



Connected Conversations+

Event Highlights Magazine

IDB SUSTAINABILITY WEEK 2026 • CDB IMPACT ROOM 2026

May – June 2026 | Barbados



EVENT 1

IDB Invest Sustainability Week

Wyndham Grand Barbados, Sam Lord's Castle

May 26–28, 2026

- **A Partner Dialogue** — Beachside Chat with IDB, UK FCDO, CDB, Canada
- **The Blue Economy** — Three-pillar panel: Competitiveness, Government, R&D
- **Impact Talks & Showcases** — R&D Innovation, Smart States, Clusters, TES, Tourism

11

Sessions
Recorded

3

Days of
Dialogue

30+

Speakers

SIDE EVENT 1 — MAY 26

A Partner Dialogue

Beachside Chat • Plenary Room 1 • 4:30 PM

\$25–50B

Caribbean private sector
financing gap identified



Blended Finance

Combining public &
private capital



Climate Resilience

Adaptation investment
for SIDS



Regional Coordination

IDB + CDB +
FCDO alignment



Private Sector Growth

MSMEs as engines of
development

 IDB Invest • UK FCDO • Caribbean Development Bank • Government of Canada



Watch This Session: youtube.com/watch?v=Gdhq2jd4gmM



CC+

SIDE EVENT 2 — MAY 28

The Blue Economy

Innovation, Resilience &
Enabling Environments

Opened by Kayla Grant, Executive Director

PILLAR 1

Promoting Competitiveness & Resilience

Moderator: Dario Pile

Dr. Shelly-Ann Cox
Mark Hill
Kristian Payne

▶ youtu.be/9HUu4jSM-Jo

PILLAR 2

Enhancing Government Capabilities

Moderator: Amanda Charles

Beverly Ann Wade
Dr. Leo Brewster
Jennifer Doherty-Bigara
Travis Sinckler

▶ youtu.be/fvCXe9YSQtQ

PILLAR 3

Promoting Scientific R&D for Innovation

Moderator: Tara Lisa Persaud

Prof. Damian Cohall
Prof. Julian Walcott
Emil (Wave Piston)
Antonio Hollingsworth (BlueBot)

▶ youtu.be/1lGj-D4cvyA



Digitizing the Blue Economy

Project DigiFish & Beyond

Equipping Caribbean fishing fleets with vessel monitoring systems, Starlink connectivity, and eco-sounders — transforming artisanal fisheries into data-driven enterprises.

135

Vessels equipped with
VMS, Starlink & eco-sounders

20_{yrs}

Of fisheries data digitized
by AI in just one week

*“Digitization is not a thing we want to do —
it's a thing we need to do.”*

— **Mark Hill**, CEO, Export Barbados



Watch Pillar 1 Panel —
youtube.com/watch?v=9HUu4jSM-Jo





1 Cluster Methodology

Jamaica Conch Cluster case study — 25+ clusters across 13 countries transforming fragmented industries into competitive value chains

“A cluster is a proven tool that can really be a change-maker”

▶ youtu.be/o9w45LHsmRg

2 Technology Extension Services

Redesigning TES for the Caribbean — bridging ambition and execution for MSMEs in Belize, Suriname, Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago

“Firms need a bridge between ambition and execution”

▶ youtu.be/_Pv7Nzgov0g

3 Garifuna Cultural Tourism Trail

Community-based tourism in Belize — Garifuna communities as owners, narrators, and decision-makers of their cultural heritage

“Sustainable opportunities need not be extractive”

▶ youtu.be/Dc7eNqnufgE

4 Community Tourism & Resilience

St. Vincent & the Grenadines — community tourism clusters building economic resilience in volcanic-disaster-affected communities

▶ youtu.be/B-44XOFYeUY



EVENT 2 — JUNE 3-4, 2026

The Impact Room

Climate Shocks Are Inevitable: So Why Aren't Caribbean Businesses Investing in Resilience?

CDB 56th Annual Meeting • Board of Governors • CC+ Connected Conversations Panel

- **Kayla Grant**
Executive Director, Compete Caribbean+
- **Dr. Sylvia Dohnert**
Inter-American Development Bank
- **Dr. T. Jennifer Edwards**
Senior Advisor, Sustainable Tourism

VOICES FROM THE CONVERSATION

“Sustainable opportunities need not be extractive... Garifuna communities remain owners, narrators, and decision-makers of their cultural heritage.”

— Garifuna Cultural Tourism Trail, Community-Based Tourism in Belize

“Digitization is not a thing we want to do — it’s a thing we need to do.”

Mark Hill, CEO, Export Barbados

“Firms do not only need money — they need a bridge between ambition and execution.”

Technology Extension Services, SW26

“A cluster is a proven tool that can really be a change-maker in the Caribbean.”

Cluster Methodology,
Jamaica Conch Case Study

By the Numbers

\$25–50B

Financing gap in
Caribbean private sector

Source: Partner Dialogue, SW26

135

Vessels equipped
with VMS technology

Source: Project DigiFish

1 week

To digitize 20 years
of fisheries data

Source: Project DigiFish

25+

Clusters supported
across 13 countries

Source: CC+ Programme

5

Resilience finance
pathways identified

Source: Ibrahim Abdullah, SW26

1,500+

Firms supported
through clusters

Source: CC+ Programme

5,500+

Jobs generated
across the Caribbean

Source: CC+ Programme

11

Panel sessions
recorded at SW26

Source: YouTube playlist

The Conversation Continues

From connected conversations to connected action.

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