Resilient Islands

BEACH Ecosystems

Beaches are narrow strips of land that separate a body of water, such as the ocean, from inland areas.

Beach ecosystems are composed of sandy, rocky or pebbly shores that support a variety of plants and animals including shellfish, sea turtles and birds.

Photo © Marjo Aho

What are the benefits of beaches?

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION

NESTING & FEEDING AREAS

Why are beach ecosystems at risk?

- Pollution from litter, waste, sewage and inland runoff
- Coastal infrastructure, development and sand mining
- Natural coastal erosion by wind and wave action
- Climate change and sea level rise

Protecting beaches and designating important beach ecosystems as beach preserves is a **nature-based solution**.

Being conscious of our actions by not littering when on or near a beach or by not driving on beaches can help to safeguard these important ecosystems.

Photo © Carlton Ward Jr.

Protecting beaches Can Help!

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The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.

For more information **CONTACT US:**

Nealla R.S. Frederick
The Nature Conservancy,
Eastern Caribbean Program
(473) 435-0231
nfrederick@tnc.org

Grenada Red Cross Society
(473) 440-1829