

Conservation Finance Program

English Harbour, Antigua & Barbuda
 Photo by: Phil Hauser · Unsplash

As Small Island Developing States, Caribbean nations depend heavily on its biodiversity and natural resources for economic and social development. The mission of the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) is to ensure continuous funding for conservation and sustainable development in the Caribbean.

The Conservation Finance Program focuses on the provision of funding towards the protection and management of biodiversity and natural resources and is mainly supported through the Endowment Fund. The program is mainly supported through the CBF Endowment Fund which allows CBF to secure a reliable, long-term funding stream to the targeted countries in partnership with the national funds and other regional actors.

The Endowment Fund was created when the CBF was established in 2012, and currently has commitments of about US\$100 million that support 12 country sub-accounts. The proceeds of the Endowment are channelled through the eligible National Conservation Trust Funds (NCTFs) that have signed Partnership Agreements with the CBF. Those partner NCTFs then lead the grant-making programs at the national level with resources from the CBF and other donors. Together, the CBF and its partner national conservation trust funds form the Caribbean Sustainable Finance Architecture. The CBF is also working with other countries to grow the Caribbean Sustainable Finance Architecture.

Capacity Development

The Conservation Finance program includes an organizational development component aimed at strengthening the network of conservation trust funds that are part of the Caribbean Sustainable Finance Architecture. Areas of focus are governance, operations, administration, reporting, monitoring, evaluation & learning, environmental, social and governance safeguards; asset management, support for finance mechanisms development, and resource mobilization.

Sustainable Financing

A key objective of the program is to create new, sustainable revenue that provides a minimum 1:1 match to the CBF resources. This requirement incentivizes the NCTFs to establish financial mechanisms that can direct private and/or public resources to nature conservation and sustainable development.

The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund

The CBF is a regional umbrella environmental fund that uses a flexible structure to implement innovative solutions and consolidate resource mobilization in the Caribbean through a range of financial instruments. Created to provide reliable, long term funding for conservation and sustainable development in the Caribbean region, the CBF currently has 3 programs:

1. the Conservation Finance Program, based on an endowment fund
2. the Climate Change Program, focused on Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) strategies, and
3. the Nature-Based Economies Program that promotes sustainability and circular economy principles through innovative blue, green, brown and other economic solutions.



National Conservation Trust Funds

As a regional institution, the CBF generates economies of scale by working with the national funds which are vital forces for conservation and sustainable development in their countries. As independent institutions, the national conservation trust funds:

- Provide continuity to long-term conservation programs
- Make strategic grants for local conservation action
- Build capacity of civil society and community-based organizations for environmental actions or initiatives

Country	Partner NCTF
Antigua & Barbuda	Ongoing partnership negotiations
Bahamas	The Bahamas Protected Area Fund (BPAF)
Cuba	Agreement signed with UNDP Cuba (March 2025)
Dominica	Dominica National Conservation Trust Fund (DNCTF)
Dominican Republic	National Fund for the Environment and Natural Resources (Fondo MARENA)
Grenada	Grenada Sustainable Development Trust Fund (GSDTF)
Guyana	Protected Areas Trust (GPAT)
Haiti	Haiti Biodiversity Fund (FHB)
Jamaica	National Conservation Trust Fund of Jamaica (NCTFJ)
St. Kitts and Nevis	St. Christopher and Nevis Conservation Foundation (SCNCF)
St. Lucia	Saint Lucia National Conservation Fund (SLUNCF)
St. Vincent & The Grenadines	St. Vincent and the Grenadines Conservation Fund (SVGCF)



Tanja Liew, Conservation Finance Program Manager
 secretariat@caribbeanbiodiversityfund.org
 caribbeanbiodiversityfund.org

