



Grenada Land Actors Inc.
PO BOX 1243
Grand Anse
St. George's, Grenada
info@grenadaland.org

Wednesday, August 10, 2022

Mrs. Merina Jessamy
Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Climate Resilience, Environment and Renewable Energy
Botanical Gardens, Tanteen
St George's, Grenada

Re: Meeting Request to Discuss On-going Development in Environmentally Sensitive Areas in Grenada & Status of Draft/Enacted Legislation

Mrs. Jessamy,

We write to request an urgent meeting with our organization and partners (BirdsCaribbean, Coral Cove Group, Friends of the Earth, Gaea Conservation Network, Grenada Dove Conservation Program, Grenada Fund for Conservation, Heritage Research Group Caribbean, Inter Agency Group of Development Organisations, OceanSpirits, SPECTO, Willie Redhead Foundation, Willie Redhead Foundation) to discuss remedies needed to address on-going development impacts in three environmentally sensitive areas (i.e., Mt. Hartman, La Sagesse, and Levera) that are under Judicial Review. This Judicial Review was filed by our organization in April of 2021, and in March of 2022, Judge Glasglow denied the Government of Grenada's motion for dismissal¹. The court case is now on the Court of Appeals docket for September 2022, and given the change in Administration, we have contacted the Office of the Attorney General, requesting a meeting to discuss "if any issues could be resolved without further recourse to litigation" - we are still awaiting a response.

We hope to discuss the need for: 1) expediency on legislation that could provide more protection for these ecosystems (e.g., Environmental Management Act, Natural Resources Management Act, updated Forestry Act, updated Planning and Development Control Regulations, Land Use Act); 2) the need for a cabinet-approved Coastal Zone Management Plan and appointment of a Coastal Director to enforce our 2019 Integrated Coastal Zone Management Act; 3) enforcement of the Museum Act of 2017, which would ensure proper protection and management of archaeological remains in areas of cultural importance; and 4) ratification of the Escazú Agreement (the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean), which Grenada signed in 2019.

Construction activities are ongoing at the three major hotel developments that are currently involved in the Judicial Review case. The allegations of our legal case are that these developments started, and are

¹ <https://www.eccourts.org/grenada-land-actors-inc-v-the-planning-and-development-authority-2/>



continuing, without proper environmental impact assessments (EIAs)^{1,2}, as required by the Physical Planning Act of 2016, and little to no public consultation or oversight. Additionally, while the Six Senses Resort by Range Developments in La Sagesse (which has resulted in extensive destruction of mangroves and wetland areas) is continuing, we are keenly aware that these same developers are planning a second massive development on this same beach, and have been steadily removing vegetation without planning permission (which we understand was sought in June 2022). There is no evidence of an EIA being submitted nor full planning permission granted to this new Range development, based on our visit to the Physical and Planning Development Authority on 15 June 2022 and our exchange with the head of the Authority on 7 July 2022. This highlights that our concerns with the Physical Planning process, outlined in our legal case, continue to remain unresolved.

Given the: 1) slow pace of the Judicial Review, 2) on-going habitat destruction in these three areas, and 3) the grievous implications for Grenada's natural and cultural heritage, we believe that it is necessary to address these issues quickly. Our major concern is that there will not be anything left to protect at these three sites, regardless of the outcome of the court case. We have attached: 1) Annex A - a summary of our on-going concerns with these developments; 2) Annex B - a review of the EIA for the Six Sense Resort; and 3) Annex C - a review of the landscape plans for the Levera Resort; and 4) Annex D - the letter sent to the Attorney General on the 21 July 2022.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we await your timely response.

We await your timely response.

Yours Truly,

W. Valentine Douglas,
President,
Grenada Land Actors Inc.³

CC

BirdsCaribbean (lisa.sorenson@birdscaribbean.org | <https://www.birdscaribbean.org/>)

Coral Cove Group (contact@coralcovegrenada.org | <https://coralcovegrenada.org/>)

Friends of the Earth (<https://www.foei.org/member-groups/grenada/>)

Gaea Conservation Network (info@gaeaconservation.org | <https://www.gaeaconservation.org/>)

Grenada Dove Conservation Programme (mail@islandbiodiversity.org | <https://www.grenadadove.org/>)

Grenada Fund for Conservation (gfcinc1@gmail.com | <https://www.grenadafundforconservation.org/>)

²Gaea Conservation Network. 2021. Six Sense Grenada - Review of Landscape Plans & Environmental Impact Statement.

³The Grenada Land Actors (GLA), though registered as a NGO in January 2021, was initially a platform that served as a network for professionals, CBOs, NGOs, private land users and concerned citizens, who are interested in sustainable land management and governance in Grenada. The platform was created in 2018 under the project "Improving the Quality of Life for Persons Impacted by Inequality in Land Rights", where a number of civil society organizations were consulted on land governance issues. The organization is supported by donations from members and external funding from the International Land Coalition - "a global alliance of civil society and farmers' organizations, United Nations agencies, NGOs and research institutes".



Heritage Research Group Caribbean (hrgc@grenadaarchaeology.com | <https://www.grenadaarchaeology.com/hrgc>)

Inter Agency Group of Development Organisations (iagdognd2013@gmail.com | <https://iagdo.org/>)

Ocean Spirits (kate@oceanspirits.org | <http://www.oceanspirits.org/>)

SPECTO (SPECTO.GRENADA@gmail.com)

Willie Redhead Foundation (twrfoundation14@gmail.com | <https://willieredheadfoundation.org/>)