



## PROPOSAL NOTE

### CARIBBEAN INVESTMENT FORUM 2025

#### JAMAICA – July 29-31, 2025

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## THE EVOLUTION OF THE CARIBBEAN INVESTMENT FORUM

The Caribbean Export Development Agency (Caribbean Export) in collaboration with partners (The European Union, CARICOM, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and private sector sponsors) convened the highly successful and inaugural **Caribbean Investment Forum (CIF)** in Trinidad and Tobago over the period 9 – 11 November 2022. It provided a platform for business to engage with business to create business. The main themes focus on the sectors that are of the highest priority for the Region namely: Green Economy Transition; Digitalization, Technology and Innovation; AgTech or leveraging technology in Agriculture; and Logistics and Transportation.

The inaugural forum saw close to **600 participants** from **46 countries** with **90%** of those participating coming from the business and investment community. Every single CARIFORUM country also participated along with **businesses and investors** from across the globe. There was unanimity that this event should be an annual event on the regional calendar.<sup>1</sup> CIF also successfully attracted over 25 high-level global investors keen on exploring and engaging in investment ready proposals and business opportunities both in the private and public sectors. The inaugural CIF was the largest gathering of businesspersons in the Caribbean region since 2019.

Core to the ethos of CIF is a heavy focus on the identification and recruitment of the appropriate investors, both existing investors (for expansion projects) as well as new investors to the region, focusing on matching these investors with suitable investment opportunities. In the inaugural forum, this was facilitated through 268 recorded Business to-Business meetings and 11 Country Pitch Sessions led by the investment promotion agencies, giving the delegates both targeted, focused meetings, as well as group pitching exposure. Furthermore, the Exhibition Hall featured 14 exhibitors from around the region with representation from the various governmental investment promotion agencies. These agencies were able to further market some of their projects that are ripe for investment and were able to garner direct feedback from potential investors. The full event report is available at: <https://carib-export.com/events/caribbean-investment-forum-2023/>.

Given the outstanding success of CIF 2022, Caribbean Export convened [CIF 2023 at the Atlantis – Paradise Island, The Bahamas on October 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> 2023](#) with over 489 attendees from 42 countries around the world. The event served as **the premiere investment attraction platform** attracting just over 40 investors from over eighteen countries which included the UK, USA,

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<sup>1</sup> Videos for the 2022 edition can be found at [https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLr0w--hV6qppwCbBjwDuxMEAmRmDKw\\_H&si=VAbSed5zi66dhv3](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLr0w--hV6qppwCbBjwDuxMEAmRmDKw_H&si=VAbSed5zi66dhv3)



Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, India, Columbia, Germany, Argentina, and France. These high caliber investors included angel investors, venture capitalists, impact investors, institutional investors and debt financiers offering financing options ranging from USD 500, 000 to 250 million. The Government of the Bahamas made a financial contribution of USD200,000 in support of the event.

CIF 2024 followed and was hosted in Georgetown, Guyana on July 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 2024 at the Arthur Chung Convention Center under the patronage of H.E. President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali. The event focused on the presentation of bankable investment opportunities in projects and sectors that are a priority for the region as it sought to boost its transition to a greener and SMART-er economy with Green Investments, ICT and Digital Business, Agriculture and Food Technology being the featured sectors. The carefully curated event featured 'Investment Villages' that provided a platform for large scale bankable projects to be presented to the attending investment audience.

Overall, CIF has grown into a world class event that has continued the dialogue on the value proposition of the region in key priority sectors as well as between investors and businesses persons in the Caribbean. It is expected that the CIF brand will continue to grow to become synonymous with investment attraction towards economic prosperity in the Caribbean, becoming a permanent annual fixture in the calendars of foreign investors and the entire Caribbean business community.

## OBJECTIVE OF CIF 2025

This forum, by focusing on attracting targeted investors and businesses, will seek to achieve three major objectives:

- (1) Attract investment into the priority sectors identified with a focus on those needed to boost the transition of the Caribbean to a more resilient and economically prosperous region. These opportunities include those related to the green economy transition, digitalization of business, and sustainable and innovative agriculture.
- (2) Raise the visibility of the region and the host country as an investment destination.
- (3) Bring together the investment community or network in the region so that agreements can be forged on key priorities that will boost the Region's transition to more resilient economies. The emphasis is to present a platform for business to engage with business to create business.

Coming out of the previous editions, priority attention will be placed on the **packaging of investment opportunities** in the sectors of focus identified. Work has already commenced to not only identify suitable private and public investment projects from across the region, but to also build the capacity of regional investment promotion agencies to package and pitch these investments.



Focus will once again be placed on the identification of investors, both existing investors (for expansion projects) as well as new investors to the region, with the matching of these investors with suitable investment opportunities. The aim is to present opportunities to the investors prior to the hosting of the event to advance negotiations and fast-track the decision-making process.

## METHODOLOGY:

To secure the right profile of investors for the forum, Caribbean Export will continue its approach to attracting the right investors by contracting a world class, proven lead generation firm/partner to identify the right investors in target markets and the identified sectors of focus. These investors will be pre-vetted and as noted will have access to the catalogue of bankable, packaged projects before the actual hosting of the event.

This proven strategy was utilized for CIF 2022 and CIF 2023, as well as past investment conferences including the most recent Caribbean Virtual AgTech Investment Summit in October 2021 headlined by H.E. President Ali of Guyana and supported by Caribbean Export. A total of six hundred and seventy-five (675) people attended the summit from sixty-one (61) countries. Caribbean Export also supported two national virtual investment summits in both Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago. The Invest in Guyana Virtual Forum took place on March 23, 2021, and attracted five hundred and sixty-two (562) registrants and three hundred and fifty-two (352) investors from across 50 countries. Finally, the Trinidad and Tobago Virtual Investment Forum, which was a two-day high-profile event took place November 2-3, 2021, with 760 attendees across 70 plus countries. In essence, Caribbean Export has the capacity and track record to successfully execute an outstanding CIF 2023 and there is no doubt that the 2024 iteration will surpass these targets.

Caribbean Export will execute a targeted communications and branding campaign with the objective of building the already strong brand of CIF in the eyes of the regional and international business community. CIF 2023's communications campaign yielded over **5.6 million impressions**, **reached** 1 million people reached globally from 133 countries and yielded over 424,000 clicks. These numbers represented an in overall increase of those from CIF 2022 with CIF 2024 in Guyana expected to exceed both previous installments.

## EXPECTED IMPACT

CIF 2025 is expected to:

- Attract investment into bankable projects in the region in the priority sectors.
- Increased awareness of the Caribbean and the host country as a destination of choice for investment.
- Enhanced collaboration regionally in the attainment of investment related objectives and business opportunities.
- Provide high-profile exposure to host country with investors attending the Conference.



## THE EVENT

CIF 2025 will be held at the **Montego Bay Conference Center in Montego Bay, Jamaica on the 29-31 July, 2025**. It will be presented as a **high-level business-oriented** event with priority given to attracting investors to the region and presenting bankable projects by sector and country. The target for 2025 will be a minimum of 600 delegates from within the Region and globally comprising of:

- Captains of industry and a cross section of businesses from the Caribbean region
- Investors from around the globe with a targeted strategy to get the key investors attending.
- Investment Promotion Agencies from the Caribbean region
- Investment facilitators
- International, Regional and Development banking institutions
- National, regional and international institutions.

Given the nature of this landmark initiative, The Honorable Andrew Michael Holness, Prime Minister of Jamaica will serve as the official host for CIF 2025. The host country is an integral part of the planning committee and supports logistics. Caribbean Export with funding from the European Union and other partners will contribute an amount of US \$500,000 comprising both financial and technical support including travel and logistics, speaker and investor support, project coordination, marketing and communications and branding of the event.

The Government of Jamaica has also committed its full support to CIF 2025. Additionally, the Government of Jamaica through its national Investment Promotion Agency will assist in confirming a delegation of high-net worth investors from target markets as well as host site visits to Jamaican investment projects.

## What to Expect at CIF 2025

- Over 600 delegates from the Caribbean, Africa, Europe, and North America
- B2B matchmaking with vetted regional businesses and project developers
- Sector-specific Investment Villages designed to showcase investment-ready projects

The Investment Villages at the Caribbean Investment Forum (CIF) are dedicated spaces designed to showcase bankable projects within key growth sectors of the Caribbean. These villages serve as dynamic platforms for investors and entrepreneurs to connect, explore, and engage with high-potential opportunities in specialized areas. The four main focus areas are AgriTech, ICT & Digital Transformation, Green Economy Transition, and Logistics & Transport. Each village will feature a curated selection of projects that are ready for investment, offering a unique opportunity to



explore innovative solutions and investment-ready ventures that align with the region's economic and sustainability goals.

- High-level plenary discussions and keynote presentations featuring global and industry experts and investors with experience investing in the Caribbean
  - Keynote Address: "Investing in the Future: A Vision for Caribbean Growth and Competitiveness"- Hon. Andrew Holness, Prime Minister of Jamaica
  - Feature Address & Leadership Roundtable Discussion - "The New Face of Trade: Future-Proofing Investment and Innovation in the Caribbean"
  - Feature Address & Panel Discussion: "Financing the Future – Blended Capital for a Green Caribbean"
  - Keynote Fireside Chat: "Billionaire Insights: Unlocking the Caribbean's Investment Potential"
  - Keynote Address: "The Risk Premium: Why the Boldest Investors are Betting on the Caribbean"
  - Feature Address & Panel Discussion: "AI in the Boardroom: Will Technology Make or Break Caribbean CEOs?"
- Exclusive networking sessions designed to build high-impact connections
- Pre-Event Capacity-Building Workshops targeting key interest groups that assist in driving investment promotion across the region and for early-stage founders.