

Restoring nature together to underpin resilient prosperity in SIDS.

28 May 2024

This SIDS4 side-event was a showcase for inspiring stories of bringing islands back from the brink through partnership-led ecological restoration, with perspectives from government and civil society.

Eulampius Frederick, from St Lucia's Department of Sustainable Development, gave opening remarks. This was followed by a panel discussion moderated by Kristian Teleki, CEO, Fauna & Flora and closing remarks by Peter Thomson, UN Special Envoy for the Ocean.

The panellists were

- Jeannette Victor, Forestry Department of St Lucia
- Jenny Daltry, Director, Caribbean Alliance – Fauna & Flora and Re:wild
- Johnella Bradshaw, Redonda Ecosystem Reserve Coordinator, Environmental Awareness Group, Antigua

The panellists discussed their experiences in restoring various offshore islands in the Caribbean. The case studies drew out ways in which restoring nature led to economic benefits for communities in SIDS, including from climate adaptation.

Key takeaways:

- Restoring Caribbean islands to their natural biodiverse state makes them magnets for recreation and tourism - the main economic driver for the region. This was illustrated by examples from Antigua's Offshore Islands and St Lucia's Dennery, Praslin and other islands.
- Particularly on islands, the health of the land and of the ocean are inextricably linked and both are important for the survival of people and nature. Examples showed how terrestrial restoration work on offshore islands is connected to sustainable fisheries and marine habitat protection.
- Restoration work takes time, significant funds and consistent effort to realise the benefits, and partnership working is a critical factor in success over the long term.



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