

**The CBF's Ecosystem-based Adaptation Facility:  
Building Resilience and Reducing Risk for Caribbean People to Climate Change  
through Natural Resources Management and Ecosystem Services**

**Fondo de Adaptación al Cambio Climático del Fondo Caribeño para la Biodiversidad:  
Construyendo Resiliencia y Reduciendo Riesgo ante el Cambio Climático  
de las Comunidades del Caribe a través de la Gestión de los Recursos Naturales  
y los Servicios Ecosistémicos**

**Fonds pour l'Adaptation aux Changements Climatiques du Fonds des Caraïbes pour la  
Biodiversité: Renforcer la Résilience et Réduire les Risques pour le Changement  
Climatique des Communautés des Caraïbes Grâce à la Gestion des Ressources Naturelles**

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**EXTENDED ABSTRACT**

This paper highlights the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF), its Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) Facility and the link with the Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI) for collaborative action to assist communities to adapt to the effects of climate change through sustainably managing the Caribbean's marine and coastal natural resources.

The Caribbean contains some of the world's richest marine and terrestrial biodiversity (Roberts et al. 2002). The ecosystems and accompanied biodiversity are major contributors to the region's economies, food security and water supply. Local communities, the majority of whom live in coastal areas, are direct beneficiaries both in terms of livelihoods and quality of life. However, the Caribbean region's natural resources and people are under growing threat from climate change and unsustainable development. This region, especially its sixteen Small Island Developing States (SIDS), is among the world's most vulnerable to climate change risks, as defined by both exposure to extreme or harmful climatic events, and by the vulnerability of the communities exposed to these events. The key climatic conditions that increase exposure in the Caribbean coastal zone are:

- i) More intense (and possibly more frequent) hurricanes and other extreme climate events,
- ii) (ii) sea level rise,
- iii) sea surface temperature rise,
- iv) ocean acidification, and
- v) increasing drought conditions. (Caribbean Climate Change Centre 2009).

Vulnerability to risk depends on the social, economic, political and cultural conditions of communities living in coastal zones.

EbA can be among the most cost-effective approaches to address climate risk. (GIZ 2018). EbA is defined by the Convention of Biological Diversity as "the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall adaptation strategy to help people to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change" (CBD 2009). Ecosystem services reduce risk by both reducing exposure to extreme or harmful climatic events, and by reducing a community's social, economic, political and cultural vulnerabilities. The rich marine, coastal and terrestrial ecosystems of the Caribbean, its coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass beds, beaches, coastal wetlands, rainforests, and upland forests, provide a wide range of ecosystem services, including provisioning, regulating, cultural, and supporting services that enhance climate adaptive capacities (Peterson et al. 2014).

The CCI and CBF are partnership initiatives to assist in providing solutions to these problems. Established in September 2012, the CBF is a regional environmental fund whose objective is to provide a sustainable flow of funds to support activities that contribute to the conservation, protection and maintenance of biodiversity in the Caribbean.

The CBF's original concept is linked to the establishment of the CCI. Launched in 2008 at the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP-9) the CCI has two goals (i) The 20-by-20 Goal: In each participating country and territory, to effectively conserve and manage at least 20% of the marine and coastal environment by 2020; (ii) The Sustainable Finance Goal: To achieve the '20 by 20' Goal, to have in place fully functioning sustainable finance mechanisms that will provide long-term and reliable funding to conserve and sustainably manage the marine and coastal resources and the environment in each participating country and territory. The CBF's endowment fund, which currently stands at US\$43 million, works in partnership with independent National Conservation Trust Funds. In addition to its endowment fund, and in partnership with the German government through KfW, the CBF established a US\$26.5 million EbA Facility as a sinking fund. This facility will assist eligible countries, to help people to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change through the restoration and use of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

With a focus on the marine and coastal zone, the goal of the EbA Facility is to help people in coastal communities in select Caribbean SIDS adapt to climate change by funding EbA projects that reduce climate risks (exposure and vulnerability) by restoring, maintaining or improving ecosystem services at an appropriate scale to reduce those risks (Chatenoux and Wolf 2013). Based on the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD-DAC) list, eligible Caribbean countries are: Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. In exceptional circumstances, additional Caribbean countries may receive support through their participation in multi-country projects involving other eligible countries.

The CBF's EbA Facility has identified a range of potential partners to assist in implementation through grant agreements. These include government departments / agencies, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, conservation trust funds, private sector companies and academia. It is anticipated that the first set of grants will be issued in mid-2019 following a selection process initiated through a public call for proposals released in late 2018.

KEYWORDS: Climate change, EbA, resilience

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