

CCI SUMMIT FOLLOW UP WORKSHOP

The Caribbean Challenge Initiative



October 2013

The Westin Hotel, Aruba

Summary report of the workshop held in Aruba, during 9-10 Oct 2013 for CCI member countries, following up on the commitments made at Necker during May 2013

CCI SUMMIT Follow up Workshop

SUMMARY REPORT

INTRODUCTION

On 9th and 10th Oct, 2013, the CCI Secretariat, Carbon War Room and The PEW Charitable Trusts held a joint workshop in Aruba. This workshop was kindly funded by The Moore Foundation, Virgin Unite and The PEW Charitable Trusts..

The objectives of this workshop were to:

1. Reignite the positive spirit and commitment of the CCI Summit at Necker Island.
2. Define a process for working together to achieve (i) the renewable energy commitment in the Necker Communiqué; and (ii) the marine conservation commitments in the *Leaders Declaration* ("20 by 20" Goal) and the Necker Communiqué (i.e. shark and ray protection).
3. Establish a roadmap including deliverables and timetables, to effectively achieve progress on the commitments mentioned above.

DAY I- CARIBBEAN CHALLENGE INITIATIVE

Phase II Update and Strategic plan

During 9 – 10 October 2013 in Aruba, the interim CCI Secretariat and the Carbon War Room (CWR) jointly organized a 1 ½ day meeting involving some of the CCI governments, designed to build on the momentum generated from the May Summit and discuss some key next steps for Phase II of CCI. The CCI session was organized around the annual Caribbean Renewable Energy Forum (CREF) conference. Day 1 focused on the core marine agenda (e.g. 20-by-20 target and other commitments in the *Leaders Declaration*). Day 2 focused on (i) renewable energy; and (ii) shark / ray protection.

Background

- Expanding the scope of CCI to include renewable energy and protection of sharks / rays. Two of the three commitments / goals contained in the Summit Communiqué were: (i) The urgent need to create protection for sharks / rays across the whole Caribbean region with the aim of protecting within two years; and (ii) A dramatic acceleration in the transition from fossil fuels to alternative energy sources over the next five years. There was a lot of attention on these issues (especially alternative energy) during the High-level Informal Dialogue at the Summit, and broad support expressed during the Summit and at the Aruba meeting for expanding the scope of CCI to include these two issues.
- Participants. This session in Aruba was much smaller and less formal than the previous Senior Officials Meetings (SOMs). Due to the short timeframe for planning this meeting, only six governments were able to attend: Bahamas, BVI, Grenada, Jamaica, St Lucia, and St Vincent and the Grenadines (see Annex II: List of Participants). Participants included four ministers and 1 Senator (Bahamas, BVI, Grenada, Jamaica and Saint Lucia).

Results of meeting (Day 1)

- Marine conservation progress since Summit. During the round of updates by each government, it became evident that significant actions have been taken since the Summit (and prior to the Summit), and that governments are moving forward with implementing key commitments made in the *Leaders Declaration* (see Annex I below).
- Review of Strategic Plan. A first draft of the Strategic Plan for Phase II of CCI was reviewed in-depth. In general, the Strategic Plan was well received and approved in principle (subject to approval by cabinets or other officials as needed). Key highlights of the discussion are provided below:

- Mission Statement. A suggestion was made by one government, and supported by others, to include a more clear, simple, and succinct mission statement in the Strategic Plan.
- CCI Secretariat. Support was voiced for a strong Secretariat, as a focal point for information flow and other support. Grenada will serve as the initial host and Chair of an ongoing Secretariat for the first two years (pending approval from their Cabinet). Sources of funding to support this function will be pursued by the interim Secretariat. The flow of funding could be initially channeled through TNC or UNEP, for example, depending on donor preference, timing and other issues. It was agreed that the Secretariat would need more than just two staff in order to effectively support the Strategic Plan (e.g. proposal

writing, marketing / communications / public awareness expertise). The Secretariat's relationship to the CCI Council still needs to be further clarified. The Interim CCI Secretariat will continue its work with support from TNC until a permanent Secretariat is established.

- **CCI Council.** The Council will be comprised of members of the three constituency groups involved in the CCI: CCI Governments, Companies and Partners. The total number of members of the Council will be 27, including nine from each of the three constituency groups. A smaller body (e.g. Executive Committee) could be charged with decision-making on key issues. Decisions would likely be made by consensus.. There will be three co-chairs: (i) The Bahamas will serve as the initial government co-chair; (ii) Virgin could be invited to serve as the initial company co-chair; and (iii) and the Government of Germany would be invited to serve as the initial partner co-chair. CO-chairs could rotate, perhaps on an annual basis. The role of the CCI Council also has to be further clarified.
- **CCI Brand.** It was suggested that this initiative be branded.
- **Caribbean Biodiversity Fund.** CCI governments agreed that further discussion is required to address some of the issues governments raised with regard to the structure and design of the CBF. (Reference was made to the two-day workshop agreed prior to the Summit.) This discussion could take place in early 2014. Some of the issues raised during this meeting: the CBF 1:1 match was difficult as tourism-related fees are non-starters.
- **Outreach and external funding.** Governments supported continued outreach to public and private donors and the need for a financing roundtable in late 2014 to mobilize funding (as agreed in the *Leaders Declaration*). In addition to ideas in the draft Strategic Plan, suggestions for possible themes for new regional funding projects were: (i) land-based sources of marine pollution; (ii) raising public awareness of marine / coastal environment issues; (iii) scaling up coral and mangrove restoration efforts; and (iv) a loan fund to support sustainable enterprises that benefit the marine / coastal environment and provide alternative livelihoods for fishers. Fund mobilization efforts should not compete with national efforts, but should focus on new funding opportunities. Outreach to donors should stress: integrated approach of CCI, achieving economies of scale, highly ambitious nature of CCI, and political will.
- **Regional CCI Action Plan.** Governments supported development of a Regional CCI Action Plan as agreed to in the *Leaders Declaration*.
- **Solutions Dialogue.** Governments expressed support for an ongoing series of "Solution Dialogues" on key topics, as outlined in the Strategic Plan.
- **Regional Marine Managed Areas Network.** Governments expressed support for a Regional Marine Managed Areas Network as outlined in the Strategic Plan.
- **State of the Caribbean's Marine and Coastal Environment report.** Governments expressed support for a periodic report on the "State of the Caribbean's Marine and Coastal Environment".
- **Shark and Ray Sanctuary.** Governments expressed support for a regional shark and ray sanctuary. The Pew Charitable Trusts noted that prior to any decision being made nationally and regionally, that education and outreach must first be effectively implemented.
- **Second draft of Strategic Plan.** It was agreed that the CCI Secretariat would prepare a second draft of the Strategic Plan and circulate it for review.
- **Other issues.**
 - Jose Maria Figueres, President of the CWR, encouraged CCI Governments to "challenge the other side" of the Caribbean via outreach to Central and South America. He also strongly encouraged and supported the need to look at marine and coastal conservation through an economic lens, especially as it relates to economic opportunities provided by transition to renewable energy and eco-tourism.

DAY II- THE CARBON WAR ROOM

Caribbean Islands—Transition to Low Carbon Economies

The CWR workshop had the following objectives:

1. To build on the commitment made during the Necker Summit, May 2013, to accelerate the transition to renewables in the Caribbean over the next five years
2. To identify the barriers to implementation of renewables in the region, and establish a roadmap for the development and implementation of solutions
3. To agree immediate next steps to progress action and gain commitment from CCI member countries to join the CWR's Islands Creating Climate Wealth event to be held in Feb 2014

The workshop included a panel discussion, which featured key CWR expert partners from the Worldwatch Inst, HOMER Energy and TNO Caribbean Office. This interactive session discussed the building blocks available to Caribbean islands to enable their transition off fossil fuels, presenting examples of policies and practices being deployed to better utilize the natural resources available.

The workshop then turned its focus to the experiences and challenges islands are currently experiencing in their efforts to transition. Representatives from islands present at the workshop were asked to share their experiences and views on:

- The approach to transition on their islands, including progress made, lessons learned and policies and practices being adopted
- The challenges faced on the road to renewables, exploring the needs and gaps that need to be met to successfully transition and meet renewables targets
- The best approach to developing the solutions, and how this could be supported by a collaborative effort

This frank session provided some excellent feedback, which we are able to take away and use to inform the planning of our Islands CCW event in February. Using the barriers and challenges identified, we are defining a set of working tracks for the event, which will bring together senior government officials and senior executives from the private sector to work through and develop the solutions required to accelerate implementation across the region.

A number of common themes and issues emerged from this session:

- There is a need for a regulatory framework
- Lack of clear focus or operational plans for renewables from the utilities
- Local capacity needs to be developed
- Achieving widespread stakeholder buy in for energy efficiency and renewables is difficult
- There needs to be more focus on ensuring that renewable measures are accessible to and benefit all sectors of society
- No incentives for utilities and lack of competitive environment

- There is a need for better informed discussion around renewable energy mix on islands; governments want to be better able to understand the challenges utilities are presenting

Concluding the session in a very positive and forward facing manner, the group identified actions they would like to see emerge from working together and with the CWR:

- Demonstrating deal flow on islands
- Learning from models and processes employed
- Develop technical capacity on islands
- Practical support to move things forward
- Integrated renewable energy planning; understanding and dealing with intermittency issues and developing focused RE plans with utilities

The workshop achieved buy in from all islands present to attend the Islands CCW event, which will deliver demonstrative actions to achieve the renewable energy commitment made on Necker Island in May.

DAY II- THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS

Caribbean Islands—Protecting Sharks and Rays

Dr. Rashid Sumaila of the University of British Columbia participated in a panel session focused on economic incentives for transitioning to low carbon economies and creating a regional shark and ray sanctuary. During his presentation, Dr. Sumaila compared the economics of shark watching versus fishing both globally and in the Caribbean. In the Caribbean, the revenue generated from shark watching significantly outweighs the amount generated from shark fishing. At the same time, shark watching is projected to more than double within the next 20 years. If kept alive, a single shark can generate up to 2.64 million USD over its lifetime, more than eight times the value of a landed shark.

Following the panel session, Pew led a breakout session to develop a roadmap for progress towards protection of sharks and rays in the Caribbean. Over the next 18 months, the group will continue conversations within and between governments; prepare outreach materials tailored to individual countries and to key groups; and create a communications strategy to announce the intent to establish a regional shark and ray sanctuary in the Caribbean. The target date for this announcement is early 2014 with governments aiming to put regulations/laws in place to protect sharks and rays in their waters by May 2015.

Representatives from The Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Grenada, Jamaica and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines participated in the Pew-led session. Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia are also signatories to the Caribbean Challenge Initiative, which this effort stems from.

Annex I: Round of updates by governments on activities since the Summit
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Bahamas

- Coral Reef Protection Legislative Regime – Considering new legislation on shipping lanes to ensure that The Bahamas benefits from ships running aground on reefs.
- Bahamas Protected Areas Fund (BPAF) – Legislation to establish this new conservation trust fund (linked to Caribbean Biodiversity Fund) is currently in parliament and will likely be debated in the next few weeks (i.e. this parliamentary session).
- White Paper for the Extension of Marine Protected Areas (MPA) – Prepared by Bahamas National Trust and The Nature Conservancy.
- Rapid Ecological Assessment toward possible creation of large new MPA - The Bahamas Government is collaborating with the Waitt Foundation on a rapid ecological assessment that could lead to the establishment of a large new MPA in Southeast Bahamas. Related to this, beginning in 2014, they will implement a major consultation process with local communities on economic opportunities around MPA management.
- Energy Strategy – Government has committed to 30% renewable energy by 2030.
- Sustainable Tourism Model – Working on a sustainable tourism model in the Exumas.
- Endangered Species Protection – They have instituted a total ban on sea turtles and conch harvesting.
- Volunteer Environmental Wardens - Involve communities in conservation effort and management efforts.

British Virgin Islands

- Energy Initiatives – Government appointed an energy officer to help advance alternative energy initiatives. With support of Sir Richard Branson, the BVI is exploring alternative energy concepts, including working with Mr. Branson to help make Necker Island carbon neutral and working on a solar energy effort on the island of Anegada. BVI is using a three-prong, inter-ministerial approach to energy: recycling, establishing energy policy, and greening the economy.
- Sustainable Fisheries - The BVI hopes to raise US \$150,000 before the end of the year in order to initiate a cleanup campaign to rid parts of their marine zone of “ghost traps” (i.e. fish traps that are lost but continue trapping / killing reef fish and damaging reef health). This campaign will focus primarily on decreasing the negative impacts on coral reefs and sustainable tourism associated with fish traps and ghost traps.
- Expanded Protection of Sea Turtles – Working with Mr. Branson on addressing the loss of income due to turtle protection measures. BVI may ban all turtle fishing.
- Climate Change Fund – Research is complete and cabinet has recently approved drafting of legislation to establish a new independent Climate Change Fund that would address a wide range of climate mitigation and adaptation issues. The legislation should be completed by the end of the year.
- CCI Outreach – Dr. the Hon. Kedrick Pickering (Deputy Premier and Minister for Natural Resources and Labour, Government of British Virgin Islands) has accepted invitations to speak about the CCI at several conferences since the Summit.

Grenada

- Protected Areas Systems Plan – A systems plan has been agreed, with additional marine and terrestrial protected areas that will be established and strengthening management of two existing protected areas (Woburn Clarks Court – reduce pollution; and Beausejour Moliniere – reduce fertilizer and sewage runoff).
- Co-management of Marine Protected Areas - The national marine protection committee co-manages protected areas with an established, multi-stakeholder local management committee.
- Marine Protected Areas - In collaboration with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Parks Authority, Grenada has launched their Reef Guardian Pilot Project that focuses on education. Grenada raised the serious issues of coastline erosion and land-based pollution as dominant factors affecting MPAs.
- RAC Project – In collaboration with OECS and USAID, this project focuses on mitigating effects of climate change induced sea - level rise.
- Public Awareness Programs – Under the GIZ-funded climate change adaptation project, public education and awareness will be supported as a coastal zone management policy is put in place before the end of the year.
- Fisheries – The Grenada Government is working towards including more sustainable practices within the fishing industry.
- Energy – Grenada's sister island of Carriacou has initiated a greening project using wind farm technology. There is also a solar-powered reverse osmosis plant for converting seawater to freshwater. Exploring opportunity this year to buy out majority shareholder of energy monopoly, which could help advance renewable energy agenda.

Jamaica

- National Conservation Trust Fund – The fund, linked to the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, will be finalized by March of next year. The Jamaican Government included support for this in a GEF funded project to assist with expediting completion.
- Fish Sanctuaries – 14 fish sanctuaries have been designated since 2011 and include “no-take” zones and eradication of invasive lionfish.
- Dolphin policy – Cabinet just approved a dolphin policy that supports banning the removal of dolphins from the wild based on the precautionary approach.
- Protected Areas Systems Plan – A master plan for Jamaica's protected areas system has been completed and will be considered by cabinet at the end of October 2013.
- Coastal Resources Policy – Includes policy initiatives for wetlands, mangroves and coral reefs. A first draft will be submitted to cabinet in November.
- Energy – A new Climate Change Division was established in September, focused on mitigation and adaptation. Moving into a second phase of a wind farm project.
- Environmental Stewardship Policy – is being established, to encourage greening of government operations, with the hope to expand this to the private sector.

Saint Vincent & the Grenadines

- National Protected Area Trust Fund – an effort to establish the new trust fund is moving forward.
- Ocean Governance – a draft Ocean Governance Policy that includes green economy measures, shipping policies, and pollution control has been developed.

- Marine Parks – With the assistance of TNC and the IMANI program, the government is working to increase monitoring and evaluation in Marine Parks. Global Parks is supporting ecological assessments.
- Draft Physical Development Plan – Currently being established to restore mangroves on the island.
- Public Awareness and Livelihoods – In collaboration with CASCADE and CCCCC, work is being done on increasing livelihoods and promoting water sustainability in coastal zone areas. Jingles on coastal and watershed area protection are currently in the media.
- Energy – Alternative energy (geothermal and solar) is currently being explored. The island of Bequia obtains most of its electricity from solar power.
- Other – a draft Lands Policy has been produced.

Annex II: Participants List		
Country/Organization	Title	Affiliation
The Bahamas		
Honourable Kenred M. A. Dorsett, MP	Minister	Ministry of Environment and Housing
Mr. Eric Carey	Executive Director	Bahamas National Trust
British Virgin Islands		
Dr. Kedrick Pickering	Deputy Premier and Minister	Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour
Mrs. Michelle Bhajan	Minister's Private Secretary	Ministry of Natural Resources & Labour
Mr. Henry Creque	Deputy General Manager	BVI Electricity Corporation
Grenada		
Senator Simon Steill	Parliamentary Secretary	Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Mr. Paul Phillips	Senior Environmental Officer	Environment Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Jamaica		
Mr. Ian Hayles	Minister of State	Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change
Mr. Jerome Smith	Director of Natural Resources	Environment Management Division; Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change
St. Lucia		
Senator the Honourable Dr. James Fletcher	Minister	Ministry of Sustainable Development, Science and Technology
Ms. Judith Ephraim	Head, Energy, Science and Technology Section	Ministry of Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology
St. Vincent and the Grenadines		
Mr. Andrew Lockhart	Superintendent of Marine and Terrestrial Parks	National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority
CCI Secretariat		
Mr. Sheldon Cohen	Coordinator	Interim CCI Secretariat
Ms. Safiya Sawney	Assistant Coordinator	Interim CCI Secretariat

