

Form Name: TFAF Grant Program- Project Preparation Grant (PPG)  
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## Introduction

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## 1 - Background and Rationale

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### 1.1 - Clearly explain how the proposed activity will improve your capacity to / facilitate access to funding to / prepare the ground to implement Category C commitments notified under the TFA

As it stands, CARICOM Members States have some TFA implementation needs designated under category C that we have not yet identified development partners to assist with. These needs were circulated in an expression of interest for a TFAF grant, but no donors or development partners signalled that they were ready and able to assist with implementation in the highlighted article. Assistance in the form of a project preparation grant from TFAF will support the CARICOM Secretariat by framing our remaining unmet needs including all relevant technical details in a format that can be used to communicate with development partners to seek their assistance including from a TFAF project implementation grant. Assistance to further communicate with development partners at the regional level to better understand the available assistance and their relevant programs and timetables for TFA-related assistance would also support the NTFC to plan its implementation activities for the future. TFAF grants anticipate assistance at the regional level and CARICOM as the designated donor coordinator in this region is keen to call on this assistance to better support its Member's efforts to implement the TFA.

### 1.2 - Please describe the key TFA implementation barriers and/or opportunities to be addressed, including their relevance for market access and poverty reduction

Art. 7.4 - Risk Management  
Establish Regional Electronic Risk Information Exchange  
Establish Regional Risk Management System  
Support Needed to:  
Complete the preliminary diagnostic assessment conducted by the Secretariat, and develop and deliver a regional capacity building program on Risk Management, in collaboration with the WCO (and hopefully STDF and WB).

### 1.3 - Has a TF-related needs assessment been carried out in your country / territory?

No

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## Relevant issues and priorities

While a regional-level needs assessment has not been done, individual CARICOM WTO Members have completed national TF-related needs assessments which informed the identification of TACB needs relating to risk management in their official Category C notifications. As the Needs Assessments are the official property of the individual Member States, the CARICOM Secretariat can undertake to seek approval for these to be shared with the Consultant at the appropriate time.

This lack of risk management infrastructure at the regional level means CARICOM Members' border procedures could be simplified and made more efficient if the above issues were addressed and cross-border goods traffic would therefore take less time and have lower costs associated. These time and cost savings could bring additional goods and traders into the market resulting in economic growth and employment growth for the Members concerned.

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**1.5 - Please clarify linkages, if any, between the main TFA implementation issue(s) identified and national poverty reduction strategies, relevant sectoral development policies/strategies, etc. For Least Developed Countries (LDCs), reference should be made to relevant issues identified in the Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS) carried out under the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), if such a study exists. Please upload the relevant documents here and highlight the main linkages between them and the proposed PPG activity in the box below**

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3646063/84380350/590999797/AttIIICARICOMSTRATEGICPLAN20152019.pdf>

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## Highlight main linkages

The proposed project is consistent with several strategic priorities of the Caribbean Community's Strategic Plan 2015-2019, in particular, that of Building Economic Resilience, Environmental Resilience and Technological Resilience. The anticipated project activities and outcomes will help to advance the achievement of key strategies under the Economic Resilience pillar, viz to build competitiveness and unleash economic drivers to transition to growth; to integrate Caribbean countries into the Global economy and; and to accelerate implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME). These strategic priorities and strategies remain central to the Community's new Strategic Plan for 2020 and beyond.

Customs and Trade facilitation reforms are prioritized as key actions under the Caribbean Community's Aid for Trade Strategy (2013-2015), and is featured as one of the five 'anchor projects' under the Strategy. The planned project activities and outcomes will consolidate and advance the reforms which were targeted for action under the Aft Strategy.

The planned project activities and outcomes will also support the implementation of regional policies/protocols which seek to develop a harmonized approach across CARICOM to deal with trade-related risks.

- CARICOM Model Harmonized Customs Legislation and Regulations
- Regional Biosafety Policy adopted by COTED in 2017
- Regional Guideline for Pest Risk Analysis of Imported Plants and Plant Products, approved by the COTED in November 2016,
- The CARICOM Regional Quality Policy (RQP) (10 April 2019
- Caribbean Cooperation for Accreditation (CCA) STRATEGIC PLAN (October 2020)
- Protocol Governing CARICOM Control, Analysis and Approval Procedures for Trade in Animals and Animal Products

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**1.6 - Please provide evidence that this application has been prepared with, and has the support of, concerned government and private sector stakeholders as represented through the structure of the relevant National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC). Government agencies, private sector, academic or other organizations that support the PPG application should be clearly identified. Please upload any letters of support from these organizations here and summarise who has been consulted and supports the PPG application in the box below**

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3646063/84380352/590999797/AttoPaper4RCTFAnnualWorkplan20192020Approvedby49thCOTED.pdf>

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**Summary of who has been consulted/ supports the PPG application**

The proposed project is one (1) of ten (10) regional activities of the Caribbean Regional Strategy for implementation of the TFA which was approved by CARICOM Ministers of Trade at the 45th Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) in November 2017. The COTED agreed that the Strategy would be the main tool for engaging donors and for mobilizing technical assistance and capacity building support for Member States. The CARICOM Secretariat has been mandated to co-ordinate regional implementation including mobilization of donor support for the initiatives under the Strategy.

The CARICOM Regional Committee on Trade Facilitation (RCTF), which comprises the NCTFs of all CARICOM WTO Members, representatives of regional private sector organisations and regional organisations involved in Trade Facilitation have prioritized Risk Management as a priority initiative of the Committee's Work Programme for 2019-2020. The Work Programme was approved by CARICOM Trade Ministers at the 49th Meeting of the COTED held in November 2019.

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**1.7 - Please explain any linkages between the PPG and other relevant, completed, ongoing and/or planned national programs and/or donor-supported projects. This should also describe any related requests for assistance, that were not already included in the expression of interest process. Upload relevant documents below**

[https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3646063/84380354/590999797/caribbean\\_community\\_aft\\_strategy\\_final.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3646063/84380354/590999797/caribbean_community_aft_strategy_final.pdf)

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**1.8 - Please confirm that cross-cutting issues related to gender and the environment, including climate change are considered in this PPG application and explain how they will be addressed**

Gender  
The environment  
Climate change

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**How will the above issues be addressed?**

Attention should be paid to the gender, environment and climate change mitigation strategies at the national level in the CARICOM Members to identify how actions under taken in this project preparation grant can be aligned with their efforts.

If risk assessment infrastructure is developed at the regional level, border procedures of CARICOM Members will be simplified and made more efficient saving time and fuel costs which will have positive impacts on the environment and on the region's contribution to fighting climate change.

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**2 - Description**

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**2.1 - Please give a brief description of the activities, in terms of what will be studied or analysed during implementation of the PPG**

During the implementation of the PPG, the following activities should be carried out:

- CARIOCM's regional risk assessment implementation needs, as expressed in response to earlier questions, should be further explored to ensure that they are fully identified and explained so that any implementation solutions can be comprehensive
- On this basis a report should be produced that fully articulates the needs in depth, including technical requirements, capacity required to implement, an estimated budget, a draft timeline for reforms and expected outcomes
- This report should be presented locally to donor representatives and development partners to understand how they could assist in its implementation
- This report should be presented to CARICOM's regional trade facilitation committee to ensure that it is fully understood and reflects the local context, drawing on the various documents and reports cited in this application as well as other relevant strategic documents as proposed by CARICOM's RTFC.
- For any remaining unmet needs following the discussions with donors and development partners, a fully developed application for a TFAF project implementation grant should be completed
- The report must engage with the regional aspects of this project proposal and identify challenges and best practices for future regional applications

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**3 - Budget**

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**Information relating to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the implementation of the TFA.**

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**Please upload any files which give some detail on how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted trade and the implementation of the TFA in your territory.**

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3646063/101247427/590999797/COVID19inputforGrantapplication.docx>

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**Please provide any additional details or explanation on this subject here:**

Please see the attached file for details on how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted TF and TFA implementation in the CARICOM region.

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