

Accelerating entrepreneurship and innovation

We build and mature the venture pipeline of the six Dutch Caribbean islands: capacity and capital in one system.

Dutch Caribbean Innovation Fund

The gap we close

Innovation and entrepreneurship are the engine of progress: young firms create half of all new jobs, every dollar invested in innovation returns up to thirteen in social value, and they create the high-value careers that keep talent home and bring it back.

Innovation requires skills and capital throughout each phase. On our islands, the most important phases are critically underserved: the **first cheque** of up to XCG 250K that no institution writes — the region's flagship facility, CARIBEquity, excludes all six islands — and the **support and growth capital** a venture needs to scale beyond its own island. **DCIF builds both.**

● Economic diversification is critical

9.85 tourists per resident, double the sustainable norm. Infrastructure is at capacity, housing costs keep rising, and precious nature and culture are in rapid decline — **28%** of the coral died in a single year. Rapid action is needed now.

● Talent is not coming back

Only **15.2%** of Curaçaoans return after time abroad (25.9% in 2011), around **170** of our best students leave every year, and a quarter of the population is now 65+.

OUR MISSION

DCIF builds the capacity and capital systems that enable the next generation of innovations and founders to succeed.

What we aim to accomplish

2027 · Pioneer Program

A cohort of 8 founders from at least 3 islands, selected from 30+ applications. Ten weeks that turn good ideas into bankable businesses, with five milestone-based development grants of XCG 50K+, matched 1:1 and decided by an independent committee.

2028 · DCIF Forward

A revolving fund for the graduates and the ventures that follow: Local Seed and Regional Growth loans, with repayments redeployed. Alongside it a regional and diaspora angel collective of investors who co-invest and coach.

2032 · Outlook

Illustrative: 40–60 regionally anchored ventures, 70% survival, 250–500 jobs. A working capital ladder — grant → angel equity → Forward loan → bank credit — and Willemstad as the meeting point of the Dutch Caribbean innovation economy.

Value stays local

Local ownership reverses the 58.3% tourism leakage: profits, salaries and decisions stay on the islands.

Talent comes home

Careers that keep founders here; women's and youth participation are KPIs; 2–5 diaspora returns per venture.

Regenerative by design

Ventures screened to restore ecosystems and communities, not deplete them.

Shock resilience

A diversified economy across seven priority sectors absorbs what one sector cannot.

Built with partners, from cohort one.

Partners bring capital, expertise or reach — and get first look at the cohort, a sector track their own people run, and a seat where the picking happens. Partners who join now shape the fund, not just the cohort.

Four ways to build with us

FOUNDING PARTNER

Co-design the fund

Named founding partner · seat on the expert and partner committee that decides the grants · co-design DCIF Forward.

STRATEGIC PARTNER

Shape what gets picked

Influence on review criteria and sector tracks · co-branding and Impact Report · possible committee seat.

PROGRAMME PARTNER

First look at the pipeline

Access to cohort and graduates — pilots, talent, referrals · your own sector track or expert module · Demo Day.

ECOSYSTEM PARTNER

Reach across the islands

In-kind: outreach through the open call · coaching, mentorship, venue or production · a learning line with your own programme.

Levels are stackable and scale year over year. Amounts and terms are in the full partner proposal.

Where partners plug in

Bootcamp & modules · Q3 2027

Expert modules and coaches from partners.

Grant closings · Q4 2027

Bank account, pilot or first credit conversation.

Final Pitch Day · Q4 2027

Capital partners and angels at the table.

DCIF Forward · 2028

Founding partners co-design the fund.

What partners get

First look at the cohort. Meet the founders at intake in Q2 2027, not on stage in Q4 — pilots, talent and referrals across six islands and the diaspora.

A sector track your own people run. Design an expert module and deliver it to the cohort — in a market small enough to finish a pilot in a quarter.

A seat where the picking happens. The expert and partner committee decides the grants; founding partners co-design DCIF Forward.

One room, the whole Kingdom. Demo Day and Final Pitch Day at Villa Maria bring angels, banks, public partners and founders from six islands to Willemstad.

Anchor & partners — and we keep building



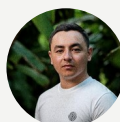
+ financial and ecosystem partners in the pipeline

Team

The Dutch Caribbean Innovation Fund Foundation is a mission-locked non-profit in Curaçao.



Valerie Q. Vallenduuk
Chair · fund management



Luuk Weber
Program Manager



Luis Santine
Treasurer

INTERESTED?

Email us for more information and to schedule a meeting.

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