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The Year 2000 in Review and the Challenges Ahead...

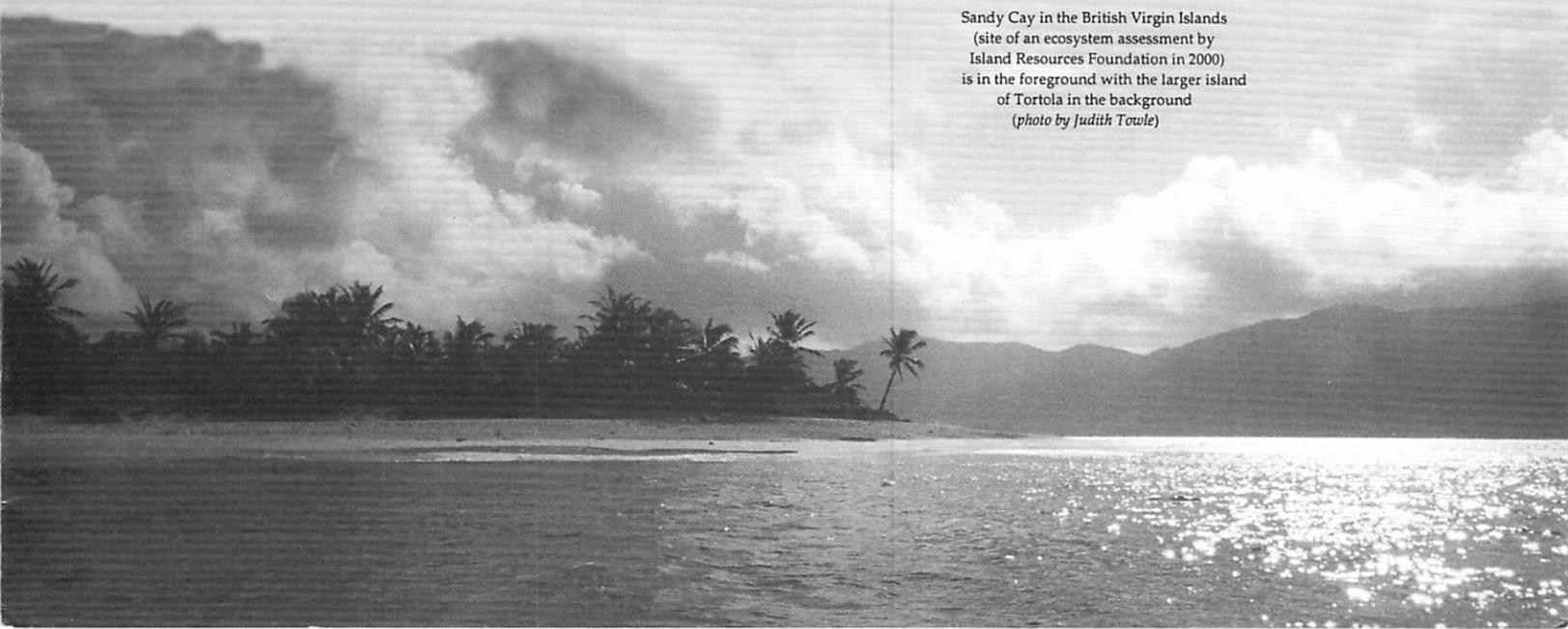
With the dawn of a new century, the insular Caribbean—ISLAND RESOURCES FOUNDATION'S primary geographic focus for almost three decades—is confronting new globalization uncertainties and complex, yet interrelated, economic and social problems that challenge the region as never before.

- ✓ According to a recent issue of *The Economist*, traditional "sun, sand and sea" tourism in the Caribbean is steadily losing market share to other low-cost global destinations with similar attractions.
- ✓ Amid assertions of small-nation sovereignty, Caribbean islands fear that international tightening of offshore banking regulations will destroy their prospering financial service sector. Replacing revenues from that sector with tourism would require massive increases in the number of visitor days, with probable negative effects on island societies and their natural environments.
- ✓ Access to traditionally protected European markets is being eroded by globalization and the World Trade Organization.
- ✓ The underground "narco-economy" threatens political, social, and economic stability. According to Foundation Program Associates Dr. Jerome McElroy and the late Dr. Klaus de Albuquerque, roughly a third of all cocaine and heroin consumed in the United States passes through the Caribbean island chain.
- ✓ Insular vulnerability and dependency are reflected in the prolonged and multiple economic effects of hurricanes that have afflicted the region since 1989.

Buffeted by external forces and facing an increasingly competitive global market, the islands of the Caribbean struggle to achieve social stability and economic growth while having to make ever more critical choices about the use and development of a limited natural resource base.

Since 1972, the central mission of ISLAND RESOURCES FOUNDATION has been to assist small island states, especially those in the Caribbean, to meet the challenges of social, economic and institutional growth while protecting and enhancing the environment. In the year 2000, the Foundation added to its already considerable body of island-specific development assistance programs that recognize the uniqueness of island conditions, the vulnerabilities of island environments, and the special qualities of island life. This report highlights some of our more recent work.

Sandy Cay in the British Virgin Islands
(site of an ecosystem assessment by
Island Resources Foundation in 2000)
is in the foreground with the larger island
of Tortola in the background
(photo by Judith Towle)

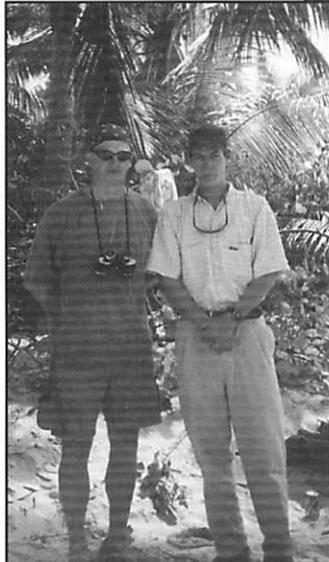




(Sandy Cay photos by Judith Towle)



(upper left) Sandy Cay researchers come ashore by boat for an island reconnaissance trip in February 2000.



(above) Pictured are (left) William S. Moody of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and Joseph Smith-Abbott, director of the British Virgin Islands National Parks Trust (Feb., 2000). Mr. Moody visited Sandy Cay on behalf of the island's owner, Laurance S. Rockefeller.

(left) Jean-Pierre Bacle and Wolfram Dressler, key members of Island Resources Foundation's research team for the Sandy Cay ecosystem assessment.

SANDY CAY, BVI. Island Resources Foundation moved to the British Virgin Islands in 1999. Its first major project in the Territory since then has been a special evaluation of one of the BVI's most unique small islands, Sandy Cay. On behalf of the island's owner and longtime Foundation benefactor, Laurance S. Rockefeller, Foundation investigators have been looking at Sandy Cay's environment and its natural carrying capacity in the face of increasing touristic use. This management planning effort is being carried out in collaboration with the BVI National Parks Trust and the H. Lavity Stoutt Community College.

Although Sandy Cay has no structures or built attractions, no brochure or signs of any kind, charges no fees, and displays no visible management structure, it has for three decades functioned very much like a small park open to visitors who arrive by boat with no reservations. For 30 years, Sandy Cay has been maintained as a combination botanic garden, nature reserve, and low-key recreational facility.

Concerned about escalating user pressures, particularly in the absence of an updated management strategy, the island's owner asked Island Resources to develop an environmental profile of the Sandy Cay ecosystem, to be followed by a working resource management plan for the island. The ecosystem characterization was completed at the end of 2000, and the new management plan will be ready in early 2001. Dr. Edward Towle serves as team leader for the project.

VI FLOOD HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN. In mid-May of 2000, Island Resources Foundation was asked by the Virgin Islands Emergency Management Agency (VITEMA) to prepare a new Territorial Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan. Our deadline: to deliver the Plan by the end of July! Under the leadership of Foundation president Bruce Potter, assisted by a team of consultants including Dr. David Brower and Anna Schwab of the University of North Carolina and Werner Wernicke of the USVI, and with extensive use of the Internet to coordinate input from a large local advisory group, the task was completed on schedule.

That working group is now an open membership list for people interested in VI flood mitigation and watershed planning issues. To join the group, see page 4 of this report for subscribing instructions to the Virgin Islands Watershed and Flood Hazard Mitigation discussion list.

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT OUTLOOK (GEO-3). Island Resources Foundation is working with the Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to produce the Caribbean element of the third *Global Environment Outlook (GEO-3)* report. As GEO Collaborating Centers, CCA and Island Resources join 44 other centers worldwide in a long-term UNEP strategy to institutionalize large-scale (regional and sub-regional) environ-

mental assessment and reporting. Bruce Potter attended the first GEO-3 production meeting at the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok, Thailand in April, as well as the Expert Consultation for Latin America and the Caribbean on the GEO-3 Outlook, held in November in Santiago, Chile. A limited number of copies of the *Caribbean Environment Outlook-2000* report, published in 1999, can be obtained from the Foundation's Washington, DC office or from Mr. Kaveh Zahedi at UNEP's Regional Office in Mexico City; e-mail: kzahedi@rolac.unep.mx. Funding for *Caribbean Environment Outlook-3* will be a major priority for the Foundation in the year 2001.

SMALL ISLAND ISSUES. Small island issues took center stage at two meetings in 2000, one regional and one global, both attended by Island Resources Foundation's president. In October the "Islands VI" conference, sponsored by the International Small Islands Studies Association (ISISA), was held on the Isle of Skye, Scotland. The 5-day conference brought together academicians and practitioners from island areas throughout the world for discussions on the theme "Small Islands in the Third Millennium: Sharing Solutions to Common Problems". In October, the World Bank convened a consultation in Costa Rica of representatives from the insular Caribbean to review the Bank's Environmental Strategy for Latin America and the Caribbean and its implications for the Caribbean sub-region. Following the Costa Rica meeting, and based on the Foundation's nearly three decades of experience, Bruce Potter provided comments to the Bank on specific issues related to the insular Caribbean and the Bank's environmental framework. If you would like a copy of his comments, write bpotter@irf.org or contact the Foundation's Washington, DC office.

In Appreciation —

At its annual meeting in Road Town, Tortola in September, the Board of Trustees of Island Resources Foundation made special note of several individuals and institutions that have made significant contributions to the Foundation during the last two years. In so doing, the Board was acknowledging the visionary, often innovative assistance and partnership by others on behalf of the Foundation. The following merit special mention.

- ◆ **H. LAVITY STOUTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
for providing a new home for the Foundation and its environmental library in the BVI
- ◆ **ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS GROUP**
for helping us to maintain our Antigua office while Kevel Lindsay is on study leave
- ◆ **BOARD MEMBER CHARLES CONSOLSO**
for *pro bono* legal assistance for more than 20 years
- ◆ **BOARD MEMBER DR. HENRY JARECKI**
for a special contribution for equipment at the BVI Environmental Information Center
- ◆ **FOUNDER EDWARD TOWLE**
for volunteer services to IRF since his retirement as president in 1998
- ◆ **PRESIDENT BRUCE POTTER**
for donation of a portion of his annual salary since 1994
- ◆ **HOLLIS W. PETERSEN**
for donation of property at Fish Bay, St. John, USVI
- ◆ **DR. WALTER H. HODGE**
for donation of his extensive photographic collection and other historical materials of the Lesser Antilles (especially Dominica) dating from 1937-1940 (in the years prior to WW II, Dr. Hodge carried out extended botanical research in the Caribbean, focusing on the island of Dominica)
- ◆ **DR. LEE MACDONALD, COLORADO STATE U.**
and his talented graduate students for their contributions to long-term erosion control studies in St. John, USVI



Dr. Walter Hodge in Dominica in 1938, adding specimens to his plant press

Updates —

Congratulations to **CORALINA**, environmental management agency in the San Andrés Archipelago and a collaborating institution with Island Resources Foundation and the Center for Marine Conservation. In May, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) approved a \$1 million grant to support a system of marine protected areas in the Archipelago. Then, in November, UNESCO officially declared the Archipelago "the Seaflower Biosphere Reserve", the newest member of a Worldwide Network of Biosphere Reserves.

Congratulations also to **DAVID ROBINSON**, recently retired director of the Nevis Historical and Conservation Society and recipient of the 2000 **EUAN P. MC FARLANE ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AWARD**. Since 1988, this \$1,000 cash prize has been presented annually by Island Resources to individuals who demonstrate conservation leadership in the Caribbean.

KEVEL LINDSAY, coordinator of the Foundation's Biodiversity Conservation Program, reports from New York City where he has been on study leave at Columbia University since 1998. Kevel is pursuing a degree at Columbia's Center for Environmental Research and Conservation. He writes that while he

continues to wage battles against the likes of chemistry, calculus and statistics, there have also been moments of "absolute bliss" in New York, where he spends hours at the American Museum of Natural History pouring over its specimens of invertebrates. He hopes to complete his course work by the end of 2001 and return home to Antigua, where new "battles" and challenges await him.

Appreciation to Mr. **CEPHAS MININGOU**, from Burkina-Faso, West Africa, a summer intern at the Foundation's BVI office. Cephas is a graduate student in Third World Development at the University of Iowa. His tenure with the Foundation was shared with the BVI Town and Country Planning Department, with whom we have cooperated on student internships in the past. Cephas was the Foundation's 45th intern, and our first from Africa.

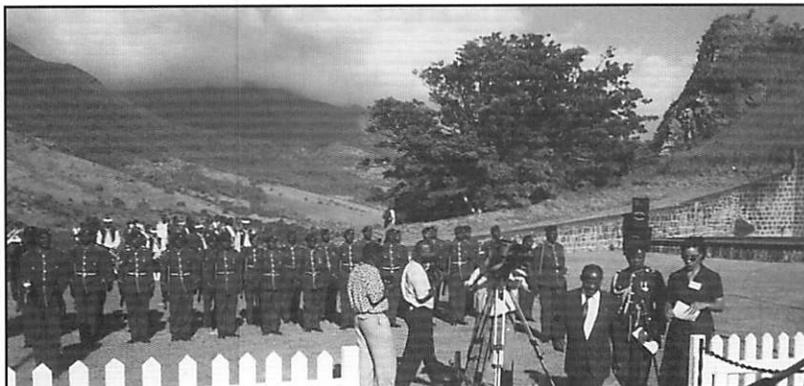


Cephas Miningou, graduate student intern in the BVI

Prime Minister Denzil Douglas of St. Kitts and Nevis approaches the speaker's platform at ceremonies in October recognizing the Brimstone Hill Fortification in St. Kitts as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Attending the ceremonies were Judith and Edward Towle of Island Resources Foundation and Michael Dively, founder of the Mukti Fund. For over a decade, Island Resources and the Mukti Fund have collaborated in support of conservation programs in the dual-island nation of St. Kitts and Nevis.

Ed Towle's ties to Brimstone Hill date back more than 30 years when he first became an early champion of restoration efforts at the fortification and was instrumental in securing the first major external grant (from the Caribbean Conservation Association) for refurbishment of the Prince of Wales Bastion. Dr. Towle acknowledged at the time of the UNESCO inscription ceremonies his pleasure at having been a witness, albeit from a distance, to the development of the site as a cultural landmark, a national park, and now an international heritage site.

(photo by Ed Towle)



**Nine of the Caribbean Environmental E-Mail Lists supported by Island Resources Foundation.
For more information on this service, contact Bruce Potter at bpotter@irf.org.**

NAME OF LIST	DESCRIPTION OF LIST	HOW TO SUBSCRIBE TO LIST
Caribbean Biodiversity Conservation	This list provides a forum for the exchange of Caribbean biodiversity information.	To subscribe, send a blank email to caribbean-biodiversity-subscribe@groups.com
Caribbean GIS Users	This list is of interest to regional users and implementers of geographic information systems and remote sensing applications.	To subscribe, send a blank email to carib-gis-users-subscribe@groups.com
Caribbean Territories	This list promotes communication and information exchange among the non-sovereign small islands in the Caribbean.	To subscribe, send a blank email to carib-territories-subscribe@groups.com
Environmental Working Group, Forum of Organizations of Civil Society for the Wider Caribbean	This is a bilingual (English and Spanish) list for environmental NGOs throughout the Caribbean. It grew out of a group of NGOs seeking involvement in the policy deliberations of the Association of Caribbean States.	To subscribe, send a blank email to carib-ngo-forum-subscribe@groups.com
IRF Members News	This list provides Foundation Members and Program Associates with current news and opinion about environmental issues in the world of small islands.	Become a member and send a blank email to irf-member-news-subscribe@groups.com
San Andres Research	This list supports research focusing on the San Andres Archipelago (Colombia). It is supported by the Foundation as a service for CORALINA, the government agency in the Archipelago concerned with environmental protection.	To subscribe, send a blank email to san-andres-research-subscribe@groups.com
Sustainable Tourism for the Caribbean	This list is supported by public/private sector organizations and representatives of scientific/conservation communities who promote Caribbean sustainable tourism.	To subscribe, send a blank email to sustainable-tourism-subscribe@groups.com
VI Resource Management Cooperative (VIRMC)	The list supports the work of VIRMC, a collaboration of resource management institutions in the US/British Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, first established in 1982.	To subscribe, send a blank email to virmc-subscribe@groups.com
VI Watershed and Flood Hazard Mitigation Group	This list grew out of the IRF-initiated Flood Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee and comprises persons concerned about flooding in the US Virgin Islands.	To subscribe, send a blank email to VI-Flood-Watershed-subscribe@groups.com

The Foundation supports a total of 20 e-mail groups for itself and other environmental groups in the Caribbean. Collectively, these e-mail lists reflect the Foundation's traditional bias toward the insular Caribbean, the NGO community, English-speaking areas, and issues related to biodiversity, coastal ecosystems, parks and protected areas, environmental policy and information management. The over 1,500 subscribers are largely scientists, researchers, naturalists, resource planners and managers, students, and others who have an interest in Caribbean/small-island environmental issues.

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VISIT OUR WEB SITE

www.irf.org

... and you will find:

- A listing of the 80+ Program Associates formally affiliated with the Foundation, with resumes of many.
- Index and abstracts of the 1,400 island-specific publications comprising the *Island Systems Environmental Information Collection* donated by the Foundation to the H. Lavity Stoutt Community College and currently housed at the shared Foundation/College facility in Road Town, Tortola, BVI.
- Matrix of *endangered bird species* in the insular Caribbean, with detailed descriptions, based on Birdlife International's "Important Bird Areas".
- Two extensive publications on the coastal impacts of tourism.
- Extended bibliography of resources in insular coastal area management.

"environmental planning for island development"

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ADDITIONAL DONATIONS WILL HELP US MAINTAIN ONGOING PROGRAMS:

- ✓ environmental planning and impact assessment
- ✓ coastal and marine resource development
- ✓ biodiversity conservation
- ✓ environmental information management
- ✓ NGO institutional development

All contributions are tax deductible under U.S. Internal Revenue guidelines.

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