



Network Caribbean



RCC Caribbean

Collaboration for Climate Action



Empowering Caribbean Private Sector

STRENGTHENING GRANT PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT



Session I - 17 November 2025

Session II - 3 December 2025



Zoom

Theme: Accessing Financing for Private Sector Development
A Two-part Webinar Series



Rationale

Across the Caribbean, private sector companies are increasingly aligning their operations with principles of sustainability, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Despite this progress, access to appropriate financing remains a significant constraint for many small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Limited capital, high financing costs, and insufficient knowledge of alternative funding mechanisms continue to challenge business' growth and innovation.

To address these challenges, the **UN Global Compact Network Caribbean (Network Caribbean)** in collaboration with **Data Minders Business Research**, the **Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)** and **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Regional Collaboration Centre (RCC)** Caribbean will host a two-part series webinar entitled 'Empowering Caribbean Private Sector: Strengthening Proposal Development.'

This webinar series will provide participants with an introductory yet strategic overview of the funding landscape, donor expectations, and key components of a compelling grant proposal. The series will also enhance participants' capacity to engage effectively with donors, while identifying opportunities for further technical assistance and collaboration.

Goal

Strengthen private sector understanding of the financing landscape relevant to accessing grants to support sustainable business practices.

Objectives

- **Enhance private sector capacity** to develop results-oriented grant proposals.
- Promote awareness of **sustainability financing opportunities** and managing donor engagement.
- Highlight the **tools, resources, and support available** to private sector companies for accessing grant financing.
- Provide insights on opportunities for **private sector companies to align UN SDGs** into their business models.

- **Improved** readiness to pursue sustainable financing opportunities.
- **Enhanced** knowledge of proposal writing techniques and donor expectations.

Target Audience

Participating companies and key stakeholders of the Network Caribbean, Data Minders Business Research, CDB and UNFCCC RCC.

Proposed agenda and key discussion highlights

Session I: 17th November 2025

1. Understanding the Financial Landscape - Overview of traditional, non-traditional, and emerging financing sources available to Caribbean enterprises, including grants and blended finance.
2. Developing Competitive Proposals - Core components of a strong proposal, donor expectations, and strategies for integrating SDG alignment and measurable outcomes.

Session II: 3rd December 2025

1. Leveraging Innovation and Safeguards - Exploring the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in proposal development and the importance of cybersecurity and data protection in funding processes.
2. Strengthening Institutional Readiness and Partnerships - Building internal capacity, fostering long-term relationships with funders, and identifying sectoral opportunities in climate resilience.

Lead Facilitator: Tishana Simon, Independent Consultant

Tishana Simon is the Founder and Lead Research Consultant at **Data Minders Business Research** and has led the firm's research and proposal work since November 2016. She has delivered market research, economic analysis, and proposal development across the Caribbean. Project work includes completion of a funding proposal for the **Faith Based Network of Trinidad and Tobago**; a PANCAP grant submission involving desk reviews and filling proposal gaps through continuous client communication.

Data Minders was also awarded grant funding by the **Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (CARIRI)** under the Shaping the Future of Innovation programme (co-funded by the **European Union and IDB Lab**) to develop the Research Navigator minimal viable product. Tishana's core skills include grant and proposal writing, implementation planning, monitoring and reporting, and stakeholder engagement. She holds an MSc and BSc in Economics from the University of the West Indies and has completed additional training in competition policy, project management, and data science.



AGENDA

Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AT-ol71HSw6balvcixS7tQ

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER/FACILITATOR
10:00am-10:05am	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Kyana Bowen, Executive Director UN Global Compact Network Caribbean
10:05am-10:15am	Understanding the Financing Landscape - An overview of financing types available to Caribbean companies; traditional, non-traditional, and blended finance	Tishana Simon, Lead Research Consultant, Data Minders Business Research
10:15am-10:30am	Navigating Donor Expectations – A focus on what funders look for in proposals, including rationale, objectives, expected results, risks, execution arrangements and budgeting	Michel Thomas, Senior Operations Officer, Private Sector Division, Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)
10:30am-10:50am	Developing Competitive Proposals - Practical segment focusing on structure and components of a comprehensive proposal	Tishana Simon
10:50am-11:05am	Private Sector in Action: How can the private sector contribute to achieving the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in the Caribbean?	Lindita Xhaferi-Salihu, Sectors Engagement Lead, UNFCCC
11:05am-11:20am	Q&A and moderated discussion	Kyana Bowen
11:20am-11:30am	Closing and Next Steps	Kyana Bowen

Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9PdRe2m2GLFt3aaRQ>

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER/FACILITATOR
10:00am-10:05am	Recap of Session I and Introduction to Session II	Carolina Tataje, Climate Action Specialist, RCC Caribbean
10:05am-10:20am	Leveraging Innovation in Proposal Development – An exploration of AI tools for research and writing, automation in data management, and ethical considerations	Tishana Simon
10:20am-10:30am	Cybersecurity and Data Protection in Funding Processes – A focus on integrating cybersecurity measures and data privacy safeguards in proposals, particularly for digital transformation and climate projects	Tishana Simon
10:30am-10:45am	Private Sector in Action: A presentation of the UNFCCC's NAZCA portal (where non-Party stakeholders' climate actions are registered, recognised and tracked)	UNFCCC - Transparency Division
10:45am-11:05am	Presentation from Donor with open Call	To be confirmed
11:05am-11:20am	Q&A and moderated discussion	Carolina Tataje
11:20am-11:30am	Closing and Next Steps	Kyana Bowen