



Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI) and Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF)

SAMOA Pathway priority areas	Climate Change, Oceans and Seas
Sustainable Development Goals	Goal 14, 15, 17
Geography	Caribbean Sea
Partners CCI	<p>Governments: Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Haiti, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and U.S. Virgin Islands.</p> <p>Partners: The Nature Conservancy, The German Federal Government, World Bank, UNDP, United Nations Environment's Caribbean Environment Program, Pew Charitable Trusts, Global Island Partnership (GLISPA), and Carbon War Room.</p> <p>Companies: Swiss Re, Tiffany and Co. Foundation, Starwood Hotels and Resorts, Tropical Shipping, Royal Caribbean Cruises, Guy Harvey Inc. and Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation, Grupo Propogas and Fundacion Propogas, Disney Cruise Line, NRG Energy Inc., Sandals Resorts International and Sandals Foundation, Bamboo Sushi, Kor Water, GOOD Corps, Hublot, Grupo Puntacana & Puntacana Ecological Foundation</p>
Partners CBF	<p>Countries and National Conservation Trust Fund (NCTF) with CBF Endowment Country Sub-Accounts: Antigua and Barbuda (The Marine Ecosystem Protected Area -MEPA- Trust, Inc.), Dominican Republic (Fondo MARENA), Grenada (Grenada Sustainable Development Trust Fund -GSDTF), Jamaica (National Conservation Trust Fund of Jamaica -NCTFJ), Saint Kitts and Nevis (St. Christopher and Nevis Conservation Foundation -SCNCF), Saint Lucia (Saint Lucia National Conservation Trust Fund -SLUNCF), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Conservation Fund-SVGCF), The Bahamas (The Bahamas Protected Area Fund-BPAF).</p> <p>NCTFs with Partnership Agreements: Antigua and Barbuda (The Marine Ecosystem Protected Area -MEPA- Trust, Inc.), Dominican Republic (Fondo MARENA), Saint Lucia (Saint Lucia National Conservation Trust Fund -SLUNCF).</p> <p>Observer Countries to the CBF Board: British Virgin Islands, Haiti: Haiti Biodiversity Fund, Puerto Rico.</p>
Timeframe	<p>Goal 1: 2008 – 2020</p> <p>Goal 2: Indefinite</p>
Beneficiaries	<p>Goal 1 protects marine and coastal resources that in turn will benefit Caribbean populations through economic opportunities and social development. Goal 2 supports sustainable financing for conservation and biodiversity in the participating countries, thereby ensuring a continued support to local projects on the ground.</p>

SIDS-Specific

The Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI) and Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) are two closely related initiatives that together form a partnership to conserve, sustainably use, and fund conservation in the Caribbean.



The *Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI)* was launched in 2008 to unite government, private sector and partners for collaborative action to conserve and sustainably manage the Caribbean's marine and coastal resources.

The *Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF)* was established in 2012 as a regional environmental fund to provide and sustain financial resources to support the activities of CCI.

The partnership has two overarching goals:

- (1) *"20-by-20"*: To conserve and effectively manage at least 20% of the marine and coastal environment by 2020
- (2) *Sustainable finance*: To implement sustainable finance mechanisms that provide long-term funding to sustainably manage marine and coastal areas.

The first goal is implemented through Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI), while the second is carried out through the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF).

The *Caribbean Challenge Initiative* undertakes actions on national and regional level, working together with committing governments and partners to establish and strengthen national marine and coastal protected areas (MPAs), reduce pollution, promote sustainable tourism and fisheries, and address climate change through Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) measures.

At the time of writing, the *Caribbean Biodiversity Fund* manages approximately USD 70 million through two financial instruments:

1. **Endowment Fund** - a permanent funding source to the *National Conservation Trust Funds (NCTFs)*, who in turn lead grant-making programmes at the national level in participating countries;
2. The **Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) Facility** - a sinking fund to provide resources directly to selected national and regional projects on Ecosystem-based Adaptation to climate change.

The CBF raise core and non-core funding to bring on additional countries to the partnership. The CBF and its associated National Conservation Trust Funds (NCTFs) form the *Caribbean Sustainable Finance Architecture* - a flexible structure for implementing innovative solutions around resource mobilization at the regional and national level.

The partnership benefits Caribbean by providing economic opportunities and advancing social development by working towards healthy marine resources.

Measurable and Monitorable

The Caribbean Challenge Initiative measures progress against Goal 1, *"Achieving 20% near shore protection by 2020"*, by a combination of indicators based on countries' own definitions of *"near shore"*. Data is compiled from existing national reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and displayed in a dashboard to monitor progress.

The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund uses an *Endowment Logical Framework* to measure expected results - including goals, outcomes and outputs - against a set of indicators, which also is displayed in a dashboard. The framework balances financial targets with conservation measures supported by the NCTFs and various programmes which are mapped against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the SAMOA Pathway, and UN environment conventions.



Achievable & Accountable

The *CCI Steering Committee* provides strategic direction and guidance to the partnership, and a dedicated secretariat provides coordination and communication between partners and stakeholders.

The CBF is governed by a board of directors and supported by various committees. The CBF has a flexible structure, providing independence to partner countries in addressing their individual conservation needs.

The CBF adheres to international agreements and recognized standards for conservation funds - a necessity for attracting donors and partners. A core endowment provides stability to the partnership and for the purpose of leveraging additional funding. A key principle of the fund is that national partner funds must match those of CBF.

The CBF Annual Meetings and related workshops provide a platform for dialogue between countries, and for strengthening the partnership.

Resource-based & results focused

In 2013, the leaders of 8 Caribbean countries signed a Leaders Declaration in support of the partnership. Gaining the support of national leaders reflects strong high-level commitment to the partnership and its goals, which is only as strong and successful as its partners.

The NCTFs have been successful largely due their autonomous structure, allowing flexibility for addressing national priorities. Having a goal that is memorable, "20-by-20", makes it simple and effective to communicate.

Timeline for implementation & transparency by all parties

The Steering Committee (for CCI) and the Board of Directors and NCTFs (for CBF) work collaboratively to establish timelines.

Maintaining broad stakeholder engagement in the partnership has always been a crucial guiding principle to ensure that no one is left behind. Sharing documents publicly, issuing newsletters and conducting open webinars have fostered a sense of participation and led to broad exchange of best practices among partners.

Partnership development

Choosing a partnership approach has proven to be particularly useful due to its flexibility around partner engagement, which has ensured that each country can continue to pursue their own established and ongoing work on marine protected areas and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). The partnership's principle of broad stakeholder engagement has also led to raised awareness - regionally and globally - on the importance of conserving natural resources, and enhanced regional coordination and cooperation.

Overall Learning

Developing the partnership over time has provided several lessons learned along the way, and may be summarized as:



- Coordination challenges – which were mostly due to limited resources - can largely be overcome through the use of good communication and dialogue;
- It's crucial to allocate the necessary time needed to develop a partnership, and not resort to quick fixes;
- Having a realistic baseline to measure progress against is also crucial. Setting too ambitious targets may in fact hinder progress, especially for smaller teams.
- Establishing a standalone entity, like CBF, has proven to be quite useful in order to attract sustainable funding to national conservation trust funds in the region. It will also provide a lasting legacy for the region beyond the timespan of the CCI.

Future plans and sustainability

The Caribbean's natural capital and people are under growing threats from climate change and unsustainable development. A key approach to address these threats is to implement ecosystem-based adaptation actions, which build resilience and reduce vulnerability of people and economies to climate change.

In the future the partnership will continue to focus on helping people adapt to adverse effects of climate change, reduce disaster risk, build resilient ecosystems and economies.

As the year 2020 is fast approaching, an upcoming next step includes reformulating the partnership roadmap beyond 2020, with the view of being a long-term player in conservation financing for the Caribbean.

More information

- <https://www.caribbeanchallengeinitiative.org>
- <https://caribbeanbiodiversityfund.org>

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