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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
FORESTRY AND FISHERIES
MINISTERIAL COMPLEX
BOTANICAL GARDENS
ST. GEORGE'S
GRENADA, W.I.

July 10, 2013

Mr. Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
United Nations Environment Programme
413 Saint-Jacques Street,
Suite 800 Montreal,
Quebec, Canada
H2Y 1N9

Dear Sir

**RE: SUMMIT OF POLITICAL AND BUSINESS LEADERS TO LAUNCH THE
SECOND PHASE OF THE CARIBBEAN CHALLENGE INITIATIVE HELD IN BVI MAY
17 – 18, 2013**

The Government of Grenada takes this opportunity to thank you for attending and participating in the above mentioned summit co-hosted by Hon. Keith Mitchell, Prime Minister of Grenada, Hon. Orlando Smith, Prime Minister of the British Virgin Islands, and Sir Richard Branson, founder of Virgin group. A copy of the Summit outcome document is attached for your perusal however the Summit assisted in galvanizing US \$75 million in funding commitments to safeguard the marine and coastal environment, along with commitments to take new marine conservation actions and to put in place more sustainable business practices. In addition eight governments signed the Leaders Declaration and 15 companies signed the Corporate Compact, formally committing to work together to protect at least 20% of the marine and coastal environment of the Caribbean by 2020.

It should be noted that the following countries namely Barbados, Belize, Haiti, Martinique, Turks & Caicos, and US Virgin Islands attended the Summit as observers and have expressed interest in joining the CCI. The two declarations that were signed at the Summit included actions not only on marine protected areas (MPAs), but also marine pollution, restoration, sustainable tourism, sustainable fisheries, and ecosystem-based adaptation thus leading to an expansion of the programmatic scope of CCI. It can be said that a broad set of partners (particularly public funding agencies, multilateral agencies, and private foundations) are now fully engaged and aware of the CCI, with many being prepared to support the initiative and there was a strong participation of the corporate sector providing a "critical mass" of business leaders to help champion and support CCI.

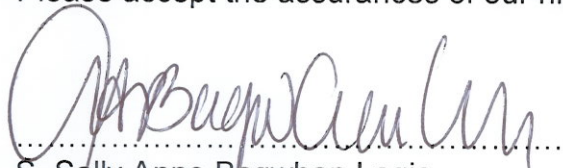
We therefore recognize that island States play a crucial role in implementing the CBD's Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity, the UN Strategic Plan and associated Aichi targets in an integrated approach by coming together on regional levels through challenges such as the Caribbean Challenge Initiative, the Micronesia Challenge and the Western Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge. It can therefore be said that Island Parties have begun to offer solutions and are proactive in achieving the objectives of the Convention of Biological Diversity.

The crucial role of Global Islands Partnership (GLISPA) in supporting regional challenges and facilitating exchanges must be recognized and the triple Presidency of GLISPA by the Seychelles, Palau and Grenada is resulting in an approach that is designed to further facilitate regional commitments, the obligations under other MEAs and also the UN development agenda.

It must be highlighted that in 2006 in COP 8 in Curitiba, Brazil, Grenada made a declaration to protect 25% of its near shore coastal marine and terrestrial resources by 2020 and some of the countries present joined Grenada in its pledge since marine environment in the Caribbean contains some of the World's richest biodiversity and as a result the Caribbean Challenge Initiative was born. As a result of this and Grenada's commitment, Grenada has been requested to act as interim Secretariat of the CCI with the hope that the permanent secretariat will reside permanently in Grenada, and is therefore writing to humbly request that Your Excellency circulate the results of the CCI Summit (attached) to all Parties and relevant partners and major groups, as an example of multilateral commitments coordinated with decisions made by the CBD and as a strong message for Parties to effectively mainstream biodiversity and ecosystem services into "green and blue economy" approaches towards sustainable development.

Grenada therefore requests that the outcomes of the CCI be taken as pledges towards the Secretariat's Aichi Biodiversity Champions campaign and as solutions from island States towards the UN SIDS Summit process.

Please accept the assurances of our highest consideration.



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S. Sally Anne Bagwhan Logie
PERMANENT SECRETARY