



Sustainable Tourism Roundup - November 12th, 2019 -

Dear Tourism Colleague,

Welcome to the Caribbean Tourism Organization's 5th Sustainable Tourism Roundup for 2019. This bulletin provides tourism related information, updates on CTO initiatives, as well as opportunities and events offered by CTO and our partners. You are encouraged to take action where appropriate and to disseminate this information widely, for the benefit of all tourism stakeholders. This roundup includes:

CTO INITIATIVES:

1. Declaration - Caribbean Conference on Sustainable Tourism Development STC- 2019

Based on dialogue and feedback from delegates following the successful hosting of the **Sustainable Tourism Conference** in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in August 2019, we are pleased to share the Communique emanating for STC 2019 compiled from delegates contributions during 'Working Group Session'. Please view the declaration attached to the Round Up.

2. CBT Toolkit and Call for proposals



The highlight of the month of October was the launching of the Community-Based Tourism (CBT) Toolkit by the CTO in partnership with the Compete Caribbean Partnership Facility. This toolkit provides best practice information on CBT criteria and standards, strategies to enhance the market-readiness of community tourism enterprises, and market access guidelines. In addition, it supports business planning processes; provides guidance for systematic product development and offers tools and resources for financial management. Through the use of these resources, Communities engaged in or interested in pursuing CBT, will be fully equipped with the know-how to create and deliver successful CBT experiences. The toolkit documents are available for download via our website: <http://ourtourism.onecaribbean.org/cbtresources/>.

**Have an idea for Community-based
tourism or Agro-tourism?
Up to \$400,000 in grants**

Following the launch of the toolkit, **Compete Caribbean** has issued a call for Community-Based Tourism or Agro-Tourism cluster projects. Organizations and firms in Compete Caribbean Member Countries are eligible to submit proposals for technical assistance aimed enhancing community-based experiences and sustainable food chains. These grant awards will range from USD \$100,000 to USD \$400,000 and project concept notes must be submitted **by deadline January 5th, 2020 at 11:59pm**. For further details, see documents available via our website or this link: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/de34n6hlzbys96e/AACJUbl2dTwmBRBxiN_GG06Ea?dl=0

3. Caribbean Tourism Organization CTO Youth Congress

The Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) Tourism Youth Congress was held at the Antigua and Barbuda Parliament Building on Friday 4 October, 2019. Fourteen ‘junior ministers of tourism’ from CTO member countries delivered presentations on topics including: *‘Towards Smart Travel Experiences Within The Caribbean Region’*, *“Equipping Our Youth To Thrive In A Changing Tourism Environment”*, and *“Making Excellence A Habit In Caribbean Tourism”* and a ‘mystery’ topic.



(l) Danae Dennie receives her prize from CTO's acting secretary general, Neil Walters. (r) Participants of the Tourism Youth Congress

Fifteen-year-old **Ms. Danae Dennie** emerged winner with a compelling presentation and suggestions to enhance the national tourism product of the Turks & Caicos Islands through a national tourism service programme, a visitor satisfaction review app dubbed “My Absolute Truth”, and a STAR awards programme. In second place was Hailey Mahy, 15, of Barbados, while Tobago’s Kayleigh Lewis, 16, placed third. Congratulations are extended to all the winners and participants!

4. Visit from Students of Trent University

On Wednesday October 23rd, 2019 the CTO hosted twelve students from Trent University and their professors, Chris Metcalfe and Erin Bennett for their annual visit. The students were exposed to the economic, social and environmental challenges and opportunities facing the sustainable development of tourism in the Caribbean. Students also had an opportunity to interact with CTO staff from the Department of Resource Mobilization and Development.



(l) Director of Resource Mobilization and Development, Mrs. Sharon Banfield-Bovell delivers the lecture. (r) Students paying rapt attention

5. Regional Human Resources Conference 2020

Join the CTO in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism of Nevis, from May 20-22, 2020 for the 10th Regional Tourism Human Resources Conference, under the theme “*Navigating the Next Phase of Caribbean Tourism*”. Come share in the strategies and best practices from highly experienced thought leaders in the global tourism sector! See below for the ‘Save the Date- HR Conference’ flyer.



REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNER INITIATIVES:

6. Caribbean-International Tourism Conference



4th Caribbean-International Tourism Conference

Theme: Navigating the Destination of the Future

Cave Hill Campus 11-13th December, 2019

Calling all tourism researchers, practitioners, scholars, industry leaders, educators, and students! Register for the 4th **Caribbean-International Tourism Conference** to be held from **11-13th December 2019** at **The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus**, Barbados under the theme “*Navigating the Destination of the Future*”. This conference will provide a forum for critical discourse on the factors, challenges, trends, innovations, policies, opportunities, and practices that are likely to have the most influence on the *destinations of the future*. For more information see flyer attached to this email and the following link: <https://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/tourismconference2019/home.aspx>

7. Stay in the Know with Sargassum Outlook 2019



Outlook of 2019 *Sargassum* blooms in the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico*
October 31st, 2019, by University of South Florida Optical Oceanography Lab
(huc@usf.edu)



As sargassum continues to be one of the biggest environmental threats in our region, it's important to stay in the loop with the latest information. The Sargassum Outlook Bulletin, produced by the University of South Florida Optical Oceanography Lab, provides up to date information on sargassum trends in the Caribbean, and an overview of current bloom condition and future bloom probability for the Caribbean Sea. According to recent satellite Imagery, we have good news that most of the Sargassum in the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico have disappeared and this is expected to continue for at least another two months, and possibly longer. View the latest Sargassum Bulletin via the following link:

https://optics.marine.usf.edu/projects/SaWS/pdf/Sargassum_outlook_2019_bulletin10_USF.pdf.

For additional information visit: <https://optics.marine.usf.edu/projects/saws.html>

8. Caribbean Drought Bulletin

Please see the latest drought outlook from the Caribbean Institute for Metrology and Hydrology (CIMH) covering the upcoming 3-month period, November 2019 to January 2020. We encourage you to pay keen attention and take the appropriate actions where necessary. **Click** the following link to access the outlook information: <https://rcc.cimh.edu.bb/files/2019/11/Caribbean-Drought-Bulletin-November-2019.pdf>.

Warm Regards,

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