SANTIAGO NETWORK

Building a world where developing countries and communities shape and drive inclusive action on loss and damage.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Strengthening climate resilience, risk management and recovery through green and blue microfinance in Caribbean Small Island Developing States

CFP reference number: CFP/SN/24039/2026/BRB/034

Version	Issuance date	Change
Original	24 September 2026	-
Revision 1	6 November 2026	Clarification of wording provided in the eligibility criteria in Section 4.1, Table, 1, number 5. The word Caribbean has now been included in the clause 'or similar contexts.' *It now reads: The applicant must demonstrate experience in implementing projects and initiatives on topics related to capacity building for the financial sector related to loss and damage or climate change in the Caribbean, particularly in Barbados and Grenada, or similar Caribbean contexts.* *Revising the time zone to GMT+1 throughout the call due to daylight savings time in Europe.*

1. BACKGROUND

1.1. The Santiago Network

The Santiago Network was established under the Warsaw International Mechanism for loss and damage (WIM) in 2019 as a mechanism to catalyse technical assistance (by relevant organizations, bodies, networks, and experts, or OBNEs), to avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change at the local, national, and regional level. The technical assistance is for developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. To streamline the process, terms of reference for the Santiago Network were adopted in 2022, including establishing its hosted secretariat to coordinate its functions, an Advisory Board to provide oversight and guidance, and a network of members to provide technical assistance. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) were selected as the hosts of the Santiago Network Secretariat in 2023.[1] The Santiago Network Secretariat administers, through UNOPS, the funds provided to the Santiago Network to support technical assistance, in accordance with the respective regulations and rules of UNOPS.

Technical assistance through the network will be provided in a demand-driven manner and developed through an inclusive and country-led process, taking into account the needs of vulnerable people, Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

The Santiago Network is further guided by six functions.[2]

- Effective implementation of the functions of the WIM;
- Catalysing demand-driven technical assistance, including by identifying, prioritizing, and communicating technical assistance needs and priorities;
- Facilitating and catalysing collaboration, coordination, coherence and synergies among OBNEs to deliver technical assistance effectively and efficiently;
- Facilitating the consideration of a wide range of topics;
- Facilitating the development and sharing of knowledge and information on loss and damage; and
- Facilitating access to finance, capacity building and technology through technical assistance.

1.2. Catalysing technical assistance through the Santiago Network

The scope of technical assistance includes a wide range of topics relevant to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with climate change. Requests for technical assistance are further guided by the Guidelines and procedures for responding to requests for technical assistance that articulate the criteria governing requests for technical assistance, and the process for making and responding to requests, as well as provide the template for developing countries to submit requests. OBNEs designated as members of the Santiago Network will be able to respond to these requests in keeping with the established open and transparent process.* The provision of technical assistance must also be aligned with the Guidelines on preventing potential and addressing actual and perceived conflicts of interest in relation to the Santiago Network.

****Note**: For the purposes of this Call for Proposals, interested OBNEs that submit their Expression of Interest to become a member of the Santiago Network prior to the submission deadline indicated in this Call for Proposals and are subsequently admitted as members in line with the membership guidelines will be considered (see also preliminary screening criteria outlined in section 4).*

[1] Santiago Network COP28 decision: https://unfccc.int/documents/636316; CMA5 decision: https://unfccc.int/documents/636315
[2] Decision 12/CMA.4, endorsed in decision 11/CP.27, Annex I

2. PARTICULARS OF THE REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

2.1. Title of the technical assistance request

Strengthening climate resilience, risk management and recovery through green and blue microfinance in Caribbean Small Island Developing States.

2.2. Country and policy context

2.2.1 Context

Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are experiencing significant loss and damage from climate impacts which have been on an increasing trajectory over the past twenty-five years. Analysis from the Central Bank of Barbados indicates between 2020 and 2023, there were 793 climatic events impacting the region[3]. Tropical storms and flooding accounted for 50.6% and 31.9% of those events, respectively[4]. Slow-onset events such as sea level rise, coastal erosion, drought and extreme heat also have a significant impact on Caribbean lives and livelihoods. These events generate significant and recurring economic loss and damage, particularly affecting MSMEs, coastal communities, and climate sensitive sectors such as tourism, fisheries, and agriculture. This creates a cyclical relationship between climate-induced loss and damage and rising fiscal debt[5]. Taken together, these recurring impacts underscore the importance of strengthening the region's capacity to manage climate-related risks before, during, and after such events.

Despite the growing need for resilience-oriented financial solutions, financial institutions in the region face critical constraints. These include limited capacity to integrate climate risk into financial decision-making, insufficient expertise in developing green and blue financial products, and a lack of practical tools tailored to SIDS contexts. As a result, financial systems are not optimally positioned to support timely adaptation, recovery, or long-term vulnerability reduction. There is also a gap between climate policy frameworks and financial sector response, limiting the effectiveness of national and regional efforts to address loss and damage. Without targeted technical assistance, these challenges will persist, constraining resilience-building and increasing the cumulative cost of climate impacts.

Barbados: Barbados's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) indicates that adaptive measures in the country are requiring ever larger investments, and it notes the limits of adaptation due to constraints on time and resources. Similarly to the broader Caribbean region, Barbados is exposed to tropical storms, sea level rise and drought which can result in water scarcity given Barbados' unique hydrogeology. The country's tourism economy and built infrastructure hug the coastline, and therefore both rapid (tropical storms) and slow (coastal erosion, seaweed influxes etc.) onset events can have significant negative effects on social and economic factors. Barbados has been a strong advocate for fiscal reform related to climate finance, and under the Bridgetown Initiative, creating an enabling environment for financial institutions to deepen their engagement on climate risk management.

Grenada: Grenada's Second NDC (2020) acknowledges the country's limited fiscal space for climate action, with adaptation priorities elaborated through its recently revised National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2025–2030. Similarly to the broader Caribbean region, Grenada is exposed to tropical storms, sea-level rise, and drought, with exposure distributed across the tri-island state of Grenada, Carriacou, and Petite Martinique. Its experience illustrates the recurring cycle of loss and damage and constrained public finances: Hurricane Ivan (2004) caused damages exceeding 200 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), and the country was still addressing legacies of that event when Hurricane Beryl (2024) caused damages of approximately 16.5 per cent of GDP, borne overwhelmingly by the islands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique. Grenada has responded proactively, including through disaster-contingent financing instruments and a new national climate policy framework encompassing a dedicated Loss and Damage Implementation Plan — creating an enabling environment for financial institutions to deepen their engagement in climate risk management and climate finance.

2.2.2 Policy context

A well established regional policy architecture serves as a foundation for advancing climate and disaster resilience across the region. Caribbean countries have implemented various climate resilience initiatives, including adaptation planning, disaster risk reduction programmes, and climate finance mobilization efforts, guided by the Caribbean Community's

[3] https://www.centralbank.org.bb/news/press-releases/the-cost-of-climate-change-for-caribbean-economies
[4] IBID
[5] https://ca1-clm.edcdn.com/publications/Review-of-loss-and-damage-in-the-Caribbean-1994-2024.pdf?v=1717576292

(CARICOM) Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change 2025-2035. One of the strategy's core strategic elements focuses on provision of climate finance and sets out seven goals in the sector[6] including on improving product portfolios offered by financial institutions to address climate impacts. In addition, this technical assistance is aligned to the Regional Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) particularly its emphasis on risk reduction, preparedness, and resilient recovery, including the role of financial mechanisms in managing disaster impacts[7]. While significant gains have been made across the region, these efforts are yet to bridge the financial sector capacity gap in the face of intensifying climate pressure. This is particularly acute when considering financial products tailored to local communities and the MSMEs who serve those communities across the Caribbean. The proposed technical assistance directly addresses these gaps by strengthening the ability of financial institutions to avert, minimize, and address loss and damage.

The following links contain information on the latest climate policy and strategic direction for Barbados and Grenada.

Relevant Barbados policies

- Barbados second NDC (2025)
- Barbados Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan (2026)
- Bridgetown Initiative 3.0
- Barbados Blue Economy Policy Framework & Strategic Action Plan
- Barbados Physical Development Plan (Amendment 2023)

Relevant Grenada policies

- Grenada second NDC (2020)
- National Climate Change Policy for Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique (2025-2030)
- National Adaptation Plan (2025-2030)
- National Sustainable Development Plan (2020-2035)
- Climate Finance Resource Mobilization Strategy
- Grenada Disaster Resilience Strategy

Regional policies and initiatives

- CARICOM's Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change (2025-2035)
- Regional Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (2014-2024)
- CDEMA information particularly on the Caribbean Resilient Recovery Facility
- SIDS Global Business Webinar hosted by UN OHRLLS
- Eastern Caribbean Central Bank initiatives

2.3. Objectives and expected impact of the technical assistance

This Call for Proposals responds to a multi-country request submitted by the University of the West Indies (UWI), including Barbados and Grenada. It builds on existing national and regional initiatives and is aimed as a pilot first beginning in Barbados and then expanding to Grenada. In the future, the vision is to extend similar technical assistance to other Caribbean Countries using UWI's regional system as well as regional financial sector networks.

The objective of the technical assistance is to develop and implement a capacity-building and applied technical support programme that enables financial institutions to design, adapt, and deliver climate-responsive financial products that contribute to averting, minimizing, and addressing loss and damage. These products will target both micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and individual clients/households, with a focus on vulnerable and climate-exposed groups. This technical assistance is aligned to growing calls from SIDS to strengthen the role of the private sector in addressing climate-related loss and damage. Recognizing that livelihoods and economic recovery are often driven by MSMEs and private enterprises, the technical assistance will promote financial sector approaches that align to loss and damage action within existing finance frameworks. By helping financial institutions integrate these features into their products and services, the programme supports a more inclusive and accessible approach to loss and damage financing that has the potential to reach businesses, households, and communities directly.

The programme will be delivered in partnership with the University of the West Indies (UWI) system, their SIDS Green and Blue Economy Knowledge Transfer Hub (SIDS hub), faculty, staff and students; financial and non-financial institutions; business support institutions and relevant government institutions (Central Bank, Eastern Caribbean Central Bank and Financial Services Commission etc.). While the pilot implementation will initially be undertaken in Barbados and

[6] https://caribbeanclimate.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Revised-Regional-Framework-2025-to-2035.pdf
[7] https://www.cdema.org/CDMStrategy2014-2024.pdf

Grenada, sustainable outcomes will continue beyond the life of the technical assistance through institutionalization in the UWI system. In the future, additional engagement with regional financial sector networks, business support organizations and financial sector regulators will support participation, knowledge transfer, and future uptake across additional Caribbean SIDS.

The expected impact of this technical assistance is threefold. In the near term, it will expand access to climate-responsive financial services for climate-exposed MSMEs and households across Barbados and Grenada, including women-led enterprises, youth entrepreneurs, small-scale farmers, fishers, informal businesses, persons with disabilities, and low-income households who currently face limited options for managing climate-related risk. This expanded access will, in turn, enable faster and more inclusive recovery when climate shocks occur, ensuring that vulnerable groups are not left behind in post-disaster recovery processes. Over time, these gains will translate into strengthened resilience among businesses and individuals, reducing the long-term accumulation of loss and damage across the targeted communities. Beyond these direct effects, the partnership with UWI serves as clear institutionalization of the technical assistance by embedding climate-responsive green and blue finance knowledge within Caribbean higher education and professional training systems. This ensures that durable regional capacity is built that outlasts the life of the technical assistance itself thereby, continuing to support financial sector innovation, strengthening resilience, and reducing climate-related loss and damage among MSMEs and vulnerable households even after the technical assistance concludes.

2.4. Scope, activities and expected results of the technical assistance

The technical assistance is expected to deliver the following components:

i. Component 1: Capacity building for climate responsive green and blue microfinance

This component focuses on adapting existing green and blue finance curriculum from the international level, to the Caribbean SIDS context and integrating climate risk, loss and damage considerations into the curriculum. Many such training modules remain global in scope, with less specific focus on regional examples on hazard exposure or loss and damage and post disaster recovery. Component 1 will address this gap by identifying and adapting existing international curriculum to the Caribbean context. The adapted curriculum will equip participants to develop financial solutions that are accessible and responsive to the needs of vulnerable and underserved groups (i.e. women-led enterprises, youth entrepreneurs, small-scale farmers, fishers, informal businesses, persons with disabilities, and low-income households) in the Caribbean. Structured training will be delivered to financial institutions; business support and other non-financial institutions; and relevant government regulators and supervisory bodies; and UWI faculty, staff and students.

Expected results:

a. A Caribbean focused, green and blue microfinance curriculum, building on existing international approaches, incorporating loss and damage and equitable and inclusive financial product design methodologies. This could include, but is not limited to: understanding the green and blue financing landscape and how it can avert, minimize and address loss and damage; product diversification and tailored tools for green and blue finance; risk and return of green and blue financing; understanding needs of customers; utilization of local data and information for product development and reach to target customers; supportive non-financial services; understanding and communicating impact.

b. Comprehensive training package delivered to relevant stakeholders from financial institutions, business support and other non-financial institutions, relevant government and regulatory authority staff, UWI faculty, staff and students etc. Training will take place first in Barbados with an estimated number of 40 participants, and based on that learning experience will be executed in Grenada with an estimated number of 40 participants.

ii. Component 2: Development and piloting of climate-responsive financial products

A persistent gap across global capacity-building efforts is the disconnection between policy and implementation. This technical assistance aims to build capacity to integrate loss and damage and climate risk consideration into financial institutions. Then to link this improved capacity with institutional planning and pilot implementation to bridge the gap between policy and practice. Capacity building, operational tools, and piloting opportunities are needed to turn policies into action. Component 2 will support the design and or adaptation of financial instruments across the spectrum of averting, minimizing, and addressing loss and damage. This helps institutions to examine their broader product portfolio holistically, rather than treating loss and damage as a new or stand alone product. Such financial products could include, among others: green and blue microfinance products with flexible terms such as low or no collateral and/or longer tenor; group lending models; livelihood diversification finance; micro insurance; build-back better finance; contingency/emergency

finance; post-disaster recovery financing; digital financial services etc. Tools and approaches will also need to be developed to accompany the operationalization of these financial products using an inclusive approach (i.e. risk screening tools for MSMEs and households, vulnerability/eligibility tools when considering inclusion of vulnerable and underserved populations, damage verification tools). Improved financial products will account for various financial aspects such as lending, savings, insurance and business development services that can improve outcomes for MSMEs, households, and vulnerable groups. Building the capacity of key financial institutions on which communities depend can drive long-term sustainable impact through increased knowledge, improved lending practices, and stronger product portfolios

Expected results:

a. Assessment of potential end users of green and blue finance (e.g. MSMEs, households, vulnerable groups - see section 2.5) in Barbados and Grenada to understand their financial needs, preferences and constraints. This assessment will inform curricula and enable the design of loss and damage-responsive financial products that are relevant, accessible, and positioned for adoption.

b. Institutional action plans individualized for participating financial institutions that integrate climate risk, loss and damage, and inclusive product design into relevant financial products. At two to five plans for institutions in Barbados and two to five plans for institutions in Grenada.

c. Suite of practical tools (e.g. climate risk screening, product design, vulnerability/eligibility tools) that support the operationalization and use of such products by financial institutions in alignment with their action plans from result ii (b) above.

d. One to two climate-responsive financial products supporting recovery, livelihood protection, and/or risk reduction piloted and ready for wider adoption. The same product(s) could be rolled out in both Barbados and Grenada, or these may differ based on the situation in each country.

e. Improved capacity of key actors within each financial institution that operationalizes the new or adapted financial product. It is estimated that one to two institutions per country will pilot the product during the life of the technical assistance.

iii. Component 3: Institutionalization within the UWI system

Beyond components one and two, achieving durable regional capacity requires the curricula developed be embedded within an institution capable of sustaining and scaling it after the technical assistance ends. This component prepares UWI to carry out the delivery of the green and blue microfinance curriculum, independently as well as prepare a cadre of future leaders in the field of green and blue finance. Not only will the curriculum (from component 1) be available for embedding in existing Bachelor's and Master's degree programmes, it will also lay the foundation for the development of a certificate programme that will extend the curriculum's reach to a wider array of professionals and practitioners in the climate and loss and damage financing architecture. This component should account for learning from components 1 and 2 to the extent possible.

Expected results:

a. UWI faculty and staff trained and equipped to deliver curriculum integrating climate risk, loss and damage, and inclusive product design (i.e. green and blue microfinance curriculum) through a training of trainers programme using mixed modes of instruction that account for planned future regional expansion.

b. A framework for incorporating loss and damage and climate-responsive finance into UWI's existing Bachelor's and Master's programmes in Banking and Finance.

c. A roadmap for a professional development certificate programme in climate-responsive green and blue finance, institutionalizing loss and damage expertise within the region's financial sector workforce and extending access to practitioners across the region.

2.5. Geographical scope and target beneficiaries

The project will be implemented on the national and regional levels in Barbados and Grenada. As discussed above, the future vision is to utilize UWI's regional presence and mandate to scale this programme to other countries in the future. The implementing partner will coordinate closely with UWI to identify the key faculty, staff and students from their institution as well as financial institutions, non-financial institutions, business support organizations, government institutions and

regulators, MSMEs and community members for the piloting of financial products. MSMEs and community level stakeholders will be the targeted beneficiary of the financial product development envisioned in this proposal. This may include but not be limited to small-scale farmers, fishers, tourism operations, informal microenterprises, community-based businesses, women and youth led enterprises. These organizations will be engaged as active contributors and co-creators of the training and financial product design as they are the target beneficiaries. This strong engagement will begin with the assessment of potential beneficiaries described in iia above.

As the proponent of technical assistance UWI will co-chair the project steering committee for this technical assistance. A Terms of Reference (ToR) outlining at minimum, technical assistance governance, meeting frequency, roles and responsibilities of the steering committee will be developed post award. Membership of the steering committee will include at minimum the implementing Member, UWI Cave Hill Campus in a role as co-chair, a representative from the SIDS Hub team within the University, National Liaison's/UNFCCC Focal Points or other Government focal points from Barbados and Grenada (as appropriate). Additional members may be proposed and/or included upon the ToR when it is finalized, post award.

2.6. Complementarities with ongoing initiatives / activities

Stakeholder input gathered during the development of Barbados' Nationally Determined contribution, together with subsequent regional dialogues involving commercial banks, credit unions, microfinance institutions, business support organizations and development partners consistently identifies a gap. Limited technical capacity to integrate climate risk and recovery finance into lending design in a way that will support MSMEs and communities.

Caribbean countries have made meaningful progress on climate resilience through adaptation planning, disaster risk reduction programming, and climate finance mobilization supported by strong regional institutions such as the Caribbean Development Bank and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Center (CCCCC). These institutions as well as others from bilateral and multilateral development partners have complementary initiatives across the region on which this technical assistance should build upon.

This technical assistance builds upon both international good practice and regional climate finance initiatives. The training component of this technical assistance emerged from Caribbean stakeholders attending international green finance and product diversification courses. Such courses highlighted the growing role that financial institutions can play in promoting climate resilience through green and inclusive finance products and provided practical methodologies for developing climate-responsive financial services.

Participation in these courses revealed a significant opportunity to adapt and localize these globally recognized methodologies to the specific climate vulnerabilities, economic structures, and financing needs of Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS). These training programmes can provide a strong international foundation for green and blue microfinance, yet the adaptation of these approaches to address the specific climate risks, loss and damage considerations, and recovery financing needs of Caribbean SIDS remains limited.This technical assistance seeks to bridge that gap through contextualization, pilot implementation, and institutionalised within the Department of Economics, Faculty of Social Sciences, The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus.

The technical assistance will be complemented by ongoing climate resilience and climate finance efforts in Barbados, Grenada, and the wider Caribbean. Rather than duplicating existing programmes, it focuses on strengthening financial institutions' capacity to translate climate policy objectives into practical financial products and services that directly support MSMEs, vulnerable households, and climate-sensitive sectors.

Barbados

a. Barbados Debt-for-Climate Resilience Conversion Programme supported by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and European Investment Bank (EIB).

b. Bridgetown Initiative 3.0 and related efforts to reform the global financial architecture and improve access to climate finance.

c. National climate finance readiness programmes and institutional capacity-building initiatives supported through the Green Climate Fund.

d. Blue Economy and Blue Bonds initiatives that seek to enhance financing for sustainable ocean-based economic development.

Grenada

a. Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF SPC) and disaster risk financing mechanisms.

b. Grenada Climate-Resilient Water Sector (G-CREWS) Programme.

c. Climate finance readiness initiatives supported through the Green Climate Fund and development partners.

d. Initiatives included in the Grenada Climate Resilience Portal

Regional

a. Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) climate finance and adaptation programmes.

b. Caribbean Development Bank climate resilience and MSME support initiatives.

c. Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy and Caribbean Resilient Recovery Facility.

Together, these initiatives provide an enabling environment for climate-resilient economic development. The proposed technical assistance adds value by strengthening the institutional capabilities, financial products, operational tools, and human resource capacity needed by financial institutions to avert, minimize, and address climate-related loss and damage while supporting climate resilience and post-disaster recovery at scale.

2.7. Estimated financial need for delivery of the technical assistance

Total amount of financial support available for the delivery of the technical assistance

The following table indicates the total maximum amount of financial support available for the delivery of technical assistance under this Call for Proposals. Applicants are encouraged to consider the cost-effectiveness and delivery efficiency in their financial proposals. The maximum amount indicated below must not be exceeded. As per the guidelines and procedures for responding to requests for technical assistance, applicants are invited to indicate if they are able to cover the full cost of the technical assistance or provide co-financing or in-kind contributions.

Currency	Amount	Amount in words
USD	430,000	Four hundred thirty thousand

As per the guidelines and procedures for responding to requests for technical assistance, applicants are invited to indicate if they are able to cover the full cost of the technical assistance or provide co-financing or in-kind contributions.

As per the UNOPS policy, Implementing Partners which are not part of the UN system, are required to conduct an independent audit at the end of implementation for all grants with a value of over USD 250,000. Consequently, respective **applicants must include a dedicated budget line for project audits** within their financial proposals to ensure compliance.

2.8. Timeline for technical assistance delivery

The expected duration of the delivery of the technical assistance is:

MONTH(S)	18

The proposal should seek to take advantage of any interlinkages between the components outlined in section 2.4, and similar processes ongoing in the country to achieve delivery efficiency.

2.9. Applicant eligibility

Applicant category(ies)

Members of the Santiago Network are eligible to respond to this Call for Proposals. Interested OBNEs not yet Members of the Santiago Network may respond to this Call for Proposals and at the same time submit their Expression of Interest for membership in line with the membership guidelines. In such cases, the Expression of Interest must be submitted prior to the deadline for proposal submissions indicated in this Call for Proposals.

Applicant country of registration and nationality

Applicants that are included or excluded under this Call for Proposals with regard to country of registration and nationality (for individuals) are as follows:

Open to all countries The applicant must demonstrate at least 7 years of experience in implementing projects and initiatives related to averting, minimising and/or addressing loss and damage in the Caribbean with experience in Barbados and Grenada preferred. The applicant, or consortium, should ensure the effective and efficient delivery of the component(s) of the technical assistance in this Call for Proposals, noting, where applicable, the different levels of local, national, regional and international as well as subject matter expertise and experience required.

Additional conditions of eligibility

The applicant shall not fall under any of the conditions listed in the Instructions to Applicants, Article 1, which makes the applicant ineligible for the financial support under this Call for Proposals.

At the time of application, the applicant (and consortium members, where applicable) must either be a Member of the Santiago Network, or have submitted an Expression of Interest for membership prior to the deadline for proposal submissions indicated in this Call for Proposals (please see the Santiago Network membership page for more information related to the membership process). Only proposals of OBNEs already Members of the Santiago Network or OBNEs who have submitted their Expression of Interest prior to the deadline and are subsequently admitted as Members in line with the membership guidelines, will be considered (see also preliminary screening criteria outlined in section 4 below). **It is highly recommended that interested OBNEs not yet Members of the Santiago Network, submit their Expression of Interest as soon as possible to avoid any delays.**

The applicant must comply with the Santiago Network Guidelines on preventing potential and addressing actual and perceived conflicts of interest in relation to the Santiago Network and disclose any potential or actual conflict of interest. Applicants are further required to disclose, where applicable, if and how they have been involved in the preparation of the request for technical assistance subject of this Call for Proposals.

The applicant's suitability to deliver the technical assistance set out in this Call for Proposals, will be determined in line with the Guidelines and procedures for responding to requests for technical assistance. In addition, the Santiago Network Secretariat will carry out a capacity, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and due diligence assessment of the selected applicant.

2.10. Content of proposal submissions

Applicants shall submit the following:

- **Proposal** *(Note: Information exceeding the word limit indicated in the template will not be considered)*
- **Financial proposal / Budget** *(To be submitted through the Grant+ platform via the budget template)*
- **Annex 1: Declarations** (*Note: In case of a consortium, each consortium partner is required to complete and sign the declarations individually. All signed forms shall be attached to the proposal when submitting.*)
- **Annex 2: Risk/issues register** *(Note: Include any potential risks/issues anticipated in implementation of the set objectives)*
- **Annex 3: any relevant supplementary documentation, including project summaries, reports, research papers, reference letters, etc.**

Applicants must carefully read and understand the following documents before completing the Proposal and Annexes:

- Requirements in this Call for Proposals

- Instructions to Applicants[8]
- Guidelines and procedures for responding to requests for technical assistance
- Guidelines for managing funding provided for technical assistance
- Guidelines on preventing potential and addressing actual and perceived conflicts of interest in relation to the Santiago Network

2.11. Partial proposals

Partial proposals will not be accepted. Applicants shall submit a proposal for the full scope of the technical assistance and address all of the requirements in this Call for Proposals. Evaluation will be based on compliance with all requirements.

2.12. Sub-granting[9] and contracting[10]

Sub-granting and contracting are only permitted under this Call for Proposals as follows:

Sub-granting	**Permissible**
Contracting	**Permissible**

In keeping with the relevant guidelines and procedures of the Santiago Network relating to membership and technical assistance, only Members of the Santiago Network will be eligible to conduct technical activities that are material to the request.

2.13. Proposal currency

The proposal budget shall be prepared in the following currency(ies): **United States Dollars (USD)**

2.14. Language of proposals

All proposals, information, documents and correspondence exchanged between the Santiago Network Secretariat / UNOPS (as co-host of the Santiago Network Secretariat) and the applicant shall be in: **English**

2.15. Proposal submission

The deadline for the submission of proposals is **23 November 2026**. Proposals shall be submitted using the following method: UNOPS Grant+.

Applicants must:

1. Create their profile in Grant+: grantplus.unops.org
2. Create their organization profile, and
3. Apply to the funding opportunity **[UNOPS/FO/2026/122] Call for Proposal: SANTIAGO NETWORK - CFP/SN/24039/2026/BRB/034 - Strengthening climate resilience, risk management and recovery through green and blue microfinance in Caribbean Small Island Developing States**

The application consists of:

- Entering basic information about the proposal
- Creating the proposal budget in the platform
- Uploading the narrative proposal and other required documents, see section 2.11 above

[8] The Instructions to Applicants are a standard UNOPS document. For the purpose of this Call for Proposals 'Grants/Funding' references refer to 'the provision of technical assistance', 'Joint Venture, Consortium or Association' references refer to 'networks or consortium'.

[9] Sub-grant is when an entity is selected by the implementing partner to implement activities on behalf of the implementing partner and complies with the same principles as outlined in the UNOPS Operational Instruction on Grant Support.

[10] Contracting is done when an implementing partner procures services, goods or works using the procurement procedures of the IP.

Note: Grant+ is the new UNOPS grant management platform. An online information session showing how to upload proposals will take place on **21 October 2026, at 16:00 (GMT+1) / 16:00 AM (GMT-4)**. The meeting will be held via Zoom. Register in advance via this link: https://unops.zoom.us/meeting/register/_kyOSUcnRji6LYrV3isXgQ

User guides and how-to videos are also available on the platform by clicking on the "?" or "Guidance" at the top right of the page.

Despite numerous tests, it is possible that the first users will encounter bugs. In this case they can contact UNOPS System Support by clicking on the "?" at the top right of the grantplus.unops.org pages, once registered in the platform.
Refer to Article 10, "Proposal Submission", of the Instructions to Applicants for details on the specific requirements for proposal submission.

2.16. Type of legal instrument

The applicable legal instrument(s)[11] are identified hereunder. A template is provided with this Call for Proposals for reference. The agreement will be entered into directly with UNOPS.

- Grant Support Agreement
- UN2UN Agreement[12]

2.17. Contact information and requests for clarification

All correspondence, notifications and requests for clarifications in relation to this Call for Proposals shall be sent to:

Name	Santiago Network Secretariat
Title	N/A
Email	proposals@santiago-network.org

Requests for clarifications on this call for proposals may be made no later than **2 November 2026** by sending an email to the contact information above.

2.18. Important dates and deadlines

The following tables provide the key dates and deadlines about this Call for Proposals.

	Date	**Time**	**Timezone**
Request for clarification	**2 November 2026**	[23:59]	[GMT+1]
Original submission of proposals	**23 November 2026**	[23:59]	[GMT+1]
Revised submission of proposals			
Expected agreement start date	**15 February 2027**		

[11] These are standard UNOPS templates to showcase the structure and general terms & conditions to be expected.

[12] In case a UN partner is selected to carry out all or part of the activities

3. REQUIREMENTS

3.1. Approach and methodology

In their proposal, the applicant **must** to outline the approaches and principles they will follow throughout the delivery of the technical assistance, covering the following areas:

- Health and Safety Requirements, with a particular focus on the context within which the technical assistance will be provided
- Social and Environmental Requirements (such as gender and social inclusion, environmental protection, climate and resource efficiency considerations, and application of the do-no-harm principle)
- Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Requirements
- Sustainability Requirements and retention of capacity in the country.

3.2. Implementation Plan requirements

Using the activities and expected results detailed in section 2.4, and in view of achieving the outcomes and objectives set out in the request for technical assistance, complete the Implementation Plan. The Implementation Plan should accurately show the sequence and timeframe for the delivery of each activity and output and take into account the parameters related to the expected timeline and budget limits detailed above.

3.3. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan requirements

Complete the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Plan (section 5 in the Proposal template). Applicants are encouraged to collect, analyze and report on disaggregated data by sex, age and disability (for relevant indicators), capture lessons learned and make provisions for retention of capacities in the country.

Members receiving financial support directly from the Santiago Network Secretariat, will report in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the contractual arrangement as well as where appropriate noting how they contributed to the overall goals and functions of the Santiago Network.

3.4. Budget requirements

- Applicants are invited to provide and include best estimates to implement the set objectives as described under the scope of this Call for Proposal (CFP) in sections 2.4 and 2.5, giving due consideration to the cost-effectiveness and delivery efficiency of the activities to be undertaken (see also financial criteria in section 4.3). The indicated budget ceiling must not be exceeded.

- At a minimum, the budget must include:

  i. An estimate of direct costs, which include all of the expenses that are required for, and can be tracked directly to, the financial support provided for the delivery of technical assistance. Direct costs must be broken down by thematic area, expense subcategory, by expense line item and by year.

  ii. A description of assumptions or justifications underlying the estimates.

  iii. A breakdown of costs by component indicated under Section 2.4.

- The costs will be eligible only if these are incurred for the purpose of delivering this technical assistance and within the duration mentioned in the legal instrument (including any amendments) entered into with UNOPS.

- Article II, Section 7, of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations provides, inter alia, that the United Nations, including UNOPS as a subsidiary organ, is exempt from all direct taxes, except charges for public utility services, and is exempt from customs restrictions, duties, and charges of a similar nature in respect of articles imported or exported for its official use. All proposals shall be submitted net of any direct taxes and any other taxes and duties.

- Budgets must detail the level of indirect costs. In case of subgrants, indirect costs on the subgrant amount should be calculated and presented separately.

- Applicants will be invited to specify if they have existing resources that could be used towards funding the technical assistance activities (full financing, co-financing or in-kind contributions).

4. EVALUATION METHOD AND CRITERIA

Proposals submitted in response to this Call for Proposals shall be evaluated following the cumulative analysis methodology, which consists of the following steps:

a. **Preliminary screening:** This includes an assessment of whether proposals comply with the formal and eligibility criteria stated in Table 1: Formal and eligibility criteria. All proposals which pass this stage will go through a subsequent evaluation as follows.

b. **Technical evaluation:** This assesses the technical points achieved by each proposal, as per the maximum obtainable points assigned per criteria group in Table 2.1: Parts of the technical proposal evaluation. Only proposals that meet the minimum threshold indicated in Table 2: Technical criteria shall be considered substantially compliant at this stage. Evaluation of the technical proposals shall be completed prior to opening the financial proposals.

c. **Financial evaluation:** Financial proposals will only be opened for proposals that have achieved the minimum threshold in the technical evaluation. Financial proposals shall be checked for any mathematical errors in accordance with Article 15, "Minor Informalities, Errors or Omissions" in the **Instructions to Applicants**. The total financial proposal points achieved for each proposal are determined in accordance with Table 3: Financial criteria.

d. **Combined analysis:** This evaluation will be conducted based on a combined analysis, analyzing all of the relevant costs, risks and benefits for each proposal. The combined analysis includes the scores from both the technical evaluation, including factors such as risks, sustainability, and others, and the financial evaluation, using a predefined weighting method.

The maximum number of points that an applicant may obtain for its proposal are as follows:

- Technical proposal: 80 points
- Financial proposal: 20 points

The maximum total number of points an applicant may obtain for both the technical and financial proposals is 100. The weighting of the technical and financial proposals will be 80:20. The technical and financial proposals must be aligned, ensuring that budgetary allocations correspond to the activities and deliverables described in the technical proposal.

The Santiago Network Secretariat may request clarification or further information in writing from applicants at any point during the evaluation process. In this case, any response from an applicant shall not modify the substance of the proposal, including both the technical and financial aspects of the proposal. The Santiago Network Secretariat may use such information to interpret and evaluate the relevant proposal.

The evaluation of a proposal by the Santiago Network Secretariat shall be carried out against the evaluation criteria described in the following tables.

4.1. Preliminary screening

Table 1 FORMAL AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Criteria evaluated on a pass/fail basis during the preliminary screening	Documents to establish compliance with the criteria
1. The applicant is a Member of the Santiago Network or has submitted an Expression of Interest in line with the membership guidelines prior to the deadline indicated for proposal submissions in this Call for Proposals and subsequently approved as Member.	• **Declarations** • Santiago Network membership database / Expression of Interest for Santiago Network membership

Table 1 FORMAL AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	
Criteria evaluated on a pass/fail basis during the preliminary screening	**Documents to establish compliance with the criteria**
2. The applicant is eligible as defined in Article 1, "Applicant Eligibility" in the Instructions to Applicants and the Guidelines on preventing potential and addressing actual and perceived conflicts of interest in relation to the Santiago Network.	• **Proposal** • **Annex 1: Declarations**
3. The proposal is complete and includes all completed forms and other documentation requested in the Particulars, 'Content of proposal submissions'.	• All documentation requested in the Particulars, 'Content of proposal submissions'
4. The applicant accepts the conditions in the template for agreement, as specified in the Particulars, 'Type of legal instrument'.	• **Annex 1: Declarations**
5. The applicant must demonstrate experience in implementing projects and initiatives on topics related to capacity building for the financial sector related to loss and damage or climate change in the Caribbean, particularly in Barbados and Grenada, or similar Caribbean contexts.	• **Proposal** • Annex 3: Supporting documents, including project summaries, reports, research papers, reference letters, etc.
6. The applicant must demonstrate a minimum of [7] years of proven experience implementing similar types of technical assistance/activities as outlined in this Call for Proposals.	• **Proposal** • Annex 3: Supporting documents, including project summaries, reports, research papers, reference letters, etc.
7. Applicants comply with the maximum budgets stipulated in the Budget requirements.	• **Financial proposal**

4.2. Technical evaluation

Table 2 TECHNICAL CRITERIA	
Criteria evaluated based on scoring during the technical evaluation	**Documents to establish compliance with the criteria**
The maximum number of technical points obtainable is detailed in Table 2.1: Parts of the technical proposal evaluation. To be technically compliant, applicants must obtain a minimum threshold of 70% of the total obtainable points.	• **Proposal** • Annex 3: Supporting documents, including project summaries, reports, research papers, reference letters, etc.

	Table 2.1 Parts of the technical proposal evaluation	Obtainable points
1.	Applicant's capacity and expertise (see Table 2.1.1)	20
2.	Proposed methodology, approach and implementation plan (see Table 2.1.2)	30
3.	Key personnel proposed (across the consortium, if applicable) (see Table 2.1.3)	15
4.	Relevant past experience	15

Table 2.1 Parts of the technical proposal evaluation	Obtainable points
Total technical proposal points	**80**

Table 2.1.1 Part 1: Applicant's capacity and expertise

	Criteria to be evaluated	**Documents to establish compliance with the criteria** (not exhaustive)
1.1	The applicant has the general organizational capability to support effective implementation: management structure; financial stability and project financing capacity; management controls; and the extent to which any work would be sub-granted/contracted.	**Copy of audited financial statements for the last 3 years of the lead applicant** • **Proposal**
1.2	The applicant has knowledge and experience required for supporting developing countries in curriculum development; capacity building of well established organizations such as financial institutions and universities; financial product and related tool design and development; strategy and action plan development; climate, disaster risk, and/or loss and damage financing.	• **Proposal**
1.3	The applicant has a presence in the relevant region, country or area.	• **Proposal**
1.4	The applicant has the capacity, knowledge and experience to engage with national and local stakeholders, including the application of co-design approaches, and undertake capacity building workshops in an inclusive manner and with a diverse range of actors including in the financial sector.	• **Proposal**
Total points for Part 1 – 20		

Table 2.1.2 Part 2: Proposed methodology, approach and implementation plan

No.	**Criteria to be evaluated**	**Documents to establish compliance with the criteria** (not exhaustive)
2.1	The proposal is substantially compliant and does not contain any material deviation(s) from the minimum requirements as stipulated in this Call for Proposals document.	• **Proposal**
2.2	The applicant's proposed approach and methodology is consistent with the objectives and expected outcomes of the technical assistance detailed in this Call for Proposals	• **Proposal**
2.3	The proposal provides a strategy for engaging relevant actors and stakeholders to ensure consideration of the needs of vulnerable people, Indigenous Peoples, women, youth and children, and the local population most affected by climate-induced loss and damage.	• **Proposal**
2.4	The Implementation Plan demonstrates the applicant's capacity to plan and implement the technical assistance activities within the identified timeliness, clearly illustrates the role and responsibility of all named partners to ensure effective and efficient delivery.	• **Proposal**

Table 2.1.2 Part 2: Proposed methodology, approach and implementation plan

No.	Criteria to be evaluated	**Documents to establish compliance with the criteria** (not exhaustive)
2.5	The proposal satisfactorily describes how the Health and Safety, and Social and Environmental (HSSE) requirements, in relation to the technical assistance activities will be met.	• **Proposal**
2.6	The proposal satisfactorily describes how the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) requirements in relation to the technical assistance activities will be met.	• **Proposal**
2.7	The Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan details how different elements of the technical assistance will be monitored, controlled, and provides verifiable indicators and a strategy for capturing knowledge, lessons learned and good practices.	• **Proposal**
2.8	The proposal provides a strategy for the long-term sustainability of activities and retention of capacity in the country.	• **Proposal**
Total points for Part 2 – 30		

Table 2.1.3 Part 3: Key personnel proposed

No.	Criteria to be evaluated	**Documents to establish compliance with the criteria** (not exhaustive)
3.1	The composition and structure of the applicant's proposed team is appropriate and the proposed management roles and other key personnel roles are suitable for the implementation of the technical assistance activities	• **Proposal**, Section 6
3.2	The applicant describes and justifies its plan for the size and composition of its team, and where applicable the consortium partners and sub-grantees.	• **Proposal**, Section 6
3.3	The qualifications and experience of the proposed key personnel meet the established requirements, including, but not limited to expertise in: • institutional capacity building for large, well established organizations (e.g. financial institutions, universities) • curriculum development for large, well established organizations (e.g. financial institutions, universities) • climate and loss and damage financing • financial product development (including associated tools, manuals etc) • strategy and action plan development • coordination and stakeholder engagement	• **Proposal**, Sections 8 and 9
Total points for Part 3 – 15		

4.3. Financial evaluation

Table 3 FINANCIAL CRITERIA		
Criteria evaluated based on a cumulative analysis methodology during the financial evaluation		**Documents to establish compliance with the criteria**
1.	The cost-effectiveness and delivery efficiency of the activities to be undertaken.	• **Financial proposal**
2.	The applicant has provided sufficient justification of budget lines and lump sums, and given appropriate consideration to delivery and financial efficiency.	• **Financial proposal**
3.	The allocation of budget among different categories is appropriate, particularly the allocation between activities and the operational budget.	• **Financial proposal**
4.	The applicant's cost estimates and the assumptions made for such estimates are reasonable.	• **Financial proposal**
Total financial proposal points - 20		