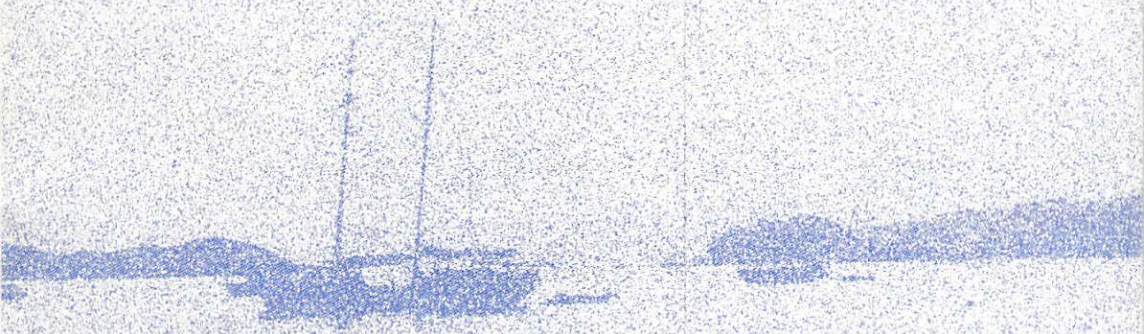
island resources

25TH ANNIVERSARY

FOUNDATION



environmental planning for island development

For Members, Donors, Supporters, Colleagues and Friends of Island Resources Foundation

Thank you for your support that has enabled the Foundation to carry out its mission for over 25 years.

ISLAND RESOURCES FOUNDATION was founded in the Caribbean in the early 1970s, dedicated to assisting small island states, especially those in tropical areas, to protect and enhance their environments and to pursue development options that preserve the special qualities of island life. The FOUNDATION was one of the earliest institutions worldwide to recognize that a failure to understand the differences between insular and continental systems has unanticipated and too often undesirable consequences for islanders. For 25 years the FOUNDATION'S body of work has addressed those differences, and has assisted in the emergence of the island-specific environmental guidelines, practices, and institutions that are required for the sustainable development of island states and territories.

Our approach has been uniquely our own, emphasizing —

- *the application of sound science to environmental problem solving and development planning*
- *skills building for islanders and collaborative capacity building for island institutions*
- *strengthening information resources and enhancing information availability for informed decision-making*
- *educating international agencies and donor institutions about the uniqueness of islands and the importance of drawing upon islanders and insular experiences in addressing development issues and devising conservation practices.*

As the FOUNDATION looks to the future, it will continue its island-focused mission, adjusting that focus when required to help fashion improved tools for a new generation of islanders meeting the challenges and opportunities of the twenty-first century. Our programmatic concentration will emphasize biodiversity conservation, environmental information management, and coastal area planning for islands, but within this framework we, and our island partners, must find ways to effectively apply the principles of adaptive environmental assessment to the tidal wave of new technologies that island communities now confront at every turn. The anxious poetic metaphor of Edna St. Vincent Millay comes to mind: *"A tidal wave devours the shore, / There are no islands anymore."*

As someone who knows ISLAND RESOURCES FOUNDATION, you can share our pride in the accomplishments of the last quarter century, only a few of which are highlighted in this retrospective. We invite you to join the FOUNDATION as it continues to pursue an agenda of environmental planning for island development.

Sincerely,

Edward L. Towle

Edward L. Towle
President

island resources
FOUNDATION

1972 — 1997

ISLAND RESOURCES FOUNDATION is a 25-year-old development assistance organization with a special interest in protecting and enhancing the environments of small islands, especially those in tropical areas.

ISLAND RESOURCES FOUNDATION is a non-endowed, non-profit, operating foundation that is also tax exempt in the United States.

ISLAND RESOURCES FOUNDATION is an interdisciplinary organization whose programs emphasize problem solving, technical skills building, institution strengthening and insular-focused research.

ISLAND RESOURCES FOUNDATION is a service organization that provides technical and professional planning assistance on contract or with donor support.

ISLAND RESOURCES FOUNDATION is a major contributor to global initiatives designed to enhance the development options of small islands.

ISLAND RESOURCES FOUNDATION funds its activities primarily through a combination of grants, contracts, collaborative partnerships, and membership support.

ISLAND RESOURCES FOUNDATION also undertakes resource planning and environmental impact assessment work, often as a joint venture with public and private sector institutions.

ISLAND RESOURCES FOUNDATION's principal experience has been in the wider Caribbean region and has focused on three primary program areas:

(1) *environmental planning and impact assessment, emphasizing coastal and marine resource development;*

(2) *conservation, resource protection, and biodiversity; and*

(3) *institutional development, public policy and environmental information management.*

MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS, DONORS AND CLIENTS

American Airlines
American Conservation Association
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Archbold Charitable Trust
Canadian International Development Agency
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Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
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Swedish Development Agency
The Nature Conservancy
United Nations Development Program
United Nations Environment Program
US Agency for International Development
US Department of Education
US Environmental Protection Agency
US Forest Service
US Man and the Biosphere Program
US National Marine Fisheries Service
US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
US National Park Service
Victoria International
World Wildlife Fund

island resources
FOUNDATION

A 25 YEAR ASSISTAN

1972 — 1975

1976 — 1978

environmental planning and impact assessment

Publication of first environmental guidelines for insular planning (published as *"Ecological Guidelines For Island Development"* by IUCN, 1974)

Commissioned by British Virgin Islands Government for environmental survey of the BVI, with guidelines for future development options in the Territory

Conducted the first regional review of development impacts and planning needs in eight Caribbean islands (sponsored by the United Nations Development Program)

Prepared comprehensive marine resource assessment and coastal classification system for the U.S. Virgin Islands

Developed planning guidelines for the Virgin Islands Coastal Zone Management Program, the first in the eastern Caribbean

Among the earliest advocates for specialized environmental impact assessment procedures for Caribbean islands

Turtle taggin

conservation and resource protection

Launched 3-month environmental survey of the Caribbean basin to study flora and fauna of isolated and little researched islands and cays

Annual turtle tagging expeditions to Aves, the eastern Caribbean's most isolated, uninhabited island and major nesting site for the green sea turtle — over 1,200 turtles tagged in studies to determine uniqueness and range of the population

Field studies of wildlife and preparation of management guidelines for Parque del Este, the Dominican Republic's first national park

Carried out inventory of Caribbean historic sites — over 100 historic landmarks on ten islands surveyed, documented and photographed

Provided assistance for park planning, training, research and ecotourism programs in Dominica, Anguilla, and Jamaica, and offshore islands in Venezuela and Panama

institutional development and leadership

Served as Secretariat for the Caribbean Conservation Association and assisted CCA in implementing its first five-year program plan

Enlisted as environmental arbitrator in Trinidad in dispute over an oil company's proposed high-risk use of the Caroni Swamp bird sanctuary

Implemented a unique community participation project in the U.S. Virgin Islands, assisting citizens and community groups to better understand and more effectively participate in local decision making about development and environment issues — an untested approach at the time

Conservation team assessing regional priorities for Caribbean Conservation Association's first 5-year action plan: (1-r) Euan McFarlane, Island Resources Foundation president Edward Towle, and Sir Philip Sherlock, retired Vice Chancellor of the University of the West Indies

CE PROGRAM FOR ISLANDS

1979 — 1981

Prepared innovative economic impact analysis of the Virgin Islands National Park

Evaluated planning options for UNDP-funded inshore marine program for eight South Pacific island groups

Carried out planning and policy study on solid waste management practices in the insular Caribbean

Executed offshore sand mining feasibility studies, U.S. Virgin Islands

t Aves Island, 1972-76

Produced video documentary on Caribbean vernacular architecture

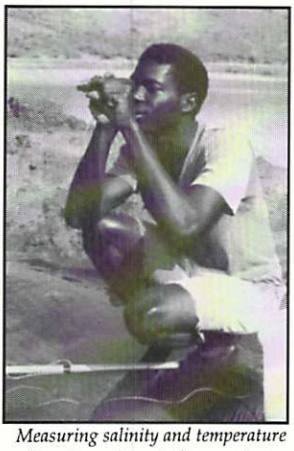
Provided assistance for museum development in Grenada, archaeological investigations in Anguilla, historic site restoration planning in Dominica

Completed vegetation inventory and maps for St. John, USVI — early example of ecosystem classification in the eastern Caribbean

The Foundation's headquarters in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, a "wooden cottage" style building reflecting traditional Caribbean architecture. Prior to relocation to this site in 1983, the Foundation's primary offices had been based for over a decade at the Johnny Harms Lagoon Marina in St. Thomas. Harms, who is credited with first promoting sports fishing in the Territory, was long a friend and supporter of Island Resources, especially during its earliest years of development.

1982 — 1984

Completed vessel waste disposal study and management guidelines for insular Caribbean yachting



Measuring salinity and temperature for salt pond mariculture project, 1983-84 [Photo: Sandy Goodwin]

Evaluated the mariculture potential for brine shrimp using Caribbean coastal salt ponds

Developed case studies documenting coastal resource management issues in Belize, Turks and Caicos, Antigua, British Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, St. Lucia, Sri Lanka, Kiribati, Fiji

Sponsored a workshop on the uses of historical resources for eastern Caribbean island development — the first regional discussion on managing historical and cultural resources critical to development in the Lesser Antilles

Demonstration of masonry wall restoration at 1983 workshop on "the uses of historical resources for island development", Brimstone Hill, St. Kitts, 1983

Coordinator and founding member of the *Virgin Islands Resource Management Cooperative* (VIRMC), a unique collaboration of public and private sector institutions who recognized the need for a cooperative approach to the management of natural resources in the Virgin Islands

With collaborating VIRMC institutions, the Foundation executed a five-year research program focused primarily on the marine resources of the V.I. Biosphere Reserve — 30 research studies were carried out by 33 investigators from nine VIRMC-affiliated institutions, with funding provided by the US National Park Service. The Foundation edited and published the 31-volume report series.

Throughout the world, insular communities, with limited areas, are e
which has rarely been equaled on larger land masses. Attracted by t
qualities and economic opportunities, more people from continenta
threatening to alter the very qualities that make i

ISLAND RESOURCES FOUNDATION

1985 — 1987

Carried out a fishery sector assessment for seven eastern Caribbean island states

Environmental impact assessment of pesticide use in Dominica's banana disease control program

Prepared environmental impact assessment and land use plan for major tourism development at the Southeast Peninsula, St. Kitts

Contributed to UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) study on the relationship between tourism and the environment in the Caribbean

Carried out a series of marine archaeological surveys and cultural resource assessments for Caribbean island governments and private sector organizations, primarily antecedent to major harbor development projects

Consultancy to the Government of Barbados to establish a new Ministry of Tourism and the Environment, an early attempt in the Caribbean to link the two sectors within one government ministry

Provided support services for the "Islands Directorate" of the Man and the Biosphere Program, U.S. National Commission for UNESCO

Launched (in 1986) a decade-long program to provide development assistance for conservation NGOs in the eastern Caribbean — the largest single program targeted specifically at the role of non-governmental organizations in environmental affairs in the Lesser Antilles

1988 — 1990

Primary technical sponsor of a five-year environmental assessment of six Caribbean countries that produced comprehensive *Environmental Profiles* for: Antigua-Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines (published in 1990 by the Foundation and the Caribbean Conservation Association, with funding provided by USAID)

Developed a coastal resource damage assessment and hurricane Hugo recovery plan for the U.S. Virgin Islands

Surveyed and mapped land use in the Virgin Islands (St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. John)

Implemented an experimental habitat restoration project that successfully transplanted three acres of seagrass — thereby mitigating environmental damage from harbor dredge-and-fill operations

1990 McFarlane Award recipient Ronald Charles of Dominica receiving $1,000 check from Foundation president Edward Towle

Established the Euan P. McFarlane Leadership Award, to be presented annually to persons demonstrating environmental leadership in the insular Caribbean — annual awards, including a cash gift of $1,000, have been made since 1988

xperiencing the pressures of a growth and development phenomenon
he undeveloped, pristine nature of islands and by their recreational
l areas are focusing on offshore oceanic and coastal insular areas,
slands viable as ecosystems and as communities.
CONCEPTUAL PROSPECTUS, 1972

1991 — 1994

Provided primary technical support for preparation of *Environmental Profiles* for Anguilla and Montserrat (funded by UNDP)

Prepared guidelines for sediment control practices in the insular Caribbean, including best management practices for construction activities that protect coral reefs and coastal ecosystems

Prepared "special area" management plans for 18 coastal sites in the U.S. Virgin Islands

Published a whale-watching guide for the Bahamas and the Greater and Lesser Antilles

Evaluated Phase I and assisted in planning for Phase II of USAID's PARC (protected areas resource conservation) project in Jamaica, including an assessment of Montego Bay Marine Park and Blue Mountain National Park

1995 — 1997

Prepared guidelines for integrated planning and management of coastal and marine areas in the Wider Caribbean (for UNEP's Caribbean Environment Program)

Updated the Disaster Mitigation Plan for the U.S. Virgin Islands, following hurricane Marilyn in September 1995

Kevel Lindsay (l), Biodiversity Program Coordinator, and assistants, examine vegetation specimens collected during shoreline survey, north coast, Antigua

Prepared resource assessment studies and comprehensive management plan for Bird Island Marine Reserve, Antigua

Launched a new initiative for biodiversity conservation in the eastern Caribbean; this program of research, education, protection, and capacity building is currently the primary focus of our Antigua office

Continued to serve as coordinator of the *Virgin Islands Resource Management Cooperative*, extending its agenda beyond the V.I. Biosphere Reserve to shared resource management concerns in the larger Virgin Islands territory, including the British Virgin Islands (primary support from the MacArthur Foundation)

Initiated a new institutional strategy to support emerging information management technologies with potential for advancing small island sustainable development

Island Resources Foundation

buying time for islands — and for the people who call them home

island resources
FOUNDATION

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REQUEST A LIST OF PUBLICATIONS FROM THE FOUNDATION'S WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE

Although the Foundation's core staff is small, the permanent staff is augmented by the formal affiliation of PROGRAM ASSOCIATES, currently numbering over 90 individuals with a wide range of Caribbean and insular-focused expertise who provide counsel and, as required, assist with Foundation projects and team activities.

Pictured below are some of the individuals who have contributed to the work of Island Resources Foundation during the last 25 years.

Executive officers of the Board of Trustees, Island Resources Foundation (l-r): Henry Wheatley, vice chairman; Charles Consolvo, secretary; and Judith Towle, treasurer (not pictured, Edward Towle, president).

Bruce Potter, vice president of Island Resources Foundation.

Jean-Pierre Bacle, senior natural resource analyst, who has managed Island Resources Foundation's Washington office since 1986. Office manager in the Virgin Islands is Sandra Tate (not pictured) who has served in this role since 1981.

SUPPORT ISLAND RESOURCES FOUNDATION

Make a generous contribution to help the Foundation maintain its commitment to islands.
Annual memberships start at US$35 for individuals and US$200 for institutions/corporations.

For US tax payers, all contributions are deductible under Internal Revenue Service guidelines.