

Commitments Announced at the Caribbean Summit of Political and Business Leaders under the *Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI)*

(British Virgin Islands; May 17 – 18, 2013)

Commitments by governments participating in the Caribbean Challenge Initiative

The Bahamas

- National trust fund. Has just approved the final draft of legislation to establish the Bahamas Protected Areas Fund (BPAF)—a trust fund to provide reliable and long-term funding to support CCI, which will receive funding from the regional Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) and other sources. In the upcoming fiscal year, the Government will allocate funds to help capitalize BPAF.
- New marine protected areas. Since 2008 when the CCI was launched, Bahamas has declared six new marine protected areas (MPAs). The Government will further expand the system of marine and coastal protected areas.

British Virgin Islands (BVI)

- Protected Areas System Plan. Current plan, approved in 2008 through multi-stakeholder process, calls for 33% of the marine and coastal environment to be protected. BVI Government is committed to implement this Systems Plan. Three initial priority areas will be declared by the end of 2013; the entire plan will be implemented by 2020.
- Territory trust fund. BVI has recently adopted a climate change adaptation policy, to achieve low-carbon development and to adapt to climate change. Under this policy, a territory trust fund is being established very shortly, which will be set up as a non-governmental entity and will support climate change adaptation and mitigation by government, NGOs and private sector, including projects covering the marine and coastal environment. Examples of projects that could be funded include: new marine protected areas and yacht waste facilities.
- Marine protected area (MPA) buffer zones. Zones immediately adjacent to MPAs will be carefully managed.
- Sustainable Yachting Initiative. BVI will shortly launch a Sustainable Yachting Initiative to reduce marine pollution from yachts.
- Beaches and salt ponds. These will be carefully managed, including through a new plan to protect wetlands.

Grenada

- Protect 25% of marine environment. Grenada committed in 2008 (in the Grenada 25 - 25 Declaration) to protect 25% of its marine environment under the Caribbean Challenge. Grenada will continue its work in protected areas.
- Economic assessments. In recent months, the Governments has implemented economic valuation and tourist willingness to pay studies.
- New Ramasar protected wetlands. The Government has recently declared Levera a Ramsar wetland protected site.

- SPAW Protocol. The Government has recently ratified the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Protocol to the Cartagena Convention.
- New marine protected areas (MPAs). The Government has declared three new MPAs, and new marine and coastal protected areas will be declared in the future, possibly including Grand Anse Beach.
- Co-management of MPAs. Marine protected areas legislation will be amended to allow for co-management of protected areas.

Jamaica

- New fish sanctuaries. Since 2008 when the CCI was launched, the Jamaican Government has established 14 new fish sanctuaries.
- New national policies. The government is in the process of finalizing several key national policies related to the marine and coastal environment (e.g. national coastal resources policy).
- New marine and coastal protected areas. New protected areas is a critical issue. By 2020, the Government will have 25% of its marine environment protected.
- Management and business plans for protected areas. Within the next four years, the Government will develop management and business plans for eight marine and coastal protected areas.

Puerto Rico

- Double protected areas. The Government will double the amount of protected areas, and CCI will be the instrument to achieve this goal.
- Marine biological corridors. The Government will partner with neighbors to protect marine biological corridors.

St. Kitts and Nevis

- First marine protected area. The Government is in the final stages to establish the country's first marine protected area.
- Full support for Phase II of CCI. The Government pledges its full support for Phase II of the CCI.

St. Lucia

- Marine and coastal protected areas. The Government is committed to sustainable management and protection of critical managed areas – SMMA, CAMMA, PMA, Point Sable Protected Area.
- Marine-related legislation. The Government will refine legislation related to the marine sector.
- Protected Areas
- Protected Areas System Plan. The Government will review, update, and operationalize the National Systems Plan for Protected Areas.
- New marine protected areas (MPAs). The Government will explore the designation of new MPAs.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

- Three priority issues. The Government is prioritizing three major issues: ocean governance, adaptation to climate change, and protection of biodiversity.
- Strengthen Tobago Cays MPA. The Government will strengthen the Tobago Cays Marine Park Management Plan.
- Ocean governance. The Government is currently developing a national ocean governance policy, and will continue to play a leadership role in the region on ocean governance.
- National Action Plan. The Government will develop a national action plan to align actions with regional and global commitments.

- Political will. The Government has an unshakeable political will to promote conservation, climate change adaptation and sustainable development.

Commitments by Other Caribbean Governments

Belize

- CCI participation. Very interested in the possibility of participating in CCI.
- Marine and coastal protected areas. Belize is already protecting 30% of its marine and coastal environment, with over 10% designated as no-take fishing zones.
- Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan. Have developed an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan that is expected to be endorsed by the Cabinet by the end of this year.

Commitments by Companies and Foundations

Bamboo Sushi (Mr. Kristopher Lofgren)

- \$500,000 to CCI. Hopes to open 2 – 5 new restaurants in Caribbean, and would donate \$500,000 to support CCI out of the profits.

Defend Paradise Campaign Launched

- New consumer-oriented campaign. The Nature Conservancy and GOOD—together with Tiffany & Co., Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines Ltd, KOR Water, and Guy Harvey Sportswear—launched “Defend Paradise.” The campaign is a consumer facing initiative designed *to generate funding for marine conservation in the Caribbean and raise consumer awareness of the marine environment.* Defend Paradise will generate this support through (i) selling co-branded products (where a portion of each sale goes toward conservation); (ii) providing exclusive discounts (where donations unlock escalating discounts on products and travel-related services); and (iii) raising awareness through experiential marketing that brings the natural beauty of the Caribbean to life for those unable to visit

Disney

- Grant for environmental education project targeting children. The Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund has granted a total of \$350,000 for a youth education program about nature working with TNC.

Grupo/Fundación Propagas (Mrs. Rosa Bonetti de Santana)

- Expansion of “Gas Rural” Program. Will expand its “Gas Rural” program to communities in and around coastal protected areas in the Dominican Republic.
- Management of national park. Continue to co-manage a coastal national park in the Dominican Republic.
- Grant. The foundation also made a \$ 100,000 commitment to The Nature Conservancy’s conservation program in the Dominican Republic,

Grupo PuntaCana (Mr. Frank Ranieri)

- Support or host a future Summit. Expression of interest to host or support a future summit in Punta Cana.
- Host coral restoration training workshops. Commits to use the Puntacana Ecological Foundation's

Center for Sustainability to host training workshops for coral restoration and other marine management themes.

- Spearhead action on park management. In partnership with Fundación Propagas, Grupo PuntaCana will host national park Directors in the Dominican Republic to discuss strategies and develop a coherent plan for management of protected areas going forward.

Hublot (Mr. Charles Taylor)

- Funding for coral nurseries. Will provide financial support for establishment of coral reef nurseries across Caribbean with grants to NGOs.
- “Official timekeeper” for Caribbean Challenge Initiative. Will provide financial support for follow-up mechanism to keep momentum going post-summit and measure progress toward 20 by 20 goal.
- Hublot is also releasing a Hublot Limited Edition timepiece, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy.

InMaat Foundation

- \$500,000 grant to support the Caribbean Challenge Initiative and defend paradise in the region by supporting new actions to create marine protected areas, restore coral reefs and preserve 20% marine habitat across the Caribbean by the year 2020.

NRG Energy (Mr. David Crane)

- Provide solar energy to the Caribbean. As the largest solar power company in the United States (\$5B company), NRG is committed to expanding solar energy in the Caribbean. It has \$2B of reserves in the Bank and wants to invest in the Caribbean. Projects are pending in Puerto Rico and The Bahamas, with exiting projects in Haiti.
- Starwood partnership on solar energy. NRG Energy is partnering with Starwood Hotels and Resorts to bring sustainability to Starwood properties worldwide. One of the three first three properties will be in the Caribbean (Westin Hotel in the US Virgin Islands). Solar power installations will be completed by the end of 2013.

Sandals Resorts International and the Sandals Foundation

- Supporting marine conservation and coastal livelihoods in the Caribbean. Sandals Resorts International and the Sandals Foundation pledged \$1.5 million to support marine conservation and coastal livelihoods in the Caribbean. Sandals’ multi-pronged commitments include: (i) continuing to support the management of four fish sanctuaries in Jamaica; (ii) promoting the sale of co-branded products and tours with Sandals’ customers; (iii) generating funds to support conservation in the Caribbean; (iv) providing financial support for sea turtle conservation in Antigua and Jamaica; (v) providing financial support for The Bahamas National Trust; and (vi) continuing to strive to reduce pollution from waste water and runoff as part of Sandals’ environmental policy.

Swiss Re

- Better understanding the economics of climate change. Swiss Re, in collaboration with TNC, will explore ways to enhance the Economics of Climate Adaptation through *Climada*, the open-source version of Swiss Re's natural catastrophe loss model. More specifically, Swiss Re is adding an ecosystem-based risk mitigation element to natural catastrophe risk modeling and the integration of more accurate comparative cost-benefit analyses that account for benefits derived from coastal ecosystem services. This will enable decision-makers to evaluate cost effectiveness of climate change adaptation options, including nature-based adaptation solutions, and to better integrate

adaptation and improved marine / coastal ecosystem management with economic development and sustainable growth.

Tropical Shipping

- Cleaner fuels for the fleet. Will continue transitioning its fleet to vessels burning cleaner fuel.

Tiffany & Co.

- \$500,000 grant for marine conservation. To promote the preservation of precious corals and healthy marine ecosystems, Tiffany & Co. Foundation is providing The Nature Conservancy with \$500,000 in grants to sponsor and organize the Caribbean Summit of Political and Business Leaders and to help the Nature Conservancy meet its \$8 million pledge to the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund.

Virgin Unite

- Support for Summit. The Virgin Group hosted the Caribbean Summit of Political and Business Leaders on Necker Island including \$250,000 in financial support and in kind support and offered to convene future CCI meetings at which progress will be reported and new actions determined.
- Renewable energy- Virgin Unite has pledged \$100k to support the uptake of renewable energy in the region. As a first step, Virgin Unite, together with the Clinton Foundation and the Carbon War Room will undertake a feasibility study for Haiti.

Commitments by Partners

European Commission

- Support during next funding cycle. The European Commission is moving into the next funding cycle (2014 – 2021). Green economy issues will play an important role in the programming of these funds. They welcome the Leaders Declaration (especially the Framework for Action).

Germany

- Financial support. Recent financial support includes:
 - US \$26M (€20M) to capitalize the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF), which includes endowments for seven countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
 - US \$5.2M (€4M) for six Eastern Caribbean countries. A new project to support CCI (marine managed areas networks in 6 Eastern Caribbean countries).
 - US \$5.2M (€4M) for six CARICOM countries. A new project to support CCI (marine protected areas in 6 CARICOM countries).
 - US \$14M for ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation in St. Lucia, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Jamaica.

Global Environment Facility

- \$8M for the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund to benefit a set of countries in the Eastern Caribbean.
- Support during next funding cycle. The GEF has provided US \$430M to date for marine projects in the Wider Caribbean. They are now awaiting inputs from the Caribbean governments on how GEF can support CCI in its next funding cycle (GEF-6).

The Nature Conservancy

- US \$8M to capitalize the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF), which includes endowments for seven countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
- Scientific and technical support. Will provide significant scientific and technical support to governments to help fulfill commitments under CCI.
- Support for efforts on the ground. Will support marine and coastal conservation efforts on the ground through its extensive operations across the Caribbean.
- Work with corporate partners. Will work with companies on catalyzing reforms of their business practices (to make them more sustainable) and to engage their customer bases.

World Bank

- Global Partnership on Oceans (GPO). The GPO aims to establish a multi-donor trust fund of US \$350M to support the marine environment. Sees the CCI as an important initiative that could be supported through GPO.
- Global Ocean Action Summit. The GPO will organize a Global Ocean Action Summit in September in The Hague, at which the CCI can be showcased and additional CCI announcements could be made.

United Kingdom

- Funding support for MPAs. Is providing US \$3M (£2 million) to the C-FISH initiative in the Caribbean. This project works with communities and the private sector, including Virgin and the Sandals Foundation, to improve the management of marine protected areas, provide sustainable livelihoods for local communities and improve their resilience to climate change.