



## **Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) Facility Fifth Call for Proposals**

**Posted 8th October, 2024**

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 60 million Euro contribution from the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection through KfW, the German Development Bank. To date, the EbA Facility has issued four Calls for Proposals and awarded 34 grants in 11 countries across the region (see the [CBF website](#) for further details). The process for the Fifth Call for Proposals has been completed and is expected to add a further six to ten grants for EbA projects.

### **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 fifth call for proposals, these countries and territories are Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Applications will be accepted from eligible local, national, regional or international<sup>1</sup> non-government organizations (NGOs), registered national conservation trust funds (NCTFs), community-based organizations (CBOs), regional organizations, private sector companies, universities and other academic institutions, and consortia of organizations. For projects that include activities in Cuba, project proponents must be Europe- or US-based organizations with a proven track record of compliance with US Government regulations related to project

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

implementation in Cuba<sup>2</sup>. Private sector company applicants are required to commit at least matching finance in support of the grant request (50% CBF; 50% cofinance).

Successful applicants will be required to open a separate, dedicated project bank account for the CBF EbA grant.

### **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. Please see the project flyers for EbA Facility grantees from the [1<sup>st</sup> Call for Proposals](#) on the CBF Website for examples of previous successful applications.

Projects can include restoration and rehabilitation of ecosystems, management of protected areas, reduction of negative impacts of climate-related threats, measures to reduce physical damage to ecosystems, measures to reduce pressures on ecosystems, rehabilitation of coral 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. Proposals should highlight work with local organizations and communities.

Projects to be supported should contribute to the realization of the strategic objective of the EbA Facility, which is:

**To sustainably manage EbA supporting marine and coastal zone habitats, including rehabilitating key high biodiversity ecosystems and incorporating social and economic resilience to climate change**

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

#### **Improved management, restoration and rehabilitation 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. It also covers activities that directly restore or rehabilitate habitats in order to reduce climate risks. Restoration activities should address the root causes of ecosystem decline and could include conventional (well-established) natural habitat restoration approaches,

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<sup>2</sup> Applications that include Cuba will only be accepted from Europe- 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.

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:

- 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.
- 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 reinstatement of conducive hydrology, mangrove 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.
- Calculation of greenhouse gas emissions reduced, or carbon stocks enhanced through project activities

### **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 and building adaptive capacities associated with restoration and rehabilitation. 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:

- 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 and/or fisheries 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.

- Ensure the involvement of multiple stakeholders in the planning and implementation process to generate benefits such as improved plans and stewardship, increased understanding, and support for EbA measures, legitimized process, facilitated knowledge and sharing, generated ownership, and enhanced social and technical innovation
- Support EbA efforts through learning networks, communities of practice, and knowledge co-production.
- Operate with principles of free, prior and informed consent when engaging with different groups to ensure appropriate outcomes.
- Empower local organizations to lead EbA activities and capacity-building locally (training of trainers, identification and enhancement of local champions).

### **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.
- 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.
- Resilient landscape approach: A resilient landscape can be defined as one where people have the means and capacities to make natural resources, production systems, and the economy work for all and for nature over the long term. Direct impact on the coastal zone must be demonstrated.
- Economic models for quantifying benefits to communities through EbA projects.
- Transformative co-production or knowledge co-production to effectively translate science into policy and actions

### **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 Management Systems Policy](#) at the CBF's website to make sure that their Concept Notes are aligned with the CBF's requirements.

### **Projects size:**

Around 15.5 million USD could be allocated under this Fifth Call for Proposals, depending on the number and quality of proposals. Project application may range from USD 400,000 to USD 3,000,000. 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 3M, 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 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 400,000 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, with a track record of managing grants of this size in the last three years.

Whenever possible, co-financing should be identified. Private sector applicants should commit at least matching finance in support of the grant request (50% CBF; 50% cofinance).

Applicants are asked to note that a separate bank account dedicated to the EbA Facility grant must be opened by organizations in the event that an award is approved on the basis of successful proposals.

### **Project duration:**

The projects may be implemented in a maximum period of 48 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 downloadable [Concept Note Template](#) 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 [Environmental and Social Management Systems Policy](#) 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.

Applicants must ensure that the Concept Note does not exceed seven (7) pages. No word limit is specified but Times New Roman font size 12 must be used throughout the submission; document margins and template integrity must be maintained.

**Deadline for application: Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2024 at 23:59 UTC-5**

Please submit Concept Notes and other required attachments via the [Concept Note Application Portal on the CBF website](#).

### **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 the two most recently completed fiscal year prepared and signed by an independent, external auditor
- 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 [Concept Note Evaluation Scoring Sheet](#).

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 for qualified applicants. 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<sup>3</sup>:

<b>Selection process phases</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Posting of 5 <sup>th</sup> Call for Proposals	October 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2024
Deadline for Questions on EbA 5 <sup>th</sup> Call for Proposals	November 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2024
Deadline for submission of Concept Notes	December 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2024
Decision on selection of Concept Notes and invitation to selected applicants to submit Full Proposals	March 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
Deadline for submission of Full Proposals	June 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2025
Decision on selection of Full Proposals to be awarded	July 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2025

Adjustment of selected proposals in line with recommendations issued by the EbA Committee	September 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2025
Grant agreement signature	November 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2025

<sup>3</sup> Dates are approximate and subject to revision.



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## **Questions & Answers:**

Applicants may submit questions to the EbA Facility up to November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 for this Call for Proposals. Questions must be submitted only through the following emails:

[secretariat@caribbeanbiodiversityfund.org](mailto:secretariat@caribbeanbiodiversityfund.org)

[programmanager\\_eba@caribbeanbiodiversityfund.org](mailto:programmanager_eba@caribbeanbiodiversityfund.org)

Questions received and the answers provided will be published at the CBF website at

[www.caribbeanbiodiversityfund.org](http://www.caribbeanbiodiversityfund.org)

See [Q&A responses for previous Calls for Proposals on the CBF Website](#).

## **EbA Facility 5th Call for Proposals Webinar – EbA Concept Note Preparation**

The CBF EbA Facility will be hosting a webinar and Q&A session introducing the 5<sup>th</sup> Call for Proposals on Thursday, October 17, 2024. Prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to attend, as we clarify the preparation of the Concept Note template and key DO's and DON'T's.

[Kindly register for the Webinar here.](#)

Additional Ecosystem-based Adaptation Resources are [available here](#).