



C A R I B B E A N
EXPORT
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

REGIONAL PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME III

GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES FOR

 **BRIDGE**

BUILDING RESILIENT INNOVATION
FOR DIGITAL & GREEN ENTERPRISES

GREEN TRANSITION GRANT

CALL FOR PROPOSAL
Number: NDICI-GG-25-001

PUBLICATION DATE
September 24, 2025

DEADLINE
November 9, 2025 11:59 p.m. AST (Barbados time)

1.0 OBJECTIVE OF THE GRANTS PROGRAMME

The Regional Private Sector Development Programme (RPSDP III), jointly funded by the European Union and the Caribbean Export Development Agency, seeks to foster sustainable and inclusive economic growth and job creation across CARIFORUM by strengthening private sector competitiveness, diversification, and integration into global markets. With a strong emphasis on MSMEs, including women-led, youth-led, rural-based, indigenous-led, and people with disability-led enterprises, the programme prioritizes improving access to finance through the development of bankable projects and expanded financing options, accelerating the green and digital transition to enhance resilience and competitiveness, and expanding trade and investment flows with the European Union under the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). By tackling systemic barriers such as limited access to finance, low digital adoption, and export constraints, RPSDP III is designed to position Caribbean firms as more innovative, resilient, and competitive in both regional and global value chains.

Within this framework, the Green Transition Grant is specifically designed to catalyse the shift of Caribbean MSMEs toward environmentally sustainable and innovative business models by providing targeted financial support for projects that reduce environmental impact, improve resource efficiency, and expand green innovation. Moreover, it is an economic activity that achieves economic or social objectives by positively impacting environmental ones first, as well as consider the 'Do No Significant Harm' (DNSH) principle.

Within the Caribbean context, environmentally sustainable development priorities converge around five (5) key areas:

- Climate change adaptation
- Climate change mitigation
- Sustainable use and protection of the ocean and marine ecosystems/resources
- Transition to the circular economy
- Pollution and prevention control

Therefore, the programme seeks to fund initiatives to positively impact the energy transition such as renewable energy and energy efficiency, sustainable agriculture, provider of green services, the circular economy, the blue economy, nature-based solutions, and green technology solutions, while also supporting the adoption of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards and certifications to ensure long-term sustainability. By promoting inclusion, particularly among women-led, youth-led, and rural-based enterprises, the Green Transition Grant Programme aims to build the competitiveness and export readiness of Caribbean firms in markets committed to sustainability, expand opportunities in regional and global value chains, and position the region as a credible contributor to the global green economy.

2.0 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

2.1 Eligibility of Applicants: Who Can Apply

In order to be eligible for a grant, applicants **must**:

- Be a firm (i.e. sole proprietorship, partnership, or limited liability company) legally registered and operating in a RPSDP III beneficiary country (CARIFORUM + Cuba).
- Be a firm operational for at least two (2) years, supported by financial statements for the last two (2) years (profit and loss statements, cash flow statements, and balance sheet). **Audited financial statements are preferred; if unavailable, statements must be certified by a qualified accountant.**
- Minimum of one year as a going concern.
- Applicant must have an active business bank with financial activity in the past 12 months. Statements are required as evidence.

- v. In the case of a firm, applicants must either be engaged in exporting activities or demonstrate a credible potential to export goods and/or services. This may be shown through existing international clients, market research, partnerships, or evidence that a green transition/business model will enhance competitiveness and enable access to foreign markets.

Applicants **NOT ELIGIBLE** to apply:

- i. Educational institutions such as Universities, Schools, Vocational Centres etc;
- ii. Non-governmental organisations, including but not limited to human rights organisations, social clubs, associations, and charities;
- iii. Business Support Organisations, Investment Promotion Agencies and Trade Promotion Organisations.

2.2 Eligible Projects

Applicants must clearly demonstrate how the proposed activities contribute to the green transition and directly support their firm's strategy to improve environmental sustainability, competitiveness, and export readiness. Projects should not consist of standalone activities but rather form part of a coherent and structured approach to greening operations, enhancing resilience, and positioning the firm to participate in regional and international value chains.

Applicants are not limited to a single eligible area. Projects may incorporate multiple activities across categories, provided they are coherent and collectively advance the firm's green transition, while simultaneously consider the DNSH principle.

These are the areas in which funding will be provided:

i. Energy Transition

Projects that support renewable energy adoption and energy efficiency. Examples include:

- Solar, wind, hydro, or biomass installations.
- Energy efficiency retrofits (e.g., insulation, lighting, efficient cooling systems).
- Energy audits, smart-grid technologies, or engineering/technical consulting services.

ii. Blue Economy

Projects that sustainably harness ocean and coastal resources. Examples include:

- Sustainable fishing and aquaculture practices.
- Eco-friendly coastal and marine tourism.
- Marine renewable energy projects.
- Marine bioprospecting and biotechnology initiatives.

iii. Digital Transformation for Green Innovation

Projects that leverage digital tools to reduce environmental impact or enable new green products and services. Examples include:

- Digital systems for resource and emissions monitoring.
- Technology solutions for waste management, recycling, or circular economy processes.
- Platforms that improve efficiency in green supply chains.

iv. Frugal/Nature-Based Innovation

Projects that use natural ecosystems and processes to address environmental challenges. Examples include:

- Sustainable agriculture and agroforestry.
- Regenerative agriculture, soil improvement, or carbon sequestration.
- Urban greening (e.g., green roofs, urban forests).

v. Circular Economy

Projects that reduce waste and extend product lifecycles. Examples include:

- Repair, refurbishing, reusing, and recycling initiatives.
- Waste-to-energy and industrial symbiosis projects.
- Adoption of biodegradable materials or design for disassembly and reuse.

vi. Sustainable Agriculture

Projects that integrate ecological principles into farming to improve productivity and environmental outcomes. Examples include:

- Organic farming and voluntary sustainable standards certification.
- Precision farming using data and technology.
- Practices that improve ecosystem health and reduce soil degradation.

2.3 Ineligible Projects Expenses

The following types of expenses are **ineligible**:

- Administrative costs/overheads
- Individual scholarships for studies or training courses;
- Travel costs (airfare, hotel and per diems)
- Acquisition of motor vehicles
- Salaries, wages and other human resource expenses
- Debts and provisions for losses or debts;
- Interest owed;
- Items already financed in another framework;
- Purchases of land or buildings, except where necessary for the direct implementation of the project, in which case ownership must be transferred to the final beneficiaries and/or local partners, at the latest by the end of the project;
- Currency exchange losses;
- VAT issued by the Government
- All government imposed custom duties regardless of jurisdiction
- Credits to third parties.
- Any costs incurred outside of the approved grant period
- Commitment Fees
- Bank charges and service charges from beneficiary, intermediary or corresponding banks
- Payments not made through financial institutions e.g. direct cash payments
- Contributions in kind

2.4 Available Funding:

The European Union's contribution is capped at **EUR 100,000** per project and applies only to eligible expenses. While there is no maximum ceiling on the overall project cost, beneficiaries must finance all costs beyond the EU's contribution. This means the EU support may represent up to **60%** of eligible costs, with the beneficiary covering at least **40%** and a greater share as total project costs increases.

Disbursements will be made in **three tranches** over the implementation period of up to 15 months. The first two tranches will serve as advances and the final tranche will be reimbursable at the end of the implementation period.

2.5 Duration of Grant Contract:

The period to execute the project may not exceed **fifteen (15) months from the signing of the Grant Contract. All proposed project activities must be completed within the fifteen (15) month-period.**

3.0 HOW TO APPLY & DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS

3.1 Where to Access Application Form

The official Application Form and Budget template must be downloaded from Caribbean Export's website at www.carib-export.com. **THIS IS THE ONLY SOURCE FOR APPLICATION FORMS AND OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.** All other variations of the application will be declared null and void.

3.2 How to Submit an Application

- i. Applications must be submitted **by email only to: grants@carib-export.com** no later than **November 9, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. AST (Barbados time)**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. This includes the required supporting documents that must accompany each copy of the application form.
- ii. The subject line of the email must read:
"Application -- (BRIDGE Green Transition Grant) - [Name of Company]"
- iii. Applications must include the completed, signed, and dated application form together with the required supporting documents as scanned attachments in PDF (or Word/Excel where applicable).
- iv. File size:
 - If attachments do not exceed **10 MB**, they should be sent directly by email.
 - If the application package is larger than 10 MB, applicants may either:
 - Send the files in multiple emails, labelled clearly (e.g., "Part 1 of 2"), or
 - Submit the package via **WeTransfer** (or a similar secure file transfer service) to the same email address.

v. Required supporting documents:

- Notarised copy of Registration or Certificate of Incorporation.
- Company Bank Statements (last 12 months), certified by the applicant's bank.
- Copy of the applicant's (or lead organization's) latest financial statements (income statement and balance sheet), audited or unaudited, for the last two financial years.
- Where co-financing/cost-sharing applies:
 - Letter of commitment or agreement from the co-financing partner.
 - Proof of funds availability (e.g., bank statement).
 - Signed contracts or MOUs with partners (if applicable).

vi. Caribbean Export will issue an **acknowledgement of receipt email** once the application has been successfully received.

vii. All applications must be submitted in **ENGLISH**.

viii. Applicants must ensure that Section 6, entitled "Applicant Declaration", of the Application Form is signed by the applicant and submitted. Application forms which have not been duly signed will not be considered.

Applicants must also ensure that the Partner's Agreement is signed, if applicable.

ix. All information submitted by the applicant will be treated in a confidential manner.

x. Caribbean Export reserves the right to conduct due diligence on all applications received. This due diligence may be conducted by Caribbean Export and/or a partnering BSO (in the case of a firm) in the applicant's country of domicile to verify the accuracy of their proposal and/or legitimacy of their business. Applications deemed to contain inaccurate/misleading information will be rejected and those applicants will be barred from re-applying to the programme for a period of five (5) years.

xi. Failure to submit the required supporting documentation will result in the application being rejected.

3.3 Deadline of Receipt of Applications

The deadline for this Call is November 9, 2025 @ 11:59 p.m. AST (Barbados Time).

Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted.

3.4 Further information About Applications

Further information can be obtained by contacting Caribbean Export at grants@carib-export.com, all questions must be addressed to this email. Queries made over the telephone or directed outside of the official channel established herein **will not be considered**.

Questions may be sent by e-mail to grants@carib-export.com no later than ten (10) working days before the deadline for the submission of applications.

Caribbean Export has no obligation to provide clarifications to questions received after this date. Replies will be given no later than six (6) working days before the deadline for the submission of applications.

Frequently Asked Questions, together with the answers, will be published on Caribbean Export's website at www.carib-export.com. It is, therefore, advisable to consult the aforementioned website regularly to be informed of the questions and answers published.

4.0 EVALUATION & SELECTION OF APPLICATIONS

4.1 Duration of the Evaluation Process

The duration of the evaluation process is scheduled to be **thirty (30)** working days, commencing the next working day after the deadline date of the Call for Proposals.

4.2 Stages in the Evaluation Process

4.2.1 Receipt and Registration

All applications received for the Call for Proposals will be registered, checked, and assigned a number. Applications having met the deadline are then subjected to an administrative check, which will assess whether they have duly satisfied the Eligibility Criteria for the Call.

4.2.2 Evaluation of Application

The applications will be evaluated by Members of an Evaluation Committee on the basis of the evaluation grid below.

The Evaluation Committee consists of Caribbean Export staff and selected external experts. The assessment of each application is based on the scores obtained under each section of the evaluation grid. The final score is the arithmetic average of the scores given by each member of the Evaluation Committee.

Applications receiving an average score of 70% or more, will be ranked according to their average score. **All ranked applications, though eligible, may not be awarded a grant due to the pre-assigned value of the financial envelope allocated for the Call for Proposals.**

PROPOSAL EVALUATION		MAXIMUM SCORE
1. Financial Capacity		10
1.1	Do bank statements show consistent financial activity (not dormant)?	2
1.2	Is there an upward trend in revenue?	2
1.3	Is profitability improving?	2
1.4	Do current assets exceed current liabilities (positive working capital)?	2
1.5	Is debt reduced or manageable relative to revenue?	2
2. Relevance of the project		40
2.1	Does the project clearly align with the programme's priorities (green transition, export competitiveness, digitalisation, community impact)?	5
2.2	Does the project demonstrate a significant contribution to regional environmental priorities (e.g., GHG reduction, renewable energy, resource efficiency, sustainable materials)?	5
2.3	Will the project result in increased sales and exports, and is the expected percentage of exports clearly identified?	5
2.4	Will the project create employment, and does it specifically address opportunities for women and/or youth?	5
2.5	Does the proposal involve partnership with the EU private sector or academia?	5
2.6	Does the proposal involve cost sharing through third party financing (such as banks, investors or other financial institutions)?	5
2.7	Does the project provide tangible community benefits (e.g. local linkages, improved social or environmental outcomes)?	5
2.8	Is gender equality and inclusion meaningfully integrated into the project design and activities?	5
3. Effectiveness & Feasibility		25
3.1	Is the project plan (activities, timeline, outputs) realistic, coherent, and achievable within the implementation period?	10
3.2	Does the project team have the required qualifications, technical expertise, and experience to successfully deliver the project?	8
3.3	Are the project's assumptions, risks, and mitigation strategies clearly identified and realistic?	7

4. Sustainability of the project		15
4.1	Will the results of the project strengthen competitiveness, efficiency, or environmental performance beyond the grant period?	5
4.2	Can the project be replicated or scaled to other markets, products, or services, and does it have potential demonstration effects for other firms?	5
4.3	Does the project integrate ESG compliance, certifications, or partnerships to ensure long-term resilience?	5
5. Budget and cost-effectiveness of the project		10
5.1	Is the budget template fully completed, with all required supporting documents submitted?	3
5.2	Are the proposed costs realistic, appropriate, and well-justified in relation to the planned activities?	4
5.3	Does the project demonstrate cost-effectiveness and value for money in relation to the proposed interventions?	3
Maximum Total Score		100

4.3 Notification of Caribbean Export's Decision

Applicants will be informed in writing of Caribbean Export's decision to award a grant or their non-selection. **Caribbean Export's decision is final.**

4.4 Award of Grant Contract

Caribbean Export will officially inform applicants that they have been awarded a Grant Contract under the Building Resilient Innovation for Digital & Green Enterprises (BRIDGE) Grant Programme. Following official notification, successful candidates may be contacted directly by Caribbean Export to clarify items listed in their budget before the Grant Contracts are finalised for signature. All grant contracts will then be issued electronically via DocuSign.

ANNEX I

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & IMPACT INDICATORS

Applicants must demonstrate the expected, measurable results of their proposed activities using the indicative Green Transition Indicators relevant to their initiatives. These indicators will form part of both the evaluation and reporting framework. Applicants should select and expand on the indicators most applicable to their project.

Environmental Indicators

- Energy efficiency: kWh saved, renewable vs non-renewable share, GHG emissions reduced (tCO₂e).
- Water efficiency: litres saved, wastewater treated/reused, reduction in water pollution.
- Waste management: % waste reduced, reused, recycled, composted; hazardous waste safely disposed.
- Carbon footprint: total emissions avoided, carbon sequestration (if afforestation/land-use project).
- Biodiversity & land use: hectares restored/protected, number of species preserved or supported.
- Sustainable materials: % of inputs from renewable, recycled, or certified sources.

Economic Indicators

- Cost savings: reductions in energy, water, or material costs.
- Return on investment (ROI): cost-benefit ratio of green interventions.
- Green jobs created: number of jobs, especially in renewable energy, recycling, eco-services (gender disaggregated).

Social Indicators

- Health outcomes: reduced respiratory illness from cleaner air, safer water, safer food systems.
- Awareness & training: number of people trained in sustainable practices.
- Community benefits: households gaining access to clean energy, clean water, sustainable livelihoods.
- Inclusivity: participation of women, youth, indigenous, rural or PWD groups in green jobs/benefits.
- Behavioural change: adoption of sustainable practices by households or organisations.

Governance & Policy Indicators

- Compliance: adherence to environmental laws, regulations, and standards.

Cross-Cutting Indicators (Sustainability Impact)

- Contribution to SDGs (e.g., SDG 7: Affordable & Clean Energy, SDG 12: Responsible Consumption & Production, SDG 13: Climate Action, SDG 15: Life on Land, SDG 14: Life Below Water).
- Resilience: project's ability to withstand climate shocks and market risks.
- Innovation: introduction of new green technologies, circular economy models, or eco-designs.