



Sustainable Financing Mechanisms for
Marine Protection in the Caribbean

Advancing Circular Economy (ACE) Facility

ACE Facility Call for Proposals 2– Clarification Webinar (virtual)

Tuesday October 28, 2025



ACE Facility Clarification Webinar: Agenda



10:00-
10:05

Welcome to the ACE Clarification Webinar

10:00-
10:25

Overview: ACE Facility Call for Proposals 2 (CfP2)

10:25-
11:05

Question and Answers: Review of Queries Received

11:05-
11:45

Question and Answers: Live Discussion

11:45-
12:00

Next Steps and Closing

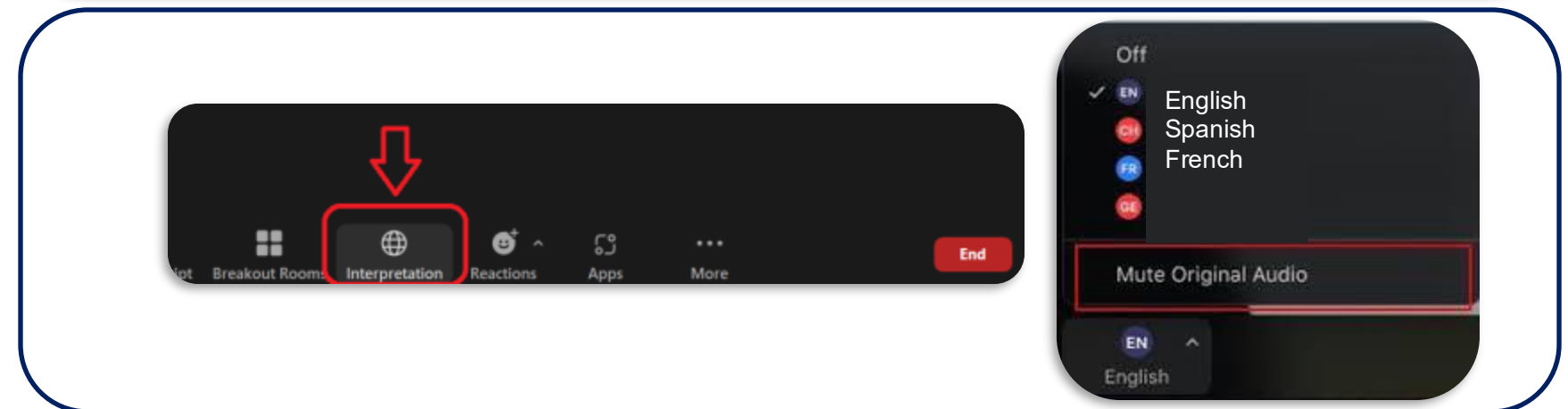
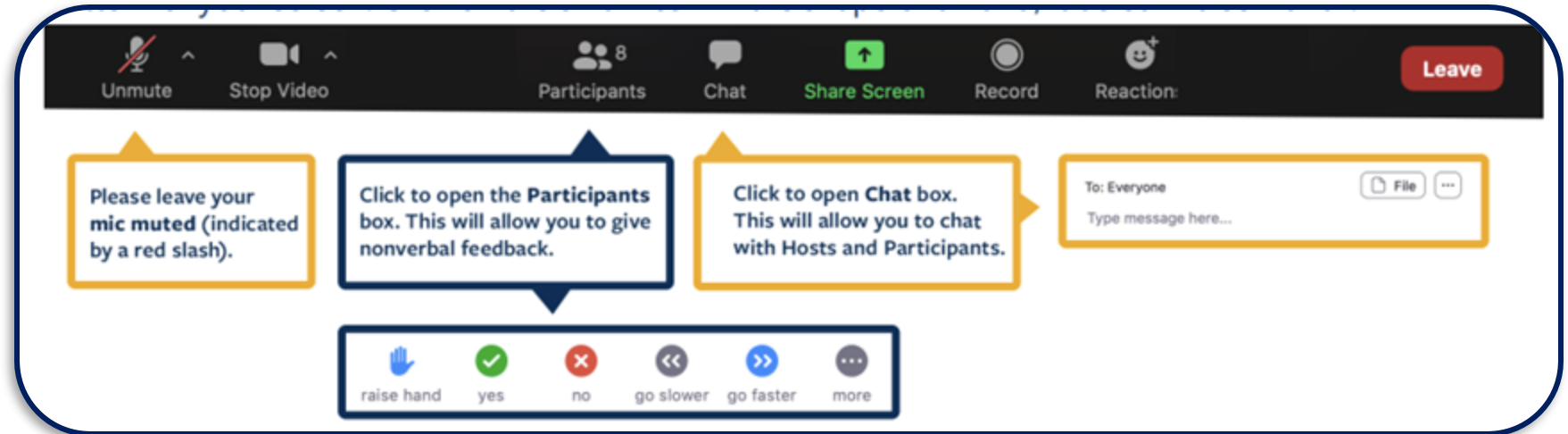
Welcome



Ms. Rachel Ramsay
– NBE-ACE Facility
Program Manager

Welcome

Overview of
Meeting
Protocols



The Advancing Circular Economy (ACE) Facility

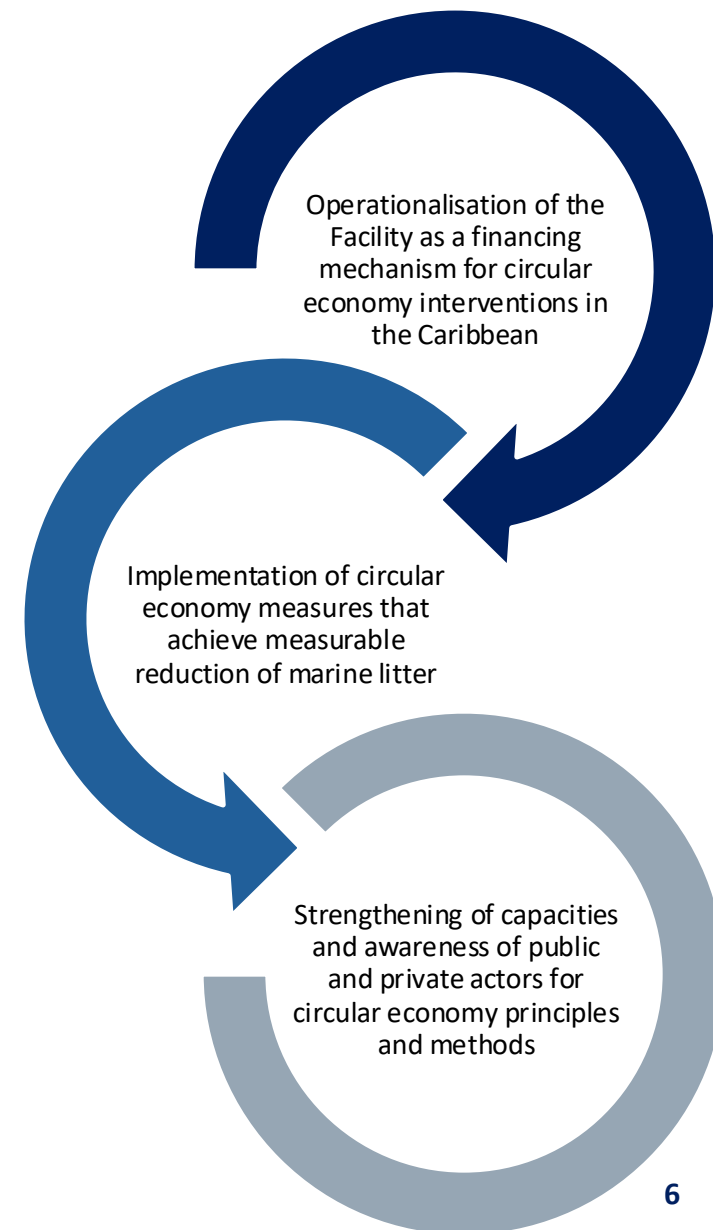
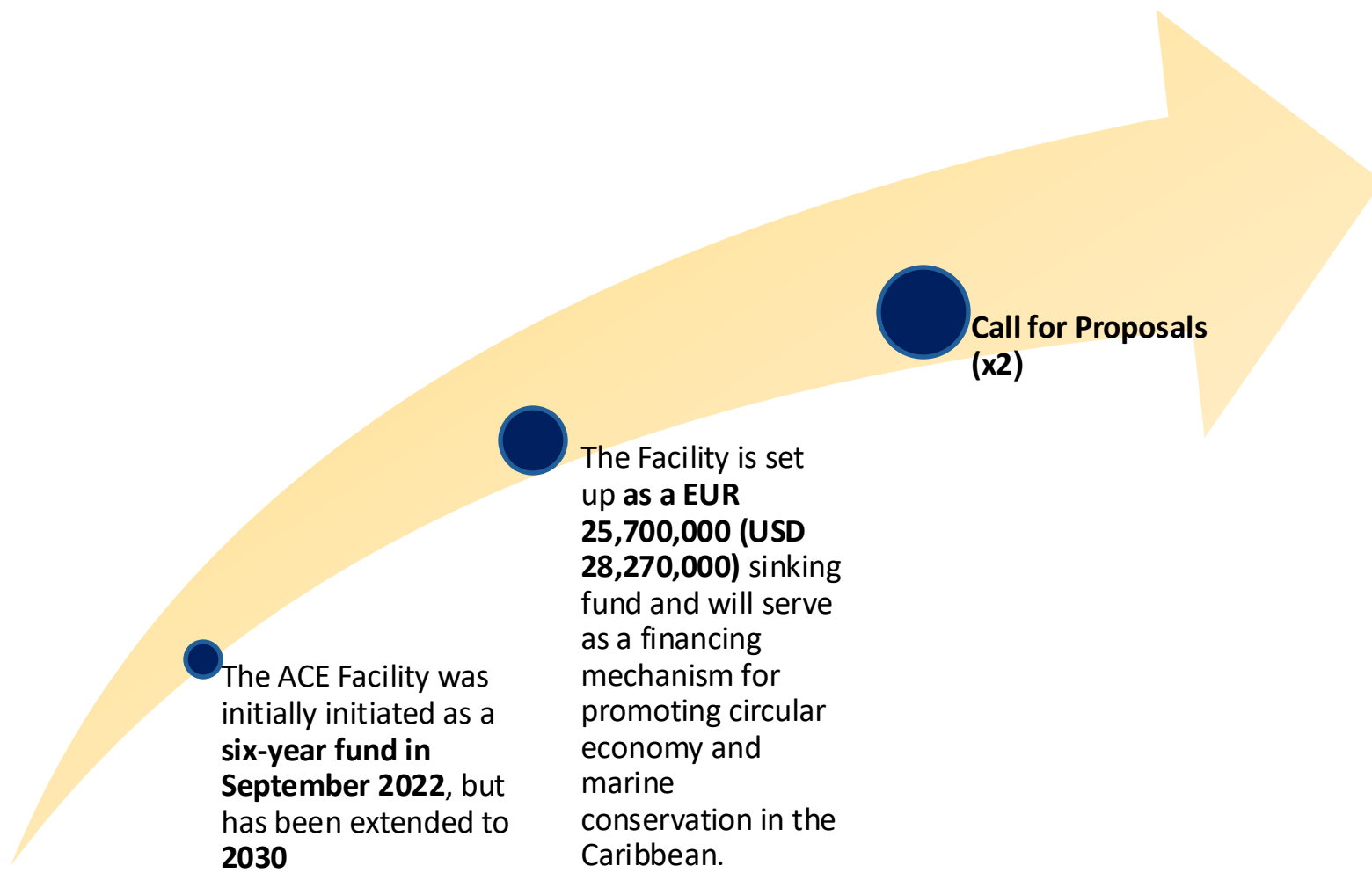
CfP2: OVERVIEW

Program Overview

Nature-Based Economies ensure that ecosystem conservation is a source of capital for development and sustainable livelihoods while preserving the health of marine and coastal ecosystems. Conservation in this context involves actions to protect and sustainably manage ecosystems, that bring about economic benefits/capital for sustainable development addressing societal challenges effectively and adaptively, propelling:

- 1 Healthy Ecosystems, Prosperous Communities:** Sustainable management of ecosystems leads to economic opportunities and improved livelihoods for local people.
- 2 Biodiversity & Resilience:** Healthy ecosystems provide essential services like clean water, flood protection, and support a rich variety of life.
- 3 Adapting to Change:** NBE approaches can help communities adapt to climate change and other environmental challenges.

The NBE Program was established by the CBF as it aligns directly with the organization's mission to ensure continuous funding for conservation and sustainable development in the Caribbean region.



CALL FOR PROPOSAL

Protected: Advancing Circular Economy (ACE) Facility's Second Call for Proposals

[← GO BACK](#)

SHARE



The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF), through its Advancing Circular Economy (ACE) Facility, is seeking applications for projects that promote and apply practical circular economy principles to



Cuba



Dominica



Dominican
Republic



Grenada



Haiti



Jamaica



Montserrat



St. Lucia



St. Vincent & the
Grenadines

Applications that include Cuba will only be accepted from international institutions that have experience in implementing projects and other activities in compliance with US Government sanctions and regulations concerning Cuba.

Organizations from outside the Caribbean applying for funding should have one or more local partners.





Grants USD 400,000 to USD 2,000,000 per project

Value of the Grants



The implementation time for projects promoted by the Facility will be between 2.5 to 3 years.

Project Duration



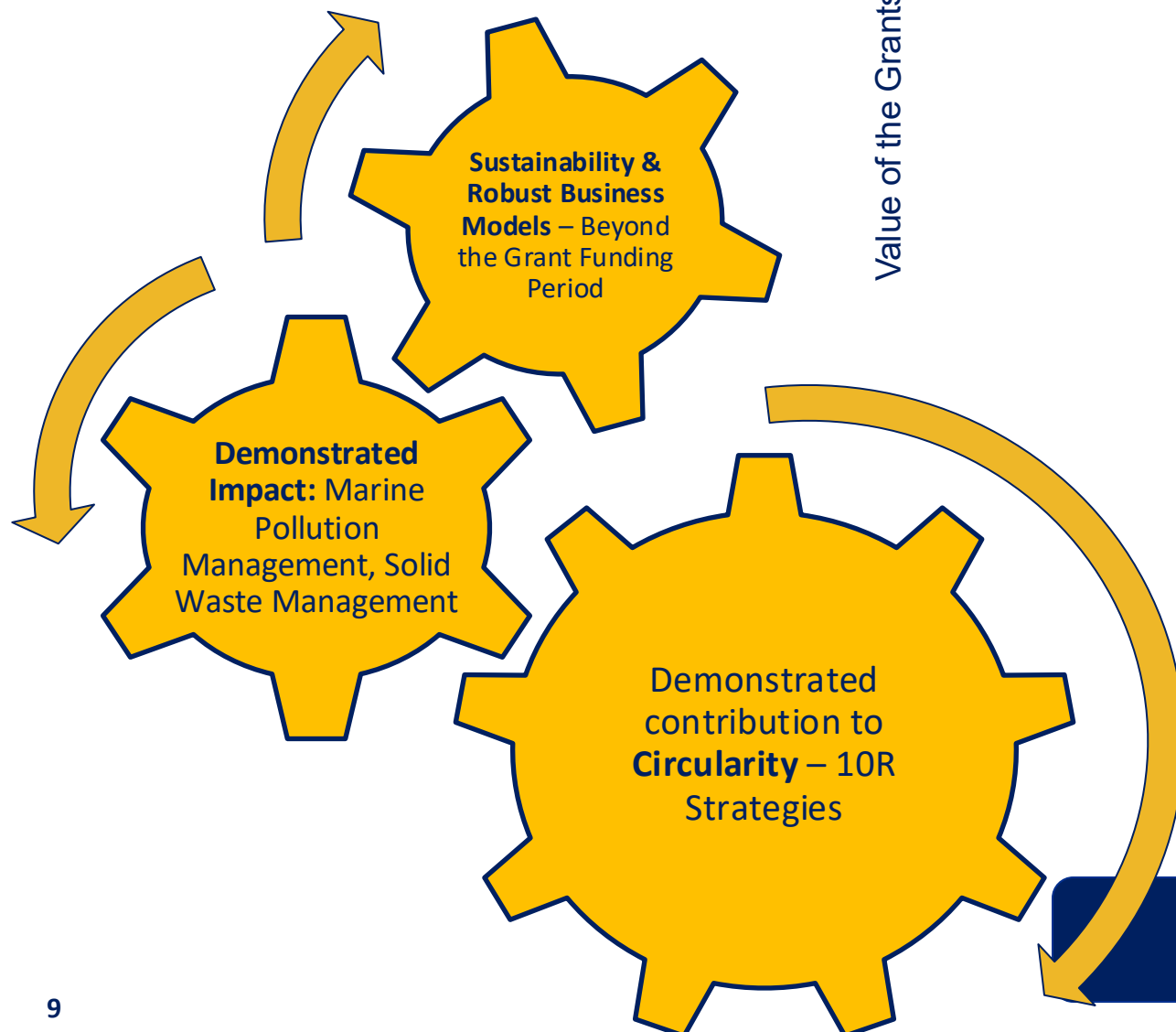
Non-profit organizations (CBOs, academia, local and regional NGOs) - co-financing should be identified to the amount of 25% co-financing (in-kind and cash inclusive) of the total project value

Government Institutions; Statutory Bodies or Quasi-government Institutions - 25% co-financing (cash only) of the total project value

Regional Organisations - 50% co-financing (25% cash and 25% in-kind) of the total project value

For-profit private SMEs, NGOs, CBOs - 50% co-financing (25% cash and 25% in-kind) of the total project value

Co-financing Requirements



THE ACE FACILITY – CfPs2: Requirements



Priority scope (waste stream and sectors) of the ACE Facility:



Integrated Solid Waste Management Systems.



Littering/open Dumpsite management.



Agricultural plastics.



Synthetic Textiles.



Personal Care and Cosmetics Industry (Plastic Packaging).



Transport Sector (solid waste components).



Coastal/Offshore Tourism and Recreation.



Medical Waste Articles



Abandoned, lost, or other discarded fishing gear (ALDFG).



Marine Transport Industry.



Disaster Debris Management.

THE ACE FACILITY – CfPs2: Eligible Projects



Projects that promote and apply practical circular economy principles to minimize and/or prevent waste from entering the marine environment.



Projects that promote and apply practical circular economy principles to remove marine litter and consider processes after waste removal for proper disposal of waste, like recycling, reuse, refurbishing, etc.

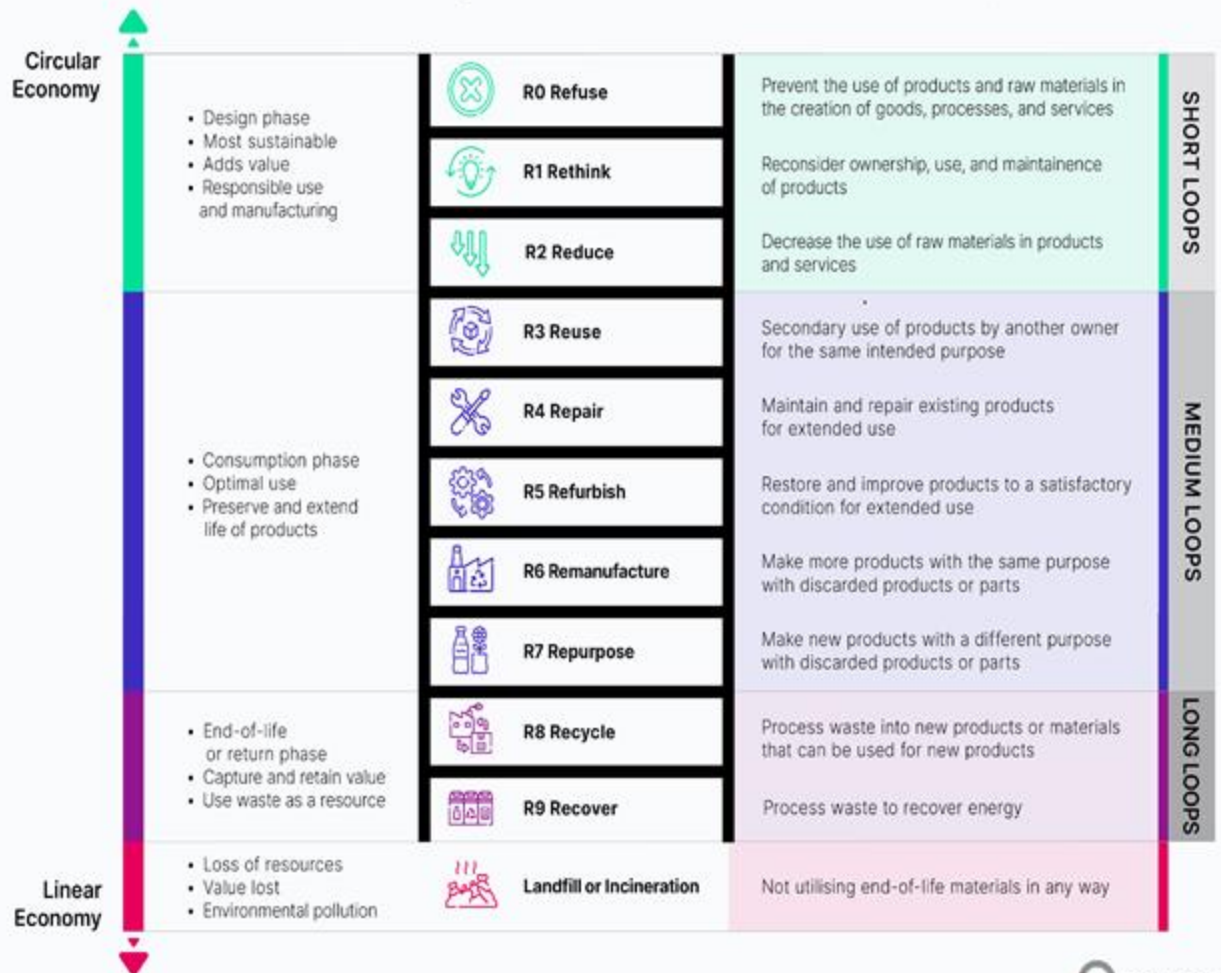
These should be complemented by activities that:



- ☐ support knowledge and data generation on the topics of the circular economy and marine pollution in the Caribbean region,
- ☐ promote the sustainable approach to ACE Facility projects ensuring they operate financially independently by the end of the project, and
- ☐ formulate new and/or strengthen existing partnerships that promote the circular economy in the Caribbean.



10 R Strategies for Circular Economy



Projects that will not be supported

Downcycling Instead of Upcycling

Short Product Lifespans

Greenwashing

Exporting Waste to Developing Countries

Energy-Intensive Recycling Processes

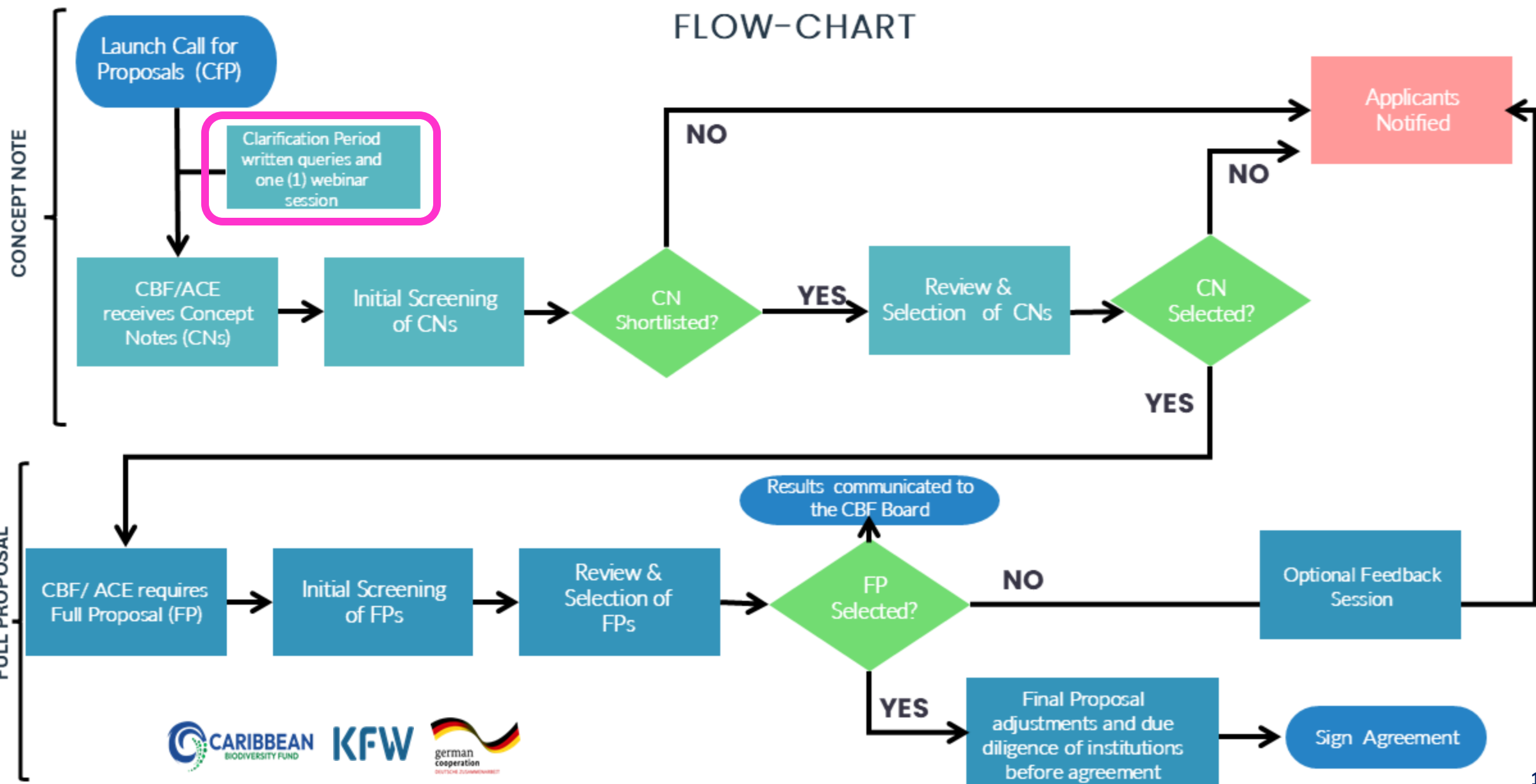
Single-Use Products Marketed as Circular

Toxic Material Recirculation

Inefficient Logistics and Transportation

ACE FACILITY APPLICATION PROCESS

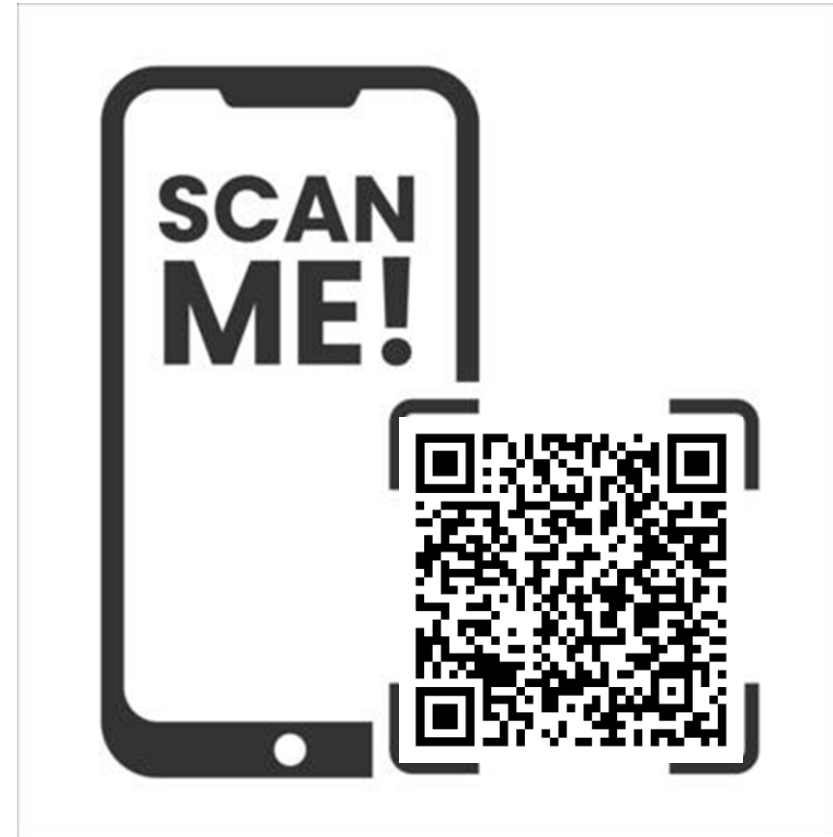
FLOW-CHART



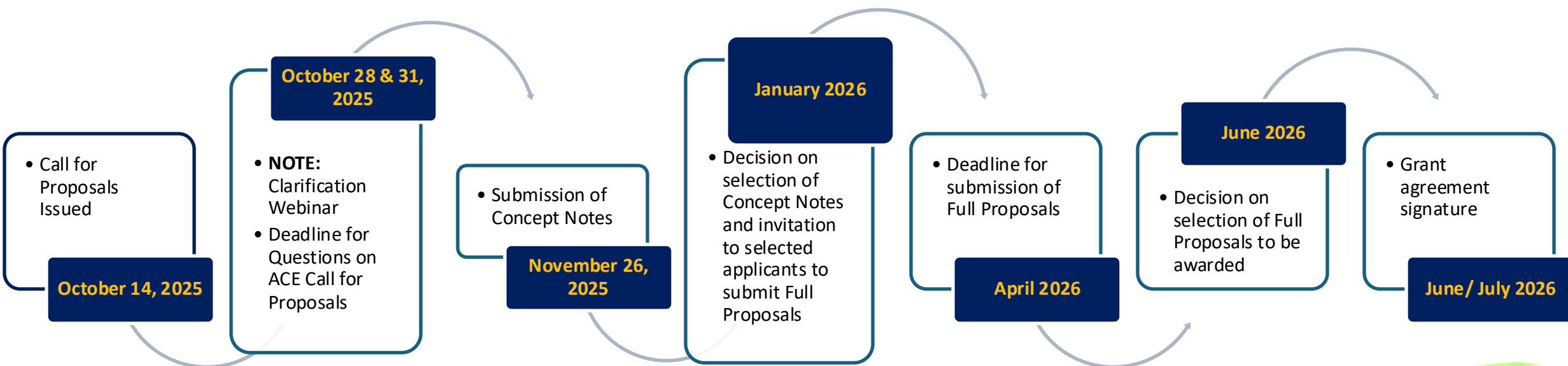
PowerPoint Presentation



Webinar Recording



THE ACE FACILITY – CfPs2: Timeline





ACE Facility Second Call For Proposals Submission

The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) has launched its Second Call for Proposals under the Advancing Circular Economy (ACE) Facility, inviting innovative projects that promote circular economy principles to address marine litter and pollution in the Caribbean region. This initiative aims to reduce marine pollution and conserve biodiversity by financially supporting projects that implement practical circular economy strategies.

A two-step application process will be followed:

- the submission of Concept Notes
- applicants with selected Concept Notes will be invited to submit Full Proposals.

Quick links:

- [ACE Facility Second Call For Proposal](#)
- [Applicant Eligibility](#)
- [Supported Projects](#)
- [Terms and Conditions](#)

Name *

First Name

Last Name

Organization *

Email *

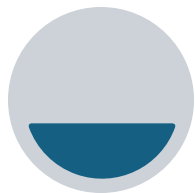
The Advancing the Circular Economy (ACE) Facility

CfP2: Questions & Answers

Queries

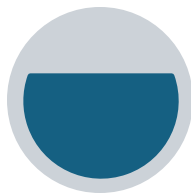
- Please direct your queries to acefacility@caribbeanbiodiversityfund.org
- The Subject of the email should read **ACEFacilityCFP2: RequestforClarification(org name here)**
- The deadline for written queries is **October 31, 2025.**





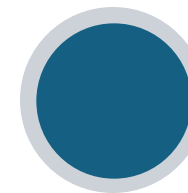
Q: What is the geographic scope of the ACE Facility?

A: The ACE Facility will fund projects in 9 Caribbean countries, namely Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.



Q: Can my organisation apply to the ACE Facility if it is not based within the geographic scope?

A: Yes, organisations from outside of the eligible countries can apply to execute projects in any of the nine listed countries. It should be noted that partnerships would be required with local organisation in each beneficiary country.



Q: Are UN organizations are eligible to apply?

A: UN organisations are required to partner with other agencies that can feasibly absorb the role of the lead applicant organisation.



THE ACE FACILITY – CfPs2: Waste Streams and Sectors

Q: Can solutions for wastewater treatment or the management of cooking oil be funded under the ACE Facility?



☐ A: The ACE Facility will only address the management of solid waste streams.

Q: Will the ACE Facility consider applications related to hydroponics, aquaculture, or energy efficiency?



☐ A: Concept notes which seek to prevent and remove solid waste from the marine environment will be considered.

Q: Will the ACE Facility consider project with activities related to the transformation of plastic waste into marketable products?



☐ A: Projects which address the management of solid waste (including but not limited to plastic waste) via circular economy approaches will be given due consideration under the ACE Facility.

THE ACE FACILITY – CfPs2: Budget and Financial Requirements



Q: Should I budget for auditing costs during project implementation?

A: Yes, projects approved for grant funding are required to be audited on an annual basis. Costs for annual auditing can be included under Administrative Costs.

Q: Do I need a designated bank account if my organization has a robust financial accounting system?

A: Please include a justification to waiver (with supporting evidence) the requirement for a designated bank account for consideration by the Selection Committee.

Q: Are there any caps or limits on the budget categories, e.g., Indirect Costs?

A: We encourage applicants to demonstrate their most cost-effective budget in alignment with impactful project design.

- Cap for Project Management is usually 20%
- Range for overheads is typically between 5% and 15%.

Q: How are co-financing requirements determined?

A: Co-financing requirements are based on the classification of the Applicant Organisation. The organization's registration certification is used to confirm the organisation's classification.

Q: How do we determine co-financing requirements as a consortium?

A: There must be one leading organisation that will be the applicant and the requisite co-financing requirements should be in accordance with the categorisation of that lead organisation.

Q: What constitutes in-kind co-financing?

A: In-Kind contributions can include, but is not limited to, technical assistance, equipment and infrastructure, human resources. Additional guidance will be provided during the Full Proposal Phase.

Q: Can another ongoing project be counted towards co-financing for ACE Facility projects?

A: The context and qualification of co-financing are contingent on the extent to which the contribution directly supports the proposed ACE Facility activities.

Q: Can I include attachments with further details to my concept note?

A: While you are required to keep within the word limits for different sections, additional information can be supplied as attachments.

Q: Can the ACE Facility provide guidance on the design of my project?

A: In order to maintain transparency and eliminate bias, the ACE Facility cannot engage with potential applicants on their project designs.

Q: Is it possible for an organisation to submit more than one concept note under this call for proposals?

A: Yes, there is no upper limit to the concepts an applicant can submit. Each concept note will be assessed individually on a competitive basis.

Q: Does staff need to record actual hours worked on ACE Facility projects?

A: The allocation of staff time will be streamlined during the Full Proposal Phase.

The ACE Facility CfP2



Live Q&A Session



Questions you asked

What cofinancing threshold will be applicable for a UN organization is part of a consortia but not the lead?

In the agricultural sector, does fish waste and coconut waste constitute as solid waste?

Can the lead organization be from outside the Caribbean region with a local partner?

Are the grants disbursed in a lump sum or in phases?

What is the deadline for concept note submissions?

Is it possible to submit a bi-national concept note?

Do you consider disposal of abandoned fishing gear?

I do not qualify to be a lead organization, how can I still apply?

Questions you asked

Is there a limit regarding the number of submissions?

What are the co-financing requirements for different organizations?

Does co-financing have to be provided by the lead applicant only?

Can you clarify the deflection of Circular Economy that the ACE Facility adopts?

Do the due diligence requirements apply only to the lead applicant or should we provide documentation for each consortia member?

How do we demonstrate investments?

Can we hire volunteers or pay a lower stipend to persons for activities related to waste removal?

Can we list project outcomes in the concept notes, rather than activity?

Questions you asked

Can 25% co-financing for CBOs be entirely in-kind or cash?

Is it possible to change the consortium between CN & FP phase?

If there is a change in the status of a consortia member, would we still be able to submit a concept note?

Are audits required for projects?

Are the mechanisms for intercepting waste before reaching the marine environments are considered important recovery mechanisms based on circular economy?

Are the beneficiary countries exclusively the nine countries listed?

We have a consortium that wants to make pilot projects in DR & Mexico. Lead organisation is based in Mexico– are we eligible to apply?

What qualifies as evidence to operate in a country?

For lead applicants what documentation is required for demonstration of local partnerships in intervention countries?

Questions you asked

Are there any calls for proposals that non-profit organizations from Barbados can apply for?

If an international organization is not yet registered to operate in the country, but the local partner is already registered, can we still apply?

Regarding the indicators e.g. waste prevented/ removed, is there recommended methodology? Should we classify the different kinds of waste?

Can we add the experience of our consortia partners in the concept note application?

Does your project partner have to be in one country only?

Can the local implementing partner be a private company?

Does the call include a budget preparation for the full proposal phase, after the CN phase?

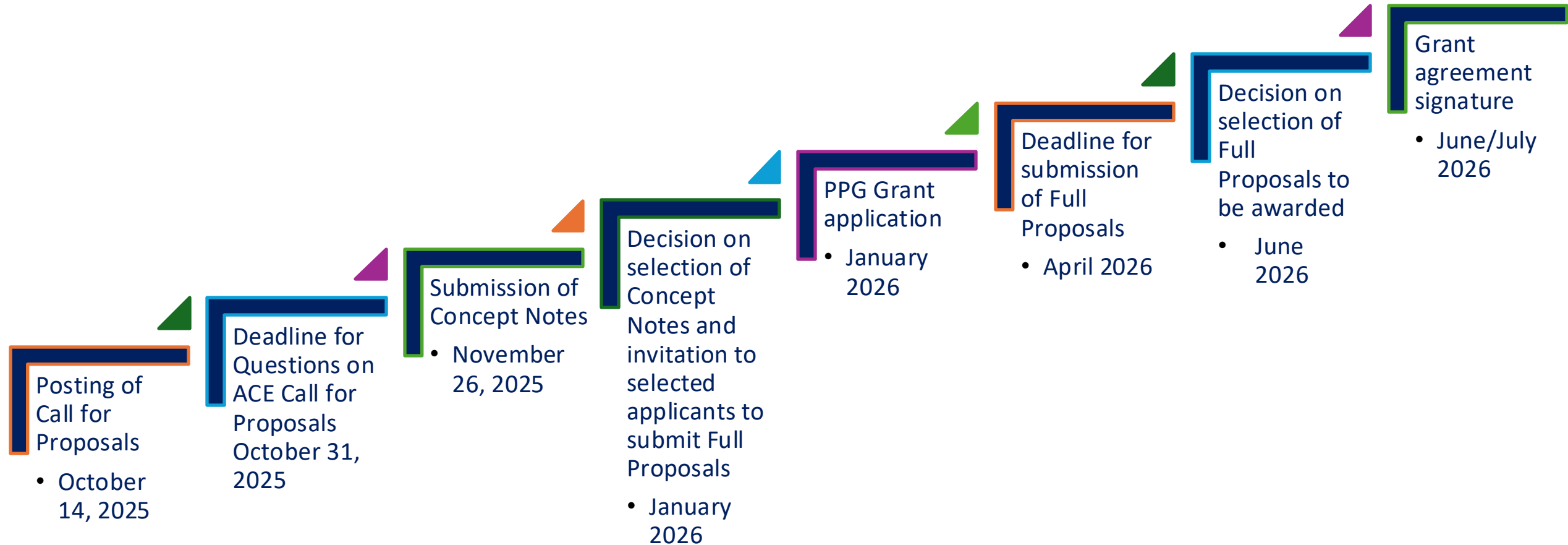
The ACE Facility CfP2



Next Steps & Closing

Ms. Stephanie
Lalla, CBF (NBE-
ACE Facility)
Program Assistant





[ABOUT US ▾](#)[WHAT WE DO ▾](#)[GET INVOLVED ▾](#)[EXPLORE ▾](#)[CONTACT US ▾](#)

Resources

Primary Resources

-  [CBF Environmental and Social Policy and Exclusion List](#)
-  [ACE Facility Logical Framework \[English\]](#)
-  [ACE Facility Logical Framework \[Spanish\]](#)
-  [ACE Facility Logical Framework \[French\]](#)
-  [Nature-based Economies Program - Fact Sheet](#)
-  [ACE Facility Call for Proposal Launch PowerPoint Presentations](#)
-  [ACE Facility Call for Proposal - Launch and Technical Webinar Zoom Recording](#)

Secondary Resources



SCAN ME

Queries

- Please direct your queries to acefacility@caribbeanbiodiversityfund.org.
- The Subject of the email should read **ACE Facility CFP2: Request for Clarification (organization name here)**
- The deadline for written queries is **October 31, 2025**.

Applications

- The deadline for the submission of Concept Notes is **November 26, 2025 at 11:59 pm AST**.
- Notifications will be sent to all applicants.
- Concept Notes that are favorably reviewed will advance for submission of a full proposal in accordance with the details outlined in the Full Proposal Phase Guidelines and a Webinar will be convened with advanced applications.
 - Proposal Development Phase (PPG) considerations
 - Additional Technical Support Considerations



**Sustainable Financing Mechanisms for
Marine Protection in the Caribbean**

THANK YOU!

Contact us at:

acefacility@caribbeanbiodiversityfund.org