

**COMMUNIQUE FROM THE
SUMMIT OF POLITICAL AND BUSINESS LEADERS
AT NECKER ISLAND, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS ON 17 MAY 2013**

The Bahamas



British Virgin Islands



Dominican Republic



Grenada



Jamaica



Puerto Rico



Saint Kitts & Nevis



Saint Lucia



Saint Vincent & the Grenadines



COMMUNIQUE

(British Virgin Islands; May 17, 2013)

As business and government leaders in the Caribbean, we have agreed today that both sectors need to work together to ensure that the beautiful marine and coastal areas in the Caribbean are protected. The Governments have signed a Leaders' Declaration and the Business Leaders have signed a Corporate Compact to initiate this process. We thus recognize the need to go further and collaborate across sectors.

Our high level dialogue resulted in consensus on the utmost importance of working together – as a region and across sectors – to tackle the pressing and interlinked issues of marine and coastal conservation, renewable energy and economic development. We recognized that we can't have one without the other, and that we can't do it alone or in isolation from our neighbors.

We acknowledge that the solutions are not necessarily easy; they require political will, business investment, innovation and system-wide solutions. We agreed to work to break barriers on both sides.

The specific areas for further work include:

- The urgent need to create protection for sharks and rays across the whole Caribbean region with the aim of protecting within two years.
- Establishing a clear regulatory framework that delivers a systemic and regional approach to conservation of the marine and coastal environment, including increasing considerably the number of marine protected areas.
- A dramatic acceleration in the transition from fossil fuels to alternative energy sources over the next five years. This will be supported by the sharing of best practice, scaling of new technologies, and streamlining of regulatory processes applicable to renewable energy.

We will work together along with the communities across the Caribbean to continue to develop appropriate national and regional initiatives towards these goals.

We look forward to working together to grow our economies and preserve our wonderful marine and coastal resources for generations to come.