

# Closing the Caribbean Plastic Tap

**Sustainable Small Grants Programme (SSGP)**

**08 December 2025**

**Melissa Johnson**  
**Rosemarie Wuite**



Ministero degli Affari Esteri  
e della Cooperazione Internazionale



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## Webinar

# Introducing the Sustainable Small Grants Program

*Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts  
and Nevis, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines*



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# AGENDA

## 10:00 – 10:10 | Welcome & Opening remarks (Melissa)

- Introduction to the CCPT project and webinar objectives
- Importance of MSMEs, women, and youth in circular economy transition

## 10:10 – 10:20 | Overview of the Sustainable Small Grants Program (Rosemarie)

- Program objectives and impact areas
- Eligible grantees and priority sectors
- Key performance indicators (KPIs)

## 10:20 – 10:30 | Grant structure & application process (Rosemarie)

- Grant tiers, funding ranges, and duration
- Eligibility criteria and evaluation scoring
- Reporting requirements by tier

## 10:30 – 10:40 | Practical guidance for applicants (Rosemarie)

- Examples of promising livelihood opportunities
- Tips for strong proposals and monitoring plans
- Clarify application steps and deadlines

## 10:40 – 10:55 | Interactive poll: your learning needs (Rosemarie)

- Participants will answer quick questions:
  - What is your biggest challenge in implementing circular solutions?
  - What topics do you want more guidance on?
    - (i.e.: project scope, application process, project design, reporting, monitoring & evaluation, financial management)
- Results shared live to tailor Q&A and follow-up resources

## 10:55 – 11:00 | Closing remarks (Melissa)

- Closing remarks
- Reminder to register for the webinar on 22 January
- Contact information for support

# Closing the Caribbean Plastic Tap

## Project Presentation



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# Closing the Caribbean Plastic Tap: Project overview

- **Plastic Waste Free Islands (PWFI)**
  - **4-year initiative:** 2019-2023
  - **6 islands** in the Caribbean and the Pacific (ANU, SLU, GND)
  - **3 sectors:** tourism, fisheries, waste management
  - **General objective:** demonstrate effective and quantifiable solutions for plastic waste generation and leakage from Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

# Methodology



# PWFI- Outcome deliverables

## **1. Improved knowledge of waste generation among target islands**

- 3 national quantification reports
- 1 regional quantification report

## **2. Increased policy effectiveness to reduce Plastic waste generation and leakage**

- 3 national assessments on plastic waste management policies
- 3 national economic sector analysis on the impacts of plastic waste pollution on marine ecosystems

## **3. Plastic waste reduction measures adopted by the tourism, fisheries and waste management sectors through alternative value chain development**

- 9 concept solutions for recyclable plastics and alternative value chains
- 5 business plans, 3 prototypes
- 4 pilots for 3 solutions, 4 case studies
- Deplastify tool

## **4. PWFI Blueprint endorsed by regional SIDS bodies**

- Guide to address and reduce plastic waste leakage in any island around the world.

# Closing the Caribbean Plastic Tap: Project overview

- **3-year initiative:** 2023-2026
- **5 islands in the Eastern Caribbean:** Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Kitts and Nevis
- **3 sectors:** tourism, fisheries and waste management
- **Overarching goal:** implement effective and social inclusive solutions to advance circular economy and address plastic waste leakage in target Small Island Developing States (SIDS).



## Outcome 1: Identified solutions for recyclable polymers in project countries implemented

1.1. Advancing the circular economy agenda for recyclable polymers in all project countries

1.2 Undertake the business and economic case assessment for SKN, SVG

1.3 Develop new job opportunities at local community level relating to plastics waste management.

1.4 Key stakeholders from government, private sector, and civil society from SKN, SVG demonstrate demand responsive solutions to plastic waste.

## Outcome 2: Non-Recyclable Polymer Solutions implemented for project countries

2.1 Application of the Most Suitable Technology  
Tool for Non-Recyclable Polymers in all project  
countries

2.2. Sensitization and Capacity building on  
Non-Recyclable Polymers

## Outcome 3: Advance policy/legislative actions for effective management of plastics and plastic waste at national and regional levels.

3.1 Implement at least one legislative/policy recommendation presented under the PWFI program

3.2 Regional actions taken on the PWFI Blueprint towards a Zero Waste Strategy

## Outcome 4: Improved knowledge of plastic footprint among target islands

4.1 Improved knowledge and awareness on plastic and plastic waste challenges in Caribbean SIDS

4.2 Increased communication among key sectors on plastics and plastic waste in target countries

4.3 Complete capacity building activities for women, youths and community groups on plastic management



# Webinar Objectives

1. Introduce the Sustainable Small Grants Program (SSGP)
2. Clarify eligibility and grant structure
3. Explain application and reporting requirements
4. Highlight priority focus areas
5. Build capacity for successful proposals
6. Engage participants, understand their learning needs, and address questions



## SSGP – Grant objectives

- 1) Support effective, inclusive, and scalable solutions to reduce plastic waste leakage
- 2) Build a circular economy by fostering financially viable initiatives that prevent plastic waste, and encourage recycling
- 3) Empower local communities, with a focus on women, youth, and micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), to enhance economic opportunities through plastic waste solutions



# Eligible grantees

## Eligible grantees

Priority: Micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (**MSMEs**), with priority given to community-based, women- and youth-led MSMEs.

Also invited to apply:

- Community-based organizations (CBOs)
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- Cooperatives, associations
- Schools
- Informal groups with demonstrated community engagement

**5 OECS countries:** Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

## MSMEs 1-250 employees

- **Micro enterprises:** <10 employees
- **Small enterprises:** <50 employees
- **Medium enterprises:** <250 employees
- Examples across the value chain

Enterprise Size	Raw Material Producers & Converters	Brands and Retailers	Waste Management
<b>Micro (&lt;10 employees)</b>	Small plastic packaging retailers, suppliers of fishing nets	Street/beach vendors and retailers	Informal waste collectors
<b>Small (&lt;50 employees)</b>	Alternative material start-ups	Hotels and restaurants	Waste aggregators and processors
<b>Medium (&lt;250 employees)</b>	Producers of (fish) packaging and cooling materials	Food and beverage brands, tourism chains	Recycling plants

## Grant focus areas:

### PREVENTION & INCLUSION

- ✓ **Upstream and midstream:** interventions emphasizing reuse, reduction, and circularity
- ✓ Scalable actions that **prevent plastic waste generation** in the first place and **extend the lifecycle** of plastic materials
- ✓ Scalable actions that **increase the recyclability and actual recycling rates** of plastics

#### Priority sectors

- Waste Management
- Fishery
- Tourism
- Retail
- HoReCa
- Public sector



# Upstream & downstream

## UPSTREAM SOLUTIONS

- **Focus:** Prevent plastic waste before it is created.
- **Exemplary actions:**
  - Establish (**community-based**) **refill stations** for household and personal care products, managed by women- or youth-led MSMEs.
  - **Produce and distribute locally-made reusable shopping bags or food containers**, engaging young people and women in both manufacturing and sales.
  - **Develop eco-friendly packaging solutions** for local fisheries and agricultural products
  - **Implement reusable container exchange programs** for food vendors, coordinated by youth groups or MSMEs.

## MIDSTREAM SOLUTIONS

- **Focus:** Keep plastic in use through recycling
- **Exemplary actions:**
  - **Scale bottle-to-bottle recycling**, i.e.
    - Operate bottle **collection and/or sorting points**, partner with hotels and tourism operators, and offer mobile pickup services.
    - Manage inter-island **aggregation and pooled transport services** to regional recycling hubs or overseas markets.
  - **Scale waste-to-product initiative\***, i.e.
    - Lead **local plastic collection** and sorting services
    - **Produce recycled plastics** into marketable goods such as furniture or construction materials.

\* Rotomoulded products are considered less viable for on-island production due to their high-tech and capital-intensive requirements

## Key definitions

- **“Reduce”** i.e. making packaging material smaller or lighter, using alternative packaging materials
- **“Reuse”**: packaging is designed to be used multiple times, in a system for reuse, for the same purpose
- **“Refill”**: a system where packaging is designed to be refilled with the same product, either at home or at a designated location
- **“Recyclable plastics”**:
  - designed for recycling, and
  - made from polymers that can be technically processed into new products using existing or locally adaptable infrastructure (i.e. PET, HDPE, PP), and
  - for which there is a viable end-market within the island or regional context

# Example projects

## Plastic waste free islands

### CONCEPT SOLUTIONS



1. Bottle-to-bottle recycling



4. Fishery solutions:  
Net-to-net recycling



7. Non-food  
Dispensing system



2. Reusable PET water  
bottles from bottling  
company (25x reuses)



5. Fishery solutions:  
Reusable  
fish packaging



8. Waste-to-product



3. Reusable water bottles  
at hotel



6. Reusable food  
containers



9. Circular B2B logistics

# Grant size, Application approach, Duration

Total grant envelope: \$ 400,000. Equal distribution of \$80,000 per country			
Tier	Grant size	Application approach	Maximum duration
Small/Medium	\$30,000–\$80,000	2 staged: concept note + full proposal	Up to 12 months
If a country does not have enough eligible applicants to reach its allocation, any remaining funds may be reallocated by reviewing strong proposals from other participating countries, ensuring the full program budget is effectively utilized.			

## Two tracks

### A. Technical innovation & Plastic waste prevention

- Focus: High-impact, scaling solutions that reduce plastic use and improve recycling systems.
- Evaluation emphasis: Technical and environmental KPIs, local ownership.

### B. Community Inclusion & Livelihoods

- Focus: Inclusive, community-led initiatives that build capacity and promote behavioral change.
- Evaluation emphasis: Social KPIs, community ownership, equity

# Eligible grantees, priority sectors, KPIs

## Eligibility criteria

- **Legal registration or status** in one of the participating countries
- Project must **align with SSGP objectives** and focus areas
- **Budget appropriate** for proposed activities and within grant limits
- Demonstrated **relevant experience** and leadership diversity (women/youth in leadership roles encouraged)
- **Strong monitoring, evaluation, and reporting capabilities**
- **Commitment to inclusivity**, targeting women, youth, and marginalized groups

## Evaluation scoring

Criteria	Track A: Technical innovation & plastic leakage reduction	Track B: Community inclusion & livelihoods
Alignment with program objectives	15%	15%
Environmental impact (plastic leakage reduction), and potential for upscaling	30%	15%
Social inclusion, community engagement, behavioral change	15%	30%
Feasibility and applicant capacity	20%	20%
Monitoring, evaluation, learning	10%	10%
Budget clarity and value for money	10%	10%

*Bonus points for both tracks are awarded to proposals that demonstrate strong leadership by women or youth.*

# Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Numbers that show if your project is making the impact you promised

Specific | Measurable | Achievable | Relevant | Timely

✓ Make sure you meet KPI1 (the primary KPI) plus at least one additional KPI that aligns with your project objectives

## Objective 1: Support effective, inclusive, and scalable solutions to reduce plastic waste leakage

- **KPI 1:** Volume (in tons) of plastic waste diverted as a direct result of funded projects
- **KPI 2:** # of scalable solutions to prevent plastic waste

## Objective 2: Build a circular economy by fostering financially viable initiatives that prevent plastic waste, and encourage recycling

- **KPI 3:** # of circular economy business models or initiatives established or expanded
- **KPI 4:** # of new or improved products made from recycled plastics

## Objective 3: Empower local communities, with a focus on women, and youth-led MSMEs, to enhance economic opportunities through plastic waste solutions

- **KPI 5:** # of women, youth, and MSMEs directly benefitting from grant-supported livelihood activities
- **KPI 6:** % increase in income or employment opportunities for targeted beneficiaries
- **KPI 7:** # of capacity-building workshops or trainings delivered, and participants reached (disaggregated by gender and age)



# Reporting requirements

Reporting Frequency	Required Reports	Financial Reporting	Payment Schedule
Every 6 months	Two progress, one final report + check-moments by email	Financial report with each submission	Two or three installments (contingent on reporting) .TBC in RfP

# Practical guidance for applicants

## Tips for strong proposals

- ✓ **Clearly outline objectives**, activities, outcomes, and sustainability, and **align with Program Objectives**
- ✓ **Focus on plastic waste prevention, circular solutions, and community empowerment** (especially women, youth, MSMEs); target upstream/midstream interventions (reuse, reduction, circularity).
- ✓ Show **measurable impact**, linked to program KPIs
- ✓ Prioritize **sectors**: tourism, fisheries, waste management, retail, HoReCa, public sector
- ✓ Meet **eligibility criteria**
- ✓ **Complete all required forms**: proposal, budget, work plan, monitoring plan.
- ✓ Show **potential for replication or scale-up**
- ✓ **Women- and youth-led initiatives** score higher!

## Application steps & deadlines

### Application Steps

- ✓ **Review** the Request for Proposals (RFP)
- ✓ **Prepare your proposal** using the provided templates (project narrative, budget, work plan, monitoring plan)
- ✓ Compile **supporting documents** (proof of legal status, organizational profile, leadership composition, financials)
- ✓ **Submit** your application via email as per the RfP
- ✓ Receive **confirmation** and await evaluation results

### Deadlines

- ✓ Call for Proposals **opens**: End of February 2026
- ✓ Submission **deadline**: To be confirmed in the official announcement (check the [IUCN website](#) for updates)
- ✓ Project **completion**: All funded projects must finish by August 1, 2027



# Frequently Asked Questions – 1/2

<b>Q: What are common challenges from participants in implementing circular plastics solutions?</b>	A: Common challenges include securing public buy-in for alternatives, a lack of incentives, limited resources, gaps in enabling policies and enforcement, and dependencies on imports.
<b>Q: Do all KPIs need to be met?</b>	A: No, not all KPIs need to be met. At least one KPI # 1 (Volume (in tons) of plastic waste diverted as a direct result of funded projects) must be achieved, and you can add other relevant KPIs depending on your project proposal.
<b>Q: Will templates be provided?</b>	A: Yes, all necessary templates for the application process will be provided. This includes the application form, budget form, and reporting template.
<b>Q: What is the budget size per proposal?</b>	A: The budget for each proposal ranges from USD 30,000 to USD 80,000. There is a total of USD 80,000 available per island.
<b>Q: How does the Program complement or align with other regional initiatives such as PROMAR, especially in areas like marine litter, sargassum, and circular-economy development?</b>	A: The program is designed to align with and complement regional initiatives. Collaboration and knowledge sharing with initiatives like PROMAR, UNDP / GEF Small Grants Program, Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) – ACE Facility, OECS Regional MSME Matching Grants Program – Window 2, Antigua & Barbuda Entrepreneurial Development Program (EDP), Mercy Corps – Strengthening Economic Growth in the Caribbean (SCEG), and Inter-American Development Bank (IDB): Compete Caribbean – Blue Economy Fund (Tourism & Fisheries), are encouraged to maximize impact and avoid duplication of efforts.
<b>Q: Is there scope for integration or co-benefits across programs?</b>	A: Yes, there is scope for integration and co-benefit across programs. Applicants are encouraged to design projects that create synergies with other initiatives, leveraging resources and expertise to enhance outcomes for all stakeholders.
<b>Q: Will the program support full value-chain solutions—collection, sorting, processing, and product innovation—given that small islands often lack basic recycling infrastructure?</b>	A: Yes, the program supports proposals that address the full value chain, including collection, sorting, processing, and product innovation. Projects that help establish or strengthen circular-economy models in small island contexts are especially encouraged.

## Frequently Asked Questions – 2/2

<p><b>Q: Can projects involve TVET institutions, schools, and youth groups in hands-on innovation, skills training, and product development using recycled plastics? And will these be seen as competitive strengths during evaluation?</b></p>	<p>A: Yes, projects that involve TVET institutions, schools, and youth groups in practical innovation, skills training, and product development are encouraged. And partnerships among community groups, MSMEs, government agencies, and educational institutions are encouraged. However, only women- and youth led MSMEs will be awarded with bonus points during evaluation.</p>
<p><b>Q: How flexible is the program regarding cross-island collaboration within the OECS?</b></p>	<p>A: The program is flexible and supports cross-island collaboration within the OECS, specifically between the 5 target SIDS. Projects that foster regional cooperation and share best practices are welcomed.</p>
<p><b>Q: Can proposals involve shared models, shared technology, or shared training to overcome the limited waste volumes and economies of scale in micro-states?</b></p>	<p>A: Yes, proposals that incorporate shared models, technology, or training to address challenges related to small waste volumes and economies of scale in micro-states are encouraged.</p>
<p><b>Q: Does the program include safeguards to ensure that genuine private-sector actors—especially those with proven capacity and a track record of responsible environmental work—are not blocked by administrative gate-keeping at the national level? And how does the program differentiate between committed private-sector partners and entities that only pursue grant funding without delivering real impact?</b></p>	<p>A: The program includes measures to ensure fair access for genuine private-sector actors with demonstrated capacity and a record of responsible environmental work. The evaluation process places emphasis on track record, capacity, and commitment to impact, helping to distinguish between committed partners and those seeking funding without delivering real results.</p>



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# We look forward to receiving your proposal!

Feel free to reach out if you have a question

**Contact:** [mellissa.johnson@iucn.org](mailto:mellissa.johnson@iucn.org)

Next webinar: 22 January 2026, 10:00 - 11:00 am EST



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