

# **Actioning Blue: A Caribbean 30×30 Vision for the Ocean**

*Advancing a Political Call to Action*

## **COP16 Side Event**

**Wednesday October 30th 2024**

**1:00 - 2:30pm**

**ICRI Pavillion**

### *Supported by:*

*Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, the Blue Nature Alliance, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, McKinsey and Company, Conservation International and International Coral Reef Initiative*

**Call to Action:** Caribbean governments have committed to scaling political engagement and unlocking additional long-term/sustainable financing for the Caribbean region towards the achievement of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), with a particular focus on addressing declining Ocean health and advancing a network of effectively managed marine areas in line with Target 3 of the KMGBF and the science backed global 30x30 protected area goal.

At COP 16, **Actioning Blue: A Caribbean 30x30 Vision** has a COP16 target of advancing a Political Call to Action that will feature a series of strong political messages to the international community from key Caribbean leaders and champions that will boldly highlight the urgency of actioning political will to unlock new and innovative opportunities and financing to achieve progress toward KMGBF targets within the Caribbean region. It particularly considers SIDS and their vulnerabilities to the triple planetary crisis that includes biodiversity loss, lack of effective resilience building and adequate, consistent and long term financing for biodiversity.

This High-Level Event will advance the following objectives:

Enhancing of Political Will and Advocacy on Biodiversity Action:

- Advance a platform for Caribbean leaders and high-level champions to address the urgency and socioeconomic benefits of scaling collective and effective marine protection within the Caribbean region.
- Further promote a Caribbean 30x30 Vision already shared with OECS and CARICOM partners for the Ocean that defines a transformative and actionable political declaration and includes a tangible and practical roadmap of action through to 2030 for the Caribbean region.
- Advance an interactive space for global SIDS leaders and high-level champions to renew cross regional cooperation on progress toward achieving biodiversity targets in line with international commitments like the KMGBF including actioning the establishment of country owned and driven cross regional platforms for knowledge exchange, information gathering and identifying and executing innovative solutions.
- Trigger the announcement of new and additional high level political commitments to actioning the KMGBF within the Caribbean region under a unified Caribbean 30x30 vision.

Unlocking of new and additional sustainable financing for biodiversity:

- Advance interactive and effective dialogue between biodiversity donors, implementing agencies, youth and regional and domestic organizations whose work and advocacy catalyzes the implementation of activities that address declining Ocean health, and which progresses action on critical science-backed biodiversity targets
- Trigger the announcement of new and additional financing commitments to action the KMGBF within the Caribbean region.

## ***The event will feature a 2-part dialogue:***

### **Part 1: Actioning Blue**

The role of renewed regional political will for Caribbean SIDS to address critical biodiversity implementation gaps and attract new and innovative approaches to achieve global biodiversity targets by 2030. An opportunity to present the work on the development of a Caribbean 30x30 Vision for the Ocean aligned to the KMGBF to be launched at UNOC 2025. Caribbean political leaders and champions that will boldly highlight the urgency of actioning political will to unlock new and innovative opportunities and financing to achieve progress toward KMGBF targets within the Caribbean region.

Dialogue Moderator: Chamberlain, Head of Env sustainability division, OECS Commission (Confirmed)

Opening Remarks: GYBN youth representative (Shemere Lawes, 3 mins)

Order of High Level Announcements: (3-5 mins each)

1. Hon. Armando Paino Henriquez, The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MMARN), Government of the Dominican Republic (*Confirmed*)
2. Ms. Safiya Sawney, Special Advisor to Hon. Kerryne James Minister Climate Resilience, Environment, and Renewable Energy and Special Envoy and Ambassador for Climate, Government of Grenada (*Confirmed*)
3. Hon. Minister Orlando Habet, Minister of Sustainable Development, Government of Belize (*Confirmed*)
4. Hon. Shawn Edward Minister for Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology and Vocational Training, Government of St. Lucia (*Confirmed*)
5. Hon. Matthew Samuda, Ministry of Housing, Urban Renewal, Environment & Climate Change, Government of Jamaica (*Confirmed*)
6. His Excellency Natalio Wheatley, Premier and Minister of Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change, Government of the British Virgin Island (*Video message*)
7. Hon. Dr. Joyelle Clarke, Ministry of Environment, Climate Action and Constituency Empowerment, Government of St. Kitts and Nevis (*TBC*)

8. Hon. Kozier Frederick, Minister of Environment, Rural Modernisation, Kalinago Upliftment and Constituency Empowerment (*TBC*)
9. Hon. Molwyn Joseph, Department of Environment, Ministry of Health and Environment, Government of Antigua and Barbuda (*TBC*)
10. Hon Carlos James, Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development and Culture, Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines (*TBC*)
11. Hon. Adrian Forde, Minister of Environment and National Beautification, Government of Barbados (*TBC*)
12. Bahamas (*TBC*)

Closing Remarks: Honourable Iziaq Salako, Nigeria Minister of State for the Environment, Chair of the Ministerial Alliance for Ambition for Nature Finance (MAANF) (*TBC*, 5 mins)

## **Part 2. Financing Blue**

A frank discussion exploring financing access challenges experienced by SIDS in their progress toward KMGBF implementation: The panel featuring finance experts, high level political leaders, donor governments, financial institutions – including representatives from multilateral funds like the GEF, GBF and GCF, and proponents of innovative and sustainable financing mechanism such as conservation trust funds, and regional and region-based implementing agencies exploring gaps, challenges, opportunities, priorities and needs to address mitigating financing access challenges and catalyzing the unlocking of effective financing, particularly addressing ways that SIDS can more effectively leverage the GBF.

Moderator: Mr. Kevin Allie, Senior Vice President, Field Programs, Interim Chief Field Officer, Africa Field Division, Conservation International (*Confirmed*)

Opening Remarks: Karen McDonald Gayle, Chief Executive Officer, CBF (3 mins)

### **Panel of Experts:**

- Chamberlain Emmanuel, Director General, OECS Commission (*Confirmed*)
- Lucas Gastaldi, Partner, McKinsey & Company (*Confirmed*)
- Government of Barbados (*TBC*)
- Green Climate Fund (*TBC*)



- OECD (*TBC*)
- World Bank (*TBC*)
- Mr. Yabanex Batists, Deputy Director, Global Fund for Coral Reefs (*TBC*)

Closing Remarks: Blue Nature Alliance (*Confirmed*)