



# Applicant Guidance Webinar Sustainable Small Grants Programme

Wednesday June 3, 2026



*Closing the Caribbean Plastic Tap*



Ministero degli Affari Esteri  
e della Cooperazione Internazionale



AGENZIA ITALIANA  
PER LA COOPERAZIONE  
ALLO SVILUPPO



# AGENDA

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Key Programme Reminders**
- 3. Clarifications on Frequently Asked Questions**
- 4. Live Questions and Answers session**
- 5. Closure**



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# Key Programme Reminders



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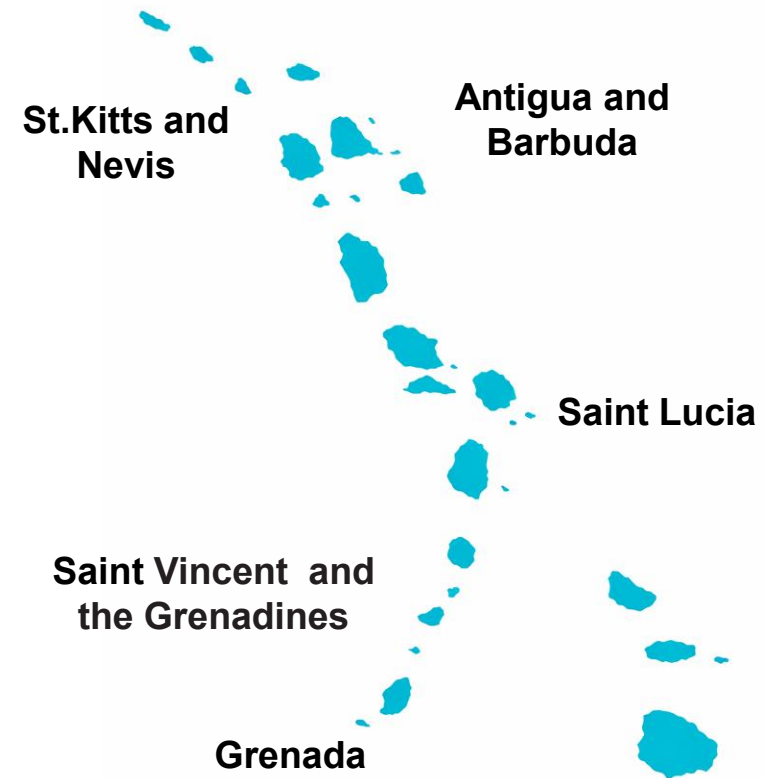


# Sustainable Small Grants Programme (SSGP)

## 5 Islands in the Eastern Caribbean

**Single funding tier** EUR 30,000 – EUR 80,000

**Objective:** Reduce plastic waste leakage into the environment by supporting inclusive, scalable, and financially sustainable circular economy solutions that strengthen local livelihoods, promote recycling and waste prevention, and create economic opportunities for communities, MSMEs, women, and youth.



# Updated timeline

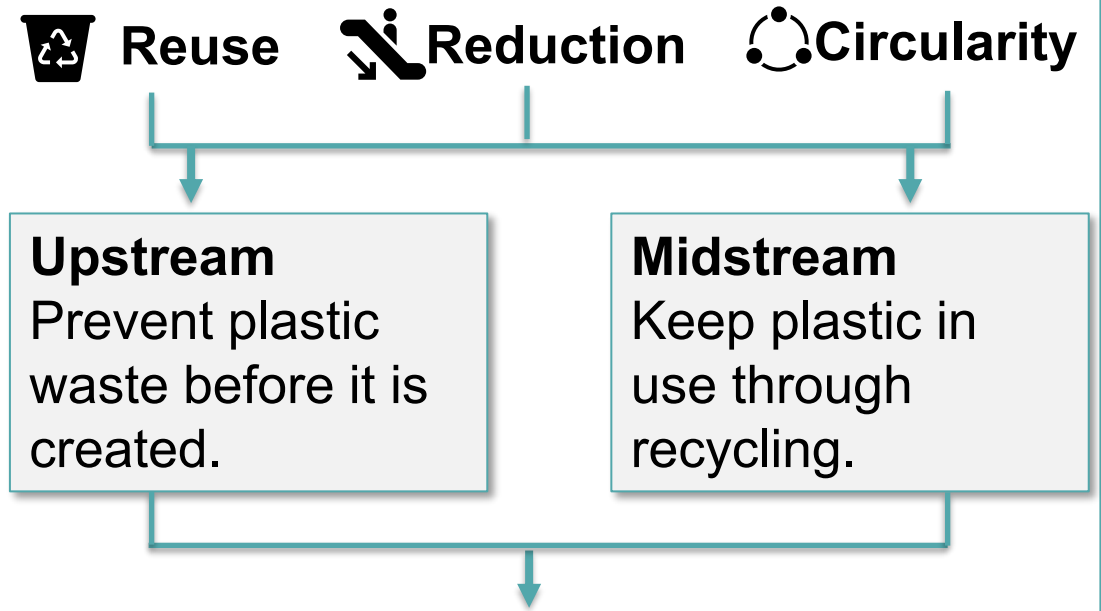


# Frequently asked questions



## Eligible Activities: 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.

## 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

## Eligibility

- ✓ Micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), especially community-based, women- and youth-led.
- ✓ Community-based organisations (CBOs)
- ✓ Non-governmental organisations (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.
- 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
- Government entities may participate as partners. However, grant funds cannot be transferred directly to government agencies.



## 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.



# Budget considerations

- **Total grant pool:** EUR 400,000
- **Country allocation:** EUR 80,000
- **Minimum grant amount (individual):** EUR 30,000
- **Maximum grant amount (individual):** EUR 80,000

## Additional clarifications:

- The indicative country allocations may be adjusted based on the number, quality, and strategic relevance of proposals received across the participating countries.
- Applicants may request funding up to the maximum grant amount available under the programme, provided that the proposed budget is realistic, well justified, and aligned with the scope and expected impact of the project.
- Funding decisions will be based on the quality of proposals received, available funding, and the overall objective of supporting impactful initiatives within each participating country.

# Selection Process and Evaluation Criteria

- A Grant Review Committee (GRC) will be established to ensure transparency, technical rigor, and fairness in the selection of grant-funded projects.

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%

*The evaluation process will also consider institutional and financial capacity through the Due Diligence and Financial Capacity Questionnaire (Annex 2).*

# Evaluation criteria: Bonus points



## 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.**

# Submission process

## 1. Review Terms of Reference (ToRs)

- ✓ Access Programme website:
  - ✓ <https://engage.iucn.org/topic/sustainable-small-grants-programme-closing-caribbean-plastic-tap>

## 2. Submit Expression of Interest Form (EoI)

- ✓ Submit Expression of Interest Form (Annex 3) to obtain link to dedicated Google Drive folder

## 3. Submit Concept Note Application Documents

- ✓ Prepare Concept Note Template (Annex 1)
- ✓ Complete the Due Diligence and Financial Capacity Questionnaire (+ supporting documentation) (Annex 2)
- ✓ Upload materials to your Google Drive folder (PDF)
- ✓ Send email confirmation
- ✓ Applications must be submitted English (PDF)

## 4. Confirmation

- ✓ Applicants receive written confirmation from SSGP Management Team
- ✓ **Access to folder is closed at this stage**

Q&A: Please write your  
question on the chat





Closing the  
Caribbean  
Plastic Tap

We look forward to  
receiving your  
proposal!

Contact: [plasticgrants@iucn.org](mailto:plasticgrants@iucn.org)



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