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Press Release

Government of Grenada Provides Update on Major Environmental Initiatives: Project Pristine, Marine Cleanup, and Climate Resilience Efforts

Nov. 4, 2024 – St. George’s, Grenada — The Government of Grenada has reiterated its commitment to sustainable development, environmental resilience, and restoration of the nation’s natural landscapes and marine ecosystems.

It came during a recent press conference, spearheaded by the Ministry of Climate Resilience, the Environment, and Renewable Energy, which provided a comprehensive update on its ongoing environmental initiatives, including Project Pristine cleanup efforts in Carriacou and Petite Martinique, as well as an extensive marine clean up operation.

They are as follows:

Marine Cleanup in Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

To address the environmental impact of Hurricane Beryl, the Ministry contracted IAL of Trinidad and Tobago to execute a large-scale marine cleanup in Carriacou and Petite Martinique. The project focused on the salvage and removal of vessels that were damaged or sank because of the hurricane, ensuring the safety and access to key marine areas.

Key milestones include:

- **Start of Operations:** IAL began the cleanup on September 22, 2024, following dive assessments conducted on September 21.
- **Completion of Phase One:** As of October 10, 2024, IAL successfully removed 34 vessels, including 32 from the ecologically sensitive Oyster Bed area.
- **Project Costs:** Phase one of the cleanup costs more than EC\$1.2 million, with more than EC\$900,000 already processed.

The government has underlined the significance of these initiatives for local economies, environmental health, and public safety, while also recognising the necessity for ongoing stakeholder engagement to mitigate future hazards.

Project Pristine: Restoration of Carriacou and Petite Martinique

Launched on August 7, 2024, Project Pristine aims to restore the landscape of Carriacou and Petite Martinique, which were heavily impacted by Hurricane Beryl. The project has provided much-needed jobs for residents, and involved seven local contractors in a zoned cleanup approach. This initiative underscores the government's dedication to community resilience, public health, and environmental stewardship.

Project Pristine's core objectives include:

- Comprehensive debris removal across all communities
- Environmental education for waste management and disease prevention
- Supporting affected families and rebuilding community spirit

To date, over EC\$10 million has been invested in the project, covering operational costs, equipment procurement, and cleanup activities. Cadwell Inc., a partner from Florida, has been instrumental in waste management and recycling efforts, with equipment arriving in early November for continued work.

Other Major Initiatives

The Ministry also highlighted the successful Sargassum Conference, which took place on October 1-2 and saw over 375 people explore regional solutions to the influx of sargassum. The conference established Grenada as a leader in environmental resilience, with the Sargassum Secretariat located in Grenada to coordinate research and sustainable management throughout the Caribbean.

Next Steps

The government also outlined the future phases of both the marine cleanup and Project Pristine, which include expanded efforts in Petite Martinique, additional marine areas in Grenada, and a post-cleanup environmental impact assessment. The Ministry reaffirmed its commitment to maintaining Grenada's ecological health through long-term monitoring, local stakeholder engagement, and continued investment in climate resilience.