

SUMMARY OF CCI SUMMIT OUTCOMES

**Outcomes of the Caribbean Summit of Political and Business Leaders
to launch the second phase of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI)**

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

(Prepared by Summit Secretariat; June 27, 2013)

Formal Summit Session



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To accelerate marine conservation action in the Caribbean, a **second phase of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI) was launched at a Summit of Caribbean Political and Business Leaders** during May 17 – 18, 2013 in the British Virgin Islands. The Summit was co-hosted by Dr. The Right Hon. Keith C. Mitchell (Prime Minister of Grenada), Dr. the Hon D. Orlando Smith, OBE (Premier of the British Virgin Islands), and Sir Richard Branson (Founder of the Virgin Group). The event brought together—for the first time—government leaders from Caribbean countries and territories, business leaders of companies with operations in the region, and key partners (e.g. development partners, multilateral agencies, private foundations, and NGOs) to agree on a shared vision for the region's marine and coastal environment, and to chart a course on how to achieve this vision.

The Summit helped to galvanize US \$75 million in funding commitments to safeguard the marine and coastal environment, along with commitments to take new marine conservation actions and to put in place more sustainable business practices. Eight governments signed the *Leaders Declaration* and 15 companies signed the *Corporate Compact*, formally committing to work together to protect at least 20% of the marine and coastal environment of the Caribbean by 2020. The consensus reached during the Informal, High-level Leaders Dialogue at the outset of the meeting was summarized in a *Summit Communiqué*, which highlighted some new issues for further action, such as protection for sharks and rays across the Caribbean region, and alternative energy.

More specific Summit outcomes included:

- **Leaders Declaration.** **Eight Caribbean governments signed a Leaders Declaration containing key commitments to marine and coastal conservation**, including: “In each participating country and territory, to effectively conserve and manage at least 20% of the marine and coastal environment by 2020”. To help achieve this goal, governments agreed to have in place, by 2020, fully functioning sustainable finance mechanisms. In addition, a set of seven specific actions were agreed, covering a broad scope of issues related to the marine environment (e.g. marine protected areas, fisheries, tourism, climate change adaptation, and marine pollution).
- **Corporate Compact.** **Fifteen companies signed a Corporate Compact and formally joined the CCI. The Compact contains key commitments to support marine and coastal conservation, including through changes in business practices.**
- **Summit Communiqué.** The three Summit Co-hosts approved a Summit Communiqué summarizing discussions during the Informal High-level Leaders Dialogue, highlighting consensus on “the utmost importance of working together—as a region and across sectors—to tackle the pressing and interlinked issues of marine and coastal conservation, renewable energy and economic development.” The Communiqué also highlighted three specific areas for further work: (i) The urgent need to create **protection for sharks and rays** across the whole Caribbean region, with the aim of protecting within two years; (ii) Establishing a **clear regulatory framework that delivers a systemic and regional approach to conservation of the marine and coastal environment**, including **increasing considerably the number of marine protected areas**; and (iii) A dramatic **acceleration in transition from fossil fuels to alternative energy sources** over the next five years.
- **Conservation Commitments.** Many of the speeches by Caribbean Governments and companies contained specific conservation commitments. These were broad-ranging, covering expansion of marine protected area (MPA) systems, designation of new MPAs, establishment of national trust funds, and changes in business practices. Some examples include:
 - Bahamas 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.
 - By 2020, the Jamaica Government will have 25% of its marine environment protected.
 - Grupo Puntacana in the Dominican Republic, through its foundation, will host training workshops for coral restoration and other marine management themes.
 - Sandals will continue to support the management of four fish sanctuaries in Jamaica, generate funds to support conservation in the Caribbean, provide financial support for sea turtle conservation in Antigua and Jamaica, provide financial support for The Bahamas National Trust, and continue to strive to reduce pollution from waste water and runoff from its operations.

- Sir Richard Branson and Virgin Unite committed to support the uptake of renewable energy in the region through the work of the Carbon War Room and to work with partners to help advance the region-wide shark and ray sanctuary. He also offered to convene additional CCI meetings to report on progress and determine additional actions.
- **Funding commitments.** A total of **US \$75 million of funding commitments were announced at the Summit or in the lead-up to the Summit.** In addition to the funding that was announced, the Summit and its lead-up process helped lay the groundwork for further public and private funding commitments between now and 2020.
- **Launch of “Defend Paradise” Campaign.** The Nature Conservancy and GOOD Corps—together with Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines Ltd, KOR Water, and Guy Harvey Sportswear—launched “Defend Paradise.” The campaign is **a consumer facing campaign designed to generate funding for marine conservation in the Caribbean and raise consumer awareness of the marine environment.**
- **Media coverage.** **Extensive media coverage was generated (nearly 500 media mentions covering 22 countries)**, including, for example: CNN, Bloomberg TV, Fox news, ABC News, Associated Press, New York Times, Washington Post, UK Sunday Times, and a number of national, territory, and regional media outlets within the Caribbean (e.g. Bahamas, BVI, Jamaica Puerto Rico, Turks and Caicos).
- **Other outcomes.** Other outcomes include:
 - **Interest in potentially joining the CCI among a set of Caribbean governments that attended the Summit as observers**, such as: Barbados, Belize, Haiti, Martinique, Turks & Caicos, and US Virgin Islands;
 - An **expansion of the programmatic scope of CCI**—both declarations that were signed include actions not only on marine protected areas (MPAs), but also marine pollution, restoration, sustainable tourism, sustainable fisheries, and ecosystem-based adaptation;
 - **Partners are now more fully engaged in CCI**—a broad set of partners (particularly public funding agencies, multilateral agencies, and private foundations) are now aware of CCI, with many prepared to support the initiative; and
 - **Strong participation of corporate sector** providing a “critical mass” of business leaders to help champion and support CCI.

BACKGROUND

To accelerate marine and coastal conservation action, a **second phase of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI) was launched at a Caribbean Summit of Political and Business Leaders** during May 17 – 18, 2013 in the British Virgin Islands. The Summit was co-hosted by Dr. The Right Hon. Keith C. Mitchell (Prime Minister of Grenada), Dr. the Hon D. Orlando Smith, OBE (Premier of the British Virgin Islands), and Sir Richard Branson (CEO, Virgin Group). The event brought together—for the first time—heads of government, ministers and other high-level officials from Caribbean countries and territories; CEOs and other business leaders of companies with operations in the region; and key partners (e.g. development partners, multilateral agencies, private foundations, and NGOs) to agree on a shared vision for the region's marine and coastal environment, and to chart a course on how to achieve this vision (see Annex I: List of Participants).

MAJOR SUMMIT OUTCOMES

- 1. LEADERS DECLARATION.** Eight Caribbean governments signed a *Leaders Declaration*¹ (attached) containing the following key commitments to marine and coastal conservation:
 - Officially launched the second phase of CCI (2013 – 2018), designed to accelerate and expand efforts to safeguard the region's marine and coastal environment, to engage the private sector and partners in CCI, and to expand CCI to include additional Caribbean governments.
 - Endorsed the Framework for Action for the CCI, including:
 - "20 by 20" Goal²: By 2020, in each participating country and territory, to effectively conserve and manage at least 20% of the marine and coastal environment.
 - Sustainable Finance Goal: By 2020, to have in place fully functioning sustainable finance mechanisms that will provide long-term and reliable funding to conserve and sustainably manage the marine and coastal resources and the environment in each participating country and territory.
 - Set of seven actions: (i) Complete National / Territory CCI Action Plans by 2013 and a Regional CCI Action Plan by 2014; (ii) Establish and effectively manage marine and coastal protected areas; (iii) Restore marine and coastal resources, including coral reefs, mangroves and other marine habitats of importance; (iv) Promote sustainable coastal tourism; (v) Promote a sustainable fisheries sector; (vi) Promote and implement ecosystem-based adaptation actions; and (vii) Reduce major sources of pollution impacting the marine environment.
 - Set of seven principles: Principles cover the following themes: (i) support people-centered development; (ii) prioritize capacity building; (iii) base actions on science, precautionary approach, ecosystem-based management, ocean governance, and integrated ocean and coastal management; (iv) incorporate quantitative goals and timetables; (v) advance existing global and regional agreements; (vi) promote trans-boundary collaboration; and (vii) engage multiple stakeholders.
 - Implementation mechanisms. To consider, as a matter of priority, the establishment of mechanisms to support implementation during Phase II, such as: (i) a permanent *CCI Secretariat*; (ii) a *CCI Council (CCIC)*, a regional implementation support mechanism composed of governments, companies, and partners; and (iii) committees at the country / territory level that could include multiple stakeholders.
 - Financing Roundtable by 2014: To organize a *Financing Roundtable* by 2014 to mobilize new and additional financial resources to support implementation of CCI.
 - Next Summit by 2016: To convene the next Summit no later than 2016.
 - Other Caribbean Governments joining CCI. Invite other Caribbean Governments to join CCI.
- 2. CORPORATE COMPACT.** Fifteen companies signed a *Corporate Compact* (attached) containing the following key commitments:
 - Join CCI. We join the *Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI)* as a historic and ambitious effort to protect at least 20 percent of the marine and coastal environment of the Caribbean by 2020. This requires immediate action at all levels, by all of us: businesses across all sectors, governments, civil society and citizens.
 - Six principles that will guide action: (i) We are co-responsible for the stewardship of natural resources; (ii) We

¹ Heads of government signed for Grenada and BVI. Ministers and one UN ambassador (all given signing authority) signed for the other six governments. The *Leaders Declaration* was approved in countries / territories by the Cabinet (composed of the head of government and all the ministers), meaning the commitments in the Declaration are now official government policy.

² This and the Sustainable Finance Goal below are the two over-arching goals of Phase II of CCI.

will seek to partner with governments and local communities on joint solutions; (iii) We will act now; (iv) We will change business practices as necessary; (v) We will engage our value chain to do the same; and (vi) We will be a leading voice in our industry.

- Focus on six priorities for action. We will focus on the six priority areas in the *Leaders Declaration* signed by participating governments: (i) marine and coastal protected areas; (ii) restoration of marine and coastal resources; (iii) sustainable tourism; (iv) sustainable fisheries; (v) climate change adaptation; and (vi) marine pollution.
- Targets and timetables. Our actions will incorporate measurable and time-bound results that can be documented and reported.
- Other companies joining CCI. Call upon other companies to sign Compact and join CCI.

3. COMMUNIQUÉ BY SUMMIT CO-HOSTS.

The three Summit Co-hosts approved a Communiqué (attached) summarizing the discussions during the Informal High-level Leaders Dialogue:

- Consensus on tackling interlinked environment and economic development issues. Our high level dialogue resulted in consensus on the utmost importance of working together—as a region and across sectors—to tackle the pressing and interlinked issues of marine and coastal conservation, renewable energy and economic development.
- The specific areas highlighted for further work include:
 - The urgent need to create **protection for sharks and rays** across the whole Caribbean region with the aim of protecting within two years.
 - Establishing a **clear regulatory framework that delivers a systemic and regional approach to conservation** of the marine and coastal environment, including **increasing considerably the number of marine protected areas.**
 - A dramatic **acceleration in transition from fossil fuels to alternative energy sources** over next five years.

4. FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS (public donor agencies, companies, NGOs)

- Funding commitments announced: **A total of US \$75 million of funding commitments were announced at the Summit or in the lead-up to the Summit³** (see Annex II below).
- Groundwork for future funding commitments (2013 – 2020): In addition to the funding that was announced, the Summit and its lead-up process helped lay the groundwork for further public and private funding commitments between now and 2020, which will require follow-up.

5. CONSERVATION COMMITMENTS (Caribbean Governments, companies)

- Overview of conservation commitments. Many of the speeches and remarks by Caribbean Governments and companies contained specific conservation commitments. These commitments were broad-ranging, covering, for example: expansion of marine protected area (MPA) systems, designation of new MPAs, establishment of national trust funds, and changes in business practices (see Annex III).

6. LAUNCH OF “DEFEND PARADISE” CAMPAIGN

- New consumer-oriented campaign. The Nature Conservancy and GOOD Corps—together with Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines Ltd, KOR Water, and Guy Harvey Sportswear—launched a new campaign entitled *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.** Virgin committed to help support the marketing efforts of the campaign. *Defend Paradise* will generate this support through (i) selling co-branded products (where a portion of each sale goes toward marine conservation); (ii) providing exclusive discounts (where donations to *Defend Paradise* 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 the region.

7. MEDIA COVERAGE, PHOTOS AND VIDEO

³ This includes both very new commitments as well as others approved previously, but only now coming on-stream and dedicated to support activities that would help achieve the goals of CCI during Phase II.

- Extensive media coverage. Extensive media coverage was generated (nearly 500 media mentions covering 22 countries), including, for example: CNN, Bloomberg TV, Fox News, ABC News, Associated Press, New York Times, Washington Post, UK Sunday Times, and a number of national, territory, and regional media outlets within the Caribbean (e.g. Bahamas, BVI, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Turks and Caicos). Annex IV contains a sampling of media stories, with all 500 media stories accessible through the link provided below:

http://us.vocuspr.com/Publish/514296/Forward_514296_1463798.htm?Email=abloom%40tnc.org&Date=5%2f29%2f2013+5%3a20%3a02+PM

- Photographs and video. Annex V contains a sampling of photographs. The full library of photos (on the flickr web site) is accessible through the link provided below. The short video shown at the beginning of the Summit is available through the youtube link below.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/96168528@N06/>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rbn_fPCt-GQ&feature=player_embedded#t=0s

8. OTHER OUTCOMES

A number of other outcomes are worth specific mention, such as:

- Expansion of CCI to include other governments. A number of other Caribbean governments attended the Summit as observers, such as: Barbados, Belize, Haiti, Martinique, Turks & Caicos, and US Virgin Islands. Several are now considering the possibility of joining CCI.
- Expansion of programmatic scope of CCI. Both declarations that were signed included actions not only on marine protected areas (MPAs)—the focus of Phase I of CCI—but also marine pollution, restoration, sustainable tourism, sustainable fisheries, and ecosystem-based adaptation.
- Expansion to include business sector. Phase I of the CCI involved governments only. The second Phase of CCI has now expanded membership to include private sector companies.
- Engagement of partners – a third “constituency”. As a third “constituency” in CCI, a broad set of partners (particularly public funding agencies, multilateral agencies, and private foundations) are now engaged in CCI, with many prepared to support Phase II of the initiative.
- Public – private partnerships. With the engagement of the private sector and the signing of the *Leaders Declaration* and *Corporate Compact*, a strong enabling environment now exists to foster new public-private partnerships to help safeguard marine and coastal resources.
- Implementation / coordination mechanisms. Many Summit participants, in their public remarks and in private discussions, emphasized their strong support for establishment of implementation / coordination mechanisms (e.g. CCI Secretariat) that can help maintain the momentum and support effective implementation of the commitments made at the Summit. The *Leaders Declaration* includes specific references to such mechanisms.

ANNEX I: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS PARTICIPATING IN CCI		
Country or Territory	Name	Title
Bahamas	Hon. Kenred M. A. Dorsett, MP	Minister of Environment and Housing
	Mr. Phillip Weech	Director, Bahamas Environment, Science and Technology (BEST) Commission; Ministry of Environment and Housing
	Mr. Eric Carey	Executive Director, Bahamas National Trust
British Virgin Islands	Dr. the Hon D. Orlando Smith, OBE	Premier
	Dr. the Hon. Kedrick Pickering	Deputy Premier and Minister of Natural Resources and Labour
	Mr. Ronald Smith Berkeley	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour
	Ms. Najan Christopher	Assistant Secretary for External Affairs, Office of the Premier
	Mrs. Arlene T. Penn	Director of Communications; Office of the Premier
	Mr. Joseph Smith Abbott	Director, National Parks Trust
	Ms. Abbi Christopher	Assistant Fisheries Officer, Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour
Grenada	Dr. The Right Hon. Keith C. Mitchell	Prime Minister
	Sen. Simon Stiell	Parliamentary Secretary; Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
	Mrs. Elizabeth Henry-Greenidge	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Business
	Mrs. Sally Anne Bagwhan Logie	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
	Ms. Simone Lewis	Senior Environmental Officer; Environment Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Jamaica	Ms. Lakisha Alexander Grant	Press Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister
	Hon. Robert Pickersgill	Minister of Water, Land, Environment, and Climate Change
	Dr. Alwin Hales	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Water, Land, Environment, and Climate Change
	Mrs. Janice Miller	Acting Undersecretary, Multilateral Affairs; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
Puerto Rico	Mr. Jerome Smith	Director of Natural Resources, Environment Management Division; Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change
	Hon. Carmen R. Guerrero Pérez	Secretary, Department of Natural and Environmental Resources
	Mr. Ernesto Diaz	Director of Coastal Zone Management; Department of Natural and Environmental Resources
	Mr. Jesus Manuel Ortiz	Press Director
	Mr. Raimundo Espinoza	Conservation Coordinator, The Nature Conservancy
St. Kitts and Nevis	Mrs. Doris Lamoso	Governor's Aide
	Hon. Patrice Nisbett	Minister of Foreign Affairs, Homeland Security, Labor, Justice and Legal Affairs
	Mr. Ashton Stanley	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources
	Mrs. Angela Walters-Delpeche	Director, Department of Physical Planning, Natural Resources and the Environment; Nevis Island Administration
	Mr. Randolph Edmead	Director, Department of Physical Planning, Natural Resources and the Environment; Ministry of Sustainable Development
St. Lucia	Senator the Hon. Stanley Felix	Minister for Physical Development, Housing, and Urban Renewal
	Dr. Allison Plummer	Permanent Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister
	Mr. John Calixte	Deputy Permanent Secretary; Ministry of Finance, Economic Affairs, and National Development
	Ms. Sally Anne Cotter	Legal Officer; Ministry of Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology
	Ms. Jeannine Compton-Antoine	General Manager, St. Lucia/Soufriere Marine Management, Inc.
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Hon. Camillo Gonsalves	Permanent Representative to the United Nations (United Nations Ambassador)
	Hon. Irwin Ellsworth John	Director, Regional Integration and Diaspora Unit Ambassador to CARICOM and OECS
	Mr. David Robin	Director, Maritime Administration
	Ms. Yasa Belmar	Environmental Analyst; Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment
	Mr. Trelson Mapp	Economist, Central Planning Division; Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning

OTHER WIDER CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS (INVITED AS OBSERVERS)			
Country or Territory	Name	Title	
Barbados	Ms. Daphne O. Kellman	Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Drainage	
Belize	Hon. Lisel Alamilla	Minister of Forests, Fisheries and Sustainable Development	
Haiti	Mr. Gregory Mevs	Co-chair of Presidential Advisory Council for Economic Growth and Investment; Ambassador-at-large for Investment	
	Mr. Stan Wojewodzki	Advisor to Prime Minister; Member of Cabinet	
Saint Eustatius	Mr. Carlyle Tarr	Commissioner of Public Works	
Saint Maarten	Mr Tadzio Bervoets Mr Rueben Thompson	Environment Manager, VROMI Environmentalist	
Turks and Caicos	Mrs. Kathleen Wood	Director for Protected Areas, Ministry of Environment and Home Affairs	
US Virgin Islands	Hon. Alicia Barnes	Commissioner, Department of Planning and Natural Resources	
COMPANIES			
Company	Sector	Name	Title
Bamboo Sushi	Seafood	Mr. Kristofor Lofgren	CEO
Couples Resorts	Tourism	Mr. Paul Issa	Deputy Chairman
Disney Cruise Line	Tourism	Mr. Pat Gerrity	Vice President of Safety, Security, Environmental Policy and Compliance; New Vacation Operations and Disney Cruise Lines
Grupo PropaGas	Energy	Mr. Arturo Santana Reyes	President and CEO
		Mrs. Rosa Margarita Bonetti de Santana	Vice-President & Environmental Director
		Ms. Lisette Fernández	Marketing
Grupo Puntacana	Tourism and others	Mr. Frank Rainieri	President and CEO
		Mr. Jake Kheel	Environmental Director and Director, Puntacana Ecological Foundation
Guy Harvey Sportswear	Merchandise (clothing, accessories with marine life images)	Mr. Guy Harvey	CEO
Hublot	Merchandise (luxury)	Mr. Charles Taylor	CEO
Kestrel Group	Shipping	Mr. Andrew Thorne	Chairman
KOR Water	Water bottles and accessories	Mr. Eric Barnes	CEO
NRG Energy	Energy	Mr. David Crane	President and CEO
Oil Nut Bay – Victor BVI	Tourism	Mr. David V. Johnson	Chairman
Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.	Tourism	Mr. Rich Pruitt	Associate Vice President - Safety & Environmental Stewardship
Sandals Resorts International	Tourism	Mr. Adam Stewart	CEO
		Mrs. Heidi Clarke	Director, Sandals Foundation
Starwood Hotels and Resorts	Tourism	Mr. Kenneth S. Siegel	Chief Administrative Officer & General Counsel
		Mr. Mark Kukulski	Area Managing Director, Caribbean
Swiss Re	Reinsurance	Dr. David Bresch	Director, Head Sustainability and Political Risk Management
Tiffany & Co.	Merchandise (luxury)	Mr. Michael Kowalski	Chairman and CEO
		Ms. Anisa Kamadoli Costa	President, The Tiffany & Co. Foundation
Tropical Shipping	Shipping	Mr. Rick Murrell	CEO
Virgin Group	Multiple	Sir Richard Branson	Founder
PARTNERS			
GOVERNMENT AGENCIES			
Government	Agency	Name	Title
Germany	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Ambassador Stefan Schlüter	Ambassador, Eastern Caribbean
	German Development Bank (KfW)	Mr. Josef Haider	Senior Sector Economist, Agriculture and Natural Resources Division
Italy	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Mr. Alfredo Guillet	Senior Advisor for Environment
United Kingdom	Foreign and Commonwealth Office	H.E. Boyd McCleary CMG, CVO	Governor, British Virgin Islands Foreign and Commonwealth Office
	Department for International Development	Mr. Hugh Walker	Head of Caribbean Program

MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS		
Institution	Name	Title
Caribbean Community Climate Change Center	Dr. Ulric Trotz	Deputy Director and Science Advisor
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat	Dr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias	Executive Secretary
European Commission	Ambassador Mikael Barfod	Ambassador, European Union Delegation to Barbados and Eastern Caribbean
Global Environment Facility (GEF) Secretariat	Mr. Andre Laperriere	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
	Mr. Andrew Velthaus	Senior Policy Officer and Biodiversity Specialist
Organization of Eastern Caribbean States	Dr. Len Ishmael	Director General
Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Protocol Regional Activity Center	Ms. Hélène Souan	Director
United Nations	Mr. Gyan Chandra Acharya	Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS
UN Development Program (UNDP)	Mrs. Adriana Dinu	UNDP / GEF Officer-in-Charge, and Deputy Executive Coordinator
UN Environment Program (UNEP) – Caribbean Environment Program	Mr. Nelson Andrade Colmenares	Coordinator
	Mrs. Alessandra Vanzella-Khoury	Program Officer
The World Bank	Dr. Angus Friday	Ocean Representative
	Ms. Iris de Graaf	Outreach and Communications Specialist, Oceans Team
	Ms. Françoise Clottes	Country Director for the Caribbean
	Ms. Emilia Battaglini	Senior Environmental Specialist Latin America & Caribbean Region
PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS, NGOS, AND OTHERS		
Institution	Name	Title
Anne Ray Charitable Trust	Ms. Erin Bowley	Senior Program Officer
	Ms. Heather Kukla	Director of Legal Affairs
Carbon War Room	Mr. José María Figueres	Former President of Costa Rica, and President, Carbon War Room
Caribbean Biodiversity Fund	Mr. Peter Raines	CEO
The CARIBSAVE Partnership	Dr. Owen Day	Chief Technical Officer, Head of Biodiversity and C-FISH Fund Director
Conch Enhancement Institute Foundation	Mr. Kevin Faulkner	Director
GOOD CORPS	Mr. Grant Garrison	Director
Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)	Ms. Kate Brown	Executive Director
Green VI	Ms. Charlotte McDevitt	Executive Director
InMatt Foundation	Ms. Chandra Jessee	Founder
International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	Dr. José Corrau	Deputy Director, Regional Office for Central America and the Caribbean
Island Resources Foundation	Ms. Judith Towle	Senior Program Consultant, Board of Trustees
Jost Van Dykes Preservation Society	Ms. Susan Zaluski	Executive Director
The Moore Charitable Foundation	Ms. Ann Colley	Executive Director and Vice President
The Nature Conservancy	Mr. Phil Kramer	Director, Caribbean Program
	Mr. Glenn Prickett	Chief External Affairs Officer
	Mrs. Susan Smith	Caribbean Board Chair
	Mr. Geoff Rochester	Chief Marketing Officer
New Course	Dr. Jamie Bechtel	CEO and Co-Founder
Oak Foundation	Ms. Imani Fairweather-Morison	Program Officer
Oceans5 Foundation Consortium	Mr. J. Charles Fox	Executive Director
Waitt Foundation	Dr. Ayana Johnson	Director of Science and Solutions
William J. Clinton Foundation	Mr. Greg Milne	Senior Policy Advisor

**ANNEX II: PRELIMINARY LIST OF CURRENT FUNDING SUPPORT FOR CCI⁴
(2013 – 2020)**

Funding sources	Amount of funding (US\$)	Purpose
European Commission	\$2.7M	BIOPAMA: Information systems for marine protected areas across Caribbean
Germany (KfW)	\$26M	Endowment capital for Caribbean Biodiversity Fund for seven countries participating in Phase I of CCI
Germany (KfW)	\$14M	"Ecosystem-based Approaches for Climate Change Adaptation", with activities in Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, and Jamaica
Germany (BMZ-GIZ)	\$6.5M	A project in several CARICOM countries on improving the management of coastal resources and the conservation of marine biodiversity (including mostly CCI countries)
Germany (International Climate Initiative - ICI)	\$5.2M	"Climate Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network", with activities in six Eastern Caribbean countries
Global Environment Facility (GEF) (GEF-4 and 5)	\$7.9M	Endowment capital for Caribbean Biodiversity Fund for a set of five Eastern Caribbean countries
The Nature Conservancy	\$8M	Endowment capital for Caribbean Biodiversity Fund for seven countries participating in Phase I of CCI
Sandals Resorts International	\$1.5M	Range of activities supporting marine conservation and coastal livelihoods in the Caribbean
United Kingdom (DFID)	\$3M	C-Fish Fund: To support fish sanctuaries and livelihoods for local communities in Jamaica, Grenada, and St. Lucia
Subtotal	\$75M	

⁴ This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all the funding currently committed to support the marine and coastal environment in the Caribbean. Rather, it represents the major relevant funding commitments announced at the Summit or approved in the lead-up to the Summit by participants.

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. BPAF 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 adapt to climate change. Under this policy, a territory trust fund is being established 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. Under the CCI, Grenada committed in 2008 (in the Grenada 25 - 25 Declaration) to protect 25% of its marine environment, and 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. Grenada 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 CCI was launched, Jamaica 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 extent 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 (e.g. SMMA, CAMMA, PMA, Point Sable Protected Area).
- Marine-related legislation. The Government will refine legislation related to the marine sector.
- 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 management. 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

Bamboo Sushi (Mr. Kristopher Lofgren)

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

Defend Paradise Campaign Launched

- New consumer-oriented campaign. The Nature Conservancy and GOOD—together with 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 US \$350,000 for a youth education program about nature working with TNC.

Grupo/Fundacion 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 commitment to TNC’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 Fundacion 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 the 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.
- Limited Edition timepiece. Releasing a Hublot Limited Edition timepiece, in partnership with TNC.

NRG Energy (Mr. David Crane) and Starwood Hotels and Resorts (Mr. Kenneth Siegel)

- 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.
- Solar Energy Partnership. 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 US \$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 efforts to reduce pollution from wastewater 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 integrating 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 growth⁵.

Tropical Shipping

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

Tiffany & Co.

- US \$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 US \$500,000 to 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.

⁵ The Economics of Climate Adaptation (ECA) report, covering eight case studies and a comprehensive description of the methodology, its application and limitations can be found in http://media.swissre.com/documents/rethinking_shaping_climate_resilient_development_en.pdf and specific results for the Caribbean region in <http://media.swissre.com/documents/ECA+Brochure-Final.pdf>. The climada model is used in the following lecture course at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH): Prof. Dr. Reto Knutti, ETH & Dr. David N. Bresch, Swiss Re: Climate Change Uncertainty and Risk: from Probabilistic Forecasts to Economics of Climate Adaptation. The course introduces the concepts of predictability, probability, uncertainty and probabilistic risk modeling and their application to climate modeling and the economics of climate adaptation. Further details, all presentations, exercises and the climada model can be accessed via www.iac.ethz.ch/edu/courses/master/modules/climate_risk

Virgin Group, Virgin Unite and Carbon War Room

- Support for Summit. Sir Richard Branson and Virgin United hosted the Caribbean Summit of Political and Business Leaders on Necker Island including US \$250,000 in financial support and extensive in-kind support. Virgin also offered to convene other CCI-related meetings to report on progress and determine additional actions, particularly around the shark and ray sanctuary.
- Renewable energy. Virgin Unite pledged US \$100,000 to support the uptake of renewable energy in the region. With these funds, Virgin Unite, the Carbon War Room (CWR), and the Clinton Foundation will undertake a feasibility study for Haiti on moving toward renewable energies. In parallel, Virgin Unite and CWR will also seed renewable energy work with other CCI countries and host a Creating Climate Wealth activity with other co-sponsors.
- Shark and ray sanctuary. Virgin and CWR will work with other partners and directly support efforts to move forward the shark and ray sanctuary.
- Defend Paradise. Virgin committed to support the marketing efforts of the campaign.

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

- 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 \$6.4M (€4.9M) for Grenada, for a pilot program on integrated adaptation strategies.
 - US \$6.5M (€5M) for several CARICOM countries, for a project on improving the management of coastal resources and the conservation of marine biodiversity (including mostly CCI countries).
- New projects, which are expected to start in late 2013:
 - US \$5.2M (€4M) supporting a Network of Climate-Resilient Marine Protected Areas in 6 Eastern Caribbean Countries (including 5 CCI member 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

- US \$8M for the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund endowment to benefit a set of five 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) endowment, which includes endowments for eight countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, 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 to catalyze reforms of their business practices (to make them more sustainable) and to engage their customer bases.

World Bank

- Global Partnership on Oceans (GPO). For the Caribbean Governments, the Global Partnership for Oceans can serve as a unique mechanism to strengthen the CCI, including through potential co-funding arrangements and as a platform to showcase the CCI. (Note: The World Bank hopes to catalyze a multi-donor GPO Fund in the US \$350 million range to support the marine and coastal environment.)
- Oceans 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 marine protected areas. 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.

ANNEX IV: SAMPLING OF MEDIA STORIES

Caribbean talks conservation on Branson's island

By ASSOCIATED PRESS (AP)

Published: May 17, 2013

In a bid to safeguard biodiversity and the Caribbean's tourism-based economy, regional political leaders and corporate executives will gather Friday on billionaire Richard Branson's private island with the aim of protecting 20 percent of the region's coastal resources by 2020.

Participants are expected to announce various commitments to advance the "Caribbean Challenge," an initiative that is touted as the first comprehensive conservation endeavor in the region of scattered islands that has 10 percent of the world's coral reefs and some 1,400 species of fish and marine mammals.

To safeguard the Caribbean's future, Branson says politics and business-as-usual will have to change. The adventuring CEO and founder of the Virgin Group of companies is co-hosting the meeting of political and business leaders at Necker Island, his home in the British Virgin Islands where he has developed an ultra-exclusive eco-resort that showcases renewable energy technology and reintroduced flamingoes.

"It's just so important to get every single Caribbean country 100 percent behind protecting the wonderful sea life and the wonderful reefs and mangroves, and therefore the species that occupy our oceans," Branson said in a phone interview from the island.

British Virgin Islands Premier Orlando Smith and Grenada Prime Minister Keith Mitchell are also co-hosting the gathering of delegations from nine Caribbean countries, chiefs of resort companies and cruise lines, representatives of the World Bank, United Nations and other international bodies, private foundations and environmental groups.

The Nature Conservancy, an international conservation group headquartered in Virginia, is helping to sponsor the summit and has been providing technical assistance to participating governments for years. The conservancy touts the Caribbean Challenge, begun in 2008, as among the world's most ambitious conservation initiatives.

"The Caribbean is truly paradise under threat, and today's focus is a critical step toward a brighter future," Glenn Prickett, chief external affairs officer with the Nature Conservancy, said in an email.

If the Caribbean, the world's most tourism dependent region, takes strong steps now to protect its natural resources, conservationists say it will put itself in a far stronger position to protect its small economies and cope with future threats from climate change and ocean acidification due to greenhouse gases.

The challenges are many in the ecologically stressed Caribbean, which covers some 10,000 square kilometers (3,860 square miles). Once brilliant coral reefs have lost their luster due to warming waters and disease. Live coral cover has plummeted to an average of just 8 percent from 50 percent in the 1970s, the International Union for Conservation of Nature says. Three-fourths of the reefs are considered threatened, also degraded by overfishing, runoff pollution and coastal development.

"In the past, the Caribbean has not been great at protecting the eagle rays and the sharks and the reef fish and so on," Branson said.

Some of the Caribbean Challenge's participating countries _ Bahamas, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, and the British Virgin Islands _ have already taken steps to reach their conservation targets.

The Dominican Republic has actually exceeded its 20 percent goal by creating more than 30 new protected areas in recent years. The Bahamas established the largest marine protected area in the region by expanding a national park in Andros from 185,000 acres to 1.28 million acres. Jamaica has set up several "no-take" fishing sanctuaries.

But there are questions about how deep the political will really is in a region with heavily indebted governments. Political leaders have long spoken about the need for protecting coasts, developing alternative energy sources and

diversifying tourism-dependent economies but little has been accomplished. One country, Antigua & Barbuda, recently dropped out of the initiative for reasons that are not clear.

Branson said strong conservation efforts would pay off for years to come for a region where 70 percent of the people live in coastal settlements and a \$20 billion tourism industry provides more than 2 million jobs.

"Many, many people who come to the Caribbean come because they want to enjoy the reef, they want to see the sea life on the reef," Branson said. "And therefore they want to see it better protected."

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Caribbean Talks Conservation on Branson's Island
By ASSOCIATED PRESS (By Jason Smith And David McFadden)
Published: May 17, 2013 at 7:24 PM ET

NECKER ISLAND, British Virgin Islands — Surrounded by a turquoise sea and a menagerie of exotic animals on a billionaire's private island, political and business leaders gathered Friday to back an initiative aimed at expanding protection for the Caribbean's imperiled coasts and waters.

The "Caribbean Challenge" calls for special protected zones along at least 20 percent of the region's coasts by 2020 in hopes of protecting its biodiversity and its crucial tourism market. The region's scattered islands have 10 percent of the world's coral reefs and some 1,400 species of fish and marine mammals.

Richard Branson, the adventuring CEO and founder of the Virgin Group of companies, is co-hosting the two-day meeting at Necker Island, his home in the British Virgin Islands where he has developed an ultra-exclusive eco-resort that showcases renewable energy technology, reintroduced flamingoes, imported lemurs and other creatures.

"It's just so important to get every single Caribbean country 100 percent behind protecting the wonderful sea life and the wonderful reefs and mangroves, and therefore the species that occupy our oceans," Branson said from his 74-acre Caribbean retreat, a haven for entertainment and business A-listers.

British Virgin Islands Premier Orlando Smith and Grenada Prime Minister Keith Mitchell are also co-hosting the gathering of delegations from nine Caribbean countries, chiefs of resort companies and cruise lines, representatives of the World Bank, United Nations and other international bodies, private foundations and environmental groups.

"This is not a situation where we can say: This is a Caribbean thing and it doesn't include anybody else. This is an international issue," Mitchell told reporters gathered for a brief press conference held on Necker's tennis courts, not far from an animated group of lemurs.

On Friday, delegations from the participating governments signed a communiqué pledging to establish a framework for a regional approach to coastal conservation, including "increasing considerably the number of marine protected areas." They also said they recognized an urgent need to protect sharks and rays, and vowed a "dramatic acceleration in the transition from fossil fuels to alternative energy sources over the next five years."

One of the key sponsors is the Virginia-based Nature Conservancy, which touts the Caribbean Challenge, begun in 2008, as one of the world's most ambitious conservation initiatives. The conservation group has been providing technical expertise to the participating islands for years.

"The Caribbean is truly paradise under threat, and today's focus is a critical step toward a brighter future," Glenn Prickett, chief external affairs officer with the Nature Conservancy, said in an email.

If the Caribbean, the world's most tourism dependent region, takes strong steps now to protect its natural resources, conservationists say it will be in a far stronger position to protect its small economies and cope with future threats from climate change and ocean acidification due to greenhouse gases.

The challenges are many in the ecologically stressed Caribbean, which covers some 10,000 square kilometers (3,860 square miles). Once brilliant coral reefs have lost their luster due to warming waters and disease. Live coral

cover of regional reefs has plummeted to an average of just 8 percent from 50 percent in the 1970s, the International Union for Conservation of Nature says. Many reefs have been degraded by overfishing, runoff pollution and coastal development.

Some of the Caribbean Challenge's participating countries — Bahamas, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, and the British Virgin Islands — have already taken steps to reach their conservation targets.

The Dominican Republic has actually exceeded its 20 percent goal by creating more than 30 new protected areas in recent years. The Bahamas established the largest marine protected area in the region by expanding a national park in Andros from 185,000 acres to 1.28 million acres. Heavily overfished Jamaica has set up several "no-take" fishing sanctuaries and fishermen say they are seeing improvements.

The initiative is modeled after similar conservation financing efforts in the Pacific and linked to the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, a sustainable finance mechanism that will generate funding. The initial endowment capitalization target of \$40 million has been reached, according to the Nature Conservancy.

But there are questions about how deep the political will really is in a region with heavily indebted governments. Political leaders have long spoken about the need for protecting coasts, developing alternative energy sources and diversifying tourism-dependent economies but little has been accomplished. One country, Antigua & Barbuda, recently dropped out of the initiative for reasons that are not clear.

Grenada's prime minister believes that now is the time for the Caribbean region to come together and tackle shared environmental threats. More countries and territories are being encouraged to join the compact.

"The political divide in our region is very deep but this is one issue where all nations are on the same side," Mitchell said.

Minister Dorsett Addresses CCI Political and Business Leaders Summit

By THE NASSAU GUARDIAN AND FREEPORT NEWS (BAHAMAS)

Published: May 17, 2013

Hon. Kenred Dorsett, Minister of the Environment and Housing, traveled to the British Virgin Islands this week to attend the Caribbean Challenge Initiative's (CCI) Summit of Caribbean Political and Business Leaders where he addressed delegates.

In his address Dorsett pointed out that the Bahamian people are "inextricably linked to our environment, our shallow blue seas and our way of life. The environment sustains our lives and livelihoods. The environment is the very foundation of our economic activity." He said that the government's recognition of this truth is why The Bahamas supports CCI and worked assiduously to bring it into being.

Reinforcing the commitment of The Bahamas to realising the goals of the CCI, Minister Dorsett expressed that the government "remains committed to continue efforts to partner with all Caribbean governments, territories, the UN and CARICOM institutions as well as regional financial institutions, and the NGO community to realise the goals of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative." As proof of this national commitment, the minister announced that The Bahamas will sign the Leaders Declaration. Under this agreement, governments and key stakeholders commit themselves to working together to protect the shared marine environment.

Additionally, The Bahamas government has begun executing its plans to bring the country closer to achieving its goal of protecting 20 percent of its marine environment by 2020. Dorsett revealed that the government has "approved the finalisation of legislation related to the Bahamas Protected Area Fund (BPAF)." This piece of legislation he said will be brought to Parliament shortly to enable a sustainable financing mechanism to support the management of protected areas in The Bahamas. Funds will be set aside in fiscal year 2013-14 for the capitalisation of the fund according to Dorsett.

The Bahamas, he said, has also declared six additional marine protected areas since the launch of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative in 2008 and intends to extend its national parks and protected areas further by including

additional marine and coastal areas In closing the Minister pointed out the work of the Nature Conservancy in national and region efforts and stated that the "protection of the environment is in our view directly linked to managing marine areas for the benefit of generations born and to ensure that local communities who have used such areas as traditional fishing grounds are integrated into the process and become key stakeholders in the evolution of our initiatives."

**Caribbean leaders sign communiqué for protection of environment
Pledge to create 20% marine reserves by 2020**

By VIRGIN ISLANDS NEWS ONLINE

Published: May 18th, 2013

NECKER ISLAND, VI- Moving away at an accelerated pace from the use of fossil fuel and making 20 percent of their countries into marine reserves are some of the pledges that delegates at the Summit for Political and Business Leaders in the Virgin Islands have made.

The Territory hosted the summit in conjunction with the Government of Grenada and Virgin Unite, which represents Phase II of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative which has seen governments and business leaders set a new course for the region's marine and coastal environment.

The Caribbean leaders have agreed to have at least 20 percent of their country designated marine reserves by 2020, even though some of the participating countries have already achieved that amount.

Speaking to reporters on Necker Island yesterday, May 17, 2013 where the conference for government leaders, the private sector and other individuals concerned with the protection of the environment met, Richard Branson said it was decided at the Summit that there is an urgent need to protect sharks and stingrays across the Caribbean region and the aim will be to protect all of them within two years.

He also said it was agreed for the need to establish a clear regulatory framework that delivers a systemic and regional approach to conservation and marine and costal environment, including considering have more marine protected areas; and a dramatic acceleration in the transition from fossil fuels to alternative energy sources over the next five years.

Grenada Prime Minister, Dr Keith Mitchell said the Summit provided a unique opportunity for the private sector, governments, NGOs, and other individuals to be involved in a process so important to the survival of the region.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Natural Resources and Labour Dr the Honourable Kedrick D. Pickering said for the Virgin Islands and the wider Caribbean "our environment is our livelihood and as the Minister responsible for the environment I continually say there is no tourism without the environment because people come to our country and those in the wider Caribbean for the environment and it is critical that we put the pieces together to make it sustainable for the long term."

It was noted that there are many challenges to the environment especially due to climate change and ocean acidification due to greenhouse gases and since the region was heavily dependent on tourism, there was need for strong steps to protect its natural resources.

The Summit saw participation from the governments of Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The political leaders were joined by corporate leaders and international partners.

The leaders have pledged actions towards the preservation of the environment and have acknowledged the importance of the marine environment to the region and to its people.

ANNEX V: SAMPLING OF PHOTOS FROM SUMMIT



Premier Orlando Smith of the British Virgin Islands, Prime Minister Keith Mitchell of Grenada and Sir Richard Branson of the Virgin Group lead the Informal High-level Leaders Dialogue (top). Bottom, from left to right: Mr. Rick Murrell, CEO of Tropical Shipping, Secretary Carmen Guerrero of the Government of Puerto Rico, Dr. Alison Plummer of the Government of Saint Lucia, and Master of Ceremonies José Maria Figures take part in discussion.



Informal High-level Leaders Dialogue in progress.



From top left, clockwise: Formal Summit in progress; Premier Orlando Smith of the British Virgin Island signs the *Leaders Declaration*; Mr. Ken Siegel of Starwood Hotels and Resorts makes remarks; Ambassador Stefan Schluter of the Government of Germany announces support for CCI; Senator Stanlev Felix of Government of Saint Lucia makes remarks.



Opening of Formal Summit, with co-hosts seated at head table (from right to left: Prime Minister Keith Mitchell of Grenada, Premier Orlando Smith of the British Virgin Islands, and Sir Richard Branson (CEO, Virgin Group)). At the podium is Mr. Jose Maria Figueres (former President of Costa Rica), who served as the Master of Ceremonies.



From top left, clockwise: Breakout session on finance, led by Mr. Angus Friday, World Bank Oceans Representative (standing); breakout session on large marine ecosystems: Mr. Guy Harvey, CEO of Guy Harvey, Sportswear and Mr. Phil Kramer, Caribbean Program Director of The Nature Conservancy; breakout session on climate change and tourism: Ms. Safiya Sawney of the Summit Secretariat and Hon. Kenred Dorsett, Minister of Environment and Housing, Government of the Bahamas.



From left to right: Gala Dinner to celebrate the Summit outcomes; Premier Orlando Smith of the British Virgin Islands and Prime Minister Keith Mitchell of Grenada welcoming guests at the opening reception before the Summit; Permanent Secretary Sally Anne Bagwhan-Logie of Grenada facilitating the Breakfast Talk for Leaders.