



CIF LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

KINGSTON, JAMAICA

JUNE 23-26, 2025

Co-organized by the

***Climate Investment Funds (CIF),
Government of Jamaica, Inter-American
Development Bank (IDB), and World Bank Group***
Event Agenda

Background

Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) is one of the most climate vulnerable regions in the world. The region is disproportionately burdened by climate change impacts due to its increased exposure to acute climate events such as hurricanes and floods, chronic risks such as droughts, and limited adaptation and mitigation capacity primarily due to budgetary constraints.¹ And yet, climate finance to the LAC region is limited and insufficient, with an estimate of up to \$1.3 trillion required to deliver on Paris Agreement goals.² As a densely populated, richly biodiverse, and rapidly developing region, the LAC region faces the complex challenges and opportunities of both mitigating and adapting to climate change.

A global leader in climate finance, the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) is one of the largest multilateral climate funds focused on transformational climate innovation in over 80 middle- and low-income countries. Established in 2008, CIF works exclusively through six multilateral development banks (MDBs) to mobilize concessional finance to pilot and scale cutting-edge climate solutions to address frontier climate challenges. Today, with over \$12 billion in resources expected to attract at least an additional \$64 billion in co-financing to support over 400 projects, the CIF presents a unique opportunity to support learning-through-doing in the global climate finance architecture.

The CIF's learning laboratory mandate places a strong emphasis on South-South learning and knowledge exchanges. These types of events are considered critical to capturing and exchanging timely, relevant, and strategic learnings that inform the direction and use of climate finance. This four-day learning event aims to promote knowledge-sharing and broker lessons learned from over 15 years of CIF experience in the LAC region. It will center on experiences from the [Pilot Program for Climate Resilience](#) (PPCR) and the [Forest Investment Program](#) (FIP), including the [Dedicated Grant Mechanism](#) (DGM), with a forward look toward CIF's [Nature, People, and Climate Investment Program](#) (NPC) and new [Accelerating Resilience Investments and Innovations for Sustainable Economies \(ARISE\) Program](#).

The event will provide countries from across the LAC region with the opportunity to showcase innovations and outcomes, and discuss the challenges faced and lessons learned in implementing sustainable forestry, climate resilience, and nature-based solutions through FIP, PPCR, and NPC projects. A focus will be placed on identifying lessons that could be most useful for CIF countries and partners that will be designing and implementing projects/programs under NPC and ARISE, as well as nationally-led adaptation and nature programs.

This knowledge event is a partnership between the CIF, Government of Jamaica, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the World Bank Group (WBG). It will bring together approximately 150 participants from CIF recipient country governments, the private sector, civil society, Indigenous Peoples, local community groups, as well as CIF MDB partners from the IDB, IFC, and World Bank.

¹ "New study sheds light on climate risks in Latin America and the Caribbean and the challenges faced by financial intermediaries in steering the green transition." European Investment Bank. Sep 2023.

² "Fact Sheets: Climate Change and Latin American and the Caribbean." IDB. Mar 2024.

Day 1 – Monday, June 23

Financing Resilience and Nature for the LAC Region

Venue: University of the West Indies (UWI) Regional Headquarters

MC: Dionne Jackson Miller, Journalist

9:00-10:30 High-Level Opening

During this high-level opening, senior representatives from the 4 partners (Government of Jamaica, CIF, IDB, and WBG) will officially open the event and welcome participants. Following the welcome remarks, the High Commissioner of Canada in Jamaica and the Bahamas will make some brief remarks on the importance of the strategic partnership between Canada and CIF, to support countries and multilateral development banks (MDBs) in the region. This will be followed by a high-level roundtable discussion to provide an opportunity for the speakers to reflect on the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region's climate finance landscape and explore strategic pathways to scale up investments in resilience, sustainable forestry, and nature-based solutions. An Executive Vice-President from the National Climate Council of the Dominican Republic and former Environmental Minister will also join this moderated discussion. The discussion will provide a platform for leaders from countries, CIF, and MDBs to share insights on how to accelerate transformative climate investments and how to align national development priorities with climate goals in the context of limited concessional finance and increasing impacts of the climate crisis. This session will also offer an opportunity to discuss policy and institutional frameworks that can unlock climate finance and encourage innovative partnerships and financing approaches.

Speakers:

- **Hon. Matthew Samuda, MP**, Minister Without Portfolio, Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Jamaica
- **Ms. Tariye Gbadegesin**, Chief Executive Officer, Climate Investment Funds (CIF)
- **Mr. Anton Edmunds**, General Manager, Caribbean Country Department (CCB), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- **Dr. Benoît Bosquet**, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, World Bank (*virtual*)
- **His Excellency Mark Berman**, High Commissioner of Canada, Jamaica and the Bahamas
- **Dr. Max Puig**, Executive Vice-President of the National Council for Climate Change and Clean Development Mechanism (CNCCMDL), Dominican Republic

Moderator for Roundtable Discussion: Ms. Nadette Langford, Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Lead, Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break | A group photo will be taken in the UWI lobby around 10:40

11:00-12:30 Learning from over 15 Years of Investing in Resilience and Forests: Evidence from the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience and Forest Investment Program

CIF's Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR), launched in 2008, aimed to be an innovative multilateral investment program for climate resilience. CIF's Forest Investment Program (FIP), launched in 2009, aimed to be the 'missing middle' in helping countries move from REDD+ readiness to results-based financing. After more than a decade of investments in resilience and forestry, CIF commissioned and published two new independent evaluations of these programs: a summative evaluation of the PPCR and [midterm evaluation of the FIP](#). This session will begin by briefly sharing headline resilience and forestry results for the LAC region, followed by insights and

recommendations from the evaluations. Participants will then share their reflections, including what areas are critical to further explore. The evidence shared during this session will help lay the foundation for common priority themes/topics that require ongoing attention in future resilience, forestry, and nature investments.

Speakers:

- **Ms. Chitembo Chunga**, Lead for Resilience Portfolio, CIF
- **Mr. Paul Hartman**, Lead for Nature Portfolio, CIF
- **Mr. Gabriel Lui**, General Coordinator of Strategies and Instruments, Brazilian Forest Service, Brazil
- **Ms. Claire Bernard**, Deputy Director General, Sustainable Development and Social Planning, Planning Institute of Jamaica
- **Ms. Silvia Llamas Prado**, Head of the International Affairs and Financial Development Unit, National Forestry Commission, Mexico
- **Ms. Elva Janett Vargas Copa**, General Coordinator, Katari River Basin Management Unit, Bolivia
- **Mr. Felipe Pino**, Task Team Leader of PPCR Urban Project Haiti, World Bank (*virtual*)

Moderator: Mr. Zhihong Zhang, Senior Climate Finance Specialist, World Bank

12:30-13:30 Lunch Break

13:30-15:00 Catalyzing Private Investment for Adaptation, Sustainable Forest Management, and Nature-based Solutions in LAC

Drawing from FIP, PPCR, and Nature, People and Climate (NPC) projects in the LAC region, this session aims to highlight innovative approaches to enhance private sector participation in CIF's nature and resilience programming. This panel will feature speakers who will provide insights into various CIF programs, focusing on strategies to unlock private sector engagement through blended finance and policy reform. Additionally, the panel will offer recommendations to strengthen private sector participation, emphasizing its crucial role in the success of the CIF programmatic approach.

Speakers:

- **Mr. Matthew Harris**, Results Specialist, CIF
- **Ms. Dianne Francois**, Relationship Specialist, Saint Lucia Development Bank (SLDB)
- **Ms. Claudia Amarante**, Manager for International Organizations, Brazil Development Bank (BNDES)
- **Mr. Carlos Whately**, Associate Operations Officer, IFC (*virtual*)
- **Mr. Denesh Baboolal**, Development Effectiveness Officer, IDB Invest

Moderator: Ms. Erica Haughton, Project Management Consultant, University of the West Indies, Jamaica

15:00-15:30 Coffee Break

15:30-16:00 Lightning Talks: Introduction to the Knowledge Booths

A knowledge fair will help demonstrate the work undertaken as part of the PPCR, FIP, and/or Dedicated Grant Mechanism (DGM) in the LAC region. During this lightning talk session, each booth lead will have an opportunity to pitch the content of their booth in plenary, before participants browse the different booths.

16:00-17:00 Knowledge Fair: Showcasing Transformational Work in the Latin America & Caribbean Region

Participating countries will highlight the PPCR, FIP, and/or DGM work undertaken in their countries. Booths from IDB, WBG (WB and IFC), and CIF will also present relevant information/work in the region.

17:00-19:00 Welcome Reception

Day 2 – Tuesday, June 24 Field Visits

Option 1: Doppler Radar Site and Tilapia Hatchery

2 CIF Projects Implemented by the World Bank:

1. Improving Climate Data and Information Management
2. Promoting Community-Based Climate Resilience in the Fisheries Sector

Doppler Radar Site: Jamaica's capacity to provide accurate climate data and services to make climate-smart investment decisions and adapt to climate change has been compromised by outdated and insufficient hydrological and meteorological infrastructure. The country's original network of climatological stations has deteriorated and previous doppler radar has become obsolete. The radar is part of an upgraded and expanded hydromet network. At this site, participants will be able to see essential equipment being used in weather observation – nowcasting and forecasting and in early warning systems. The site serves as part of the regional network, and is particularly important for a country, like Jamaica, in the Atlantic hurricane belt. Information from this radar is used to provide climate services for a range of sectors for better planning, operation, and investment decisions. It provides timely and actionable weather and climate data that are useful for disaster preparedness and emergency response, among other things.

Tilapia Hatchery: Climate change is negatively impacting capture fisheries in a number of ways, resulting in deteriorating health of marine ecosystems, reduced productivity, loss or reduction of livelihood, especially in fisheries dependent communities, etc. Sea temperature warming is also projected to significantly impact coral reefs which are important fish nursery habitats and would inter alia cause annual bleaching events, further destabilizing the marine resource base. Ocean acidification is also projected to affect fish populations directly, including through physiological damage at early life stages. In particular, shellfish such as conch and lobsters are expected to be severely impacted. Climate impacts also threaten food security as the sea remains a large contributor to the total dietary protein intake of Jamaicans, with fish and seafood accounting for approximately 10%. In an effort to address the challenges, there is a move to diversify the sector, thereby reducing the pressures from overfishing, etc. One way of doing this is to revitalize and expand the aquaculture sub-industry. Participants will see the new facility designed to jump start this expansion, and how it incorporates climate smart technologies such as rainwater harvesting and the recirculatory aquaculture system.

- **8:00 AM:** Depart from AC Hotel Kingston*
- **8:50 AM:** Arrive at Doppler Radar Site

- Welcome by Head of Weather Unit
- Guided tour of facility to view equipment including control and display panels
- Climb tower, if interested, to see the mechanics of the system
- Interact with forecasters and other technical specialists to learn how the equipment works and how it supports local and regional climate planning
- Observe adaptation and mitigation measures employed
- **10:30 AM:** Depart from Doppler Radar Site
- **11:10 AM:** Arrive at Tilapia Hatchery
 - Welcome by Project Manager
 - Guided tour of bio-secure facility
 - Observe differences between original facility and climate smart hatchery
 - Discuss operations with technical personnel
 - Explore replicability
- **12:40 PM:** Depart from Tilapia Hatchery
- **1:30 PM:** Arrive back to AC Hotel Kingston

**Note: Participants will be split into two groups, with half of the group starting at the Doppler Radar Site and the other half starting at the Tilapia Hatchery. Once they have finished at one project, they will go to the second project.*

Option 2: James Hill Primary School

1 CIF Project Implemented by the IDB: Adaptation Programme and Financing Mechanism (AP&FM) Project

James Hill is a rural community in Central Jamaica that benefited from the PPCR program. To become resilient to climate change impacts of increased drought and more intense rainfall episodes, the program assisted the local school, among other institutions, with water harvesting equipment. Water security is a big challenge in the area as many communities do not have piped water and rely almost exclusively on rainfall. This has caused significant disruptions to the school calendar. The increased water harvesting capacity means less disruptions and improved resilience.

Participants will also see examples of soil conservation techniques and sustainable agricultural practices implemented and adopted through the program. Intense rainfall episodes lead to soil erosion and leaching, which impacts agricultural productivity. These new practices enable farmers to better withstand these impacts and maintain or even improve productivity.

- **8:00 AM:** Depart from AC Hotel Kingston
- **10:15 AM:** Arrive at James Hill Primary School
- **10:30 AM:** Opening Session
 - Brief welcome by the Principal and presentation on the PPCR Program
 - Brief presentation from CIF LAC KE participants to the school (3 volunteers to share about climate change in their own countries)
 - Q&A from students

- **11 – 11:30 AM:** Tour of school* to observe climate change activity under PPCR
- **11:45 AM – 12:15 PM:** Tour of local farm* to observe sustainable farming practices under PPCR, including interaction with local farmer on check dam system, live barrier, and agroforestry
- **12:30 – 1:15 PM:** Lunch Break
- **1:30 – 2 PM:** Tree Planting Ceremony
- **2:15 PM:** Depart from School
- **4:30 PM:** Arrive back to AC Hotel Kingston

**Note: Participants will be split into two groups, with half of the group starting with a tour of the school, and the other half with a tour of the local farm.*

Day 3 – Wednesday, June 25

Taking Stock from Country, MDB, and CIF Experience in the LAC Region

Venue: AC Hotel Kingston, Room Rock Steady I&II

9:00-9:30 Icebreaker: Field Visit Reflections

Participants to share key takeaways or memorable moment(s) from the previous day's field visits.

9:30-10:30 Country-Centered Results: Looking Back and Planning for the Future

To drive CIF's programmatic approach and enhance national climate monitoring and evaluation (M&E) capacity, PPCR and FIP deliberately put countries at the center of monitoring implementation and tracking results through country-led monitoring systems (i.e., PPCR M&R System and FIP M&R System). This session will begin with an overview of the main results achieved through PPCR and FIP to date in the LAC region, including the approach used for reporting these results, the role that countries have played, and what is expected going forward. Key personnel from PPCR and FIP countries who were involved in national monitoring processes and Investment Plan (IP) Close-Outs will then be invited to share their experience implementing the system, including the results generated through the investment plan in their respective countries. Finally, the session will interrogate what will be needed to track the next generation of investments in resilience and nature, with an interactive discussion of how CIF and MDBs can continue to support country and local ownership in these processes.

Speakers:

- **Mr. Matthew Harris**, Results Specialist, CIF
- **Mr. Pedro Bruzzi Lion**, Executive Director, Funatura, Brazil
- **Mr. Jason Ernest**, Director, Water Resources Management Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security, and Rural Development, St. Lucia

Discussants:

- **Mr. Carlos Rodriguez**, DGM Guatemala
- **Ms. Ines Angulo**, Forestry Specialist, World Bank

Moderator: Ms. Erin Conner, Results Specialist, CIF

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00-12:00 From Implementation to Impact: Results from DGM Projects in Latin America

Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and Local Communities (LCs) are vital stewards of forests and biodiversity – managing lands that hold over one-third of the world’s remaining intact forests and 80% of its biodiversity. The CIF’s Dedicated Grant Mechanism (DGM) played a pioneering role in providing direct finance to IPs & LCs through direct access to support capacity-building and community-led natural resource management. This session will showcase the key results and lasting impacts of the DGM in Brazil, Peru, and Mexico – now completed – and share results from ongoing implementation in Guatemala. Participants will hear how these programs have strengthened IP & LC organizations, enhanced land tenure security, promoted sustainable livelihoods, and improved forest governance. The discussion will also reflect on lessons learned, future plans, and guidance for the new NPC Dedicated Grant Mechanism program.

Speakers:

- **Ms. Amita Ramachandran**, Climate Change Specialist, CIF
- **Ms. Lola Cabnal**, DGM Representative from Guatemala
- **Mr. Hiparidi Dzutsi’wa Top Tiro**, DGM Representative from Brazil
- **Mr. Miguel Guimaraes Vasques**, DGM Representative from Peru
- **Ms. Gisela Hernandez Angeles**, DGM Representative from Mexico

Moderator: Mr. Johnson Cerda, Vice President, IPLC Engagement and Partnership, Conservation International

12:00-13:00 CIF Programmatic Approach – Experiences on the Ground

This session will shed light on how CIF’s programmatic approach provided a collaborative space to address thematic challenges (i.e., Forestry, Resilience and Adaptation, Nature Based Solutions) holistically in the Investment Plans. Pilot countries will discuss what worked, what should be improved, and positive spillovers into other processes such as countries platforms, Green Climate Fund (GCF) countries plans, etc.

Speakers:

- **Mr. Peter Gonsalo Hinostroza Chauca**, Advisor to the Technical Unit, National Forest Conservation Program for Climate Change Mitigation, Ministry of Environment, Peru
- **Ms. Elva Jannet Vargas Copa**, General Coordinator of the Kata Basin Management Unit, Ministry of Environment and Water, Bolivia
- **Ms. Silvia Llamas Prado**, Head of the International Affairs and Financial Development Unit, National Forestry Commission, Mexico
- **Ms. Claire Bernard**, Deputy Director General, Sustainable Development and Social Planning, Planning Institute of Jamaica
- **Mr. Rodrigo Fincheira**, Senior Advisor to the Vice Presidency of the National Council on Climate Change and Clean Development Mechanism, Dominican Republic (*virtual*)

Moderator: Ms. Gloria Visconti, Sector Lead Specialist, IDB

13:00-14:00 Lunch Break

14:00-14:45 Blue Economy and Adaptation: Lessons Learned and Trends

The session will revolve around the blue economy and issues of adaptation to climate change in this sector. Belize will present its experience with the issue along with the latest developments in adaptation approaches. Responses and perspectives will be shared by other panellists.

Speakers:

- **Ms. Erica Haughton**, Project Management Consultant, University of the West Indies, Jamaica
- **Mr. Jonathon Hernould**, Manager, White River Marine Association, Jamaica
- **Mr. Oscar Polanco Reynoso**, Head of Climate Finance, Ministry of Environment, Dominican Republic

Moderator: Dr. David Smith, Coordinator of the Institute for Sustainable Development (ISD) and Director of the Centre for Environmental Management (CEM), Jamaica

14:45-15:30 Consultation on CIF's Country Engagement Strategy

The recently endorsed new CIF Strategic Directions, referred to as "North Star," will shape CIF's business model over the next five to ten years. At the core of this strategy, CIF will reinforce its support to partner countries and provide training and capacity building at the country level, thereby strengthening the capacities of countries and institutions to effectively access, manage, and utilize climate finance. To operationalize this strategic direction, the CIF in large consultation with partner countries, is currently developing a Country Engagement Strategy (CES). The CES will provide guiding principles for the CIF's approach to country support, including how new CIF programs, such as the CIF ARISE Program, will engage with recipient countries and their various stakeholders to ensure an effective implementation of CIF's country-led approach. The purpose of this session is to facilitate an open discussion among the CIF's LAC countries to discuss the operational elements of this CES, drawing upon the LAC region's 16 years of experience with the CIF and their perspectives on enhancing this partnership. The CIF Sec will make a short presentation to provide a context for the CES.

Speaker:

- **Mr. Emmanuel Kouadio**, Partner Country Engagement Lead, CIF

15:30-16:00 Coffee Break

16:00-17:00 Sparking Change: Regional Climate Modelling Across the Caribbean

This session highlights the role of PPCR investment in Jamaica in advancing Caribbean climate science. Emphasis is placed on the use of climate data in influencing policy and planning in a number of sectors, particularly agriculture and health, two of the five priority sectors identified in Jamaica Strategic Programme for Climate Resilience. Other spheres of transformational impact such as the development of climate screening tools for public capital investment are also explored.

Speaker:

- **Dr. Jayaka Campbell**, Undergraduate Coordinator/Graduate Coordinator – MSc Renewable Energy, Department of Physics, University of the West Indies (UWI)

Moderator: Ms. Claire Bernard, Deputy Director General, Sustainable Development and Social Planning, Planning Institute of Jamaica

Day 4 – Thursday, June 26

Scaling Action in Resilience, Sustainable Forestry, and Nature-Based-Solutions for the LAC Region

Venue: AC Hotel Kingston, Room Rock Steady I&II

9:00-10:30 Nature-Based Solutions: What they are and what we can learn from Brazil, the Dominican Republic, and Guatemala

Nature-based solutions (NbS) offer powerful pathways to address climate change, biodiversity loss, and sustainable development. The CIF's Nature, People, Climate (NPC) program supports countries in implementing inclusive, scalable NbS that deliver climate benefits while strengthening the rights and resilience of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. This session will spotlight the NbS approaches of approved NPC investment plans from Brazil and the Dominican Republic. A representative from the FIP Dedicated Grant Mechanism (DGM) will also share how Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities drive nature-based climate action, and how DGM lessons can inform NPC implementation. Through a combination of presentations, panel discussions, and an interactive exercise, this session will provide participants with a deeper understanding of practical application of Nature-based Solutions, the NPC program, and opportunities for cross-program learning and collaboration.

Speakers:

- **Mr. Thiago Belote Silva**, Director, Department of Forestry, Government of Brazil
- **Mr. Jorge Hernandez**, Director, Planning and Development, Ministry of Environment, Dominican Republic
- **Mr. Hori Orlando Salanic Xec**, Guatemala Representative from DGM
- **Moderator: Mr. Paul Hartman**, Lead for Nature Portfolio, CIF

Group exercise facilitator: Ms. Amita Ramachandran, Climate Change Specialist, CIF

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00-12:30 Beyond Financing for Adaptation and Resilience – CIF Transformative Ways

This session is expected to promote the CIF Accelerating Resilience Investments and Innovations for Sustainable Economies (ARISE) program, sharing its design context, expectations, and how it will help developing countries drive adaptation and resilience with an economic lens to dealing with climate risks. It will explore how financing adaptation and resilience has economic and social benefits, including an interactive session exploring the systemic model to maximize available financing. The session will showcase how the CIF, through the ARISE program, intends to drive this agenda.

Speakers:

- **Ms. Amel El Abed**, Resilience Analyst, CIF
- **Ms. Chitembo Chunga**, Lead for Resilience Portfolio, CIF
- **Ms. Nadette Langford**, Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Lead, Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
- **Mr. Gerard Alleng**, Climate Change Senior Specialist, IDB

Moderator: Ms. Nadia Wells Hyacinth, Chief Economist, Department of Economic Development, Saint Lucia

12:30-13:30 Lunch Break

13:30-15:00 Enhancing Jobs and Livelihoods through Just and Inclusive Planning

During this workshop, participants will learn about the CIF's Just Transition and Gender and Social Inclusion workstreams, to highlight key considerations as countries, MDBs, and other partners move forward with CIF projects. Key aspects of these workstreams will be presented, such as the Just Transition framework, case studies, Gender Action Review, etc. The session will begin with brief presentations on CIF's Just Transition and Gender and Social inclusion workstreams, followed by a 40-minute group exercise and a 30-minute report out from the groups.

Speakers and workshop facilitators:

- **Ms. Farah Outeldait**, Social Development Specialist, CIF
- **Mr. Michael Ward**, Senior Evaluation and Learning Specialist, CIF
- **Mr. Alfredo Villavicencio Vieira**, Evaluation Analyst, CIF

15:00-15:30 Coffee Break

15:30-16:30 Key Takeaways for Future Resilience, Sustainable Forestry, and NbS Work

This session will provide participating countries with an opportunity to share key takeaways and lessons learned from this event, to highlight how they will take this knowledge forward in their future work. One representative per country will be assigned to share-out.

16:30-17:00 Closing Session

This closing session will have a representative from each of the organizing partners (Government of Jamaica, CIF, IDB, and WBG) share key takeaways and next steps to ensure lessons from this knowledge exchange continue to support the design and implementation of CIF programs and projects.

Speakers:

- **Dr. Sharon A. Morrison**, JP, Director General, Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, Jamaica
- **Mr. Michael Ward**, Senior Evaluation and Learning Specialist, CIF
- **Mr. Gerard Alleng**, Climate Change Senior Specialist, IDB
- **Mr. Zhihong Zhang**, Senior Climate Finance Specialist, World Bank