

Project Brief: Green and Blue Skills Project

Fight against climate change with a specific focus on qualifying in the Caribbean States

The Challenge

Climate change and environmental pollution are dismantling the ecological foundations of the Eastern Caribbean, threatening the livelihoods of people in Saint Lucia, Dominica, Grenada, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. As Small Island Developing States (SIDS), these nations rely on climate-vulnerable sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, and tourism, while facing high import quotas and limited manufacturing capacity. The existing technical and vocational education and training (TVET) systems are unable to supply the skilled workforce needed for a transition to a sustainable, climate-resilient green and blue economy. Without a workforce qualified in green and blue sectors such as renewable energy, waste management, sustainable marine practices, climate-responsive agriculture, and sustainable tourism, the region remains trapped in a cycle of environmental and economic vulnerability. At the same time, these skills gaps contribute to high youth unemployment, low women's labour force participation, and joblessness among young men without school-leaving qualifications. Furthermore, limited employment prospects drive emigration of highly qualified workers.

The transition to a sustainable, climate-resilient green and blue economy offers new employment opportunities and a vital path toward resilience and diversification. The lack of a qualified, certified workforce in green and blue skills, however, remains the primary bottleneck for regional transformation.

Project name	Fight against climate change with a specific focus on qualifying in the Caribbean States - "Green & Blue Skills Project"
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Eastern Caribbean: Saint Lucia, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Lead executing agency	Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
Duration	01.07.2025 – 30.06.2028

Objective

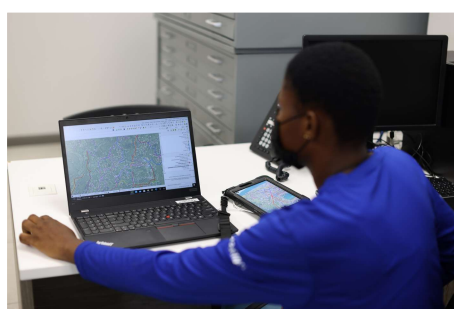
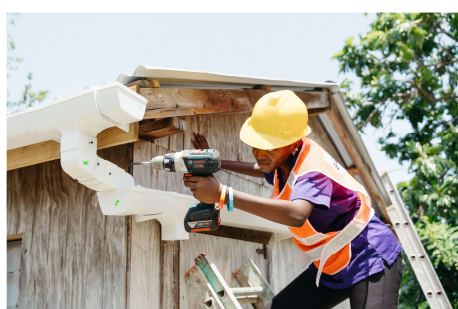
The project aims to strengthen the planning and organisational capacities of TVET systems in SIDS in the Eastern Caribbean. It seeks to enable these systems to offer recognised training programmes and award certifications that are aligned with current and emerging employment opportunities in a sustainable green and blue economy.

Our Approach

The Green and Blue Skills Project strengthens and modernizes TVET systems in the Eastern Caribbean by enhancing institutional planning and organisational capacities at the national and regional level. It supports the development and regional recognition of climate-relevant green and blue economy qualifications, promotes cross-country learning and institutional dialogue, and builds capacities across individuals and organisations to improve young women's and men's access to decent jobs in sustainable, climate-friendly sectors.

Specifically, the programme works across the following key areas and activities within the green and blue economy:

- **Skills Needs and Labour Market Insights**
 - Analyse existing skill gaps and training needs in green and blue sectors as per labour market demand
 - Facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogue to align training with employment demand
 - Develop strategic recommendations for Ministries of Education and training institutions
 - Strengthen institutional capacity to design future-oriented green and blue skills strategies



L.: Youth building rainwater harvesting systems in Grenada, January 2026

R.: Youth conducting GIS-Mapping in Grenada, September 2019



L.: Female engineer in Grenada, September 2025

R.: Hydroponic system in Grenada, August 2025

➤ **Modernized and Recognised Qualifications**

- Support adaptation and development of nationally and regionally recognised green and blue standards and curricula including digital learning material
- Train vocational specialists, managers and trainers to deliver high-quality, climate-relevant training
- Facilitate the accreditation of green and blue qualifications as Caribbean Vocational Qualifications (CVQs)

➤ **Gender-Responsive Employment Pathways**

- Support organizations to deliver targeted training and career guidance for vulnerable youth and women
- Strengthen capacities for the provision of gender-responsive employment promotion
- Scale up and enhance development and implementation of youth entrepreneurship promotion programmes in a sustainable green and blue economy

➤ **Regional Knowledge Exchange**

- Support regional exchange forums for training institutions to share good practices
- Facilitate peer learning opportunities about green and blue skills development among national stakeholders
- Promote learning partnerships to advance green and blue economy skills and employment

Association of National Training Authorities (CANTA) to harmonize TVET standards and ensure regional labour mobility as well as quality assurance

- **National partners:** Ministries of Education in the four partner SIDS and national TVET councils responsible for local coordination and governance of vocational education and training
- **Training institutions:** Community colleges, technical schools, and other public, non-profit or private providers co-designing and delivering industry-aligned curricula and creating direct pathways to internships and high-value green and blue jobs
- **Private Sector:** Chambers of commerce and shipping, industry associations and individual businesses contributing to skills development by identifying labour market needs, supporting curriculum development, and providing internships and employment opportunities in sustainable sectors

Strategic Partners and Stakeholders

The project operates through a multi-layered partnership network, including:

- **Regional partners:** the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) as political executing agency, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission and the Caribbean

Impact Roadmap: Tracking Progress

Progress will be tracked by using selected indicators such as:

- National development strategies of 3 of the project countries include targets for training for green and blue employment
- 600 young people (at least 250 women) trained for employment in the green and blue economy
- 80 women and 140 vulnerable young people confirming the usefulness of gender-responsive employment promotion measures
- 8 green and blue training measures implemented and recognized by CANTA

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