



CARIBBEAN
CHALLENGE INITIATIVE



Caribbean Challenge Initiative

The Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI) is an innovative platform uniting governments, the private sector and partners (e.g. funding agencies, NGOs) to take collaborative action to conserve and sustainably manage the Caribbean's marine and coastal environment. Launched in 2008, the CCI aims to support/incentivize Caribbean governments to meet their sustainable development commitments, to catalyze new funding and accelerated action, and to help ensure more prosperous and sustainable economies across the Caribbean in the future. Participating members — including governments, companies, and partners — formally declared their commitment to marine and coastal conservation and agreed to take on the initiative's two major goals.

CARIBBEAN CHALLENGE INITIATIVE GOALS

20-BY-20 GOAL

To conserve and effectively manage at least 20% of the marine and coastal environment by 2020

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE GOAL

To put in place fully functioning finance mechanisms that provide long-term, reliable funding to ensure marine and coastal areas are sustainably managed into the future

PHOTO Gray Angelfish among healthy corals in the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park in The Bahamas © Jeff Yonover



“We are charting a path for future generations.”

– Dr. The Right Honourable Keith C. Mitchell,
Prime Minister of Grenada

Achieving the CCI Goals

Government Commitments

At the 2013 CCI Summit of Caribbean Political and Business Leaders, member governments signed the Leaders Declaration, which confirms their commitment to undertake six broad actions on: marine and coastal protected areas, ecosystem restoration, sustainable fisheries, sustainable tourism, ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change, and marine pollution.

Corporate Commitments

Under the Corporate Compact, also signed at the Summit, corporations endorsed the CCI goals and adopted a set of business-specific principles that support marine conservation action and leadership.

Beyond the “20-by-20” and Sustainable Finance Goals

The Summit further challenged the CCI governments to protect sharks and rays across the Caribbean region and to accelerate the transition from fossil fuels to alternative energy sources over the next five years. These efforts could be supported by the sharing of best practices, scaling of new technologies and streamlining of regulatory processes applicable to renewable energy.

Governance

The CCI governance structure consists of a CCI Participants Assembly involving all members and interested parties as well as a Secretariat and Steering Committee. The Participants Assembly will meet annually to discuss CCI progress and goals.

The CCI Steering Committee is currently composed of seven members: a CCI Government Co-Chair, a CCI Partner Co-Chair, the Chair of the CCI Secretariat, the CBF CEO and a representative each from The Nature Conservancy, the Private Sector and Civil Society. The Steering Committee will meet every other month to guide the implementation of the CCI Strategic Plan and actions to accomplish the CCI goals and to facilitate communication and coordination between key actors.

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CARIBBEAN BIODIVERSITY FUND (CBF)

The CBF and its partner national funds — all non-governmental organizations — comprise the sustainable finance architecture under the CCI, supporting Caribbean nations to meet the goals of the CCI and other international and regional commitments. To date, a total of U.S. \$42 million of initial commitments have been made to capitalize a permanent endowment that forms the core of the CBF’s funding program. One of the CBF’s key principles is that national partner funds must create new, sustainable revenue streams to trigger a 1:1 match from the CBF. The revenue sources could be private and/or public. Recently, the German Government committed 25 million EUR to a CBF sub-fund supporting ecosystem based adaption.

CCI Member Countries & Territories



“We, the Leaders, recognize that the Caribbean region is intrinsically linked to the sustainability of the Caribbean’s marine and coastal resources, and that investing in this is an investment in our economic future.”

– CCI Leaders Declaration, 17 May 2013

CCI Private Sector Members & Partners

Private Sector Members

- Bamboo Sushi
- Disney Cruise Lines
- GOOD Corps
- Grupo Propagas
- Grupo PuntaCana
- Guy Harvey Sportswear
- Hublot
- KOR Water
- NRG Energy
- Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines Ltd.
- Sandals Resorts International
- Starwood Hotels and Resorts
- Tiffany & Co.
- Tropical Shipping
- Virgin Group

Partners

(i.e. attended 2013 Summit)

- Carbon War Room (CWR)
- Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF)
- Caribbean Community Climate Change Center (CCCCC)
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat
- European Commission
- Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)
- Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- Government of Germany
- Government of Italy
- Government of the United Kingdom
- Green VI
- InMatt Foundation
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Island Resources Foundation
- Jost Van Dyke Preservation Society
- The Moore Charitable Foundation
- Oak Foundation
- Oceans5 Foundation Consortium
- Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)
- Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol Regional Activity Center (SPAW-RAC)
- The Nature Conservancy
- United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
- United Nations Environment Program - Caribbean Environment Program (UNEP-CEP)
- World Bank
- Waitt Foundation
- William J. Clinton Foundation



“Protecting our natural resources is one of the biggest opportunities of our lifetime, and nowhere is it more evident than in the Caribbean.”

– Sir Richard Branson,
Founder and CEO of Virgin Group

Successes

Already, successes have been realized through the CCI.

- The Dominican Republic declared 31 new marine/coastal protected areas totaling just over 3.2 million acres.
- The Bahamas added over 11 million acres of marine and coastal environments to their protected area system.
- St. Kitts and Nevis declared a new protected area that encompasses a 2-mile radius around the entire island nation and includes 60% of its nearshore marine and coastal areas.
- Haiti has joined the CCI and will now be working to conserve the vital marine and coastal resources so many of its people rely on.
- Along with these conservation milestones, a complex sustainable finance architecture has been launched; as it continues to grow, it will ensure the longevity of CCI achievements for future generations.

Joining the CCI

Caribbean governments, companies and partners are invited to join the CCI by sending a high level, formal written endorsement of the CCI goals to the CCI Secretariat

“We join the Caribbean Challenge Initiative as an 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. Delay in action is not an option.”

– CCI Corporate Compact, 17 May 2013



secretariat@caribbeanchallengeinitiative.org
www.caribbeanchallengeinitiative.org

PHOTO Part of a pilot project launched by The Nature Conservancy, an artificial reef structure in Grenville Bay, Grenada, is monitored by Conservancy partners and trained volunteers. The structures protect coastlines from strong wave action and reduce the impacts of climate change. © Tim Calver

WITH THE SUPPORT OF:

