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CANARI Launches Project Pioneering Blue-Green Economic Development on the South Coast, St. Vincent

Port-of-Spain, September 26, 2022 – An exciting new project that will pilot a local blue-green economic development model that protects, restores and sustainably uses coastal and marine ecosystems to build ecological and livelihood resilience on St. Vincent’s South Coast was launched by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) in a virtual ceremony held on June 9, 2022.

The project will adopt a landscape approach to address key risks from climate change and land-based pollution, including within the South Coast Marine Conservation Area, surrounding watersheds and the seven communities of Arnos Vale, Canash, Calliaqua, Indian Bay, Rathon Mill, Rose Cottage and Villa.

The project, **Pioneering a blue-green economic development model for coastal adaptation, livelihoods and sustainability in St. Vincent**, is being implemented from 2021 to 2024 by CANARI in collaboration with project partners – the National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority, Forestry Department, Fisheries Division, St. Vincent and the Grenadines Hotel and Tourism Association, St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Fisherfolk Cooperative and Calliaqua Fisherfolk Cooperative (CASFICO).

This is a project of the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, co-financed by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety through KfW.

The project launch featured remarks by Mr. Andrew Wilson, Director, National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority (NPRBA) on behalf of Dr. Resa Noel-McBarnett, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development and Culture. There were also presentations on previous EbA interventions that have been implemented in the South Coast by Mr. Andrew Wilson and Mr. Vaughn Martin of Serenity Dive.

Previous EbA initiatives included small-scale mangrove replanting and stream bank/riparian zone interventions by the NPRBA and the Forestry Department, and a coral nursery and coral planting initiative undertaken by Serenity Dive with support from the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Conservation Fund.

The Serenity Dive project involved training and certification of 20 community college students in scuba diving and coral restoration techniques, development of a coral nursery made up of 10 trees and the out-planting of 800 Elkhorn coral fragments at 10 sites. These presentations sparked lively

discussions on lessons learned from these previous initiatives and opportunities for scaling up and addressing other emergent issues and drivers of ecosystem degradation within the South Coast.

Over the next few months, the project will focus on conducting relevant baseline assessments and scoping; an ecosystem valuation study to identify priorities for investment; development of a communications and engagement strategy; and design of awareness products and activities targeting the fisheries & tourism sectors.

For more information on this project, visit: <https://canari.org/cbf-eba-facility-svg/>