and indicators that can be used to measure the attractiveness of Jamaica's tourism destinations. These elements include: **Price of Destination (P), Quality of Natural Resources (Q), Visitor Risk Perception (R), Adaptation Strategies (AS) and Mitigation Strategies (MS).**

Ultimately, the adverse impacts listed above affect the attractiveness of the destination to visitors. Increases in operating costs incurred by tourism enterprises are often passed on to the consumer, impacting the price of the destination. Additionally, the impacts of climate change on Jamaica's coastal assets (such as coral reefs, beaches, and coastal and marine ecosystems) also affect the quality of natural resources. These two factors significantly impact the interest of tourists in visiting a destination. The report also suggests that "travellers respond to these climatic changes by adjusting their risk perception to the destination", meaning that as the impacts of climate extremes continue to increase, travellers may choose not to travel to a destination they consider risky.

Climate change effects not only have an impact on the visitor experience, but more significantly, tourism operators and their ability to continue their operations. These operators are directly dependent on the income generated from tourism services to be able to meet their economic needs, and the sector also employs a number of informal workers who have limited job security and social services to be able to offset periods of low income. These effects are especially exacerbated for small-scale operators and community-based facilities, who may have limited capacity to respond to climate shocks. These small-scale operators also exist at the intersection of a number of vulnerabilities, including many of them being located in rural or peri-urban areas, lack of support or security usually provided through formal employment channels. Additionally, as these operators are located on the frontlines of climate disasters, they are at higher risk to physical injury during and after hurricanes, storms, extreme flooding, and other climate induced events.

As tourism is such an important contributor to Jamaica's economic development, a number of the country's national development plans and strategies outline tourism targets. [Jamaica's Vision 2030 National Development Plan](#) outlines this vision for Jamaica's tourism sector: **"Vision 2030 Jamaica will realize the vision of an inclusive, world-class, distinctly Jamaican tourism industry that is a major contributor to socioeconomic and cultural development, with a well-educated, highly skilled and motivated workforce at all levels within a safe, secure and sustainably managed environment"**. The Vision 2030 Plan also aims to "widen the participation in the tourism industry by local stakeholders; improve training and working conditions at all levels; promote investment and economic linkages; **diversify our tourism product**, source markets and market segments; improve standards and levels of customer service; increase the value earned and retained from each tourist; increase the use of Jamaican inputs and culture in all areas of the industry; and **strengthen the integration of tourism development with sustainable land use planning and environmental management"**.

A [Master Plan for Sustainable Tourism Development](#) was created in 2002 to cover the 10-year period 2002-2012, and the Ministry of Tourism is currently developing an updated tourism strategy to replace this plan. Vision 2030 noted that some of the areas identified within the 2002 Master Plan needed additional progress, such as community-based development and environmental sustainability. This project aligns with increasing the shift to a more community-based environmentally sustainable tourism model.

Tourism sector targets are also outlined in Jamaica's 2050 Long-Term Strategy for Emissions Reduction (LTS):

- Intentional planning for more sustainable tourism
- Develop a tourism sector climate change adaptation strategy and implementation roadmap by 2025

The [International Climate Finance Strategy Framework \(ICFSF\)](#) also outlines the following priorities for funding to address the needs in

the tourism sector:

- Support to develop vulnerability assessments (including heat stress) for designated tourism destinations
- Support to design and implement a public awareness sensitization project for sector leaders and tourism workforce on how to adapt to likely climate change scenarios
- Support to develop a framework to support incentivizing the use of renewable energy in new hotel construction

Jamaica's National Adaptation Plan ([JA-NAP](#)) is currently under development and will also outline adaptation actions for the tourism sector. This project will integrate the outcomes and recommendations from the NAP to ensure cohesion in implementing the country's adaptation priorities in the tourism sector.

ECOTOURISM IN JAMAICA:

[The International Ecotourism Society \(TIES\)](#) defines ecotourism as “responsible travel to natural areas that conserve the environment, sustains the well-being of the local people, and involves interpretation and education. [UN Tourism](#) also defines ecotourism as “all nature-based forms of tourism in which the main motivation of the tourists is the observation and appreciation of nature as well as the traditional cultures prevailing in natural areas.” This definition also outlines a number of characteristics for ecotourism operations:

1. It contains educational and interpretation features.
2. It is generally, but not exclusively, organised by specialised tour operators for small groups. Service provider partners at the destinations tend to be small, locally owned businesses.
3. It minimizes negative impacts upon the natural and socio-cultural environment.
4. It supports the maintenance of natural areas which are used as ecotourism attractions by:
 - a) Generating economic benefits for host communities, organizations and authorities managing natural areas with conservation purposes;
 - b) Providing alternative employment and income opportunities for local communities; and
 - c) Increasing awareness towards the conservation of natural and cultural assets, both among locals and tourists.

Locally appropriate definitions of ecotourism also exist in Jamaica. According to the draft working definition developed by the Ministry and NEPA, “nature-based tourism” is defined as “a set of activities that use natural settings as the location for the purpose of recreation, personal challenge, or consumption (e.g. relaxing on beaches, sailing, hiking/ walking nature trails, hunting, fishing, tubing and rafting on rivers, tree canopy touring). Jamaica’s Ministry of Tourism (MoT) has also adopted a definition of ‘ecotourism’ as “...a segment of sustainable tourism that offers experiences that enable visitors to discover protected areas and ecologically sensitive environments while preserving their integrity, and to understand, through interpretation and education, the natural and cultural sense of place. It fosters respect towards the environment, reflects sustainable business practices, creates socio-economic benefits for communities/ regions and for the country on a whole and recognizes and respects local and indigenous cultures, traditions and values.” Key components of this definition include: **Protected areas; Elements of conservation, preservation, natural areas, cultural heritage sites; Involvement of local people, benefits for local people; Sustainable business practices and adoption of Environmental Management Systems; Recognition of local cultures; Strong education component; Low visitor impact**

According to the Quebec Declaration on Ecotourism (2002), ecotourism attractions must espouse the following principles:

- Contribute actively to the conservation of natural and cultural heritage.
- Include local and indigenous communities in its planning, development and operation, and contributing to their well-being.
- Interpret the natural and cultural heritage of the destination to visitors.
- Lend itself better to independent travelers, as well as to organized tours for small sized groups.

Ecotourism projects are thus an ideal complement to the management of national parks and protected areas given the innate natural and cultural heritage value of these sites. Hence only attractions located in protected and/or ecological sensitive areas should be allowed to market their product as ecotourism. Community based ecotourism presents an opportunity to diversify Jamaica’s tourism product and reduce the concentration of coastal-based tourism activities. Research conducted by the Hope Research Group ([Jamaica Tourism Market Intelligence, Comprehensive Analysis & Strategic Insights for 2024](#)) indicates increasing diversity in Jamaica’s tourism trends, where ecotourism accounts for a growing share (28%) of Jamaica’s tourism market in 2024

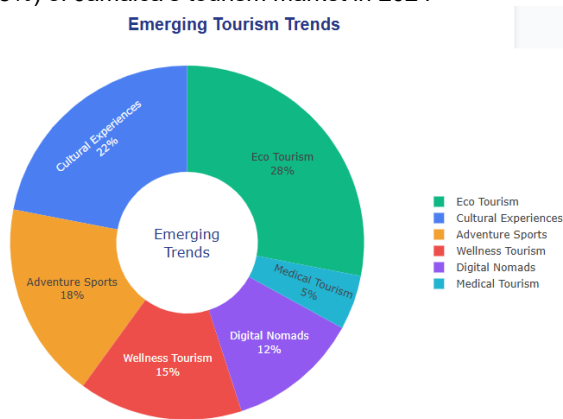


Figure 7: Emerging Tourism Trends (Jamaica). Source: Jamaica Tourism Market Intelligence 2025-2027, Hope Research Group (2026)

There is an increasing number of local operators of various tourist/recreational activities which utilize both coastal and inland natural resources. Some of these include the Oracabessa Marine Trust, which manages the conservation programmes in the Oracabessa Bay Fish Sanctuary and Special Conservation Fisheries Area in St. Mary. These include their Coral Reef Rehabilitation Programme, Sea Turtle Program and Fish Sanctuary Management. The Alligator Head Foundation is another such operator that manages the East Portland Special Fishery Conservation Area (SFCA), a 6 km² protected marine area, which features twelve (12) dive sites, corals at iconic tourism destinations such as Blue Lagoon, Pellew Island and Frenchman's Cove beach. Both of these community-based ecotourism enterprises merge scientific research, community inclusion, coastal protection, biodiversity restoration, environmental preservation and conservation and tourism to offer a unique experience to local and international visitors.

Many ecotourism attractions also include a component of "heritage tourism", as there are strong linkages between Jamaica's natural and cultural heritage. Many heritage assets are dependent on ecosystem services, and underscore the principles of cultural heritage as a part of ecosystem, as outlined in the Ministry of Tourism and Quebec Declaration on Ecotourism's definition of ecotourism. These types of tourism operations also expand the sector beyond the traditional tourism model, and include the incorporation of urban culture with minimal impacts on the environment.

However, these local tourism operators require additional capacity to reduce vulnerability and build resilience, while also maintaining sustainable and responsible use of the natural resources by visitors. There also needs to be a sector-wide shift to increase energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy in order to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and greenhouse gases emissions in the sector.

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS IN JAMAICA'S TOURISM INDUSTRY

Similar to other sectors, vulnerable populations in Jamaica's tourism sector remain at greatest risk to the impacts of climate change, particularly in the area of disaster preparation and recovery. The Preliminary Gender Assessment (Annex II) outlines the gender differentiated vulnerabilities in Jamaica's tourism sector in more detail. In addition to those outlined in Annex II, additional vulnerabilities arise due to poverty incidence and geographical dispersion of community tourism enterprises. Figure 8 and Figure 8 illustrate the geographical dispersion of community tourism enterprises within various areas of Jamaica and examines the poverty incidence levels in these areas. It should be noted that:

- There is an overlap between areas of poverty incidence and the location of community tourism enterprises
- Wide geographic spread of enterprises, exist in areas of high and low poverty.
- Hilly rural inland areas generally have higher incidence of poverty; some types of ecotourism are concentrated in these areas (e.g. Adventure Tourism: nature hikes, mountain exploration, some rivers and attractions, non-coastal activities & AgriTourism)
- Operators located on North Coast have lower poverty incidence (primary tourist areas home to larger operations such as chain hotels, cruise ship ports, etc.).
- Many operators located in areas where >19% or more of total population in poverty

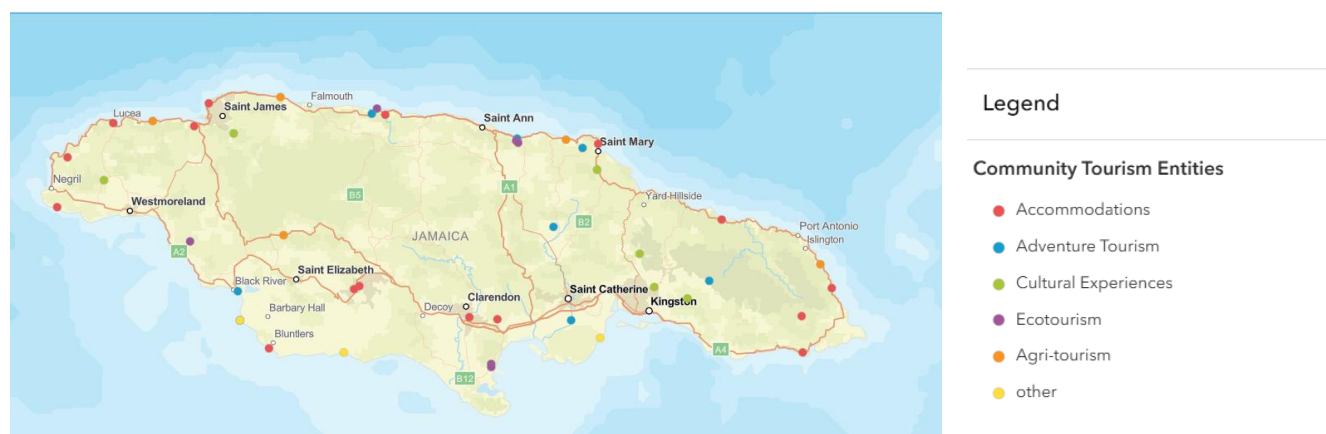


Figure 8: Map of types of Community Tourism Entities across Jamaica

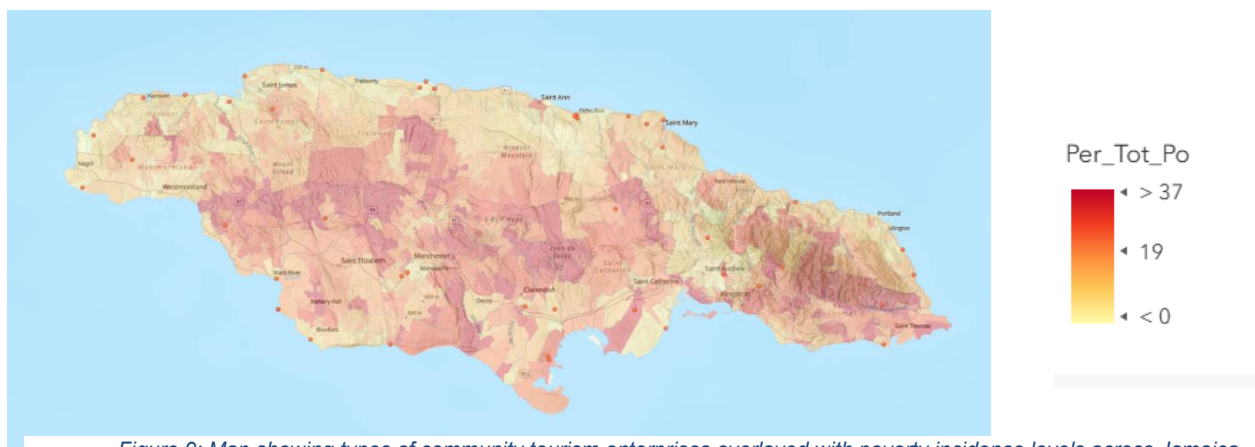


Figure 9: Map showing types of community tourism enterprises overlaid with poverty incidence levels across Jamaica

Project / Programme Objectives

There are a number of barriers which contribute to the limited capacity of small-scale operators to build their climate resilience. These barriers were identified and classified as **regulatory, financial & economic, technological, institutional, technical and knowledge** barriers.

- i. **Regulatory Barriers:** There is no current programme requiring compliance or providing incentives to encourage shift to low-carbon operations. Due to this, there may be limited appetite to transition to low-carbon climate resilient solutions in the sector. In addition, there are multiple agencies involved in regulating various activities in tourism sector (e.g. NEPA regulates environmental permits and beach licenses, the Ministry of Tourism manages facility certification, etc.). This can make it difficult for small operators to navigate the various processes across agencies to pursue multiple certifications needed to support a shift to “greener” tourism practices.
- ii. **Financial & Economic Barriers:** There is an increasing financial burden to respond to the rising costs due to current climate change impacts. Jamaica is a middle-income Small Island Developing State with multiple development needs and priorities, including disaster risk management and response. As inflation rises worldwide, this financial burden also continues to rise and costs become more prohibitive. Generally, the government is unable to bear the financial responsibility to address the high upfront costs to transition to low-carbon and climate resilient technologies. As such, this cost is passed on to the operator, who may not have sufficient financial capacity to sustain this.
- iii. **Technological barriers:** Currently, there exists limited renewable energy and remote monitoring technology available for use in the sector locally.
- iv. **Technical barriers:** At present, there is limited adoption of energy-efficient building design and construction practices locally. Many existing buildings lack the necessary infrastructure to support sustainable practices (e.g. efficient water and energy systems) and retrofitting or upgrading these structures may be costly and technically challenging. There is also limited technical expertise as implementing sustainable practices along the value chain in the building sector is relatively new.
- v. **Institutional barriers:** Some community tourism enterprises operate informally, and do not have the requisite registration/ permits, or have the personnel or capacity to meet rigorous fiduciary standards required for traditional sources of finance.
- vi. **Knowledge barriers:** There is an overall lack of awareness among the general population of options for low-carbon technology and limited technical capacity to transition to climate-smart and energy efficient operations. In addition, the existing uncertainty about future incentives to encourage sustainable tourism actions does not provide an encouraging environment for transitioning to climate-resilient practices.

This project: “**Sustainable Ecotourism Advancement for Jamaica (SEA-J)**” ultimately aims to address the identified barriers by equipping community-based ecotourism operators with climate-smart technologies and creating an enabling environment between public and private sector stakeholders to reduce vulnerability, build resilience and reduce emissions in the tourism sector, and provide a roadmap to financial sustainability for these operators.

The project's theory of change proposes three major objectives to accomplish this:

1. **To strengthen the enabling environment to encourage sustainable tourism practices**
2. **To increase access to resilience financing for community ecotourism operators**
3. **To increase the capacity of community tourism operators and the general public to undertake ecotourism best practices and employ adaptation and mitigation measures**

Under each objective, the project is expected to achieve the following outcomes, with the goal of addressing the barriers listed in Table 3:

Table 3: Project Objectives, Outcomes and Barriers Addressed

Project Objective	Project Outcome(s)	Barrier(s) Addressed
Strengthened enabling environment to encourage sustainable tourism practices	Outcome 1.1: Strengthened and harmonized regulatory environment for encouraging and monitoring sustainability across Jamaica's tourism sector	Regulatory Barriers: - There is no current programme requiring compliance or providing incentives to encourage the shift to low-carbon operations. - There are multiple agencies involved in regulating various activities in tourism sector.
Increased access to resilience financing support community ecotourism operators to adapt to climate shocks	Outcome 2.1: Increased access to climate resilient finance for community tourism operators Outcome 2.2: Reduced vulnerability to severe climate impacts in the tourism sector	Financial & economic barriers: - There is an increasing financial burden to respond to the rising costs due to current climate change impacts. - There are high upfront costs to transition to low-carbon and climate resilient technologies.

	through installation of climate-resilient technologies and equipment and ability to forecast and respond to climate change events	- Jamaica is a middle-income Small Island Developing State with multiple development needs and priorities. Technological barriers: - There is limited renewable energy and remote monitoring technology available for use in the sector.
Increased capacity of community tourism operators and the general public to undertake ecotourism best practices and employ adaptation and mitigation measures	Outcome 3.1: Increased capacity for community tourism operators to undertake climate resilience and disaster risk response in Jamaica's tourism sector Outcome 3.2: Increased awareness of ecotourism model and diversity of Jamaica's tourism products	Institutional barriers: - Some community tourism enterprises operate informally, and do not have the requisite registration/ permits, or have the personnel or capacity to meet rigorous fiduciary standards required for traditional sources of finance. Knowledge barriers: - There is a lack of awareness of options for low-carbon technology and a shifting attitude towards the long term benefits of sustainable practices. - There is limited technical capacity to transition to climate-smart and energy efficient operations. - There is uncertainty about future incentives to encourage sustainable tourism actions Technical barriers: - Many existing buildings lack necessary infrastructure to support sustainable practices (e.g. efficient water and energy systems) and retrofitting or upgrading these structures may be costly and technically challenging. - There is limited adoption of energy-efficient building design and construction practices. - There is limited technical expertise as implementing sustainable practices along the value chain in the building sector is relatively new.

Error! Reference source not found. provides a visual illustration of the project's theory of change.

Theory of Change

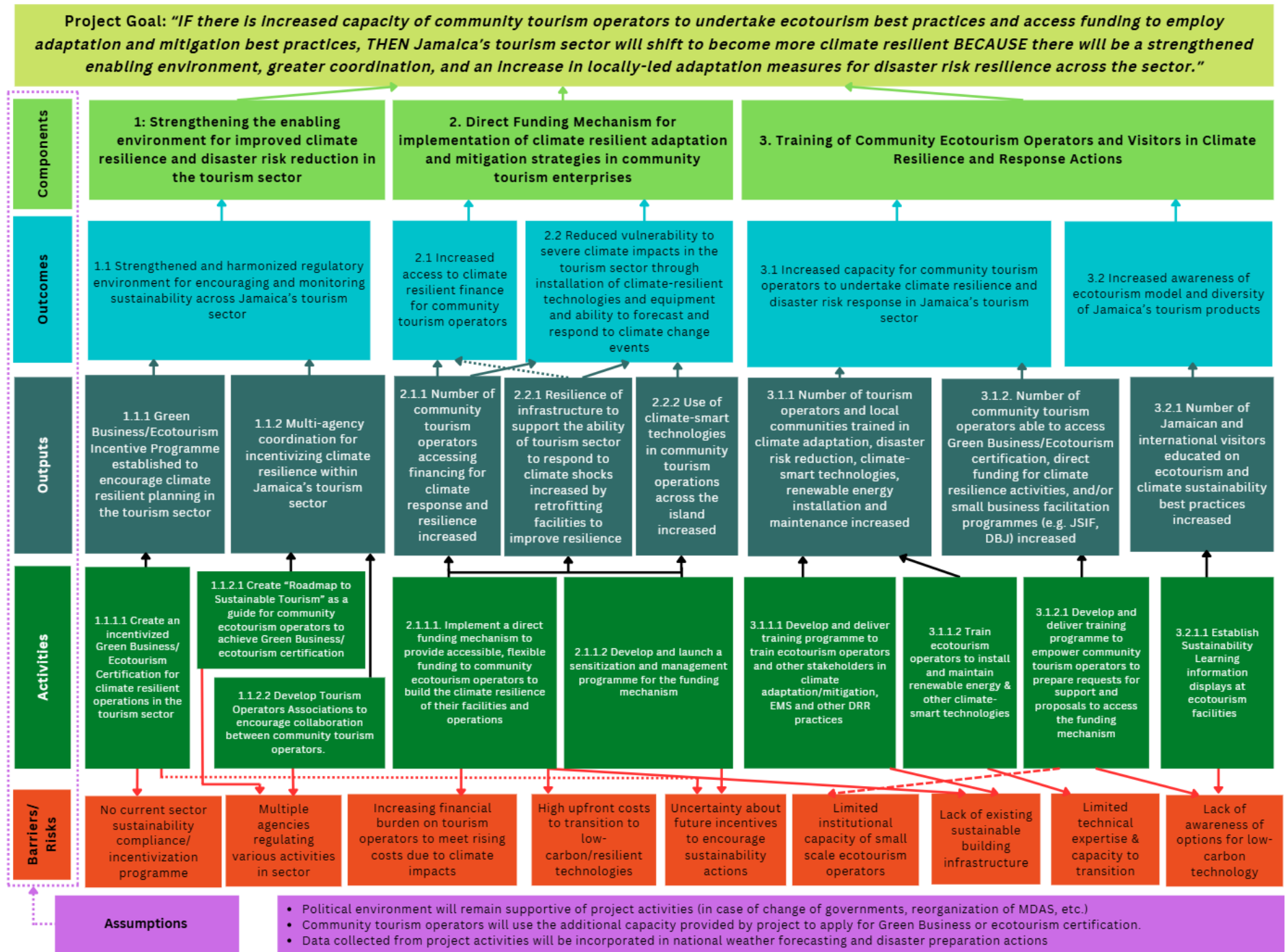


Figure 10: Project Theory of Change

Project / Programme Components and Financing¹:

Table 4 outlines the three proposed project components, linked to the expected concrete outputs, outcomes and an indicative budget for each component. The total amount of financing being requested is USD\$5,000,000.

Table 4: Project Components and Financing

Project/Programme Components	Expected Concrete Outputs	Expected Outcomes	Amount (US\$)
1. Strengthened enabling environment for improved climate resilience and disaster risk reduction in the tourism sector	Output 1.1.1. Green Business/Ecotourism Incentive Programme established to encourage climate resilient planning in the tourism sector Output 1.1.2. Multi-agency coordination for incentivizing climate resilience within Jamaica's tourism sector	Outcome 1.1 Strengthened and harmonized regulatory environment for encouraging and monitoring sustainability across Jamaica's tourism sector	321,200
2. Direct Funding Mechanism for Climate Resilience among Ecotourism Operators	Output 2.1.1. Number of community tourism operators accessing financing for climate response and resilience increased Output 2.2.1. Resilience of infrastructure to support the ability of tourism sector to respond to climate shocks increased by retrofitting facilities to improve resilience (e.g. hurricane shutters, flood protection mechanisms, coastal protection measures) Output 2.2.2. Use of climate-smart technologies in community tourism operations across the island increased	Outcome 2.1 Increased access to climate resilient finance for community tourism operators Outcome 2.2 Reduced vulnerability to severe climate impacts in the tourism sector through installation of climate-resilient technologies and equipment and ability to forecast and respond to climate change events	3,050,000
3. Training of Community Ecotourism Operators in Climate Resilience and Response Actions	Output 3.1.1. Number of tourism operators and local communities trained in climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction, climate-smart technologies, renewable energy installation and maintenance increased Output 3.1.2. Number of community tourism operators able to access Green Business/Ecotourism certification, direct funding for climate resilience activities, and/or small business facilitation programmes (e.g. JSIF, DBJ) increased Output 3.2.1. Number of Jamaicans and visitors educated on ecotourism and climate sustainability best practices, infrastructure design, and examples in action increased	Outcome 3.1 Increased capacity for community tourism operators to undertake climate resilience and disaster risk response in Jamaica's tourism sector Outcome 3.2 Increased awareness of ecotourism model and diversity of Jamaica's tourism products	800,000
6. Project/Programme Execution cost			437,450
7. Total Project/Programme Cost			4,608,650
8. Project/Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (if applicable)			391,350
Amount of Financing Requested			5,000,000

¹ IE and EE fees calculator: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/ie-and-ee-fees-calculator/>

Projected Calendar

Error! Reference source not found. outlines milestones for the proposed project:

Table 5: Project Calendar

Milestones	Expected Dates
Start of Project/Programme Implementation	September 2027
Mid-term Review (if planned)	March 2029
Project/Programme Closing	August 2031
Terminal Evaluation	November 2031

A preliminary implementation schedule (Figure 11) outlines indicative timelines for Component activities. This schedule will be refined during development of the full project proposal.

SEA-J Proposed Implementation Schedule																
	Year 1				Year 2				Year 3				Year 4			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Activities																
Project Inception Activities (Project staffing, etc.)																
Component 1:																
1.1.1.1. Create incentivized Green Business/EcoTourism Certification																
1.1.2.1. Create Roadmap to Sustainable Tourism guide																
1.1.2.2. Develop Tourism Operators Associations																
Component 2:																
2.1.1.1. Implement direct funding mechanism																
2.1.1.2. Develop and launch sensitization and management programme for funding mechanism																
Component 3:																
3.1.1.1. Develop and deliver training programme for operators in climate adaptation, EMS and DRR																
3.1.1.2. Train operators to install and maintain renewable energy and other technologies																
3.1.2.1. Develop and deliver training programme on preparing requests for support and proposals																
3.2.1.1. Establish Sustainability Learning Information displays																
Project Closeout Activities (Reporting, Evaluations, etc.)																

Figure 11: Proposed Project Implementation Schedule

PART II: PROJECT / PROGRAMME JUSTIFICATION

- A. *Describe the project / programme components, particularly focusing on the concrete adaptation activities of the project, and how these activities contribute to climate resilience. For the case of a programme, show how the combination of individual projects will contribute to the overall increase in resilience.*

The goal of this project is to increase the climate resilience of the Jamaican tourism sector by reducing vulnerabilities and increasing the capacity of community tourism operators to undertake ecotourism/low-impact best practices and employ adaptation and mitigation measures, and by strengthening the enabling environment to encourage sustainable tourism practices. If there is increased capacity of community-based tourism operators to undertake ecotourism best practices and employ adaptation and mitigation best practices, then Jamaica's tourism sector will shift to become more climate resilient because there will be a strengthened enabling environment, reduced vulnerability, reduced greenhouse gases, and increased local capacity for disaster risk resilience across the sector.

The project will work closely with the National Conservation Trust Fund of Jamaica (NCTFJ), which is not-for-profit NGO with the mandate of sourcing and providing sustainable funding for Protected Areas in Jamaica. Through its work, the NCTFJ work directly with community operators in Marine Protected Areas to provide funding and capacity strengthening through a number of programmes. As the NCTFJ has built existing relationships with the local community members, they will be a critical partner in devolving access to the finance under this project to the community level. The NCTFJ has also worked with local communities to build their institutional capacity to receive, utilize and report on grant funding.

The project aims to address the barriers and risks identified in section A above through activities divided into 3 components:

Component 1: Strengthening the enabling environment for improved climate resilience and disaster risk reduction in the tourism sector

This component is aimed at improving multi-stakeholder coordination between government and non-government actors to encourage more tourism operators to employ sustainability, disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation practices in their operations. The project intends to create a "roadmap" or list of guidelines for tourism operators to achieve "Green Business"/Ecotourism Certification or [Certification for Sustainable Tourism \(CST\) in alignment with the SDGs](#). The project also aims to create an incentivization mechanism to encourage greater uptake of ecotourism best practices specifically linked to climate adaptation. This component supports Jamaica's 2050 LTS goal of "Intentional planning for more sustainable tourism" and contributes the ICFSF identified priority to "Support to develop a framework to support incentivizing the use of renewable energy in new hotel construction". Activities under this component also align with one of the targets listed in the [National Mangrove & Swamp Forest Management Plan](#) to integrate "alternative regulatory instruments, such as economic incentives, into legislation to promote sustainable use of forested wetlands."

For Jamaica's tourism sector to adequately respond to climate shocks, it has to demonstrate a commitment to pursuing more climate-resilient activities, focused on building the sector's adaptation. At this point, such action is fragmented and private tourism operators lack the necessary awareness, capacity and incentivization to transition. Sustainable tourism development is directly coupled with climate adaptation and disaster risk management, as climate change is the greatest threat to the tourism sector. This project aims to ensure that climate adaptation is firmly embedded in ongoing sustainable tourism actions, through dedicated training in climate change impacts and adaptation measures (Component 3) and establishment of a robust coordination framework to promote tourism operators building their adaptive capacity.

A feasibility study and economic/financial analysis will be conducted to further elucidate cost-effective and sustainable options for operationalizing the incentive programme. A percentage of the interest generated from the revolving loan programme in Component 2 will be the preferred source of capitalization for the incentive programme while the use of existing national mechanisms such as the Tourism Enhancement Fee will be explored in parallel. Based on these findings, the full proposal will provide further details on capitalization for the incentive mechanism. Additionally, through the multi-stakeholder coordination anticipated in Component 1 activities, the project itself will describe the most appropriate structure and operating procedures for the programme.

The major outcomes under this component are:

1.1 Strengthened and harmonized regulatory environment for encouraging and monitoring sustainability across Jamaica's tourism sector

These outcomes will be achieved by the realization of the following outputs:

- 1.1.1 *Green Business/Ecotourism incentive programme established to encourage climate resilient planning in the tourism sector*
- 1.1.2 *Multi-agency coordination mechanisms improved for incentivizing climate resilience within Jamaica's tourism sector*

The activities below support the listed outcomes:

- 1.1.1.1 Create an incentivized Green Business/Ecotourism Certification for climate resilient operations in the tourism sector utilizing a Payment for Ecosystem Services (or other appropriate) methodology to encourage tourism operators to employ best practices for preparation and adaptation to current climate threats, as well as increasing overall sustainability and reducing emissions in business operations. The incentivization mechanism will also encourage private sector investment in climate interventions in the sector and help catalyse further economic valuations of ecosystem services nationally.
- 1.1.2.1 Create "Roadmap to Sustainable Tourism" as a guide for community based/ecotourism operators to achieve green business or ecotourism certification. This would include guidance from the relevant regulatory authorities and agencies and outline the correct procedures to access this certification. The roadmap will also contain SOPs with established EMS and recovery procedures,

waste management procedures and other industry best practices. This would include guidance on response and first-aid actions in the aftermath of a storm, hurricane or other climate event and improve the adaptive capacity of communities and tourism operators to reduce the risk of physical injury and loss of life in the event of a disaster. Multi-agency coordination is critical to achieve this activity, and this project will support the development of guidelines for the sector based on sustainability and ecotourism best practices, to provide ease of access and encourage more community tourism operators to achieve certification. This comprehensive approach will reduce the institutional and regulatory barriers associated with certification and promote the harmonization of compliance requirements across regulatory agencies.

- 1.1.2.2 Develop Tourism Operators Associations to encourage collaboration, knowledge sharing and a supportive environment between community tourism operators. The Associations can be classified based on type of activity and locations, so that more established operators can share best practices and lessons learned to improve the ability of smaller operators to meet the various requirements of the Green Business/Ecotourism Certification.

Component 2: Direct Funding Mechanism for implementation of climate resilient adaptation and mitigation strategies in community tourism enterprises

This component is aimed at supporting the improved enabling environment created in Component 1 by increasing the immediate capacity of community based/ecotourism operators to increase their resilience and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. This will be accomplished through the establishment of a Direct Funding Mechanism which local community tourism operators can access. Under this funding mechanism, operators can apply for either loan or grant funding to conduct "climate-proofing" of their facilities, and to install renewable energy, energy efficiency and water conservation technologies and marine conservation solutions. These measures are intended to provide the operators with the ability to reduce disruption to services due to climate effects and respond more effectively in the aftermath of disasters.

This component explores the concept of "mitigation as adaptation", which is a necessary strategy for SIDS like Jamaica which only contribute a negligible amount to global greenhouse gas emissions. While the activities have the benefit of reducing emissions, they also confer crucial adaptation benefits, through increasing energy security and disaster response capacity and community tourism operators. This was highlighted in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa, where many communities were without electricity supply for months. In many communities, water supply systems are powered by the electricity-grid, meaning that in the absence of power, access to potable water became impossible, causing adverse health impacts (e.g. *leptospirosis* outbreak). Rural communities were disproportionately impacted, as road blockages caused rural areas to be inaccessible for much longer than their urban counterparts, preventing repair teams being able to restore energy and water access for weeks or months, in some cases. If these communities had access to renewable energy supply post-disaster, the overall impacts on water access would be greatly reduced, significantly improving their adaptive capacity.

This component is well aligned with Jamaica's climate commitments and supports some of the targets outlined in Jamaica's 2050 LTS for the building sector, including the increased use of solar water heating, shifting to low-carbon cooking, and increased use of energy efficient appliances such as refrigerators/freezers, televisions, air conditioning units and others. In keeping with the principles of Locally Led Adaptation, the specific activities conducted at each ecotourism site will be decided by the local operators based on their prioritized needs and operations.

The major outcomes under this component are:

2.1 Increased access to climate resilient finance for community tourism operators

2.2 Reduced vulnerability to severe climate impacts in the tourism sector through installation of climate-resilient technologies and equipment and ability to forecast and respond to climate change events

These outcomes will be achieved by the realization of the following outputs:

- 2.1.1. *Number of community tourism operators accessing financing for climate response and resilience actions increased*
- 2.2.1 *Resilience of infrastructure to support the ability of tourism sector to respond to climate shocks increased by retrofitting facilities to improve resilience (e.g. hurricane shutters, flood protection mechanisms, coastal protection measures)*
- 2.2.2. *Use of climate-smart technologies (e.g. renewable energy, energy efficient appliances, energy and water monitoring systems, weather stations) in community tourism operations across the island increased*

The activities below support the listed outputs:

- 2.1.1.1 Implement a direct funding mechanism to provide accessible, flexible funding to community ecotourism operators to build the climate resilience of their facilities and operations. Funding from this project will be specifically geared to reduce the high upfront costs of retrofitting facilities and installing new technologies for local community tourism operators. The fund is aimed at being accessible to local community tourism operators whose operations align with the ecotourism definition. In line with the LLA principles, the goal of the mechanism is for access to be easy, quick, flexible and predictable. It is not possible to fully formulate the sub-projects at the design state as the project design avoids being prescriptive with the UPS to ensure that the sub-projects will be based on needs identified at the local community level. This devolves decision making to the community level (Principle 1) and promotes Flexible programming and learning (Principle 6). Any risk of non-compliance with the Fund's ESP and Gender Policy will be mitigated through the project screening and approval process, which will ensure that all USPs include compliance mechanisms for all ESP and Gender Principles during design and implementation.

Funding under this mechanism will be used to support concrete resilience-building solutions. These include "climate proofing" of

facilities and supporting infrastructure to increase resilience to climate shocks, installation of hurricane shutters and straps, retrofitting of windows and roofs to withstand strong winds and rain from tropical storms/hurricanes, flood protection measures, implementing waste management practices, coastal resilience actions and/or other suitable interventions based on the needs of the ecotourism facility. In addition, this mechanism also aims to provide funding to support knowledge exchange, business development and capacity building of community ecotourism operators. The funding mechanism will consist of a revolving loan component, grant component and a capacity building window, as outlined in Figure 12 below:

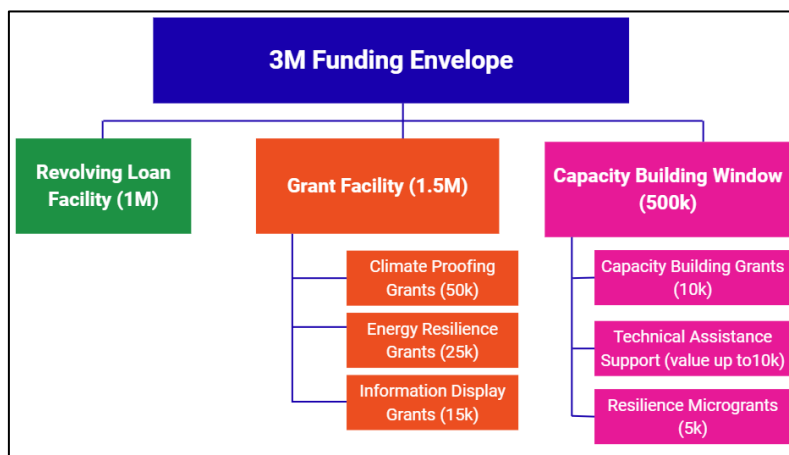


Figure 12: Proposed Structure of SEA-J Funding Mechanism

The facility will operate through a series of Call for Proposals for sub-project applications to either the loan or grant facility as appropriate. Sub-project proposals will be evaluated by the team responsible for grant administration and detailed selection criteria will be designed to govern this evaluation process. The grant selection team will include representation from community tourism operators to ensure local involvement in the decision-making structure of the funding mechanism. In order to access any of the facilities under this funding mechanism, operators must participate in at least one climate capacity building training under Component 3 of this project.

Loan Facility: The loan facility is geared at more established operators with greater capacity. Loans may be accessed by registered low-medium risk operators with their own business bank account(s) who have been operating for more than 5 years. Loan amounts will range between 50,000USD and 100,000USD and will be offered at concessional interest rates with flexible payment plans. Loan repayment periods will be between 5-10 years. Interest rates will be guided by the DBJ's experience offering concessional loans and are expected to be in the range of 10%-18%, which is lower than the average 24% rate offered in the traditional finance sector. A percentage of the interest generated will flow back into the fund to capitalize the incentive programme created in Component 1 and to provide additional capital for climate resilience investments. The detailed design of the loan facility will include considerations and guidance for consumer-protection, loan restructuring or hardship provisions, financing reflows, ownership of capital and a sustainability plan, which will be included in the full proposal based on the findings of the feasibility and economic/financial analyses conducted.

Grant Facility: The grant facility is geared at less established operators with lower capacity. The grant facility may be accessed by registered operators with their own business bank account(s) who have been in existence for more than 3 years. Grants will be administered under three focus areas:

- *Climate Proofing Grants* (up to \$50,000USD) for "climate proofing" of facilities, including roof retrofitting, installation of hurricane shutters, window reinforcement, rainwater harvesting systems, water storage tanks, mangrove or coral restoration, agroforestry, flood mitigation measures, waste management systems, weather stations, early warning systems
- *Energy Resilience Grants* (up to \$25,000USD) for installation of solar panels, solar water pumps, solar-powered boat engines, energy efficient appliances (fridges, stoves, etc.), energy monitoring systems, smart lights, smart plugs
- *Information Display & Add-On Grants* (up to \$15,000USD) for creation of Sustainability Information Centres and development of educational/add-on environmental activities (E.g. virtual reality, nature-based educational tools)

Capacity Building Window: This window is designed to target operators who may be unregistered or unbanked, to ensure that the project activities are accessible to informal operators who experience the same amount, if not more, vulnerabilities as formally registered operators. Capacity Building Grants or Technical Assistance services may be accessed by operators who need assistance with business registration, permitting, or other institutional capacity building. These grants will be administered and facilitated through a third-party partner institution and as such do not require formal registration or an operational business bank account. To access these grants, operators must attend at least 80% of Capacity Building Trainings under Component 3 of this project.

Support under this window may be provided under the following:

- **Capacity Building Grants** (up to \$10,000USD) to support institutional capacity building of operators, including business registration, permits, insurance, staff training, financial management, etc.
- **Technical Assistance Support** (up to a value of \$10,000) to support institutional capacity building of operators, including business registration, permits, staff training, financial management, etc.
- **Resilience Microgrants** of up to \$5,000USD to unregistered or unbanked operators with demonstrated vulnerability and need for increased resilience or climate-proofing measures at their facilities.

Preliminary eligibility criteria have been designed for each of the listed facilities as outlined in Table 6 below. An assessment of risk level will be conducted as part of the evaluation of sub-project proposals.

Table 6: Proposed Eligibility Criteria for SEA-J Funding Mechanism

Criteria	Loan Facility	Grant Facility			Capacity Building Window
		Climate Proofing	Energy Resilience	Information Display	
Operations meet definition of “ecotourism”	x	x	x	x	x
Established vulnerability/risk to climate hazards (drought, flooding, hurricanes)	x	x	x	x	x
Business Registration	x	x	x	x	
Business Bank Account	x	x	x	x	
# years in operation	>5	>3	>3	>3	-
Financial Statements for last 2 years	audited	unaudited	unaudited	unaudited	
Project Proposal	x	x	x	x	
Sustainability & Maintenance Plan	x	x	x	x	
Annual Reporting	Based on loan tenure	x	x	x	x
Proof of occupancy (land title, long-term lease or letter of occupancy)	For retrofitting activities				
Participation in Capacity Building Trainings	x	x	x	x	At least 80%

- 2.1.1.2 Develop and launch a communication and management programme for the funding mechanism. This programme would ensure the calls for proposals and capacity building activities are publicized within local community and operator groups. This will also include a “train the trainer” programme to build sustainability into the management of the fund, and to ensure local community representation in the decision-making processes. The facility will also include providing ongoing training and assistance with proposal writing, reporting and implementation of activities.

Component 3: Training of Community Ecotourism Operators and Visitors in Climate Resilience and Response Actions

With the increased uptake of sustainable practices facilitated through Components 1 and 2, Component 3 aims to improve the knowledge capacity of community/ecotourism operators and wider tourism stakeholders. Component 3 aims to build the institutional capacity of community tourism operators to be able to access both the Green Business/Ecotourism certification through the Roadmap developed in Component 1, and also to access funding for climate resilience through the mechanism established in Component 2.

Component 3 also aims to increase the awareness of diverse tourism activities and ecotourism best practices among visitors, including both local and international visitors. This will be achieved through the establishment of “Sustainability Exploration Zone” information displays at ecotourism facilities across Jamaica. These “Sustainability Exploration Zones” will display the facility as an “example-in-action” of sustainability and climate resilience. The information displays will include specifics about some of the interventions deployed in Components 1 and 2 and demonstrate the linkages between these interventions and climate change. The aim of these activities is to move beyond awareness by empowering tourists to act in the best interest of enhancing and protecting the natural environment in which they are participating.

The Global Centre for Adaptation recognizes [education as a key adaptation solution](#), as climate change education and development of

climate literacy is correlated to strengthened adaptive capacity. Jamaica has made steps to embed climate literacy into its educational agenda through the Jamaica Environment Trust School's Environment Programme, UNESCO initiatives, and other programmes. However, a gap in general public awareness still persists. The establishment of Sustainable Information Displays help to fill this gap by drawing a direct linkage between climate change and ecotourism activities, underscoring the risk of climate impacts on ecosystems, and displaying examples of adaptation solutions in practice. A key feature of the Information Displays is illustrating how a particular adaptation solution address the climate risk, aimed to influence others to employ similar solutions in their own communities. Generally, climate education efforts primarily focus on youth, but neglect to target adults who have the financial capacity and decision-making power to explore adaptation solutions for their households and business. The project will help to build the bridge between those two groups and help catalyse the translation of climate education into climate action. While the displays under this project are complementary to the work being done in the education sector, climate education benefits to the population will be translated independent of this project.

This component will also provide training to schools and local community groups to increase knowledge capacity and promote the participation of more local communities and young Jamaicans in monitoring efforts and conservation activities, empowering them to take action to improve their own adaptive capacity. These capacity building activities will not just engage the ecotourism operators and community members but will also be extended to other stakeholders in the sector, including personnel from the various government MDAs and other organizations, as appropriate.

The major outcomes under this component are:

- 3.1 Increased capacity for community tourism operators to undertake climate resilience and disaster risk response in Jamaica's tourism sector**
- 3.2 Increased awareness of ecotourism model and diversity of Jamaica's tourism products**

These outcomes will be achieved with the realization of the following outputs:

- 3.1.1. *Number of tourism operators and local communities trained in climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction, climate-smart technologies, renewable energy installation and maintenance increased*
- 3.1.2. *Number of community tourism operators able to access Green Business/Ecotourism certification, direct funding for climate resilience activities, and/or small business facilitation programmes (e.g. JSIF, DBJ or others) increased*
- 3.2.1 *Number of Jamaican and international visitors educated on ecotourism and climate sustainability best practices and examples in action increased*

The activities below support the listed outcomes:

- 3.1.1.1 Develop and deliver capacity building training programme to train ecotourism operators and other local tourism stakeholders (including schools and community groups) in climate adaptation and mitigation strategies, EMS recovery and other disaster risk reduction practices to support the "Roadmap to Sustainable Tourism" developed in Component 1.
- 3.1.1.2 Train ecotourism operators and local communities to install, use and maintain renewable energy and other climate-smart technologies implemented in Component 2. This activity provides useful skills which support the pursuit of alternative livelihoods in sustainability. This also contributes to the project's overall sustainability, as it removes the dependence of the operator on external personnel to provide maintenance support, attracting additional costs.
- 3.1.2.1 Develop and deliver capacity building training programme to empower community tourism operators to prepare requests for support and proposals to access the funding mechanism under Component 2, and other business development programmes (e.g. JSIF's small business facilitation programme).
- 3.2.1.1 Establish Sustainability Exploration Zones, consisting of information displays at community/ecotourism facilities to provide information on climate change and the sustainability measures being employed. These displays will be complemented by other educational activities, such as boat-tours in marine protected areas, the use of virtual reality technology to provide a user experience to the disabled community, or when an ecotourism facility is affected by closures due to severe weather events. These Sustainability Exploration Zones will provide an elevated user experience, with the learning displays being an additional activity for patrons to engage in at the facility.

Through the activities under all 3 components above, this project will catalyse a sector-wide shift to sustainable tourism, build resilience to the increasingly devastating impacts of climate change, and increase the economic potential of the industry.

Project Sequencing

Since operators will be at varying levels of capacity, more mature operators will be able to access Component 2 earlier than others. Training under Component 3 will be done on a continuous basis for various cohorts throughout the project life cycle. Training in climate change adaptation (3.1.1.1.) will be conducted during Year 1, so that operators satisfy the training requirements. After this, it is expected that the more mature operators should be able to access the funding mechanism within Year 2. A second cohort can receive this training in Year 2. Training in proposal preparation (3.1.2.1) will begin in Year 2 (continuing into Year 4) so that operators who require this support may be able to access funding in Year 3. This training will be conducted on a rolling basis to allow operators to access funding in Year 3, Year 4 or after the project life cycle (from another funding source) based on the operators' capacity. Training in equipment maintenance and installation will begin in Year 3, to coincide with when installation of the climate resilient technologies is expected to happen under Component 2. This is reflected as part of the proposed Project Implementation Schedule in Figure 11.

PROJECT RISKS

Risks to the success of this project include:

- *Change of political priorities (low risk)*: There is the risk that a change of government following a general election will redirect the political priorities and influence the success of the project. This risk is ranked as low because tourism has been a major income generator for the country across various administrations, receiving bi-partisan support. Nonetheless, this risk is mitigated by aligning the actions under this project with the institutional strategic plans and priorities of the various stakeholders and agencies.
- *Severe storm/hurricane impact (high risk)*: While this project aims to build resilience to the impacts of storms and hurricanes, there is the likelihood that a severe storm or hurricane may occur before or during project activities and negatively impact the completion and success of the project. For example, during the development of this concept note, the Stakeholder Validation workshop was rescheduled due to the passage of Hurricane Melissa. This risk is ranked as high due to Jamaica's geographic location and extreme vulnerability to climate change impacts such as storms and hurricanes. This project will aim to mitigate this risk by prioritizing the completion of infrastructure-related activities under Component 2, which serve to improve the physical resilience of tourism facilities (where possible).
- *Fiduciary management risk (low risk)*: There is a fiduciary risk associated with informal operators managing grant funding. This risk is ranked as low, due to the limited financing provided by the micro-grants. The project will mitigate this risk through the capacity building window created in Component 2, which will provide institutional strengthening for informal operators to improve their fiduciary management systems.
- *Risk of low uptake of loan facility due to barriers to creditworthiness (medium risk)*: Some ecotourism operators may be reluctant or unable to access loans under the project due to barriers to creditworthiness within their existing operations. This risk will be mitigated by partnering with entities such as the Development Bank of Jamaica, who have existing programmes working with small and micro enterprises to improve creditworthiness and provide more accessible lines of loan financing.
- *Risk of insufficient local qualified service providers for renewable energy installation (low risk)*: There is the risk that activities under Component 2 may be affected by a limited number of available service providers to provide installation of renewable energy. This risk is low, as Jamaica has established a number of local service providers in the renewable energy sector. The project will mitigate this list by collating a pool of service providers from which operators can access services, and facilitate joint procurements of goods and services where appropriate.

B. Describe how the project / programme provides economic, social and environmental benefits, with particular reference to the most vulnerable communities, and vulnerable groups within communities, including gender considerations. Describe how the project / programme will avoid or mitigate negative impacts, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

Many community tourism operators live and work on the frontlines of climate impact, both in coastal areas threatened by impacts such as sea-level rise and storm surges, as well as inland areas threatened by impacts such as flooding and landslides. Many tourist activities are also dependent on freshwater resources, which may be threatened by impacts such as reduced rainfall and increased drought. As such, there is a high level of vulnerability among these operators, exacerbated by the lack of job security created by operating in the informal economy. This increases the level of vulnerability being experienced by populations who exist at the intersectionality of the informal economy, rural or underserved areas, including men, women, youth and persons with disabilities. Some of these operators also have limited formal education, further limiting their earning potential and ability to access the traditional job market.

This project aims to address the needs on several levels: by improving the national enabling environment to reduce vulnerabilities in the sector; by increasing local capacity to build resilience and reduce disaster risk; by overcoming the financial barriers faced by community tourism operators to switch to low-carbon and climate resilient practices. Under Component 1, the development of additional incentivization measures also contributes to the overall economic development of the country, and improves the economic security of the identified beneficiaries. The project is well aligned to UN Sustainable Development Goal 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) particularly Target 8.3: which is to “Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.”

Women who work primarily as hospitality workers are often disadvantaged during preparation for, and the aftermath of, extreme weather events, as they may be required to prioritize the needs of the guests and facility over preparations for their own homes and families. The disaster preparation and emergency response protocols to be delivered under Component 1 can help these workers improve their personal planning and preparations, creating a better balance between their employer's needs and their own. It may also reduce the double burden of care on these workers. In addition to women, other vulnerable communities such as elderly persons and people with disabilities will also benefit from clearly defined preparation, recovery and EMS procedures, which can assist individuals and caregivers in preparing for and responding to disasters and extreme weather events. Similarly, these same protocols can also benefit men, who are usually expected to brave dangerous situations to secure lives and property, during and after events. Additional EMS capacity will reduce the risk of physical

injury and death in these situations.

By building the financial and technical capacity to locally operating groups (e.g. community-managed marine protected areas), this project aims to provide resources directly to these vulnerable populations operating in space. The project activities aim to be inclusive of operators who may be unbanked or not formally registered through the Capacity Building Window in Component 2. This window will allow operators to build their institutional capacity for future sustainability and also provides access to microgrants to employ small climate-proofing solutions at their facilities. Informal operators who are able to build their capacity to formalize their operations may also become eligible for the other funding windows under Component 2, enabling them to scale up resilience building activities within their operations. Additionally, the training conducted in Component 3 (e.g. in installation and maintenance of renewable energy technology) can also offer alternative economic opportunities to community members who may not be formally educated or traditionally skilled/certified. This helps to build their overall economic resilience and provides an opportunity for income generation during service downtime, or in addition to their tourism offerings. At least 10% of funding under Component 2 will be allocated toward inclusion-based organizations (subject to change following gender assessment) and all educational/information display grants will include requirements for accessibility criteria, including for the visually and hearing impaired.

By targeting community-managed operators, this approach is also expected to reduce the reliance on government agencies or centralized bodies for providing support for resilience actions and disaster risk reduction and response. Despite the identified need for these actions, the Government of Jamaica has limited financial resources, and multiple competing priorities (including response actions to climate impacts such as storms and hurricanes, which significantly affect the amount of funding available to achieve the multiple objectives under the various climate change related strategies. The funding provided by this project will significantly assist the country being able to achieve the goals related to the tourism sector, and across various sectors.

According to Jamaica's Global Tourism Resilience and Crisis Management Centre, the [tourism sector employs 175,000 Jamaicans directly and 354,000 indirectly](#). Given the project's expected impacts on the tourism sector as a whole, these individuals are expected to be the direct and indirect beneficiaries of the project. Under Component 2, the Grant Facility is expected to benefit at least 51 operators, the Capacity Building Window at least 30 informal or unbanked operators, the Loan Facility at least 15 operators, and the trainings under Component 3 will target at least 150 operators and key personnel from tourism agencies.

Due to the inclusion of USPs, it is not possible to provide more accurate beneficiary estimates for the activities that will be supported under Component 2. At this stage, the project does not intend to be exclusionary, meaning that both inland and coastal areas will be covered, and the project will be accessible to beneficiaries from all demographic groups (men, women, rural, urban, etc.). The detailed Gender Assessment is expected to further identify more details of the beneficiary groups and geographic reach that will be covered under this project. Additional benefits are also expected for extended staff at tourism operations, surrounding communities and ecosystem services, which go beyond the target number of operators accessing the funding mechanism. World Bank's publication "[Rethinking Caribbean Tourism: Strategies for a More Sustainable Future](#)" estimates approximately 64% women employment in the tourism sector compared to 36% men. Based on these estimates, preliminary targets for operators accessing the funding mechanism are proposed: at least 30% women-led operators; at least 40% rural-based operators; at least 10% informal operators. *(Note that these targets will be confirmed following the Gender Assessment).*

- C. *Describe or provide an analysis of the cost-effectiveness of the proposed project / programme., focusing on the implementation and execution arrangements, in particular the mechanism which will provide more direct access to finance.*

Although the appetite exists for increasing local finance to support sustainability in the tourism sector, the requisite enabling environment and capacity does not yet exist to support this. This project will be as a "bridge" to catalyse a shift across the sector, by reducing the barriers to entry, such as high capital costs and lack of incentivization mechanisms to offset these costs. Additionally, government funding is not currently sufficient to support the necessary "bridging" of this gap, and as such, grant funding is being requested from the AF to support this. The design of SEA-J leverages significant prior investment to reduce the cost of project preparation and implementation. Through REDI II, JSIF has already established working relationships with community tourism enterprises across Jamaica, conducted needs assessments, and built operator-level data on institutional capacity, vulnerability profiles, and financing gaps. SEA-J inherits this foundation rather than replicating it, meaningfully reducing the time and cost associated with beneficiary identification, stakeholder engagement, and baseline data collection that would otherwise be required at project inception.

Without this project, community tourism operators will be forced to rely on limited public funding or personal finances to undertake the resilience building activities outlined in the project activities. Additionally, the operators would also possess limited technical capacity to employ these technologies on their own. With the impacts of climate change rapidly accelerating and the threat of extreme weather events continues to increase each hurricane season. Delays in building resilience of ecotourism facilities pose significant risks to the viability of their operators and increases the recovery costs that operators will face if impacted by a severe weather event before the necessary resilience actions can be taken. By offsetting these costs at the implementation end, this project will reduce the overall expenditure required to fund recovery actions by either the government or tourism operators. The project will also minimize the amount of "downtime" for suspended operations, and consequently, minimize the income lost when operations are suspended.

Additionally, the tiered structure of the Direct Funding Mechanism is designed to maximise the reach of each dollar disbursed. By

differentiating grant sizes and eligibility criteria across the Climate Proofing, Energy Resilience, and Capacity Building windows, the mechanism concentrates larger investments where absorptive capacity exists, while ensuring smaller, more accessible instruments reach the most vulnerable and informal operators. This graduated approach avoids the inefficiency of uniform grant sizes and reduces the risk of underspend or misallocation across the portfolio.

The project activities also include income-generating opportunities for community ecotourism operators while reducing operational costs, either by providing alternative livelihoods through skills training or by increasing revenue from existing operations. By the end of this project, the activities implemented should be able to be sustained through the incentivization mechanism established in Component 1, or due to the additional revenue and added capacity provided in Component 3. This increases the sustainability of the project, as it reduces the reliance on subsequent rounds of grant/concessional financing needed to maintain the project outputs, and creates a self-sustaining incentivization mechanism to fund continued resilience actions in the sector. Additionally, the coordination mechanism established under Component 1 will be designed to ensure local community involvement at all stages of the decision-making process, as well as the updating of coordination actions. This mechanism will mandate the continued representation of community tourism operators in coordinating activities in the sector, and continuously strengthen the relationship between local communities and the relevant government agencies.

During the Project Working Group sessions, alternate project designs were considered, primarily the use of grant funding to directly implement retrofitting or climate proofing measures at pre-selected facilities. However, this approach does not build capacity of informal and community-based operators, who are an integral part of the tourism sector and able to catalyse change within their own communities. Building institutional capacity of local operators also increases their ability to employ adaptation measures outside the scope of this project, providing wider benefits for the tourism sector over a sustained period of time. Pre-selection of activities and facilities would also limit the scope of interventions the project is able to address. The creation of a full revolving programme under Component 2 was also considered. However, it was noted that this approach would disadvantage some of the most vulnerable operators who do not meet requirements for creditworthiness based on their existing size and capacity.

- D. Describe how the project / programme is consistent with national, sub-national and local sustainable development strategies, including, where appropriate, national adaptation plan (NAP), 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.

The project activities are well aligned with various existing climate change and ecosystem management strategies, including the NAP, NDCs, LTS, Tourism Master Plan, and others. The linkages between these targets and specific Components have been highlighted in section A above. The project activities are also aligned to targets in the strategic plans of the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Economic Growth & Job Creation. This ensures there is institutional buy-in for project activities, and a commitment from the relevant MDAs to collaborate for project success.

Table 7: Project Alignment with National Strategies and Plans

National Strategy/Plan	Targets/Priority Actions	Alignment with Project Outcomes
Vision 2030 National Development Plan	National Outcome # 12: Internationally Competitive Industry Structures (Tourism) - widen the participation in the tourism industry by local stakeholders - improve training and working conditions at all levels - promote investment and economic linkages - diversify our tourism product - strengthen the integration of tourism development with sustainable land use planning and environmental management	- The project promotes a harmonized approach for planning tourism development, prioritizing adaptation and sustainability across the sector (Outcome 1.1). - The project encourages more engagement and participation of local communities, including vulnerable groups, in “climate-proofing” the tourism sector and building adaptive capacity across a variety of tourism activities (Outcomes 2.1, 2.2. and 3.1) - The project encourages training and capacity building for community operators, increasing their ability to access alternative livelihood opportunities, and reducing loss of income due to climate change impacts (Outcome 3.1)
Master Plan for Sustainable Tourism Development	- Growth based on a sustainable market position through development of Jamaica's natural, cultural, historic and built heritage, in line with market trends. - Enhancing the visitor experience through improving resorts and increasing the types and quality of attractions. - Community based development, enhancing the role of local communities in the tourism industry, to increase local support and enhance sustainability. - Making Tourism a more inclusive industry, by ensuring that the benefits of tourism are distributed widely throughout the society. - Environmental sustainability: The industry must contribute to the preservation of the natural environment. - An updated Master Plan is under development and is expected to be finalized during development of the full proposal. The project activities will ensure alignment with the updated Master Plan and this will be underscored through active participation of the Ministry of Tourism in Component 1 activities.	
<u>Jamaica's 2050 Long-Term Strategy for</u>	- Intentional planning for more sustainable tourism - Develop a tourism sector climate change adaptation strategy and implementation roadmap by 2025	

<u>Emissions Reduction (LTS)</u>		
National Adaptation Plan (NAP)	- The NAP is currently under development. - Specific targets will be set for Mainstreaming of climate change into 5 priority sectors: <i>Water, Health, Tourism, Coastal Resources and Human Settlements</i> - The project activities will integrate the actions outlined for the tourism sector under the NAP once implementation is in progress.	
<u>Jamaica's Nationally Determined Contribution 2035 (NDC 3.0)</u>	Jamaica's NDC outlines emissions reduction targets from the energy, land use change and forestry, and industry sectors.	The project promotes emissions reduction in the tourism sector through the installation of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies (Outcome 2.2)
National Mangrove & Swamp Forest Management Plan	Incorporate alternative regulatory instruments, such as economic incentives, into legislation to promote sustainable use of forested wetlands."	The project promotes the development of a framework that promotes the use of economic incentives to promote sustainable use of wetlands and other ecosystems, as well as application of sustainable practices in hotel construction and operations. (Outcome 1.1)
International Climate Finance Strategy Framework for Jamaica	Support to develop a framework to support incentivizing the use of renewable energy in new hotel construction	The project aims to increase general awareness of the ecotourism model, diversification of tourism activities and implementation of adaptation measures in the sector (Outcome 3.2)
	Support to design and implement a public awareness sensitization project for sector leaders and tourism workforce on how to adapt to likely climate change scenarios	
Gender and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2025)	The strategy identifies gender specific issues and recommendations for tourism sector, including: - Need for targeted training efforts to enable women to take on non-traditional jobs - Climate action initiatives may need to include affirmative action efforts to increase the proportion of women in senior roles - Adaptation action in the tourism sector must consider the full range of roles, including informal jobs, that may be affected by climate impacts, - Use of participatory processes to design climate action initiatives	The project aims to ensure equitable access to adaptability measures in the tourism sector for women, men, youth, rural, poor and other vulnerable populations.
<u>National Policy on Poverty and National Poverty Reduction Programme</u>	Thematic Area 3: Livelihood Creation and Income Security: - Enhance income security among the poor and vulnerable - Identifying and improving community assets for income generation and Decent Work through community-based and other non-government organizations in the development of skills and community engagement. - Building capacities to enable participation in non-traditional industries. - Facilitating increased access to civil registration documents for the poor and vulnerable for access to financing. - Promoting environmentally sustainable livelihoods and reduce risks associated with climate change and natural hazards through the regulation of environmental practices. - Enabling entrepreneurs in the informal sector to formalize and strengthen businesses and access social insurance and pension schemes.	- The project aims to enhance income generating opportunities and build economic resilience among poor and informal local tourism operators. - The project aims to build the institutional and technical capacity of community tourism operators, including business formalization and access to financing, to build their decision making power.
<u>St. Elizabeth Local Sustainable Development Plan</u>	- Goal 2 (Disaster Mitigation and Management): Reduce the impact of disasters on communities within the parish - Goal 5 (Economic Environment): Development of communities and small scale eco-tourism; expansion of tourism opportunities in northern section of parish. Improve marketing of tourism attractions	- St. Elizabeth, a parish badly affected by Hurricane Melissa, is home to many community ecotourism attractions. - The project is well aligned to the goals of disaster mitigation and development of small-scale ecotourism as set out in the Local Sustainable Development Plan.
<u>Trelawny Local Sustainable Development Plan 2018 (Full Edition)</u>	- Promote community-based, ecotourism, volunteer and cultural heritage tourism - Educate and train locals to access job opportunities within this sector and achieve the full economic benefits from Trelawny.	The project aligns with the goals in Trelawny's Local Sustainable Development Plan by promoting community based ecotourism, providing capacity building and

	Encourage tourism by establishing and improving the attractions and amenities in the communities.	training, and providing financial access to directly improve tourist amenities and facilities of community tourism operators.
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E. 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.

The National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) through the Natural Resources Conservation Authority Act has responsibility for issuing permits and beach licenses to tourism operators. Additional licenses are also issued by the Ministry of Tourism for some tourist operations. A condition of maintaining these permits/licenses is continued compliance with national regulatory standards for water quality, air quality, safety and other standards based on the provisions of each specific license. The Jamaica National Building Code is also under review, with the updated code expected to include more environmental and green building standards for tourism operators to consider. Some community operators have limited technical and financial capacity to conduct the necessary monitoring actions needed to maintain compliance with these standards.

Component 1 aims to encourage compliance through the consolidation of the permit application process, and Component 3 will build the technical institutional capacity of local operators to meet the necessary environmental standards and regulatory compliance. This will include training local operators and community members in the required standards and provide specialized support for non-compliant operators to come into compliance. By reducing the barriers to entry, this project will increase the number of tourism operators achieving compliance with these national standards and improve the quality of the tourism product across the sector as a whole. Table 8 is a consolidated register of national laws, permits and standards related to the project activities. The Capacity Building and Training programmes will support tourism operators with the requisite technical knowledge and training required to achieve compliance with each of the applicable laws, standards and permits, based on the nature of their operators.

Table 8: Consolidated register of national laws, permits and standards related to project activities

National Law, Permits and Standards	Compliance Required to Access Funding Mechanism	Supported by Capacity Building or Training (Component or Component 3)
National Policy for Gender Equality (2011)	Yes	Yes
Employment (Equal Pay for Men and Women) Act	Yes	Yes
Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms	Yes	Yes
Labour Relations and Industrial Disputes Act & Regulations	Yes	Yes
Jamaica National Heritage Trust Act	Yes (For Heritage Tourism sites only)	Yes (For Heritage Tourism sites only)
Institute of Jamaica Act		
Jamaica Cultural Development Commission Act		
National Heritage Site Registration (Jamaica National Heritage Trust)		
Business Registration (Companies Office of Jamaica)	Yes (Except Capacity Building Window)	Yes
Tax registration (Tax Administration of Jamaica)	Yes (Except Capacity Building Window)	Yes
Beach License & Permit (National Environment and Planning Agency)	No	Yes
Food Handlers Permit/Public Health Certifications (Ministry of Health & Wellness)	No	Yes
Fire Safety Permit (Jamaica Fire Brigade)	No	Yes
Attractions Licenses (Ministry of Tourism)	No	Yes
Police Certificate (Jamaica Constabulary Force)	No	Yes
Public Insurance	No	Yes

The project is also well-aligned with the key considerations of the Adaptation Fund's Environmental and Social Policy:

- Equitable Benefits & Inclusion:** The project will ensure that vulnerable beneficiaries (e.g. women, unattached youth, rural populations) within the target communities have equitable access to the project activities and finance by involving the community members at every step of the process.
- Avoiding Harm & Maladaptation:** The project aims to avoid negative development trade-offs and will not increase the vulnerability of the target groups. An Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) will be developed and used for continuous monitoring of potential environmental and social risks throughout the project.
- Unidentified Sub-Projects (USPs):** The project is expected to include USPs implemented by operators accessing the Direct Funding Mechanism under Component 2. Comprehensive selection and evaluation criteria will be designed in line with the AF's ESP principles. These criteria will be used to evaluate the proposed USPs during their development and implementation.
- Stakeholder Engagement:** Continuous consultations with local stakeholders will be held throughout the project development, implementation and evaluation phases.
- Risk Identification, Compliance & Classification:** The potential environmental and social risks will be identified, described and categorised based on the results of the ESIA conducted.

Table 11 in section K includes more details on the 15 ESP Principles within the project.

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

While Jamaica has benefited from other projects which aim to build community adaptation or promote sustainable tourism, it is not expected that SEA-J will duplicate any of these project activities. Instead, the SEA-J activities will complement and build upon the work completed by other projects/programmes, resulting in stronger adaptative capacity with the tourism sector, local communities, and the country as a whole. Table 9 below summarizes a list of relevant projects and areas of complementarity identified.

Table 9: Complementarity of SEA-J Project Activities with other Community Resilience Projects in Jamaica

Project Name	Funder & Implementing Entity	Project Goals & Key Results	Complementarity with SEA-J Project Activities
Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI)	World Bank; Implemented by the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF)	The aim of the REDI programme is to “enhance access to markets and to climate-resilient approaches for participating rural enterprises”, including community tourism enterprises (CTEs). REDI II has generated significant ground-level intelligence on the barriers facing community tourism enterprises (CTEs), including limited financial literacy, weak institutional capacity among informal operators, and the high upfront costs of transitioning to climate-resilient practices.	Findings from the REDI programme have directly informed the design of SEA-J's three-component structure, particularly the tiered eligibility criteria under the Direct Funding Mechanism, which deliberately mirrors the graduated capacity-building pathway that REDI II demonstrated was necessary to bring informal operators into formal financial channels. Critically, SEA-J addresses a gap that REDI II was not designed to fill. REDI II's matching grant model targets market access and production increases for enterprises already operating at a baseline level of institutional capacity. SEA-J targets climate resilience specifically and extends further down the capacity spectrum to reach unregistered and unbanked operators through the Capacity Building Window—a cohort that REDI II engagement identified as significantly underserved. It is expected that by incorporating supporting actions for the enabling environment, this project will multiply the impacts of the REDI projects across the entire tourism sector. The REDI programme currently utilizes a direct access option whereby community tourism enterprises are able to tap into matching grants to support actions which increase production or increase their market share/profit level. This is in line with the principles of LLA as defined by the Adaptation Fund, and the project provides a good model which can be built upon for this project. In addition, the stakeholders and beneficiaries from the REDI programme will also be included in the stakeholder consultations for this project, in order to capture lessons learned and inform the sustainability of the project activities.
Enhancing the Resilience of the Agricultural Sector and Coastal Areas to Protect Livelihoods and Improve Food Security	Adaptation Fund; Executed by Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ)	The primary objective of the programme is to increase livelihoods security of the population in the targeted communities and to increase the climate resilience of sections of the Northeastern coastline, which will also contribute to increased security of livelihoods. The project aims to build Jamaica's adaptive capacity by supporting water harvesting and management, climate resilient coastal management and capacity building interventions that include involve training of communities in disaster risk management, natural resource management techniques and climate change adaptation.	While the PIOJ's project focuses on enhancing resilience in key coastal areas in Westmoreland, Manchester, Clarendon, St. Mary, St. Ann, Trelawny and St. Thomas, the focus of this project is primarily building adaptive capacity in the agricultural sector. Many of these target parishes were recently negatively impacted by the passage of Hurricane Beryl in 2024 and Hurricane Melissa in 2023, necessitating additional climate resilience actions to complement the work done under the PIOJ project. A key activity under the PIOJ project is building breakwater structures to protect Negril's beaches from coastal erosion caused by intense storms and sea-level rise. Based on the project's budget, it is not anticipated that SEA-J will be able to support large-scale infrastructure projects like breakwater construction. However, as Negril is a popular tourist area, the activities under SEA-J can complement this activity by building the adaptive capacity of small-scale operators in communities like Negril to conduct additional climate proofing of their own facilities, reinforcing their protection at the community and local level. The PIOJ project also provides a layer of institutional and local level capacity building for coastal and agricultural adaptation, and a suite of training and awareness activities. However, these are targeted at operators in the agricultural sector. While SEA-J will also conduct training and awareness building, SEA-J focuses specifically on community tourism operators, who form a discrete group of beneficiaries. As such, there is no anticipated duplication of the work conducted under this project.
GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) portfolio	Global Environment Facility (GEF); Facilitated by UNDP	The GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) Jamaica supports and complements the efforts of communities, government, civil society, and the private sector to strengthen resilience to environmental challenges while improving livelihoods. Through its portfolio of community-led initiatives, SGP has partnered with NGOs and CBOs to address locally identified environmental priorities and, in several instances, to develop sustainable livelihood opportunities through ecotourism.	SEA-J's project activities provide complementary support to community-based adaptation efforts, rather than duplicating activities under the GEF SGP. The main challenges identified throughout the GEF SGP have been i) managing competing interests among tourism, fisheries, conservation, and community stakeholders; ii) balancing conservation objectives with private-sector interests and land ownership; iii) managing the environmental impacts of tourism development; iv) building resilience to climate and natural hazards; v) lengthy regulatory and permitting processes; vi) aligning stakeholder priorities and expectations. Some of the key lessons learned from the GEF SGP include i) Community readiness must inform project design and implementation; ii) Trust and community relationships are critical to project sustainability; iii) Capacity-building approaches must reflect local realities; iv) Greater attention should be given to women's leadership and participation; v) Stakeholder engagement should occur throughout the project cycle; vi) Local knowledge and skills are foundational to sustainable ecotourism While SGP resources have contributed to meaningful environmental, social, and economic outcomes, the scale of community needs consistently exceeds the resources available through the Programme. This funding gap is particularly significant within the current context of declining international development assistance, increasing climate-related risks, and the growing frequency and severity of natural disasters. The SGP experience therefore demonstrates that community-based ecotourism requires long-term, coordinated investment and partnerships that extend beyond the lifespan of

			individual grant-funded projects. The GEF SGP highlights that building resilient ecotourism models therefore requires ongoing investment in disaster preparedness, climate adaptation, resilient infrastructure, and livelihood diversification, supported through sustained collaboration among communities, government, donors, and the private sector. A key lesson from the GEF SGP Jamaica experience is that successful community-based ecotourism is not simply a tourism development intervention; it is an integrated approach that requires conservation, livelihood development, community empowerment, climate resilience, and effective stakeholder governance to work together. Grant funding can catalyse this process, but sustainable results require an enabling policy environment, strong community institutions, long-term capacity development, private-sector engagement, and coordinated investment from government and development partners The SGP experience also demonstrates that flexibility, local ownership, trust, and sustained partnerships are among the most important factors determining whether ecotourism initiatives can move from short-term project activities to viable and resilient community enterprises. The SEA-J project aims to build on the lessons learned from GEF SGP by directly addressing some of the key challenges identified by i) consolidating the lengthy regulatory and permitting processes, ii) providing a framework to manage the environmental impacts of tourism development, iii) helping community tourism operators to build institutional readiness to design and implement their own resilience initiatives, iv) promoting women's leadership and participation, and v) providing locally informed capacity building activities.
Enabling Gender-Responsive Disaster Recovery, Climate and Environmental Resilience in the Caribbean (EnGenDER)	Green Climate Fund; jointly implemented by UNDP, UN Women, WFP and CDEMA	The EnGenDER project aimed to mainstream gender considerations in climate adaptation actions across all sectors. The project produced a Jamaica-specific gender inequality and climate risk study, and covers tourism as an affected sector	The findings from the work completed under the EnGenDER project have directly informed the preliminary gender assessment and analysis of vulnerable populations in the tourism sector during the SEA-J development process. The detailed gender assessment and further stakeholder engagement activities will continue to engage critically with the work under EnGenDER to ensure that the final project design reflects a gender-responsive approach to disaster recovery and climate resilience in Jamaica's tourism sector. The funding targets for women and vulnerable proposed in the final project proposal will be heavily influenced by the findings from the EnGenDER project, supplemented by additional stakeholder consultation work from the Gender Assessment.
Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR)	IDB; Executed by Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ)	The Government of Jamaica (GOJ) in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the World Bank developed Jamaica's Strategic Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR) to help the country to strengthen its resilience to climate through enhancing adaptive capacity across priority sectors.	Directly related to the SEA-J project, PPCR allowed for the development of the Adaptation Program and Financial Mechanism (AP & FM) which allocated 17.5 million USD to support the implementation of adaptation measures in the upper Rio Minho area in Clarendon, focusing on the construction of check dams, installation of rainwater harvesting systems, rainwater ponds, aquaponics systems, greenhouses/shade houses, and post-harvest storage and processing facilities. While the AP & FM build adaptive capacity at the local community level, the project beneficiariies were largely concentrated in the agriculture sector, and not situated in the tourism—heavy locations being targeted by SEA-J. PPCR also aimed to build adaptive capacities for communities in the Fisheries sector. While some of these communities overlap with community tourism operations (due to their coastal locations), SEA-J will fill a gap not addressed by the PPCR projects. It is likely that many ecotourism operators would not have been eligible to benefit from the PPCR programmes due to the nature of their operations. SEA-J provides an avenue for accessing that support while building on the additional adaptive capacity provided to these coastal communities from PPCR actions.
Jamaica Blue Green Facility: Transformational High-Impact Resilient Investments for Vulnerable Enterprises (THRIVE)	Green Climate Fund; To be implemented by Development Bank of Jamaica	<i>In development</i> The Jamaica Blue Green Facility is expected to provide concessional financing to MSMEs reduce their climate vulnerability via loans and grants administered through the Development Bank of Jamaica.	This project presents a number of opportunities for collaboration and complementarity with the proposed Jamaica Blue Green Facility. The Blue Green Facility proposes a community-based adaptation window, which will primarily focus on operators within the water, energy and agriculture sectors, while the SEA-J project will target operators in the community tourism space. Although there may be some overlaps in operators, the DBJ as administrators of the loan facility will be well placed to identify duplication risks, and direct operators to the most appropriate funding source based on their operations. The SEA-J project will be accessible to local operators who may be unable to access the Blue Green Facility, and the Capacity Building activities under SEA-J will also equip informal or nascent operators to access the Blue Green Facility (or other similar facilities) beyond the project lifetime. The Blue Green Facility is expected to begin implementation in 2028.
Climate Actions for Building Resilience in Coastal Communities in the Caribbean (CABRIC)	Green Climate Fund; To be Implemented by CCCCC	CABRIC Caribbean will strengthen social, livelihood, and ecological resilience by building institutional and technical capacity at the CSO and NGO level and providing small grants to support community-led adaptation solutions in coastal areas. The project will enable communities to better understand climate risk and apply gender equality, disability, and social inclusion (GEDSI) approaches through climate-resilient livelihoods, alongside inclusive social services that integrate climate risk.	The CABRIC project provides an opportunity for collaboration as the lessons-learned and community-based grantmaking architecture developed in Jamaica can be integrated into the design and operation of the SEA-J project. Jamaica conducted a Cost Benefit Analysis for its 2050 Long Term Strategy, which outlines 58 billion USD is needed for adaptation measures in the coastal sector by 2050. Given that the scope of CABRIC is limited to only 5 million USD over 6 years, the SEA-J project provides additional critical investment to fill this adaptation gap. While CABRIC is generally focused on coastal communities, SEA-J extends the beneficiary pool beyond just coastal operators, as it will be accessible to community tourism operators in rural and inland areas. This provides the opportunity to broaden the reach of community-based adaptation across Jamaica's geography. The location and beneficiary prioritization work to be undertaken during full proposal development will also be guided by the work conducted by CABRIC, in order to prevent duplication and ensure access to as many coastal communities and operators as possible. Given that CCCCC and JSIF will also be overseeing the CABRIC activities in Jamaica, they are well placed to identify any risks of duplication during the implementation of both projects and mitigate these risks by providing guidance to community tourism operators on the most appropriate source of financing for their climate resilience. The CABRIC programme is expected to begin implementation in 2027.

G. If applicable, describe the learning and knowledge management component to capture and disseminate lessons learned

Knowledge management in the project is expected to be three-fold. First, the project intends to take a Participatory Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (PMEL) approach to capture lessons learned and incorporate adaptive management throughout project implementation. Community feedback will be continually captured throughout the Capacity Building training programme, and regular pause and reflect sessions will directly inform revisions to the Communication Strategy developed in Activity 2.1.1.2 over the programme's lifecycle, rather than relying on a static one-off campaign design. Using an iterative approach, community-generated knowledge will be used to refine the Capacity building/training strategies and refine subsequent calls for proposals. The training activities outlined in Component 3 are expected to be iterative, and conducted with a number of cohorts over the project life cycle. This ensures that programme delivery remains responsive to local needs, builds on existing knowledge, and adapts as new gaps emerge. As community operators will drive the primary reporting on USPs, community members themselves are positioned to validate progress and generate project data that is interpretable and actionable by local communities. Project reporting will occur on two levels; indicators that are primarily donor/IE-level commitments are tracked through programme financial and institutional reporting, while USP indicators developed at the community level are tracked by the local operators.

Secondly, adaptation actions conducted under Component 2 will be designed and led at the local community level, ensuring that local and traditional knowledge heavily influence the prioritization of these activities. The USPs are expected to generate effective and innovative data and knowledge based on local and traditional knowledge, which will inform project design, participatory monitoring, evaluation, learning, and design of information displays and other forms of knowledge dissemination. During further project preparation activities, it is expected that the assessments will prioritize and narrow down the geographic areas targeted by project. This prioritization will be based on vulnerability to multiple climate hazards, informed by a blend of scientific data and traditional/local knowledge. Additionally, the development process will propose using utilizing vulnerability assessments that are informed by the engagement of tourism operators and other local knowledge bearers. The Tourism Operators Associations developed in Activity 1.1.1.2. will facilitate continuous knowledge exchange among local communities and across operators. Convenings of communities of practice will be designed under the operation of the Tourism Operators Associations to allow local operators to exchange knowledge and lessons learned within and across operator groups.

Finally, an important activity under Component 3 is the establishment of "Sustainability Information Displays" at the relevant community tourism facilities. This will provide the opportunity to collate and disseminate information on the ecotourism products and will draw from both international best practices and local/traditional knowledge. The dissemination of local knowledge will also be incorporated into the communication strategy designed for the Funding Mechanism (Activity 2.1.1.2).

H. Describe the consultative process, including the list of stakeholders consulted, undertaken during project preparation, with particular reference to vulnerable groups, including gender considerations, in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

Project Working Group:

The development of this concept note was supported by a multi-stakeholder Project Working Group led by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC). This included participants from public and private sector and community based actors, namely the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation (MEGJC), the Ministry of Tourism (MoT), the Tourism Product Development Company (TPDCo), the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF), the Urban Development Corporation (UDC), the National Conservation Trust Fund (NCTFJ), the Global Tourism Resilience Crisis Management Centre (GTRCMC), and the Caribbean Coastal Management (C-CAM) Foundation (community NGO). The involvement of the Nationally Designated Authority (i.e. Climate Change Branch in the MEGJC) as part of the Project Working Group demonstrates the country's commitment to the project activities and ensures alignment with the country's NDCs, 2050 LTS, NAP, and other climate related commitments.

The Project Working Group also conducted a preliminary Needs Assessment Survey with existing community/ecotourism operators to gauge interest in the project and collect information about their needs and priorities, and existing actions. This information was used to inform the activities listed under each of the components. Experiences and stakeholder recommendations from the REDI I and REDI II projects were also incorporated into the design of this concept note.

Stakeholder Consultations & Validation:

A Stakeholder Validation Write-shop was held with critical stakeholders in October and November 2025 to solicit feedback on the proposed activities and concept note. The workshop was accompanied by a field visit to an existing ecotourism facility. Despite the interruption from Hurricane Melissa, the Stakeholder Validation Write-shop was successfully held, and feedback was received from stakeholders across government MDAs, tourism operators, NGOs, fund managers and youth. There is general consensus among stakeholders that the proposed project meets the needs of the sector in order to build climate resilience across Jamaica's tourism sector.

The field visit was attended by 13 stakeholders (8 female, 5 male) from the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), Climate Change Branch, Ministry of Water, Environment & Climate Change (CCB, MWECC), Jamaica Climate Change Youth Council (JCCYC) and the Caribbean Coastal Area Management (C-CAM) Foundation (host organization)

Day 1 of the Write-Shop was attended by a total of 30 stakeholders (16 female, 9 male, 25 in-person and 5 online) from various organizations, while Day 2 was attended by 10 stakeholders (7 female, 3 male, 8 in-person and 2 online). The list of organizations is summarized below (Table 10). The complete stakeholder register is attached to the Stakeholder Validation Workshop in Annex I.

Table 10: Summarized Stakeholder Listing

Day 1	Day 2
- Climate Change Branch, Ministry of Water, Environment & Climate Change (CCB, MWECC) - Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) - CANARI - Caribbean Coastal Area Management (C-CAM) Foundation - Caribbean Finance Access Network (CFAN) - Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ) - Urban Development Corporation (UDC) - Dunns River Falls & Tours - National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) - Global Tourism Resilience Crisis Management Centre (GTRCMC) - National Fisheries Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Mining (NFA, MoAFM) - Oracabessa Marine Trust (OMT) - Jamaica Climate Change Youth Council (JCCYC) - Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) - National Conservation Trust Fund Jamaica (NCTFJ) - <i>online</i> - Jamaica National Heritage Trust (JNHT) – <i>online</i> - Tourism Product Development Company (TPDCo) – <i>online</i>	- Climate Change Branch, Ministry of Water, Environment & Climate Change (CCB, MWECC) - Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) - CANARI - Urban Development Corporation (UDC) - National Conservation Trust Fund Jamaica (NCTFJ)

As part of the workshop, participants were exposed to the principles of the Locally Led Adaptation, as well as the Adaptation Funds' ESP principles, and the draft concept note was presented. Participants were then divided into focus groups to provide feedback on the various project activities and components, as well as whether the ESP consider whether the principles are adequately integrated into the project activities and the concept. Participants were also asked to evaluate whether the needs of vulnerable communities and gender realities were adequately addressed by the draft concept note presented. The workshop also examined other similar direct funding access mechanisms to understand best practices, challenges and lessons learned for consideration when designing this updated concept note.

Despite the interruption from Hurricane Melissa, the Stakeholder Validation Write-shop was successfully held, and feedback was received from stakeholders across government MDAs, tourism operators, NGOs, fund managers and youth. There is general consensus among stakeholders that the proposed project meets the needs of the sector in order to build climate resilience across Jamaica's tourism sector. Feedback from the workshop was used to refine this project concept note and the update concept note shared with stakeholder for final review, comments and validation. The complete Stakeholder Validation Workshop report is attached as Annex I.

During proposal formulation, it is expected that significantly more consultations will be held to ensure the needs of the most vulnerable beneficiaries are sufficiently captured. Additionally, through the Gender Assessment, efforts will be made to identify and capture inclusion-based operators. Where they have been identified, they will be invited to validation sessions, workshops, and any other consultation activities. Focus groups and key informant interviews will be conducted with representative organizations of the vulnerable groups identified. The draft project design will be presented to them, providing opportunities for inputs and validations on whether the project impacts their communities/groups.

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

Jamaica is an upper middle-income country with a GDP of [21.41B US dollars](#) (GDP per capita of 7,780 USD). Despite economic growth in recent years, Jamaica continues to face challenges in accessing and utilizing various sources of finance, like other SIDS with a relatively small market and population. This economic growth is constantly at risk of being impacted by severe weather events and climate change impacts. For example, Hurricane Beryl in 2024 resulted in a [2.8% decline](#) in economic activity and [two consecutive quarters](#) of negative economic growth. Similarly, Hurricane Melissa is expected to have a long-term negative effect on Jamaica's economy.

It has been especially difficult to attract private sector finance due to perceived high risks for private investments, and the uncertainty of return on investment in sectors that are most exposed to climate impacts. Due to many competing priorities, the government's budget for addressing climate change is limited, and the country faces constraints related to technology costs and technical capacity. Generally, Jamaica has been able to mobilize funding for climate change programs involving capacity building, institutional strengthening, and technical assistance for policy or strategy development, but still struggles to secure sufficient financial support for the implementation of these programs, policies, and strategies. It is expected that this grant can play a crucial role in addressing these challenges and facilitating further investments in climate change adaptation.

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

The multistakeholder coordination required to complete the activities under Component 1 will support the sustainability of the project after the end of the grant. This ensures the institutionalization of activities within the relevant MDAs and bodies needed for regulation and monitoring in the sector. By employing a “whole-of-sector” approach, rather than isolated project activities, this project is strategically designed to spur a sector-wide shift to sustainable tourism. The establishment of the multi-agency coordination, ecotourism activities strategies and incentive programme under this project are intended to support the long-term sustainability of these actions. This process will also support the development/updating of the policy and regulatory environment to encourage the institutionalization of these activities.

By integrating environmentally sustainable tourism practices into the Green Business certification programme, the project provides an incentivized avenue to encourage continued adherence to sustainability principles. The certification and investment instruments are not just intended to be project activities, but nationally-owned mechanisms embedded into sector and agency processes. Component 1 ensures that the project maintains institutional buy-in beyond political cycles: the project will be directly tied into long-term sectoral and national development strategies and support the priorities of agencies as enshrined in Jamaican law. The project creates a space for close collaboration between the same agencies tasked with implementing the National Adaptation Plan and updated Tourism Master Plan, which is expected to promote alignment between the project activities and those outlined in these plans once finalized. The project interventions under Component 2 also provide a model for replication in communities and enterprises not targeted under this project. The provision of guidelines under Component 1 also ensures that new community/ecotourism operators adhere to sustainability and ecotourism best practices, maintaining the sector-wide transition to sustainable tourism.

The revolving loan facility envisioned under Component 2 is expected to provide a strong sustainability mechanism for the project activities. The interest generated from the loan repayments will i) serve as a source of capitalization for the incentive programme in Component 2, and ii) provide a continuous source of available capital to support further climate investments beyond the lifetime of the project.

Building and strengthening the Tourism Operators Associations (Activity 1.1.2.2) aims to create a supportive environment for knowledge exchange and collaboration among both community tourism and larger operators. These Associations facilitate sharing of best practices, lessons learned and adaptation practices outside of just the project beneficiaries, and beyond the lifetime of the project. It also allows more mature operators to “mentor” less established operators, promoting continuous capacity building within the sector. Smaller operators who benefit from the training and capacity building under this project can also translate that knowledge to their wider communities and newer operators who become established during or after the project. To ensure post-project sustainability, the network and ongoing knowledge sharing activities under SEA-J will not operate as temporary, standalone mechanisms. Rather, they will be strategically integrated into existing networks that can be replicated or upscaled by ongoing and future programmes such as the GEF Small Grants Programme. CABRIC, National Conservation Trust Fund projects, among others.

At the local community level, the project will be owned by the ecotourism operators and the surrounding community members. Stakeholder engagement will be consistent throughout project implementation to ensure community buy-in for the project activities at all stages. This will ensure that the project activities are integrated into the daily operations of the tourism operators and provide sustainability of the interventions after project close-out and encourage local communities to assume the leadership role for continuation of activities. The project also aims to indirectly increase the earning potential of community tourism operators by i) offering additional ecosystem based services which can be monetized and ii) reducing the financial burden and economic shock associated with responding to climate events. This increased earning potential will allow operators additional resources to further invest in ecosystem conservation or restoration activities that improve their business operations.

In addition, the installed renewable energy, energy efficiency and other climate-smart technologies will be owned and maintained by the community tourism operators; a maintenance plan and training in maintenance activities will be included under Components 2 and 3. This project aims to embed additional capacity and skills-training within the existing staff of community tourism operators, ensuring that the added expertise remains within the enterprises after the life of the project.

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

A preliminary assessment against the Adaptation Fund’s 15 Environmental and Social Principles indicates the proposed project has the potential to have some environmental and social risks and impacts, consistent with a **Category B** risk classification. The risks and impacts are expected to be site-specific, reversible, short term, and manageable through normal and appropriate mitigation and monitoring measures. However, given the inclusion of Unidentified Sub-Projects within Component 2 of the project, it is recognized that it is not possible to identify all the potential risks at this stage. An Environmental and Social Management Plan will outline how the anticipated risks will appropriately be managed throughout project implementation, including a procedure for assessing and managing risks at the sub-project level. A risk watch and trigger list will be developed to ensure to assist with the risk monitoring during implementation of activities. The project will comply with all relevant environmental and social safeguards. Additionally, any sub-projects which are identified to have significant adverse environmental or social impacts that may be diverse, widespread or irreversible (i.e. Category A activities) will be ineligible for funding under Component 2. All USPs will be screened against the AF’s 15 Principles as part of the review and selection process.

It is expected that, at a minimum, the performance standards outlined in the CCCCC ESMS reduce any possible adverse E&S risk and

impacts on vulnerable communities around and near the proposed intervention sites. Where applicable, applications will be submitted to the government agencies for approval before commencement of an activity. Potential risks pertaining to violation of human rights, labour laws and working conditions, inefficient, wasteful and unsustainable use of resources and pollution of the environment, occupational, health and safety of residents and communities, impacts on critical habitats, protected areas and biodiversity will be addressed in the ESMP. It is in no way anticipated that there will be land acquisition, involuntary resettlement and issues pertaining to Indigenous Peoples.

Table 11: Environmental and Social Principles Checklist

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		Low Risk: There is a low risk of private operators not complying with national laws and regulations during climate-proofing or retrofitting activities. Mitigation Measures: - The project will comply with all relevant laws and regulations. - The heavy involvement of government agencies in Component 1 should mitigate the low risk of non-compliance with environmental and social protection regulations by service providers or project beneficiaries. Component 1 aims to create an enabling environment to increase compliance within the tourism sector. Capacity building will be provided to the operators to ensure USP activities remain compliant with all applicable laws and regulations. - The regulatory agencies involved will design and implement mitigation measures will be put in place to ensure compliance throughout project activities. - A robust Monitoring and Evaluation framework will be designed and implemented for the Funding Mechanism under Component 2. This framework will facilitate ongoing monitoring of actions being employed by tourism operators and ensure compliance with all relevant laws and national standards.
Access and Equity		Moderate Risk: The project activities may not be equally accessible to all community tourism operators. The risk is moderate because potential beneficiaries who are not formally registered or unbanked may not have the capacity to access funding to build their climate resilience. Mitigation Measures: - The project activities will be accessible to all, free from discrimination based on sex, race, religion, socioeconomic status or geographic location. - The project will maintain compliance with this principle by ensuring an equitable process for distribution and allocation of project resources to vulnerable populations and ensuring there is no discrimination against project beneficiaries for reasons of sex, race, socioeconomic status, age, religion or geographic location. - The project proposes the Capacity Building Window under Component 3, which will include technical assistance and Resilience Microgrants to improve access and equity to all operators, including informal and unbanked operators. - As part of full proposal preparation, adequate consultations will be conducted to identify vulnerable groups and ensure that there is adequate participation of the potential beneficiaries.
Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups		Moderate Risk: There is some risk that vulnerable groups with limited social capital may be excluded from opportunities relating to access to building resilience at their facilities. Terms of engagement of the Revolving Fund Mechanism may also exclude marginalized groups. This risk is moderate because it is expected that some project beneficiaries will belong to marginalized and vulnerable groups. Mitigation Measures: - As part of full proposal preparation, the ESIA/ESMP will assess the participation of marginalized and vulnerable groups in project activities, and outline pathways for involving these communities in local governance. - The project benefits will be accessible to all groups of beneficiaries, including women, disabled, youth, elderly, rural communities and traditional populations. - The project will make provisions in the design of the funding mechanism and capacity building components to include considerations for marginalized or vulnerable groups.
Human Rights		Low Risk: There is a low risk that the project may negatively impact or infringe upon the human rights of potential beneficiaries, such as the right to freedom from discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, place or origin, religion or social class. Mitigation Measures: - All project activities will be conducted in compliance with Jamaica's Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms under the Jamaican Constitution. - The project will ensure that activities comply with international human rights treaties signed by Jamaica, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

		- The Ministry of Justice and the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Human Rights have primary oversight over human rights monitoring and enforcement in Jamaica. The project activities will be conducted to ensure compliance with the guidance of the bodies listed above. - Guidance will be provided to community tourism operators to ensure all USP activities remain compliant with human rights obligations.
<i>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</i>		Moderate Risk: There may be uneven distribution of benefits to people of different gender groups and subgroups accounting for this Moderate risk designation. There is a Low risk of women and children being subjected to sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment. Mitigation Measures: - As part of full proposal preparation, the project will conduct adequate stakeholder engagement and develop a Gender Assessment and Action Plan to assess the specific gender roles in the sector's operations and to ensure full participation of women and men in project activities. - The Gender Action Plan will identify project activities to ensure that men and women are provided with an equal opportunity to build their climate resilience, access finance and explore alternative livelihood options. - To support this, the Monitoring and Evaluation framework of the project will track gender outcomes using sex-disaggregated indicators, following with completion of the Gender Assessment and Action Plan. - The project will develop a Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (SEAH) protocol and redress mechanism to identify and address the potential for SEAH. - Jamaica is a signatory to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and has included principles of gender equality and women's empowerment in national laws and policies such as the National Policy for Gender Equality (2011), the Employment (Equal Pay for Men and Women) Act and the Gender and Climate Change Strategy. The Bureau of Gender Affairs bears primary responsibility for monitoring gender equality across all sectors. Guidance from the documents and bodies listed above will be used to inform project design and delivery. - The Stakeholder Consultations conducted during development of this project included representation from both women and men, and this approach must continue through full proposal development and project implementation, to ensure the needs and opinions of both women and men are sufficiently considered.
<i>Core Labour Rights</i>		Low Risk: The project may have negative effects on working conditions or occupational health and safety during installation of the climate proofing solutions. This risk is low as the project activities are not expected to have significant impacts on core labour rights. Mitigation Measures: - The SOPs and EMS procedures established under Component 1 and the corresponding training under Component 3 will improve occupational health and safety of tourism operators pre- and post-disaster. - No child(ren) will be employed during the project's activities, and employment opportunities will be provided for both men and women in local communities. - The project activities will be conducted to ensure compliance with the guidance under the Labour Relations and Industrial Disputes Act & Regulations. - Guidance will be provided to community tourism operators to ensure all USP activities remain compliant with core labour rights.
<i>Indigenous Peoples</i>	x	No Risk: There is no risk that the project activities will impact any indigenous populations in Jamaica.
<i>Involuntary Resettlement</i>	x	No Risk: There is no risk here as absolutely no land acquisition or resettlement will be undertaken by the project.
<i>Protection of Natural Habitats</i>		Moderate Risk: There is a possibility that project activities will affect the natural habitat, although activities will be implemented on existing land at a very small scale. This possibility exists as some of the climate proofing activities may include cutting/clearing of trees/bushes that may overhang buildings or inhibit drainage. Mitigation Measures: - The project activities will be designed to contribute positively to the protection of natural habitats by incorporating capacity building efforts around climate resilience and use of ecosystem services in Component 3. - Consultations will also be held with critical stakeholders such as the Ministry of Tourism, TPDCo, National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA), the Forestry Department and the Ministry of Water, Environment and Climate Change (MWECC) in the event that any of the project activities may impact natural habitats or ecosystems. Oversight will be conducted under the provisions of the Natural Resource Conservation Act (NRCA). - An Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) will be created to outline the risks to any natural habitats and how any potential impacts will be significantly reduced. - All proposed USPs will be assessed to identify any possible activities that may pose a risk to natural habitats, and the appropriate mitigation measures will be incorporated into USP activities.
<i>Conservation of Biological Diversity</i>		Low Risk: There is a very low risk is low of project activities expanding into any area of biological significance Mitigation Measures: - The project is focused on retrofitting and rehabilitating existing tourism facilities to increase their resilience to the changing climatic conditions. - The project is not expected to introduce any invasive species or require any land clearing that would affect

		biological diversity in any area. The project will promote the use of native species in all landscaping activities. • The ESMP will outline any potential risks to biological diversity and mitigation strategies. • Guidance on biodiversity protection and conservation will be provided to complement the selection criteria for proposed potential resilience actions by tourism operators. All proposed USPs will be assessed to identify any possible activities that may pose a risk to biodiversity, and the appropriate mitigation measures will be incorporated into USP activities.
<i>Climate Change</i>		Low Risk: There is a very low risk that the project will result in greenhouse gas emissions and contribute negatively to climate change. Mitigation Measures: • The project activities, through the installation of renewable energy technologies and transition to energy efficient appliances, are expected to decrease the overall greenhouse gas emissions from the sector. • As part of full proposal preparation, assessments will be conducted to ensure climate smart design is employed in the retrofitting or installation of infrastructure or equipment. • Selection criteria and appropriate guidance will be provided to community tourism operators to ensure activities under this project will not contribute negatively to climate change. All proposed USPs will be assessed to identify any possible activities that may contribute to climate change, and the appropriate mitigation measures will be incorporated into USP activities.
<i>Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</i>		Low Risk: There is a very low risk that the project activities will contribute to air, water and soil pollution. Mitigation Measures: • The project will reduce reliance on burning fossil fuels in the sector, which is expected have a positive impact on air quality. Activities under Component 2 will also promote the use of energy efficient devices and sustainable energy sources. • It is expected that the project will maximize the use of rainwater harvesting. This increased uptake of rainwater harvesting should reduce the demands on the national water supply. The water will be distributed by pumping using a renewable energy source to eliminate additional greenhouse gas emissions. • The ESMP will outline the risk to pollution of land, water and soil and how any possibility of contamination will be significantly reduced. All proposed USPs will be assessed to identify any possible activities that may create a risk of pollution, and the appropriate mitigation measures will be incorporated into USP activities.
<i>Public Health</i>		Low Risk: There is a very low risk that the project a negative impact on public health. For example, if water tanks are not installed using secure covers, there is the risk of contamination or propagation of vectors such as mosquitoes, or if facilities being retrofitted do not provide adequate ventilation, there is the risk of adverse health impacts for guests. Mitigation Measures: • The project will be designed and implemented in a way that avoids any negative impact on public health. • Activities under Component 1 will also improve the emergency management system that will aid in the response to disasters and reduce to build resilience and reduce possible public health implication. • Water from the rainwater harvesting activities will not be used for potable or drinking consumption, in keeping with the water quality standards monitored by the Ministry of Health and Wellness and the National Environment and Planning Agency. • All proposed USPs will be assessed to identify any possible activities that may pose a risk to public health, and the appropriate mitigation measures will be incorporated into USP activities.
<i>Physical and Cultural Heritage</i>		Moderate Risk: There is a moderate risk that the project areas may include areas of archaeological, religious, physical or cultural heritage. Mitigation: • The project document will identify the proper procedure if the project activities unearth any item of archaeological, historical or cultural significance • This will be in keeping with local and international guidelines such as The Jamaica National Heritage Trust Act, The Institute of Jamaica Act and The Jamaica Cultural Development Commission Act. • Reporting mechanisms will be informed by best practices from the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport and the Jamaica National Heritage Trust. • All proposed USPs will be assessed to identify any possible activities that may pose a risk physical and culture heritage sites, and the appropriate mitigation measures will be incorporated into USP activities.
<i>Lands and Soil Conservation</i>		No Risk: There is very low risk that the project activities will have negative impact on lands and soils. It is possible that some climate proofing or retrofitting activities (e.g. flood mitigation) may result in degrading existing land or result in the degradation of soil. Mitigation Measures: • The project will be designed in a way that avoids any negative impacts on lands and soils. • Guidance will be provided to USPs to ensure any climate proofing or retrofitting activities do not degrade existing land or soil. • All proposed USPs will be assessed to identify any possible activities that may pose a risk to lands and soil conservation, and the appropriate mitigation measures will be incorporated into USP activities.

PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

A. Demonstrate how the project/programme aligns with the Results Framework of the Adaptation Fund

Table 12 outlines the alignment of the project objectives with the Adaptation Fund outcomes, outputs and relevant indicators.

Table 12: Project Alignment with Adaptation Fund Results Framework

Project Objective(s) ¹	Project Objective Indicator(s)	Fund Outcome	Fund Outcome Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
The goal of this project is to increase the climate resilience of the Jamaican tourism sector by reducing vulnerabilities and increasing the capacity of community tourism operators to undertake ecotourism best practices and employ adaptation and mitigation measures, and by strengthening the enabling environment to encourage sustainable tourism practices				
Strengthening the enabling environment to encourage sustainable tourism practices	• No. of government staff members with increased capacity to respond to and mitigate impacts of climate change	• <i>Outcome 2</i> : Strengthened institutional capacity to reduce risks associated with climate-induced socioeconomic and environmental losses	• Indicator 2: Institutions with strengthened capacity to understand and better address climate risks and resilience	170,000
	• No. of national development strategies updated to include climate change priorities	• <i>Outcome 7</i> : Improved policies and regulations that promote and enforce resilience measures	• Indicator 7: Policies, strategies, and/or plans adopted, implemented, and/or enforced that integrate climate risk and resilience considerations	151,200
Increase access to resilience financing among community ecotourism operators	• No. of community tourism operators accessing finance to build adaptive capacity	• <i>Outcome 2</i> : Strengthened institutional capacity to reduce risks associated with climate-induced socioeconomic and environmental losses	• Indicator 2: Institutions with strengthened capacity to understand and better address climate risks and resilience	50,000
	• No. of community tourism operators implementing climate resilient technologies	• <i>Outcome 3</i> : Strengthened awareness and ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes	• Indicator 3B: People implementing new or improved adaptation actions	500,000
	• No. of physical infrastructure assets improved to reduce climate vulnerabilities	• <i>Outcome 4</i> : Increased adaptive capacity within relevant development sector services and infrastructure assets	• Indicator 4 (Core Indicator 3): Physical assets improved or constructed to withstand climate variability and change	1,625,000
	• Ecosystem service assets in the tourism sector with improved adaptive capacity (# of hectares)	• <i>Outcome 5</i> : Increased ecosystem resilience in response to climate change and variability-induced stress	• Indicator 5 (Core Indicator 4): Ecosystems and natural resources brought under protection, restoration, or improved management in response to climate variability and change	875,000
Increase the capacity of community tourism operators to undertake ecotourism best practices and employ adaptation and mitigation measures	• No. of community tourism operators trained in climate change and ecotourism best practices	• <i>Outcome 2</i> : Strengthened institutional capacity to reduce risks associated with climate-induced socioeconomic and environmental losses	• Indicator 2: Institutions with strengthened capacity to understand and better address climate risks and resilience	500,000
	• No. of persons with increased awareness to employ ecotourism best practices and adaptation and mitigation measures	• <i>Outcome 3</i> : Strengthened awareness and ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes	• Indicator 3A: People with strengthened awareness of climate change risks and how to better address them	300,000

Project Outcome(s)	Project Outcome Indicator(s)	Fund Output	Fund Output Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
1.1 Strengthened and harmonized regulatory environment for encouraging and monitoring sustainability across Jamaica's tourism sector	No. of government agencies with increased capacity to coordinate climate resilience actions in the tourism sector	Output 2.1: Strengthened capacity of institutions to understand and better address climate risks	Indicator 2.1: Institutions supported to strengthen capacity to understand and address climate risks and resilience	170,000
	No. of tourism-sector guidelines and strategies introduced or adjusted to address climate change risks	Output 7.1: Improved integration of climate-resilience strategies into country development plans	Indicator 7.1A (Core Indicator 6): Policies, strategies, and/or plans developed or adjusted to integrate climate risk and resilience considerations	151,200
2.1 Increased access to climate resilient finance for community tourism operators	No. of community operators accessing finance for climate response and resilience actions	Output 2.2: Increased readiness and capacity of national and sub-national entities to directly access and programme adaptation finance	Indicator 2.2: Local institutions receiving funding or other direct support under the locally led adaptation modality	50,000
	No. of community tourism operators designing and implementing climate adaptation projects	Output 3.3: Increased ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes	Indicator 3.3: Number of local institutions and/or communities responsible for decision-making over how adaptation solutions are defined, prioritized, designed, and/or implemented	500,000
2.2 Reduced vulnerability to severe climate impacts in the tourism sector through installation of climate-resilient technologies and equipment and ability to forecast and respond to climate change events	No. of community tourism facilities increasing adaptive capacity through climate proofing or energy resilience measures	Output 4.1: Vulnerable development sector services and infrastructure assets strengthened in response to climate change impacts, including variability	Indicator 4.1: Development sector services strengthened to respond to climate variability and change	1,625,000
	No. of vulnerable ecosystem or natural resource assets at community tourism facilities strengthened to respond to climate impacts	Output 5.1: Vulnerable ecosystem services and natural resource assets strengthened in response to climate change impacts, including variability	Indicator 5.1: Ecosystems and natural resources targeted by activities to improve protection, restoration, and/or management	875,000
3.1 Increased capacity for community tourism operators to undertake climate resilience and disaster risk response in Jamaica's tourism sector	No. of community and ecotourism operators trained in climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction and EMS best practices, renewable energy installation and maintenance, and climate project development	Output 2.1: Strengthened capacity of institutions to understand and better address climate risks	Indicator 2.1: Institutions supported to strengthen capacity to understand and address climate risks and resilience	500,000
3.2 Increased awareness and knowledge sharing of ecotourism model and diversity of Jamaica's tourism products	No. of Jamaicans and visitors educated on ecotourism and climate sustainability best practices and examples in action	Output 3.1: Targeted population groups participating in adaptation and risk reduction awareness activities	Indicator 3.1: People participating in activities to improve awareness of climate risks and how to address them	150,000
	No. of Sustainability Information Centres installed	Output 3.2: Strengthened capacity of national and subnational stakeholders and entities to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning	Indicator 3.2: Climate resilience knowledge products and/or tools developed and shared with stakeholders	150,000

¹ The AF utilized OECD/DAC terminology for its results framework. Project proponents may use different terminology but the overall principle should still apply

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

A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government²

Provide the name and position of the government official and indicate date of endorsement. If this is a regional project/programme, list the endorsing officials all the participating countries. The endorsement letter(s) should be attached as an annex to the project/programme proposal. Please attach the endorsement letter(s) with this template; add as many participating governments if a regional project/programme:

<i>Dale Webber (Professor), Ambassador/Special Envoy for Climate Change, Environment, Ocean, and the Blue Economy, Ministry of Water, Environment and Climate Change</i>	<i>Date: June 16, 2026</i>
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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.

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 (Jamaica Climate Change Policy Framework and Jamaica's Nationally Determined Contributions to the UNFCCC) and subject to the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, commit to implementing the project/programme in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy and the Gender 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.

Name & Signature Mansfield Blackwood, Assistant Executive Director



Implementing Entity Coordinator

The Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre

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Date: (Month, Day, Year) August 28, 2026

Tel. and email: +(501) 822-1104/1094

mblackwood@caribbeanclimate.org

Project Contact Person: Ryan Zuniga

Tel. And Email: +(501) 822-1104/1094

ryanzuniga@caribbeanclimate.org

² 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.



MINISTRY OF WATER, ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

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ANY REPLY OR SUBSEQUENT REFERENCE TO THIS COMMUNICATION SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE PERMANENT SECRETARY

June 16, 2026

Adaptation Fund Board
Secretariat
c/o Global Environment Facility
1818 H Street NW
Washington DC 20433
USA

Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: Endorsement of Concept Note titled “Sustainable Ecotourism Advancement for Jamaica (SEA-J)” Project in Jamaica submitted by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)

I refer to the concept note titled “Sustainable Ecotourism Advancement for Jamaica (SEA-J)” submitted by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) on behalf of Jamaica (the “Concept Note”).

The undersigned is the duly authorized representative of the Ministry of Water, Environment and Climate Change, the Designated Authority to the Adaptation Fund for Jamaica. In this capacity, I hereby communicate our endorsement of the Concept Note. We also confirm our endorsement of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) to serve as Executing Entity for the project.

By communication our endorsement, it is implied that:

- (a) The Government of Jamaica has no-objection to the Concept Note; and
- (b) The Concept Note is in conformity with Jamaica’s national priorities, strategies and plans.

We also confirm that our national process for ascertaining no-objection to the Concept Note has been duly followed. This endorsement will facilitate the development of a full project proposal, which will further address any gaps within the Concept Note.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, we expect the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre and the Jamaica Social Investment Fund to take the necessary measures to ensure that the project as described in the Concept Note is further developed and implemented in a manner consistent with applicable national laws.

Kind regards,

.....
Dale Webber (Professor)

**Ambassador/Special Envoy for Climate Change, Environment, Ocean, and the Blue Economy
Designated Authority**

Attachment:

Copy to: Minister the Honourable Matthew Samuda, MP – MWECC
Mr. Wayne O. Robertson JP, Permanent Secretary – MWECC
Dr. Colin Young, Executive Director – Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
Mr. Omar Sweeney, CD, PE, Managing Director – Jamaica Social Investment Fund
Dr. Sharon Morrison JP, Director General – MWECC

Annex I: Stakeholder Validation Report

Sustainable Ecotourism Advancement for Jamaica (SEA-J)

Background

The “Catalyzing Sustainable Ecotourism for a Stronger, More Resilient Jamaica Tourism Industry” project is aimed at building the resilience of Jamaica’s tourism sector. The project aims to create an enabling environment between public and private sector stakeholders to reduce vulnerability, build resilience and reduce emissions in the tourism sector, equip community-based ecotourism operators with climate-smart technologies, and provide a roadmap to financial sustainability for these operators. This project is being developed by the [Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre \(CCCCC\)](#) under the UK FCDO Small Island Developing States Capacity and Resilience (SIDAR) Programme, in collaboration with a cross-section of government and non-governmental stakeholders in Jamaica. The concept note is being developed to solicit funding from the [Adaptation Fund](#), under the [Locally Led Adaptation \(LLA\)](#) Funding Window, at a value of \$5M USD.

Overview of Workshop

The Stakeholder Validation Write-Shop for this project was held on October 22 and November 26, 2025 at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel in Kingston, Jamaica. The workshop’s main objective was to present the draft concept note to critical stakeholders for feedback and validation. Day 1 focused on soliciting feedback from a wide range of stakeholders on all components and activities of the concept note, while Day 2 provided the opportunity for a targeted conversation with select stakeholders surrounding the revolving fund mechanism being explored under Component 2.

A field visit to the Portland Bight Discovery Centre in Salt River, Clarendon, was held on Tuesday October 21, 2025 to provide additional context for the discussions.

Attendees

The field visit was attended by 13 stakeholders (8 females, 3 males) from the following organizations:

- Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)
- Climate Change Branch, Ministry of Water, Environment & Climate Change (CCB, MWECC)
- Jamaica Climate Change Youth Council (JCCYC)
- Caribbean Coastal Area Management (C-CAM) Foundation (*host organization*)

Day 1 of the Write-Shop was attended by a total of 30 stakeholders (16 females, 9 males; 25 in-person and 5 online) from various organizations, while Day 2 was attended by 10 stakeholders (7 females, 3 males; 8 in-person and 2 online). The list of organizations is summarized below. The complete stakeholder register is attached as Appendix 1: Stakeholder Registers.

Day 1	Day 2
• Climate Change Branch, Ministry of Water, Environment & Climate Change (CCB, MWECC) • Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) • CANARI • Caribbean Coastal Area Management (C-CAM) Foundation • Caribbean Finance Access Network (CFAN) • Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ) • Urban Development Corporation (UDC) • Dunns River Falls & Tours • National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) • Global Tourism Resilience Crisis Management Centre (GTRCMC) • National Fisheries Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Mining (NFA, MoAFM) • Oracabessa Marine Trust (OMT) • Jamaica Climate Change Youth Council (JCCYC) • Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) • National Conservation Trust Fund Jamaica (NCTFJ) - <i>online</i> • Jamaica National Heritage Trust (JNHT) – <i>online</i> • Tourism Product Development Company (TPDCo) – <i>online</i>	• Climate Change Branch, Ministry of Water, Environment & Climate Change (CCB, MWECC) • Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) • CANARI • Urban Development Corporation (UDC) • National Conservation Trust Fund Jamaica (NCTFJ)

Field Visit: Portland Bight Discovery Centre (PBDC)

Summary

A visit to the Portland Bight Discover Centre (PBDC) in Salt River, Clarendon was conducted to observe an example of a community-based ecotourism facility. The visit consisted of a walking tour which included exploring a turtle pond, greenhouse, mangrove boardwalk and a bird-watching hide. Participants were also taken on a boat tour along the Salt River, where damage from 2024 Hurricane Beryl was observed. The visit concluded with a discussion with the C-CAM team around their challenges and best practices operating an ecotourism facility.

Key Points Highlighted

Discussions with the C-CAM team highlighted the following key points and lessons learned based on their experience with ecotourism operations and other projects surrounding support for community-based organizations:

1. Previous direct access projects have proved difficult for small local organizations to access, due to stringent reporting requirements, procurement procedures, and other processes which stretched the limited institutional capacity of these organizations.
2. When designing future interventions of this nature, it is important that direct financing is made easily accessible to small local organizations.
3. Guidance to support project proposal writing, monitoring & evaluation, and project reporting is critical throughout the process. This also improves the organizations' institutional capacity and contributes to overall sustainability of the project and the proposed financing mechanism, as organizations can use this added capacity to leverage additional resources.

Day 1

Opening Remarks

The workshop opened with remarks from critical stakeholders to set the context for the discussions. Remarks were brought from Ms Schmoi McLean (CCB), Dr Milton Clarke (JSIF) and Ms Ezra Christopher (CCCCC).

Presentation on LLA Principles & AF LLA Funding

Context setting at the workshop continued with a presentation from the CCCCC SIDAR Project Officer, Ms Eleanor Terrelonge, on the principles of Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) and the Adaptation Fund's LLA Funding Window. This presentation aimed to ensure all participants understood the principles of LLA ahead of the focus group discussions and were able to consider these principles as part of their feedback on the concept note. A copy of this presentation can be found [here](#).

Presentation of Concept Note

A summarized version of the [draft concept note](#) was presented by the Project Officer, which included a summary of the climate hazards being addressed, the barriers identified, the proposed activities and theory of change, the identified project risks. A copy of this presentation can be found [here](#).

Focus Group Session 1

Participants were sorted into three (3) focus group, each led by a facilitator. Each group chose one person to record their responses, along with one person to present the findings to the wider audience. Critical documents such as the draft concept note, information on the AF/LLA, key national strategies (e.g. NDC 3.0, LTS) were uploaded and shared with participants. Focus Group Session 1 focused on an assessment of the proposed project Components and activities.

Focus Group 1: Government MDA Stakeholders

Focus Group 1 consisted mainly of stakeholders from various government MDAs and was facilitated by Dr Sean Townsend (UDC) and Ms Shalennie Madho (CFAN). Discussions in the group focused mainly on the activities in Component 1, which centres around improving the enabling environment for encouraging ecotourism activities. Feedback from this focus group is summarized below:

¹QUESTION 1: Examine each of the activities, outputs and outcomes under all 3 components. Are the activities fit for purpose and feasible within the proposed project timeline? Would you remove or change any of the activities?

- The activities are fit for purpose and feasibly within the proposed project timeline
- **Component 1:**
 - ²Activity 1.1.1.1:
 - Agree, as long as the correct policies are in place.eg. Eco-tourism policy (hopeful that this is ready for the start of the project). Include a GRM for informal persons to file complaints etc. about an issue as part of the roadmap.

¹ Note that the Activity numbering at the time of the Stakeholder Validation was subsequently updated in the finalized concept note document

² Activity 1.1.2.1 in the updated concept note

- Encourage the development of Associations for Operators for collaboration and easier licensing and permitting requirements.
- Within the Roadmap, create a sub-roadmap around scalability.
- ³Activity 1.1.1.2: Agree
- ⁴Activity 1.1.1.3: Agree. The word “existing” has stakeholders torn as the payment service does not exist.
- Notes: Streamline the beneficiaries and the source of income that can be placed on a regular to support the revolving fund. Ensure that this is regulated as there are multiple sectors involved.
- Question: Who would take the responsibility to create the roadmap and managing the fund? Also, it was highlighted that the lead should be the Min. Of Tourism.
- Recommendation: Use lessons learnt from REDI and DBJ
- **Component 2:**
- ⁵Activity 2.1.2.2: There is a concern about how practical solar boat engines are for boats. Can consider using solar on canopies for boats where possible. Concern is mainly about time and training. i.e. Time in switching over and the training for maintenance.
- **Component 3:**
- ⁶Activity 3.1.3.2: For the last output, put in the words “and others” at the end of business facilitation programme.
- Recommendation re Capacity building - As an activity, or part of one, include computer literacy and marketing to the operators.
- Concern: Lack of inclusion of persons backstopping the operators.

QUESTION 2: Do the activities align with any strategy document or priority item within your organisation? (Refer to Section D of concept note document)

- 2050 Long-Term Emissions Reduction & Resilience Strategy (LTS)
- National Fisheries Authority strategy

QUESTION 3: What national technical standards, licenses, etc would be relevant to the project activities? (Refer to Section E of concept note document)

- Beach permits
- Food handlers permits
- First-Aid training.

QUESTION 4: What are the risks to achieving project success?

- Policy Development: Timeframe of the govt may not be in-line with the project’s timing.
- The timeframe for the transition from fuel engines to solar engines – proposed to do a pilot project.

QUESTION 5: Do you know of any duplication of this project activities from other funding sources? (Refer to Section F of concept note document)

- NEPA trains citizens on water quality, monitoring and testing.

Other Notes:

- In the definition of vulnerable, include the term “literacy” because literacy of persons may prevent persons from being involved in the project.
- Define the beneficiaries. E.g. Who are the operators? (are they coastal, inland, etc.)

Focus Group 2: Tourism Operators

Focus Group 2 consisted mainly of ecotourism operators, along with a representative from the JSIF REDI II project, and was facilitated by Ms Elishah St Luce (CCCCC) and Ms Eleanor Terrelonge (CCCCC). Feedback from this focus group is summarized below:

QUESTION 1: Examine each of the activities, outputs and outcomes under all 3 components. Are the activities fit for purpose and feasible within the proposed project timeline? Would you remove or change any of the activities?

- The activities are fit for purpose and but there are concerns about the feasibility of the proposed project timeline
- **Component 1:**
- ²Activity 1.1.1.1:
 - A Generalised Roadmap is useful, but needs to be branched off into micro sectors
 - What is the value and “teeth” of the certification? That will determine the extent groups will have buy in to apply.
 - Green Globe is a standard. May be an onerous process. Linked to outcomes that are aimed to be achieved in eco-tourism space.
 - Link the certification to incentives. Can be scaled so that community-based groups may be able to attain the certification.
 - Certification for Sustainable Tourism- Entities in Costa Rica utilises this type of certification.
 - Practical application- technical support for certification
 - Link grant facility to meet requirements of certification.
- ³Activity 1.1.1.2: Agree
 - It is feasible however the general outline will need to be broken down based on the hazards faced. The EMS can extend beyond climate hazards. E.g. human induced fires that may impact the eco-systems. Agriculture based disasters.
 - SOPs will need to be accompanied by training to staff.
 - Link SOPs to roadmap setup.
 - Create general templates for operators.

³ Consolidated into Activity 1.1.2.1. in the updated concept note

⁴ Activity 1.1.1.1 in the updated concept note. The word “existing” was removed from final activity description

⁵ Consolidated under eligible activities under Activity 2.1.1.1. in the updated concept note

⁶ Now represented by Output 3.1.2.

- ⁷Activity 1.1.1.3:
 - o Value in incentivisation programme as it relates to reducing the level of fragmentation and regulation. The reason for one common entity. There are many bodies, that becomes overwhelming for the entities requiring permits. The costs are also prohibitive. There are benefits to being certified.
 - o Community tourism unit can be improved to demarcating between private and community tourism related enterprises. TPDCO facilitates the process on behalf of JTB (Jamaica Tourist Board).
 - o JTB rules and requirements did not consider community tourism operators, but this is being revised.
- **Component 2:**
- ⁸Activity 2.1.1.1:
 - o Community based organisations may not have initial costs to address the needs for retrofitting. Concern with this will be the selection process.
 - o What the matrix for selection be?
 - o Maintenance manuals and plans need to be incorporated in the retrofitting. Enterprises trained.
 - o High utility cost is an issue that is seen as a valuable next step.
- ⁸Activity 2.1.1.2:
 - o Rainwater harvesting can be high in cost and for scale sale filtration systems are high cost and input. May be harder than the solar for small scale facilities.
 - o Ecofriendly building techniques and uses, training on these.
- ⁸Activity 2.2.1.1:
 - o Needs to link to education and sensitisation of the use and importance of the systems. Utilize technology to community the real time information from the systems.
- ⁸Activity 2.1.2.2: Activity is accepted. Options to be explored. Including changing of engines and type of boats.
- **Component 3:**
- ⁹Activity 3.1.2.1:
 - o Useful for Marine story board programme.
 - o Options as what is used at museum in Brazil is useful.
 - o Fully manual systems are fine. But interactive screens for digital evaluations example is a good move.
 - o At Discovery Bay, as part of coral restoration, there are demonstrations of items taken from the lab. Having these story boards is fun but facilitate learning especially with kids.
- ¹⁰Activity 3.1.3.2:
 - These help a well-rounded education outside of what is being taught at school. These contributes to general shift to facilitate eco-tourism. Have company keep summer camps for these sorts of things. Camps are however prohibitive.

QUESTION 2: Do the activities align with any strategy document or priority item within your organisation? (Refer to Section D of concept note document)

- C-CAM is working towards certification as a tourism operator.
- Some operators are state owned. Therefore, there is alignment with government priorities for these.
- Component 2 is aligned with the JSIF Project Operation Manual and the JSIF REDI II Project funding 40 Mil USD, 1.7 Mil Community Contribution. Project Operation Manual amended to reflect the realities of beneficiaries re cofinancing.

QUESTION 3: What national technical standards, licenses, etc would be relevant to the project activities? (Refer to Section E of concept note document)

- Business Registration
- Tax registration
- NEPA Permit
- Beach License
- Fire Safety
- Public Health Certification (Individual Food Handlers Permits, Enterprise- Public health Certification)
- Attractions Licenses
- Jamaica Constabulary certification.
- Public Insurance
- JNHT- Heritage site
- Note: Operators need all of the above to become TPDCO certified.

QUESTION 4: What are the risks to achieving project success?

- Time is an issue (2 years is prohibitive)
- Administrative barriers and processes for granting from the on granting. Logistics issues with sourcing technologies. Timeframe of the govt may not be in-line with the project's timing.

QUESTION 5: Do you know of any duplication of this project activities from other funding sources? (Refer to Section F of concept note document)

- Capacity of small-scale operators for registration, licensing and grant application, based on time constraint.
- Project may focus more on the enterprises that are already at a level. Timeline may result in constraints to inclusion.

Other Notes:

- Land tenure issues precludes small scale operators. This has been an issue for JSIF that the project may face.

⁷ Activity 1.1.1.1 in updated concept note

⁸ Consolidated under eligible activities under Activity 2.1.1.1. in the updated concept note

⁹ Activity 3.2.1.1 in updated concept note

¹⁰ Training of communities and schools now included in Activity 3.1.1.1 in the updated concept note

Focus Group 3: NGOs & Fund Managers

Focus Group 3 consisted mainly of non-governmental organizations and fund managers and was facilitated by Ms Ezra Christopher (CCCCC) and Ms Taneque Heslop (CCB). Feedback from this focus group is summarized below:

QUESTION 1: Examine each of the activities, outputs and outcomes under all 3 components. Are the activities fit for purpose and feasible within the proposed project timeline? Would you remove or change any of the activities?

- The activities are fit for purpose. However, the suggested project timeline of 2 years is not feasible.
- **Component 1:**
 - *Activity 1.1.1.1:*
 - Will the project create its own certification?
 - Recommendations: assess what already exist to avoid duplication of efforts, e.g. sustainable eco- tourism toolkits exist under the Ministry of Tourism through TPDCO this
 - Refer to the National Community Tourism Policy and Sustainable Tourism M& E framework which were recently revised
 - The project could create national standards for grassroots organization-
 - A clearer definition of the beneficiary businesses is needed.
 - The toolkit must include licenses and compliance
 - Green certification is a marketing tool, hotels promote the businesses
 - Integrate all necessary all key areas such as Disaster Risk Management into the toolkit
 - Each entity could create its own standards for EMS based on its operations
 - *Activity 1.1.1.2: Agree*
 - This activity should be scaled to small scale operators
 - Insurance needs to be considered (e.g. explore insurance through Grace Kennedy Insurance)
 - Explore an insurance scheme as a sector or group; create scheme to include parametric and accidental insurance.
 - Environmental taxes could also be considered consider
 - Leverage the existing Tourism Enhancement Fee as part of the revolving fund
 - Support other things than payment for ecosystem services
 - Expanding the ecosystem services payment component to increase incentivization. Clarification is needed on who is responsible to pay
 - Aim to encourage private sector investment
 - Consider forming co-operative groups by aligning with group/larger hotels (e.g. Sandals)
 - Explore what exists and how it can be integrated into the Roadmap in 1.1.1.1
 - Include guidance for operators on how it can be integrated in policy
- **Component 2:**
 - ¹¹*Activity 2.1.1.1:*
 - Greater clarification is needed between activity 2.1.1.1 and 2.1.1.2
 - Operators may want to apply for some of these activities under the proposed revolving fund
 - While the activities appear applicable as is, these will be dependent on specific needs. may rehabilitate the infrastructure,
 - Note that the budget is limited under this component so greater prioritization is needed under this component
 - Operators should be able to directly draw down funding to support these activities
 - Ensure sustainability and maintenance is built into these activities
 - ¹¹*Activity 2.1.1.2:*
 - This activity should be expanded beyond marine conservation and waste management
 - Note that majority of waste comes from inland, so it is critical to address waste coming from inland
 - Community based organisations may not have initial costs to address the needs for retrofitting. A concern with this will be the selection process.
 - What the matrix for selection of beneficiaries be?
 - Maintenance manuals and plans need to be incorporated in the retrofitting and enterprises trained to conduct maintenance
 - High utility cost is an issue, so that is seen as a valuable next step.
 - ¹¹*Activity 2.2.1.1:* No comments on this activity
 - ¹¹*Activity 2.1.2.2:* No comments on this activity
- **Component 3:**
 - *Overall Comments/Recommendations on Activities:*
 - Staff retention is key as struggling small community-based entities may see the first cohort of trained persons leave. A continuity plan is needed to ensure knowledge sharing continues – not seeing it rolling out- no priority on these –
 - Consider whether there is an oversight that can continuously offer support- possibly TPDCO
 - It is not clear how the listed activities will ensure the proposed outcome. Training alone will not be sufficient
 - Use a video as a communication tool
 - Clearly define who is being targeted under Component 3
 - Citizen science programmes are fraught with challenges
 - Capacity among many of the informal operators tends to be very low, as such they are not able to access funding mechanisms. A proposed approach is to first conduct an institutional capacity assessment with groups (to include project management, good business practices, financial management, etc.) to appraise readiness of operator groups to access funding
 - Tailor capacity based training on this capacity assessment

¹¹ Consolidated under eligible activities under Activity 2.1.1.1. in the updated concept note

- Work with the Department of Co-operatives and Friendly Societies to help information operators get formally registered. This could be build into the incentivization activity
- Consider a merger of the different systems programs used by entities such as the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ) and CANARI
- Tap into exclusion list of other project or programmes. Host a follow up conversation with DBJ, JSIF, PIOJ, to discuss this in more detail
- keep summer camps for these sorts of things. Camps are however prohibitive.

QUESTION 2: Do the activities align with any strategy document or priority item within your organisation? (Refer to Section D of concept note document)

- No comments on this question

QUESTION 3: What national technical standards, licenses, etc would be relevant to the project activities? (Refer to Section E of concept note document)

- No comments on this question

QUESTION 4: What are the risks to achieving project success?

- Limited institutional capacity is a major risk. Ranking of operators would be necessary
- Tools such as insurance may lose funding and the global market may be fragile or inconsistent
- Climate change Impacts
- Risk of loss of future funding or available pot of funding may be impacted by external sources such as the unintended political climate funding globally
- The first two activities don't align with the risks-are they really addressing the risks? Clarification is needed on the Theory of Change Diagram Consider using different colours for the arrows or rearrange the diagram to make it easier to distinguish

QUESTION 5: Do you know of any duplication of this project activities from other funding sources? (Refer to Section F of concept note document)

- No comments on this question

Presentation on Gender & ESP Principles

A presentation on the Adaptation Fund's Gender and ESP Principles was conducted by the CCCCC Gender & Stakeholder Specialist, Ms Elishah St Luce. This presentation aimed to educate participants on the AF's Gender and ESP Principles and how they should be applied to project activities. This was used to guide the focus group session 2 discussions, so that participants could consider whether the principles are adequately integrated into the project activities and the concept note as a whole. A copy of this presentation can be found [here](#).

Focus Group Session 2

The second focus group session focused on examining whether gender and ESS principles were sufficiently considered in the project activities and the broader concept note. This session also examined considerations for project sustainability. A summary of the focus group responses is included below:

Focus Group Questions	Focus Group Responses		
	Group 1: Government MDA Stakeholders	Group 2: Tourism Operators	NGOs & Fund Managers
Does the project adequately provide economic, social and environmental benefits, with particular reference to the most vulnerable communities, and vulnerable groups within communities, including gender considerations?	• Include gender breakdown for activities • More integration of gender balance and roles within the sector is needed. (e.g. men operate the boat, women operate the business, men and women and participate in capacity building)	• It has its limitations. We are not going to know who the most vulnerable groups are until we dive deeper into the assessment to help with identifying the vulnerable groups. • There is little existing analysis on vulnerability with ecotourism. TPDCO may have some data on this that would be useful. TPDCO also has an asset inventory.	• Did not see gender considerations or vulnerable groups well integrated in activities • Economic and environmental benefits were clearly seen • Vulnerable groups need to be more explicitly defined • ESS principles are noted, but gender needs to be fleshed out more • Further work needs to be done during proposal preparation to flesh out the economic aspects more apparently (e.g. in terms of market access, marketing, etc.) • Consider Business 2 Business forums, and better engaged of value chain actors • Top-down approach is needed to support locally led adaptation
Does the project address structural inequalities faced by women, youth, children, people with disabilities, people who are displaced, traditional peoples and marginalized ethnic groups?	• YES	• Structural inequities within the eco-tourism space can be linked to location. For example, maroon communities do not have formal tenure and land titles, which will be an issue to access services of the project. • The Blue Mountain range is home to a lot of the Maroon communities. Rastafari Indigenous Villages and other traditional communities. If there are projects that could benefit these groups, then they will be included here. Similar considerations may apply to operators in Montego Bay • The project design seems to focus a lot on coastal areas, but the design is not strong going inland.	• Not fully fleshed out- based on the 15 principles esp., human rights, etc, esp. for those compulsory ones, this can be done under component 2- these can help to address the inequities, make a part of the linkages, groups that are excluded from certain projects can be included , strong group of core people- to be trained, looking at capacity, what benefit are members getting from the project • Further assessment is critical to prioritize the groups best suited by the project to filter out as the project will not be able to cover all groups.

Day 2

Day 2 of the workshop was originally scheduled for October 23, 2025. However, due to the impending threat of Hurricane Melissa, this was postponed to allow participants adequate opportunity to prepare for the storm. The workshop was held on a new date of November 23, 2025. However, the change in this date resulted in some stakeholder no longer being able to attend. It was decided that supplemental follow-up sessions will be held with some of these stakeholders to ensure their feedback is adequately incorporated.

Given the devastating impacts of Hurricane Melissa, especially in some of Jamaica's critical tourist areas, it was noted that the needs of the tourism operators are likely to have changed since the initial focus group sessions. An updated Needs Assessment survey was designed and will be deployed as part of the proposal preparation activities.

Day 2's session focused specifically on the proposed Direct Access Funding Mechanism under this project. It was determined that this mechanism would be best placed as a replacement for the existing Component 2, with the intention of funding the same type of activities (climate-proofing, renewable energy, rainwater harvesting, etc.). The attendees at this session were fund managers or administrators of similar funding programmes who were able to share best practices and lessons learned from administering similar programmes.

Best Practice Presentations

Presentations were heard from:

1. Ms Larisa McBean on the Jamaica Social Investment Fund's REDI II Project Grant Funding Mechanism
2. Mr Garth Simon on Antigua & Barbuda's Sustainable Island Resource Framework (SIRF) Fund

Presentation on REDI II Project Grant Funding Mechanism

Key Points:

- The REDI II project covers two sectors, agriculture and community tourism. For the purpose of this report, only the community tourism component will be discussed in more detail. The project duration is expected to run until May 2027.
- The REDI II project provides matching grants for demand-driven, competitively selected sub-projects in agricultural and community tourism enterprises.
- The project also conducts capacity building and technical assistance to strengthen the capacity of relevant national organisations and other partner entities responsible for assisting the agricultural and CTEs.
- The mechanism is accessed via a call for sub-project proposals. Potential sub-projects are identified on a demand-driven basis (based on their needs and ideas) through public calls for proposals. These calls are publicised to encourage rural enterprises to participate.
- Calls for proposals are broadly open, targeted to a specific geographic area, targeted to a particular value chain, product, or service and targeted to a specific type of beneficiary (e.g., women, youth). The scope may be determined based on project priorities or identified needs within the targeted sectors.
- Technical assistance is provided to beneficiaries whose proposals are approved to assist them in formulating their joint business plan.
- The REDI II project utilises matching grants to co-finance sub-projects. This means that rural enterprises contribute a portion of the total sub-project costs in order to receive funding from the project.
- Proposals are evaluated using a 21-point evaluation criteria with weighted scores up to a total of 200. Applicants must score at least 75% to be successful.
- Matching grants for small/medium community tourism enterprises (CTEs) or private tourism enterprises (PTEs) are provided up to a maximum of 350,000 USD. Enterprises are required to provide matching investments with up to 50% of this being in-kind contributions. Matching investments amounts are included below:

# of employees	CTE	PTE
Up to 4 employees	5%	10%
5 to 10 employees	20%	30%
Over 10 employees	30%	40%

- The project aims for an average of US\$15,000 per individual beneficiary in each enterprise.
- The cash contribution from beneficiaries ranges from 5-60% of the total sub-project costs.
- Grants must be used in accordance with the provisions of the approved business plan and a Sub-project Agreement signed between the beneficiaries and the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF).
- Evaluation is done based on market demand, product quality, technical and financial feasibility, environmental and social sustainability, approaches to enhance climate resiliency, potential for local impact and the level of participation by women and youth.
- A copy of this presentation can be accessed [here](#).

Presentation on the Sustainable Island Resource Framework (SIRF) Fund in Antigua & Barbuda

Key Points:

- The Sustainable Island Resource Framework (SIRF) Fund in Antigua & Barbuda is a national mechanism to manage climate and environmental financing which is designed to deliver funding to vulnerable communities, government, NGOs, and the private sector
- The fund is grounded in national law under the Finance Administration Act (2006) + EPMA (2019). Regulations were developed in 2020.
- The SIRF Fund is embedded within the Department of the Environment (DOE) and it is co-managed with oversight provided by the Ministry of Finance.
- The DOE is an Accredited Entity of the AF (2015) and the GCF (2017). This structure allows the SIRF Fund to program funding within the context of the EPMA (2019) and the Fund's Investment Strategy.
- The Fund includes a Fund Board, Secretariat, administrative staff and a technical team (including a Technical Expert Committee for each programme area and a Financial Expert Committee).
- The aim of the fund is to be nationally capitalized but the funds leveraged financing from international sources (such as the Adaptation Fund).
- The SIRF Fund is made up of 4 key pilot initiatives: **revolving loan programme, small grants facility, climate technologies access programme and blended finance programme**
- Revolving Loan Programme:
 - assists homeowners and businessowners to access financing to adapt to climate Change
 - The pilot represented the first attempt to offer structured, low-interest loans to these communities for adaptation purposes.
 - Small, low-cost (2%), non-collateral loans for climate change adaptation
 - Eligibility: Households (particularly low-income) and businesses (SMEs)
 - Persons can borrow between \$13,000 - \$200,000 EC from the revolving loan fund
 - Repayment periods up to 20 years
 - Approved interventions include: *Hurricane resilience (Hurricane Shutters & Reinforced Roofing), Drought resilience (Rainwater Harvesting and Water Storage), Energy Efficient appliances and retrofits, Renewable Energy (Solar Photovoltaic Systems), Vector control measures, Flood mitigation measures*
 - Non-eligible activities: *Construction of new homes, construction of unattached structure, addition of new rooms outside of hurricane safety rooms, paying off mortgage or other loans or any purposes outside those specified in loan agreement*
- Key lessons learned from the programme include:
 - There is an identified need for an on-the-ground grassroots communications strategy
 - The screening process must include measures to determine applicant disqualification
 - It is crucial to strike a balance between **low- and high-risk borrowers**, but also equally important to prioritize the most vulnerable individuals when allocating funding.
 - Importance of inclusive design to accommodate the unique challenges faced by different beneficiaries.
 - Adequate time and resources need to be dedicated to establishing the enabling conditions.
 - To achieve scale and optimize the recycling capacity of a revolving loan program, it is crucial to ensure significant capitalization.
 - **It is important to rely on national sources for capitalization** rather than depending solely on international donor funds.
- A copy of this presentation can be accessed [here](#).

Discussion on Potential Funding Mechanism as Component 2

The proposed funding mechanism as outlined in the diagram below was presented to workshop stakeholders for their feedback and further discussion. The full presentation on the proposed funding mechanism can be found [here](#).

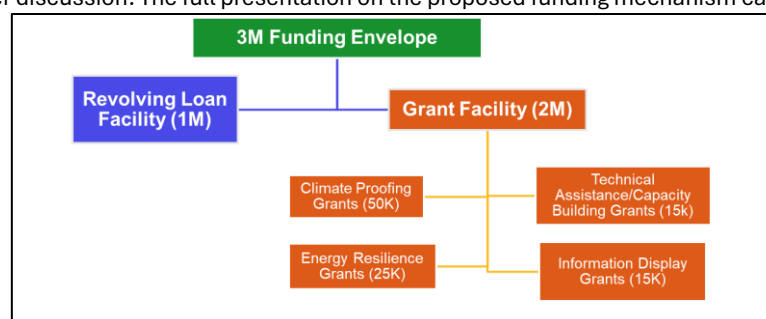


Figure 1: Proposed Funding Mechanism under Component 2

Under the proposed funding mechanism:

- The fund is aimed at being accessible to local community tourism operators whose operations align with the ecotourism definition.

- In line with the LLA principles, the goal of the mechanism is for access to be easy, quick, flexible and predictable.
- In order to access any of the facilities under this funding mechanism, operators must participate in at least one climate capacity building training under this project.
- The proposed loan facility will be targeted at low-medium risk operators and will offer loan amounts between **50,000 and 100,000USD** at a concessional interest rate, favourable payback period, and flexible payment plans.
- The proposed grant facility will be targeted at low-high risk operators and will consist of four grant types as listed below:
 - **Climate Proofing (50,000 USD)** for climate proofing, rainwater harvesting, retrofitting needed for recovery from severe climate impacts, waste management
 - **Energy Resilience Grants (25,000 USD)** for additional resilience actions such as installation of renewable energy systems, energy efficient appliances, remote monitoring technology, etc.
 - **Information Display Grants (15,000 USD)** for creation of Sustainability Information Centres
 - **Technical Assistance/Capacity Building Grants (15,000 USD)** to support business registration, permits, staff training, financial management and institutional capacity building. Capacity Building Grants OR Technical Assistance services may be accessed by operators who need assistance with business registration, permitting, building institutional capacity, etc. These grants will be administered and facilitated through a third-party partner institution and operators must attend at least 80% of Capacity Building Trainings under this project to qualify for this window.

A large part of this discussion centred around defining the project beneficiaries and the eligibility criteria for operators being able to access the fund mechanism. It was noted that there is the need to strike a balance between administrative requirements for financial management and business compliance, with the limited capacity of community-based operators. While the importance of business regularization was noted, it is also critical that the project activities do not disadvantage smaller community operators and is well aligned to the LLA principles. Out of this discussion, updated eligibility criteria were suggested as outlined below (updates from the workshop are highlighted in red).

Criteria	Loan Facility	Grant Facility			
		Climate Proofing	Energy Resilience	Information Display	Technical Assistance/ Capacity Building
Operations meet definition of “ecotourism”	x	x	x	x	x
Established vulnerability/risk to climate hazards (drought, flooding, hurricanes)	x	x	x	x	x
Business Registration	x	x	x	x	
Business Bank Account	x	x	x	x	
# years in operation	>5	>3	>3	>3	<3
Financial Statements for last 2 years	audited	unaudited	unaudited	unaudited	
Project Proposal	x	x	x	x	
Sustainability & Maintenance Plan	x	x	x	x	
Annual Reporting	Based on loan tenure	x	x	x	x
Participation in Capacity Building Trainings	x	x	x	x	At least 80%
Risk Categorization	Low-Med	Low-High	Low-High	Low-High	N/A

Other general feedback on the proposed mechanism included:

1. A Disaster Recovery Plan should be added as a requirement under the Climate Proofing Grants/Loans.

2. Consider using a “train the trainers” approach for building technical and institutional capacity to administer the fund.
3. Consider grouping the Technical Assistance Support window for multiple operators/groups under a single consultancy for ease of implementation.
4. The REDI II project and other initiatives have reported challenges with land tenure requirements, especially for informal operators. Considerations for this should be included under this project to avoid disadvantaging vulnerable operators.
5. Include company registration as a deliverable under the Technical Assistance Support window for informal operators.
6. Contact the JAMPRO for further information on Business Assessments being conducted after Hurricane Melissa. This may be useful in better understanding the sector needs in the aftermath of this disaster.
7. A communications budget should be included under this component
8. Include internet access and technology as eligible activities under the Technical Assistance/Capacity Building window.
9. Expand the Information Display Window to include other Add-On benefits for the tourism operators.

A supplemental session will need to be held with the Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ) on the proposed loan facility, as representatives were unable to attend the Day 2 session.

Key Workshop Takeaways

1. There is general consensus from stakeholders about the need for this project to build resilience in the tourism sector.
2. Most of the activities are acceptable to stakeholders, however, further refinement is needed to the project activities and theory of change to make them more suitable, and to ensure that the activities will result in the outcomes as articulated in the concept note.
3. There is general consensus from stakeholders that the project duration should be adjusted to at least five (5) years.
4. The activities under Component 1 should be as comprehensive as possible to assist with smoother implementation of the other two components.
5. In the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa, the operator needs are likely to change, and there is now an increased urgency for the project to build the resilience of the tourism sector to better respond to future climate shocks.
6. There was consensus to transform Component 2 into a direct funding mechanism through which community-based operators are able to directly apply for and access funding for building climate resilience based on the needs of their facilities.
7. It is critical to ensure that the designed funding mechanism is easily accessible to community-based operators who may have limited institutional and human capacity to apply for and absorb funding.
8. The capacity building under Component 3 should be expanded to include a tiered approach, as various operators will have different levels of capacity. More established operators with greater institutional capacity should be funnelled directly into applying for funding under Component 2. Meanwhile, greater attention should be placed on building the institutional capacity and sustainability of the less-established operators to be able to access Component 2 later in the project, or to build transferable skills that they can use to apply for funding from other source.

Conclusion

Despite the interruption from Hurricane Melissa, this Stakeholder Validation Write-shop was successfully held, and feedback was received from stakeholders across government MDAs, tourism operators, NGOs, fund managers and youth. There is general consensus among stakeholders that the proposed project meets the needs of the sector in order to build climate resilience across Jamaica’s tourism sector.

Based on this feedback, the draft concept note will be updated and circulated to stakeholders for an additional round of validation. An updated ESS screening will also be conducted on the updated concept note.

Photo Highlights



Attendees on Day 1 of the Stakeholder Validation WriteShop



Attendees at the Field Visit to the Portland Bight Discovery Centre



Focus Group Sessions

Highlights from Field Visit to Portland Bight Discovery Centre held October 21, 2025



Opening Remarks were brought from (Left) Ms Schmoi McLean, (Centre) Dr Milton Clarke, and (Right) Ms Ezra Christopher

Appendix 1: Stakeholder Registers

#	NAME	ORGANIZATION	POSITION	CONTACT #	EMAIL ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
Day 1: October 22, 2025						
1	Shirley Brown	MWEC/CCB	Senior Technical Officer	876-2479-7165	shirleybrown@mecc.gov.jm	
2	Ezra Christopher	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre	Technical Coordinator		echristopher@climate.org	
3	Milton Clark	JSIF	Senior Manager	876-405-5035	milton.clark@jsif.org	
4	Zaria Green	JCCYC	Manager	876-919-5193	zaria@jccyc.gov.jm	
5	Taneque Heslop	CCB/NDCP	Project Specialist	876-412-7621	taneque.heslop@ccbc.gov.jm	
6	Leahanne Shuman	CANARI	Senior Technical Officer	876-405-5035	leahanne@canari.org	
7	Claudia Townsend	C-CAM	Community Outreach Officer	876-505-5035	claudia.townsend@cccam.gov.jm	
8	Jonathan Richardson	C-CAM	Technical Officer	876-505-5035	jonathan.richardson@cccam.gov.jm	
9	Shalene Madhoo	CFAN	CFAN ADVOC	876-505-5035	shalene.madhoo@cfan.gov.jm	
10	Hayden Boyd	SEAS/DOC	Manager	876-505-5035	hayden.boyd@seas.gov.jm	
11	Taylor Tondie	SEAS/DOC	Operations Manager	876-505-5035	taylor.tondie@seas.gov.jm	

#	NAME	ORGANIZATION	POSITION	CONTACT #	EMAIL ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
13	Felicia Gordon	Nature Jamaica	Executive Director	876-324-7351	felicia.gordon@naturejamaica.org	
14	Schmoe McLean	MWEC	Manager	876-561-8775	schmoe.mclean@mwec.gov.jm	
15	Ajani Allagie	MWEC-CCB	AD Officer	876-281-8181	ajani.allagie@mwec.gov.jm	
16	Elishah St. Luce	CCCC	Special Advisor Gender		estluce@caribbeanclimate.org	
17	LARISA McBEAN	JSIF	Tourism Specialist	579-7580	larisa.mclean@jsif.gov.jm	
18	Sean Townsend	DOC	Manager	410-6858	stownsend@doc.gov.jm	
19	Taneque Heslop	CCB/NDCP	Project Specialist	876-412-7621	taneque.heslop@ccbc.gov.jm	
20	Charles Thomas	CHARLENE THOMAS	Manager	876-505-5035	charlene.thomas@charlene.org	
21	Phelicia Brown	JSIF	Specialist	876-505-5035	phelicia.brown@jsif.gov.jm	
22	David Ross	NEPA	Waterhead	876-505-5035	david.ross@nepa.gov.jm	
23	Simone Lee	CANARI	Community Outreach Officer	876-505-5035	simone.lee@canari.org	
24	Glenville McLean	ETRCMC	Research Fellow		glenville.mclean@etrcmc.gov.jm	
25	Eleanor Terrelonge	CCCC	Project Officer		eleanor.terrelonge@cccc.gov.jm	

#	NAME	ORGANIZATION	POSITION	CONTACT #	EMAIL ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
1	Ezra Christopher	CCCC	Technical Coordinator		echristopher@climate.org	
2	Elishah St. Luce	CCCC	Gender Specialist		estluce@caribbeanclimate.org	
3	Steven Palmer	JCCYC	President		steven@jccyc.gov.jm	
4	Taneque Heslop	CCB/NDCP	Facilitator		taneque.heslop@ccbc.gov.jm	
5	Eleanor Terrelonge	CCCC	Project Officer		eleanor.terrelonge@cccc.gov.jm	
6	Ajani Allagie	CCB	Programme Coordinator		ajani.allagie@mwec.gov.jm	
7	Schmoe McLean	CCB	Manager		schmoe.mclean@mwec.gov.jm	
8	Shayenne Davis	C-CAM	Public Education Officer		shayenne.davis@cccam.gov.jm	
9	Frederick Robinson	C-CAM	Technical Officer	876-505-5035	tori.nicholson@cccam.gov.jm	
10	LEADY WARE	C-CAM	GRANDPICKER	876-2512586	leady.ware@cccam.gov.jm	
11	Frederick Robinson	C-CAM	Executive Director	876-383-2784	tori.nicholson@cccam.gov.jm	
12	Claudia Townsend	C-CAM	Community Development Officer		claudia.townsend@cccam.gov.jm	
13	Key Franklin	C-CAM	Manager	876-322-0609	keyfranklin@gmail.com	

1. Summary							
Meeting title	EcoTourism Stakeholder Validation Write-Shop (Day 1)						
Attended participants	7						
Start time	10/22/25, 8:55:43 AM						
End time	10/22/25, 4:07:20 PM						
Meeting duration	7h 11m 36s						
Average attendance time	3h 42m 6s						
2. Participants							
Name	First Join	Last Leave	In-Meeting Duration	Email	Participant ID (UPN)	Role	
Eleanor Terrelonge - Project Officer	10/22/25, 9:11:00 AM	10/22/25, 4:07:20 PM	5h 48m 22s	projectofficerJA@caribbeanclimate.org	projectofficerJA@caribbeanclimate.org	Organizer	
Chanae Dooley	10/22/25, 9:11:04 AM	10/22/25, 2:04:32 PM	4h 11s	cdooley@conservationjamaica.org	cdooley@conservationjamaica.org	Presenter	
Charlene Thomas	10/22/25, 9:11:39 AM	10/22/25, 9:22:19 AM	10m 39s	Charlene.Thomas@nfa.gov.jm	Charlene.Thomas@nfa.gov.jm	Presenter	
Leslie Harrow (Unverified)	10/22/25, 9:23:06 AM	10/22/25, 10:03:36 AM	40m 30s			Presenter	
Elishah St Luce	10/22/25, 10:15:53 AM	10/22/25, 4:07:20 PM	5h 51m 26s	estluce@caribbeanclimate.org	estluce@caribbeanclimate.org	Presenter	
Damian Shirley	10/22/25, 10:24:21 AM	10/22/25, 3:42:21 PM	5h 17m 59s	Damian.Shirley@TPDCo.org	damians@TPDCo.org	Presenter	
Nicolette PD. Brown	10/22/25, 11:11:15 AM	10/22/25, 3:16:47 PM	4h 5m 32s	Nicolette.ABrown@TPDCo.org	NicolettePB@TPDCo.org	Presenter	
3. In-Meeting Activities							
Name	Join Time	Leave Time	Duration	Email	Role		
Eleanor Terrelonge - Project Officer	10/22/25, 9:11:00 AM	10/22/25, 9:13:02 AM	2m 1s	projectofficerJA@caribbeanclimate.org	Organizer		
Eleanor Terrelonge - Project Officer	10/22/25, 9:16:11 AM	10/22/25, 9:19:31 AM	3m 19s	projectofficerJA@caribbeanclimate.org	Organizer		
Eleanor Terrelonge - Project Officer	10/22/25, 10:24:17 AM	10/22/25, 4:07:20 PM	5h 43m 2s	projectofficerJA@caribbeanclimate.org	Organizer		
Chanae Dooley	10/22/25, 9:11:04 AM	10/22/25, 9:23:15 AM	12m 11s	cdooley@conservationjamaica.org	Presenter		
Chanae Dooley	10/22/25, 10:16:32 AM	10/22/25, 2:04:32 PM	3h 48m	cdooley@conservationjamaica.org	Presenter		
Charlene Thomas	10/22/25, 9:11:39 AM	10/22/25, 9:22:19 AM	10m 39s	Charlene.Thomas@nfa.gov.jm	Presenter		
Leslie Harrow (Unverified)	10/22/25, 9:23:06 AM	10/22/25, 10:03:36 AM	40m 30s		Presenter		
Elishah St Luce	10/22/25, 10:15:53 AM	10/22/25, 4:07:20 PM	5h 51m 26s	estluce@caribbeanclimate.org	Presenter		
Damian Shirley	10/22/25, 10:24:21 AM	10/22/25, 3:42:21 PM	5h 17m 59s	Damian.Shirley@TPDCo.org	Presenter		
Nicolette PD. Brown	10/22/25, 11:11:15 AM	10/22/25, 3:16:47 PM	4h 5m 32s	Nicolette.ABrown@TPDCo.org	Presenter		

#	NAME	ORGANIZATION	POSITION	CONTACT #	EMAIL ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
Day 2: November 26, 2025						
1	Kevin Doolan	JSIF	Technical Officer	579-0189	kevin.doolan@jsif.gov.jm	
2	Chanae Dooley	NCTFS	Administrator	876-495-1803	chanae.doolan@nctfs.gov.jm	
3	Leahanne Shuman	CANARI	Senior Technical Officer	876-405-5035	leahanne@canari.org	
4	SHALENE MADHO	CFAN	CFAN ADVOC	876-505-5035	shalene.madhoo@cfan.gov.jm	
5	TANEQUE HESLOP	CCB/NDCP	Facilitator	876-248-5477	taneque.heslop@ccbc.gov.jm	
6	LARISA McBEAN	JSIF	Tourism Specialist	579-7580	larisa.mclean@jsif.gov.jm	
7	Sean Townsend	DOC	Manager	410-6858	stownsend@doc.gov.jm	
8	Eleanor Terrelonge	CCCC	Project Officer		eleanor.terrelonge@cccc.gov.jm	
9	Schmoe McLean	CCB	Manager	561-8775	schmoe.mclean@mwec.gov.jm	
10						
11						
12						
13						

ANNEX II: Preliminary Gender Assessment: Sustainable Ecotourism Advancement for Jamaica (SEA-J)

Context

Jamaica is home to a population of 2,839,175 people ([World Bank](#)). As of 2024, 50.6% of the population (1,435,209) is female and 49% (1,403,966) is male. According to the [State of the Jamaica Climate Report III](#), a combination of socioeconomic circumstances and the expected gender roles result in women being more vulnerable than men to the effects of climate change. Jamaica's principles of gender equality and women's empowerment are enshrined in national laws and policies such as the [National Policy for Gender Equality \(2011\)](#), the [Employment \(Equal Pay for Men and Women\) Act](#) and the [Gender and Climate Change Strategy \(2022-2025\)](#) which is geared at mainstreaming gender across climate programming in Jamaica. Jamaica is also a signatory to the [International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women](#).

Gender Differentiated Climate Change Risks and Impacts

Female-headed households represent 14.4% of the population living in poverty, making females more vulnerable to the effects of natural disasters and the loss of income and employment that accompanies them. In times of disaster, women are also highly vulnerable to human trafficking, domestic violence, HIV rates (due to engagement in transactional sex for survival) and are generally less able to re-establish their income streams after a disaster. Women also bear majority responsibility for caretaking, especially of children, the elderly and the sick and disabled, and this load is likely to increase in the event of a hurricane or other disaster. Women are also more vulnerable to sexual violence in shelters, if they have been displaced from their homes due to natural disasters.

Men are expected to take more physical risks to batten down homes, clear trees and roads, and perform repairs during and after tropical cyclone events, leaving them more vulnerable to physical injuries and deaths associated with these activities. Male children are also more likely to have their education interrupted as they may be taken out of school to assist with disaster preparation or recovery efforts. Individuals living at the intersectionalities of various vulnerabilities are most at risk to the impacts of climate change, including the rural poor, rural women, disabled poor, persons in unsafe/unstable housing.

Vulnerable Populations in Jamaica's Tourism Sector

Overall, vulnerable communities are at the greatest risk to the impacts of climate change, particularly in the areas of disaster preparation and recovery. This holds true in the tourism sector, where community members are generally on the frontlines of these preparation and recovery efforts. Vulnerabilities particularly exist with informal operators in the tourism sector and along the wider tourism value chain who are highly climate-exposed. These include information operators (e.g. boat tours, rafting, trail guides, farmers and fisherfolk supplying the sector, and micro, small and community-based tourism enterprises who may be unregistered or unbanked. The lack of formal recognition results in limitations to the type and level of resilience support which these operators can access. Disabled persons living in these communities remain at a further disadvantage at all stages of disaster response, due to challenges with mobility, safety and accessibility to critical services like evacuation and shelters. These challenges are also shared by marginalized communities such as transgender persons and other members of the LGBTQ community who may face discrimination in trying to access these services (State of the Jamaican Climate Vol III, 2022). Another impact of extreme weather events is on the vulnerability of marginalized and unattached youth (usually males), many of whom are employed informally in the tourism sector. Many of these youth are low-skilled workers with limited formal education, and the disruption of their livelihood opportunities after a disaster may increase the likelihood of them engaging in illegal activities for survival.

Gender Differentiated Vulnerabilities in Jamaica's Tourism Sector

Similar to impacts in other sectors, there are also gendered impacts of climate change in the tourism sector, especially as it relates to hurricane preparation and recovery efforts. This is due to the difference in gender roles of tourism workers. The State of the Jamaican Climate Vol III provides some insight into these gendered roles and how they are differently impacted by hurricanes, in particular.

There are "male-dominated" tourism jobs such as transportation, building and construction and hotel/facility maintenance. Male tourism workers are generally responsible for checking and securing equipment ahead of hurricanes and other disasters, and are greatly threatened during the disaster, as they may risk their lives to complete a job to meet

family commitments. Men are often required to be present at tourism facilities during the storm event to maintain and secure systems, exacerbating the impacts on them. In the aftermath of these disasters, some male tourism operators are also at risk of losing their earning opportunities and livelihoods due to the impacts of infrastructure damage on their work (e.g. damaged roads would impact the ability of transportation workers to continue their operations uninterrupted). However, on the other hand, tourism operators who work in building construction and maintenance may see an increase in earning opportunities, due to post hurricane reconstruction activities that would arise after a disaster.

On the other hand, female tourism workers tend to be involved in accommodation and hospitality services (e.g. housekeeping, caregiving, hosting, etc.). Women are often expected to remain at the facilities to conduct hospitality-focused services for guests who may be present at the facility during and after the event. This forces them to balance personal family preparations at home with preparations at their work facilities ahead of disasters, which may also force them to brave unsafe road and environmental conditions to travel between work and home. Many of the women employed in the sector are also engaged in low-skill work and are less likely to have the capacity to adequately prepare for and respond to the impacts of hurricanes. They are also less likely to be able to leverage earning opportunities in construction and repair post-hurricane and generally have more challenges accessing financial resources than their male counterparts.

Stakeholder Consultations

A series of stakeholder consultations informed the initial design of this project (Annex I). The stakeholder consultation activities were broad based to include perspectives of community tourism operators, including women-led and youth-led enterprises. Consultation workshops also sought to identify vulnerability considerations that should be integrated into the SEA-J project as reflected in 'Gender Solutions' below. Consultations were targeted and inclusive. This approach will continue through full proposal development and project implementation, to ensure that critical perspectives on social inclusion and gender equity are adequately considered. Jamaica's Bureau of Gender Affairs is expected to play a key role in future consultation activities.

Gender Solutions in SEA-J Project Development

The SEA-J Project must ensure that there is even distribution of project benefits to people of different gender groups and subgroups. Based on this preliminary analysis, the initial project design aims to address the identified vulnerabilities as outlined below:

1. The initial stakeholder consultations sought to explore the differentiated needs of men and women operating in the ecotourism sector. As the project activities are further refined, additional targeted consultation activities will be designed and conducted, to include active recruitment and consultations with unattached youth and women-led enterprises.
2. The project recognizes that some operators will be unable to meet the eligibility criteria to be considered under the loan or grant components in Component 2 (due to lack of creditworthiness, formal registration, bank accounts or financial records). In order to avoid placing these vulnerable operators at a further disadvantage, the project design designates a dedicated Capacity Building Window under Component 2 that is accessible to informal and unbanked small-scale operators. This window will provide institutional capacity building and small-scale financing (through resilience microgrants) to informal operators, a group which is likely to include marginalized youth, women-led and low-income operators. This capacity building support will also deliver a layer of institutional sustainability to these operators that will allow them to expand their participation in the tourism sector after the life of the project.
3. The detailed project design will establish specific funding targets under Component 2 for women-led and youth-led enterprises, based on their inherent vulnerabilities identified above. These funding targets will be determined based on the detailed Gender Assessment to ensure that the project remains gender-responsive, and equitable based on proportionality.

As part of full proposal preparation, it is expected that key stakeholders will be consulted as part to develop the Gender Assessment and Action Plan to further assess the specific gender roles in the sector's operations and to ensure full participation of women and men in project activities. The Gender Action Plan will identify project activities to ensure that men and women are provided with an equal opportunity to build their climate resilience, access finance and explore alternative livelihood options. To support this, the Monitoring and Evaluation framework of the project will track gender outcomes using sex-disaggregated indicators, following with completion of the Gender Assessment and Action Plan. The project will develop a Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (SEAH) protocol and redress mechanism to identify and address the potential for SEAH.



MINISTRY OF WATER, ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

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ANY REPLY OR SUBSEQUENT REFERENCE TO THIS COMMUNICATION SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE PERMANENT SECRETARY

June 16, 2026

Adaptation Fund Board
Secretariat
c/o Global Environment Facility
1818 H Street NW
Washington DC 20433
USA

Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: Endorsement of Concept Note titled “Sustainable Ecotourism Advancement for Jamaica (SEA-J)” Project in Jamaica submitted by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)

I refer to the concept note titled “Sustainable Ecotourism Advancement for Jamaica (SEA-J)” submitted by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) on behalf of Jamaica (the “Concept Note”).

The undersigned is the duly authorized representative of the Ministry of Water, Environment and Climate Change, the Designated Authority to the Adaptation Fund for Jamaica. In this capacity, I hereby communicate our endorsement of the Concept Note. We also confirm our endorsement of the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) to serve as Executing Entity for the project.

By communication our endorsement, it is implied that:

- (a) The Government of Jamaica has no-objection to the Concept Note; and
- (b) The Concept Note is in conformity with Jamaica’s national priorities, strategies and plans.

We also confirm that our national process for ascertaining no-objection to the Concept Note has been duly followed. This endorsement will facilitate the development of a full project proposal, which will further address any gaps within the Concept Note.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, we expect the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre and the Jamaica Social Investment Fund to take the necessary measures to ensure that the project as described in the Concept Note is further developed and implemented in a manner consistent with applicable national laws.

Kind regards,

.....
Dale Webber (Professor)

**Ambassador/Special Envoy for Climate Change, Environment, Ocean, and the Blue Economy
Designated Authority**

Attachment:

Copy to: Minister the Honourable Matthew Samuda, MP – MWECC
Mr. Wayne O. Robertson JP, Permanent Secretary – MWECC
Dr. Colin Young, Executive Director – Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
Mr. Omar Sweeney, CD, PE, Managing Director – Jamaica Social Investment Fund
Dr. Sharon Morrison JP, Director General – MWECC

Annex I: Stakeholder Validation Report

Sustainable Ecotourism Advancement for Jamaica (SEA-J)

Background

The “*Catalyzing Sustainable Ecotourism for a Stronger, More Resilient Jamaica Tourism Industry*” project is aimed at building the resilience of Jamaica’s tourism sector. The project aims to create an enabling environment between public and private sector stakeholders to reduce vulnerability, build resilience and reduce emissions in the tourism sector, equip community-based ecotourism operators with climate-smart technologies, and provide a roadmap to financial sustainability for these operators.

This project is being developed by the [Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre \(CCCCC\)](#) under the UK FCDO Small Island Developing States Capacity and Resilience (SIDAR) Programme, in collaboration with a cross-section of government and non-governmental stakeholders in Jamaica. The concept note is being developed to solicit funding from the [Adaptation Fund](#), under the [Locally Led Adaptation \(LLA\)](#) Funding Window, at a value of \$5M USD.

Overview of Workshop

The Stakeholder Validation Write-Shop for this project was held on October 22 and November 26, 2025 at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel in Kingston, Jamaica. The workshop’s main objective was to present the draft concept note to critical stakeholders for feedback and validation. Day 1 focused on soliciting feedback from a wide range of stakeholders on all components and activities of the concept note, while Day 2 provided the opportunity for a targeted conversation with select stakeholders surrounding the revolving fund mechanism being explored under Component 2.

A field visit to the Portland Bight Discovery Centre in Salt River, Clarendon, was held on Tuesday October 21, 2025 to provide additional context for the discussions.

Attendees

The field visit was attended by 13 stakeholders from the following organizations:

- Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)
- Climate Change Branch, Ministry of Water, Environment & Climate Change (CCB, MWECC)
- Jamaica Climate Change Youth Council (JCCYC)
- Caribbean Coastal Area Management (C-CAM) Foundation (*host organization*)

Day 1 of the Write-Shop was attended by a total of 30 stakeholders (25 in-person and 5 online) from various organizations, while Day 2 was attended by 10 stakeholders (8 in-person and 2 online). The list of organizations is summarized below. The complete stakeholder register is attached as Appendix 1: Stakeholder Registers.

Day 1	Day 2
• Climate Change Branch, Ministry of Water, Environment & Climate Change (CCB, MWECC) • Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) • CANARI • Caribbean Coastal Area Management (C-CAM) Foundation • Caribbean Finance Access Network (CFAN) • Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ) • Urban Development Corporation (UDC) • Dunns River Falls & Tours • National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) • Global Tourism Resilience Crisis Management Centre (GTRCMC) • National Fisheries Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Mining (NFA, MoAFM) • Oracabessa Marine Trust (OMT) • Jamaica Climate Change Youth Council (JCCYC) • Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) • National Conservation Trust Fund Jamaica (NCTFJ) - <i>online</i> • Jamaica National Heritage Trust (JNHT) – <i>online</i> • Tourism Product Development Company (TPDCo) – <i>online</i>	• Climate Change Branch, Ministry of Water, Environment & Climate Change (CCB, MWECC) • Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF) • CANARI • Urban Development Corporation (UDC) • National Conservation Trust Fund Jamaica (NCTFJ)

Field Visit: Portland Bight Discovery Centre (PBDC)

Summary

A visit to the Portland Bight Discover Centre (PBDC) in Salt River, Clarendon was conducted to observe an example of a community-based ecotourism facility. The visit consisted of a walking tour which included exploring a turtle pond, greenhouse, mangrove boardwalk and a bird-watching hide. Participants were also taken on a boat tour along the Salt River, where damage from 2024 Hurricane Beryl was observed. The visit concluded with a discussion with the C-CAM team around their challenges and best practices operating an ecotourism facility.

Key Points Highlighted

Discussions with the C-CAM team highlighted the following key points and lessons learned based on their experience with ecotourism operations and other projects surrounding support for community-based organizations:

1. Previous direct access projects have proved difficult for small local organizations to access, due to stringent reporting requirements, procurement procedures, and other processes which stretched the limited institutional capacity of these organizations.
2. When designing future interventions of this nature, it is important that direct financing is made easily accessible to small local organizations.
3. Guidance to support project proposal writing, monitoring & evaluation, and project reporting is critical throughout the process. This also improves the organizations' institutional capacity and contributes to overall sustainability of the project and the proposed financing mechanism, as organizations can use this added capacity to leverage additional resources.

Day 1

Opening Remarks

The workshop opened with remarks from critical stakeholders to set the context for the discussions. Remarks were brought from Ms Schmoi McLean (CCB), Dr Milton Clarke (JSIF) and Ms Ezra Christopher (CCCC).

Presentation on LLA Principles & AF LLA Funding

Context setting at the workshop continued with a presentation from the CCCCC SIDAR Project Officer, Ms Eleanor Terrelonge, on the principles of Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) and the Adaptation Fund's LLA Funding Window. This presentation aimed to ensure all participants understood the principles of LLA ahead of the focus group discussions and were able to consider these principles as part of their feedback on the concept note. A copy of this presentation can be found [here](#).

Presentation of Concept Note

A summarized version of the [draft concept note](#) was presented by the Project Officer, which included a summary of the climate hazards being addressed, the barriers identified, the proposed activities and theory of change, the identified project risks. A copy of this presentation can be found [here](#).

Focus Group Session 1

Participants were sorted into three (3) focus group, each led by a facilitator. Each group chose one person to record their responses, along with one person to present the findings to the wider audience. Critical documents such as the draft concept note, information on the AF/LLA, key national strategies (e.g. NDC 3.0, LTS) were uploaded and shared with participants.

Focus Group Session 1 focused on an assessment of the proposed project Components and activities.

Focus Group 1: Government MDA Stakeholders

Focus Group 1 consisted mainly of stakeholders from various government MDAs and was facilitated by Dr Sean Townsend (UDC) and Ms Shalenie Madho (CFAN). Discussions in the group focused mainly on the activities in Component 1, which centres around improving the enabling environment for encouraging ecotourism activities. Feedback from this focus group is summarized below:

QUESTION 1: Examine each of the activities, outputs and outcomes under all 3 components. Are the activities fit for purpose and feasible within the proposed project timeline? Would you remove or change any of the activities?

- The activities are fit for purpose and feasibly within the proposed project timeline
- **Component 1:**
 - Activity 1. 1.1.1:

- Agree, as long as the correct policies are in place.eg. Eco-tourism policy (hopeful that this is ready for the start of the project). Include a GRM for informal persons to file complaints etc. about an issue as part of the roadmap.
- Encourage the development of Associations for Operators for collaboration and easier licensing and permitting requirements.
- Within the Roadmap, create a sub-roadmap around scalability.
- *Activity 1.1.1.2: Agree*
- *Activity 1.1.1.3: Agree.* The word “existing” has stakeholders torn as the payment service does not exist.
- *Notes:* Streamline the beneficiaries and the source of income that can be placed on a regular to support the revolving fund. Ensure that this is regulated as there are multiple sectors involved.
- *Question:* Who would take the responsibility to create the roadmap and managing the fund? Also, it was highlighted that the lead should be the Min. Of Tourism.
 - *Recommendation:* Use lessons learnt from REDI and DBJ
- **Component 2:**
- *Activity 2.1.2.2:* There is a concern about how practical solar boat engines are for boats. Can consider using solar on canopies for boats where possible. Concern is mainly about time and training. i.e. Time in switching over and the training for maintenance.
- **Component 3:**
- *Activity 3.1.3.2:* For the last output, put in the words “and others” at the end of business facilitation programme.
- Recommendation re Capacity building - As an activity, or part of one, include computer literacy and marketing to the operators.
- Concern: Lack of inclusion of persons backstopping the operators.

QUESTION 2: Do the activities align with any strategy document or priority item within your organisation?
(Refer to Section D of concept note document)

- 2050 Long-Term Emissions Reduction & Resilience Strategy (LTS)
- National Fisheries Authority strategy

QUESTION 3: What national technical standards, licenses, etc would be relevant to the project activities?
(Refer to Section E of concept note document)

- Beach permits
- Food handlers permits
- First-Aid training.

QUESTION 4: What are the risks to achieving project success?

- Policy Development: Timeframe of the govt may not be in-line with the project’s timing.
- The timeframe for the transition from fuel engines to solar engines – proposed to do a pilot project.

QUESTION 5: Do you know of any duplication of this project activities from other funding sources? (Refer to Section F of concept note document)

- NEPA trains citizens on water quality, monitoring and testing.

Other Notes:

- In the definition of vulnerable, include the term “literacy” because literacy of persons may prevent persons from being involved in the project.
- Define the beneficiaries. E.g. Who are the operators? (are they coastal, inland, etc.)

Focus Group 2: Tourism Operators

Focus Group 2 consisted mainly of ecotourism operators, along with a representative from the JSIF REDI II project, and was facilitated by Ms Elishah St Luce (CCCCC) and Ms Eleanor Terrelonge (CCCCC). Feedback from this focus group is summarized below:

QUESTION 1: Examine each of the activities, outputs and outcomes under all 3 components. Are the activities fit for purpose and feasible within the proposed project timeline? Would you remove or change any of the activities?

- The activities are fit for purpose and but there are concerns about the feasibility of the proposed project timeline
- **Component 1:**
- *Activity 1.1.1.1:*
 - A Generalised Roadmap is useful, but needs to be branched off into micro sectors
 - What is the value and “teeth” of the certification? That will determine the extent groups will have buy in to apply.
 - Green Globe is a standard. May be an onerous process. Linked to outcomes that are aimed to be achieved in eco-tourism space.
 - Link the certification to incentives. Can be scaled so that community-based groups may be able to attain the certification.

- Certification for Sustainable Tourism- Entities in Costa Rica utilises this type of certification.
- Practical application- technical support for certification
- Link grant facility to meet requirements of certification.
- **Activity 1.1.1.2: Agree**
 - It is feasible however the general outline will need to be broken down based on the hazards faced. The EMS can extend beyond climate hazards. E.g. human induced fires that may impact the eco-systems. Agriculture based disasters.
 - SOPs will need to be accompanied by training to staff.
 - Link SOPs to roadmap setup.
 - Create general templates for operators.
- **Activity 1.1.1.3:**
 - Value in incentivisation programme as it relates to reducing the level of fragmentation and regulation. The reason for one common entity. There are many bodies, that becomes overwhelming for the entities requiring permits. The costs are also prohibitive. There are benefits to being certified.
 - Community tourism unit can be improved to demarcating between private and community tourism related enterprises. TPDCO facilitates the process on behalf of JTB (Jamaica Tourist Board).
 - JTB rules and requirements did not consider community tourism operators, but this is being revised.
- **Component 2:**
- **Activity 2.1.1.1:**
 - Community based organisations may not have initial costs to address the needs for retrofitting. Concern with this will be the selection process.
 - What the matrix for selection be?
 - Maintenance manuals and plans need to be incorporated in the retrofitting. Enterprises trained.
 - High utility cost is an issue that is seen as a valuable next step.
- **Activity 2.1.1.2:**
 - Rainwater harvesting can be high in cost and for scale sale filtration systems are high cost and input. May be harder than the solar for small scale facilities.
 - Ecofriendly building techniques and uses, training on these.
- **Activity 2.2.1.1:**
 - Needs to link to education and sensitisation of the use and importance of the systems. Utilize technology to community the real time information from the systems.
- **Activity 2.1.2.2:** Activity is accepted. Options to be explored. Including changing of engines and type of boats.
- **Component 3:**
- **Activity 3.1.2.1:**
 - Useful for Marine story board programme.
 - Options as what is used at museum in Brazil is useful.
 - Fully manual systems are fine. But interactive screens for digital evaluations example is a good move.
 - At Discovery Bay, as part of coral restoration, there are demonstrations of items taken from the lab. Having these story boards is fun but facilitate learning especially with kids.
- **Activity 3.1.3.2:**
 - These help a well-rounded education outside of what is being taught at school. These contributes to general shift to facilitate eco-tourism. Have company keep summer camps for these sorts of things. Camps are however prohibitive.

QUESTION 2: Do the activities align with any strategy document or priority item within your organisation?
(Refer to Section D of concept note document)

- C-CAM is working towards certification as a tourism operator.
- Some operators are state owned. Therefore, there is alignment with government priorities for these.
- Component 2 is aligned with the JSIF Project Operation Manual and the JSIF REDI II Project funding 40 Mil USD, 1.7 Mil Community Contribution. Project Operation Manual amended to reflect the realities of beneficiaries re cofinancing.

QUESTION 3: What national technical standards, licenses, etc would be relevant to the project activities?
(Refer to Section E of concept note document)

- Business Registration
- Tax registration
- NEPA Permit
- Beach License
- Fire Safety

- Public Health Certification (Individual Food Handlers Permits, Enterprise- Public health Certification)
- Attractions Licenses
- Jamaica Constabulary certification.
- Public Insurance
- JNHT- Heritage site
- Note: Operators need all of the above to become TPDCO certified.

QUESTION 4: What are the risks to achieving project success?

- Time is an issue (2 years is prohibitive)
- Administrative barriers and processes for granting from the on granting. Logistics issues with sourcing technologies. Timeframe of the govt may not be in-line with the project's timing.

QUESTION 5: Do you know of any duplication of this project activities from other funding sources? (Refer to Section F of concept note document)

- Capacity of small-scale operators for registration, licensing and grant application, based on time constraint.
- Project may focus more on the enterprises that are already at a level. Timeline may result in constraints to inclusion.

Other Notes:

- Land tenure issues precludes small scale operators. This has been an issue for JSIF that the project may face.

Focus Group 3: NGOs & Fund Managers

Focus Group 3 consisted mainly of non-governmental organizations and fund managers and was facilitated by Ms Ezra Christopher (CCCCC) and Ms Taneque Heslop (CCB). Feedback from this focus group is summarized below:

QUESTION 1: Examine each of the activities, outputs and outcomes under all 3 components. Are the activities fit for purpose and feasible within the proposed project timeline? Would you remove or change any of the activities?

- The activities are fit for purpose. However, the suggested project timeline of 2 years is not feasible.
- **Component 1:**
 - *Activity 1.1.1.1:*
 - Will the project create its own certification?
 - Recommendations: assess what already exist to avoid duplication of efforts, e.g. sustainable eco-tourism toolkits exist under the Ministry of Tourism through TPDCO this
 - Refer to the National Community Tourism Policy and Sustainable Tourism M& E framework which were recently revised
 - The project could create national standards for grassroots organization-
 - A clearer definition of the beneficiary businesses is needed.
 - The toolkit must include licenses and compliance
 - Green certification is a marketing tool, hotels promote the businesses
 - Integrate all necessary all key areas such as Disaster Risk Management into the toolkit
 - Each entity could create its own standards for EMS based on its operations
 - *Activity 1.1.1.2: Agree*
 - This activity should be scaled to small scale operators
 - Insurance needs to be considered (e.g. explore insurance through Grace Kennedy Insurance)
 - Explore an insurance scheme as a sector or group; create scheme to include parametric and accidental insurance.
 - Environmental taxes could also be considered consider
 - Leverage the existing Tourism Enhancement Fee as part of the revolving fund
 - Support other things than payment for ecosystem services
 - Expanding the ecosystem services payment component to increase incentivization. Clarification is needed on who is responsible to pay
 - Aim to encourage private sector investment
 - Consider forming co-operative groups by aligning with group/larger hotels (e.g. Sandals)
 - Explore what exists and how it can be integrated into the Roadmap in 1.1.1.1
 - Include guidance for operators on how it can be integrated in policy
- **Component 2:**
 - *Activity 2.1.1.1:*
 - Greater clarification is needed between activity 2.1.1.1 and 2.1.1.2
 - Operators may want to apply for some of these activities under the proposed revolving fund
 - While the activities appear applicable as is, these will be dependent on specific needs. may rehabilitate the infrastructure,
 - Note that the budget is limited under this component so greater prioritization is needed under this component
 - Operators should be able to directly draw down funding to support these activities

- Ensure sustainability and maintenance is built into these activities
- **Activity 2.1.1.2:**
 - This activity should be expanded beyond marine conservation and waste management
 - Note that majority of waste comes from inland, so it is critical to address waste coming from inland
 - Community based organisations may not have initial costs to address the needs for retrofitting. A concern with this will be the selection process.
 - What the matrix for selection of beneficiaries be?
 - Maintenance manuals and plans need to be incorporated in the retrofitting and enterprises trained to conduct maintenance
 - High utility cost is an issue, so that is seen as a valuable next step.
- **Activity 2.2.1.1:** No comments on this activity
- **Activity 2.1.2.2:** No comments on this activity
- **Component 3:**
- **Overall Comments/Recommendations on Activities:**
 - Staff retention is key as struggling small community-based entities may see the first cohort of trained persons leave. A continuity plan is needed to ensure knowledge sharing continues – not seeing it rolling out- no priority on these –
 - Consider whether there is an oversight that can continuously offer support- possibly TPDCO
 - It is not clear how the listed activities will ensure the proposed outcome. Training alone will not be sufficient
 - Use a video as a communication tool
 - Clearly define who is being targeted under Component 3
 - Citizen science programmes are fraught with challenges
 - Capacity among many of the informal operators tends to be very low, as such they are not able to access funding mechanisms. A proposed approach is to first conduct an institutional capacity assessment with groups (to include project management, good business practices, financial management, etc.) to appraise readiness of operator groups to access funding
 - Tailor capacity based training on this capacity assessment
 - Work with the Department of Co-operatives and Friendly Societies to help information operators get formally registered. This could be build into the incentivization activity
 - Consider a merger of the different systems programs used by entities such as the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ) and CANARI
 - Tap into exclusion list of other project or programmes. Host a follow up conversation with DBJ, JSIF, PIOJ, to discuss this in more detail
 - keep summer camps for these sorts of things. Camps are however prohibitive.

QUESTION 2: Do the activities align with any strategy document or priority item within your organisation?
(Refer to Section D of concept note document)

- No comments on this question

QUESTION 3: What national technical standards, licenses, etc would be relevant to the project activities?
(Refer to Section E of concept note document)

- No comments on this question

QUESTION 4: What are the risks to achieving project success?

- Limited institutional capacity is a major risk. Ranking of operators would be necessary
- Tools such as insurance may lose funding and the global market may be fragile or inconsistent
- Climate change Impacts
- Risk of loss of future funding or available pot of funding may be impacted by external sources such as the unintended political climate funding globally
- The first two activities don't align with the risks-are they really addressing the risks? Clarification is needed on the Theory of Change Diagram Consider using different colours for the arrows or rearrange the diagram to make it easier to distinguish

QUESTION 5: Do you know of any duplication of this project activities from other funding sources? (Refer to Section F of concept note document)

- No comments on this question

Presentation on Gender & ESP Principles

A presentation on the Adaptation Fund's Gender and ESP Principles was conducted by the CCCCC Gender & Stakeholder Specialist, Ms Elishah St Luce. This presentation aimed to educate participants on the AF's Gender and ESP Principles and how they should be applied to project activities. This was used to guide the focus group session 2 discussions, so that participants could consider whether the principles are adequately integrated into the project activities and the concept note as a whole. A copy of this presentation can be found [here](#).

Focus Group Session 2

The second focus group session focused on examining whether gender and ESS principles were sufficiently considered in the project activities and the broader concept note. This session also examined considerations for project sustainability. A summary of the focus group responses is included below:

Focus Group Questions	Focus Group Responses		
	Group 1: Government MDA Stakeholders	Group 2: Tourism Operators	NGOs & Fund Managers
Does the project adequately provide economic, social and environmental benefits, with particular reference to the most vulnerable communities, and vulnerable groups within communities, including gender considerations?	• Include gender breakdown for activities • More integration of gender balance and roles within the sector is needed. (e.g. men operate the boat, women operate the business, men and women and participate in capacity building)	• It has its limitations. We are not going to know who the most vulnerable groups are until we dive deeper into the assessment to help with identifying the vulnerable groups. • There is little existing analysis on vulnerability with ecotourism. TPDCO may have some data on this that would be useful. TPDCO also has an asset inventory.	• Did not see gender considerations or vulnerable groups well integrated in activities • Economic and environmental benefits were clearly seen • Vulnerable groups need to be more explicitly defined • ESS principles are noted, but gender needs to be fleshed out more • Further work needs to be done during proposal preparation to flesh out the economic aspects more apparently (e.g. in terms of market access, marketing, etc.) • Consider Business 2 Business forums, and better engaged of value chain actors • Top-down approach is needed to support locally led adaptation
Does the project address structural inequalities faced by women, youth, children, people with disabilities, people who are displaced, traditional peoples and marginalized ethnic groups?	• YES	• Structural inequities within the eco-tourism space can be linked to location. For example, maroon communities do not have formal tenure and land titles, which will be an issue to access services of the project. • The Blue Mountain range is home to a lot of the Maroon communities. Rastafari Indigenous Villages and other traditional communities. If there are projects that could benefit these groups, then they will be included here. Similar considerations may apply to operators in Montego Bay • The project design seems to focus a lot on coastal areas, but the design is not strong going inland.	• Not fully fleshed out- based on the 15 principles esp., human rights, etc, esp. for those compulsory ones, this can be done under component 2- these can help to address the inequities, make a part of the linkages, groups that are excluded from certain projects can be included , strong group of core people- to be trained, looking at capacity, what benefit are members getting from the project • Further assessment is critical to prioritize the groups best suited by the project to filter out as the project will not be able to cover all groups.

Day 2

Day 2 of the workshop was originally scheduled for October 23, 2025. However, due to the impending threat of Hurricane Melissa, this was postponed to allow participants adequate opportunity to prepare for the storm. The workshop was held on a new date of November 23, 2025. However, the change in this date resulted in some stakeholder no longer being able to attend. It was decided that supplemental follow-up sessions will be held with some of these stakeholders to ensure their feedback is adequately incorporated.

Given the devastating impacts of Hurricane Melissa, especially in some of Jamaica's critical tourist areas, it was noted that the needs of the tourism operators are likely to have changed since the initial focus group sessions. An updated Needs Assessment survey was designed and will be deployed as part of the proposal preparation activities.

Day 2's session focused specifically on the proposed Direct Access Funding Mechanism under this project. It was determined that this mechanism would be best placed as a replacement for the existing Component 2, with the intention of funding the same type of activities (climate-proofing, renewable energy, rainwater harvesting, etc.). The attendees at this session were fund managers or administrators of similar funding programmes who were able to share best practices and lessons learned from administering similar programmes.

Best Practice Presentations

Presentations were heard from:

1. Ms Larisa McBean on the Jamaica Social Investment Fund's REDI II Project Grant Funding Mechanism
2. Mr Garth Simon on Antigua & Barbuda's Sustainable Island Resource Framework (SIRF) Fund

Presentation on REDI II Project Grant Funding Mechanism

Key Points:

- The REDI II project covers two sectors, agriculture and community tourism. For the purpose of this report, only the community tourism component will be discussed in more detail. The project duration is expected to run until May 2027.
- The REDI II project provides matching grants for demand-driven, competitively selected sub-projects in agricultural and community tourism enterprises.
- The project also conducts capacity building and technical assistance to strengthen the capacity of relevant national organisations and other partner entities responsible for assisting the agricultural and CTEs.
- The mechanism is accessed via a call for sub-project proposals. Potential sub-projects are identified on a demand-driven basis (based on their needs and ideas) through public calls for proposals. These calls are publicised to encourage rural enterprises to participate.
- Calls for proposals are broadly open, targeted to a specific geographic area, targeted to a particular value chain, product, or service and targeted to a specific type of beneficiary (e.g., women, youth). The scope may be determined based on project priorities or identified needs within the targeted sectors.
- Technical assistance is provided to beneficiaries whose proposals are approved to assist them in formulating their joint business plan.
- The REDI II project utilises matching grants to co-finance sub-projects. This means that rural enterprises contribute a portion of the total sub-project costs in order to receive funding from the project.
- Proposals are evaluated using a 21-point evaluation criteria with weighted scores up to a total of 200. Applicants must score at least 75% to be successful.
- Matching grants for small/medium community tourism enterprises (CTEs) or private tourism enterprises (PTEs) are provided up to a maximum of 350,000 USD. Enterprises are required to provide matching investments with up to 50% of this being in-kind contributions. Matching investments amounts are included below:

# of employees	CTE	PTE
Up to 4 employees	5%	10%
5 to 10 employees	20%	30%
Over 10 employees	30%	40%

- The project aims for an average of US\$15,000 per individual beneficiary in each enterprise.
- The cash contribution from beneficiaries ranges from 5-60% of the total sub-project costs.
- Grants must be used in accordance with the provisions of the approved business plan and a Sub-project Agreement signed between the beneficiaries and the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF).
- Evaluation is done based on market demand, product quality, technical and financial feasibility, environmental and social sustainability, approaches to enhance climate resiliency, potential for local impact and the level of participation by women and youth.
- A copy of this presentation can be accessed [here](#).

Presentation on the Sustainable Island Resource Framework (SIRF) Fund in Antigua & Barbuda

Key Points:

- The Sustainable Island Resource Framework (SIRF) Fund in Antigua & Barbuda is a national mechanism to manage climate and environmental financing which is designed to deliver funding to vulnerable communities, government, NGOs, and the private sector
- The fund is grounded in national law under the Finance Administration Act (2006) + EPMA (2019). Regulations were developed in 2020.
- The SIRF Fund is embedded within the Department of the Environment (DOE) and it is co-managed with oversight provided by the Ministry of Finance.
- The DOE is an Accredited Entity of the AF (2015) and the GCF (2017). This structure allows the SIRF Fund to program funding within the context of the EPMA (2019) and the Fund's Investment Strategy.
- The Fund includes a Fund Board, Secretariat, administrative staff and a technical team (including a Technical Expert Committee for each programme area and a Financial Expert Committee).
- The aim of the fund is to be nationally capitalized but the funds leveraged financing from international sources (such as the Adaptation Fund).
- The SIRF Fund is made up of 4 key pilot initiatives: **revolving loan programme, small grants facility, climate technologies access programme and blended finance programme**
- Revolving Loan Programme:
 - assists homeowners and businessowners to access financing to adapt to climate Change
 - The pilot represented the first attempt to offer structured, low-interest loans to these communities for adaptation purposes.
 - Small, low-cost (2%), non-collateral loans for climate change adaptation
 - Eligibility: Households (particularly low-income) and businesses (SMEs)
 - Persons can borrow between \$13,000 - \$200,000 EC from the revolving loan fund
 - Repayment periods up to 20 years
 - Approved interventions include: *Hurricane resilience (Hurricane Shutters & Reinforced Roofing), Drought resilience (Rainwater Harvesting and Water Storage), Energy Efficient appliances and retrofits, Renewable Energy (Solar Photovoltaic Systems), Vector control measures, Flood mitigation measures*
 - Non-eligible activities: *Construction of new homes, construction of unattached structure, addition of new rooms outside of hurricane safety rooms, paying off mortgage or other loans or any purposes outside those specified in loan agreement*
- Key lessons learned from the programme include:
 - There is an identified need for an on-the-ground grassroots communications strategy
 - The screening process must include measures to determine applicant disqualification
 - It is crucial to strike a balance between **low- and high-risk borrowers**, but also equally important to prioritize the most vulnerable individuals when allocating funding.
 - Importance of inclusive design to accommodate the unique challenges faced by different beneficiaries.
 - Adequate time and resources need to be dedicated to establishing the enabling conditions.
 - To achieve scale and optimize the recycling capacity of a revolving loan program, it is crucial to ensure significant capitalization.
 - **It is important to rely on national sources for capitalization** rather than depending solely on international donor funds.
- A copy of this presentation can be accessed [here](#).

Discussion on Potential Funding Mechanism as Component 2

The proposed funding mechanism as outlined in the diagram below was presented to workshop stakeholders for their feedback and further discussion. The full presentation on the proposed funding mechanism can be found [here](#).

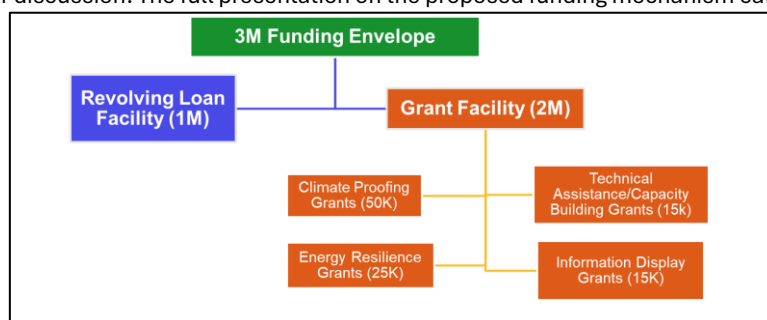


Figure 1: Proposed Funding Mechanism under Component 2

Under the proposed funding mechanism:

- The fund is aimed at being accessible to local community tourism operators whose operations align with the ecotourism definition.
- In line with the LLA principles, the goal of the mechanism is for access to be easy, quick, flexible and predictable.
- In order to access any of the facilities under this funding mechanism, operators must participate in at least one climate capacity building training under this project.
- The proposed loan facility will be targeted at low-medium risk operators and will offer loan amounts between **50,000 and 100,000USD** at a concessional interest rate, favourable payback period, and flexible payment plans.
- The proposed grant facility will be targeted at low-high risk operators and will consist of four grant types as listed below:
 - **Climate Proofing (50,000 USD)** for climate proofing, rainwater harvesting, retrofitting needed for recovery from severe climate impacts, waste management
 - **Energy Resilience Grants (25,000 USD)** for additional resilience actions such as installation of renewable energy systems, energy efficient appliances, remote monitoring technology, etc.
 - **Information Display Grants (15,000 USD)** for creation of Sustainability Information Centres
 - **Technical Assistance/Capacity Building Grants (15,000 USD)** to support business registration, permits, staff training, financial management and institutional capacity building. Capacity Building Grants OR Technical Assistance services may be accessed by operators who need assistance with business registration, permitting, building institutional capacity, etc. These grants will be administered and facilitated through a third-party partner institution and operators must attend at least 80% of Capacity Building Trainings under this project to qualify for this window.

A large part of this discussion centred around defining the project beneficiaries and the eligibility criteria for operators being able to access the fund mechanism. It was noted that there is the need to strike a balance between administrative requirements for financial management and business compliance, with the limited capacity of community-based operators. While the importance of business regularization was noted, it is also critical that the project activities do not disadvantage smaller community operators and is well aligned to the LLA principles. Out of this discussion, updated eligibility criteria were suggested as outlined below (updates from the workshop are highlighted in red).

Criteria	Loan Facility	Grant Facility			
		Climate Proofing	Energy Resilience	Information Display	Technical Assistance/ Capacity Building
Operations meet definition of "ecotourism"	x	x	x	x	x
Established vulnerability/risk to climate hazards (drought, flooding, hurricanes)	x	x	x	x	x
Business Registration	x	x	x	x	
Business Bank Account	x	x	x	x	
# years in operation	>5	>3	>3	>3	<3
Financial Statements for last 2 years	audited	unaudited	unaudited	unaudited	
Project Proposal	x	x	x	x	
Sustainability & Maintenance Plan	x	x	x	x	
Annual Reporting	Based on loan tenure	x	x	x	x
Participation in Capacity Building Trainings	x	x	x	x	At least 80%
Risk Categorization	Low-Med	Low-High	Low-High	Low-High	N/A

Other general feedback on the proposed mechanism included:

1. A Disaster Recovery Plan should be added as a requirement under the Climate Proofing Grants/Loans.
2. Consider using a “train the trainers” approach for building technical and institutional capacity to administer the fund.
3. Consider grouping the Technical Assistance Support window for multiple operators/groups under a single consultancy for ease of implementation.
4. The REDI II project and other initiatives have reported challenges with land tenure requirements, especially for informal operators. Considerations for this should be included under this project to avoid disadvantaging vulnerable operators.
5. Include company registration as a deliverable under the Technical Assistance Support window for informal operators.
6. Contact the JAMPRO for further information on Business Assessments being conducted after Hurricane Melissa. This may be useful in better understanding the sector needs in the aftermath of this disaster.
7. A communications budget should be included under this component
8. Include internet access and technology as eligible activities under the Technical Assistance/Capacity Building window.
9. Expand the Information Display Window to include other Add-On benefits for the tourism operators.

A supplemental session will need to be held with the Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ) on the proposed loan facility, as representatives were unable to attend the Day 2 session.

Key Workshop Takeaways

1. There is general consensus from stakeholders about the need for this project to build resilience in the tourism sector.
2. Most of the activities are acceptable to stakeholders, however, further refinement is needed to the project activities and theory of change to make them more suitable, and to ensure that the activities will result in the outcomes as articulated in the concept note.
3. There is general consensus from stakeholders that the project duration should be adjusted to at least five (5) years.
4. The activities under Component 1 should be as comprehensive as possible to assist with smoother implementation of the other two components.
5. In the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa, the operator needs are likely to change, and there is now an increased urgency for the project to build the resilience of the tourism sector to better respond to future climate shocks.
6. There was consensus to transform Component 2 into a direct funding mechanism through which community-based operators are able to directly apply for and access funding for building climate resilience based on the needs of their facilities.
7. It is critical to ensure that the designed funding mechanism is easily accessible to community-based operators who may have limited institutional and human capacity to apply for and absorb funding.
8. The capacity building under Component 3 should be expanded to include a tiered approach, as various operators will have different levels of capacity. More established operators with greater institutional capacity should be funnelled directly into applying for funding under Component 2. Meanwhile, greater attention should be placed on building the institutional capacity and sustainability of the less-established operators to be able to access Component 2 later in the project, or to build transferable skills that they can use to apply for funding from other source.

Conclusion

Despite the interruption from Hurricane Melissa, this Stakeholder Validation Write-shop was successfully held, and feedback was received from stakeholders across government MDAs, tourism operators, NGOs, fund managers and youth. There is general consensus among stakeholders that the proposed project meets the needs of the sector in order to build climate resilience across Jamaica’s tourism sector.

Based on this feedback, the draft concept note will be updated and circulated to stakeholders for an additional round of validation. An updated ESS screening will also be conducted on the updated concept note.

Photo Highlights



Attendees on Day 1 of the Stakeholder Validation WriteShop



Attendees at the Field Visit to the Portland Bight Discovery Centre



Focus Group Sessions

Highlights from Field Visit to Portland Bight Discovery Centre held October 21, 2025



Opening Remarks were brought from (Left) Ms Schmoi McLean, (Centre) Dr Milton Clarke, and (Right) Ms Ezra Christopher

Appendix 1: Stakeholder Registers

#	NAME	ORGANIZATION	POSITION	CONTACT #	EMAIL ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
Day 1: October 22, 2025						
1	Shirley Brown	MWEC/CCB	Senior Technical Officer	876-2479-7165	shirleybrown@meja.gov.jm	<i>[Signature]</i>
2	Ezra Christopher	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre	Technical Specialist	876-405-5035	echristopher@caribbeanclimate.org	<i>[Signature]</i>
3	Milton Clark	JSIF	Senior Manager	876-405-5035	milton.clark@jsif.org	<i>[Signature]</i>
4	Zaria Green	JSIF	Manager	876-405-5035	zaria@jsif.org	<i>[Signature]</i>
5	Taneque Heslop	CCB/NDCP	Project Specialist	876-412-7621	taneque.heslop@ccb.gov.jm	<i>[Signature]</i>
6	Lehorne John	CANARI	Senior Technical Officer	876-895-5566	lehorne@canari.gov.jm	<i>[Signature]</i>
7	Claudine Townsend	C-CAM	Community Outreach Officer	876-857-0402	claudine.townsend@cam.gov.jm	<i>[Signature]</i>
8	Jonathan Richardson	C-CAM	Technical Officer	876-857-0402	jonathan.richardson@cam.gov.jm	<i>[Signature]</i>
9	Shalene Madhoo	CFAN	CFAN Advisor	876-857-0402	shalene.madhoo@cfan.gov.jm	<i>[Signature]</i>
10	Hayden Brown	JSIF	Manager	876-405-5035	hayden.brown@jsif.org	<i>[Signature]</i>
11	Taylor Tondie	JSIF/NDC	Operations Manager	876-871-6105	taylor.tondie@jsif.org	<i>[Signature]</i>

#	NAME	ORGANIZATION	POSITION	CONTACT #	EMAIL ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
13	Felicia Graham	JSIF	Senior Captain	876-374-1301	felicia.graham@jsif.org	<i>[Signature]</i>
14	Schmoi McLean	MWEC	Manager	876-861-8771	schmoi.mclean@meja.gov.jm	<i>[Signature]</i>
15	Ajani Allage	MWEC-CCB	RD Officer	876-281-1811	ajani.allage@meja.gov.jm	<i>[Signature]</i>
16	Elishah St. Luce	CCCC	Special Inclusion & Gender			<i>[Signature]</i>
17	Larisa McBean	JSIF	Tourism Specialist	579-7380	larisa.mcbean@jsif.org	<i>[Signature]</i>
18	Sean Townsend	TPDC	Facilitator	420-6338	stownsend@tpdc.gov.jm	<i>[Signature]</i>
19	Janet Brown	OMT/GEF	Project Officer	471-0505	janet.brown@omt.gov.jm	<i>[Signature]</i>
20	Charlene Thomas	MOA/PA	Manager	876-576-7710	charlene.thomas@moa.gov.jm	<i>[Signature]</i>
21	Phoebe Brown	JSIF	Specialist	876-405-5035	phoebe.brown@jsif.org	<i>[Signature]</i>
22	Daniel Roberts	NEPA	Waterhead	876-530-7773	daniel.roberts@nepa.gov.jm	<i>[Signature]</i>
23	Simone Lee	CANARI	Community Coordinator	876-857-0402	simone.lee@canari.gov.jm	<i>[Signature]</i>
24	Glenville Milner	GTRC/MC	Head of Office		glenville.milner@trc.gov.jm	<i>[Signature]</i>
25	Eleanor Terrelonge	CCCC	Project Officer			<i>[Signature]</i>

#	NAME	ORGANIZATION	POSITION	CONTACT #	EMAIL ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
1	Ezra Christopher	CCCC	Technical Coordinator		echristopher@caribbeanclimate.org	<i>[Signature]</i>
2	Elishah St. Luce	CCCC	Gender Specialist		esth@caribbeanclimate.org	<i>[Signature]</i>
3	Steven Palmer	JCCYC	President		steven@caribbeanclimate.org	<i>[Signature]</i>
4	Taneque Heslop	CCB/NDCP	Facilitator		taneque.heslop@ccb.gov.jm	<i>[Signature]</i>
5	Eleanor Terrelonge	CCCC	Project Officer			<i>[Signature]</i>
6	Ajani Allage	CCB	RD Officer		ajani.allage@meja.gov.jm	<i>[Signature]</i>
7	Schmoi McLean	CCB	Programme Coordinator		schmoi.mclean@meja.gov.jm	<i>[Signature]</i>
8	Shayenne Davis	C-CAM	RD Officer		shayenne.davis@cam.gov.jm	<i>[Signature]</i>
9	Frederick Richardson	C-CAM	Technical Officer	876-894-4516	tori.richardson@cam.gov.jm	<i>[Signature]</i>
10	Leahy Moore	C-CAM	Grantee	876-2512-586	leahy.moore@cam.gov.jm	<i>[Signature]</i>
11	Frederick Richardson	C-CAM	Executive Director	876-383-2784		<i>[Signature]</i>
12	Claudine Townsend	C-CAM	Community Development Officer	876-857-0402	claudine.townsend@cam.gov.jm	<i>[Signature]</i>
13	Key Franklin	C-CAM	Admin. Support Officer	876-322-0604	keyfranklin@gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>

1. Summary						
Meeting title	EcoTourism Stakeholder Validation Write-Shop (Day 1)					
Attended participants	7					
Start time	10/22/25, 8:55:43 AM					
End time	10/22/25, 4:07:20 PM					
Meeting duration	7h 11m 36s					
Average attendance time	3h 42m 6s					
2. Participants						
Name	First Join	Last Leave	In-Meeting Duration	Email	Participant ID (UPN)	Role
Eleanor Terrelonge - Project Officer	10/22/25, 9:11:00 AM	10/22/25, 4:07:20 PM	5h 48m 22s	projectofficerJA@caribbeanclimate.org	projectofficerJA@caribbeanclimate.org	Organizer
Chanay Dooley	10/22/25, 9:11:04 AM	10/22/25, 2:04:32 PM	4h 11s	cdooley@conservajamaica.org	cdooley@conservajamaica.org	Presenter
Charlene Thomas	10/22/25, 9:11:39 AM	10/22/25, 9:22:19 AM	10m 39s	Charlene.Thomas@info.gov.jm	Charlene.Thomas@info.gov.jm	Presenter
Leahy Moore (Unverified)	10/22/25, 9:23:06 AM	10/22/25, 10:03:36 AM	40m 30s			Presenter
Elishah St Luce	10/22/25, 10:15:53 AM	10/22/25, 4:07:20 PM	5h 51m 26s	esth@caribbeanclimate.org	esth@caribbeanclimate.org	Presenter
Damian Shirley	10/22/25, 10:24:21 AM	10/22/25, 3:42:21 PM	5h 17m 59s	Damian.Shirley@TPDCo.org	damians@TPDCo.org	Presenter
Nicolette PD. Brown	10/22/25, 11:11:15 AM	10/22/25, 3:16:47 PM	4h 5m 32s	Nicolette.ABrown@TPDCo.org	NicolettePB@TPDCo.org	Presenter
3. In-Meeting Activities						
Name	Join Time	Leave Time	Duration	Email	Role	
Eleanor Terrelonge - Project Officer	10/22/25, 9:11:00 AM	10/22/25, 9:13:02 AM	2m 1s	projectofficerJA@caribbeanclimate.org	Organizer	
Eleanor Terrelonge - Project Officer	10/22/25, 9:16:11 AM	10/22/25, 9:19:31 AM	3m 19s	projectofficerJA@caribbeanclimate.org	Organizer	
Eleanor Terrelonge - Project Officer	10/22/25, 10:24:17 AM	10/22/25, 4:07:20 PM	5h 43m 2s	projectofficerJA@caribbeanclimate.org	Organizer	
Chanay Dooley	10/22/25, 9:11:04 AM	10/22/25, 9:23:15 AM	12m 11s	cdooley@conservajamaica.org	Presenter	
Chanay Dooley	10/22/25, 10:16:32 AM	10/22/25, 2:04:32 PM	3h 48m	cdooley@conservajamaica.org	Presenter	
Charlene Thomas	10/22/25, 9:11:39 AM	10/22/25, 9:22:19 AM	10m 39s	Charlene.Thomas@info.gov.jm	Presenter	
Leahy Moore (Unverified)	10/22/25, 9:23:06 AM	10/22/25, 10:03:36 AM	40m 30s		Presenter	
Elishah St Luce	10/22/25, 10:15:53 AM	10/22/25, 4:07:20 PM	5h 51m 26s	esth@caribbeanclimate.org	Presenter	
Damian Shirley	10/22/25, 10:24:21 AM	10/22/25, 3:42:21 PM	5h 17m 59s	Damian.Shirley@TPDCo.org	Presenter	
Nicolette PD. Brown	10/22/25, 11:11:15 AM	10/22/25, 3:16:47 PM	4h 5m 32s	Nicolette.ABrown@TPDCo.org	Presenter	

Stakeholder Validation Write-Shop Attendance Register						
Concept Note – "Catalyzing Sustainable Ecotourism for a Stronger, More Resilient Jamaica Tourism Industry"						
#	NAME	ORGANIZATION	POSITION	CONTACT #	EMAIL ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
Day 2: November 26, 2025						
1	Kevin Doolan	JSIF	Branch Officer	579-0189	kevin.doolan@jsif.org	<i>[Signature]</i>
2	Chanay Dooley	NCTFS	Admin. Support	876-495-1803	the.nctfs@gmail.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
3	Lehorne John	CANARI	Senior Technical Officer	876-895-5566	lehorne@canari.gov.jm	<i>[Signature]</i>
4	Shalene Madhoo	CFAN	CFAN Advisor	876-857-0402	shalene.madhoo@cfan.gov.jm	<i>[Signature]</i>
5	TANEQUE HESLOP	CCB/NDCP	IN-COUNTRY FACILITATOR	876-293-5477	taneque.heslop@meja.gov.jm	<i>[Signature]</i>
6	LARISA McBEAN	JSIF	Tourism Specialist	579-7380	larisa.mcbean@jsif.org	<i>[Signature]</i>
7	Sean Townsend	UOC	Manager-NEPAP	420-6338	stownsend@caribja.com	<i>[Signature]</i>
8	Eleanor Terrelonge	CCCC				<i>[Signature]</i>
9	Schmoi McLean	CCB	Programme Coordinator	561-8775	schmoi.mclean@meja.gov.jm	<i>[Signature]</i>
10						
11						
12						
13						

ANNEX II: Preliminary Gender Assessment: Sustainable Ecotourism Advancement for Jamaica (SEA-J)

Context

Jamaica is home to a population of 2,839,175 people ([World Bank](#)). As of 2024, 50.6% of the population (1,435,209) is female and 49% (1,403,966) is male. According to the [State of the Jamaica Climate Report III](#), a combination of socioeconomic circumstances and the expected gender roles result in women being more vulnerable than men to the effects of climate change. Jamaica's principles of gender equality and women's empowerment are enshrined in national laws and policies such as the [National Policy for Gender Equality \(2011\)](#), the [Employment \(Equal Pay for Men and Women\) Act](#) and the [Gender and Climate Change Strategy \(2022-2025\)](#) which is geared at mainstreaming gender across climate programming in Jamaica. Jamaica is also a signatory to the [International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women](#).

Gender Differentiated Climate Change Risks and Impacts

Female-headed households represent 14.4% of the population living in poverty, making females more vulnerable to the effects of natural disasters and the loss of income and employment that accompanies them. In times of disaster, women are also highly vulnerable to human trafficking, domestic violence, HIV rates (due to engagement in transactional sex for survival) and are generally less able to re-establish their income streams after a disaster. Women also bear majority responsibility for caretaking, especially of children, the elderly and the sick and disabled, and this load is likely to increase in the event of a hurricane or other disaster. Women are also more vulnerable to sexual violence in shelters, if they have been displaced from their homes due to natural disasters.

Men are expected to take more physical risks to batten down homes, clear trees and roads, and perform repairs during and after tropical cyclone events, leaving them more vulnerable to physical injuries and deaths associated with these activities. Male children are also more likely to have their education interrupted as they may be taken out of school to assist with disaster preparation or recovery efforts. Individuals living at the intersectionalities of various vulnerabilities are most at risk to the impacts of climate change, including the rural poor, rural women, disabled poor, persons in unsafe/unstable housing.

Vulnerable Populations in Jamaica's Tourism Sector

Overall, vulnerable communities are at the greatest risk to the impacts of climate change, particularly in the areas of disaster preparation and recovery. This holds true in the tourism sector, where community members are generally on the frontlines of these preparation and recovery efforts. Vulnerabilities particularly exist with informal operators in the tourism sector and along the wider tourism value chain who are highly climate-exposed. These include information operators (e.g. boat tours, rafting, trail guides, farmers and fisherfolk supplying the sector, and micro, small and community-based tourism enterprises who may be unregistered or unbanked. The lack of formal recognition results in limitations to the type and level of resilience support which these operators can access. Disabled persons living in these communities remain at a further disadvantage at all stages of disaster response, due to challenges with mobility, safety and accessibility to critical services like evacuation and shelters. These challenges are also shared by marginalized communities such as transgender persons and other members of the LGBTQ community who may face discrimination in trying to access these services (State of the Jamaican Climate Vol III, 2022). Another impact of extreme weather events is on the vulnerability of marginalized and unattached youth (usually males), many of whom are employed informally in the tourism sector. Many of these youth are low-skilled workers with limited formal education, and the disruption of their livelihood opportunities after a disaster may increase the likelihood of them engaging in illegal activities for survival.

Gender Differentiated Vulnerabilities in Jamaica's Tourism Sector

Similar to impacts in other sectors, there are also gendered impacts of climate change in the tourism sector, especially as it relates to hurricane preparation and recovery efforts. This is due to the difference in gender roles of tourism workers. The State of the Jamaican Climate Vol III provides some insight into these gendered roles and how they are differently impacted by hurricanes, in particular.

There are "male-dominated" tourism jobs such as transportation, building and construction and hotel/facility maintenance. Male tourism workers are generally responsible for checking and securing equipment ahead of hurricanes and other disasters, and are greatly threatened during the disaster, as they may risk their lives to complete a job to meet

family commitments. Men are often required to be present at tourism facilities during the storm event to maintain and secure systems, exacerbating the impacts on them. In the aftermath of these disasters, some male tourism operators are also at risk of losing their earning opportunities and livelihoods due to the impacts of infrastructure damage on their work (e.g. damaged roads would impact the ability of transportation workers to continue their operations uninterrupted). However, on the other hand, tourism operators who work in building construction and maintenance may see an increase in earning opportunities, due to post hurricane reconstruction activities that would arise after a disaster.

On the other hand, female tourism workers tend to be involved in accommodation and hospitality services (e.g. housekeeping, caregiving, hosting, etc.). Women are often expected to remain at the facilities to conduct hospitality-focused services for guests who may be present at the facility during and after the event. This forces them to balance personal family preparations at home with preparations at their work facilities ahead of disasters, which may also force them to brave unsafe road and environmental conditions to travel between work and home. Many of the women employed in the sector are also engaged in low-skill work and are less likely to have the capacity to adequately prepare for and respond to the impacts of hurricanes. They are also less likely to be able to leverage earning opportunities in construction and repair post-hurricane and generally have more challenges accessing financial resources than their male counterparts.

Stakeholder Consultations

A series of stakeholder consultations informed the initial design of this project (Annex I). The stakeholder consultation activities were broad based to include perspectives of community tourism operators, including women-led and youth-led enterprises. Consultation workshops also sought to identify vulnerability considerations that should be integrated into the SEA-J project as reflected in 'Gender Solutions' below. Consultations were targeted and inclusive. This approach will continue through full proposal development and project implementation, to ensure that critical perspectives on social inclusion and gender equity are adequately considered. Jamaica's Bureau of Gender Affairs is expected to play a key role in future consultation activities.

Gender Solutions in SEA-J Project Development

The SEA-J Project must ensure that there is even distribution of project benefits to people of different gender groups and subgroups. Based on this preliminary analysis, the initial project design aims to address the identified vulnerabilities as outlined below:

1. The initial stakeholder consultations sought to explore the differentiated needs of men and women operating in the ecotourism sector. As the project activities are further refined, additional targeted consultation activities will be designed and conducted, to include active recruitment and consultations with unattached youth and women-led enterprises.
2. The project recognizes that some operators will be unable to meet the eligibility criteria to be considered under the loan or grant components in Component 2 (due to lack of creditworthiness, formal registration, bank accounts or financial records). In order to avoid placing these vulnerable operators at a further disadvantage, the project design designates a dedicated Capacity Building Window under Component 2 that is accessible to informal and unbanked small-scale operators. This window will provide institutional capacity building and small-scale financing (through resilience microgrants) to informal operators, a group which is likely to include marginalized youth, women-led and low-income operators. This capacity building support will also deliver a layer of institutional sustainability to these operators that will allow them to expand their participation in the tourism sector after the life of the project.
3. The detailed project design will establish specific funding targets under Component 2 for women-led and youth-led enterprises, based on their inherent vulnerabilities identified above. These funding targets will be determined based on the detailed Gender Assessment to ensure that the project remains gender-responsive, and equitable based on proportionality.

As part of full proposal preparation, it is expected that key stakeholders will be consulted as part to develop the Gender Assessment and Action Plan to further assess the specific gender roles in the sector's operations and to ensure full participation of women and men in project activities. The Gender Action Plan will identify project activities to ensure that men and women are provided with an equal opportunity to build their climate resilience, access finance and explore alternative livelihood options. To support this, the Monitoring and Evaluation framework of the project will track gender outcomes using sex-disaggregated indicators, following with completion of the Gender Assessment and Action Plan. The project will develop a Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (SEAH) protocol and redress mechanism to identify and address the potential for SEAH.