Caribbean Development Bank

Media Briefing Kit

INNOVATE. TRANSFORM. THRIVE.

SEPTEMBER 2026

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ABOUT THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) is a multilateral development bank owned by, and working for, the countries of the Caribbean. Since 1970 we have financed development across 19 Borrowing Member Countries, building schools and clinics, major roads and ports, and coastal defences that protect communities from a changing climate. We also invest in the people and institutions behind them, from young entrepreneurs and creative businesses to the public services citizens rely on every day.

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Item	Detail
Full Name	Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)
Established	Established by an Agreement signed in 1969; entered into force in 1970
What It Is	The Caribbean's only indigenous multilateral development bank, created by the Region, for the Region
Headquarters	Wildey, St. Michael, Barbados Country office in Pétion-Ville, Haiti
Mission	Reducing poverty and transforming lives through sustainable, resilient and inclusive development
Ethos	Innovate. Transform. Thrive.
President	Mr. Daniel M. Best
Total Membership	28 Countries
Borrowing Member Countries	19 Anguilla Antigua and Barbuda The Bahamas Barbados Belize British Virgin Islands Cayman Islands Dominica Grenada Guyana Haiti Jamaica Montserrat Saint Kitts and Nevis Saint Lucia Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Suriname Trinidad and Tobago Turks and Caicos Islands

Item	Detail
Regional, Non-Borrowing Members	4 Brazil Colombia Mexico Venezuela
Non-Regional, Non-Borrowing Members	5 Canada China Germany Italy United Kingdom
Credit Ratings	Aa1 Stable (Moody's) AA+ Stable (S&P Global Ratings) AA+ Stable (Fitch Ratings)
Total Assets, Ordinary Capital Resources	USD 2.22 billion as at 31 December 2025
Special Funds Resources Under Management	USD 1.39 billion
Approvals, 2025	USD 464.6 million, a 50% increase on 2024
Disbursements, 2025	USD 429 million, 30% more than 2024
Current Strategy	Transforming the Caribbean for Resilience: The 10-Year Strategy 2026–2035, approved by the Board in February 2026
Ten-Year Financing Ambition	Approximately USD 6 billion 2026-2035, including about USD 5 billion from Ordinary Capital Resources
Governance	Board of Governors (highest policy body) Board of Directors (19 Directors: 14 regional and 5 non-regional), chaired by the President

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STRATEGIC FOCUS AND OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

The Strategic Plan 2026–2035

In February 2026, CDB's Board approved a ten-year Strategic Plan running to 2035, the most significant repositioning in the Bank's 55-year history. It argues that the Caribbean's development challenge has outgrown the scale at which it has been financed, and that the Region's own bank must grow to meet it. The President has called this the Caribbean's decade of decision.

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THE CHALLENGE

CDB estimates that between 2024 and 2033 the Region needs roughly USD 65.2 billion to prevent economic stagnation. Achieving genuine resilience, including climate adaptation, stronger infrastructure and fiscal buffers, could double that figure. On climate alone, the Region requires approximately USD 14 billion a year and currently mobilises less than a tenth of it. Meanwhile, official development assistance is falling and concessional finance is harder to access. The premise of the Strategic Plan is that the decade ahead cannot be financed or governed at yesterday's scale.

THE RESILIENCE FRAMEWORK

The Strategic Plan is built on an integrated Resilience Framework with three interconnected pillars:

01

SOCIAL RESILIENCE: the ability of people, households and communities to withstand shocks and still advance. The focus is reliable access to essential services, reducing extreme poverty, and social protection that is responsive, inclusive and grounded in dignity.

02

ECONOMIC RESILIENCE: the capacity of economies to absorb shocks while sustaining inclusive growth. The focus is diversification and competitiveness, delivered through climate-resilient infrastructure, strong fiscal systems, digital connectivity, secure food systems, a vibrant cultural sector and a private sector driving greener, innovation-led growth.

03

ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE: described by the President as existential for the Caribbean. The focus is a nature-positive, climate-resilient, low-carbon Region where environmental stewardship supports prosperity and reduces risk.

Delivery is concentrated in three operational priorities, and every intervention is designed and viewed through three lenses.

Operational priority	What it means in practice
Investing in Youth	Roughly half the Region's population is under 30, a demographic advantage as global labour markets age, and currently an underused one. Youth unemployment across the Region, excluding Haiti, stood at 17.6% in 2024, and 24% of 15 to 24-year-olds are not in education, employment or training. CDB's investments expand skills, entrepreneurship and pathways into decent work, and position young people as drivers of development rather than beneficiaries of it.
Strengthening Institutions	Resilient societies depend on capable, accountable institutions. Procurement delays, fragmented implementation and weak fiscal management routinely slow development. This is the gap between plans that are financed and results that are delivered. CDB works on service delivery, policy frameworks, fiscal and procurement systems, and the digitisation of public administration.
Accelerating Climate Action	In under a decade, five Category 5 hurricanes have stress-tested CDB's Borrowing Member Countries, most recently Hurricane Melissa in 2025. Disasters from natural hazards cost Caribbean countries an average of 2% of GDP a year, and roughly twice that in the Eastern Caribbean. CDB is committing at least 30% of total financing and 35% of Special Development Fund financing to adaptation and mitigation.

The three cross-cutting themes are **Gender Equality, Innovation and Digital Transformation,** and **Regional Cooperation and Integration**. They are not separate programmes; they are design and delivery principles applied to everything the Bank does.

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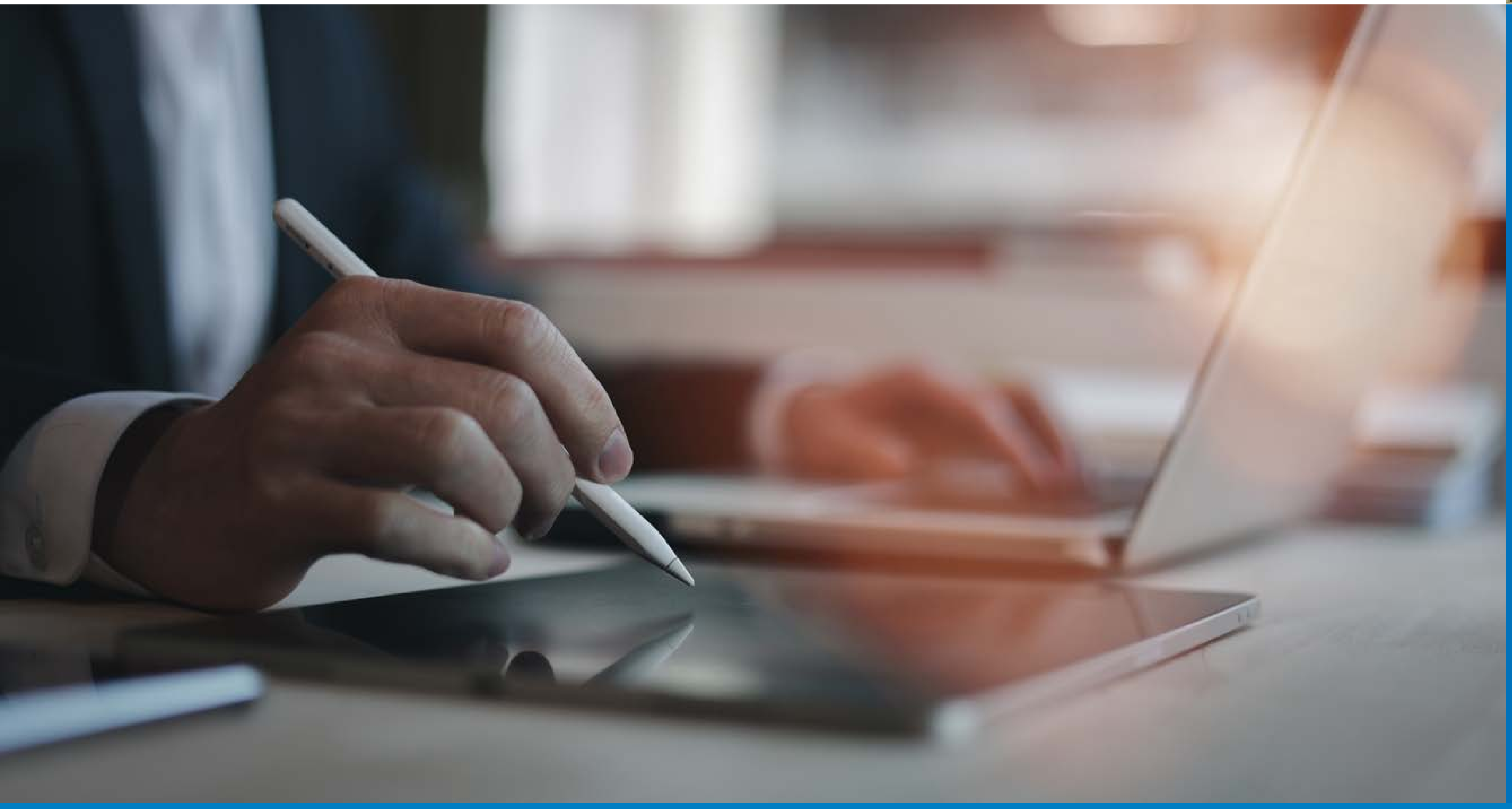
HOW THE BANK IS TRANSFORMING

Implementing the Strategic Plan will also impact internal reform. It commits CDB to a client-centric operating model with deeper country engagement and Country Engagement Strategies that are regularly reviewed; a new Corporate Results Management Framework that measures outcomes rather than outputs, counting students benefiting from better education rather than classrooms built, and that reduces reported indicators from 75 to 30; a workforce analysis and organisational culture assessment; a modernised policy framework and pipeline management system to accelerate delivery; and a substantially expanded private sector operation under a new Private Sector Financing Framework.

It also commits the Bank to establishing the CDB Academy as a platform for capacity building and knowledge exchange.



HAITI

Haiti is the only fragile state among CDB's Borrowing Member Countries and receives a differentiated treatment. The Bank is upgrading its Haiti Country Office to strengthen in-country presence and responsiveness, and is scaling up resources across three areas: social stability and resilience, including education and community development; rebuilding economic foundations through MSME development, food security and renewable energy; and environmental resilience, including disaster risk management and continued support for Haiti's CCRIF SPC premiums so the country retains access to immediate liquidity after a disaster.

3

WHAT MAKES CDB DIFFERENT

We are the only one of our kind

CDB is the sole indigenous multilateral development bank serving the Caribbean. Founded in the era of the Region's independence movement, it was among the first regional institutions created to give form to a shared Caribbean vision, and it remains the only institution with both the mandate and the reach to work across the entire Caribbean. Other institutions have Caribbean departments. The Caribbean has a bank.

PROXIMITY PRODUCES SPEED AND FIT

Being headquartered in the Region, staffed by the Region and governed by the Region means CDB understands small-state realities as lived conditions rather than as case studies. That shows up as faster, more adaptive, more people-centred responses: in the Eastern Caribbean banking failures of 2011 to 2013, during COVID-19, after Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017, Beryl in 2024 and Melissa in 2025.

WE CONVENE, AND WE ARE TRUSTED TO

CDB sits between governments, development partners, the private sector and civil society, aligning policy dialogue, financing and implementation. It provided early support for the CARICOM Single Market and Economy and for the Caribbean Court of Justice. When Hurricane Melissa struck Jamaica, CDB worked with CAF, the IDB Group, the IMF and the World Bank Group to mobilise a USD 6.7 billion recovery and reconstruction package within weeks.

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WE ARE A KNOWLEDGE INSTITUTION, NOT ONLY A LENDER

CDB generates regional data, research, and evidence that inform policy decisions and development priorities across the Caribbean. Through flagship publications, economic analysis, and development research, the Bank provides trusted insights that help shape national, regional, and global conversations on issues affecting its Borrowing Member Countries.

FINANCIAL STRENGTH THAT TRANSLATES INTO REGIONAL CAPACITY

CDB's ratings, prudent capital management and balance sheet optimisation work convert into lending headroom for its members. Innovative approaches to finance including a CHF 100 million capital raised on the Swiss market, a USD 450 million Exposure Exchange Agreement with the Central American Bank for Economic Integration, and a USD 200 million guarantee approved by the Board in June 2026, are among the mechanisms by which the Bank will finance more schools, more grids and more coastal defences.

4

PROGRAMMES

CDB delivers much of its work through programmes designed to respond to specific development needs across its Borrowing Member Countries, many of them in partnership with regional and international partners.

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POVERTY, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

BASIC NEEDS TRUST FUND (BNTF)

What It Is: CDB's flagship poverty reduction programme, providing grant financing directly to vulnerable communities. It has operated for more than four decades. Its tenth cycle delivered 92 subprojects across nine participating countries. An eleventh cycle was approved in 2025 with a commitment of USD 53.6 million, to be implemented over four years across ten countries: Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname.

What It Changes: BNTF is how the Bank reaches communities that no other financing instrument reaches: the school, the clinic, the water connection, the access road in places too small to attract commercial investment or too remote to be a national priority. It is grant money, not debt, which means the poorest communities are not asked to borrow their way out of poverty.

Find out more. [Basic Needs Trust Fund]

SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (SDF)

What It Is: The Special Development Fund is CDB's largest pool of concessional financing and its principal instrument for reducing poverty and advancing human development. SDF 11, the current cycle, is a USD 460 million programme running from 2025 to 2028 which will finance interventions in climate action, social protection, education, water and sanitation, citizen security, food security and poverty reduction and community development.

What It Changes: SDF is the instrument that allows CDB to lend on terms Caribbean countries can carry, and to fund the work that no commercial return would ever justify. It is how the Bank responds to the Region's most pressing challenges while laying the foundation for long-term sustainable growth: the classroom, the water system, the social safety net, the disaster preparedness measure that is in place before the storm arrives. The increase from USD 383 million to USD 460 million between cycles is a measure of partner confidence in what the Fund delivers. This fund is also the primary enabler of development work being undertaken in Haiti.

Find out more. [Special Development Fund 11]

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FUTURE LEADERS NETWORK (FLN)

What It Is: A network convening emerging leaders aged 18 to 35 from across CDB's Borrowing Member Countries. The FLN contributed to consultations that shaped the Strategic Plan 2026–2035.

What It Changes: In addition to leadership training and professional development opportunities, the FLN gives young Caribbean people a formal route into regional decision-making. With roughly half the Region's population under 30, it is the mechanism by which CDB's youth priority becomes participation rather than provision.

Find out more. Future Leaders Network

CLIMATE, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

SUPPORTING RESILIENT GREEN ENERGY (SURGE)

What It Is: A programme supporting capital investments and complementary technical assistance to accelerate the transition to a more sustainable, resilient and gender-equitable energy sector.

What It Changes: The Caribbean pays among the highest energy costs in the world, averaging around USD 0.25 per kWh, more than twice the United States average. This is largely because of imported fossil fuel dependence. SuRGE helps Caribbean countries build cleaner, more reliable energy systems so people can benefit from lower energy costs, stronger protection against climate impacts, and a more sustainable future for generations to come.

Find out more. SuRGE Programme

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SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN (SEEC)

What It Is: A multi-donor trust fund and grant facility assisting Eastern Caribbean countries with energy security.

What It Changes: SEEC lets CDB work at the sub-regional scale where energy solutions actually make economic sense, as markets too small individually to justify the investment can be viable when approached together.

Find out more. [Sustainable Energy for the Eastern Caribbean]

CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT PREPARATION FUND (CC PPF)

What It Is: A fund helping Borrowing Member Countries prepare climate-resilient projects to investment-ready standard. It became fully operational in 2025.

What It Changes: This addresses the least understood bottleneck in climate finance. The constraint is often not the availability of money but the shortage of prepared, bankable projects to absorb it. CC PPF is how a country moves from a plan to a proposition a financier can fund.

Find out more. [Climate Change Project Preparation Fund]

CARIBBEAN ACTION FOR RESILIENCE ENHANCEMENT (CARE)

What It Is: A five-year, EUR 14 million initiative funded by the European Union supporting disaster risk management and climate resilience across CDB's Borrowing Member Countries.

What It Changes: CARE lets CDB work upstream of disaster on the preparedness, and community-level resilience to minimise the impact of climate and weather events.

Find out more. [CARE Programme]

CARIBBEAN REGIONAL ELECTRICITY GRID INTERCONNECTION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY SCALING INITIATIVE (CREGI-RES)

What it is. Launched in June 2026, CREGI-RES is examining whether linking the electricity grids of Caribbean countries, and trading power between them, could make renewable energy more affordable and reliable across the Region. Forming part of CDB's Accelerated Sustainable Energy and Resilience Transition 2030 Framework, it will deliver a roadmap identifying the most promising interconnection opportunities.

What it changes. Many Caribbean countries depend on imported fossil fuels and have grids too small to develop renewable energy at scale alone. CREGI-RES lets countries rich in renewable resources supply their neighbours, while countries with fewer options gain access to cleaner, more affordable power than they could generate on their own, building a more secure, lower-carbon regional energy system through cooperation.

Find out more. [CREGI-RES]

PRIVATE SECTOR, TRADE AND ENTERPRISE

CDB PROPEL

What It Is: Launched in July 2026, PROPEL supports the development of the Region's micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, transforming how CDB delivers MSME support across the Caribbean.

What It Changes: MSMEs are where most Caribbean people work. PROPEL lets the Bank reach them at scale, with finance, capacity building and market access, rather than through one-off interventions.

Find out more. CDB PROPEL

SHETRADES CARIBBEAN HUB

What It Is: A resource centre for women entrepreneurs in the Region. In 2025 it supported over 1,300 women-owned businesses through training, market access and technical assistance.

What It Changes: Barriers to women's participation are among the identified drags on Caribbean productivity. By growing businesses, SheTrades lets CDB address this challenge with an economic intervention rather than only a social one.

Find out more. SheTrades Caribbean Hub

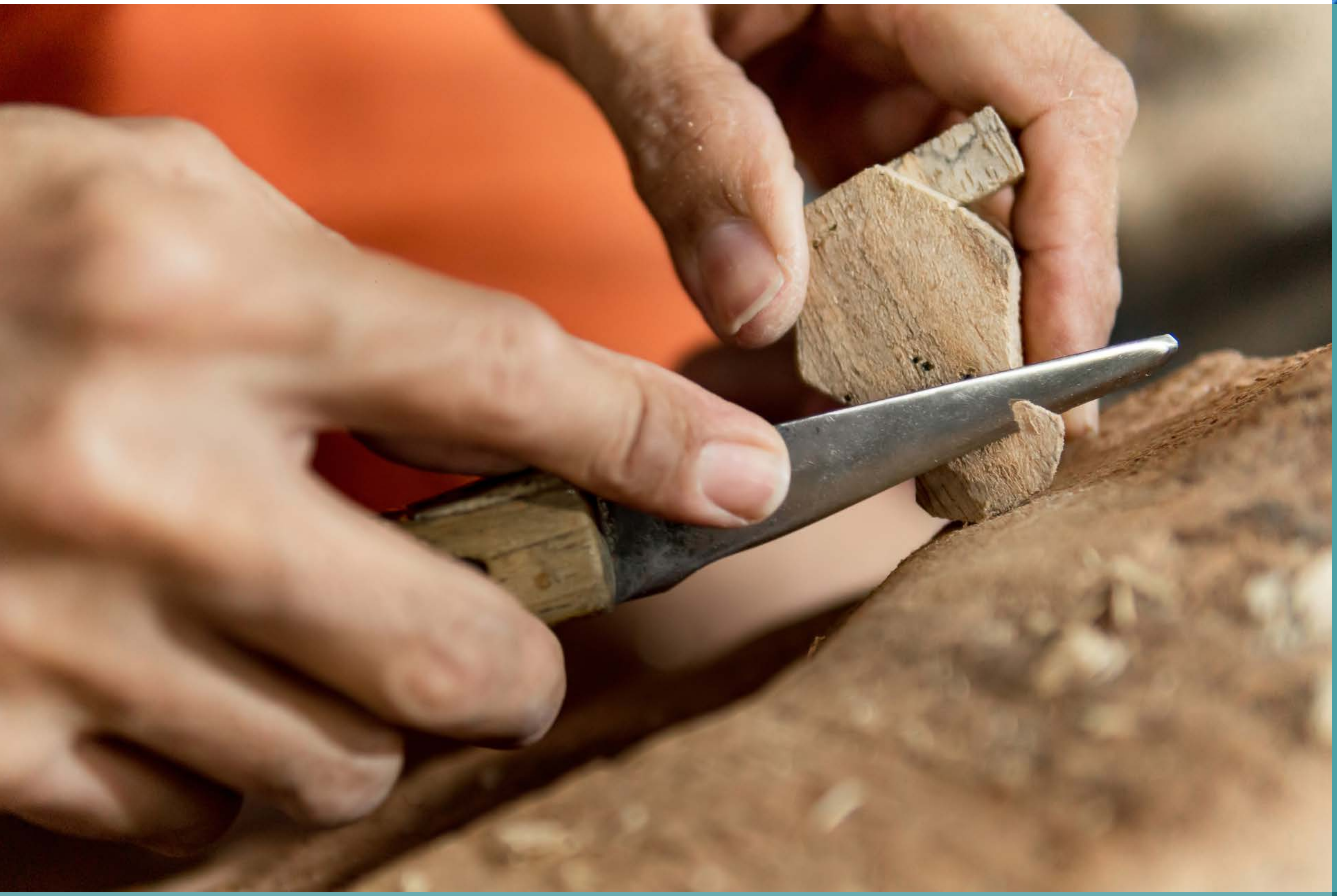
CDB-funded a USD 665,000 processing and packaging facility at Mon Repos, Guyana, which is creating new opportunities for rural farmers.

CULTURAL AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES INNOVATION FUND (CIIF)

What It Is: A fund supporting the development of the Caribbean's creative industries sector. In 2025 it supported over 200 participants across 14 countries and awarded grants to 12 MSMEs.

What It Changes: The creative economy is one of the few sectors where the Caribbean has genuine global comparative advantage. By improving access to finance, strengthening intellectual property frameworks and modernising creative infrastructure, CIIF helps countries develop, monetise and export culture.

Find out more. Cultural and Creative Industries Innovation Fund



EPA AND CSME STANDBY FACILITY FOR CAPACITY BUILDING

What It Is: A pool of European Development Fund resources for trade-related projects in CARIFORUM countries that advance the CARICOM Single Market and Economy and the Economic Partnership Agreement, supervised by CDB and implemented by local agencies.

What It Changes: Regional integration depends on shared standards, working systems and the technical capacity to apply them. This facility funds that groundwork, so that trade commitments agreed between governments become arrangements Caribbean businesses can actually use.

Find out more. EPA and CSME Standby Facility

CDB supported the USD 78 million upgrade of Belize's Coastal Highway, improving connectivity and resilience for more than 49,000 residents.

INFRASTRUCTURE

UNITED KINGDOM CARIBBEAN INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (UKCIF)

What It Is: A £350 million grant-funded programme provided by the UK Government for major infrastructure projects to encourage growth and support poverty reduction.

What It Changes: Grant-financed infrastructure means roads, bridges and water systems that do not add to national debt. This is significant for a Region where nearly half of Borrowing Member Countries carry debt above 60% of GDP.

Find out more. United Kingdom Caribbean Infrastructure Fund

AFD/EU CARIBBEAN INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITY (AFD/EU-CIF)

What It Is: Launched in August 2016, a USD 33 million initiative funding sustainable infrastructure to reduce vulnerability and improve quality of life.

What It Changes: CDB provides a channel through which European development finance reaches Caribbean communities. The partners bring capital, and CDB brings the country relationships, project pipeline and implementation capacity.

Find out more. AFD/EU Caribbean Infrastructure Facility

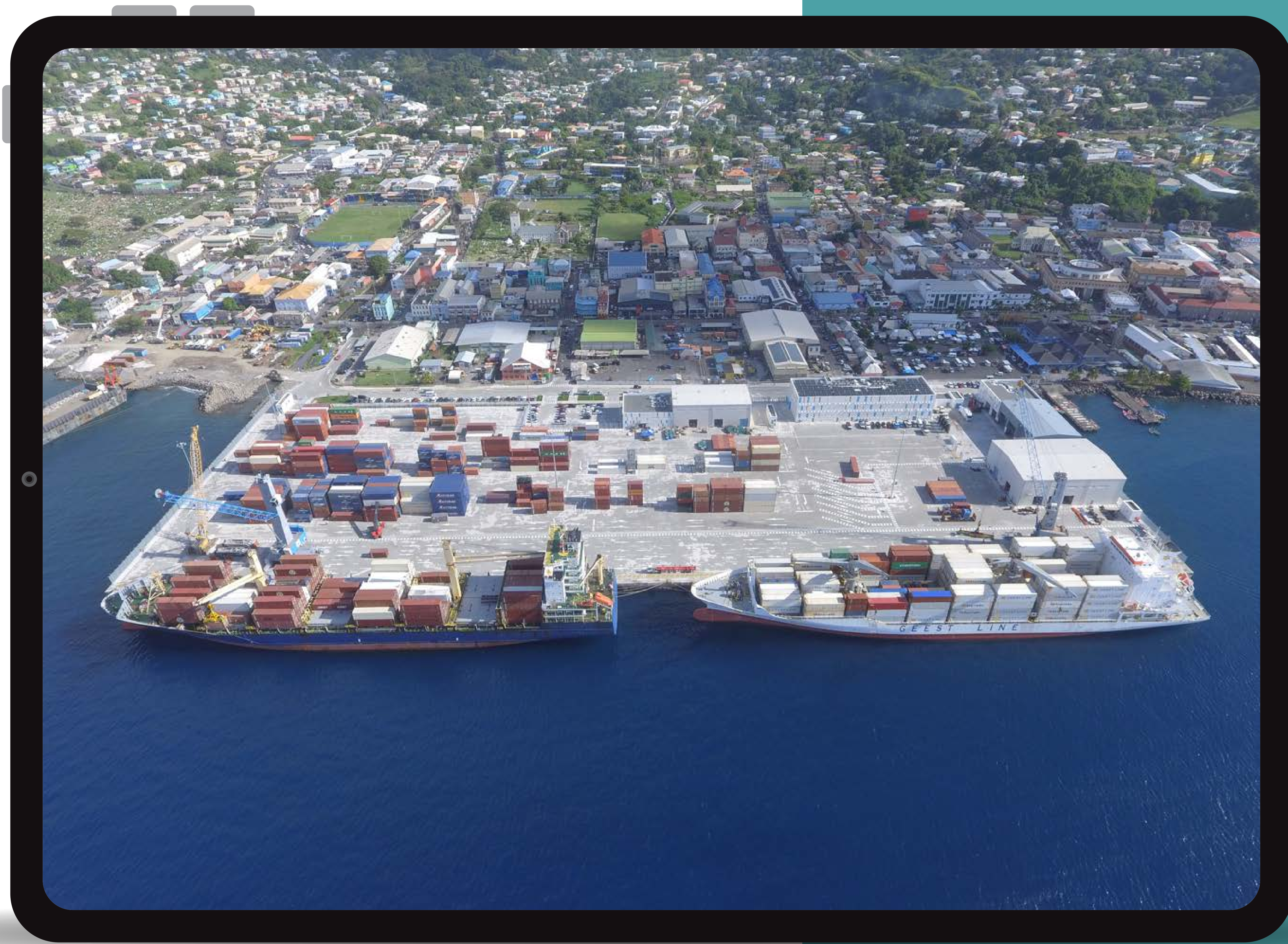
FOOD SECURITY

EU-CDB REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMME

What It Is: A programme enhancing the sustainability and resilience of Caribbean food systems, promoting food and nutrition security particularly for vulnerable groups.

What It Changes: The Region imports the majority of what it eats, which turns every global supply chain shock into a domestic food price shock. This programme lets CDB support projects across the entire value chain: production, storage, logistics, distribution and market access.

Find out more. [EU-CDB Regional Food Security Programme]



CDB implemented the USD 250.8 million Kingstown Port Modernisation Project, strengthening trade, connectivity, and climate resilience for approximately 110,000 Vincentians.

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GAINING MOMENTUM: 2025 AND 2026

The Bank recognises the urgency of the Region's needs and the significance of this moment and is continuously doing more at an increasingly accelerated pace.

Scale: More Money, Moving Faster

- Approvals reached USD 464.6 million in 2025, a 50% increase on 2024.
- Disbursements reached USD 429 million, 30% more than 2024.
- Climate finance commitments reached USD 226.7 million, close to half of everything approved in 2025 and almost double the 2024 figure.
- Investments spanned 19 Borrowing Member Countries.
- A ten-year Strategic Plan was approved by the Board in February 2026, targeting approximately USD 6 billion in financing over the decade.

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INNOVATION: NEW TOOLS FOR NEW REALITIES

Traditional development finance approaches are no longer sufficient for the complexity and urgency of the Caribbean's challenges. In 2025 the Bank deployed instruments designed to unlock new sources of finance, share risk more effectively and deliver tangible results faster.

- **Trade Finance Guarantee Programme.** Launched in 2025, expanding access to working capital for small and medium-sized enterprises, the backbone of Caribbean economies and a critical source of jobs and livelihoods. By reducing risk for domestic financial institutions, the programme enables businesses to grow, invest and compete beyond national borders.

- First bond under **the Sustainable Finance Framework.** CDB raised CHF 100 million in the Swiss market. Investor demand was strong enough to close the book in ninety minutes, a direct market verdict on the Bank's financial strength and development strategy. The proceeds expand CDB's capacity to finance climate resilience, social inclusion and long-term development priorities at scale.

- **Caribbean Multi-Guarantor Debt-for-Resilience Joint Initiative.** Launched with CAF, the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Inter-American Development Bank. The initiative coordinates debt-for-resilience swaps that give countries fiscal space to invest in adaptation and preparedness. By combining immediate relief with durable financing, it lays the groundwork for sustained investment in resilience and attracts private and institutional capital.

- **Regional Readiness Platform with the Green Climate Fund.** A landmark platform under development to transform how Caribbean countries access and manage climate finance, creating a unified, digitally enabled mechanism that pools resources, harmonises readiness activities and accelerates project preparation and execution.

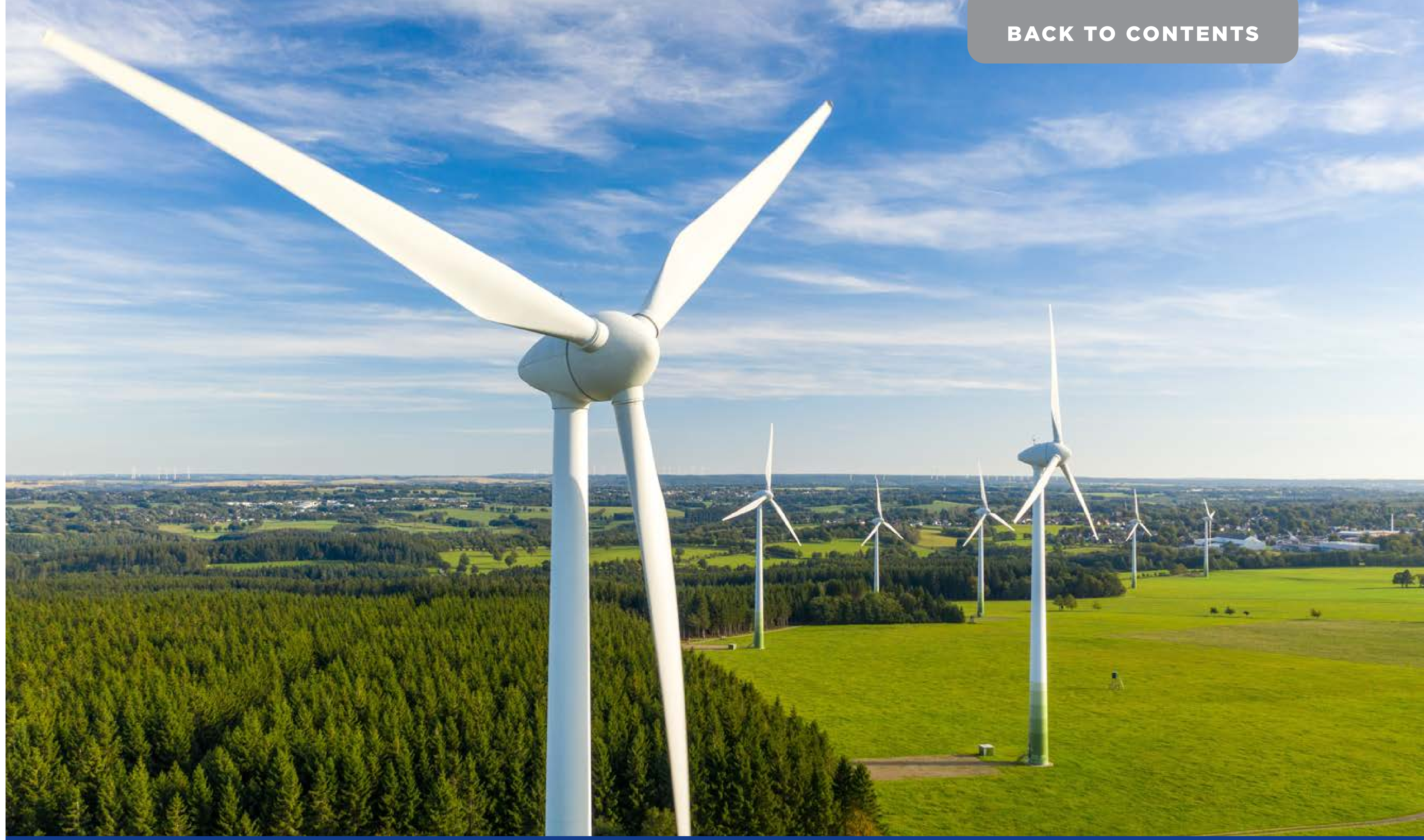
FINANCIAL CAPACITY: THE BANK GOT STRONGER

- **USD 450 million Exposure Exchange Agreement with the Central American Bank for Economic Integration.** Executed in May 2025 and one of the first transactions of its kind. By diversifying sovereign credit concentrations and strengthening capital positions, it creates additional lending capacity for member countries, demonstrating how cooperation between development partners translates financial innovation into real development headroom.

- **Special Development Fund 11.** Secured USD 460 million in commitments, surpassing the previous cycle. SDF 11 carries stepped-up climate ambition, deeper community-centred programming, expanded regional initiatives, a gender equality set-aside open to all, and programmatic interventions.

- **USD 200 million guarantee.** Approved by the Board in June 2026 to expand financing capacity.

- **Global Infrastructure Fund.** The Caribbean Development Bank is in an alliance with six (6) International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and private sector interests to mobilise greater private investment in infrastructure projects and increase its access to technical expertise. GIF is an international initiative comprising governments, IFIs and the private sector, designed to support infrastructure development in emerging markets and developing economies by encouraging private investment. As a technical partner of the Facility CDB is responsible for the identification and implementation of projects, in collaboration with its member countries.



CLIMATE ACTION: SCALING UP

- **Climate finance** commitments reached USD 226.7 million in 2025, approximately half of total project approvals and almost double the 2024 figure.

- **USD 250 million in Green Climate Fund accreditation** gives CDB access to significantly larger volumes of climate finance, and the capacity to deliver adaptation and mitigation investment at scale across the Caribbean.

- **CDB's Climate Change Project Preparation Fund**, which became fully operational in 2025, is helping turn project ideas into investment-ready proposals, addressing a critical bottleneck that has historically prevented Caribbean countries from accessing climate finance at scale.

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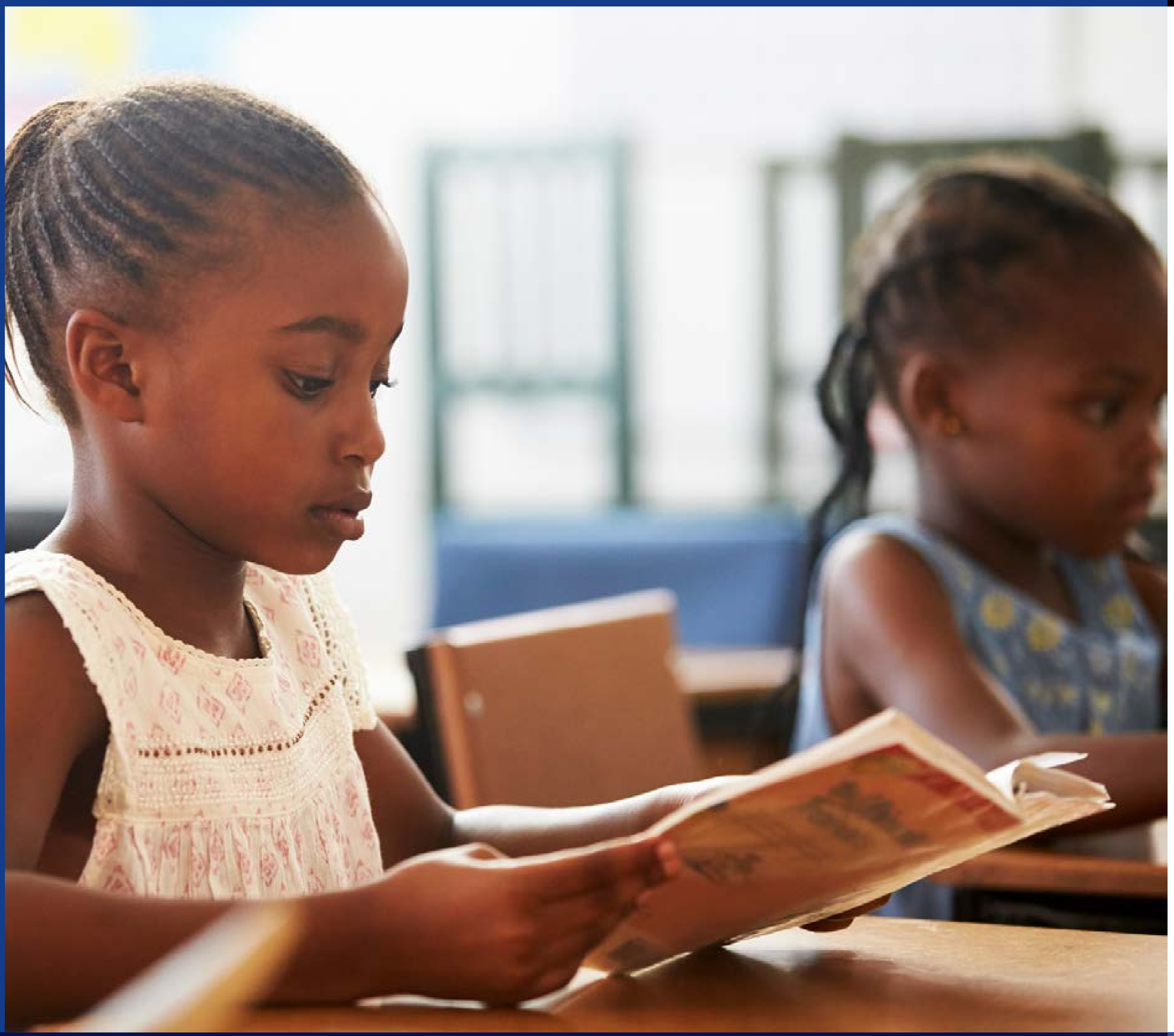
DELIVERING: WHAT CHANGED FOR PEOPLE



- In The Bahamas, a USD 65.2 million climate resilience initiative supported by the Green Climate Fund will strengthen water security and improve water services for more than 215,000 people.
- In Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, a USD 27 million investment in the Eighth Power Project will modernise the electricity grid and improve energy reliability for approximately 114,000 households and businesses.
- In Grenada, a USD 8.7 million Battery Energy Storage System project will enhance grid stability and support renewable energy integration, benefiting more than 90% of the population while reducing fossil fuel consumption by an estimated USD 3.28 million gallons annually.
- In Haiti, CDB's Quality Enhancement in Public Education programme has improved learning outcomes for more than 17,000 primary and secondary students, half of them girls, and is expanding support through a second phase focused on learning resources, school feeding, educational technology, and teacher development.

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SOLIDARITY: THE BANK SHOWED UP

- After Hurricane Maria in Dominica, the Bank alongside the Government of Canada, provided support to rebuild school infrastructure capable of withstanding and recovering from climate events. Two CCRIF payments totaling USD 3,918,716.60 were also made.
- Following Hurricane Beryl in 2024, CDB provided support packages valued at USD 5.5 million each for Grenada and to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- When Hurricane Melissa struck Jamaica in October 2025, while the country was still recovering from Beryl, CDB worked with CAF, the IDB Group, the IMF and the World Bank Group to mobilise a USD 6.7 billion recovery and reconstruction package within weeks. For affected communities this means faster access to emergency liquidity, reconstruction financing and technical assistance, and a stronger, more resilient rebuilding effort.
- In August 2026, CDB approved a USD 1 million contribution to the Fund for the Recovery and Reconstruction of Venezuela, supporting emergency response, service restoration, infrastructure rehabilitation and resilience building following the devastating earthquakes of June 24, 2026.

6

CDB IN CAYMAN

For more than five decades, the Cayman Islands and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) have partnered to advance sustainable development, strengthen institutions, and expand opportunities for people and businesses. As a founding member of the Bank, Cayman continues to benefit from CDB's support in areas such as private sector development, education, entrepreneurship, and regional cooperation.

INVESTING IN CAYMAN'S FUTURE: CURRENT INITIATIVES

DEVELOPING THE CAYMAN ISLANDS' FIRST NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS POLICY

Through CDB|PROPEL, the Bank has approved a technical assistance grant of up to USD 73,973 to the Cayman Islands Centre for Business Development, to design the territory's first national Small Business Policy and Strategy.

The work will map the landscape for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, identify what is holding them back, examine gaps in access to finance for women-owned businesses, and review the legislation that governs the sector. A national policy will then be built through consultation with government, the private sector and community stakeholders.

The Cayman Islands has never had a national small business policy. This one will shape the conditions under which every small business operates, from access to finance to how far women-owned and under-represented businesses can participate.

CDB|PROPEL will also collaborate with the Cayman Islands Small Business Association and the Cayman Islands Chamber of Commerce to deliver national training in Customer Service for MSMEs and Project Management for Innovation and Entrepreneurship in 2026 and 2027.

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SHETRADES CARIBBEAN

SheTrades, an initiative founded in 2015 by the **International Trade Centre**, is a global programme connecting women entrepreneurs to markets, opportunities and each other through country or regional hubs. The Caribbean Development Bank delivers the regional arm of this work through the SheTrades Caribbean Hub, supporting women-led businesses across its Borrowing Member Countries.

The Cayman Islands is one of the Hub's most active markets, with 113 women-led businesses supported in 2025. Programming has included a Small Business Bootcamp, a Marketing and Branding Masterclass, and one-to-one coaching delivered through the Cayman Islands Chamber of Commerce and Cayman Islands Centre for Business Development (who are the joint Focal Points for implementation of SheTrades in Cayman Islands). CDB has committed USD 30,000 in Business Support Organisation grant financing across 2025 and 2026, with an agreement in place to continue delivery through to 2028.

Caymanian businesswoman Melesia Adderley, CEO and founder of Women's Haven, is the SheTrades Caribbean Hub's first Ambassador and a recipient of the SheTrades Caribbean Grow and Go grant.

CULTURAL AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

The Caribbean Development Bank published a Creative Industry Profile for the Cayman Islands in 2022, and in November 2024 convened government cultural administrators, including the Cayman Islands' Ministry of Border Control, Labour and Culture, to discuss what the Cultural and Creative Industries Innovation Fund could offer local creative businesses.

Priorities identified include formalising data on the creative sector, building entrepreneurs' capacity to approach investors, developing Carnival and cultural tourism to a more professional standard, and training storytellers to tell Caymanian cultural stories in Caymanian voices.

WHAT'S COMING UP NEXT

November 2026:
SheTrades Small Business Bootcamps Series. These training exercises will equip Caymanian entrepreneurs with practical skills in business planning, marketing and growth.

FY2026–2027:
SheTrades Caribbean BoostHerBusiness Grants Open. Direct financial support will help women-led businesses in the Cayman Islands invest in and expand their businesses, part of a regional target to reach 145 women-led businesses by 2028.

FY2026-2027:
Customer Service and Project Management Training for MSMEs. To be delivered in collaboration with the Cayman Islands Small Business Association and the Cayman Islands Chamber of Commerce.

Q3 2027:
Second SheTrades Small Business Bootcamp Series. A further cohort of Caymanian entrepreneurs will receive training, building on the first series.

Q4 2027:
Procurement Bootcamp. Training will help local businesses build the skills to compete for government and corporate contracts, an area many small businesses find difficult to enter.

Dates to be confirmed. Media advisories will be issued ahead of each activity.

A LEGACY OF PARTNERSHIP AND PROGRESS: PAST INITIATIVES

Over several decades, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) has provided more than USD 47 million in financing and technical assistance to support the Cayman Islands' development. These investments have spanned infrastructure, economic development, education, tourism, and public sector capacity building.

Key areas of support have included:

- **Transport and Connectivity: Approximately USD 23 million**
  - Airport expansion and improvement projects, including upgrades to Owen Roberts International Airport.
  - Port development in Cayman Brac.
  - Road improvement initiatives and transportation planning.
  - Studies and preparatory work supporting future infrastructure development.

- **Water and Sanitation Infrastructure: Approximately USD 11 million**
  - Improvements to water supply, transmission and distribution systems.
  - Development of sewerage infrastructure to strengthen public health and environmental management.

- **Tourism and Heritage Development: Approximately USD 5.4 million**
  - Restoration and enhancement of Pedro St. James, one of the Cayman Islands' most significant heritage attractions.
  - Support for tourism accommodation development.

- **Private Sector and Agricultural Development: More than USD 2 million**
  - Credit programmes supporting entrepreneurs, farmers and small businesses.
  - Initiatives designed to stimulate economic activity, enterprise growth and job creation.

- **Education and Human Development**
  - Student loan programmes that expanded access to higher education opportunities for Caymanians.
  - Financing that supported education alongside wider social and economic development priorities.

- **Public Sector Capacity Building**
  - 55 public officers participated in CDB's flagship Public Policy Analysis and Management and Project Cycle Management (PPAM-PCM) programme in 2018. The Programme provided training in policy development, project management, monitoring and evaluation for civil servants.

- **Small Business Development**
  - Grant funding and technical assistance to support small business policy development through the Cayman Islands Centre for Business Development.

7

SENIOR EXECUTIVES AND SPOKESPERSONS

MR. DANIEL M. BEST
PRESIDENT

Daniel Best is the President of the Caribbean Development Bank, bringing nearly three decades of experience in infrastructure development, development finance, project management, and strategic leadership across the Caribbean's public and private sectors. A Barbadian national, Mr. Best has spent more than 15 years at CDB in progressively senior roles, most recently as Director of the Projects Department, before serving as Senior Infrastructure and Development Advisor to the Prime Minister of Barbados. As President, he provides overall strategic direction to the institution and is the principal voice of the Bank on Caribbean development policy.

Mr. Best is available to speak on:

- The Caribbean Development Bank's new 10-Year Strategic Plan (2026–2035) and what it means for the Region's development trajectory.
- How CDB is transforming its operations to deliver faster, more effective, and more innovative development solutions.
- How multilateral development banks must evolve their financing models, partnerships, and operating approaches to remain relevant and effective in a rapidly changing global environment.

DR. ISAAC SOLOMON
VICE-PRESIDENT (OPERATIONS)

Isaac Solomon leads CDB's operational core as Vice President, Operations, with direct oversight of the Economics, Projects, Strategy and Private Sector Portfolios. His career spans senior roles at RBC Royal Bank, the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, and the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, giving him a wide-ranging perspective on Caribbean finance, governance, and economic management.

Dr. Solomon is available to speak on:

- How CDB is improving project delivery and development outcomes across its Borrowing Member Countries.
- The role of sound financial management and governance in strengthening Caribbean institutions.
- Mobilising private capital and strengthening public-private collaboration to scale development impact.

MRS. GILLIAN CHARLES-GOLLOP
VICE-PRESIDENT, CORPORATE SERVICES

Gillian Charles-Gollop provides strategic direction and oversight of the Caribbean Development Bank's corporate services functions, ensuring the operational efficiency and institutional strength that underpins the Bank's development mission. She brings more than 34 years of experience in banking and financial services, specialising in corporate and investment banking, credit and operational risk management, governance, strategy, and sustainable finance across the Caribbean.

Mrs. Charles-Gollop is available to speak on:

- Building institutional resilience and operational effectiveness within development finance institutions to accelerate delivery.
- Sustainable finance as a strategic tool for advancing climate resilience and inclusive growth in the Caribbean.
- The role of governance, risk management, and corporate leadership in strengthening the Caribbean's financial systems.

MR. IAN DURANT
DIRECTOR, ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

Ian Durant leads the Caribbean Development Bank's Economics Department, overseeing the institution's macroeconomic research, analysis, and policy engagement. His expertise spans debt sustainability, debt restructuring, and macroeconomic programming, developed through his work at CDB, the Central Bank of Barbados, and the Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Centre (CARTAC), where he managed technical assistance and capacity building across the Region.

Mr. Durant is available to speak on:

- The state of Caribbean economies: growth prospects, fiscal pressures, and the outlook for the Region.
- Public debt and debt sustainability: the challenges facing Caribbean governments and the options available to address them.
- The impact of global economic trends, including inflation, trade disruptions, and tightening financial conditions, on small island developing states.

MR. L. O'REILLY LEWIS
DIRECTOR, PROJECTS DEPARTMENT

L. O'Reilly Lewis leads the Caribbean Development Bank's Projects Department, overseeing the preparation, appraisal, and implementation of all CDB-financed economic infrastructure projects across 19 Borrowing Member Countries stretching from Guyana to Belize. A Civil Engineer with more than 28 years of technical and managerial experience, his career spans water and sanitation engineering, environmental management, and solid waste management across the Caribbean, including roles at the Central Water and Sewerage Authority in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute.

Mr. Lewis is available to speak on:

- Delivering infrastructure development at scale across small island economies: challenges, solutions, and lessons learned.
- The role of resilient infrastructure in protecting Caribbean communities from climate shocks and natural disasters.
- Water, sanitation, and environmental infrastructure as foundational investments in Caribbean health and economic development.

MS. VALERIE ISAAC
DIVISION CHIEF, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Valerie Isaac leads the CDB's Environmental Sustainability Division, bringing more than 25 years of experience in sustainable development at the national, regional, and international levels. Her division is responsible for developing and operationalising the Bank's environmental, disaster risk management, and climate change policies, strategies, and procedures, as well as maintaining dialogue with development partners on environmental sustainability matters. Ms. Isaac brings deep expertise in environmental and social risk analysis, climate change policy, disaster risk management, and climate vulnerability assessment, with a strong track record of delivering technical assistance and capital programmes across multiple Caribbean countries with varying institutional capacities.

Ms. Isaac is available to speak on:

- The Caribbean's escalating exposure to climate risk and what it means for the Region's long-term development prospects.
- How development finance institutions are integrating environmental and disaster risk considerations into project design and investment decisions.
- Bridging the gap between global climate finance commitments and on-the-ground climate resilience delivery for small island developing states.

MS. LISA HARDING
DIVISION CHIEF, PRIVATE SECTOR

Lisa Harding leads the Caribbean Development Bank's Private Sector Division, driving the Bank's private sector agenda across its Borrowing Member Countries. She oversees financing and investment operations, initiatives to strengthen the enabling environment for private sector growth, and regional trade and integration. She is a driving force behind several flagship CDB programmes, including the Cultural and Creative Industries Innovation Fund (CIIF) and the Bank's women's economic empowerment programme, which expands access to finance and growth opportunities for women-owned and women-led businesses across the Region. Her executive background spans leadership development with the OECD, Cornell University, and the ILO, with international business exposure across Japan, Scotland, and Switzerland.

Ms. Harding is available to speak on:

- Mobilising private investment to drive inclusive and sustainable economic growth across the Caribbean.
- Expanding opportunities for women-owned and women-led businesses as a driver of regional economic resilience.
- The role of the cultural and creative industries as an emerging engine of Caribbean innovation, employment, and growth.
- Private Sector development, MSMEs, PROPEL, trade finance, regional integration, CSME, and regional trade.

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SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS

Subject Area	Spokesperson
Caribbean economies, fiscal issues, public debt and country/ regional economic performance	Christine Dawson Deputy Director, Economics
Economic data, country data, statistics, research	Kevin Finch Deputy Director, Research and Statistics
Infrastructure, transport, ports	William Ashby Division Chief (Ag), Economic Infrastructure Division
Poverty, social protection, Basic Needs Trust Fund, Country Poverty Assessments, education, skills, human capital development	Martin Baptiste Division Chief Social Sector Division
Climate change, climate action, climate finance	Donneil Cain Coordinator, Climate Change
Agriculture	Luther St. Ville Portfolio Manager, Social Sector Division

Subject Area	Spokesperson
Energy transition, renewables, geothermal, grid modernisation	Charmaine Gill-Evans Sustainable Energy Specialist
Youth issues, youth development, the Future Leaders Network	Kendra Butler Social Analyst
CDB procurement, public sector procurement, procurement reform and modernisation	Naomi Akoy-Bouguenon Division Chief (Ag), Procurement Policy Division
Capital markets, funding, balance sheet optimisation	German Deffit Chief Financial Officer
Credit ratings, risk management	Stefano Capodagli Chief Risk Officer
CDB's business performance, results management	Damien Reeves Deputy Director, Strategy and Development Effectiveness
Gender equality and gender-lens investing	Maria Ziegler Senior Gender Specialist
Disability inclusion	Anthony George Social Analyst

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COLLABORATE WITH US

Making an Enquiry

Email **news@caribank.org** with details of your request and your deadline. If your enquiry is urgent or you need a response the same day, please indicate this in the subject line.

We will acknowledge all media enquiries by the end of the business day on which they are received.

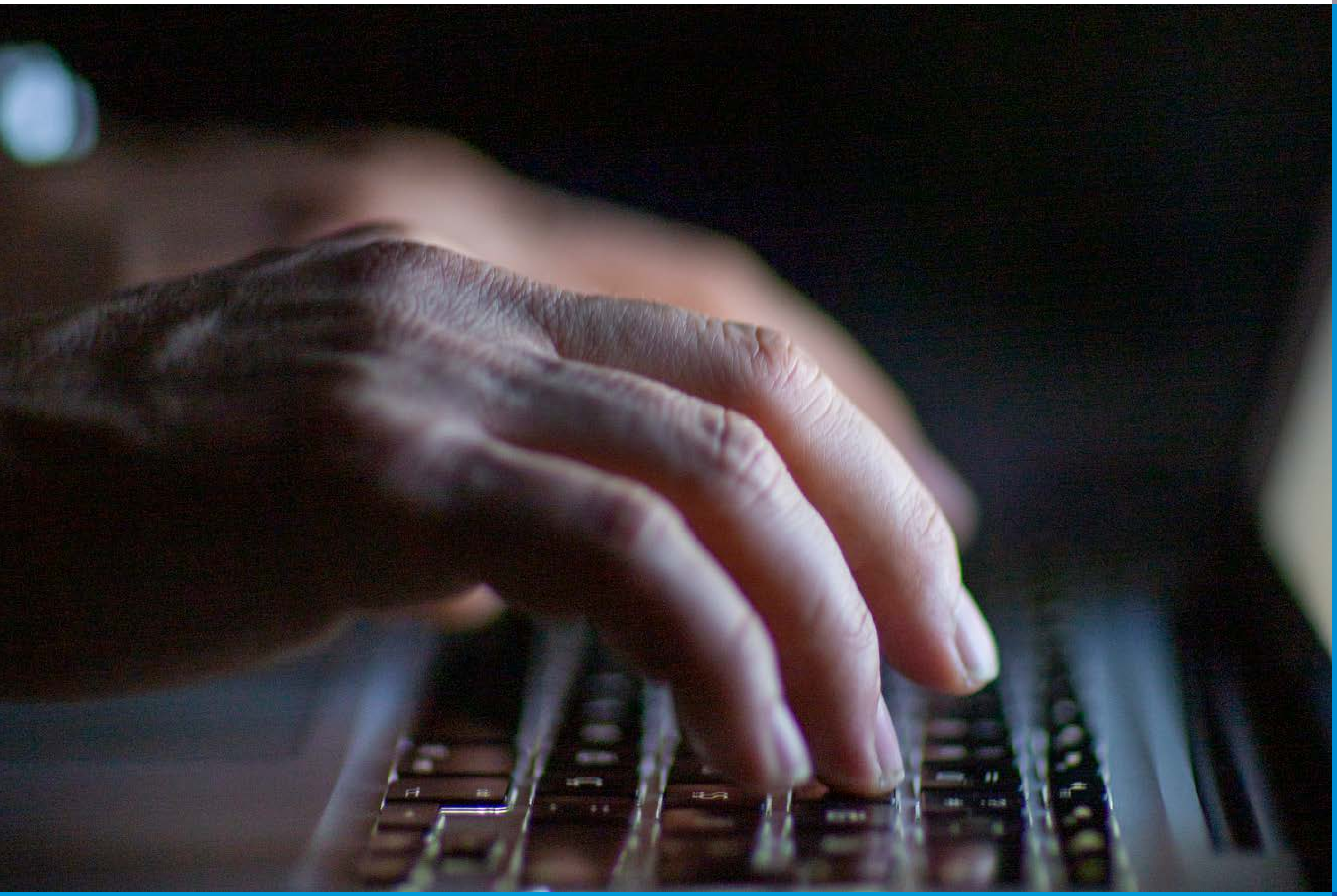
Response times will vary depending on the nature and complexity of the request. Straightforward enquiries, such as published statistics, programme information, or copies of public documents, can often be answered within one working day.

Where a response requires input from technical specialists or multiple departments, additional time may be needed. In such cases, we will keep you informed of the expected timeline. If we are unable to meet your deadline, we will let you know as soon as possible.

REQUESTING AN INTERVIEW

Please include the interview topic, format, outlet, publication or broadcast date, key questions (if available), and any studio, remote, or on-location requirements.

Requests for technical experts are typically confirmed within two working days; requests for the President within five working days. While questions are not required in advance, they help us identify the most appropriate spokesperson.



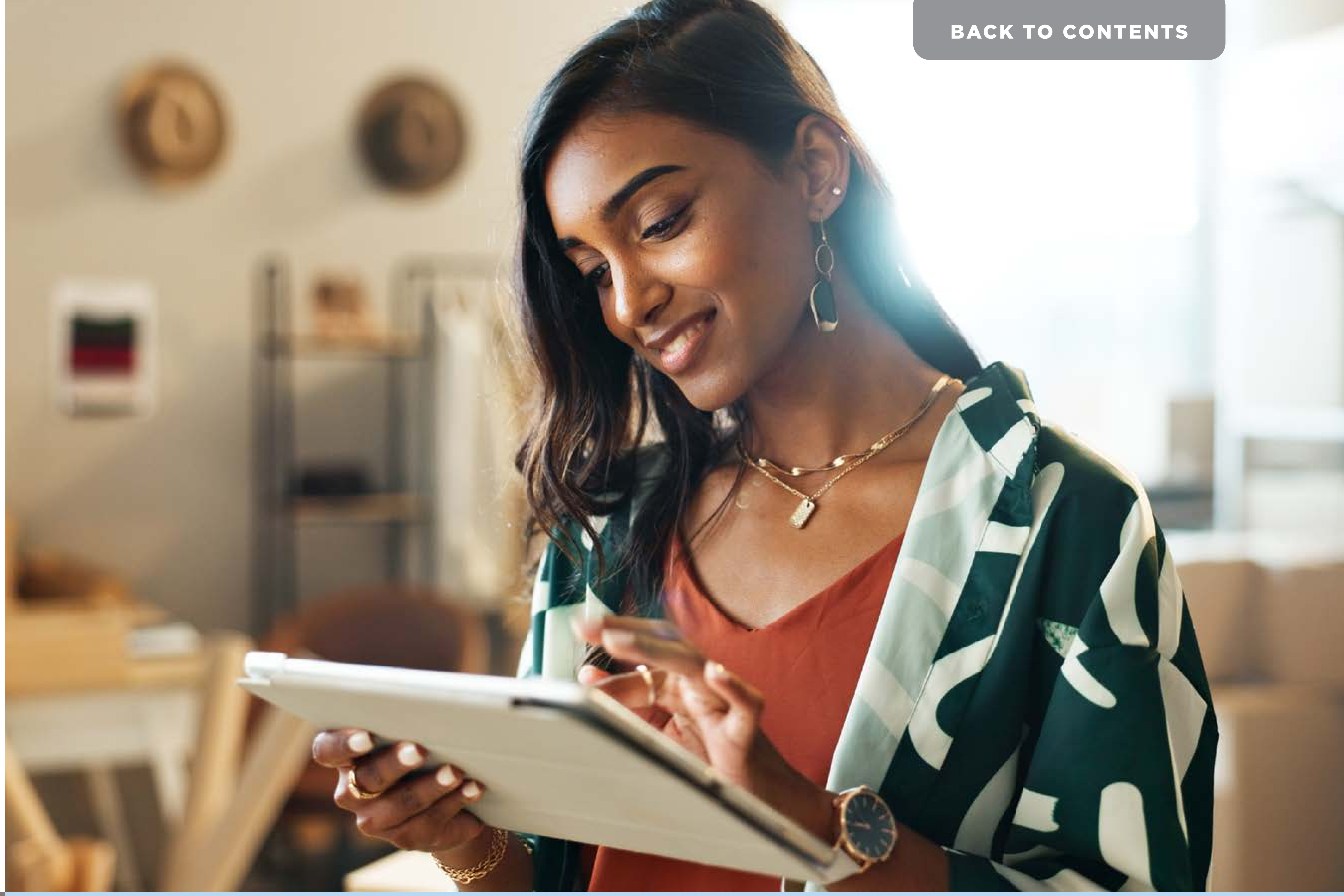
COVERING OUR EVENTS

We welcome media coverage of CDB events. To support journalists across our 19 Borrowing Member Countries, where possible events are livestreamed on our YouTube channel and/or caribank.org. Viewing links are shared in media advisories.

For in-country events, media invitations are typically issued in advance through a media advisory.

STORY IDEAS

We can connect journalists with data, project results, and human-interest stories from across our 19 Borrowing Member Countries. If you're covering Caribbean development, economics, climate, finance, energy, debt, youth, or regional integration, contact us to explore story opportunities.



JOIN OUR MEDIA MAILING LIST

Sign up to receive our media advisories, news releases, invitations to cover our events, and updates on CDB's work across the Region.

Sign up here

10 MEDIA CONTACTS

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