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The event, coordinated by The Nature Conservancy and the Global Island Partnership, was a significant opportunity to demonstrate the considerable leadership and commitment of island countries and countries with islands towards a blue and green economy.

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The participating leaders committed to:

**Antigua and Barbuda, Prime Minister Winston Baldwin Spencer** committed to protecting 20 percent of their near shore marine area and 15 percent of their terrestrial area by 2020, thereby formally joining the Caribbean Challenge Initiative. The country has also committed to creating the Antigua and Barbuda Conservation and Climate Adaptation Trust (ABCCAT) and developing sustainable finance mechanisms such as user fees and debt-for-climate adaptation swaps to provide a sustainable source of funding to protect marine and costal resources and adaptation to climate change.

**Australia, Prime Minister Julia Gillard** made a national commitment to establish the world's largest and most comprehensive network of marine reserves – placing more than 3 million square kilometers of Australia's oceans under conservation management. They will also help other countries achieve the “blue economy” by almost doubling their longstanding support of the Coral Triangle Initiative, to AU$8 million and an additional AU$25 million in funding for fisheries and climate change adaptation in the Pacific.

**Colombia, Vice Minister Soto on behalf of President Juan Manuel Santos** committed to put in place an innovative nationwide mitigation program that will ensure that environmental impact compensation are made in the most strategic locations and actions. The framework will enable companies to plan ahead and implement their offsets in an efficient way and ensure the greatest return on investment for nature. Colombia also committed to taking an integrated planning approach to development of the Magdalena River Basin. The country will also create new programs to reduce deforestation and increase significantly its 1.2 million hectares Chiribiquete National Park to enhance protection of the Colombian Amazon basin.

**Grenada, Prime Minister Tillman Thomas** committed to co-host a Caribbean Political and Business Leaders Summit with Sir Richard Branson of the Virgin Group, along with Premiere Orlando Smith of the British Virgin Islands in 2013. The Summit will build and expand on the Caribbean Challenge Initiative commitments of placing 20 percent of near shore marine area under protection by 2020 and developing sustainable finance mechanisms to finance the management of protected areas.

**Indonesia, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono** committed to strengthen Indonesia's efforts to build a “blue economy” that will ensure sustainable growth with equity in all oceans and coastal areas. He reaffirmed his leadership of the Coral Triangle Initiative for coastal livelihoods, food security and climate change and outlined a multipronged approach to recognize the value of nature for coastal communities and Indonesia's economy.

**Seychelles, Vice President Danny Faure** stated that if they were able to complete a debt-for-climate adaptation swap that created a funding stream of at least US$2,500 per year, Seychelles would establish 30 percent of their coastal zone as marine protected areas, with half of this area in no take zones. Seychelles further committed to providing three years of financial support to the Global Islands Partnership and to continue to support the formation of the West Indian Ocean Coastal Challenge.

**The Nippon Foundation, Chairman Yohei Sasakawa** committed to provide resources to nations that have made “blue economy” commitments at Rio+20. The Foundation, which has provided expertise and resources to improve ocean management in 110 countries, has committed to launch a new initiative involving a ten-year, high-level dialogue process and the development of new programs to advance sustainable use of ocean resources.

**The Nature Conservancy, Vice President of External Affairs Glenn Prickett** committed to help the leaders implement the commitments to ensure the greatest benefit for people and the natural resources necessary for sustainable and equitable growth. Key actions will include facilitating debt-for-climate adaptation swaps and other innovative finance mechanisms.

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The **Nature Conservancy** is a leading conservation organization working around the world to protect the lands and waters on which all life depends. The Conservancy and its more than 1 million members have protected nearly 120 million acres worldwide. Visit The Nature Conservancy on the Web at [www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org).

The **Global Island Partnership**, co-chaired by President Michel of Seychelles, President Toribiong of Palau and Prime Minister Thomas of Grenada, promotes action for island conservation and sustainable livelihoods by inspiring leadership, catalyzing commitments and facilitating collaboration – [www.glispa.org](http://www.glispa.org).