



Webinar

Introducing the Sustainable Small Grants Program

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



Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale



AGENZIA ITALIANA
PER LA COOPERAZIONE
ALLO SVILUPPO





**Closing the
Caribbean
Plastic Tap**

Closing the Caribbean Plastic Tap

Sustainable Small Grants Programme (SSGP)

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Ministero degli Affari Esteri
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AGENDA

- 1. Welcome & opening**
- 2. Overview of the Sustainable Small Grants Program**
- 3. Call for Proposals**
- 4. How to apply**
- 5. Next Steps**
- 6. Questions and Answers (Q&A)**

Closing the Caribbean Plastic Tap

Overview



Closing the Caribbean Plastic Tap: Overview

Donor: MAECI / AICS

3 years initiative

5 Island in the Eastern
Caribbean

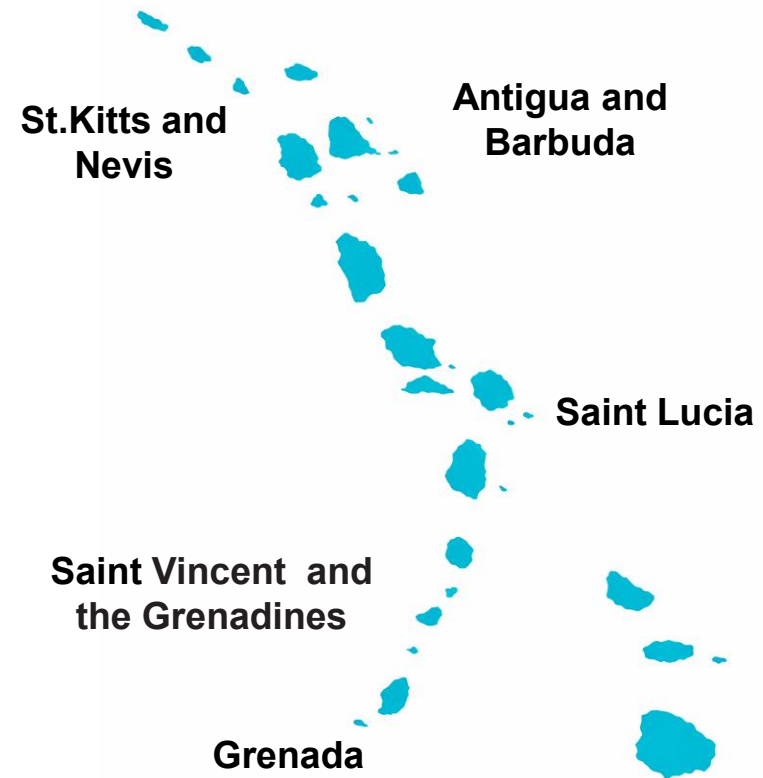
3 Sectors:

 **Tourism**

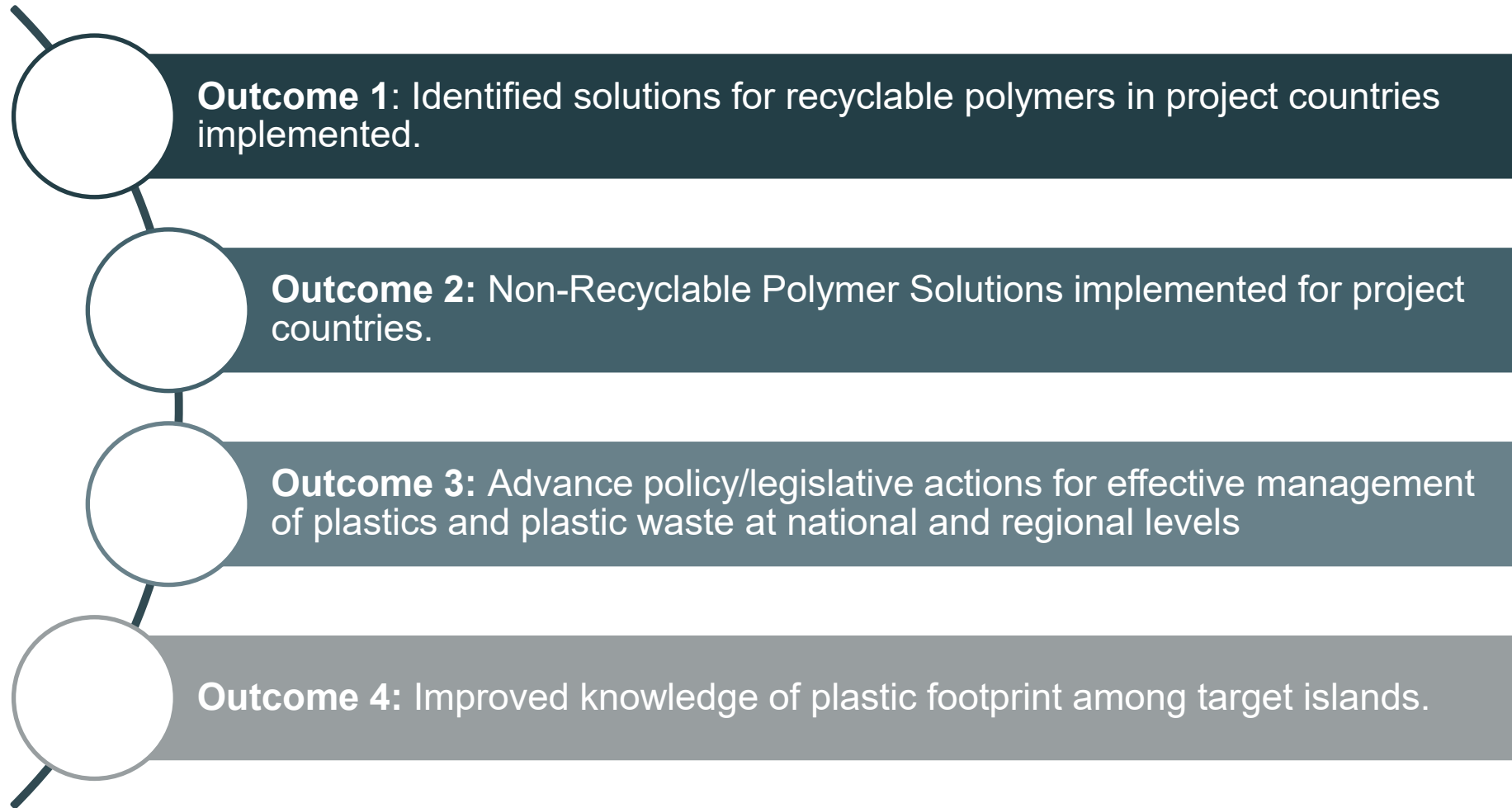
 **Fisheries**

 **Waste
management**

Objective: Implement effective and social inclusive solutions to advance circular economy and address plastic waste leakage in target Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

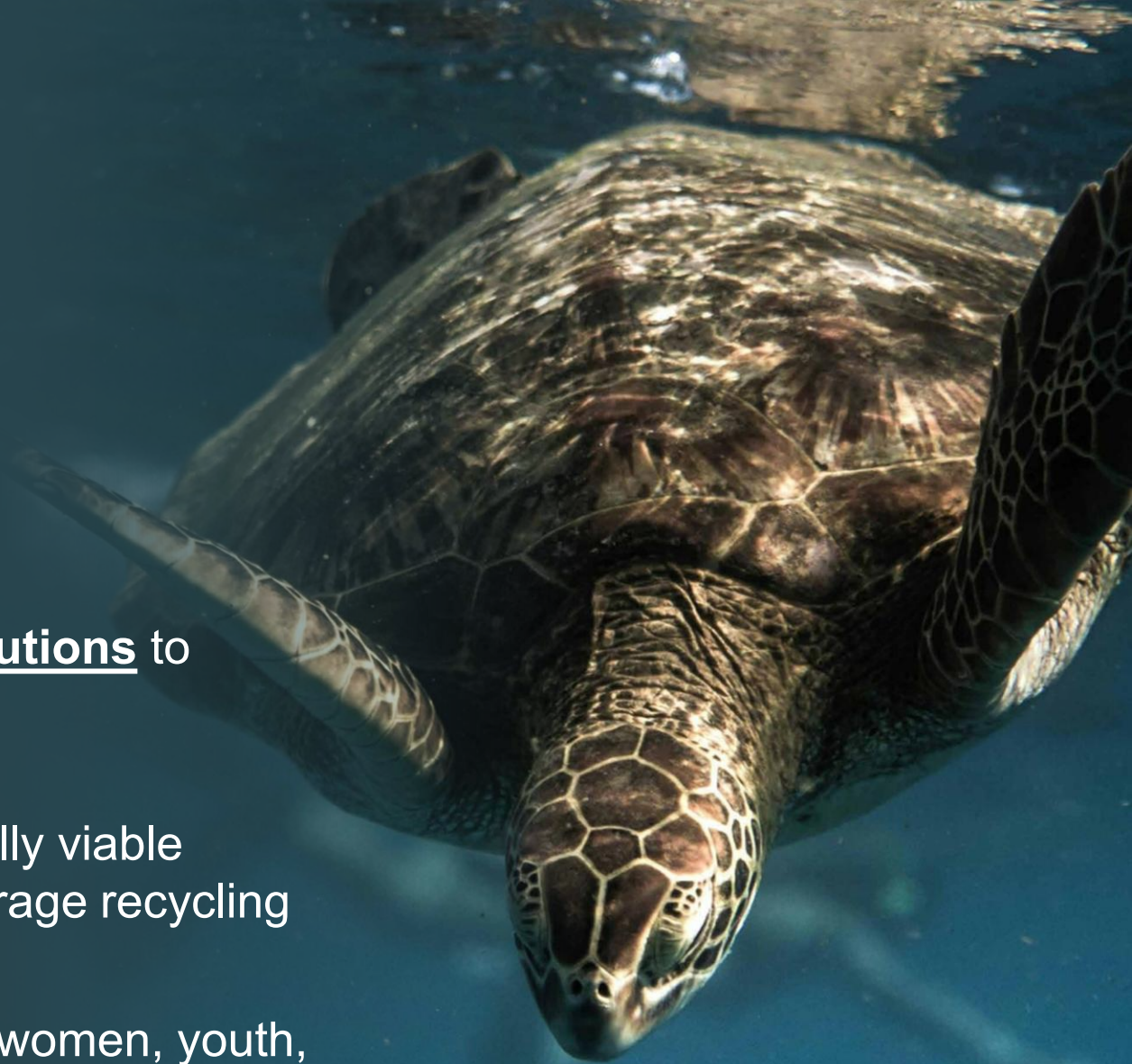


Closing the Caribbean Plastic Tap: Overview

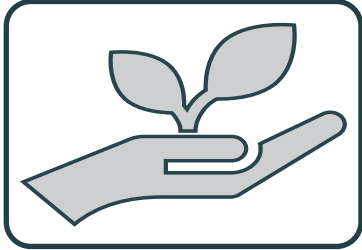


Sustainable Small Grants Programme – Objectives

- 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

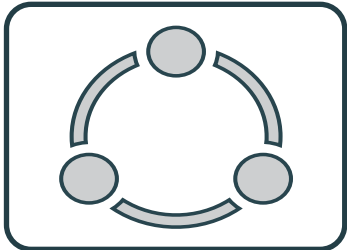


Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)



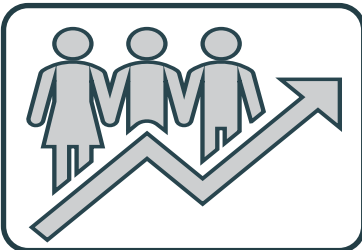
Support effective, inclusive, and scalable solutions

- **KPI 1:** Volume (in tons) of plastic waste collected, diverted, or recycled as a direct result of funded projects.
- **KPI 2:** # of scalable solutions implemented to prevent plastic leakage



Build a circular economy

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

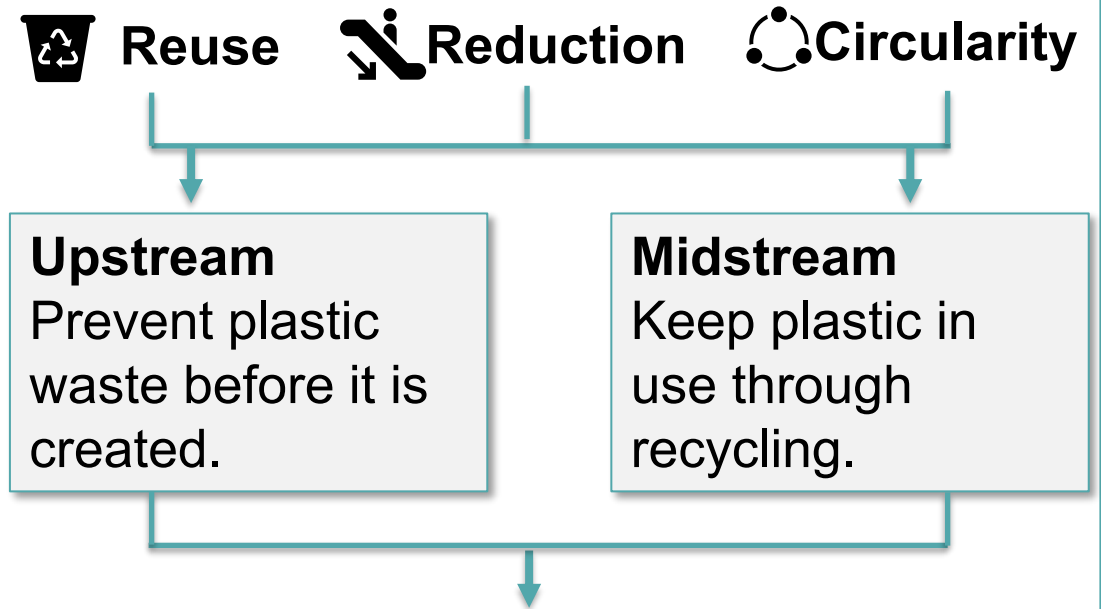


Empower local communities

- **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.

GRANT FOCUS AREAS

- ✓ 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.



Two-track approach

Track A: Technical innovation & Plastic waste prevention.

Track B: Community Inclusion & Livelihoods

Two-track Approach

Track A: Technical innovation & Plastic waste prevention



Focus: High-impact, scaling solutions that reduce plastic use and improve recycling systems.

Exemplary activities:

- Scaling product redesign and reuse systems.
- Scaling polymer-specific recycling activities.
- Scaling waste collection and sorting systems.
- Research, development, and innovation (R&D&I) projects on including the informal sector with a circular approach to plastic.
- Initiatives that integrate the use of recycled plastics into supply chains, thereby reducing demand for virgin plastics.



Evaluation emphasis:

Technical and environmental KPIs, local ownership.

Track B: Community Inclusion & Livelihoods



Focus: Inclusive, community-led initiatives that build capacity and promote behavioral change.

Exemplary activities:

- Training community members in skills such as plastic crafts, recycling, or manufacturing products from recycled plastics
- Facilitating market access for recycled plastic products
- Providing equipment or resources for informal waste pickers to improve working conditions and income
- Establishing or strengthening cooperatives focused on plastic waste recovery and value addition



Evaluation emphasis:

Social KPIs, environmental KPIs, community ownership, equity.

Two-track approach: Evaluation Criteria

Criteria	Track A	Track B
	Technical/Environmental	Social/Inclusive
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%

Two-track approach: Evaluation criteria



Evaluation criteria || Bonus points awards*:

Bonus points (5%) may be awarded for both tracks are awarded to proposals that demonstrate strong leadership by women or youth.

- **Leadership by women:** 5% bonus points for proposals with clear evidence of women in decision-making or leadership roles.
- **Leadership by youth:** 5% bonus points for proposals featuring youth in key leadership or decision-making positions.

**If it is both, the bonus will only be counted once*

Sub-criteria for awarding bonus points

- ✓ **Leadership roles.**
- ✓ **Decision-making authority.**
- ✓ **Meaningful participation.**
- ✓ **Contribution to outcomes.**
- ✓ **Sustainability of leadership.**

ELIGIBLE GRANTEEES

- ✓ Micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), especially community-based, women- and youth-led.
- ✓ Community-based organizations (CBOs)
- ✓ Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- ✓ Cooperatives, associations
- ✓ Schools
- ✓ Informal groups with demonstrated community engagement.



Partnerships

Applicants may apply individually or as part of a partnership. This is **particularly encouraged for MSMEs or informal groups that may require additional administrative, financial, or technical capacity** to successfully implement the project.

General eligibility criteria

- ✓ Legal registration or status in one of the participating countries
- ✓ Demonstrated relevant experience and leadership diversity (women/youth in leadership roles encouraged)
- ✓ Demonstrated strong capabilities on monitoring, evaluation, and reporting capabilities
- ✓ Commitment to inclusivity, targeting women, youth, and marginalised groups.



CALL FOR PROPOSALS



Funding ranges and duration



Duration

All projects will have a maximum duration of 12 months, and have to be finalised by August 1, 2027

€ Funds

The total program budget of EUR 400,000 and it will be equally divided among the five participating countries.

Each country is allocated up to EUR 80,000 in grant funding

TIER	Grant Size	Application
Single Tier	EUR \$30,000- EUR \$80,000	2 staged: concept note + full proposal

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 utilise

HOW TO APPLY



Application Process: Steps

1. Review Terms of Reference (ToR)

2. Two Stage application Process

A. Concept Note

- ✓ Prepare and submit a brief [concept note](#) outlining your project idea, objectives, key activities, and anticipated outcomes
- ✓ Applicants must complete and submit [Due Diligence and Financial Capacity Questionnaire](#), including supporting documentation.

B. Full Proposal

- ✓ If shortlisted, applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal using the required templates ⁽¹⁾, building on the concept note and addressing all feedback received in the first stage.
- (1) Project narrative ([Annex 1.B](#)), budget ([Annex 2](#)), work plan ([Annex 3](#)), Monitoring & Evaluation framework ([Annex 4](#)), and Assumption and Risk Mitigation template ([Annex 5](#)).

Joint Applications

Partnerships must clearly identify the lead applicant and all partners, describe each partner's roles and responsibilities (including financial management, procurement, and reporting), and outline coordination mechanisms between partners

3. Submission

- ✓ Submit Expression of Interest Form by May 15th, 2026
- ✓ Upload all required materials to the designated Google Drive folder (PDF) by May 31st, 2026
- ✓ Applications must be submitted in English.

4. Confirmation

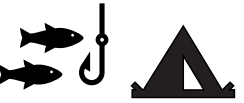
- ✓ Applicants will receive a confirmation of submission message and next steps

Practical guidance for applicants

Tips for strong proposals

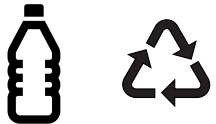


✓ **Clearly outline objectives**, activities, outcomes, sustainability, and **align with Program Objectives**



✓ Show **measurable impact**, linked to program KPIs

✓ **Focus on plastic waste prevention, circular solutions, and community empowerment** (especially women, youth, MSMEs); target upstream/midstream interventions (reuse, reduction, circularity).



✓ Prioritise **sectors**: tourism, fisheries, waste management, retail, HoReCa

✓ Meet **eligibility criteria**



✓ **Complete all required forms**

✓ Show **potential for replication or scale-up**



✓ **Women- and youth-led initiatives** score higher!

Next steps

SSGP launch

30 april

**Webinar #1:
Templates
review**

11 May

**Submission
of questions**

15 May

**Webinar #2:
Q&A
session**

26 May

**CN deadline
reception**

31 May

Q&A: Please write your
question on the chat





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We look forward to receiving your proposal!

Feel free to reach out if you have a question

Contact: plasticgrants@iucn.org



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