

## **Intervention at the United Nations Oceans Conference Preparatory Meeting**

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**Also on Behalf of the the Caribbean Sustainable Finance Architecture (National Conservation Trust Funds of the Caribbean Region)**

Dear Delegates,

Thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund. Today, I highlight our efforts in sustainable blue financing and effective marine managed areas for the Caribbean, directly aligning with the proposed themes for the Ocean Action panels.

The Caribbean's rich biodiversity is crucial for our ecological health, economic stability, and cultural heritage. However, climate change, biodiversity loss, and environmental degradation demand urgent action. The Global Biodiversity Framework and the 30x30 target provide pathways to address these issues, ensuring sustainable development and resilience. Marine managed areas are vital for enhancing ecosystem resilience. Despite progress, only 8% of coastal and marine areas are protected, compared to 17% of terrestrial areas.

Ocean-based economies, valued at \$3 to \$6 trillion annually, sustain 150 million jobs. Sustainable blue economies offer opportunities for large ocean, small island developing states to achieve growth and social development while safeguarding marine ecosystems. The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS underscores practical solutions for resilient prosperity. Enhanced national efforts and regional cooperation are paramount for effective conservation management. We support translating the Global Biodiversity Framework into tangible outcomes to preserve marine ecosystems and foster sustainable blue economies within the Wider Caribbean Region.

Collaboration with regional stakeholders is crucial for developing a robust MMA Finance Facility and aligning policy frameworks with the GBF ambition. By leveraging ocean-climate-biodiversity interlinkages, we can address these critical challenges more effectively. Mobilizing finance for ocean actions is also essential. We advocate for increased funding and investment to support sustainable marine management and conservation efforts.

CBF is committed to conserving and sustainably using the Caribbean's marine resources. We look forward to continued collaboration with stakeholders for a sustainable and resilient future for our oceans.

Thank you.