

Project brief: “Supporting the conditions for a climate-compatible circular economy in the Caribbean”

Project title	Supporting the conditions for a climate-compatible circular economy in the Caribbean
Overall objective	The institutional and operational framework for implementing a climate-sensitive circular economy in the Caribbean has been improved.
Budget	Up to 4,000,000 EUR
Duration	From 07/2025 – 06/2028 (3 years)
Geographical focus	St. Lucia, Grenada, Dominica, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Additional countries are Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti and Montserrat that are part of the KfW project “Instruments for the sustainable financing of marine conservation in the Caribbean”.
Lead executing entity	CARICOM
Project approach	National strategies and legislation for implementing the 2030 Agenda already include elements of waste reduction and circular economy in the Caribbean, yet there is considerable potential for stronger regional cooperation, targeted support for private sector initiatives and comprehensive training opportunities, both in-person and digital. Combining these efforts with systematic gender inclusion and the replication of successful pilot projects, particularly in the tourism sector, can play a key role in advancing an inclusive, resource-efficient and future-oriented circular economy in the Caribbean. In response to these challenges, the project aims to strengthen the institutional and operational capacities of public and non-public actors to implement circular economy measures in the Caribbean. The project will support pilot initiatives, build professional and technical skills, promote regional cooperation, and develop communication tools to raise awareness. It seeks to unlock impacts and the potential of the circular economy as a strategy to reduce waste, mitigate climate impacts, and contribute to sustainable economic development in the region. It will therefore encourage the establishment of links between the private sector, municipalities and environmental authorities. Workshops, pilot projects and policy advisory services help to close material cycles and establish system solutions. The project’s awareness-raising measures embed circular economy principles, encourage initiative and accelerate innovative waste management approaches. These measures include management training, public information campaigns and practical examples of best practice. The project also works closely together with the “Advancing the Circular Economy Facility” (ACE Facility), which is supported by the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) and financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) through KfW. The facility paves the way for projects in the Caribbean that promote a circular economy. The

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	project supports state and non-state organisations in developing funding applications under the ACE Facility. Training, advisory services and dialogue enable the organisations to enhance their technical and strategic expertise.
Target group	The waste problem and climate change affect the entire population in small island states. On the one hand, they suffer from the consequences of climate change and the increasing waste problem, while on the other hand the negative consequences for economic development affect all inhabitants. The target group is therefore the entire population of the countries addressed, totaling around 4.2 million people, 50% of whom are women. These include vulnerable people living in poverty (approx. 28%), older people, children and pregnant women, whose livelihoods are directly threatened by the increasing volume of waste and climate change. To reach the above-mentioned target group, the project addresses both state and non-state actors in the partner countries as intermediaries. Intermediaries are experts and managers of the national waste and environmental authorities and municipal waste management companies in the partner countries. Other intermediaries are representatives of the private sector, who are supported in the implementation of circular economy approaches. In order to contribute to the equal participation of women in the sector, special attention is paid to female specialists and managers. Through the intermediaries, the inhabitants of the partner countries are reached, who benefit from improved climate-sensitive waste and recycling management and a reduction in the associated environmental impact, regardless of age, gender and social status. The project pays particular attention to the inclusion of vulnerable people working in waste collection and separation (in line with the "Leave No One Behind" (LNOB) principle of the 2030 Agenda).
Implementing partner(s)	The implementing partner is the Directorate Economic Integration, Innovation & Development (EIID) of the CARICOM-Secretariat. Downstream partner structures are exchange platforms at regional level (e.g. on the topic of wastewater and sanitation) and regional associations such as regional tourism and agricultural associations as well as the exchange platforms that already exist under CARICOM on the topics of water, circular economy and climate, through which experts and government representatives are already exchanging information, but so far hardly on the topic of circular economy. There is a lack of appropriate expertise and structure to discuss and help shape the topic of climate-sensitive circular economy at regional level. At national level, the partners are primarily the environmental and waste authorities of St Lucia, Grenada, Dominica, Jamaica, St Vincent and the Grenadines, which are responsible for drawing up waste and climate legislation and plans. These partners lack the planning and technical capacity to design plans and legislation in line with a climate-sensitive circular economy. At local level, local authorities and waste management companies are important stakeholders. The project also addresses local entrepreneurs and involves civil society actors. These partners lack specialist expertise and capacities in waste management and the circular economy as well as tried-and-tested, promising approaches to implementing a circular economy.

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Results Matrix: “Supporting the conditions for a climate-compatible circular economy in the Caribbean”

Objectives	Indicators	Sources and date of data collection
Outcome Closing the material cycle: Improving the institutional and operational capacities of state and non-state actors for the implementation of a climate-friendly circular economy in the Caribbean.	Outcome Indicator 1 Selected organizations have submitted 7 high-quality funding applications for the implementation of pilot measures in the field of climate-sensitive circular economy to the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund's ideas competition. Baseline: 0 funding applications Target value: 7 funding applications	Evaluation of the project documentation and the documentation of the selection process with regard to the selection of the funding applications submitted. Selected organisations are organisations that have applied for funding from the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund and that have received technical and process advice from GLZ in the second round of preparing their funding application in order to optimise the proposals for the impact of the planned measures in terms of promoting the circular economy and their contribution to climate protection. Organisations can be, for example, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), state and municipal institutions and companies in the Caribbean (in St. Lucia, Grenada, Dominica, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines). High quality means that the applications fulfil the criteria relevant to the selection process as defined by KfW and the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, e.g. intended impact, fulfilment of formal criteria, level of ambition, relevance, etc. Pilot measures are considered "climate-sensitive" if they take into account the effects of climate change in the project concept and make a defined contribution to climate adaptation or mitigation. Date of survey: end of project
	Outcome Indicator 2 40 companies in Caribbean countries (including 9 with women in leadership positions) from the agriculture or tourism sectors have implemented measures for a climate-sensitive circular economy. Base value: 20 companies, including 4 with women in management positions (already implementing measures) Target value: 40 companies, including 9 with women in management positions	Evaluation of the documentation of the measures implemented in the companies (differentiated by women and men in management positions and by country), e.g. operational waste separation, use of recycled materials or adaptation of operational processes with regard to a climate-sensitive circular economy in agriculture and tourism. To analyse the respective measures and company processes, analysis of the companies' reporting with regard to waste generation, environmental management, circular business management, strategy for achieving goals towards a climate-sensitive circular economy. Measures are considered implemented if they are integrated into the standardised company processes in a documented manner. With regard to "climate-sensitive", see module objective indicator 1. Time of survey: annually

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	Outcome Indicator 3 6 countries in the Caribbean shared the results of one implemented approach each for a climate-sensitive circular economy via regional exchange formats. Base value: One country with one approach each (until now, apart from St. Lucia, hardly any experience has been shared on the implementation of circular economy approaches). Target value: 6 countries with 1 approach each	Analysis of the documentation of the contents of the experiences shared via regional exchange formats with regard to the results of the implemented approaches, topics of the exchange of experiences such as transferability of experiences to other islands, challenges and solutions, success factors, etc. as well as the number of participating state and non-state actors (e.g. experts and managers of state institutions or companies) from St. Lucia, Jamaica, Grenada, Dominica, St. Vincent. Results of implemented approaches for a climate-sensitive circular economy can be, for example, new incentive systems for recycling, digital management solutions in the waste and circular economy, facilities for the recycling of materials, etc., which were implemented by state actors or companies. Regional exchange formats include CARICOM's thematic working groups on the circular economy, such as those that already exist for water and wastewater. Survey date: annually	
Objectives	Indicators	Examples of key activities for outputs	Assumptions
Output 1 The technical and planning capacities for the implementation of pilot projects in the field of climate-sensitive circular economy have been strengthened among selected organisations in the Caribbean.	Output indicator 1.1 12 selected organizations have developed pilot project concepts in the field of climate-sensitive circular economy within the framework of the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund. Baseline: 0 organizations Target: 12 organizations Output indicator 1.2 Representatives of 12 selected organisations supported by the project have confirmed that the feasibility of the pilot projects within the framework of the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, including their expected contribution to climate change mitigation, has significantly increased. Baseline: 0 organizations Target value: 12 organizations	Conducting workshops with the selected organisations to design funding applications, which also advise on the integration of the gender dimension in the respective applications Expert support for applicants for funding applications on the content and political positioning of the pilot projects Conducting feasibility and other studies on the implementation of a climate-sensitive circular economy by the applicants in relation to supported projects Technical and organisational advice to the selected organisations on the implementation of the selected projects Monitoring and evaluation of the supported projects and applicants	A sufficient number of funding applications (at least 20) for the climate-sensitive circular economy are submitted. The economic viability of the approaches and project proposals used for the FC programme is ensured, also in view of the small populations of the island states. The implementation of the FC programme, the calls for proposals and the preparation take place within the planned timeframe. Sufficient interest in the topic of climate-sensitive circular economy is generated among representatives of the private sector and the general public so that they take up the offers accordingly.

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Output 2 The technical and human resource capacities for implementing circular economy approaches at the national level have been strengthened.	Output indicator 2.1 Six approaches for improved sector-specific implementation of a climate-sensitive circular economy, developed within multi-stakeholder partnerships of private and public actors in six countries, have been coordinated. Baseline: 1 approach in 1 country (so far, only a coordinated concept in St. Lucia for recycling polyethylene terephthalate (PET)) Target value: 6 approaches in 5 countries Output Indicator 2.2 200 professionals in the field of circular economy, including 50 women, who participated in training measures, have confirmed that they are now better able to perform their tasks related to implementing the circular economy. Baseline: 100 skilled workers, including 20 women (who have already received training in the partner countries through other measures) Target value: 200 skilled workers, including 50 women	Advice on organising dialogue formats between public and private stakeholders on the climate-sensitive circular economy Analysing the need for further training in the national waste authorities and among private stakeholders, for women and men, in the climate-sensitive circular economy Development of plans for training and further education in the national waste authorities and among private stakeholders in the climate-sensitive circular economy Implementation of education and training formats in the national waste authorities and among private stakeholders on climate-sensitive circular economy	The private sector and the state actors involved have the necessary interest in cooperating in the implementation of a circular economy. The private sector is interested in circular economy solutions and cooperation with state institutions in the field of circular economy and the population in approaches to waste prevention, separation and recycling. The political opinion leaders support the objectives of the measures. The countries are interested in expanding regional cooperation on waste and recycling management.
Output 3 The planning and technical capacities of national waste authorities to promote a climate-sensitive circular economy have been strengthened.	Output indicator 3.1 5 national waste authorities have each submitted a concept for an incentive system to promote a climate-sensitive circular economy at the national level for adoption. Baseline: 1 concept from 1 national waste authority (currently, only Saint Lucia has such a concept) Target value: 1 concept each from 5 national waste authorities Output indicator 3.2 50 technical and managerial staff from national waste authorities, including 15 women, who participated in digital training sessions on planning and technical aspects of implementing a climate-sensitive circular economy, have each confirmed with an example that they were able to apply the skills they acquired during these trainings to the implementation of measures. Baseline: 10 specialists and managers, including 3 women	Advising national authorities on the development of incentive schemes to promote circular practices Advising national authorities on the development and introduction of innovative systems (organisational and technical solutions based on digital tools) in waste management Organising digital events for national waste authorities and private stakeholders to implement a climate-sensitive circular economy with a focus on gender equality	Political decision-makers in the countries support the designed incentive systems. The national waste authorities are adequately staffed. The technical requirements for digital activities are in place. Staff continuity in the partner institutions guarantees the sustainable implementation of the activities.

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	(to date, one regional event on the topic of circular economy organized by a regional organization) Target value: 50 specialists and managers, including 15 women, each with 1 example		
Output 4 Actors in the circular economy are better informed about climate-sensitive circular economy practices.	Output Indicator 4.1 500 managers from the agriculture and tourism sectors, including 120 women, were informed about approaches for improving climate-sensitive circular economies in their sectors. Baseline: 100 managers, including 20 women Target value: 500 managers, including 120 women Output Indicator 4.2 Three cross-border digital awareness campaigns on options for action to implement a climate-sensitive circular economy by the private sector or private households have achieved a total of 50,000 page views. Baseline: 0 page views (no page views, as no regional digital awareness campaigns are currently being conducted) Target value: 50,000 page views from 3 transnational awareness campaigns	Conception and development of sector-specific information campaigns for private stakeholders on the topic of the circular economy, with the aim of disseminating tried-and-tested approaches in a targeted manner Organising consulting and information events for companies in cooperation with industry associations Development, planning and implementation of gender-sensitive digital awareness-raising campaigns for private stakeholders on the topic of the circular economy Developing suitable, gender-sensitive digital and multimedia formats in collaboration with regional, national and municipal stakeholders	The private and public actors provide the necessary information on their activities in the climate-sensitive circular economy as well as data on economic activities, waste generation, waste management, level of knowledge of employees, etc. The target group is sufficiently willing to adapt existing consumption and behaviour patterns as well as current waste management and recycling practices.