

Talking Points Olivier Langrand

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. All protocols observed. Thanks for the invitation. It is a pleasure to be here with you for this important gathering of leaders and citizens of SIDS.

Conserving, restoring and managing terrestrial, coastal and marine biodiversity in SIDS is essential to support sustainable economies and to reinforce cultural values. Nature based solutions are also of paramount importance to build resilience of communities from the impacts of climate change.

Under the CBD Montreal/Kunming Global Biodiversity Framework, a commitment has been made by the parties to effectively conserve and manage 30% of the ocean and 30% of land by 2030.

To reach the ambitious 30x30 target, SIDS will require action and partnership from all. Governments will need the support of civil society organizations.

For the past 23 years The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) has supported the conservation of the world's biodiversity hotspots through the reinforcement of the capacity of local civil society organizations. So far \$300 million dollars' worth of grants have been made available to 2,800 NGOs, community groups, indigenous people in 112 countries and territories to conserve biodiversity.

CEPF has supported CSOs of 28 SIDS in the Caribbean Islands (working closely with CANARI), in East Melanesia, in Polynesia and Micronesia, in West Indian Ocean, in West Africa, and in the Mediterranean Basin.

With the financial, administrative, and technical support of CEPF CSOs have contributed to conserve the biodiversity of SIDS, have built the resilience to climate change and have advanced the achievement of the SDG and GBF targets.

CSOs are aiming high and are demonstrating a great ability to deliver concrete solutions to conserve biodiversity, address the impacts of climate change and promote new economic models.

No doubt that CSOs will contribute to achieving the objectives of the ambitious and needed Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS. It is important that:

1. CSOs are involved in the planning and in the implementation of concrete field delivery
2. CSOs are perceived as trusted partners of governments for the achievement of the SDG and GBF targets
3. CSOs continue to promote nature-based solutions to address the impacts from climate change
4. CSOs have access to financial resources from SIDS, international financial institutions, and philanthropic organizations for projects dedicated to conserve biodiversity and to build their own capacity

I congratulate SIDS civil society for developing their Action Plan and Roadmap which includes priorities related to biodiversity conservation.

As a fund dedicated to support CSOs to conserve biodiversity, CEPF will continue supporting CSOs in SIDS and will increase its efforts in resource mobilization for the benefit of CSOs from SIDS.

Thank you for your attention.