Concept Note

Webinar on the Role of Climate Finance Units (CFUs) in the Caribbean for Climate Finance Tracking and Resource Mobilization

Date: Thursday, 04 December 2025 | Time: 9:00 – 10:30 am ECT | Format: Virtual via Ms. Teams

Background

The Caribbean is one of the world's most climate-exposed regions. It is estimated that adaptation investment needs in the region exceed USD 100 billion, equivalent to around one-third of its annual economic output (IMF, 2023). At the same time, access to climate finance remains limited and fragmented, with countries often struggling to track inflows, report effectively, and mobilize additional resources to meet their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

Climate Finance Units (CFUs), often housed within ministries of finance, planning, or environment, have emerged as a practical institutional arrangement to strengthen countries' capacities for climate finance coordination, monitoring, and resource mobilization. Regional mechanisms are also being established to strengthen national capacity for tracking and mobilizing climate finance. The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) is piloting a Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) system to help its Borrowing Member Countries track climate finance flows from public, private, domestic, and international sources (CDB, 2024). In parallel, the Caribbean chapter of the Climate Finance Access Network (CFAN) was launched to embed climate finance advisors in governments and national institutions, providing lasting capacity to secure and deploy climate funds (RMI/CFAN, 2022).

CFUs are emerging as key enablers in the Caribbean, strengthening readiness to access climate funds, building investment pipelines, and improving the tracking of finance flows aligned with NDCs. While countries such as Belize, St. Lucia, and Jamaica have begun piloting CFUs, there remains a strong need to exchange lessons, share best practices, and further build capacity to maximize their role in leveraging both international and domestic finance.

Objective

The webinar aims to highlight the role of Climate Finance Units in strengthening national climate finance architecture in the Caribbean, with a focus on two key aspects:

1. **Tracking climate finance flows** – improving transparency, accountability, and alignment with NDC/NAP implementation.
2. **Mobilizing resources** – enhancing access to international climate funds, leveraging private investment, and exploring innovative finance mechanisms such as blended finance, debt-for-climate swaps, and green bonds.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased awareness among Caribbean policymakers and stakeholders of the value of establishing or strengthening CFUs.
- Exchange of experiences from Caribbean and other regions on institutional set-up, governance models, and coordination mechanisms.
- Identification of opportunities for regional collaboration, capacity-building, and technical support for CFUs.

- Recommendations for next steps in scaling up CFU effectiveness in climate finance tracking and resource mobilization.

Agenda (90 minutes)

1. **Opening Remarks (5 min)** – Welcome by Andrea Camponogara, RCC Global Lead, UNFCCC
2. **Scene-Setting Presentations (15 min)**
    a. The role of CFUs in climate finance architecture: experiences at the global level – Raghuveer Vyas, Climate Policy Analyst & Implementation Strategist, Climate Analytics
    b. The role of CFUs in supporting transparency reporting and climate action, including tracking support needed and received in BTRs, facilitating NDC planning and financing, and advancing NAP implementation – Brittany Meighan, UNEP CBIT-GSP (Caribbean Network)
        i. **Moderated by** Carolina Tataje, Climate Action Specialist, RCC Caribbean
3. **Discussion Panel I – National experiences in the Caribbean (20 min)**
    a. Progress achieved after implementing the CFU and success stories and challenges - Leroy Martinez, Ag. Director Climate Finance Unit, Belize
    b. Lessons from establishing Saint Lucia´s Climate Finance Unit – Ms. Nadia Wells-Hyacinth, Chief Economist for National Planning with the Government of Saint Lucia
        - **Q&A and Open Discussion (10 min)** – Moderated by Brittany Meighan, UNEP CBIT-GSP (Caribbean Network)
4. **Discussion Panel II – Regional efforts to monitor and mobilize climate finance (20 min)**
    a. The role and importance of CFUs in leveraging climate finance from a MDB perspective – Derek Gibbs, Climate Finance Specialist, Environmental Sustainability Unit, and Donneil Cain, Climate Change Coordinator, Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)
    b. Expanding Access: Supporting LDCs and SIDS to unlock international climate finance. – Zipora Otieno, Commonwealth Regional Climate Finance Adviser Caribbean (CFAH)
        - **Q&A and Open Discussion (10 min)** – Moderated by Adrián Flores Aguilar, Climate Finance Associate, NDC Partnership Support Unit
5. **Closing Remarks (5 min)** – Brittany Meighan, UNEP CBIT-GSP (Caribbean Network)

Target Audience

- Ministries of Finance and Environment officials in the Caribbean.
- Climate finance advisors involved in climate finance and transparency work.
- International partners and donors.

Partners and Hosts

The webinar will be co-organized by the UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre (RCC) Caribbean and UNEP´s Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency–Global Support Programme (CBIT-GSP) – Caribbean Network, in collaboration with the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Climate Analytics, Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub (CFAH), Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and the NDC Partnership.

Format

- Presentations followed by interactive discussion.
- Online (MS Teams link). Please note that it will be held in English, without interpretation available.