

#ForCoral Pavilion

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Reporting template for the #ForCoral Pavilion

Two-page Maximum

Deadline: No later than 2 weeks after your event

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

Date and Time of event: October 25, 2024

Lead organisation: CBF

Co-organisation(s): Perry Institute for Marine Science (PIMS)

of participants:

- In person: 25
- Online: 1

Speakers: (Youth/0; ILKR/0)

1. Karen McDonald Gayle, CEO, Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, Jamaica
2. Valeria Pizarro, Senior Scientists, Perry Institute for Marine Science, Colombia
3. Ancilleno Davis, CEO, Science and Perspective; Assistant Professor, University of the Bahamas, Bahamas
4. Kendon James, Technical Officer, Windward Islands Research and Education Foundation, Grenada
5. Steven Canty, Research Biologist, Smithsonian Institution, USA
6. Fabian Kyne, Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, Mexico

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7. Thomas Dallison, ICRI, UK

Topics (please select as many as applicable):

- Finance
- Conservation
- Restoration
- Youth
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- 30x30
- Other (please specify)

Background on the event (one paragraph):

Coral reefs are vital to Caribbean climate adaptation, reducing wave energy by 97% and mitigating storm surges to enhance community resilience. However, record-high sea temperatures in 2023–2024 have caused severe bleaching, particularly in *Acropora* spp., with mortality nearing 100% in some areas, underscoring the need to propagate thermally resilient coral genotypes. Thermal stress has also heightened vulnerability to diseases like White Plague and Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD), emphasizing the importance of monitoring and resilience-based restoration strategies. Effective management requires robust networks that integrate traditional knowledge and scientific research through Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) to sustain conservation and livelihoods. The Caribbean Coral Health Forum (CCHF), led by the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, serves as a key platform for collaborative efforts, including initiatives at COP16 and COP29.

Key issues discussed (5-8 bullet points):

- Multiple coral health threats require resilient corals
- Effective processes for how to identify them and restore them
- How can we do this at the Seascape level - what actions can we take to make this scalable
- Need for site- and context-specificity
- The critical importance of capacity-building, fostering collaboration across sectors, and leveraging economies of scale to ensure effective and sustainable implementation.

If available, key recommendations for action (5-6 bullet points):

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Take home message(s) (5-6 bullet points):

- **Advancing Coral Restoration:** Identifying resilient genotypes, fostering genetic diversity, and building collaborative networks are essential for effective coral conservation. Empowering local communities is crucial to achieving long-term success.

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- **Progress in Caribbean SIDS such as the Bahamas:** The establishment of the first Bahamian coral nurseries highlights the importance of training and collaboration with local community and government agencies. Efforts also include developing national environmental standards and integrating practical and policy-focused conservation education into tertiary programs.
- **The Role of Diversity:** Species diversity enhances reef resilience to bleaching, underscoring the need for early cultivation of strategic alliances, from community stakeholders to government partners.
- **Seascape-Based Management:** Coral health benefits from a holistic seascape approach, incorporating mangroves and seagrasses into broader management interventions.
- The critical importance of capacity-building, fostering collaboration across sectors, and leveraging economies of scale to ensure effective and sustainable implementation.

How will the outcomes of the event contribute to the vision and mission of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework:

The COP16 side event outcomes contribute to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by advancing collaborative, inclusive, and science-driven conservation efforts in the Caribbean region. Capacity-building, breaking silos, and leveraging economies of scale align with the framework's emphasis on multi-stakeholder partnerships and efficient implementation. Initiatives like identifying resilient coral genotypes, fostering genetic diversity, and establishing coral nurseries address ecosystem restoration goals, while the seascape approach, integrating mangroves and seagrasses, supports ecosystem connectivity and resilience. By empowering local communities and embedding conservation science into policies and education, the event reinforces equitable governance and shared stewardship, directly supporting the framework's vision of living in harmony with nature by 2050.

Which Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Targets did your event cover:

- Plan and Manage all Areas to Reduce Biodiversity Loss (Target 1)
- Restore 30% of all Degraded Ecosystems (Target 2)
- Halt Species Extinction, Protect Genetic Diversity, and Manage Human-Wildlife Conflicts (Target 4)
- Minimize the Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Build Resilience (Target 8)
- Manage Wild Species Sustainably to Benefit People (Target 9)
- Strengthen Capacity-Building, Technology Transfer, and Scientific and Technical Cooperation for Biodiversity (Target 20)
- Ensure That Knowledge Is Available and Accessible to Guide Biodiversity Action (Target 21)

Links:

- Photos:

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- o Link to photos taken during your event: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7255680845527576577/>
- o
- o Please note these photos will be shared on the #ForCoral Website

- Presentations:
 - o Are you happy for this to be shared in .pdf format? **Yes**/No
 - o Please share a link to download the updated PowerPoints if changes are made: **no changes** [*add URL*]