

# ICCF CARIBBEAN PROGRAM | DEC 2021

## IN THE LOOP

Recent and Upcoming Events for Caucus Members and Stakeholders



### A Year in Review

With much gratitude, we look back on 2021 as a year that has seen a significant return in safe international travel and cooperation on climate leading up to COP26 in Glasgow. The ICCF Group Caribbean program saw these trends, and immediately got to work ensuring their sustainability at the policy level. The program hosted activities for parliamentarians highlighting opportunities to strengthen sustainable tourism after COVID-19 and promoting nature-based solutions to support climate targets. The program fostered international cooperation for MPs within the global network of conservation caucuses from around the world, regional cooperation through an exciting new memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), and national cohesion through engaging ministries and agencies on protected areas management capacity. See below for more information on project activities and impact between April and December, and upcoming events and activities in 2022.

### THE ICCF GROUP IN THE CARIBBEAN

The ICCF Group is working in parliaments and on the ground in the Eastern Caribbean to advance leadership and build capacity to manage natural resources, including in parks and protected areas.



Dr. Didacus Jules and Eustace Vitalis in Glasgow

# MISSION TO SAINT LUCIA

## Engagement with Newly-Elected Officials in Saint Lucia

The ICCF Group organized a project delegation to Saint Lucia in August 2021 to engage with newly elected Members of Parliament and host a parliamentary briefing on nature-based solutions. The delegation included key members of the Caribbean team, as well as Lord John Randall of Uxbridge, Vice Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for International Conservation in the United Kingdom. Lord Randall was an excellent ambassador of the caucus model and initiated numerous discussions on opportunities for collaboration between Saint Lucia and the United Kingdom on conservation issues.



The ICCF Group Delegation with Lord Randall meeting with Director General Didacus Jules, Mr. Crispin d'Auvergne, and Christopher Cox at the OECS Headquarters

Key outcomes of the mission included a meeting with Hon. Shawn A. Edward, Minister of Sustainable Development, a briefing on nature-based solutions, and a field mission to the Canaries Community Improvement Foundation (CCIF) site of a nature-based solutions case study (pictured below). This CCIF project was funded by the British High Commission and co-implemented by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). The visit included Hon. Wayne D. Girard, Parliamentary Representative for Anse La Raye/Canaries and Minister in the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Youth Economy, and helped inform the Eastern Caribbean parliamentary briefing on nature-based solutions.



The ICCF Group delegation with Lord John Randall, Hon. Minister Wayne Girard, High Commissioner Lesley Saunderson, and project lead David Henry at the Vetiver Grass Planting Site in Canaries, Saint Lucia

## Eastern Caribbean Parliamentary Briefing on Nature-based Solutions



Minister Shawn A. Edward, Hon. Senator Dr. Pauline Antoine Prospere, and Mrs. Jeannine Compton attending the Parliamentary Briefing on Nature-based Solutions at the Financial Administrative Center in Castries, Saint Lucia

The ICCF Group partnered with the OECS to hold a briefing on nature-based solutions for policymakers of the Eastern Caribbean on August 12, 2021.

Keynote speeches by Hon. Shawn Edward, Minister for Education, Sustainable Development, Innovation, Science, Technology and Vocational Training, Ms. Anya Edwin, President of the Saint Lucia National Youth Council, Lord John Randall of Uxbridge, and Mr. Chamberlain Emanuel, Head of the OECS Environmental Sustainability Division set the context for the event. Panelists from the IICA and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Center (CCCCC) highlighted case studies and brought policymaker attention to actionable practices to support nature-based solutions in their respective countries. The event was followed by a stakeholder roundtable on implementation.



# ICCF AWARDS DINNER

## Hon. Lennox Linton Attends ICCF Awards Dinner & Subsequent Events with the Global Network of Conservation Caucuses



Ambassador Anton Edmunds, Hon. Lennox Linton, and Eustace Vitalis at the ICCF Awards Dinner in Washington DC

The Honorable Lennox Linton, Leader of the Opposition in Dominica, attended the ICCF Leadership in International Conservation Awards Dinner in September and participated in subsequent events hosted by the ICCF Group on conservation challenges and opportunities for the global network of conservation caucuses. These included a roundtable on the Commonwealth Blue Charter, a new caucus dinner & reception, and an IUU fishing summit hosted by the United States Oceans Caucus Foundation.

## Round Table on The Commonwealth Blue Charter

The Commonwealth Blue Charter Roundtable with Members of Parliament from Dominica, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, and the United Kingdom was held on September 20th (pictured right). The roundtable was facilitated by the Commonwealth Secretariat, whose representatives gave a briefing on the Blue Charter and its action groups, and answered questions in a facilitated discussion to provide targeted guidance for legislators on opportunities for greater engagement on this global initiative to promote blue economy implementation.



Attendees of the Commonwealth Blue Charter Round Table in Washington DC representing Dominica, Kenya, Mozambique, Tanzania, the United Kingdom and the United States

## IUU Fishing Summit in Washington DC



The Oceans Caucus Foundation hosted a Ministerial Roundtable on illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing on September 21st, with participation by Hon. Lennox Linton of Dominica. Topics discussed by the panels included the prioritization of IUU fishing within the U.S. national security strategy, the role of technology in enforcement and monitoring, and the advantages of approaching IUU fishing in a holistic, all-of-government manner, and provided an important opportunity for international collaboration amongst policymakers on this transboundary issue.

## ICCF IN GLASGOW

### ICCF UK hosts Dr. Didacus Jules at side events during CoP-26 in Glasgow

The ICCF hosted Dr. Didacus Jules, Director General of the OECS, to participate in ICCF Group side events at COP26 in Glasgow focused on nature-based solutions, 30x30 initiatives, and opportunities for international collaboration with members from the global network of conservation caucuses supported by the ICCF Group. Key outcomes included the international signing of the Glasgow Declaration, a symbolic commitment by the global network of conservation caucuses and policy leaders to promote nature-based solutions in their respective countries, and the signing of an MOU between the ICCF Group and the OECS.



Left to Right Hon. Werani Chilenga (Malawi), Dr. Didacus Jules (OECS), Hon. Theo Clarke (UK), Mrs. Monica Medina (USA), and Mr. Rodrigo Agostinho (Brazil) at an ICCF Side Event during CoP-26 in Glasgow

### ICCF Group and The OECS Enter a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)



Round Table on Coastal and Marine Nature-based Solutions  
Hosted by the ICCF Group in Glasgow

On November 7th, Dr. Didacus Jules, Director General of the OECS, and Ms. Susan H. Lylis, Executive Vice President of the ICCF Group, signed an MoU between the two organizations to collaborate towards building political will for environmental conservation in the Eastern Caribbean. The signing (pictured below) took place in conjunction with side events during COP26 in Glasgow, and represents the shift to a more regional approach within the ICCF Group Caribbean program.



ICCF Group Executive Vice President, Susan H. Lylis, and Director General of the Organisation for Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Dr. Didacus Jules, signing a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations



# LOOKING FORWARD

## Towards a Regional Parliamentary Forum for Conservation

In keeping with the MOU between the ICCF Group and the OECS, the project team will present the concept of a regional forum for conservation to the OECS Regional Assembly for input and approval. Such a forum's approval would create an unprecedented body of policymakers from a variety of portfolios and parties in the region to support the implementation of conservation initiatives. It would have the potential to promote consistency through electoral cycles and political changes and ensure that the Eastern Caribbean remains one of the most pristine and biodiverse regions in the world through policy action. The ICCF Group looks forward to inviting our partners and stakeholders to view our presentation to the Regional Assembly in 2022.

## A Business Plan for Cabrits National Park

Technical experts from the ICCF Caribbean project will conduct a field mission to Dominica in February to meet with stakeholders and partners on a business plan for Cabrits National Park. The plan would take into account various costs and revenue streams for the park in outlining a plan for sustainable financing moving forward. This will be conducted in partnership with and at the request of the Government of Dominica.



## Presenting the Implementation Plan for Codrington Lagoon National Park



Technical experts have been working with Antigua & Barbuda's Department of Environment over the past year on updating the management plan for Codrington Lagoon National Park and drafting an implementation plan to facilitate its application in the park. These plans will be officially presented before the Department of Environment for approval in March.

# MEET YOUR CARIBBEAN TEAM



**Mr. Hippolyte Eustace Vitalis**  
**Caribbean Program Officer**

Mr. Vitalis is the ICCF Group's Caribbean Program Officer. Based in Saint Lucia, he serves as the primary liaison for the Parliamentary Conservation Caucuses, implementing activities on the ground and providing strategy feedback and advice to the ICCF Group.



**Ms. Olivia Blanchette**  
**Lead Project Coordinator**

Ms. Blanchette serves as the Lead Project Coordinator for the Caribbean Program. Based in Washington D.C. she administers project activities and logistics, and serves as the primary liaison with project partners and funders.



**Mr. Bill Millan**  
**Chief Conservation Officer**

Mr. Millan offers his expertise and experience to the program as the Chief Conservation Officer. Coming from a full career as a diplomat with the United States Foreign Service followed by a decade with the Nature Conservancy, his technical understanding of conservation policy challenges and solutions will be a valuable tool to Conservation Caucuses.



**Mr. Christopher Cox**  
**UNEP-GEF Task Manager**

Mr. Cox is a Programme Officer with the United Nations Environment Programme and serves as Task Manager with oversight for the project "Advancing Conservation in the Eastern Caribbean," which supports the ICCF Group's Caribbean program. He is based in UNEP's Regional Office for Latin American and the Caribbean in Panama.

The ICCF Caribbean Program is supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the project, "Advancing Conservation in the Eastern Caribbean" with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as the implementing agency. The three-year project aims to strengthen biodiversity conservation in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, and Saint Lucia through enhanced political will and capacity building for improved management of marine protected areas (MPAs) and protected areas (PAs).