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SUMMARY INFORMATION OF EARLIER SYMPOSIUM:

CARIBSAVE Partners and Donors' Symposium Climate Change, Tourism and Livelihoods

Merton College, University of Oxford
30th June and 1st July

The CARIBSAVE Partnership held the, highly successful, inaugural CARIBSAVE Partners and Donors' Symposium on 30 June and 1 July 2009 at Merton College, the University of Oxford's oldest college. Delegates attending the Symposium included those from international development banks including the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank; and from international development agencies including the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the Japanese International Development Agency, and the German International Development Agency. Other international delegates also included representatives from UNDP, Caribbean Tourism Ministries, the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), UNEP, the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), and the Association of Caribbean States (ACS). In addition there were high level delegates from major international Non-Governmental Agencies such as the Nature Conservancy, WWF, the Rainforest Alliance and Conservation International.

The core aims of this event were to establish cooperation and understanding of the issues surrounding climate change on a sectoral basis across international donor agencies, and to build Donor Partnerships and Donor Action Plans for the benefit of the Caribbean Basin. These Action Plans and partnerships were developed and linked to the CARIBSAVE Partnership for the short, medium and long-term, benefit of the economic development of the region, and for the environment and the community livelihoods of the Caribbean Basin to deal with the impacts and challenges of climate change on the tourism sector.

The Symposium was successful in its aims and strongly supported by all delegates. Funding streams were identified to address the impacts of and challenges surrounding climate change, tourism, the environment, national economic development and community livelihoods across the Caribbean Islands and Central America. Sessions on understanding, adaptation and mitigation on climate change effects and development were held. Presentations from workshops held in the pilot Caribbean countries were delivered and breakout groups shared experiences to provide plans for the future. From this support and understanding pragmatic Donor Action Plans were developed for the region which will be fed into the Risk Analysis and implementation process being conducted by the CARIBSAVE Partnership.

Further information on the CARIBSAVE Partnership and the Donors and Partners Symposium can be obtained from the CARIBSAVE website: www.caribsave.org

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