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# GCF Regional Dialogue with The Caribbean

“Towards a Resilient Caribbean: Advancing Regional  
Solutions for Climate Action, Sustainable Growth and  
Inclusive Development”

## Agenda

17-20 March 2025

Saint Kitts and Nevis

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*Venue: Saint Kitts Marriot Resort, Antigua & Nevis room*

## **DAY 1 – MONDAY, 17 MARCH 2025: HIGH LEVEL DISCUSSIONS AND PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT**

**Master of Ceremony: Marie-Hélène Vanderpool, Subregional Lead for the Caribbean, Green Climate Fund (GCF)**

Time	Topic
08:00–08:45	<b>REGISTRATION</b>
09:00–09:30	<p><b>OPENING SESSION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcoming remarks and opening of the Regional Dialogue – Hon. Terrence Drew, Prime Minister, The Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis</li> <li>• Opening remarks - Mafalda Duarte, Executive Director, GCF</li> </ul>
09:30–10:15	<p><b>SESSION 1.1: HIGH LEVEL FIRESIDE CHAT</b>  <b>Bridging the gap in Climate Finance for Caribbean Resilience and Prosperity through innovation</b>  <b>Moderated by Daniel Best, President, Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hon. Terrance Drew, Prime Minister, The Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis: <i>Energy Security, Food Security, Water Security and Sustainability</i></li> <li>• Hon. Mia Mottley, Prime Minister, The Republic of Barbados: <i>Debt for Climate solutions</i></li> <li>• Mafalda Duarte, Executive Director, GCF</li> </ul>
10:15–11:00	<p><b>SESSION 1.2: SPECIAL PRESENTATION</b>  <b>Caribbean regional initiatives on Debt for Climate, Transport, Energy, and Unlocking Liquidity for Infrastructure investments.</b></p> <p><b>Brief presentation by the GCF: Facilitated by Dev Bissoon, Senior Infrastructure Specialist, DLAC</b>  <b>Interventions by</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hon. Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister, The Republic of Barbados</li> <li>• Mafalda Duarte, Executive Director, GCF</li> </ul>
11:00–11:15	<b>GROUP PHOTO, COFFEE BREAK</b>
11:15–12:00	<p><b>SESSION 1.3: HIGH-LEVEL MINISTERIAL</b>  <b><i>The importance of policy coherence and whole-of-government approaches to climate investment</i></b></p> <p><b>Moderated by Marie-Hélène Vanderpool, Subregional Lead, Caribbean, GCF</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hon. Joyelle Clarke, Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Action and Constituency Empowerment, The Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis</li> <li>• Hon. Konris G. Maynard, Minister of Public Infrastructure Utilities, Transport, Information, Communication and Technology and Post, The Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis</li> <li>• Hon. Mark Brantley, Leader of His Majesty’s Loyal Opposition and the Premier of Nevis</li> <li>• Hon. Michael Joseph, Junior Minister of Environment, Antigua and Barbuda</li> <li>• Hon. Minister Kay McConney M.P, Minister of Economic Affairs and Investment, Minister of Finance, The Republic of Barbados</li> </ul>



12:00–13:00	<p><b>SESSION 1.4: REGIONAL STATE OF PLAY</b> Brief overview of GCF’s public and private sector portfolios and pipeline Presented by Marie-Hélène Vanderpool, Subregional Lead, Caribbean, GCF</p> <p><b>GCF Roundtable on Climate Finance</b> Partnership for country-led climate investment</p> <p><b>Moderated by Kristin Lang, Regional Director, Latin America and the Caribbean, GCF</b></p> <p><b>Participants and Questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Dev Bissoon, Senior Infrastructure Specialist, Caribbean Subregion, GCF</b> <i>GCF has now been reorganized with a regional focus. GCF wants to be a partner of choice for country-led climate action. Recently all countries in the Caribbean have received the names of their respective GCF focal point in the Secretariat. Can you explain the role of the GCF focal points and importance of country led strategies?</i></li><li>• <b>Nonhlanhla Zindela, Head of Accreditation and Entity Relations, GCF</b> <i>Many Caribbean islands are exploring country platforms. What is the difference between a GCF country program (GCF 1) and GCF support for country platforms? Why the change? How can GCF support such platforms and why can they play a role in mobilizing climate investment?</i></li><li>• <b>Krishna Krishnamurthy, Climate Impact Specialist, GCF</b> <i>How can the NDC and NAP targets translate into sector priorities? What does the data tell us about the region? Translating NDC and NAP targets into sector priorities:</i></li><li>• <b>Ivette Velasquez Crespo, Climate Investment Specialist, GCF</b> <i>How does GCF mobilize the private sector to help support the country’s priorities? What are areas of the enabling environment where GCF can play a role?</i></li></ul>
13:00–14:00	<b>LUNCH</b>
14:00–14:15	<p><b>SESSION 1.5: PRIVATE SECTOR SESSION</b> Opening Remarks: Daniel Best, President, Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)</p>
14:15–16:15	<p><b>SESSION 1.6: PRIVATE SECTOR ROUNDTABLE</b> Objective: Unlocking Private Capital Flows in the Caribbean: Creating an Enabling Environment Key Trends, Challenges and Opportunities for Private Capital Mobilization in the Caribbean Region Presentation by Ivette Velasquez Crespo, Climate Investment Specialist, GCF</p> <p><b>Panel Roundtable</b> Moderated by Ivette Velasquez Crespo, Climate Investment Specialist, GCF</p> <p><b>Key Discussion issues:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How the private sector evaluates projects (bankability)</li><li>• Key policies and regulatory barriers for climate investment in the region: examples energy and water sectors</li><li>• Examples of new and emerging policies and frameworks in the region that can be emulated by others</li><li>• Scope for harmonizing investment policies for creating regional asset classes to drive large scale investments at a scale and rate needed for the regions</li><li>• Successful examples of financial innovations, business models, etc. from other regions /SIDs</li><li>• GCF modalities /support for mobilizing private capital</li></ul>



	<p><b>Participants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adeola Moore, CEO, St. Christopher Air &amp; Sea Ports Authority (SCASPA)</li><li>• Simon Dent, Outrigger Impact</li><li>• Natalie Bibby, Corporate Sustainability Specialist, ANSA McAL Limited</li><li>• Peter Compton, Republic Bank (Grenada)</li></ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>
16:15–16:30	<b>BREAK</b>
16:30–17:45	<p><b>SESSION 1.7: PUBLIC SECTOR ROUNDTABLE:</b> <b>The Catalytic Role of Public Sector Development Banks in Channeling climate finance in SIDS</b></p> <p><b>Moderated by: Dev Bissoon, Senior Infrastructure Specialist, GCF</b></p> <p><b>Participants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Derek Gibbs, Climate Finance Specialist, Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)</li><li>• Edison Galbraith, General Manager, Channels, Relationships and Marketing (CRM), Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ)</li><li>• Cornelius Sidonie, Managing Director, Saint Lucia Development Bank (SLDB)</li><li>• Dave Munroe, Deputy Managing Director, Bahamas Development Bank (BDB)</li><li>• Rodinald Soomer, CEO, CARICOM Development Fund (CDF)</li></ul>
17:45–18:00	<p><b>WRAP-UP DAY 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Key take aways day 1 - Kristin Lang, Regional Director, Latin America and the Caribbean, GCF</li><li>• Closing – Mafalda Duarte, Executive Director, GCF</li></ul>
19.00–20.30	<b>WELCOMING DINNER FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS</b>



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## DAY 2 – TUESDAY, 18 MARCH 2025

# GCF OPERATIONAL MODALITIES: FACILITATING ACCESS TO CLIMATE FINANCE

Time	Topic
08:45–09:00	Recap Day 1 and objectives of Day 2 Kyial Amanbek, Regional Analyst, Caribbean, GCF
<b>SCHEDULED BILATERALS IN DESIGNATED ROOMS</b>	
09:00–10:00	<p><b>SESSION 2.1: READINESS</b></p> <p>The Revised Readiness Strategy as a Strategic tool for Building Climate Investment Pipelines</p> <p>Presentation by Cayetano Casado Guillamon, Subregional Lead, Latin America Subregion, GCF</p> <p><b>Readiness Modalities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Country Programmes</li> <li>DAE Support Window</li> <li>GCF Expert Placement Scheme</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>
	<p>★ <b>READINESS WALK IN CLINIC</b></p> <p>★ <b>BUDGET AND FINANCE WALK-IN CLINIC</b></p> <p>★ <b>CLIMATE, THEORY OF CHANGE (ToC), INVESTMENT CRITERIA WALK-IN CLINIC</b></p> <p><i>Clinics will be taking place in room Saint Lucia throughout days 2 and 3</i></p>
10:00–11:00	<p><b>SESSION 2.2: READINESS ROUNDTABLE</b></p> <p>Lessons Learned to Shape Future Readiness Success</p> <p>Moderated by Folasade Ayonrinde, Portfolio Management Specialist and Candace Leung-Woo Gabriel Portfolio Management Officer, Caribbean Subregion, GCF</p> <p><b>Panel:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Giselle Myers, NDA, Saint Vincent and Grenadines</li> <li>Leroy Martinez, NDA, Belize</li> <li>Rochelle Newbold, NDA, Commonwealth of the Bahamas</li> <li>Schmoi McLean, NDA, Jamaica</li> </ul> <p>(1) Good Readiness design based on sector prioritization  (2) Driving innovative solutions  (3) Achieving measurable climate impact  (4) Lessons learned: What can be improved  (5) How to use Readiness to prioritize</p>
11:00–11:15	<b>BREAK</b>



11:15–12:15	<p><b>SESSION 2.3: ACCREDITATION REFORM</b>  <b>Presentation by Nonhlanhla Zindela, Head of Accreditation and Entity Relations, GCF</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National priorities and nominating the right entity for project design</li> <li>• “Coming in at the right level” for ambitious and effective programming</li> <li>• Compiling a strong record of accomplishments and evidence to establish the entity track record</li> </ul> <p><b>Insights on accreditation and an approach for the Caribbean region</b>  <b>Presentation by Nlicia Lara, Caribbean Subregion, GCF</b></p> <p>Q&amp;A</p>
12:15–13:30	LUNCH
13:30–15:00	<p><b>SESSION 2.4: SUCCESS STORIES – THE ROAD FROM ACCREDITATION TO PROGRAMMING</b></p> <p><b>Moderated by Marie-Hélène Vanderpool, Subregional Lead for the Caribbean, GCF and Nonhlanhla Zindela, Head of Accreditation and Entity Relations, GCF</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Institutional Accreditation: A Vehicle for Ambitious Climate Programming:</i></b> Roxanne Donegan, Programme Manager, Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ)</li> <li>• <b><i>The Accreditation Level Upgrade: Unleashing Climate Ambitions and Enhancing Impact:</i></b> Derek Gibbs, Climate Finance Specialist, Accreditation upgrade: Caribbean Development Bank, (CDB)</li> <li>• <b><i>Success beyond accreditation:</i></b> Diane Wade-Moore, Head, Project Development and Management Department, Caribbean Climate Change Community Centre (CCCCC)</li> <li>• <b><i>Pre-accreditation collaborations, partnerships and building a track record for GCF:</i></b> Natasha Joseph, Business Support and Development Officer, Grenada Development Bank (GDB) accreditation.</li> <li>• <b><i>Repurposing Accreditation to meet the needs of the region:</i></b> Eugene Williams, Resource Mobilization Officer, CARICOM Development Fund</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>
15:00–15:20	BREAK
15:20–17:20	<p><b>SESSION 2.5: SIDS-ALIGNED APPROACHES TO CLIMATE INVESTMENTS IN KEY SECTORS</b></p> <p><b>Introduction by Folasade Ayonrinde, Portfolio Management Specialist, Caribbean Subregion, GCF</b></p> <p><b>SIDS Approach in Climate Investments</b>  <b>Presentation by Rochelle Newbold, Special Advisor on Climate Change &amp; Environmental Matters, Office of the Prime Minister, Barbados (TBC)</b></p> <p><b>SIDS Roundtable: Moderated by Marie-Hélène Vanderpool, Subregional Lead, Caribbean Subregion, GCF</b></p> <p><b>Participants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Auren Manners, NDA, The Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis</li> <li>• Michael Savarin, NDA, The Commonwealth of Dominica</li> <li>• Peron Johnson, NDA, Grenada (TBC)</li> <li>• Nadia Wells-Hyacinth, NDA, Saint Lucia</li> <li>• Nonhlanhla Zindela, Head of Accreditation and Entity Relations, GCF</li> <li>• Cayetano Casado Guillamon, Subregional Lead, Latin America, GCF</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>
17.20–17.30	<p><b>WRAP-UP DAY 2: Key takeaways</b>  <b>Presented by Nlicia Lara, Caribbean Subregion, GCF</b></p>



## DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY 19 MARCH 2025 – FUNDED ACTIVITIES

Time	Topic
08:50–09:00	<p>Recap Day 2 and objectives of Day 3 Min Soo Kim, Regional Officer, Caribbean Subregion, GCF</p>
<b>SCHEDULED BILATERALS IN DESIGNATED ROOMS</b>	
09:00–11:00	<p><b>SESSION 3.1: CONCEPT NOTE DEVELOPMENT: Climate Narrative and Theory of Change</b> <b>Presentation by</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kyung Chul Lee, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Latin America Subregion, GCF</li> <li>• Krishna Krishnamurthy, Climate Impact Specialist, Latin America Subregion, GCF</li> </ul> <p><b>The key elements to be included in Concept Note – Climate Narrative and Theory of Change</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Climate Narrative (Group exercise by themes)</li> <li>• Development of Theory of Change (Group exercise by themes)</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>
11:00–11:15	<b>BREAK</b>
11:15–12:15	<p><b>SESSION 3.2: GCF Operational Safeguard requirements and overview of new tools to support Accredited Entities (AEs)</b></p> <p><b>Key Sustainability Policy Requirements and Decision Tree Approach and Assessment Tools: Helping our Partners to build higher quality Concept Notes and Funding Proposals</b></p> <p><b>Presentation by James Williams, Sustainability and Inclusion Manager, GCF</b></p> <p>Key Discussion issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of GCF sustainability policy requirements</li> <li>• Key roles and responsibilities of AEs</li> <li>• Guidance to build high quality CNs and Funding Proposals (FPs)</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>
12:15–13:30	<b>LUNCH</b>
13:30–15:30	<p><b>SESSION 3.3: CONCEPT NOTE DEVELOPMENT (Cont'd)</b></p> <p><b>Theme 1: Evolving from CN to full Funding Proposal: Development, appraisal, and approval</b></p> <p><b>Presentation by</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dev Bissoon, Senior Infrastructure Specialist, Caribbean Subregion, GCF</li> <li>• Patricia Yossianty Sonata, Financial Management Specialist, Funded Activities, Caribbean Subregion, GCF</li> </ul> <p><b>FUNDING PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Preparation Facility (PPF)</li> <li>• The elements of a viable Funding Proposal</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• FP Modalities: The Simplified Approval Process (SAP)</li><li>• The Proposal Approval Process “the regular FP” (PAP)</li><li>• Finance (budget structure, financial terms and conditions)</li><li>• Funded Activities Agreement (FAA) and the Term Sheets</li></ul> <p><b>Theme 2: Project Implementation and Adaptive Management: Lessons learned and guidance from project implementation</b></p> <p><b>Presentation by</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Folasade Ayonrinde, Portfolio Management Specialist, Caribbean Subregion, GCF</li><li>• Patricia Yossianty Sonata, Financial Management Specialist, Funded Activities, Caribbean Subregion, GCF</li></ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>
15:30–15:50	<b>BREAK</b>
15:50–16:50	<p><b>SESSION 3.5: Bolstering Interlinkages between Climate Technology and Finance: Synergies between Technology Mechanism and Financial Mechanism of the UNFCCC</b></p> <p><b>Moderated by Candace Leung-Woo Gabriel, Portfolio Management Officer -GCF &amp; Capacity Building and Network Engagement Specialist, (CTCN)</b></p> <p>The session, will focus on enhancing the linkage between the TM and FM by offering an opportunity to for NDEs and NDAs to jointly foster stronger collaboration with key GCF stakeholders (i.e. AEs, EEs) from the region, as well as highlighting the importance of considering NDC under update, previous/recent TNA and TAPs through the GCF’s various schemes and raise awareness of the intersections between technology components of countries’ GCF projects/programs and their national strategies under the Convention.</p>
16:50–17:00	<p><b>WRAP-UP DAY 3: Key take aways</b></p> <p><b>Presented by Dev Bissoon, Senior Infrastructure Specialist, Caribbean Subregion, GCF</b></p>





## DAY 4 – THURSDAY, 20 MARCH 2025 – REGIONAL DIALOGUE OUTCOMES

Moderator: Marie-Helene Vanderpool, Subregional Lead for the Caribbean, GCF

Time	Topic
09:00–09:15	<p><b>General Recap (Brief Dialogue overview)</b>  <b>Folasade Ayonrinde, Portfolio Management Specialist, Caribbean Subregion, GCF</b></p>
<b>SCHEDULED BILATERALS IN DESIGNATED ROOMS</b>	
09:15–10:15	<p><b>SESSION 4.1: LOCALLY LED CLIMATE ACTION (LLCA)</b>  <b>Presented by Ramona Calin, Locally Led Climate Action Specialist, GCF</b></p> <p>GCF’s LLCA approach focuses on mechanisms for devolving funding decision-making to local stakeholders. It incorporates the Enhanced Direct Access (EDA) modality, which channels funding to sub-national projects via funding facilities. LLCA strives to empower local actors to play a role in project design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation.</p> <p>Questions to be addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does locally led action look like in the Caribbean?</li> <li>• How can GCF Readiness and Funded Activities support such efforts?</li> </ul> <p>Participants, TBC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Astrel Joseph, NDA Haiti, TBC</li> <li>• Ms. Cristina Coc, Indigenous Peoples Organization</li> </ul>
10:15–10:30	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
10:30–11:30	<p><b>SESSION 4.2 REGIONAL DIALOGUE CLOSING PLENARY</b></p> <p><b><u>Option 1:</u> PRESENTATION OF THE CARIBBEAN REGIONAL DIALOGUE OUTCOME STATEMENT: The Caribbean Resilience Roadmap</b>  <b>Presentation by the Government of The Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis for endorsement by NDAs</b>  <b>-OR-</b>  <b><u>Option 2:</u> PRESENTATION OF CARIBBEAN REGIONAL DIALOGUE OUTCOMES</b>  <b>Presentation by the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis</b></p>
11:30–12:15	<p><b>SIGNING CEREMONY</b>  <b>Presided by Kristin Lang, Regional Director, Latin America and the Caribbean, GCF</b></p>
12:15–13:30	<b>LUNCH</b>



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13:30–15:30	<p><b>TRADE AND BUSINESS FORUM:</b> Coordinated by the Caribbean Export (CE)</p> <p><b>Roundtable: The Private Sector, Trade and the Green Transition in the Caribbean</b> Moderated by Mr. Damie Sinanan, Executive Director, Caribbean Export</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Republic Bank of Grenada</li><li>• CARICOM Development Fund</li><li>• Caribbean Development Bank</li><li>• Jamaica Social Investment Fund</li><li>• Belize Development Finance Corporation</li><li>• Dev Bissoon, Senior Infrastructure Specialist, GCF</li><li>• Ivette Velasquez Crespo, Climate Investment Specialist, GCF</li><li>• St. Kitts entrepreneurs, MSMEs</li></ul> <p><b>Purpose of event:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Showcase green entrepreneurship and trade opportunities in the Caribbean</li><li>• Business-to-Business consultations (venues to be provided for B2B bilats)</li></ul>
19:00–21:00	<p><b>CLOSING RECEPTION FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS</b> <i>Venue of the reception: Carambola Restaurant</i></p>

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