

ICRI #ForCoral Pavilion at CBD COP16

Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) Side Event

Friday 25th October 2024

Event Title: Boosting Coral Health: Caribbean Strategies for Climate Resilience

Agenda

Introduction and Welcome: Karen McDonald Gayle - moderator (CBF) **5 minutes**

Moderator introduces event objective, panelists and format

Section 1: Individual Speakers –Restoring Resilient Corals **40 minutes**

Speaker 1: Valeria Pizarro, Senior Scientists, Perry Institute for Marine Science (PIMS)

Caribbean corals face multiple threats, including SCTLD and resurgent diseases like white plague. To enhance restoration efforts, researchers must identify resilient genotypes, promote genetic diversity, and empower local communities through collaborative networks for effective coral conservation. **10 minutes**

Speaker 2: Ancilleno Davis, CEO, Science and Perspective; Assistant Professor, University of the Bahamas

Establishment of first Bahamian coral nurseries including training and engaging with local industry and government agencies. National environmental standards development in the Bahamas. Tertiary education programs that incorporate practical, theoretical and policy content toward more science-based conservation. **10 minutes**

Speaker 3: Kendon James, Technical Officer, Windward Islands Research and Education Foundation (WINDREF)

Coral restoration on Grenada's East coast. Species diversity creates resilience in the face of bleaching. Importance of cultivating strategic alliances early: from community engagement to Government involvement **10 minutes**

Speaker 4: Steven Canty, Research Biologist, Smithsonian Institution

The seascape approach for boosting coral health – mangroves and seagrasses as part of that management intervention **10 minutes**

Section 2: Panel Discussion 1- Priority actions for restoring resilient corals **10 minutes**

Speakers: 1 - 4 + Moderator

General discussion points: Multiple coral health threats require resilient corals – how to identify them and restore them. Seascape: the wider picture. Need for site- and context-specificity and capacity-building.

Section 3: Individual Speakers – Networking **20 minutes**

Speaker 5: Fabian Kyne, Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF)
Introducing the CBF Caribbean Coral Health Forum (CCHF) 10 minutes

Speaker 6: Thomas Dallison (ICRI)
The Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) 10 minutes

Section 4: Panel Discussion - Networking **5 minutes**

Speakers: 5 & 6 + Moderator

General discussion points: Complementary exchange platforms satisfy different niches and audiences.

Section 5: Q and A - All panelists **10 minutes**

Facilitated by moderators

Closing of event by the Moderator