



CYCN MAY REPORT

Date: June 16, 2021

SUMMARY:

The CYCN continues to champion its mandate as it seeks to build the capacity of its youth advocates in the fields of climate change, environmental sustainability and the blue and green economies. The national chapters continue to play an important part in executing projects in their various jurisdictions and of note, many national chapters have reached out to their governments. Of note, Trinidad and Cameroon have strategically partnered with the British High Commission in their countries and have been in dialogue with key stakeholders in the Climate Change and Environment field. CYCN Pan-Commonwealth Coordinator Ms. Leneka Rhoden met with several National Coordinators and has assisted with finalizing strategic plans which include major projects which will be facilitated through regional collaboration as advised. All CYCN Executive members (Committee Chairs) are now fully operational and have established their various sub-committees and executive structure.

MAIN ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

CYCN Kenya

- Increase of members in the network.
- Social media dissemination of CYCN Kenya work

CYCN Fiji

- Online Activity- International Day for Biological Diversity

CYCN Nigeria

- Organized the CYCN Webinar in commemoration of Earth Day 2021 themed: ‘Climate Mitigation in Developing Countries’ on May 1st.
- Developed a strategic action plan
- Integrated new members into the network.
- Membership engagement and active use of the CYCN’s social media handles.

CYCN Belize

- Successfully established dialogue with the CEO, Dr. Kenrick Williams, from the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate change, and disaster risk management and its Department of Environment.
- CYCN Belize established relationship with other environmental youth organizations in southern Belize as well as gaining media coverage with a local radio station, LoveFM.

CYCN Trinidad and Tobago

- Formation
- Delivered letter to regional manufacturer to ensure green procurement of RSPO-certified palm oil
- Community composting project was developed.

CYCN St. Lucia

- During this month, we discussed what other ways we can increase our membership and way to commemorate Environment Days.

HIGHLIGHT:

CYCN Kenya

Following our successfully meeting on 14th May 2021, all the members present agreed to work towards realisation of CYCN Kenya Action Plan 2021.

CYCN Fiji

Due to the restrictions imposed by the Government to contain the virus, all the CYCN network activities have been decided to go online. This is in line with the Governments restrictions for everyone's safety. We were only able to carry out one online activity.

CYCN Nigeria

The Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network (CYCN), Nigeria chapter, during the Month (May) embarked on the Evaluation of Action Plan and laid down frameworks upon which the

action plan will thrive over the second half of the year. The month of May's Major highlight was the biodiversity week featuring the World migratory Birds Day, World Bees Day, International biodiversity day and a host of other events. Other highlights included: the integration of new CYCN members into the network, Campus Ambassador project, Celebration of international events and members birthday.

CYCN Belize

Over the past three months, increased awareness of CYCN in Belize has increased amongst coastal communities. Members of CYCN Belize have been engaged at a national level with the Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management and its Department of Environment. CYCN members have been mobilising their resources to develop a CYCN recycling program for schools in southern Belize. Youth and non-governmental organizations have been collaborating with CYCN Belize on many community-based projects that have been focused on ways to address the effects of climate change and securing livelihoods. CYCN continue recruiting of members and now is preparing its members for the establishment of its executive committee.

CYCN Trinidad and Tobago

The membership convened. Projects were developed. Letter to regional manufacturer to ensure green procurement of RSPO-certified palm oil was delivered.

BREAKDOWN:

DATE	ACTIVITY/PROJECT	REPRESENTATIVE (S)	DETAILS
May 23-June 5	CYCN National Coordinators and Pan-Commonwealth Coordinator Consultation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Leneka Rhoden (Coordinator, CYCN) 2. National Coordinators 	CYCN Pan-Commonwealth Coordinator, Ms. Leneka Rhoden, met with several CYCN National Coordinators across the region, in a one-on-one meeting to discuss their roles and responsibilities, and to solicit updates on matters, to respond to queries and concerns, and provide any additional support so as to ensure that all National Coordinators are on the same level. Overall, the meetings

			were very productive and appreciated. National Coordinators were able to gain clarity on a few important areas related to their duties, especially pertaining to orienting members of their national chapters and executing national projects and activities.
May 16-18, 2021	Report on the current situation of climate sustainability in the Commonwealth ahead of COP26.	Kervelle Baird (CYCN Trinidad and Tobago)	Report planning
May 1, 2021	Flyers for Earth Day webinar; Members International Workers Day	The Digital Committee (CYCN Nigeria)	Members of the Digital Committee were assigned specific tasks/projects to embark upon within a given timeframe.
May 1, 2021	Engagement in intergenerational dialogue with government personnel in Belize	Ruth Gutierrez-Corley (CYCN Belize)	Letter of request was sent to Dr. Kenrick William. Positive response was received and now CYCN Belize is preparing their strategy action plan.
May 5, 2021	Continue planning for introductory meeting	Kervelle Baird (CYCN Trinidad and Tobago)	
May 8, 2021	World Migratory Birds Day	All Network Members (CYCN Nigeria)	Theme: “Sing, Fly, Soar like a Bird.”
May 8, 2021	CA Committee	Kervelle Baird (CYCN Trinidad and Tobago)	
May 11, 2021	Advocate for the establishment of Maya Forest Corridor (MFC) initiative with NGO and research community in Belize	Kelvin Tillet (CYCN Belize)	CYCN shows Belize support for the Maya Forest Corridor (MFC) initiative and requests the Government of Belize to fully endorse and facilitate the establishment of the Corridor Management Plan.

May 12, 2021	Conflict Management	Kervelle Baird (CYCN Trinidad and Tobago)	
May 13, 2021	EID-il-Fitr	All Network Members (CYCN Nigeria)	Theme: “Ramadan Mubaraq”
May 13, 2021	Prepare for Introduction Meeting	Kervelle Baird (CYCN Trinidad and Tobago)	
May 14, 2021	Meeting National Executive Committee and CYCN Kenya Meeting	Maurice Munga Nicholas Omondi Irene Soit Lisper Wawira Wycliffe Adera Melsa (CYCN Kenya)	Members present highlighted the need to have financial resources as a network. Members pin-pointed a number of challenges and way forward with our action plan 2021. Members committed to resource mobilise funds for our activities using the minimal available resources.
May 14, 2021	Joint Youth Task Force for advocacy & mobilisation around WED 2021 & IDB toolkit work	Kervelle Baird (CYCN Trinidad and Tobago)	Pitched RSPO-certified palm oil to be included. Committed to develop thematic focus
May 15, 2021	Introduction meeting	Zoe Andall Kervelle Baird Denyce Baptiste Brandon Bhagwandeem Abigail Dingwall Sterling James Aleema Mohammed Chandelle O’Neil Joshua Prentice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Establish protocols -Revocation Policy -Member Code ● Confirm national plan

		<p>Ambika Sammy</p> <p>Sherell Shoon</p> <p>Alexia Sylvester</p> <p>Giovanni Toussaint</p> <p>(CYCN Trinidad and Tobago)</p>	
May 16, 2021	Executive Meeting	<p>Beana Joseph</p> <p>Jevanic Henry</p> <p>Kimea Chastanet</p> <p>(CYCN St. Lucia)</p>	<p>The members met to discuss the membership and different strategies that can be used to increase our numbers. A suggestion was made to have a physical membership drive and the use of radio stations to give quick details about the organisation.</p> <p>We also discussed activities that we can have to commemorate Environmental Days which are coming up in the month of June.</p> <p>World Environment</p> <p>Day – June 5th – physical drive a OECS Replast collection points to inform persons about the organization and encourage them to become members.</p> <p>World Oceans Day –</p> <p>June 8th – Zoom presentation with a local Secondary School on the importance of the ocean and how we can do our part to end pollution of our oceans.</p>
May 17, 2021	Community Compost Project Planning	<p>Zoe Andall</p> <p>Aleema Mohammed</p>	Develop proposal

		Joshua Prentice (CYCN Trinidad and Tobago)	
May 19, 2021	Youth Climate Fund Application	Kervelle Baird (CYCN Trinidad and Tobago)	Funding for Climate Clock
May 20, 2021	World Bee Day	All Network Members (CYCN Nigeria)	Theme: “Bee-engaged, Build back better for bees.”
May 21, 2021	Endangered Species Day	All Network Members (CYCN Nigeria)	Theme: “Wildlife without Borders”
May 21, 2021			One new member was confirmed but the Membership Chair of the CYCN. (CYCN St. Lucia)
May 22, 2021	Online Activity- International Day for Biological Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raniyah Muhammed • Shama Khan • Faaizah Ali • Suhaymah Shafiq • Britney Kamsoo • Muhammed Khan • Shahista Shafiq (CYCN Fiji)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of CYCN Fiji participated in the online activity set out for International Day for Biological Diversity with messages and photos. • Some members participated in an online event set out by IUCN OCEANIA on Biological Diversity Day.
May 22, 2021	International Day for Biological Diversity	All Network Members (CYCN Nigeria)	Theme: “We are part of the solution #fornature”
May 22, 2021	Clean-up campaign on Dangriga beach	Russel Murray (CYCN Belize)	Clean-up campaigns arranged with Belize Tourism Board (BTB) Youth Arm and the Police Department in Dangriga Town.
May 22, 2021	Establishment of plastic bottle collection sites in Placencia and Dangriga Town.	Monique Vernon (CYCN Belize)	Establishment of bins in the form of marine creatures has encouraged the collection of plastic bottles for recycling purposes.

May 22, 2021	Conventions Workshop	Kervelle Baird (CYCN Trinidad and Tobago)	Research
May 23, 2021	Building awareness of mangrove restoration initiatives in degraded habitat.	Krisjan Young (CYCN Belize)	Mangrove restoration initiatives in degraded sites have been positively received.
May 25, 2021	Professional Development for Sustainable Development	Kervelle Baird (CYCN Trinidad and Tobago)	Scale project to Pan-Commonwealth
May 26, 2021	Engagement in blue economy policy workshop with the blue economy charter in ACP countries.	Ruth Corley and Russel Murray (CYCN Belize)	Participation in blue economy policy workshop hosted by the blue charter of the Commonwealth Secretariat.
May 27, 2021	Garner support for the sargassum bioliquid fertilizer initiative	Youth Partners – Independence Youth Action Movement (CYCN Belize)	Provide guidance and technical support in the development of project proposal for a community-based disaster risk management programme for sargassum.
May 28, 2021	Open dialogue about a potential recycling project for schools in Independence Village	Kevin Sam (CYCN Belize)	Liaise with the principal of Independence High School and Southern Environmental association to garner support and equipment for the establishment of a recycling program for plastic bottles.

SOCIAL MEDIA PROGRESS REPORT

Facebook	3,703 Likes 3,818 Followers
Instagram	446 Followers

Twitter	143 Followers
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UPCOMING FOR JUNE:

CYCN Kenya

- Hosting Webinars / Tweet Chat / Essay Competition during major Environmental events.
- World Environmental Day 5th June 2021
- World Oceans Day 2021 8th June 2021
- World Desertification Day 17th June 2021

CYCN Fiji

- World Environment Day- Saturday 5th June
- World Ocean Day- Tuesday 8th June
- Nature Photography Day- Tuesday 15th June
- World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought- Thursday 17th June

CYCN Nigeria

- Increase membership participation and engagement level by 50% by delegating responsibilities.
- Launch the Campus Ambassador's programme
- Publish our first Research report (on the state of Climate change in Nigeria)
- Release a bi-weekly newsletter to members (mail)
- Deliver at least a training session to the CYCN Nigeria members

CYCN Belize

1. Presentation of the importance of youth action in sustainability and disaster risk management to Independence High School. The purpose of this presentation is to bring awareness of climate change projects and recycling project of plastic bottles in Independence Village.
2. Liaise with government officials and regulatory agencies implementing climate change projects in Belize following the COP26 plans. The purpose of this activity is to seek Government support in involving youths in policy making of climate change-related projects and potential to attain funding to attend COP26.

3. Development of a sargassum bioliquid workshop for a organic agriculture initiative with youths of Independence Youth Action Movement (I-YAM) in Independence Village. Organic practices will be implement using sargassum bioliquid fertilizer and comparing it with chemical fertilizer. Scientific information will be shared with Department of Environment once funding is secure.

4. Developing experimental plots of mangrove and Atlantic Goliath Grouper restoration initiatives at Bom-bom landing, Independence Village with the support of Building Belizean Livelihoods and the Environment (B-BLUE NGO). These two projects along with the sargassum bioliquid fertilizer experimental plots have been pitched at the blue economy workshop as an advocation strategy to garner international community support.

5. Developing a mentoring program for young environmentalist and researchers in climate change related projects. This is a hand-in-hand relationship with members of CYCN Belize and associated youth organizations. Common grounds are established to enhance mentorship program such as passion for environmental conservation and restoration.

CYCN Trinidad and Tobago

1. Execute Community composting project

2. Continue preparation for Report on the current situation of climate sustainability

in the Commonwealth ahead of COP26 and Professional Development for

Sustainable Development

CYCN St. Lucia

- Work on constitution and organisation structure of CYCN St. Lucia
- Reach out to organisations from list to inform them about CYCN (still pending)
- Engage new members
- World Oceans Day Zoom Presentation

APPENDIX:

CYCN FIJI

Activity: The International Day for Biological Diversity on 22nd May, 2021

It is being celebrated under the slogan "We're part of the solution #ForNature"

Name: Raniyah Muhammed (National Coordinator – CYCN Fiji)

Message:

Did you know that we are in our 6th mass extinction of biodiversity? This event also known as Anthropocene extinction and is significantly different from others, as it is happening over a very short period of time and is a direct result of human driven activities. Fiji is included in the Micronesia-Polynesia biodiversity hotspot – considered to be one of the most threatened of earth's 34 biodiversity hotspots. It is home to the third-largest number of threatened endemic species. Extinction is a one way street and we must do everything in our power to protect our biodiversity! We're part of the solution #ForNature



(CYCN Fiji)

Name: Raniyah Muhammed (National Coordinator – CYCN Fiji)

Message:

Mainstreaming biodiversity into education and learning systems should be a main priority for every nation. Taking into account that we are in our 6th mass extinction of biodiversity caused by human driven activities, education brings sustainability to development efforts in shaping new ways, practices and behaviour's that can make biodiversity conservation possible starting from a very young age. We're part of the solution #ForNature



Name: Faizah Ali (Public Relations Officer – CYCN Fiji)

Message:

Our biodiversity is substantially important, not only for us humans but also for the variety of life living on planet Earth, as we all are tremendously dependent on each other for survival. From the air that we breathe in to the food that we consume, all falls back onto the biological diversity hence signifying its utmost gravity. Due to the rise in the damaging activities caused by us humans, our global biodiversity is in crisis now. Reversing changes to the climate will take centuries or perhaps a millennia so we must begin now. Let's give our environment the space and protection it needs. Let's be part of that solution #ForNature



Name: Faazizah Ali (Public Relations Officer – CYCN Fiji)

Message:

Women's full engagement in the conservation and sustenance of biodiversity is essential as we play critical roles. We women are traditionally underrepresented in decision-making related to the acquisition of land resources hence facing out of proportion effects leading to the loss of biological diversity. Women need to be actively participating in such conservational efforts, not only to fully explore our capabilities but also to work towards conservational efforts for our biodiversity.



Name: Suhaymah Shafiq (Secretary – CYCN Fiji)

Message:

Bula! On this International Day of Biodiversity, I urge you all to play your part in conserving the biodiversity. Know about various life forms in nature. Pacific Islanders heavily depend on marine resources. Let's ensure that sustainable seafood choices are made. Do not pollute the ocean. Be part of Organizations that helps protect the ocean. We're part of the solution. Let's make a change. Know about life, hunger and future. Together we can, #ForNature.



Name: Suhaymah Shafiq (Secretary – CYCN Fiji)

Message:

Loss of plant life affects animals and humans. Butterflies and other insects are an important part of the food chain. If they disappeared then the natural interdependence network will collapse. We are in a midst of sixth mass extinction. We are the cause of being wiped out ourselves. Let us all work in conserving the life around us. The solution is in nature. On this International Day of Biodiversity, let's work together in harmony with nature.



Name: Britney Kamsoo (Membership Engagement Officer – CYCN Fiji)

Message:

Biodiversity is love. Biodiversity is life. Without biodiversity there is no you and me. The marvelous work they do for us goes beyond what we do for them. Conserving biodiversity is important and it starts from you. Keep our world colourful, conserve biodiversity. We're part of the solution" #ForNature



Name: Muhammed Khan (Partnership & Sponsorship Officer – CYCN Fiji)

Message:

Biodiversity starts in the distant past and it points toward the future – Frans Lanting

If we pollute the air and water that supports our living, and destroy the biodiversity that allows natural systems to function, no amount of money will save us in the future. Respect nature and protect biodiversity. We're part of the solution #ForNature



Name: Shahista Shafiq (Member – CYCN Fiji)

Message:

Bula! On this International Day for Biodiversity, let us all work together in preserving the biodiversity. Biodiversity is our life. We all have a role to play. Let's work together for nature and for a better future. The solution is in nature and we are part of the solution. Are you?



Name: Shama Khan (Deputy National Coordinator – CYCN Fiji)

Message:

Fiji has a large variety of rich corals and organisms in its marine biodiversity. We're part of the solution #ForNature

#Help Nature #For Nature #Our Future



(CYCN Nigeria)

APPENDIX:

MEDIA FILES (links, images and documents)

- **CYCN WEBINAR Registration LINK: [Click here](#)**
- **CYCN MEMBERSHIP CALL REGISTRATION LINK: [Click here](#)**
- **CYCN NIGERIA STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN [Click here](#)**

- **CYCN Nigeria Database form (Welfare Committee): [Click here](#)**



tycn commonwealth youth climate change network

Eid
MUBARAK

May the LORD protect us to be able to witness
MORE of it on earth in good position
Barka da Sallah!

[cycnofficial](#) nigeria.cycn@gmail.com

tycn commonwealth youth climate change network 21May

Endangered Species Day

"Conservation of any endangered species must begin with stringent effort to protect its natural habitat by the enforcement of rigid legislation against human encroachment into parks and other game sanctuaries."

— DIAN FOSSEY —

[cycnofficial](#) cycncoordinator@gmail.com



WORLD M, BIRD DAY

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tycn commonwealth youth climate change network








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climate change network

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(CYCN Belize)

DATE	ACTIVITY	PICTURES
1 st – 28 th May	Aquarium studies of Atlantic Goliath Grouper to observe behaviour and feeding patterns. This was presented at the Commonwealth Secretariat Blue Charter Policy Workshop.	
22 nd May, 2021	Clean-up campaign in Dangriga beach	
22 nd April, 2021	Establishment of new marine creature, Jewfish (Atlantic Goliath Grouper) in	

	<p>Dangriga Town</p>	
<p>27nd April, 2021</p>	<p>Letter of request to CEO of Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management.</p>	<p>Screen shot of images below:</p>



26th April, 2021

Hon. Orlando Habet
Minister of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management
House of Representatives
Belmopan City
Cayo

Dear Hon. Orlando Habet,

It is with great pleasure to introduce you to Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network (CYCN) and our CYCN chapter in Belize. Our aim is to build the capacity of young people in their endeavours to address climate change and other environmental issues across the world. Our CYCN chapter in Belize has now been activated and seeks for youth inclusion in strengthening the climate change programmes into effective policies that will have a measurable impact on youth well-being.

As the CYCN national coordinator in Belize, our aim is to advocate for youth inclusion in agriculture and mariculture livelihoods in rural areas of our country. No doubt that rural youth are the future of food security, however, with pressure on natural resources and climate change effects, it has become difficult for youth inclusion in the future developments of our green and blue economies. Our approach has been from a grassroots level in the community in different areas in Belize. Now we wish to contribute towards the development of workable solutions at a policy level to overcome the challenges faced by young women and men trying to engage in agriculture/mariculture to earn a living in rural areas. We have innovative ways of creating a future for ourselves from repurposing plastic materials for creating new products to mangrove bee-hiving practices for mangrove restoration and conducting organic agriculture using bioliquid fertilizer made from natural blooms of Sargassum arriving on the Placencia beach.

We hope that you may consider youth involvement in developing climate-smart projects across Belize. We seek your support as work together for a climate-safe future.

Yours in Youth Development,


A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ruth Gutierrez-Corley', is written over a horizontal line.

Ruth Gutierrez-Corley
National Coordinator | BELIZE
Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network (CYCN)

<p>27th May, 2021</p>	<p>CYCN technical guidance for the sargassum bioliquid workshop initiative with youths of Independence Youth Action Movement (I-YAM)</p>	<div data-bbox="917 210 1096 336" style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Project Proposal for Pilot of Sargassum Bioliquid Fertilizer Experimental Project</p> <p>Compiled By: Ruth Gutierrez-Corley</p> <p>Authors: Nazaria Gutierrez, Terrence Cabral, Orlando Flowers, Ryan Tao and Julie Tao</p> <p>Youth Organization (Implementers): Independence Youth Action Movement (I-YAM)</p> <p>Project Partners: Dangriga Rainforest Furniture and Fertilizer and Placencia Village Council</p> <p>Supported By: Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network (CYCN Belize)</p> <p>Project Location: Placencia beach, Placencia Village</p> <p>Process Location: Bom-bom landing, Independence Village</p> <p>Project Period: 3 months (June – September 2021)</p> <p>Project Goal: To encourage youth entrepreneurship in agriculture and innovation in developing a sargassum bioliquid fertilizer product through training of youths residing along the coastal regions of southern Belize. This proposed project will encourage organic backyard gardening as well as diversification of income streams for youths who are displaced from employment due to COVID19 whilst addressing the issue of sargassum blooms on Placencia beach. This project is in partnership with Placencia Village Council to promote organic farming using sargassum bioliquid through the establishment of a community-based disaster risk management program for the collection of sargassum masses settling on Placencia beach.</p> <p>Project Objective:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Train 10 youths in making bioliquid fertilizer from Sargassum. 2. Set up an experimental site with one cover structure and a seedlings nursery 3. Set up a processing, marketing and distribution system to sell or process sargassum bioliquid fertilizer
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11th
May,
2021

CYCN support
in the
establishment
of the Maya
Forest
Corridor
(MFC)
initiative



The Commonwealth Secretariat | Marlborough House | Pall Mall | London SW1Y 5HX | United Kingdom |
Reception: +44 20 7747 6210 | Tel: +442077476214 | cycn@commonwealth.int

11th May 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

The Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network (CYCN) in Belize supports the Maya Forest Corridor (MFC) initiative and requests the Government of Belize to fully endorse and facilitate the establishment of the Corridor Management Plan.


We believe that the MFC aligns with Belize's commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to protect the planet and ensure prosperity by 2030. The MFC provides an opportunity to create jobs, reduce the national debt, and spark economic growth, thus helping Belize make a green structural transformation for a sustained economic recovery, whilst conserving its natural capital.

Specifically, the MFC will bring the following benefits:


- **Conserve the remaining Maya Forest**, serving as the last forest connection holding together the Greater Maya Forest and protecting the critically endangered species and other keystone species in Belize.
- **Return 45,000-80,000 acres of private lands back to the Belizeans** through an inclusive and transparent Trust arrangement that will include land managers, conservation partners, and the Government of Belize.
- **Create over 100 job opportunities** for forest restoration, eco-tourism, forest protection, and management.
- **Benefit local communities** through sustainable livelihoods provided in protected areas management, sustainable tourism, and restoration research initiatives, as well as ensuring long-term natural resource access, drinking-water supply, and food security provision.
- **Provide ecosystem services** such as fire prevention and management, flood control, and watershed and riparian protection along the Belize River.
- **Build capacity** by training and supporting young conservationists and testing innovative conservation and development solutions.
- **Enhance the National economy** through the development of carbon credit projects, collection of outstanding property taxes, eco-tourism development, grant revenue, and foreign direct investment.
- **Position Belize internationally** as leaders in forest conservation, climate change stewards, sustainable development advocates and investors in green economy.

For the sustainable development of Belize, and the benefit of all Belizeans, we urge the Cabinet to support the Maya Forest Corridor (MFC).

Yours sincerely,



Ruth Gutierrez-Corley
National Coordinator | BELIZE
Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network (CYCN)



www.thecommonwealth.org

(CYCN Trinidad and Tobago)

May 19, 2021

Robert Bermudez,
Chairman,
Bermudez Group Limited,
6 Maloney Street,
Mt. Lambert.

Re: Use of Palm Oil in Products

Dear Mr. Bermudez,

Bermudez Group Limited evolved from an inspiration 7225 kilometres away from the home of its founder. Its products have since left the shores of Trinidad, employed over 3000 people in our hemisphere and remained a staple in the diets of four generations. Climate Change rivals this story. It is a global consequence of local actions (and inactions) and threatens lives and livelihoods across geographical and temporal ranges. For these reasons, Bermudez Group Limited should be a leader in sustainability.

Palm Oil is an understandable ingredient in your products. Among other properties, it offers a greater yield at a lower cost of production than other vegetable oils; elongates shelf life by resisting oxidation; and is odourless and colourless so does not alter the look and smell of goods.

However, deforestation occurs in the world's most significant tropical forests for palm oil in Asia, Africa and Latin America which sequester one third of the carbon dioxide released from the combustion of fossil fuels. Carbon dioxide is one of the most potent greenhouse gases responsible for global warming and the consequent melting of glaciers, sea level rise, increased ocean temperatures and acidification. Increased ocean temperatures correspond to the increased frequency and intensity of hurricanes

experienced in our region, cyclones in the Indian Ocean, and typhoons in the Pacific. Along with acidification, increased ocean temperatures destroy coral reefs - a natural line of defence and significant economic resource. Last year's Atlantic hurricane season featured the most named storms in history. Central America suffered subsequent storms within two weeks during the COVID-19 pandemic. This misfortune was mirrored in Mozambique the previous year when two cyclones struck within two months. Moreover, the forests provide habitats for endangered species, are biodiverse and indispensable to the lifestyles of indigenous communities where exploitation, including child labour, has been documented. Nearly half of the world's forests has been anthropogenically cleared or degraded.

It is imperative that Bermudez Group Limited use RSPO-certified palm oil. The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil is a not-for-profit association formed in 2004 to promote the growth and use of sustainable oil palm products through credible global standards and engagement of stakeholders from seven sectors of the palm oil industry - oil palm producers, palm oil processors or traders, consumer goods manufacturers, retailers, banks and investors, environmental or nature conservation NGOs and social or developmental NGOs - to develop and implement global standards for sustainable palm oil. This commitment will enhance corporate social responsibility by enabling sustainable consumption and production.

We further ask that you partner with us to educate young people and communities on the importance of sustainable lifestyles to thwart Climate Change. In the words of Jane Goodall, deforestation is changing our climate, harming people and the natural world. We must, and can, reverse this trend.

Respectfully,

Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network - Trinidad and Tobago

Project Proposal

Professional Development for Sustainable Development

Youth unemployment has been one of the starkest consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Further, building resilience against Climate Change requires filling deficiencies in human resources - for which young people are best equipped.

Professional Development for Sustainable Development aims to enhance education and employment by enlightening young people across the Commonwealth about roles to which they can apply their interests. The event will comprise:

1. A consultation among young people to field questions
2. Interviews with relevant professionals that can be released in July for Youth Skills Day.

Stakeholders include:

Region	Potential Professionals
Africa	Africa Youth Advisory Board on Disaster Risk Reduction
Asia and Pacific	U-INSPIRE Alliance
Caribbean and Americas	Resilience Capital Ventures, LLC
Europe	Sasha Jattansingh, Commonwealth National Climate Finance Adviser

This event will accompany the launch of the report on the current situation of climate sustainability in the Commonwealth ahead of COP26.

In November 2021, the United Kingdom will preside over the highly anticipated 26th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The typically annual meeting was postponed at the beginning of this consequential decade for action owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

July 12, 2021 marks 100 days until COP 26 convenes. Youth Skills Day will be observed on July 15, 2021. This report aims to prepare youth to understand and engage with the negotiations by providing a comprehensive overview of the current situation of climate sustainability in the Commonwealth. The status of the Commonwealth is significant because it includes small and large insular, coastal and landlocked nations and archipelagos comprising a third of the global population. It comprises a majority of SIDS/large ocean states, 1/3 ocean, 45% reefs and 47 countries with coastlines. This means the Commonwealth plays a key role in managing Global Commons. An initial report will be compiled. Consultations with youth will illustrate the effect of climate change on their communities.