Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) Facility
Third Call for Proposals

Posted August 31, 2021

The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF), through its Ecosystem-based Adaptation Facility (EbA Facility), is seeking applications for projects that utilize Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) approaches to assist in climate change adaptation efforts within the marine and coastal zones of the insular Caribbean.

The EbA Facility resources are composed of a 45 million Euro contribution from the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety through KfW, the German Development Bank. To date, the EbA Facility has issued 2 Calls for Proposals and awarded 16 grants in 11 countries across the region (see the CBF website for further details).

Who can apply:

The EbA Facility is accessible to Official Development Assistance (ODA) qualified countries and territories in the insular Caribbean, as determined by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development - Development Assistance Committee (OECD DAC). For this third call for proposals, these countries and territories are Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. In exceptional circumstances, additional Caribbean countries may receive support through their participation in multi-country projects. Multi-country projects are projects involving activities in more than one country or territory, whereas the majority of funding (at least three-quarters) must be in countries and territories on the list of ODA eligible countries and territories referenced above. These multi-country projects could benefit the following additional insular countries: The Bahamas, Barbados, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Applications will be accepted from eligible local, national, regional or international[1] non-government organizations (NGOs), registered national conservation trust funds (NCTFs), community-based organizations (CBOs), government agencies, regional organizations, united nations agencies, private sector companies, universities and other academic institutions, and consortia of organizations. For projects that include activities in Cuba, project proponents must

[1] Organizations from outside the Caribbean applying for funding should have EbA experience/expertise, as well as one or more local partners. It is expected that international organizations applying for grants will incorporate local knowledge transfer and capacity building activities in their projects.

be United Nations agencies or US based organization[2].

Types of projects to be supported:

Successful projects need to show a clear EbA focus, i.e., the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall adaptation strategy to help people to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change. Projects must be focused on the marine and coastal zones or demonstrate direct impact on these zones.

Projects can include restoration and rehabilitation of ecosystems, management of protected areas, reduction of land-based stressors, measures to reduce physical damage to ecosystems, measures to reduce pressures on ecosystems, installation of artificial reefs, and hybrid solutions (grey-green infrastructure) relevant to the EbA approach. Protected areas (PAs) management support can be considered in protected areas that are relevant to ecosystem-based adaptation. The grants shall be focused on helping people adapt to adverse effects of climate change, reduce disaster risk, and build resilient ecosystems and economies. In addition, grants should focus on the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services and may include developing and replicating successful models.

Projects to be supported should contribute to the realization of the 2 strategic objectives of the EbA Facility, which are:

Strategic Objective 1: To sustainably manage EbA supporting marine and coastal zone habitats, incorporating social and economic resilience to climate change.

Projects to be supported which will contribute to the realization of this strategic objective will include:

Improved management of habitats to reduce climate risks:
This intervention category covers a range of management activities that directly protect habitats in order to reduce climate risks. Illustrative activities include but are not limited to:

- Management programs to mitigate the major threats to protected areas or marine managed areas that reduce climate risks and provide other ecosystem services.
- Alternative and sustainable livelihood programs explicitly designed to strengthen protected areas or marine managed areas that reduce climate risks and provide other ecosystem services.

Community engagement to reduce climate risks:

This intervention category is to be engaged in tandem with the interventions identified in the section above. It covers a range of activities linked to community engagement in reducing climate risks. Activities could be designed to create greater understanding, capacity and participation among the people most affected by climate change, and that most depend on ecosystem services provided by natural habitats. Illustrative activities include but are not limited to:

[2] Applications that include Cuba will only be accepted from United Nations agencies and US based institutions that have experience in implementing projects and other activities in compliance with US Government regulations concerning Cuba. Applicants must include documentation that demonstrates such experience as well as any additional evidence that provides information on internal systems in place to ensure compliance.

- Promote diversified, supplemental and sustainable livelihoods that can simultaneously reduce social vulnerability and reduce pressures on EbA-supporting marine and coastal resources.
- Promote sustainable agriculture as a means of relieving the pressure on marine and coastal zone ecosystems as well as providing for enhanced food security.
- Raise awareness of local communities and local decision-makers regarding EbA and climate risk reduction.
- Strengthen the participation and capacity of communities to implement EbA activities such as those outlined above.

Testing/developing new EbA models:
Across the above intervention categories, the EbA Facility could support the testing and development of new EbA models that could be scaled up, including new approaches, techniques and technologies. Illustrative examples include but are not limited to:

- Ridge to reef (R2R) approach: This approach emphasizes the connectivity of adjacent ecosystems, from upland forests to coastal areas, and ensures a wholistic, systems view of the effects of connected ecosystems on a particular coastal population. Direct impact on the coastal zone must be demonstrated.
- Community-based adaptation (CbA) approach: This approach emphasizes community participation and leadership in EbA projects—covering community priorities, needs, knowledge and capacities—to empower coastal communities to plan and cope with the impacts of climate change.
- Economic models for quantifying benefits to communities through EbA projects.

Strategic Objective 2: To rehabilitate and restore EbA-supporting marine and coastal zone habitats incorporating social and economic resilience to climate change.

Projects to be supported which will contribute to the realization of this strategic objective will include:

Restoration and rehabilitation of habitats to reduce climate risks:

This intervention category covers a range of activities that directly restore or rehabilitate habitats in order to reduce climate risks. Restoration activities could include conventional (well-established) natural habitat restoration approaches, new types of natural habitat restoration approaches, and hybrid solutions that combine build infrastructure with natural habitats. Hybrid solutions, also known as green-grey solutions, often provide cost effective, long-term climate resilience to vulnerable communities and infrastructure. Illustrative activities include but are not limited to:

- Restore coral reefs through coral nursery and out-planting operations that reduce climate risks and provide other ecosystem services. This could include new technologies and approaches for scaling up coral restoration.
- Restore mangroves through nursery and out-planting operations that reduce climate risks and provide other ecosystem services.
- Restore sea-grass beds through out-planting operations that reduce climate risks and

provide other ecosystem functions.

- Reduce land-based sources of pollution that have contributed to degradation of marine and coastal zone ecosystems and which affect their resilience to climate change.
- Restore upland forests and riparian areas (linked to, and clearly demonstrating, climate risk reduction for coastal zones) through reforestation and sustainable forest management operations that reduce climate risks and provide other ecosystem services.
- Implement "hybrid" restoration solutions (green-grey approaches) which integrate traditional "grey" engineering structures, such as sea walls or coastal armoring, and "green" infrastructure such as conservation and restoration of mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass and coastal wetlands. Activities may include new and innovative approaches that reduce climate risks and provide other ecosystem services.

Community engagement to reduce climate risks:
This intervention category covers activities on community engagement in reducing climate risks and building adaptive capacities associated with the restoration and rehabilitation activities identified in the previous section. Activities could be designed to create greater understanding, capacity and participation among the people most affected by climate change, and that most depend on ecosystem services provided by natural habitats. Illustrative activities include but are not limited to:

- Raise awareness of local communities and local decision-makers regarding EbA and climate risk reduction.
- Strengthen the participation and capacity of communities to implement EbA activities such as those outlined in the previous section.

Testing/developing new EbA models: Illustrative examples include but are not limited to:

- New approaches to coral restoration: This could include the deployment of technologies that have been developed in recent years, designed to scale up restoration efforts (e.g. micro-fragmentation, enhancement of natural coral reproduction, and the use of new types of remote sensing technologies to monitor and map coral reefs).
- Community-based adaptation (CbA) approach: This approach emphasizes community participation and leadership in EbA projects—covering community priorities, needs, knowledge and capacities—to empower coastal communities to plan and cope with the impacts of climate change.

Environmental and Social Risks Management requirements:

In alignment with the CBF's vision of a Caribbean region where both its natural environment and people thrive, the proposed projects should yield significant environmental and social net benefits to the region. Proponents applying to this Call for Proposals should demonstrate that they are able to identify, assess, and manage the environmental, social, and climate change-related risks and impacts of their projects.

Applicants are encouraged to consult the reference document **Environmental and Social Risks Management** at the CBF's website to make sure that their Concept Notes are aligned with the CBF's requirements.

Projects size:

Around ten to fifteen million USD could be allocated under this third Call for Proposals, depending on the number and quality of proposals. Project application may range from USD 250,000 to USD 2,000,000. The project budget should cover all necessary direct costs to implement the project, including obtaining any required permits or licenses, and signage at the project site(s). Indirect costs should be kept to a minimum.

Two tiers of funding will be supported.

Tier 1: Large grants. Large grants would be in the range of USD 1M to USD 2M, with some exceptions for larger grants involving multi-country/regional projects. These grants could cover projects that target broad geographic scales and larger-scale impacts (e.g. regional, national and seascape-scale projects). Grantees could be international, regional and national-level entities (government and non-governmental) with a track record of managing grants of this size in the last three years.

Tier 2: Medium-sized grants. Medium-sized grants would be in the range of USD 250,000 to USD 1M. These grants could cover projects that target smaller geographic scales and impacts (e.g. seascape-scale and site-scale projects) but could serve as models for scaling up approaches and activities. Grantees could be primarily national and local-level entities (government, civil society), with a track record of managing grants of this size in the last three years.

Whenever possible, co-financing should be identified.

Project duration:

The projects may be implemented in a maximum period of 36 months.

How to apply:

A two-step application process will be followed: (i) the submission of Concept Notes, and (ii) applicants with selected Concept Notes will be invited to submit Full Proposals.

Applicant organizations must complete the **Concept Note template** downloadable at the CBF Website. It is recommended that the Concept Note template is followed and completed fully. The Concept Note template has instructions on what is expected from the projects and indicates important references, such as the **EbA Facility Logical Framework** and the document on **Environmental and Social Risk Management**, both of which are available on the CBF Website.

Concept Notes will be accepted in English, Spanish and French. Full proposals after the concept selection phase will only be accepted in English. Funding to cover the cost of translation to English can be made available to applicants selected to submit full proposals as part of a project preparation grant mentioned below.

The applicants must submit Concept Notes and other required attachments to the EbA Facility, through all the following emails: secretariat@caribbeanbiodiversityfund.org and jsingh@caribbeanbiodiversityfund.org

Deadline for application: is October 31, 2021 at 23:59 UTC-5

Applicant requirements:

Eligible recipients must have sufficient capacity to allow for professional and timely implementation of proposed projects and, as part of the full proposal package, eligible recipients may be asked to provide certain information including, but not limited to:

- Basis for legal establishment or recognition
- Governance structure, including names of governing body members, officers and key personnel
- Description of up to three recent relevant programs/projects/activities
- Description of applicant's system that allows for the identification, assessment, evaluation, and management of the environmental, social, and climate change-related risks and impacts of their Projects.
- Publications
- Annual budget (last completed year, current year)
- Sources of revenues
- Audited financial statements for most recently completed fiscal year
- Administration, accounting and control procedures
- Current auditing arrangements or equivalent (tax documents)
- Procurement practices for purchasing goods, works and services
- Environmental and social safeguard policy

Selection process:

A two-step application process will be followed. In the first step, concept notes will be evaluated and selected according to the aspects required in the Concept Notes template. In the second step, applicants of selected concept notes will be invited to submit a full proposal. The scoring of concept notes will be guided by the **Evaluation Scoring Sheet for Concept Note**.

The process for the selection of concept notes will involve:

(i) the determination of those in compliance with the requirements identified;
(ii) scoring and ranking of compliant concept notes by a sub-committee of the EbA Facility Committee and the CBF Secretariat;
(iii) selection and approval of concept notes to be developed into full proposals by the full EbA Facility Committee;
(iv) invitations sent to applicants of selected concept notes to develop and submit full proposals.

Full Proposal templates will be provided to applicants of selected Concept Notes, as well as a possible preparation grant for a maximum of 10,000 USD. The process for the selection of full proposals will follow a similar approach to the selection of concept notes. Selected Full Proposals will be awarded an EbA Facility project grant and applicants will sign a grant agreement with the CBF.

Timelines:

The timeline for the complete selection process is estimated to follow the following timelines[3]:

Selection process phases	Timeline
Posting of 3rd Call for Proposals	August 31, 2021
Deadline for Questions on EbA 3rd Call for Proposals	September 30, 2021
Submission of Concept Notes	October 31, 2021
Decision on selection of Concept Notes and invitation to selected applicants to submit Full Proposals	January 31,2022
Deadline for submission of Full Proposals	April 15, 2022
Decision on selection of Full Proposals to be awarded	June 15, 2022
Grant agreement signature	July 31, 2022

[3] Dates are approximate and subject to revision.

Questions & Answers:

Applicants may submit questions to the EbA Facility up to September 30, 2021 for this Call for Proposals. Questions must be submitted only through the following emails: secretariat@caribbeanbiodiversityfund.org, and jsingh@caribbeanbiodiversityfund.org

Questions received and the answers provided will be published at the CBF website at www.caribbeanbiodiversityfund.org