

# ICCF CARIBBEAN PROGRAM | MARCH 2021

## IN THE LOOP

Recent and Upcoming Events for Caucus Members and Stakeholders



### THE ICCF GROUP IN THE CARIBBEAN

#### Forum on Strengthening the Sustainable Tourism Sector in the Eastern Caribbean

On February 25th, Cletus Springer moderated a virtual event to convene expert panelists from a variety of sectors to present the challenges, solutions, and recommendations for policymakers that want to strengthen sustainable tourism in a post-COVID world. The Forum was hosted by the ICCF Group with the support of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Missed it? No problem! [Click here](#) to check out the writeup and videos on our website!

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.

We are collaborating with nonpartisan coalitions of policymakers in Antigua & Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, and Saint Lucia to support their agendas regarding conservation and sustainable development.



Mr. Cletus Springer - Ms. Maria Fowell - Ms. Karolin Toubetzky - Dr. Damian Greaves - Mr. Colin Piper - Ms. Sally Yozell - Mr. Richard Peterkin



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## International Engagement with Commonwealth Nations

On May 21st, the ICCF Group intends to host a closed Zoom briefing for members of conservation caucuses in Commonwealth Nations spanning the United Kingdom and Africa, as well as the pending caucuses in the Eastern Caribbean.

The meeting will serve as an introductory session to build the global network of conservation caucuses, as well as a briefing event on the Commonwealth Blue Charter and Commonwealth Queen's Canopy; these two Commonwealth environmental initiatives will be key focal areas of an ICCF Group hosted Conference at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) to be held in Kigali, Rwanda in June.



## Parliamentary Delegation to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Kigali, Rwanda

From June 21-27, The ICCF Group will host a series of parallel events during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Kigali, Rwanda to convene Members of Parliament from fifteen different Commonwealth nations where the ICCF Group supports All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs) and conservation caucuses to discuss shared conservation challenges within the Commonwealth.

Conferences will be held on the Commonwealth Blue Charter and the Queen's Canopy Jubilee, as well as a field visit to a local protected area.

The ICCF Group can support the attendance of two delegates from each Caucus, and hopes to bring Co-Chairs from the Eastern Caribbean, pending the event's confirmation with COVID-19.

## Launch of the Saint Lucian Parliamentary Conservation Caucus

*Tentatively Scheduled for May*



The ICCF Group intends to launch the Saint Lucian Parliamentary Caucus at the end of April with a commemorative tree-planting and round-table workshop.

Founding Members will gather to plant a tree, symbolizing the initiation of a new body

within the Parliament committed to sustainable development and conservation. A subsequent Round Table will convene the New Members to discuss the structure and function of the Caucus and draft a list of Caucus priorities. This Round Table will be supported by the ICCF Group as the Caucus Secretariat, and UNEP.

# 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*

Dr. 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).