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Chairperson, Saint Lucia National Conservation Fund

Since July 2020

Envoy, Caribbean Challenge Initiative

Since 2019

Chairperson, CHTA Education Foundation

Since 2019

President, SLHTA

2010 – 2016 and 2018 – 2021

President, Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association

2016 – 2018



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TOURISM ASSOCIATION
**EDUCATION
FOUNDATION**





Major Natural Disasters/Nature Related Events Affecting Caribbean Tourism

Dengue, Zika, Sargassum, Floods, Landslides, Hurricanes, Volcanic Eruption,
Coral Diseases, Reef Deterioration



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Effects of COVID on Tourism

The Caribbean in 2019

- 31 Million Stay-over Visitors
- Cruise Visitors totaled 30.2 million
- Collectively visitors spent an estimated 40.6 Billion

The Caribbean in 2020

Caribbean destinations experienced a 67% fall in international tourist arrivals in 2020 compared to the previous year.

Full recovery not expected prior to 2024.

THE CARIBBEAN IS ONE OF THE MOST TOURISM DEPENDENT REGIONS IN THE WORLD. TOURISM IMPACTS ALL SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY AND GOVERNMENT.

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THE ONE PLANET VISION

WANTED.... A RESPONSIBLE RECOVERY OF THE TOURISM SECTOR (UNWTO)

Responsible Recovery For People

- Public Health
- Social Inclusion

Responsible Recovery For Planet

- Biodiversity Conservation
- Climate Action

Responsible Recovery For Prosperity

- Circular Economy
- Governance and Finance



ONE PLANET VISION FOR
A RESPONSIBLE RECOVERY OF
THE TOURISM SECTOR

Tourism - Challenges

The “Big Ticket” Challenges require private–public sector collaboration

- Renewable Energy- Energy Efficiency
- Wastewater Management
- Fresh Water Management and Harvesting
- Recreational Water Quality
- Plastic Reduction & Recycling
- Waste Reduction – Food Waste Reduction
- Carbon Offsets – reduce our contribution to greenhouse gases

Hindrances:

- ❖ Legislative restrictions (25kw commercial limit for renewables)
- ❖ Technical restrictions (recycling/waste/water)
- ❖ Political election cycle of 4/5 years affects continuity of progress and process
- ❖ Duplication of effort

TOURISM – Community Participation Goals

- ❖ **Buy Local** (Agriculture, Manufacturing)
- ❖ **Promote Local** (Small and Medium Enterprises)
- ❖ **Celebrate Local** (Culture, Arts, Music)
- ✓ Strengthening of small and medium enterprises
- ✓ Mentorship and entrepreneurship programs
- ✓ Skills Development
- ✓ Ecommerce Platforms

TOURISM – Developmental Goals

- ❖ Tourism development away from shorelines
- ❖ Adaptation of Global Standards for Nature Based Solution; Observance of Sustainable Development Goals
- ❖ Type of Tourism Developments
(eco-boutique versus large commercial developments)
- ❖ Type of Tourism Product
(serene experiences versus mass events)

TOURISM – Marine and Coastal Environment Goals



Users But Not Abusers

THE 30/30 VISION

30x30 is a call to action to safeguard at least 30% of the world's ocean by 2030 Through a network of highly protected marine areas where no destructive or extractive activities like fishing or mining can take place.

**Healthy Marine and Coastal Environment
Critical to Success of Caribbean Tourism**

The Journey Towards Responsible Travel and Tourism

“PEOPLE WANT TO TRAVEL MORE SUSTAINABLY BUT DON'T ACTUALLY DO IT”

- Are travel decisions made on price point or on basis of destination and resort certifications?
- Not enough certified choices? Which certifications?
- Too many certification choices?
- Can tourism destinations and operators focus on and invest in sustainable operations after such a massive economic downturn?



EARTHCHECK



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Caribbean Sustainable Financial Architecture

The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) and its partner National Conservation Trust Funds (NCTFs), (currently at 10), form the Caribbean Sustainable Finance Architecture (CSFA), a network of independent Caribbean conservation trust funds dedicated to mobilizing financial resources at the regional, sub-regional and national levels for conservation efforts in the Caribbean.

Bahamas Protected Area Fund (BPAF), National Conservation Trust Fund of Jamaica (NCTFJ), Haiti Biodiversity Foundation (FHB for its acronym in French), Fondo MARENA, Marine Ecosystems and Protected Areas Trust (MEPA), Saint Christopher and Nevis Conservation Foundation (SCNCF), Saint Lucia National Conservation Fund (SLUNCF), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines National Conservation Fund (SVGCF), Grenada Sustainable Development Trust (GSDTF), Guyana Protected Areas Trust (GPAT).



HAPPENING!



CARIBBEAN CONSERVATION FINANCE CONGRESS 2021

JULY 6TH – 8TH, 2021

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ORGANIZED BY



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Possible Opportunities & Solutions – Moving From Aspiration to Implementation

Don't reinvent the wheel - let's push it forward together

- **Avoid duplication of effort – Streamline Initiatives**
- **“Umbrella” Tourism Sustainability info platform**
- **Support existing tourism entities:**
CHTA/CAST/CHTAEF/CTO – For example: a) make available grants to develop sustainability programs at National Hotel Association levels; b) support CAST to fulfill their role as the region's foremost sustainable tourism advocacy body; c) Establish/support regional events such as Green Travel and Tourism Conference/Green Travel Awards; d) Create sustainable tourism training and certification tools
- **Consistent national public sector entity to drive the Sustainable Tourism Agenda forward**
- **Creation Sustainable PPS Tourism Dev Committees** (National Conservation Funds, Ministries of Tourism, Tourism Boards, Hotel Associations)
- **Caribbean “matchmaking” platform**
Matching projects in need of funding with funding agencies
- **More accessible and innovative funding mechanisms** for private and public sector needed. Private sector access to not just loans but also grants (for example; Compete Caribbean). For example: Blue Bonds – Green Resilience Bonds - Debt Conversion
- **Make use of existing national conservation and/or tourism enhancement funds**
- **Resilience fee payable by stay-over and cruise visitors**
- **Make use of new and innovative digital payment platforms** (for example; DWallet (OECS) / Penny Pinch)