

# ACTIONING BLUE:

A Caribbean  
30x30 vision  
and roadmap  
for our ocean

An urgent call to action by political leaders of the Caribbean to advance collective Caribbean advocacy and scale financing toward the catalyzing of action on enhanced ocean health, blue economy development, SDG 14 and target 3 of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework within the Caribbean region



*The health of our oceans and seas is inextricably linked with the health of our planet and all life on earth. Many nationalities, including mine, have a special relationship with the sea.*

*The truth is the sea has a special relationship with all of us.*

*It keeps us alive.*

UN Secretary-General, António Guterres  
United Nations Conference on Oceans UN Headquarters,  
New York. 5 June 2017



# Preamble

**We** the political leaders of Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS), including coastal states and territories, have joined forces on **June 9th, 2025** to reaffirm our joint commitment to catalyze the transition toward a more sustainable, resilient and prosperous Caribbean Region by working as a unified collective to ensure a healthy environment, and particularly a healthy Ocean, for our people, planet, prosperity and economies **by 2030**.

**We collectively recognize** that Caribbean SIDS have unique and extraordinary marine biodiversity that is fundamental to the region's cultural identity, economic prosperity, food security, health, and sustainable development. The Caribbean Ocean, its ecosystems and the resources it provides are under considerable anthropogenic stress impacting our ability to advance our small economies.

**We collectively acknowledge** that the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM GBF) provides us with a set of agreed upon targets and guidelines to advance our biodiversity inclusive development towards 2030 incorporating the need for greater ambition to protect and conserve our common natural assets, like our Ocean, upon which current and future generations depend.





**We collectively recognize** the global efforts of SDG 14, the Leaders Pledge for Nature, the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, the Global Ocean Alliance, the High-Level Panel for the Sustainable Ocean Economy, Commonwealth Blue Charter, the Ministerial Alliance for Ambition on Nature Finance and others to raise our global ambition.

**We collectively recognize** the regional efforts of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and their members in delivering critical political decisions through their ministerial platforms enhancing regional strategies and programmes of action to ensure a healthy Ocean for the Caribbean region.

**We collectively acknowledge** that a flourishing ocean underpins our hope for developing a thriving nature positive Blue Future for our region. To secure ocean health now and in the future requires a new vision and commitment to accelerate regional Ocean protection toward 2030 through effective marine protected and managed areas, and other effective area-based conservation measures, nature-based solutions, marine spatial planning approaches, transboundary cooperation, deep-sea protection and climate-smart sustainable development which guarantees sustainable livelihood approaches.

# Our blue commitment

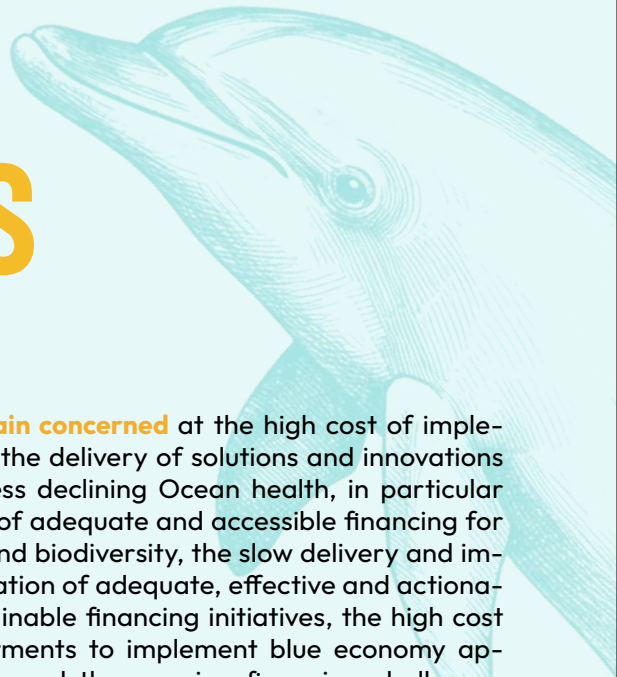
- **WE, recommit** to catalyzing biodiversity action within the Caribbean region through enhanced governance systems, strengthened institutional capacity, advanced policy reform, modern science and research platforms, and innovative implementation platforms driven by political commitments that are country and region driven and aligned to international biodiversity targets and global milestones including the science backed 30x30 goal.
- **WE, recommit** to enhancing nature positive sustainable economic development that considers the benefits of nature and biodiversity to the Caribbean region, reverses nature and biodiversity loss in accordance with science backed targets, and implementation of system-wide changes domestically and regionally.
- **WE, recommit** to maximizing and streamlining financing from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Adaptation Fund (AF), the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) and other key multilateral, bilateral and global funds, allocating additional domestic resources to biodiversity activities, designing and implementing strategies for raising new and additional resources, promoting innovative and sustainable financing mechanisms, encouraging blended finance, advancing private sector leverage through impact funds, green and blue bonds, debt for nature conversion and other instruments in line with Target 19 of the KM GBF.
- **WE, reaffirm** our support to achieving actions under global SIDS-focused frameworks and agreements including the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS (BPOA), the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (S.A.M.O.A) Pathway, and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS, and the recently adopted 2024 Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) which sets out a renewed declaration for resilient prosperity for global SIDS.
- **WE, reaffirm** our support toward achieving climate smart and biodiversity inclusive sustainable development goals including the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Agenda 2030), the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (The Paris Agreement), and the legally binding instrument of the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ).



# Our blue history

- **WE recognize** that the Caribbean has a long history of leadership and proactive action in the protection of its marine environment, both regionally and globally, and recognize the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention) and its LBS and SPAW protocols, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Environment Natural Resources Policy Framework, the Eastern Caribbean Regional Ocean Policy (eCROP), the Caribbean Challenge Initiative Leaders Declaration on Marine Resources (Caribbean Challenge Initiative) and the Caribbean Regional Oceanscape project (CROP) advancing marine spatial planning and Blue Economy approaches to Ocean governance.
- **WE celebrate** the strong efforts and commitment of the 11 visionary governments that voluntarily led the Caribbean Challenge Initiative to effectively protect 20% of their nearshore environment and build sustainable finance mechanisms for conservation and who have now collectively protected over 47,000 square kilometers of their near-shore marine environment, 61% of the way towards the collective CCI 20-by-20 Goal, but also note that substantial progress is still needed to enhance management effectiveness of existing and declared marine protected managed areas, and expand marine protection toward the achievement of Target 3 of the GBF, including toward the establishment of the 30x30 marine protection target for the Caribbean.
- **WE celebrate** the establishment of the regional Caribbean Sustainable Finance Architecture, the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF), which has leveraged resources to advance regional conservation finance models, that catalyzes implementation of environmental services, climate change adaptation, blue economy approaches and circular economy initiatives and has disbursed to date over US\$33 million towards transformational conservation and sustainable development projects to 12 countries in our region.

# Our blue challenges



- **WE remain concerned** about the our particular vulnerabilities to the current compounding devastation of the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution on the health of our Caribbean Ocean, as well as increasing anthropogenic natural hazards, health and other social related challenges and economic vulnerabilities.
- **WE remain concerned** that our small size, the limited scale and nature of our economies, high dependence on external markets and extreme exposure to exogenous shocks advances our progressive deterioration of our ability as Caribbean SIDS to build our resilience and resistance to external shocks.
- **WE remain concerned** that the Caribbean region is not guided by a cohesive policy and regional foundation in light of growing anthropogenic challenges, to effectively address declining Ocean Health through science-backed solutions such as enhancing and expanding marine protected and managed areas and delivering innovative sustainable development tools such as Blue Economy development, circular economy, climate adaptation, and ecosystem-based approaches.
- **WE remain concerned** at the high cost of implementing the delivery of solutions and innovations to address declining Ocean health, in particular the lack of adequate and accessible financing for nature and biodiversity, the slow delivery and implementation of adequate, effective and actionable sustainable financing initiatives, the high cost of investments to implement blue economy approaches and the growing financing challenges associated with the establishment and long-term management of marine protected areas.

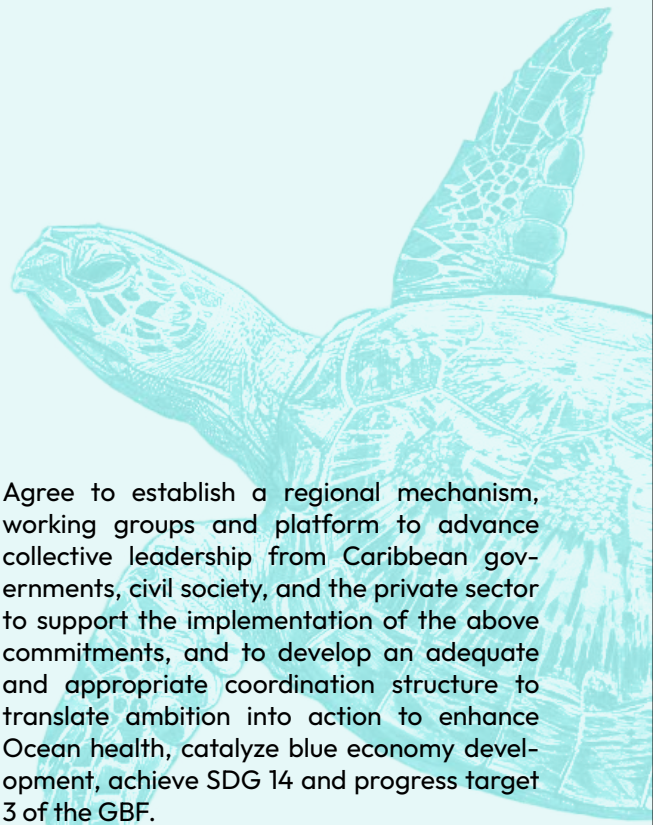


# Our blue future

- **WE collectively agree** that there is an urgent need to address our declining Ocean health utilizing collective, well-coordinated, immediate and decisive action and that as one of the most biodiverse and unique regional centers of the globe with the potential to lead the sustainable development pathway for global SIDS, ambition must guide our way forward.
- **WE collectively agree** to enhance and scale the physical and technical capacity and expertise of Governments and domestic, regional and local implementing organizations through enhanced outreach, education and awareness to accelerate progress towards a healthy, thriving and sustainable Ocean economy.
- **WE collectively agree** to urgently address capacity, innovation and financing gaps through enhanced collective and regional action, development and operationalization of relevant and well-funded institutions and governance systems, identification and execution of diverse and impactful strategic partnerships, and the establishment and enhancement of regional research, science and data centers and centers of excellence.
- **WE collectively agree** to enhance and scale the potential of the Caribbean region to effectively catalyze data collection, science and research to better inform policy and national transformation efforts guided by the best available science including traditional and indigenous knowledge.
- **WE collectively agree** that in contributing to a Caribbean 30x30 vision and roadmap for our Ocean, that Caribbean SIDS have different capacities and resources available, and that working in partnership with global sister initiatives such as the Micronesia Challenge, The Coral Triangle Initiative, the Aloha Challenge, SIDS Coalition for Nature and other global SIDS platforms such as the Global Island Partnership, other regional partners, communities of practice and platforms, including national conservation trust funds, we can accelerate learning and best practices toward our regional sustainable development.
- **WE collectively agree** to advance a Blue Roadmap of Action from 2025 – 2030 that transforms our past pledges and new commitments into actionable solutions and activities that urgently addresses the declining health of our oceans in alignment with existing regional and national frameworks, systems, and commitments, avoiding duplication of efforts with a focus on regional cohesion, streamlining and optimizing to achieve the best results.



# Our blue roadmap



- **WE**, the political leaders of Caribbean SIDS utilizing the regional integration power of CARICOM, OECS, the CCI, together with critical strategic partners and regional institutions **commit to actioning Blue** through a shared Caribbean 30x30i Vision for the Ocean through the following collaborative actions and support mechanisms:
  1. Collectively endorse a regional 30x30 Caribbean ocean protection target informed by regional science and analytical tools.
  2. Commit to actioning the global ocean protection 30x30 target through significant political advocacy and enhanced progress on the implementation of a 30x30 Caribbean Ocean protection target within our regional Ocean, which:
    - a. supports building resilient and dynamic Ocean and coastal ecosystems, including establishing a regional network of effectively managed protected areas.
    - b. reduces the adverse impacts of climate change through ecosystem-based approaches, integrated climate change adaptation strategies, coastal zone management plans and marine spatial plans and the development of sustainable blue economies,
    - c. supports sustainable livelihoods derived from the sustainable use of natural resources, in particular for coastal and marginalized communities,
    - d. supports the timely achievement of regional and national sustainable development commitments and priorities,
    - e. promptly increases resource mobilization efforts at the national and regional levels including long term sustainable financing and technical assistance from funding partners, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders.
  3. Agree to establish a regional mechanism, working groups and platform to advance collective leadership from Caribbean governments, civil society, and the private sector to support the implementation of the above commitments, and to develop an adequate and appropriate coordination structure to translate ambition into action to enhance Ocean health, catalyze blue economy development, achieve SDG 14 and progress target 3 of the GBF.
  4. Agree to working collectively including complementing and augmenting the actions of key regional partner organizations and strategic partners building on existing efforts, while also working through other means to integrate all Caribbean governments, including overseas territories, in this process.
  5. Agree to implement a set of time bound activities captured within Annex 1.





# Activities to advance the Blue Roadmap from 2025 - 2030



## Targets

Collectively endorse a regional 30x30 Caribbean ocean protection target informed by regional science and analytical tools.

## Activities

- Interested Caribbean governments to submit a letter of endorsement to the CBF noting their interest in endorsing the Caribbean 30x30 Vision for the Ocean
- Caribbean government endorsers agree to a joint decision/resolution to collectively work together to advance the actioning of the Caribbean 30x30 Vision for the Ocean including a regional ocean protection target.

---

Commit to actioning the global ocean protection 30x30 target through significant political advocacy and enhanced progress on the implementation of a 30x30 Caribbean Ocean protection target within our regional Ocean

- Caribbean government endorsers to assign a technical focal point to the CBF to advance technical, strategic and policy decisions that address the Caribbean 30x30 Vision for the Ocean
- Caribbean government endorsers to assign a national high-level champion and advocate to amplify the Caribbean 30x30 Vision for the Ocean.
- Caribbean government endorsers working together with the CBF and key regional partners to formally recommit to establishing a network of marine protected areas and marine managed areas guided by science in line with a regional 30x30 target.
- Caribbean government endorsers to commit to a fundraising target to advance the actioning of the Caribbean 30x30 Vision for the Ocean

---

Agree to establish a regional mechanism, working group and platform to advance collective leadership from Caribbean governments, civil society, and the private sector to support the implementation of the above commitments, and to develop an adequate and appropriate coordination structure to translate ambition into action to enhance Ocean health, catalyze blue economy development, achieve SDG 14 and progress target 3 of the GBF.

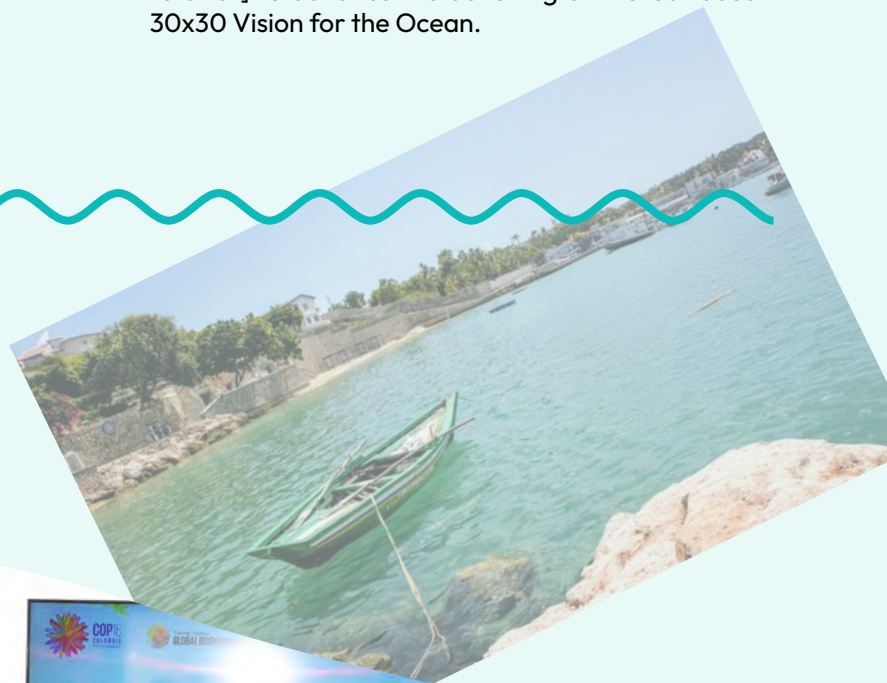
- Caribbean government endorsers to formally identify, endorse and actively participate within a coordination structure such as a working [champions] group that translates ambition into action to enhance Ocean health, catalyze blue economy development, achieve SDG 14 and progress target 3 of the GBF.

## Targets

Agree to working collectively including complementing and augmenting the actions of key regional partner organizations and strategic partners building on existing efforts, while also working through other means to integrate all Caribbean governments, including overseas territories, in this process.

## Activities

- Caribbean government endorses through a regional mechanism to identify and formalize partnerships with key regional organizations and strategic partners, [including the CBD Secretariat, the HAC Secretariat] to advance the actioning of the Caribbean 30x30 Vision for the Ocean.



# The political vision for the Caribbean

Our blue  
**commitment**

Our blue  
**history**

**ACTIONING  
BLUE:**

A CARIBBEAN  
**30X30**  
VISION  
FOR THE OCEAN

Our blue  
**roadmap**

Our blue  
**challenges**

Our blue  
**future**







*"Let us embrace our collective responsibility to safeguarding and protecting the intricate balance of our Ocean with resolve, innovation and foresight and with unwavering multilateralism and a spirit of cooperative action to deliver solutions that sustain our global blue conveyor belt of life."*

Honourable Dickon Mitchell  
Prime Minister of Grenada

In April 2025, the Council of Ministers of Environmental Sustainability and 12 governments endorsed the **Actioning Blue Declaration**.

We invite other governments and partners to **join us** in advancing ocean action and blue sustainability.

**JOIN US IN PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY  
AND LIVELIHOODS IN THE CARIBBEAN**



[caribbeanbiodiversityfund.org](https://caribbeanbiodiversityfund.org)

[secretariat@caribbeanbiodiversityfund.org](mailto:secretariat@caribbeanbiodiversityfund.org)