

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION



INTRODUCTION

The Antigua & Barbuda Environment Foundation (ABEF) will channel new sources of funding to boost local initiatives working to protect and restore nature. Antigua and Barbuda host a treasure trove of biodiversity within their coastal, terrestrial, and marine ecosystems. However, these rich natural assets are gravely threatened by climate change, pollution and development.

ABEF is being founded by friends and family of Antigua & Barbuda following the proven model of place-based philanthropy created by [Conservation Collective \(CC\)](#).

CC is a global network that has launched and supported 20 local environmental foundations. Over £15 million has been raised since 2020 for local nature protection initiatives.

ABEF aims to protect and restore nature in Antigua & Barbuda by raising funds from people and businesses who care passionately about the region. Funds will be distributed in a targeted way, as grants, to local environmental organisations.

A local executive director will identify the best local solutions to the global climate and biodiversity crisis, and propose them to the steering committee for funding.

Projects will be selected by a Steering Committee, a group of actively involved donors. Projects will be screened by technical and scientific experts.

ABEF will give grants to, and work through local partners to strengthen conservation efforts and support sustainable, community-led practices.

The projects supported by ABEF will aim to regenerate natural habitats, help native species thrive, reduce pollution, and build climate resilience.

Activities funded might include research; engaging with farmers, fishers and stakeholders in the tourism sector; raising public awareness of environmental challenges; building capacity for conservation; promoting environmental education; and policy & advocacy work.

ABEF believes economic and environmental progress go hand in hand. It will create neutral alliances of stakeholders, fostering cross-sector and cross-border collaboration.

We are already over halfway to our initial goal of raising \$150,000 in repeat annual commitments from people who care deeply about Antigua & Barbuda's future.

Join us!



Everywhere you look there are brilliant, passionate people working to create positive environmental change. Small amounts of funding, strategically directed, can supercharge this work. I'm so proud of this growing global movement.

BEN GOLDSMITH, FOUNDER, CONSERVATION COLLECTIVE

CONSERVATION COLLECTIVE PHILOSOPHY

There are lots of groups working tirelessly to protect the wild places they love in Antigua & Barbuda from the impacts of climate change and the biodiversity crisis.

Environmental philanthropy faces two key challenges: persuading people to direct money to the biggest issue of our time and getting that money to the most effective environmental initiatives. Conservation Collective has a proven and winning formula for both.

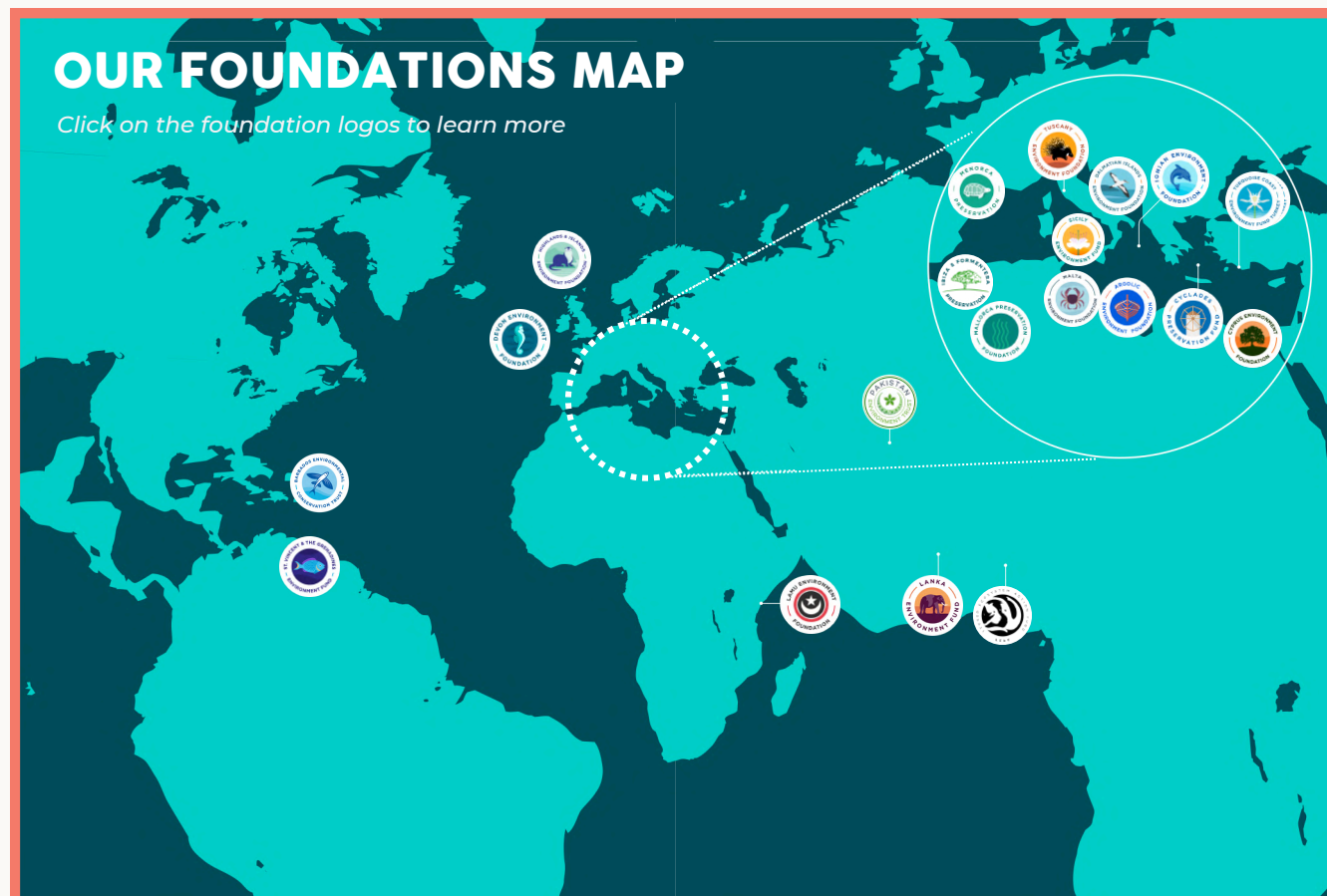
So how do we help?

We launch, fund and grow local environmental Foundations to support the best and most effective grassroots projects. Often those most affected by environmental problems are those best positioned to solve them.

By building clubs of donors linked to places they care about passionately, we open new channels of funding for nature restoration. We believe that people are instinctively 'place-based' and that when it comes to conservation and philanthropy, we are all more likely to protect the places we love.

Our growing ecosystem of Foundations has already raised millions of dollars for impactful initiatives, and we are only just getting started...

The power of Conservation Collective lies in our ability to replicate our model in new locations, raise funding effectively and efficiently, and share knowledge and expertise across the network. As a global ecosystem, we pride ourselves on removing barriers, empowering communities and getting things done.



2020-2023

AT A GLANCE



FUNDS RAISED

£12,148,719*



FOUNDATIONS

20



FOUNDATION AVG SIZE

£199,837



COUNTRIES

12



PROJECTS

505

*Funds raised estimated over £15,000,000 as at Aug 2024.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

**Click on the underlined text to learn more.*

Antigua and Barbuda, in the eastern Caribbean's Lesser Antilles, comprises three main islands: Antigua, Barbuda, and the uninhabited sanctuary of Redonda, plus 50 smaller islands, some with unique species that exist nowhere else on this planet. Antigua, the largest island, features rolling hills and a flat coastal plain, while Barbuda is mostly flat with a few low hills. This twin-island nation is surrounded by 240 km² of coral reefs, and mangroves cover 10.4%* of the total land area (3% in Antigua and 23% in Barbuda).

Antigua and Barbuda, and its islets, host an array of species from the endemic Antiguan racer (once the rarest snake in the world) to the endemic redonda ground lizard, redonda pygmy gecko, and the redonda tree lizard. Other precious wildlife includes globally significant numbers of brown boobies, as well as caribbean endemic brown pelican, the west indian whistling duck, hawksbill, green, leatherback and loggerhead sea turtles and critically endangered coral species.

THREATS & CHALLENGES

Antigua and Barbuda's environment faces numerous threats, with biodiversity loss driven by habitat destruction, invasive species, and climate change. In the last 16 years, nearly nearly 20 invasive species, like the african giant land snail and agave snout weevil, have disrupted ecosystems, along with rats, mongoose, and a deadly palm disease.

Antigua and Barbuda are increasingly vulnerable to natural disasters, especially hurricanes and rising temperatures.

Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017 caused US\$ 136.1 million in damage. Over 40 years, coral reefs have declined due to 30°C sea temperatures and bleaching, endangering marine life vital for fisheries and tourism.

Antigua has been a service-based economy for the past decades, with agriculture and fisheries consistently contributing to less than 5% GDP relying heavily on imported food. In 2022, the travel and tourism sector contributed over 90% of Antigua and Barbuda's GDP the highest percentage in the Caribbean. However, this advancing economy is becoming a threat for the very ecosystems which allow these economic activities to prosper.

Coastal development has severely affected critical habitats in Antigua and Barbuda.

Construction, sand mining, and pollution have disrupted sea turtle nesting sites, while luxury residences and a golf course were built in Codrington Lagoon National Park, a wetland of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention and a Frigate Bird Sanctuary.

Barbuda's forests were cleared for an international airport without proper planning permission, an environmental impact assessment, and consulting residents.

The islands face a mounting waste crisis, with 102,453 tonnes of waste created in 2019. Households contribute over half of the waste, followed by commercial and tourism sectors. Ineffective recycling and collection systems have led to illegal dumping, causing toxic leachate to contaminate soil and freshwater sources.

Antigua and Barbuda ranks as one of the most water-stressed countries in the Caribbean (total renewable water resources per capita at 566.3 m³/year) (FAO defines countries as water-scarce with less than 1,000 m³ per capita). The high demand for water strains limited resources and threatens biodiversity, relying on energy-intensive desalination and rainwater harvesting.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

At the frontline are conservation organisations such as the Environmental Awareness Group, the Elkhorn Marine Conservancy, and the National Parks Authority who have been implementing scientific conservation measures to improve habitats for species and people. These, and other, vital local agencies conduct research, involve communities in citizen science, and implement education and awareness campaigns. They engage with the government and private sector to ensure that this work is not lost due to unsustainable development.

PROTECTED AREAS

Antigua and Barbuda has four protected areas including the North East Marine Management Area, the Nelson Dockyard National Park, the Redonda Ecosystem Reserve (RER), and the Codrington Lagoon. The North East Marine Management Area and the Redonda Ecosystem Reserve were designated through a consultative process spearheaded by the Environmental Awareness Group as the national NGO, with strong and consistent support from the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, and international partners including Fauna & Flora and Re:wild. Both of these protected areas were considered because of their unique environmental features and being home to critically endangered endemic species that can be found nowhere else in the world.

The Nelsons Dockyard National Park was designated as a protected area through an act of Parliament and is a statutory body and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A world-renowned site for yachting and regattas, often welcoming super-yachts, the National Parks Authority manages the area through the fees collected from yachting to maintain the built environment and has also recently started improving the natural heritage of the area. This has led to the first coral nursery established in Galleon Harbour, and conservation efforts for sea turtles and birds have begun in collaboration with the Environmental Awareness Group.



Land development on Codrington Lagoon National Park, Barbuda, is home to the largest magnificent frigate bird nesting site
PC: Global Legal Action Network website.

LAUNCHING THE FOUNDATION

New CC Foundations follow a series of steps along a journey. ABEF's progress has been illustrated below.

The Foundation will be based on CC's best practice toolkit. CC sets up about two new foundations annually, offering 30,000 (local currency) in seed funding, donor introductions, financial management, and facilitating UK taxpayer donations.



CC SUPPORT SYSTEM

Conservation Collective equips member foundations to bring about more and more effective environmental philanthropy.

A core team of ten based in the UK strengthens the ecosystem of Foundations, ensuring high governance standards and sharing best practices. Foundations have access to a tools and resources library, templates, and guidelines across the following areas:



SUPPORTING LOCAL ACTION

What will ABEF focus on?

Guided by local insights and a regional scoping report, the Antigua & Barbuda Environment Foundation (ABEF) aims to drive conservation by supporting organizations, opening new funding channels, and aligning with national and international priorities. Partnering with NGOs, community groups, universities, government, and private sectors, ABEF will build a network to protect and restore the environment. ABEF will fund innovative, locally-driven projects tailored to regional needs, assisting with grant writing as needed. Conservation efforts reflect the communities' social and cultural diversity, promoting inclusivity and equity. Projects generate practical knowledge, guide decision-making, and inspire lasting change. CC Foundations work through communities - empowering local changemakers to drive change in their backyards.

Civil Society

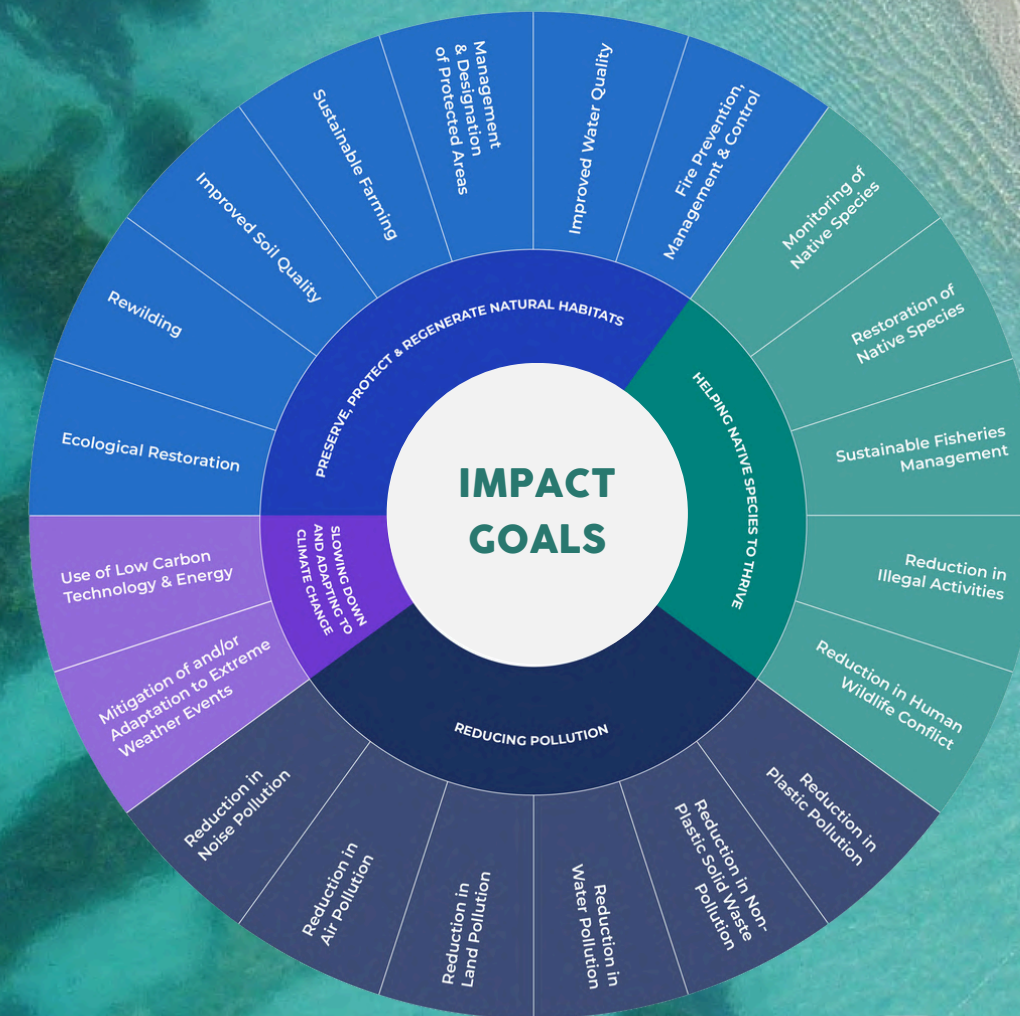
The Environmental Awareness Group (EAG), Antigua and Barbuda's longest-standing environmental NGO, co-manages the Redonda Ecosystem Reserve, and has unofficially co-managed parts of the North East Marine Management Area since 2005. In Barbuda, the young NGO BarbudanGO has partnered with the EAG to conserve the Barbuda Warbler and its habitat.

Over the past decade, a number of new environmental NGOs and community-based organisations have emerged, many trained through the Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Programme. These community-based organisations focus on turtle and coral projects, community gardens, seed banks, well restoration, and climate-smart agriculture, often emphasising the nature-people connection.

These grassroots groups are dedicated to community-building and nature conservation, though they often need technical expertise and capacity development. Many involved are passionate individuals working as activists within their communities.

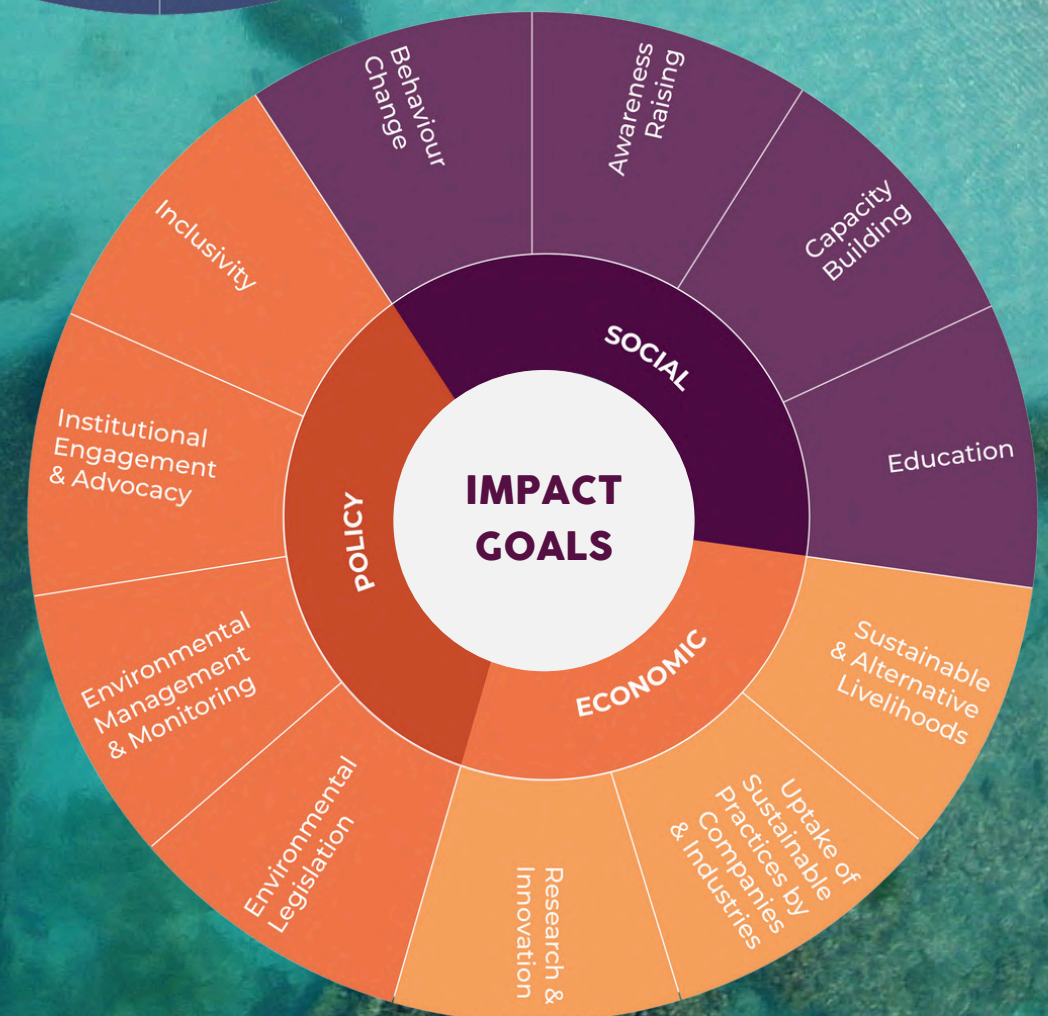
Conservation Collective's Impact Measurement Framework

CC and its members have developed a unified data-collection tool to track progress across four impact goals: Restoring Natural Habitats, Protecting Native Species, Reducing Pollution, and Building Climate Resilience. These outcomes and their indicators provide a valuable framework for ABEF, its grantees, and Conservation Collective to measure and demonstrate impact on the ground, share learnings, and report to donors. This, in turn, helps build momentum and escalate support for environmental and climate solutions. See details overleaf.



2

SOCIAL ECONOMIC & POLICY OUTCOMES



GET INVOLVED!

- **Drive change** at the grassroots with fellow people who care passionately about Antigua & Barbuda
- **Learn and engage** with local conservation experts.
- Become part of a **global movement**.

You can support as an annual private donor, a steering committee member (min \$10,000 per year) or a business partner. You could also spread the word, help raise our profile through introductions or hosting events.

To discuss - please contact:

Jade Brudenell

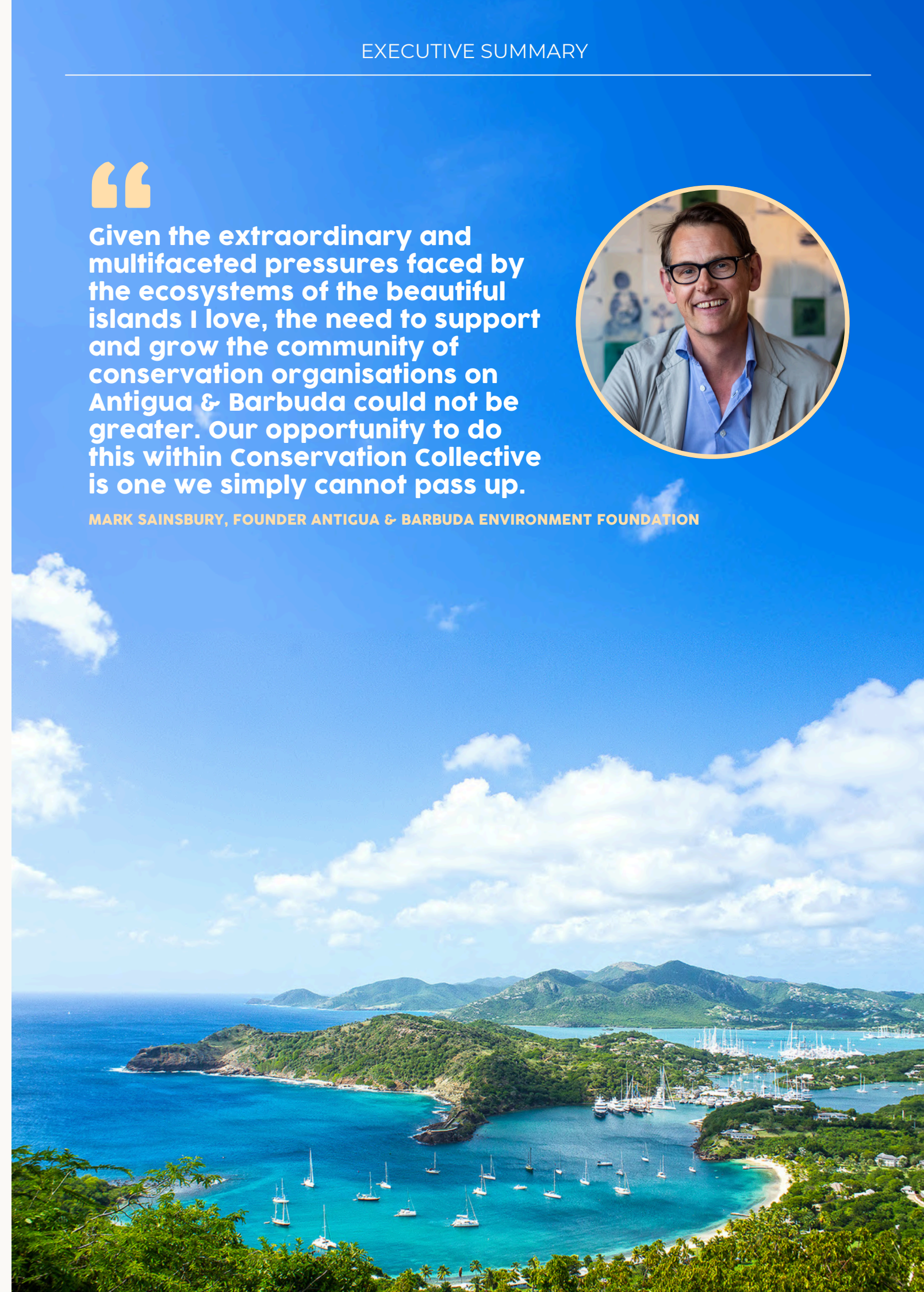
Executive Director, Conservation Collective
jade@conservation-collective.org.

*Thank you to all who contributed to this report:
Melissa Johnson, Arica Hill, and Karim Hechme.*



Given the extraordinary and multifaceted pressures faced by the ecosystems of the beautiful islands I love, the need to support and grow the community of conservation organisations on Antigua & Barbuda could not be greater. Our opportunity to do this within Conservation Collective is one we simply cannot pass up.

MARK SAINSBURY, FOUNDER ANTIGUA & BARBUDA ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION





Protect and restore
the wild places we know and love

