**CALL FOR PROJECTS (CfpS) GUIDELINES**

**Caribbean Blue Economy Financing (Caribbean BluEFin) Project**

## 1. Background and Rationale

The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF)[1] is a regional environmental fund whose mission is "to ensure continuous funding for conservation and sustainable development in the Caribbean." Established in 2012, and with a flexible structure, the CBF is designed to accommodate the receipt, investment, distribution and monitoring of conservation funding throughout the region. The Caribbean Blue Economy Financing (Caribbean BluEFin) Project is inviting blue economy businesses and projects to submit projects to be uploaded in the CBF Blue Economy Hub.

This Call aims to showcase practical blue economy opportunities, strengthen the visibility of Caribbean businesses and projects, and identify investment-ready opportunities that can contribute to the development of the Caribbean Blue Economy on the CBF Blue Economy Hub.

## 2. Objectives of the Call

The objective of this Call for Projects is to identify and showcase innovative Blue Economy initiatives that generate measurable biodiversity, climate resilience, and socioeconomic benefits, while contributing content, lessons learned, and investment-ready opportunities to the Caribbean Blue Economy. Projects should align to anyone, or more, of the following topics:

- Promote **sustainable blue economy development** in the Caribbean: *Support economic activities linked to marine and coastal resources that create livelihoods and growth while ensuring the long-term health resilience, and sustainable use of ecosystems and individuals/communities. Examples:* development of value chains related to sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, coastal and marine tourism, and / or value chain strengthening and market development, Circular economy approaches to marine pollution reduction
- Deliver measurable **marine and coastal conservation outcomes:** *Ensure that supported initiatives lead to clear, demonstrable improvements in the conservation, protection, or sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems.*
- Establish or strengthen **innovative and sustainable financing mechanisms:** *Support the development, testing, or enhancement of financing approaches that provide reliable and long-term funding for blue economy activities and conservation efforts beyond short-term grants.*

[1] More information about the CBF can be found at caribbeanbiodiversityfund.org

- Mobilise or leverage **additional public and/or private sector financing:** *Encourage projects to attract, unlock, or complement funding from public institutions, private investors, or other sources, thereby increasing overall investment in sustainable blue economy solutions.*
- Demonstrate potential for **financial sustainability, replication, or scaling:** *Prioritise initiatives that can sustain themselves financially over time and that show potential to be replicated or expanded to other locations or sectors in the Caribbean. E.g.* innovative blue finance mechanisms (e.g. blue carbon credits, blended finance, revolving funds, performance-based incentives)

All projects must demonstrate a **clear link between economic activity, social positive change and conservation outcomes**. Entrepreneurs and private sector are particularly invited for this call, as the

**3. Reward for the selected project**

The call will provide one selected applicant with an opportunity to present their business and / or project and receive feedback on their business model and investment readiness at the GCFI conference in person. Based on the criteria outlined under Objectives, the CBF will be responsible to select the winning project. The winning project will receive a lump sum of USD 1,000 that the winner is expected to use towards logistics costs (travel, accommodation, etc) to attend the GCFI conference 2026.

The upcoming annual Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) 2026 conference will take place from 2 – 6 November, 2026 in Curacao.

The CBF and Enrst and Young (EY) have been selected to lead a special session at the GCFI This interactive session will be facilitated by the CBF in partnership with EY and aims to use the winning project as a case study for the session. The discussion of the project will focus on, among others, how financial scalability can be improved and to discuss the viability of private investment towards the project. The winner is expected to be available for the preparations for this session as well as attending the session in person in Curacao.

**4. Eligibility Criteria**

The call is intended for blue economy businesses, entrepreneurs, individuals, and other for profit and non-for profit organizations that demonstrate a **credible business model and potential for investment, financing, replication or scale.**

Projects or initiatives should, where relevant, demonstrate alignment with the Caribbean BluEFin thematic focus areas, including:

- Sustainable blue carbon and nature-based solutions, including sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, coastal and marine tourism, and other blue economy value chains;
- Circular economy approaches that contribute to marine pollution reduction; and
- Innovative blue finance mechanisms, including blue carbon credits, biodiversity credits, blended finance, revolving funds and performance-based incentives.

Projects should demonstrate a clear link between economic activity, positive social change and conservation outcomes, consistent with the objectives of the Caribbean BluEFin Project. This call is for projects implemented in eligible Caribbean BluEFin countries: Dominican Republic, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and The Bahamas

## 5. Application Process

To apply for the Call for Projects (**Tuesday, 8 September – Wednesday, 30 September 2026**):

1. **Register:** Create an Opportunity Owner account at https://blueeconomyhub.caribbeanbiodiversityfund.org/register.
2. **Submit:** Complete and submit your application entirely online through the Caribbean Blue Economy Hub (BEH).
3. **Screening:** The CBF will review your application before publishing it on the platform.

*Note: Only applications successfully screened and published on the Hub will be considered for selection.*

## 6. Inquiries and contact information

For additional information on this Call for Projects, applicants are invited to visit the Blue Economy Hub https://blueeconomyhub.caribbeanbiodiversityfund.org/. Any questions can be submitted until **September 15, 2026** only through the following email: blueeconomy@caribbeanbiodiversityfund.org using the subject: Call for Projects

## DISCLAIMER

Submission of a project to the Blue Economy Hub does **not constitute a commitment to provide funding**.