Enhancing Ocean Governance in the Caribbean Region

Mr. Hayden Romano
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Enhancing Ocean Governance in the Caribbean Region



Our Deep Connections to the Caribbean Sea



Fishing



Tourism



Energy

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Our Wellbeing and the Health of the Caribbean Sea

- Unique brand identity
- Economic Driver and primary resource for many island states
- Connections to overall health and wellness of the people

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Caribbean Sea – Context

- One of largest in the world
- 2,754,000 Square KM
- 29 States and Territories
- 152 million people
- 8 Major river systems

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Caribbean Sea and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



Caribbean Sea and its wellness critical to achievement of SDGs

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Interconnected Impacts





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Regional issues – Lionfish as example





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Existing Layers of Regional Protection

- UN Convention on law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
- Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal
- Cartagena Convention for the Protection and Development of Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- Land-Based Sources Protocol (LBS)

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Towards a Regional Governance Framework

Region-wide communications network

Improved collaboration and sharing of resources

Improved and more efficient coordination

Underpinned by shared interest and cross-cutting regional issues

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Lessons from CARICOM

- Education- UWI, CXC/CAPE
- Disaster Preparedness and Management
- Sport (W.I. Cricket ???)
- Foreign Relations



Hon. Bruce Golding
former PM Jamaica

"I think we have done very well in terms of functional cooperation. If every country in CARICOM had to set up their own examination system, instead of having the Caribbean Examinations Council, it would be difficult for much of the smaller islands that have fewer resources than we do".

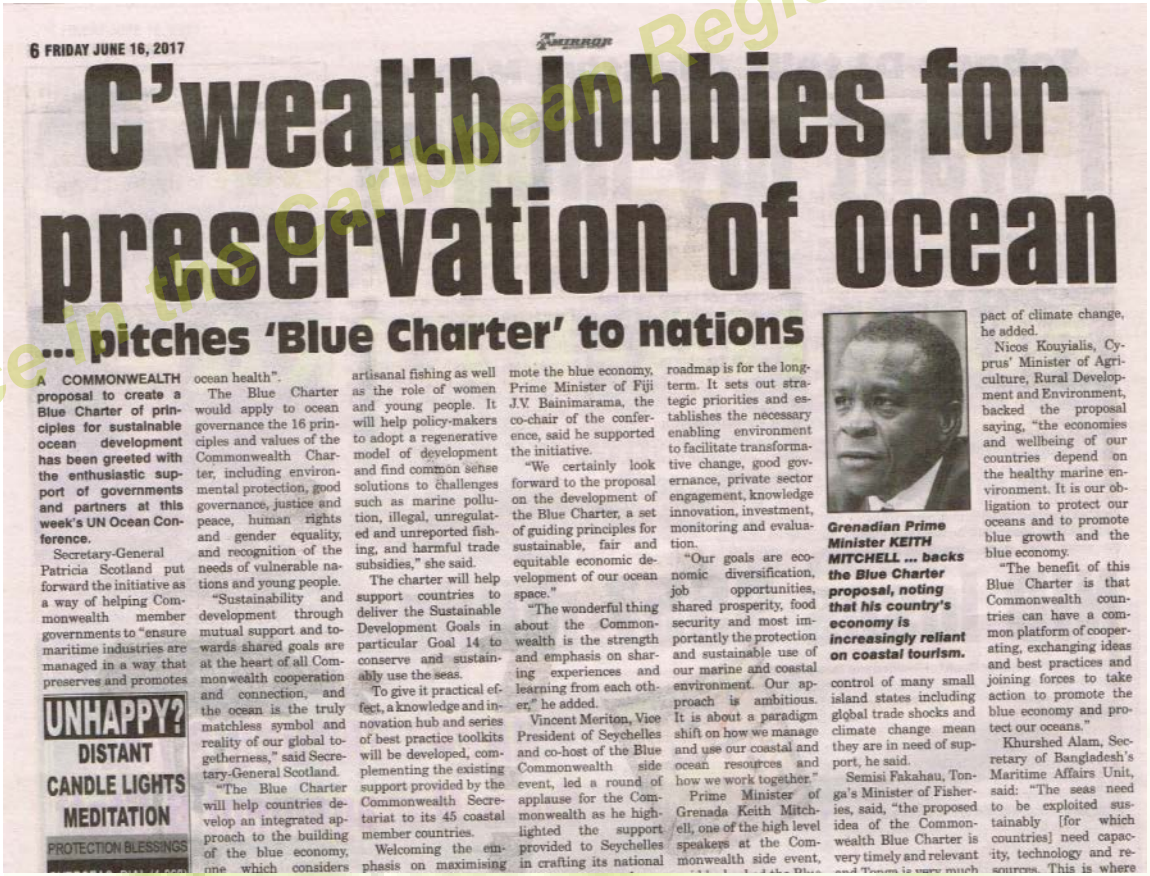
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Commonwealth 'Blue Charter'



'Game changing' Blue Charter to guide nations in sustainable ocean development

9 June 2017



6 FRIDAY JUNE 16, 2017

The Mirror

C'wealth lobbies for preservation of ocean

... pitches 'Blue Charter' to nations

A COMMONWEALTH proposal to create a Blue Charter of principles for sustainable ocean development has been greeted with the enthusiastic support of governments and partners at this week's UN Ocean Conference.

Secretary-General Patricia Scotland put forward the initiative as a way of helping Commonwealth member governments to "ensure maritime industries are managed in a way that preserves and promotes ocean health".

The Blue Charter would apply to ocean governance the 16 principles and values of the Commonwealth Charter, including environmental protection, good governance, justice and peace, human rights and gender equality, and recognition of the needs of vulnerable nations and young people.

"Sustainability and development through mutual support and towards shared goals are at the heart of all Commonwealth cooperation and connection, and the ocean is the truly matchless symbol and reality of our global togetherness," said Secretary-General Scotland.

"The Blue Charter will help countries develop an integrated approach to the building of the blue economy, one which considers artisanal fishing as well as the role of women and young people. It will help policy-makers to adopt a regenerative model of development and find common sense solutions to challenges such as marine pollution, illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, and harmful trade subsidies," she said.

The charter will help support countries to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals in particular Goal 14 to conserve and sustainably use the seas.

To give it practical effect, a knowledge and innovation hub and series of best practice toolkits will be developed, complementing the existing support provided by the Commonwealth Secretariat to its 45 coastal member countries.

Welcoming the emphasis on maximising mote the blue economy, Prime Minister of Fiji J.V. Bainimarama, the co-chair of the conference, said he supported the initiative.

"We certainly look forward to the proposal on the development of the Blue Charter, a set of guiding principles for sustainable, fair and equitable economic development of our ocean space."

"The wonderful thing about the Commonwealth is the strength and emphasis on sharing experiences and learning from each other," he added.

Vincent Meriton, Vice President of Seychelles and co-host of the Blue Commonwealth side event, led a round of applause for the Commonwealth as he highlighted the support provided to Seychelles in crafting its national roadmap is for the long-term. It sets out strategic priorities and establishes the necessary enabling environment to facilitate transformative change, good governance, private sector engagement, knowledge innovation, investment, monitoring and evaluation.

"Our goals are economic diversification, job opportunities, shared prosperity, food security and most importantly the protection and sustainable use of our marine and coastal environment. Our approach is ambitious. It is about a paradigm shift on how we manage and use our coastal and ocean resources and how we work together."

Prime Minister of Grenada Keith Mitchell, one of the high level speakers at the Commonwealth side event,

Grenadian Prime Minister KEITH MITCHELL ... backs the Blue Charter proposal, noting that his country's economy is increasingly reliant on coastal tourism.

control of many small island states including global trade shocks and climate change mean they are in need of support, he said.

Semisi Fakahau, Tonga's Minister of Fisheries, said, "the proposed idea of the Commonwealth Blue Charter is very timely and relevant

pact of climate change, he added.

Nicos Kouyialis, Cyprus' Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, backed the proposal saying, "the economies and wellbeing of our countries depend on the healthy marine environment. It is our obligation to protect our oceans and to promote blue growth and the blue economy.

"The benefit of this Blue Charter is that Commonwealth countries can have a common platform of cooperating, exchanging ideas and best practices and joining forces to take action to promote the blue economy and protect our oceans."

Khurshed Alam, Secretary of Bangladesh's Maritime Affairs Unit, said: "The seas need to be exploited sustainably [for which countries] need capacity, technology and re-

UNHAPPY? DISTANT CANDLE LIGHTS MEDITATION PROTECTION BLESSINGS

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Bringing Non-CARICOM States into Framework

Dutch Overseas

Central America

British Overseas

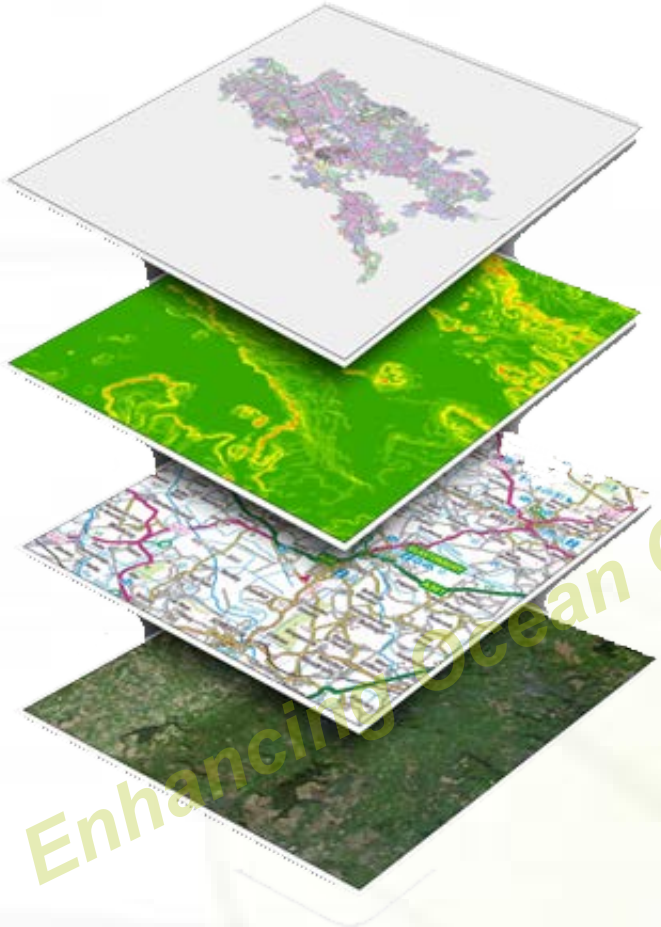
South America

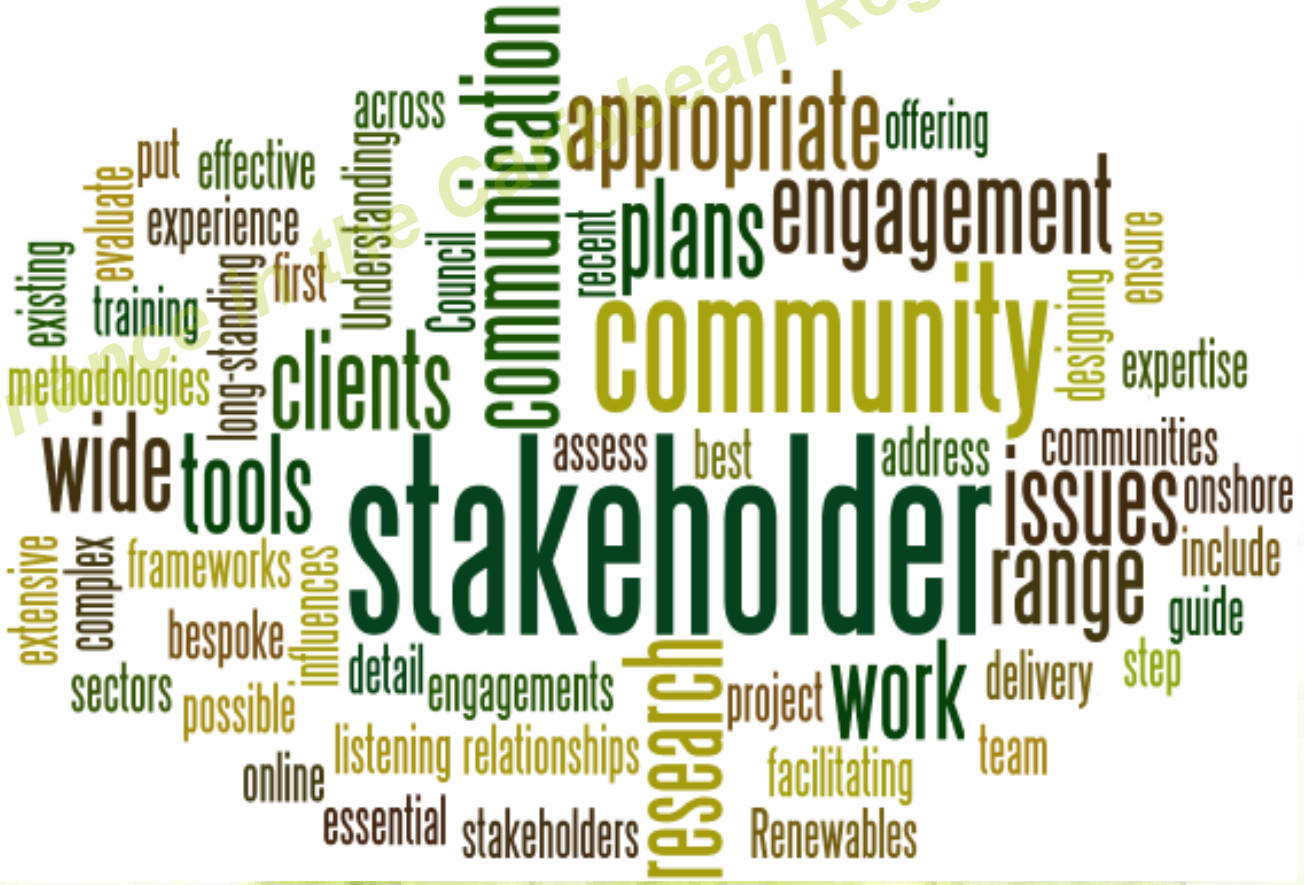
US Overseas



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Effective Stakeholder Engagement and Use of Best Available Technology





Remote Sensing & GIS

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In closing…

"It is a curious situation that the sea, from which life first arose should now be threatened by the activities of one form of that life. But the sea, though changed in a sinister way, will continue to exist; the threat is rather to life itself" —Rachel Carson (1907-1964), The Sea Around Us, 1951

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