

ISSUE 8 • SEPTEMBER 2020

Antigua & Barbuda

THE CITIZEN

Finance:
The accelerated
pace of digital
wealth management,
are you ready?

West Indian Whistling-Duck:
one of the islands' rarest
inhabitants

Unearthing Antigua's history

**Philanthropy: using
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WELCOME



"I invite the potential new citizen to take a look at the wealth-generating opportunities which our citizenship provides, and the easily accessible structures put in place to grow this wealth."

T

Thirty-eight years ago, in 1982, the Antigua & Barbuda government adopted the first piece of legislation that brought offshore financial services into being. Managing wealth and creating opportunities for high-net-worth individuals to have their resources increase in value were the objects of the legislation. Those objectives remain the same in 2020. The International Business Corporations Act and its several amendments have made the financial services afforded by the offshore banks, offshore trusts, and other vehicles which are a good future for wealth, a lot more secure.

I invite the potential new citizen to take a look at the wealth-generating opportunities which our citizenship provides, and the easily accessible structures put in place to grow this wealth. We are a peaceful nation, enjoying a legal system that is led by an independent judiciary, and we assure you that our sovereign (British) Commonwealth state is governed by laws that are enforceable all the way to Her Majesty's Privy Council in London.

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, no economy in the entire Western Hemisphere of 35 independent states experienced economic growth greater than Antigua & Barbuda. We are now poised, as the disease slows its course in several large states, to take off as the crisis abates.

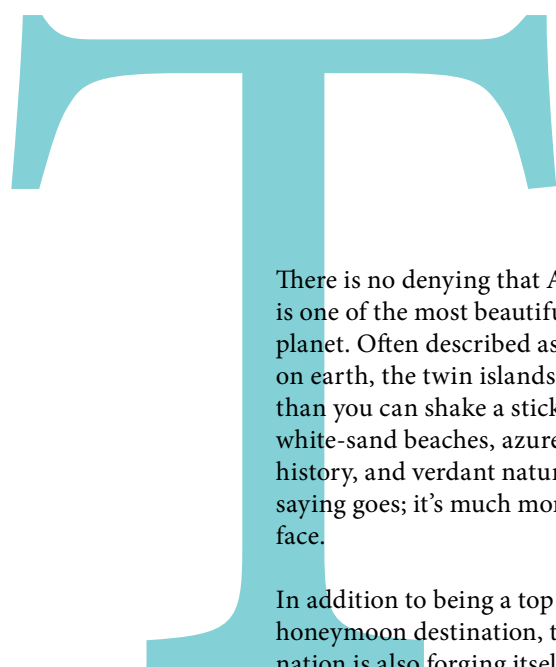
Your choice of Antigua & Barbuda is sound and secure. Our history proves it, and the Antigua & Barbuda passport is one of the most highly prized in the world.

Although tourism continues to play the major role in our economy, the management of wealth is also a very significant factor in the attractiveness of our jurisdiction. I welcome you to test our waters.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Browne'.

Honourable Gaston Browne
Prime Minister

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA



There is no denying that Antigua & Barbuda is one of the most beautiful places on the planet. Often described as paradise or heaven on earth, the twin islands have more beauty than you can shake a stick at with its endless white-sand beaches, azure seas, rich cultural history, and verdant nature. But as another saying goes; it's much more than just a pretty face.

In addition to being a top tourism and honeymoon destination, this small island nation is also forging itself as a health and wellness destination, an innovation hotspot, an attractive investment hub and let's not forget its status as an international financial centre. As one of the pillars of the economy, the finance sector has grown thanks to the islands' politically stable and sovereign jurisdiction, and is helped by the fact that the country has enjoyed one of the fastest-growing economies in the region over the

past few years. And with the Digital Assets Business Bill 2020 that has just come into law, the islands' aspiration of becoming a hub for cryptocurrency, digital business, and other digital assets is being shaped. Given that financial service providers are regulated under the Financial Services Regulatory Commission (FSRC), the islands are a safe harbour, not only for the yachts that flock to the world-renowned sailing grounds, but for financial investors looking to protect their wealth and investments.

And as the many celebrities and wealthy homeowners and citizens would attest, the islands are also a safe harbour away from the peering eyes and intrusions they encounter elsewhere – where the likes of Robert de Niro, Eric Clapton and Giorgio Armani feel at home and where into the bargain they can have their financial interests taken care of.

The icing on the cake is that Antigua & Barbuda has one of the best Citizenship by Investment (CBI) programmes in the Caribbean and is in the top five of the Global Citizenship Programme Index in Henley & Partners' Global Residence and Citizenship Programmes 2018-2019 report. Citizenship of the islands allows visa-free travel to 165 jurisdictions including Hong Kong, Singapore, the UK and Schengen area. ●



Antigua & Barbuda

THE CITIZEN

THE CITIZEN, the official publication of the Antigua & Barbuda Citizenship by Investment Unit (CIU), is produced by Select Publishing with the full support of Charmaine Quinland-Donovan, CIU's Chief Executive Officer and the Government of Antigua & Barbuda.

Publisher: Danielle Jacobsen

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Antigua & Barbuda introduction photo (page 5):
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Photo credits: Mohammid Walbrook, Andre Phillip, Arthur Thomas, Anson Henry, Kierstyn Werth, Lisa Sorenson/BirdsCaribbean, Oda Brea, Nick Hollands, Andros, Ted Eubanks, Anthony Levesque, Catamaran Hotel, Kat Jayne/Pexels, Randal Ruiz/Unsplash, American Airlines, Fer Ribes, Danielle Jacobsen, Shutterstock, iStock, Freepik.

Translations: BCB Soluciones

Repro & printing: Lisgráfica – Impressão e Artes Gráficas

Circulation: 2,000

**For all editorial and advertising enquiries,
or to order a free copy, contact:**
select@select-publishing.com

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www.cip.gov.ag



For Investment Migration Council (IMC) membership enquiries, contact the Regional Representative Office at:

caribbean@investmentmigration.org

www.investmentmigration.org



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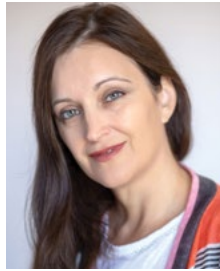


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editor's LETTER



Susan Brophy
Editor



elcome to the eighth issue of Antigua & Barbuda The Citizen. As usual you will find a mix of articles about the twin islands, the Citizenship by Investment world and so much more.

This month we caught up with the Citizenship by Investment Unit's own Charmaine Donovan who told us about the improvements to the citizenship application process to streamline the experience for all stakeholders.

As we've shown time and time again, Antigua & Barbuda has many different and surprising faces. For this issue's cover story, we see how the twin islands provide a safe harbour for financial services as well as being witness to the acceleration of digital wealth management taking place globally.

And with digital technology indeed pervading every facet of our modern-day lives, our philanthropy article looks at how tech is changing the way people give today.

Local conservationist and birder, Natalya Lawrence introduces us to the West Indian Whistling-Duck; an example of the rare and precious wildlife to be found on the shores of our islands.

While another local expert, archaeologist and historian Reg Murphy, unearths some of the hidden secrets buried deep under the islands' surface.

Although cruising has taken a temporary hiatus, Caribbean cruises are gearing to start up later this year. We chatted to Global Ports

Holding's Chairman, Mehmet Kutman, who tells us about the progress being made at the new cruise pier which will be able to accommodate the world's largest cruise ships. With sustainability an increasingly hot topic today, we also look at the measures the cruise industry is putting in place to reduce their environmental footprint.

This issue's new citizen is Mouna Ayoub, a regular on the red carpets in Europe, who has found the perfect place to disconnect and avoid the photographers' flashes.

Now living in Cambodia, Antiguan artist Kierstyn Werth unveils her unique paintings which she created to mark Juneteenth and raise awareness in the light of recent world events.

Barbuda is often overlooked in favour of its larger sister, but photographer Mohammad Walbrook is determined to document the beauty and unique lifestyle of this incredible paradise. He has shared some of his favourite photos with us and told us why there really is no place like home.

As usual, we are grateful for the insights into the citizenship by investment world by our thought leaders and other experts. On behalf of The Citizen team, we would like to thank you all for your contributions and continued support. Happy reading!

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Natalya Lawrence

Natalya has led bird conservation projects since 2010 and her team has trained over 70 residents to become bird conservation stewards and monitors. Natalya's work has been recognised through grants and awards including the Conservation Leadership Award and as one of the first Caribbean Emerging Wildlife Conservation Leaders.

Hangama Wanner

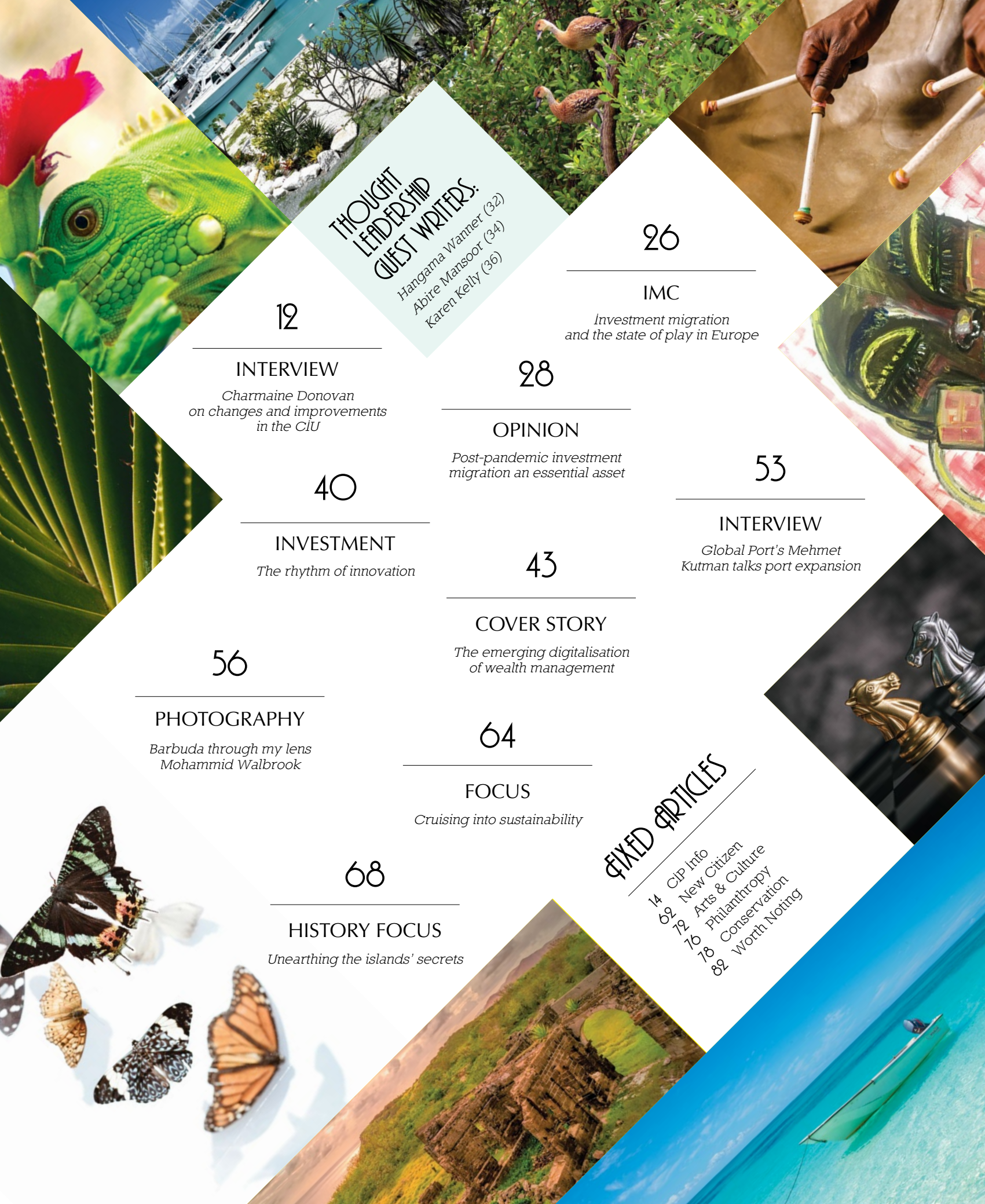
Founder of KayHan Swiss, Hangama is a multilingual global citizen with a background in banking. She is a RCBI provider, and international banking expert based in Zürich, Switzerland. With her team of specialists in banking, investment advisory, legal solutions, and business administration, Hangama can assist clients with custom-tailored solutions to meet their needs in both the migration and/or financial world.



Dr. Reg Murphy

Representative for Antigua & Barbuda to UNESCO.

Reg is the President of the Historical and Archaeological Society and an archaeologist with expertise in historical buildings restoration, construction management and heritage sites development. He has conducted archaeological research in the region for about 25 years.



THOUGHT
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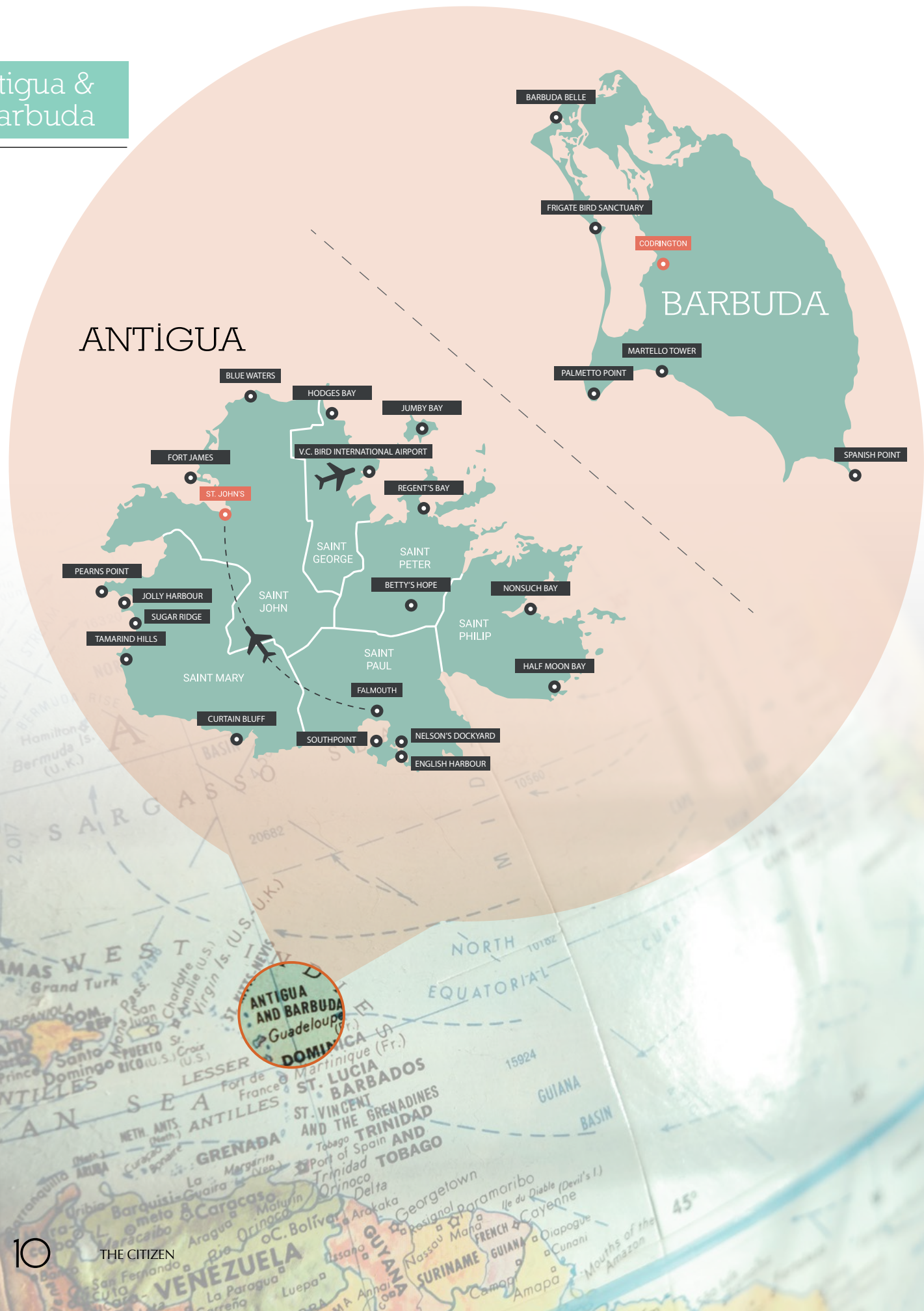
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Antigua & Barbuda



ANTIGUA

BARBUDA



Top row: Alister Maginley, Suzette Anthony, Sandra Vozan, Patrick Maginley and Juliette Marcelle-Bailey. Sitting: Casroy James and Kirthley Maginley.

The perfect match.

Knowing the CIP business best!

We at James & Maginley provide consulting and advisory services in our core areas of investment facilitation and management, real estate development and Citizenship by Investment.

Our principals are licensed and authorised agents for persons wishing to apply for Antigua and Barbuda citizenship under the Citizenship by Investment Program (CIP).

We are committed to enhancing and strengthening the service delivery to our customers through strategic collaborations and partnerships. We effectively leverage our local knowledge of the business culture and landscape to the benefit of its CIP providers, many of whom are themselves consulting entities and advisors to ultra-high net-worth individuals.

For more information on our Group of Companies visit:
www.jamesandmaginley.com

The Citizen
chatted to the
CEO, Charmaine
Donovan, about the
changes and improvements
to the application process
implemented by
the Citizenship
by Investment Unit.

Despite the global lockdown, the Antigua and Barbuda Citizenship by Investment Unit (CIU) hasn't stopped for a moment. How have the last couple of months been for the Citizenship by Investment Programme (CIP)?

The global lockdown has had a tremendous effect on all aspects of life, not least of which is the global investment migration industry. Despite this fact, the Antigua & Barbuda CIP has continued to enjoy significant interest. Continued accessibility during the lockdown period and the CIU's ability to quickly make the necessary changes to

facilitate the new digital normal were welcomed changes for current and prospective clients. This ultimately resulted in both a spike in enquiries and a steady stream of applications.

How has the CIU digitalised and streamlined its application process? What has been the result of this?

The CIU began making the transition to an online application process since the latter part of 2019 through the introduction of the agent's online portal, which enables agents to upload, submit and track applications on behalf of their clients. Testing of the portal began with a control group in early 2020 and feedback from this process enabled the necessary tweaks to be made to facilitate the roll-out in March 2020. The CIU also simplified the application process by changing the type and timing of the submission of documents, taking into consideration limitations to their access. The application process was separated into stages and the stakeholders were made aware of the primary documents required for each stage. This level of flexibility meant that applications could be submitted sooner. The simplification of the process in conjunction with the digitalisation has slashed the overall processing time by as much as six weeks in most instances.

What other changes has the Citizenship by Investment programme undergone recently?

During 2020, more focus was placed on improving the existing offerings under the Programme. A third pathway to real estate ownership was introduced so that prospective applicants had the option of purchasing approved real estate at a minimum of US\$200,000 as a qualifying investment. The existing co-application for the real estate option, with each applicant contributing a minimum investment of US\$200,000, was also made permanent (no longer a limited time offer). Furthermore, it was made clear to existing real estate owners that they are able to resell their units under the Programme after the five-year holding period. Additionally, based on feedback from the industry, the processing fees were aligned under three of the four options at US\$30,000; processing fees for the fourth option, the UWI option, are included in the investment amount. The Restricted Countries Policy was also modified by removing Iraq and allowing persons who were born in the remaining restricted countries to be eligible to apply once



they have resided in any country not on the list for at least 10 years (all other conditions of the original policy remain).

Are you finding that the countries people are applying from have changed over the past few months?

This global pandemic has put priorities into sharp focus for many. As a result, a number of persons have been searching for safer, less densely populated places to relocate to with their families. Accordingly, although we are still seeing significant interest from the traditional jurisdictions, there has been a noticeable increase in application submissions from the African Continent, Southwest Asia and the Middle East.

Antigua provides visa-free travel to 165 jurisdictions which has always been a big draw to becoming a citizen of the twin islands. With what is happening in the world today, are you seeing a change in the reasons why people are seeking a second citizenship?

The level of mobility afforded to holders of the Antigua & Barbuda passport has always been a pull factor to the CIP. As awareness of the Programme increases, people are finding that there are significant benefits to being a citizen of this beautiful twin-island nation. More recently, prospective clients have been intrigued by the skilful way in which the pandemic has been managed by the government and their foresight with upgrading and expanding the

healthcare delivery system. Additionally, the significance of higher education to the nation has been borne out in the arrival of the fourth-landed campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI) in Five Islands one year ago. Prospective applicants have responded with much excitement regarding the fact that they are able to contribute to the sustainability of such a life-altering venture. Since its introduction in 2017, the UWI option has begun to attract applicants, particularly following the well-advertised modifications to this option at the start of the second quarter of 2020.

Due to the world events which have been taking place in recent times, what would you say to someone who is concerned that their passport may not provide them and their families with the security and peace of mind they require?

Thankfully, if you are a citizen and Antigua & Barbuda passport holder, there is very little that will disturb your peace of mind even in these unmatched times. If you are already residing in the serene and secure twin islands, you will already be feeling confident about the implemented safety protocols, the enhancements to the healthcare system and the infrastructure which facilitates a stable and remote working environment where you can work with and/or meet persons abroad virtually. If you are currently abroad, we invite to come home and enjoy the safety and security home affords you. If you are not yet a citizen, your next move is pretty obvious – apply now and become a member of the elite Antigua & Barbuda passport holders club.

To sum up, what are the advantages of being a citizen of Antigua & Barbuda?

Antigua & Barbuda has a myriad of investment opportunities and benefits for new citizens. In addition to mobility, there is something unique for every category of applicant from the executives and entrepreneurs seeking business and investment opportunities to the applicant looking for attractive, high-quality real estate as a vacation home and/or to earn rental income. Added to this, Antigua & Barbuda offers a safe and healthy living environment, world-class education and healthcare, perennial sunshine, pearl-white beaches, warm and friendly people and, last but by no means least, a paradise that you can call your home. Why wait? Apply today! ●

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA Citizenship by Investment Programme

There are four types of investment which will qualify you for citizenship in the paradise islands of Antigua & Barbuda. As an applicant, you can choose between a contribution to the National Development Fund (NDF), to The University of the West Indies Fund, purchase property in a pre-approved real estate development, or invest in an approved business venture. As a candidate, you must be over 18 years of age, hold no criminal record and have excellent health. Upon successful application, you and your family will obtain a lifetime citizenship and enjoy travelling visa-free to 165 jurisdictions.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

The non-profit NDF was established to fund income-generating public sector projects, innovation in entrepreneurship and approved charitable investments. It is audited by an internationally recognised accounting firm and reports on its status are published each year.

If this is your investment of choice, you are invited to contribute USD 100,000 to the NDF, which is a one-time contribution for a family of four. Processing fees will be applied as indicated below.

For a single applicant, or a family of 4 or less:

- US\$ 100,000 contribution
Processing fees: US\$ 30,000. See LTO*

For a family of 5 or more:

- US\$ 125,000 contribution
Processing fees: US\$ 15,000 for each additional dependent over four people.

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES (UWI) FUND

This investment option serves as a mechanism to finance the new University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus. This contribution will also entitle one member of the family to a one-year scholarship, tuition only, at the University of the West Indies.

For a family of 6:

- US\$ 150,000 contribution
- Processing fees: US\$ 15,000 from the seventh additional dependent onwards.

INVESTMENT IN REAL ESTATE

You and your family can obtain citizenship by purchasing a property in Antigua & Barbuda. You may also benefit from rental revenue with this investment. To qualify for citizenship under this option, you must invest in a designated, officially approved real estate development worth at least US\$ 400,000, undertake a joint investment of US\$ 200,000 between two (2) related parties/applications, or minimum US\$ 200,000 for a unit/share in an approved property.

You must own the property for a minimum of five years before selling it. At this time, owners may resell their units or shares to subsequent applicants as eligible investments. Processing fees will be applied as indicated below.

For a single applicant, or a family of 4 or less:

- Processing fees: US\$ 30,000. See LTO*

For a family of 5 or more:

- Processing fees: US\$ 15,000 for each additional dependent.

BUSINESS INVESTMENT

The Citizenship by Investment Unit (CIU) after consulting with the Antigua & Barbuda Investment Authority (ABIA) approves businesses, whether existing or proposed, for the purposes of investment in business under the Citizenship by Investment Programme (CIP).

There are two business investment options:

- Invest at least US\$ 1,500,000 in a pre-approved business.
- Alternatively, at least two applicants can propose to make a joint investment in an approved business with a total investment of at least US\$ 5,000,000. Each investor must contribute at least US\$ 400,000 to the joint investment.

For a single applicant, or a family of 4 or less:

- Processing fees: US\$ 30,000. See LTO*

For a family of 5 or more:

- Processing fees: US\$ 15,000 for each additional dependent.

Please note that all four options also include a due diligence fee of US\$ 7,500 for the main applicant and spouse, US\$ 2,000 for any dependent child between 12-17 years of age and US\$ 4,000 for any dependent child/parent between 18-28 and 58 plus years.

** Limited Time Option (LTO) until 31st October 2020, US\$ 10,000 for children under 5 years, US\$ 20,000 for children aged 6-17 years.*

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

Citizenship by Investment Programme

Frequently Asked Questions

CITIZENSHIP BY
INVESTMENT
PROGRAMME

Why does Antigua & Barbuda have a citizenship by investment programme?

The programme was introduced to promote economic growth, attract real estate development, increase foreign direct investment to the country, support the development of infrastructure and provide for a sustainable future.

How many visa-free countries can I travel to as a citizen of Antigua & Barbuda?

You can travel to 165 jurisdictions without requiring a visa, including the EU and Schengen countries, Hong Kong and Singapore.

What is the processing time?

Processing your application should take from 3 to 6 months.

Who can apply for citizenship?

To apply for the citizenship programme in Antigua & Barbuda, you must be at least 18 years of age, be of a good character with no criminal record, and have good health.

Do I need to speak English to apply for citizenship?

You don't need to speak English to be an applicant.

Who can be included on the application?

Your dependent children under 28 and dependent parents over 58 can be included within the application.

How do you conduct the due diligence and vetting of applicants?

There are no interviews. However, all applicants undergo rigorous screening prior to consideration by the Citizenship by Investment Unit. Complete files will be forwarded to an international, unbiased third-party due diligence service provider who will conduct detailed background checks on all applicants before the application is approved.

What happens once my application has been accepted?

A certificate of registration of citizenship will be issued and submitted to the passport office. Your authorised agent/representative will forward your passports and Citizenship Certificate to you.

Do I need to travel to Antigua & Barbuda to complete the process?

The application process can be made from your country of residence. Once your application is successful and you have received your passport, you must travel to Antigua & Barbuda to take your oath or affirmation of allegiance. You are entitled to take up full-time residence in Antigua & Barbuda at any time you wish.

Does Antigua & Barbuda recognise dual citizenship?

There are no restrictions on dual citizenship in Antigua & Barbuda.

For how many years will my passport be valid for?

The passport will be valid for a period of 5 years and is renewable for a period of 10 years thereafter, provided that the requirements are met, which includes spending a minimum of five days in the country during this period after becoming a citizen.

Can I invest with my Bitcoins or other cryptocurrencies?

This is in the pipeline but has not yet been established.

In addition to the citizenship by investment programme does Antigua & Barbuda have a tax residency programme?

Antigua & Barbuda does not currently offer a tax residency programme.

For any additional questions, please contact an authorized representative, licensed agent or the CIU directly.

الحصول على جنسية أنتيغوا وباربودا عن طريق برنامج الاستثمار

كما يمكنك أيضاً الاستفادة من إيرادات الإيجار بفضل هذا الاستثمار. ولكي تكون مؤهلاً للحصول على الجنسية بموجب هذا الخيار، يجب عليك الاستثمار في مجموعة عقارية معينة ومعتمدة رسمياً لا تقل قيمتها عن 400.000 دولار أمريكي، إجراء استثمار مشترك بقيمة 200.000 دولار أمريكي لكل طرف/طلب من طرفين/طلبين (2) متراطين، أو ما لا يقل عن 200.000 دولار أمريكي لوحدة/حصة في عقار معتمد. ويجب عليك امتلاك العقار لمدة خمس سنوات على الأقل قبل بيعه، ويجوز حينئذ للمالكين إعادة بيع وحدتهم أو حصتهم لمقدمي طلبات لاحقين كاستثمارات مؤهلة. وسيتم تطبيق رسوم المعالجة كما هو موضح أدناه.

لمقدم طلب واحد أو أسرة مكونة من 4 أفراد أو أقل:

• رسوم المعالجة: 30.000 دولار أمريكي. انظر الخيار لفترة محددة*

لأسرة مكونة من 5 أفراد أو أكثر:

• رسوم المعالجة: 15.000 دولار أمريكي لكل شخص مُعال إضافي.

الاستثمار التجاري

تقوم وحدة الجنسية عن طريق الاستثمار - بعد التشاور مع هيئة الاستثمار في أنتيغوا وباربودا - بالموافقة على المشاريع التجارية، سواء كانت قائمة أو مقترحة، لأغراض الاستثمار في الأعمال التجارية بموجب برنامج الجنسية عن طريق الاستثمار.

هناك خياران للاستثمار التجاري:

• استثمار ما لا يقل عن 1.500.000 دولار أمريكي في مشروع تجاري معتمدة مسبقاً.

• كبديل لذلك، يمكن لطرفين على الأقل اقتراح إجراء استثمار مشترك في مشروع تجاري معتمد بمبلغ إجمالي لا يقل عن 5.000.000 دولار أمريكي. ويجب على كل مستثمر المساهمة بمبلغ لا يقل عن 400.000 دولار أمريكي في الاستثمار المشترك.

لمقدم طلب واحد أو أسرة مكونة من 4 أفراد أو أقل:

• رسوم المعالجة: 30.000 دولار أمريكي. انظر الخيار لفترة محددة*

لأسرة مكونة من 5 أفراد أو أكثر:

• رسوم المعالجة: 15.000 دولار أمريكي لكل شخص مُعال إضافي.

يُرجى الأخذ بعين الاعتبار أن جميع الخيارات الأربعة تشمل أيضاً رسوم العناية الواجبة بمبلغ 7500 دولار أمريكي لمقدم/ة الطلب الرئيسي/ة وزوجه/زوجته و2000 دولار أمريكي لأي طفل معال يتراوح عمره بين 12 و17 عاماً و4000 دولار أمريكي لأي طفل يتراوح عمره بين 18 و28 عاماً أو أب/أم يتجاوز عمره/عمرها 58 عاماً.

* الخيار لفترة محددة حتى 31 أكتوبر/تشرين الأول 2020، 10.000 دولار أمريكي للأطفال دون سن الخامسة، 200.000 دولار أمريكي للأطفال الذين تتراوح أعمارهم بين 6 و17 سنة.

هناك أربعة أنواع من الاستثمارات التي ستجعلك مؤهلاً للحصول على جنسية الجزر الفردوسية أنتيغوا وباربودا. عند تقديم الطلب، يمكنك الاختيار بين تقديم مساهمة لصالح الصندوق الوطني للتنمية أو صندوق جامعة الهند الغربية أو شراء ملكية في إحدى المجموعات العقارية المعتمدة مسبقاً أو الاستثمار في مشروع تجاري معتمد. وكمرشح، يجب أن يتجاوز عمرك 18 عاماً وألا يكون لديك سوابق جنائية وأن تتمتع بصحة ممتازة.

عند نجاح طلبك، ستحصل أنت وأسرته على الجنسية مدى الحياة وستستمتعون بالسفر بدون تأشيرة إلى أكثر من 165 ولاية قضائية.

تقديم مساهمة لصالح الصندوق الوطني للتنمية

تم تأسيس الصندوق الوطني للتنمية، الذي لا يهدف للربح، لتمويل مشاريع القطاع العام المدرة للدخل والابتكار في ريادة الأعمال والاستثمارات الخيرية المعتمدة. وتُراجع حساباته من قبل شركة محاسبة معترف بها دولياً وتُنشر تقارير عن وضعه سنوياً.

تم تأسيس الصندوق الوطني للتنمية، الذي لا يهدف للربح، لتمويل مشاريع القطاع العام المدرة للدخل والابتكار في ريادة الأعمال والاستثمارات الخيرية المعتمدة. وتُراجع حساباته من قبل شركة محاسبة معترف بها دولياً وتُنشر تقارير عن وضعه سنوياً.

إذا وقع اختيارك على هذا النوع من الاستثمارات، فيُطلب منك تقديم مساهمة قدرها 100.000 دولار أمريكي للصندوق الوطني للتنمية، وهي عبارة عن مساهمة تُقدّم مرة واحدة عن كل أسرة مكونة من أربعة أفراد. وسيتم تطبيق رسوم المعالجة كما هو موضح أدناه.

لمقدم طلب واحد أو أسرة مكونة من 4 أفراد أو أقل:

• مساهمة قدرها 100.000 دولار أمريكي
رسوم المعالجة: 30.000 دولار أمريكي. انظر الخيار لفترة محددة*

لأسرة مكونة من 5 أفراد أو أكثر:

• مساهمة قدرها 125.000 دولار أمريكي
رسوم المعالجة: 15.000 دولار أمريكي لكل شخص مُعال إضافي على أربعة أفراد

صندوق جامعة الهند الغربية:

يعمل هذا الخيار كآلية لتمويل حرم الجزر الخمس الجديد لجامعة الهند الغربية. وستخول هذه المساهمة أيضاً حصول أحد أفراد الأسرة على منحة دراسية مدتها سنة واحدة، تشمل رسوم التعليم فقط، في جامعة الهند الغربية.

لأسرة مكونة من 6 أفراد:

• مساهمة قدرها 150.000 دولار أمريكي
• رسوم المعالجة: 15.000 دولار أمريكي من الشخص المُعال الإضافي السابع فصاعداً.

الاستثمار في العقارات

يمكنك أنت وأسرته الحصول على الجنسية من خلال شراء عقار في أنتيغوا وباربودا.

الحصول على جنسية أنتيغوا وباربودا عن طريق برنامج الاستثمار أسئلة متكررة

الملفات الكاملة إلى جهة دولية غير منحازة تقدم خدمات العناية الواجبة والتي ستجري تحريات مفصلة بشأن خلفيات المتقدمين بالطلب.

ماذا يحدث بعد قبول طلبي؟

سيتم إصدار شهادة تسجيل الجنسية وتقديمها إلى مكتب جوازات السفر. وسيقوم وكيلك/ممثلك المفوض بإرسال جوازات السفر وشهادة الجنسية الخاصة بك إليك.

هل يجب أن أسافر إلى أنتيغوا وباربودا لإكمال العملية؟

يمكن إجراء الطلب من بلد إقامتك. بعد نجاح طلبك وتلقيك جواز سفرك، يجب عليك السفر إلى أنتيغوا وباربودا لأداء اليمين أو تأكيد الولاء. ويحق لك الإقامة بدوام كامل في أنتيغوا وباربودا متى تشاء.

هل تعترف أنتيغوا وباربودا بالجنسية المزدوجة؟

لا توجد قيود على الجنسية المزدوجة في أنتيغوا وباربودا.

كم من سنة سيبقى جواز سفري ساري المفعول؟

سيبقى جواز سفرك ساري المفعول لمدة 5 سنوات وهو قابل للتجديد لمدة 10 سنوات بعد ذلك، شريطة تلبية المتطلبات التي تشمل قضاء خمسة أيام على الأقل في البلد خلال هذه الفترة بعد الحصول على الجنسية.

هل يمكنني الاستثمار بعملة بيتكوين (Bitcoin) أو غيرها من العملات المعماة؟

هذا الأمر ما زال قيد الإعداد ولم يتم تنفيذه بعد.

بالإضافة إلى برنامج الجنسية عن طريق الاستثمار، هل لدى أنتيغوا وباربودا برنامج للإقامة الضريبية؟
لا تقدم أنتيغوا وباربودا حالياً برنامجاً للإقامة الضريبية.

لماذا تملك أنتيغوا وباربودا برنامج الجنسية عن طريق الاستثمار؟

تم اعتماد البرنامج لتعزيز النمو الاقتصادي واستقطاب التنمية العقارية وزيادة الاستثمار الأجنبي المباشر في البلاد ودعم تطوير البنية التحتية وتأمين مستقبل مستدام.

كم عدد البلدان التي يمكنني السفر إليها دون تأشيرة كمواطن أنتيغوا وباربودا؟

يمكنك السفر إلى أكثر من 165 ولاية قضائية دون الحاجة إلى تأشيرة، بما في ذلك بلدان الاتحاد الأوروبي وشنغن وهونغ كونغ وسنغافورة.

كم من الوقت تستغرق معالجة طلبك؟

تستغرق معالجة طلبك ما بين 3 و6 أشهر.

من يمكنه التقدم بطلب للحصول على الجنسية؟

لتكون مؤهلاً لبرنامج الجنسية في أنتيغوا وباربودا، يجب أن يتجاوز عمرك 18 عاماً وأن تتسم بحسن الخلق وألا يكون لديك سوابق جنائية وأن تتمتع بصحة جيدة.

هل ينبغي أن أتحدث باللغة الإنجليزية لطلب الحصول على الجنسية؟

لست بحاجة إلى التحدث باللغة الإنجليزية للتقدم بالطلب.

من يمكن إدراجه في الطلب؟

يمكنك أن تدرج في الطلب أطفالك المعالين الذين تقل أعمارهم عن 28 عاماً ووالديك المعالين إذا كان عمرهما يتجاوز 58 عاماً.

كيف تُجرون العناية الواجبة وفحص الطلبات؟

لا تجري مقابلات. ومع ذلك، يخضع جميع المتقدمين بالطلب لفحص دقيق قبل دراسة ملفهم من قبل وحدة الجنسية عن طريق الاستثمار. تُحال

لمزيد من الأسئلة، يُرجى الاتصال بممثل مفوض أو وكيل مرخص له أو مباشرة بوحدة الجنسية عن طريق الاستثمار.



“ Offer your family mobility
insurance in today's
ever-changing
geopolitical landscape ”



АНТИГУА И БАРБУДА

гражданство по инвестиционной программе

Существуют четыре вида инвестиций, благодаря которым вы можете стать кандидатом на получение гражданства на райских островах Антигуа и Барбуда. Вы можете выбрать один из вариантов: безвозмездный взнос в государственный фонд экономического развития (NDF) или в фонд Университета Вест-Индии, инвестиции в недвижимость в один из одобренных правительством проектов или инвестиции в бизнес в одно из утвержденных коммерческих предприятий. Заявитель должен быть старше 18 лет, не иметь судимостей и иметь отличное здоровье.

При условии одобрения заявления, вы и ваша семья получите пожизненное гражданство и сможете наслаждаться безвизовым въездом в более чем 165 юрисдикционных территорий.

БЕЗВОЗВРАТНЫЙ ВЗНОС В ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ ФОНД ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКОГО РАЗВИТИЯ

Некоммерческий фонд NDF был учрежден с целью финансирования предпринимательских государственных проектов, инноваций в предпринимательстве и одобренных благотворительных проектов. Деятельность фонда проверяется международно признанной аудиторской фирмой, ежегодно публикуется доклад о состоянии дел. Если вы выбрали этот вариант инвестиций, то вам предлагается внести в государственный фонд экономического развития NDF сумму в 100 000 долларов США, это единовременный взнос для семьи из четырех человек. Ниже указана сумма сбора за обработку данных.

Для одного заявителя или семьи из четырех или менее человек:

- Взнос 100 000 долларов США

Сбор за обработку данных: 30 000 долларов США. Смотрите предложение с ограниченным сроком действия*

Для семьи из 5 и более человек:

- Взнос 125 000 долларов США

Сбор за обработку данных: 15 000 долларов США за каждого дополнительного иждивенца.

ФОНД УНИВЕРСИТЕТА ВЕСТ-ИНДИИ (UWI):

Этот вариант инвестиции создан для финансирования кампуса Five Islands Университета Вест-Индии. Это денежное вложение дает право на получение стипендии сроком на один год (только плата за учебу) для одного члена семьи в Университете Вест-Индии.

Для семьи из 6 человек:

- Взнос 150 000 долларов США
- Сбор за обработку данных: 15 000 долларов США за каждого дополнительного иждивенца.

ИНВЕСТИЦИИ В НЕДВИЖИМОСТЬ

Вы и члены вашей семьи можете получить гражданство купив недвижимость в Антигуа и Барбуда. Выбрав этот вариант инвестиций, вы также сможете получать доходы от аренды. Чтобы стать кандидатом на получение гражданства в случае выбора этого варианта, вы должны вложить в один из официально утвержденных

объектов недвижимости не менее 400 000 долларов США, или два (2) ассоциированных лица/кандидата на гражданство могут сделать совместное вложение, минимальная сумма взноса каждого участника составляет 200 000 долларов США, также возможно минимальное вложение в 200 000 долларов США в долю официально утвержденного объекта недвижимости.

Вы сможете продать недвижимость не ранее, чем через 5 лет. По истечении этого срока, собственники могут перепродать объекты недвижимости или их доли последующим кандидатам на гражданство, как один из утвержденных вариантов вложений. Ниже указана сумма сбора за обработку данных.

Для одного заявителя или семьи из четырех или менее человек:

- Сбор за обработку данных: 30 000 долларов США. Смотрите предложение с ограниченным сроком действия*

Для семьи из 5 и более человек:

- Сбор за обработку данных: 15 000 долларов США за каждого дополнительного иждивенца.

ИНВЕСТИЦИИ В БИЗНЕС

Подразделение по вопросам инвестиционного гражданства (CIU) после согласования с Инвестиционным департаментом Антигуа и Барбуды (ABIA) официально одобряет коммерческие предприятия для программы инвестиционного гражданства (CIP). Это может быть как новый, так и уже существующий бизнес.

Существуют два варианта инвестиций в бизнес:

- Инвестировать как минимум 1 500 000 долларов США в одобренный бизнес.
- Другой вариант - это инвестировать в бизнес нескольким заявителям, общая сумма вложений должна быть не менее 5 000 000 долларов США. При этом каждый заявитель обязан вложить в общий проект не менее 400 000 долларов США.

Для одного заявителя или семьи из четырех или менее человек:

- Сбор за обработку данных: 30 000 долларов США. Смотрите предложение с ограниченным сроком действия*

Для семьи из 5 и более человек:

- Сбор за обработку данных: 15 000 долларов США за каждого дополнительного иждивенца.

Пожалуйста, обратите внимание, что для всех четырех вариантов необходимо оплатить сбор за прохождение проверки на благонадежность: 7 500 долларов США за основного заявителя, 7 500 долларов США за супругу(а), 2 000 долларов США за иждивенца от 12 до 17 лет и 4 000 долларов США за иждивенца от 18 до 28 лет и старше 58 лет.

* Предложение с ограниченным сроком действия до 31 октября 2020 года: 10 000 долларов США за детей младше 5 лет, 20 000 долларов США за детей 6-17 лет.

АНТИГУА И БАРБУДА

гражданство по инвестиционной программе

Часто задаваемые вопросы

CITIZENSHIP BY
INVESTMENT
PROGRAMME

Почему в Антигуа и Барбуда существует гражданство по инвестиционной программе?

Программа была создана для содействия экономическому росту, развитию рынка недвижимости, увеличения объемов прямых иностранных инвестиций в страну, поддержки развития инфраструктур и обеспечения надежного будущего.

Сколько стран я смогу посещать без визы как гражданин Антигуа и Барбуда?

Вы сможете посещать без визы более 165 стран, включая страны Евросоюза и Шенгенского соглашения, Гонконг и Сингапур.

Сколько составляет срок рассмотрения заявления?

Срок рассмотрения заявления может занять от 3 до 6 месяцев.

Кто может претендовать на получение гражданства?

Для того, чтобы претендовать на получение гражданства Антигуа и Барбуда вы должны быть старше 18 лет, иметь хорошую репутацию, не иметь судимостей и обладать хорошим состоянием здоровья.

Должен ли я владеть английским языком, чтобы претендовать на получение гражданства?

Для того, чтобы претендовать на получение гражданства вы не обязаны владеть английским языком.

Кто может быть включен в заявление?

В заявление могут быть включены финансово зависимые дети до 28 лет и находящиеся на иждивении родители старше 58 лет.

Как вы проводите проверку на благонадежность заявителей?

Личные собеседования не проводятся. Однако, все заявители проходят строгую проверку Подразделением по вопросам инвестиционного гражданства. Полностью укомплектованное дело передается в международную, объективную, независимую службу проверки на

благонадежность, которая проводит тщательную проверку личных данных всех заявителей.

Что происходит после того, как мое заявление получает одобрение?

Выдается справка о регистрации гражданства, которая передается в паспортную службу. Затем ваш уполномоченный агент / представитель отправляет вам ваши паспорта и свидетельство о гражданстве.

Для окончательного оформления дела мне необходимо лично приезжать в Антигуа и Барбуда?

Подача документов возможна из страны вашего проживания. После успешного разрешения вашего дела и получения паспорта, вы должны приехать в Антигуа и Барбуда, чтобы принять присягу или подтвердить подданство. Вы имеете право установить место постоянного проживания в Антигуа и Барбуда в любое время по вашему желанию.

Признает ли Антигуа и Барбуда двойное гражданство?

В Антигуа и Барбуда нет ограничений для двойного гражданства.

Сколько лет будет действителен мой паспорт?

Паспорт действителен 5 лет и он продлевается на 10 лет, при выполнении всех требований, таких как минимальный срок пребывания в стране после получения гражданства – пять дней.

Могу я инвестировать в Биткойнах или других криптовалютах?

Пока этот вопрос находится в работе, но пока ещё не разрешен.

В дополнение к программе инвестиционного гражданства существует в Антигуа и Барбуда программа налогового резидентства?

В данный момент в Антигуа и Барбуда не существует программы налогового резидентства.

Если у вас возникли любые другие вопросы, пожалуйста, свяжитесь с уполномоченным представителем, лицензированным агентом или напрямую с Подразделением по вопросам инвестиционного гражданства.

通过投资项目获取安提瓜和巴布达公民身份

有下列四种投资方式,可以让您有资格获得天堂般的安提瓜和巴布达岛国的公民身份。作为申请人,您可以选择向国家发展基金(NDF)捐款,向西印度群岛大学基金会捐款,在预先批准的房地产开发项目中购买房产,或投资于经批准的商业企业。作为候选人,您必须年龄超过18岁,无犯罪记录,身体健康。

申请成功后,您和您的家人会获得终身公民身份,并享有在超过165个国家旅行免签的优势。

向国家发展基金捐款

非盈利性质的国家发展基金的成立是为了为创收公共部门项目、创业创新和经批准的慈善投资提供资金。它由一家国际公认的会计师事务所审计,并且每年都会公布其财务状况报告。

如果这是您的投资选择,您需要向国家发展基金捐款十万美金,这是四口之家一次性的捐款数额。办理费用如下所示。

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适用于家庭成员五人及以上:

- 十二万五千美金
- 办理费用:四人之外每增加一人,需多缴一万五千美金。

西印度群岛大学(UWI)基金会:

这一投资选项用于为西印度群岛大学的五岛新校区提供融资。这一捐款将使捐款家庭的一员可以获得一项为期一年的奖学金,即免除在西印度群岛大学一年的学费。

对于六口之家:

- 十五万美金捐款

第七位起:

- 办理费用:每个增加成员需缴一万五千美金。

房地产投资

您和您的家人可以通过在安提瓜和巴布达购买房产来获得公民身份。您也可以通过此投资从租金收入中受益。为通过此项投资获得公民身份,您需要投资一个指定的,经官方批准的价值至少为四十万美元的房地产开发项目,可两(2)个关联方或申请人共同投资,每人投资至少二十万美元,或在被批准的房产项目中每人至少投资二十万美元购买一个单元/份额。

在出售房产前,您需要拥有它至少五年。在此期间,业主可以向后续的申请者转售房产单元或份额,作为后者的投资房产。办理费用如下所示。

适用于单个申请人,家庭成员四人及以下:

- 办理费用: 三万美金请查阅限期价格*。

适用于家庭成员五人及以上:

- 办理费用:每个增加成员需缴一万五千美金。

商业投资

在与安提瓜和巴布达投资局(ABIA)协商后,投资公民部门(CIU)批准现有或提议的商业项目,以便外国人在投资公民计划(CIP)下投资。

有两个商业投资选项:

- 投资至少一百五十万美元给一项预先批准的商业活动。
- 或者,至少有两个申请人可以提议对经批准的企业进行联合投资,总投资至少为五百万美元。每个投资者至少支付四十万美金。

适用于单个申请人,家庭成员四人及以下:

- 办理费用: 三万美金请查阅限期价格*。

适用于家庭成员五人及以上:

- 办理费用:每个增加成员需缴一万五千美金。

请注意,四个投资选项都包括主申请人和配偶的七千五百美元的尽职调查费,12-17岁的任何受养子女办理费用为两千美元,18-28岁的任何受养子女或58岁以上的受养父母每人费用为四千美元。

*2020年10月31日截止的限期价格(Limited Time Option), 5岁以下儿童办理费用为一万美金, 6-17岁儿童的办理费用为两万美元。

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问&答

CITIZENSHIP BY
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这个项目旨在增进经济发展,促进房地产开发,增加外国对本国的直接投资,支持基础设施建设并提供可持续发展。

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申请安提瓜和巴布达的公民身份,您至少需要18周岁,无犯罪记录并且身体健康。

申请公民身份需要我会说英语吗？

申请人不需要会讲英语。

谁可以被包括在申请中？

您抚养的年龄小于28岁的孩子和赡养的超过58岁的老人可以被包括在申请中。

如何进行尽职调查和审查申请人？

没有面试环节。但是,所有申请人在获得公民身份前都要经过公民投资部门严格的筛选。完整的文件将转发给国际上公正的第三方尽职调查服务提供商,该服务提供商将对所有申请人进行详细的背景调查。

我的申请被接受后会发生什么？

将颁发公民身份登记证书并提交给护照办公室。您的授权代理人/代表将转发您的护照和公民身份证明给您。

我需要亲自到安提瓜和巴布达来完成手续吗？

申请环节可以在您的居住国完成。一旦您的申请成功并收到护照,您需要亲自到安提瓜和巴布达来宣誓或承认效忠。您随时可以定居在安提瓜和巴布达。

安提瓜和巴布达承认双重国籍吗？

安提瓜和巴布达对于双重国籍没有限制。

我的护照有效期为几年？

护照有效期五年,此后可续期10年,续期的前提是符合要求,包括在成为公民后在护照有效期间在该国度过至少5天。

我可以用我的比特币或其他虚拟货币投资吗？

这还在筹备中,但尚未实行。

除了投资计划获取公民身份外,安提瓜和巴布达还有税务定居计划吗？

安提瓜和巴布达目前不提供税务定居计划。

如有任何其他问题,请联系授权代表,许可代理或直接联系投资公民部门(CIU)。

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Global Citizenship Partners: www.gcpantigua.com
- Sherfield P. Bowen: sherfield@bowenbowenlaw.com
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CITIZENSHIP BY INVESTMENT UNIT
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

by
Bruno L'ecuyer
Chief Executive
IMC

INVESTMENT MIGRATION AND THE STATE OF PLAY IN EUROPE

Investment migration refers to the attainment of citizenship or residential rights in return for a financial investment or other contributions to the host country. Today, investment migration is a global industry and is featured in immigration law in most UN-recognised countries, albeit in different shapes and forms. Indeed, while there are currently 12 citizenship by investment (CBI) programmes *stricto sensu*, many countries offer facilitated naturalisation paths that allow for the acquisition of citizenship on grounds of “special achievements” of applicants or “special interest” of states. Residence by investment (RBI) programmes have similar paths to residency: while some RBI programmes are specifically designed to attract foreign investors in return for residential rights, many countries with no investment programmes issue business visas, international talent visas, and/or other economic residence options.


Five of the 12 formal citizenship by investment programmes are in Europe, introduced by Cyprus, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, and Turkey. The number of investment programmes within EU Member States has naturally triggered the interest of EU policymakers. EU institutions have greatly criticised these programmes and have initiated many discussions to address them, but this criticism and activity is often one-sided. The

Investment Migration Council (IMC) works to balance the discussions and is encouraging other groups to work with them to do the same.

EU CRITICISM

This criticism from EU Institutions began with the launch of the Maltese CBI programme. Since this time, various EU institutions and bodies have initiated discussions and levied numerous critiques of CBI and RBI programmes. Criticism was related to the general principle of fairness and discrimination, the EU principle of sincere cooperation, the principle of genuine link, the commodification of citizenship, and specific issues surrounding corruption, money laundering, and other criminal activity.

For instance, in 2014, the TAX3 Special Committee on Financial Crimes, Tax Evasion and Tax Avoidance, established in March 2018, demanded that all CBI and RBI programmes be phased out in EU Member States. The European Parliamentary Research Service researched investment migration in somewhat greater detail, but ignored several relevant legal arguments related to the subject of sincere cooperation between EU Member States and the principles of fairness and discrimination in light of citizenship. In January 2019, the European Commission issued its report on investment programmes.



While recognising that applicants may invest in a Member State for legitimate reasons, the European Commission underscored the risks associated with investment migration programmes, including money laundering, corruption, and tax evasion, as well as the possibility of criminal infiltration in the EU. Most recently, the European Economic and Social Committee reaffirmed the stance of the EP's TAX3 Special Committee in its Opinion on investment programmes, calling for the phasing out of all investor programmes and urging EU Member States to follow that recommendation or provide reasonable arguments and evidence for not doing so.

With the new MEP's and European Commission in place for the ninth parliamentary term, discussions on investment migration in the EU are expected to continue in the upcoming years.

INVOLVEMENT OF THE INVESTMENT MIGRATION COUNCIL

The IMC supports discussions by civil society, governments, policymakers, and industry professionals aimed at strengthening the legal and security aspects of citizenship and residency programmes. Unfortunately, reports from EU institutions are often unbalanced, focusing too heavily on the critiques of the programmes, and rarely taking into account the benefits and evident legal arguments in favour of investment migration. The IMC works to paint the whole picture of investment migration and create balance in the discussion. The aim is twofold: first, the IMC seeks to improve public understanding of all aspects of the investment migration industry; and second, it aims to promote education and high standards among its members. In pursuing these objectives, the IMC is guided by three important edicts:

ALL ACTORS WORKING IN THE FIELD OF INVESTMENT MIGRATION - WITHIN OR OUTSIDE OF EUROPE - SHOULD JOIN THE IMC'S EFFORTS AND WORK TOGETHER TO PUT AN END TO THE ABUSE OF INVESTMENT MIGRATION PROGRAMMES, AND MAINTAIN HIGH STANDARDS FOR THE INDUSTRY.

1. The IMC is primarily focused on the legal aspects of investment migration. Accordingly, the IMC has addressed points made by EU institutions that go against the sovereign rights of states to decide on questions related to acquisition of citizenship.
2. Various studies and analyses aside, investment migration remains largely an unregulated industry. The IMC has started bridging the gap created by the lack of standards by working on minimum due diligence standards in coordination with BDO, Exiger, and Refinitiv.
3. Any objective assessment of the investment migration programmes should include all relevant aspects and players in the industry. The IMC repeatedly called EU institutions to involve them in discussions and other activities related to CBI and RBI programmes.

Finally, all actors working in the field of investment migration - within or outside of Europe - should join the IMC's efforts and work together to put an end to the abuse of investment migration programmes, and maintain high standards for the industry. ●

OPINION

by

Dominic Volek
Managing Partner,
Member of the Executive Committee
and Group Head Sales,
Henley & Partners

INVESTMENT MIGRATION AN ESSENTIAL ASSET IN THE COVID ERA





For many of us, January 2020 commenced with a sense of promise – not just of a new month or a year, but a new decade. Fast-forward to September and the world has been turned upside down, violently shaken, and given the reality check of a lifetime.

The warning signs may have been ignored for decades, but the coronavirus pandemic has now confronted us directly with our own fragility, our precariousness, but perhaps most of all, our utter unpreparedness.



Looking the other way is no longer an option, the evidence is everywhere, and we are being told in no uncertain terms that change is crucial, future pandemics are to be expected, and we need to be prepared.

In ironic contrast to the coronavirus, which is on a seemingly haphazard trip around the world of unknown duration and which knows no border checks or interminable queues at passport control, most of the world's population was grounded almost overnight when the Great Lockdown commenced. In such unprecedented circumstances, with entire families' homes, schools, businesses, and leisure activities merging in single, claustrophobia-inducing locations, many individuals were given more time, if not space, to contemplate like never before.

The unplanned pause has resulted in people from all walks of life across the globe re-evaluating their situations and reconsidering how they wish to conduct their lives and, more importantly – for those fortunate enough – to choose where they want to live.

A SPIKE IN DEMAND LED BY PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND HEALTHCARE

It is not surprising then that along with the global devastation it has caused, the pandemic appears to have triggered a sharp increase in demand for alternative residence and citizenship among high- and ultra-high-net-worth individuals (H/UHNWIs) worldwide, and crisis management and access to first-rate healthcare are two new drawcards. At Henley & Partners, we saw a notable 47 percent leap in enquiries between Q1 and Q2 2020.

This turn of events was predicted by FutureMap founder Dr. Parag Khanna, who wrote that as the coronavirus curtain lifted, people would seek to move from poorly governed and ill-prepared places to more proactive countries with greater resilience and better medical care. During the lockdown, many individuals realised that they could work remotely with success and that there were options available to them, and many have now begun to research and prepare for their post-Covid lives. Reports are emerging from developed countries such as

the UK and the USA of people leaving cities in search of a quieter life. We see this desire for new beginnings playing out on an international scale too, with investors actively seeking out relocation options, so that once global mobility has been reinstated, they and their families can live in more peaceful, far-flung locations that offer a better quality of life and cleaner air.

The investment migration industry has been growing steadily for over 15 years, but if in the past, an alternative residence or citizenship were 'nice-to-have' assets of convenience that enhanced travel freedom and provided vacation homes, Covid-19 has prompted a noticeable shift. They are now becoming 'must-have' essential assets because of the undeniable benefits they bring.

Astute investors recognise that by extending their wealth planning and legacy management strategies to include investment migration, they are able to catalyse the transition to new lives in countries of their choice – countries that host investment migration programs, such as Antigua & Barbuda – where they feel more comfortable and secure, and where they envisage a future that is better aligned with their aspirations not just for now but for generations to come.

Before Covid-19, people chose where to reside based on fairly predictable factors such as quality of living, access to education, a clean environment, and safety; in future they will also consider factors such as reliable infrastructure, self-sufficiency, access to good healthcare, reliable air links for hasty repatriation, and effective handling of crisis scenarios. In short, countries that have handled the current crisis well will gain in popularity.

We already saw a 31 percent increase in applications for the popular Antigua & Barbuda Citizenship by Investment Programme (CIP) between Q4 2019 and Q1 2020, and the number of applications remained high in Q2 2020. This figure is expected to rise even further now that the country has ably demonstrated it can handle a pandemic.

Investment migration has also captured the attention of several new wealth markets in recent months. There has been a notable increase in the number of enquiries from citizens of Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Nigeria, and Pakistan since the end of 2019.



As pointed out by Prof. Dr. Yossi Harpaz, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Tel Aviv University, in times of such uncertainty, global demand for dual citizenship and investor visas is expected to increase, and in the coming months we anticipate even more applicants from countries that have not been able to control the spread of the virus adequately.

The Caribbean region has handled the pandemic extremely well, with island nations such as Antigua & Barbuda taking advantage of their relative size and isolating themselves from the novel coronavirus speedily, soon after the pandemic was declared.

ALTERNATIVE REVENUE STREAMS IN TIMES OF CRISIS

When catastrophes such a pandemic strike, and in the wake of other climate emergencies and natural disasters such as the destructive hurricanes that the Caribbean

as a means of sovereign equity financing in 2013 when national debt exceeded the dangerous level of 100 percent of GDP and the economy had contracted by 0.1 percent. Programme revenues quickly ramped up, exceeding US\$260 million in 2017, a significant contribution to an economy of US\$1.5 billion. Programme inflows represented a lifeline that year when Hurricane Irma devastated the island nation. Tourism revenue slowed in the wake of the storm, but construction activities – partially funded by the CBI programme – helped mitigate fallout from reduced travel demand.

RCBI PROGRAMMES ARE INVALUABLE TO BOTH INVESTORS AND SOVEREIGN STATES

As more governments set up investment migration programmes, and those with existing programmes introduce more options to mitigate the destruction caused

THE INVESTMENT MIGRATION INDUSTRY HAS BEEN GROWING STEADILY FOR OVER 15 YEARS, BUT IF IN THE PAST, AN ALTERNATIVE RESIDENCE OR CITIZENSHIP WERE ‘NICE-TO-HAVE’ ASSETS OF CONVENIENCE THAT ENHANCED TRAVEL FREEDOM AND PROVIDED VACATION HOMES, COVID-19 HAS PROMPTED A NOTICEABLE SHIFT. THEY ARE NOW BECOMING ‘MUST-HAVE’ ESSENTIAL ASSETS BECAUSE OF THE UNDENIABLE BENEFITS THEY BRING.

regularly endures, the countries that host RCBI programmes can rely on programme inflows to recover their economies, build capacity, reduce debt, and make capital investments. RCBI programmes are designed by sovereign states as an alternative, debt-free capital raising platform to diversify their economies, thereby creating societal and sovereign value – we refer to this as ‘sovereign equity’. Just as UHNWI demand for RCBI programmes has been growing in recent years, so has supply. Over 100 countries have investment migration legislation in place, and there are over 60 active programmes globally, of which about 30 are relevant and successful.

The government instituted the Antigua & Barbuda CIP

by coronavirus, residence and citizenship programmes will continue to be invaluable both to investors intending to futureproof their families and change the trajectories of their legacies, as well as to sovereign states in desperate need of alternative revenue streams.

Investment migration will act as a hedge against the significant macro-economic volatility that is predicted, creating even more sovereign and societal value across the world. The industry continues to boom despite Covid-19, and the Antigua & Barbuda CIP offers a range of competitive and desirable options, particularly to investors looking to start afresh and relocate their families to safer shores. ●



THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

by

Hangama Wanner
Founder and Managing Partner
KayHan Swiss

COULD THE CURRENT WORLDWIDE ECONOMIC CRISIS AND UNCERTAINTY BE AN UNPRECEDENTED OPPORTUNITY FOR THE RCBI INDUSTRY?

2020 will forever be synonymous with the COVID-19 pandemic. This virus tore through the fabric of the globe, impacting all aspects of society. The hysteria left behind by the virus highlighted the frailty of our world order, with our interdependency and interconnection laid bare for all to witness.

Governments scrambled to react with no plan in place for a forced global shutdown. Those lucky enough to have options were able to counter the health and economic devastation, while second citizenship and/or residency proving to be the ultimate factor in giving people leeway to combat the global shutdown. Consequently, watching the world dangling on the brink of collapse, residency and citizenship by investment (RCBI) experts are compelled to shift from standing on the sidelines to taking action and identifying new opportunities.

AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS WORTH A POUND OF CURE

The versatility of RCBI, with the health crisis accompanied by an economic downfall, was clear to all. While mobility and financial gains have always accompanied RCBI programmes, health care and government efficiency have now entered the fray as vital factors.

OUT OF CRISIS, ARISES OPPORTUNITY

The investment migration industry is set to undergo a facelift as major changes may come into play. Changes will be incurred by the apparent global need to refocus efforts in a more risk-averse structure. The past decade has seen the introduction of many start-up visas, innovation visas, and pilot programmes focused on tech, fintech, and development funds (social, health, or socioeconomic). As countries most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic battle an economic cataclysm, it would be



“RCBI countries should focus on reassuring investors and providing them with incentives to contribute to their economy.”

astute for countries to entice investors to aid in economic recovery.

With a growing focus on health and environment, it would be wise of RCBI countries to keep the UN’s 17 Sustainable Development Goals in mind and rebrand their offerings to address critical issues. Real estate has largely been the prevailing investment option for RCBI, but impact investment options will benefit the country on a greater socioeconomic and environmental scale.

Countries like Portugal, Singapore, and Greece could utilise their handling of the pandemic as a brand-booster. This must be accompanied by innovation and offering options (global health insurance etc) that address the issues the world needs the most.

Many RCBI countries are in a pole position to offer something more for their citizenship. Antigua & Barbuda can optimise its recent legislation (2018) of medical cannabis (CBD), a multi-billion dollar industry that is yet to be introduced into the investment migration world. A fund to develop this sector could have colossal effects on the economy while providing investors with a good ROI. St Lucia has been investing in new clinics - why not employ the funds of investors into further boosting the health sector in the country? Thus making it a hotspot for medical tourism, and in the case of a future pandemic, a haven for all its citizens.

RCBI IS A TWO-WAY STREET

Most countries reacted to COVID-19 by lowering the prices of their RCBI programmes. I advocate they remain constant, as RCBI should not be a bargaining market. RCBI countries should focus on reassuring investors and providing them with incentives to contribute to their economy.

The Caribbeans could, instead of constantly waging a price war, unite and standardise their offerings; rebranding

themselves on what they offer rather than price. There is always the issue of accepting more nationalities; with the US accepting Iranians, why shouldn’t other countries? Investment options are not the only matters to consider, as the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted shortcomings in banking and finance. RCBI countries must streamline procedures, through digitalising banking and money transfers; finally solving the issue of biometrics that went haywire with the travel ban, or simply offer sophisticated banking solutions. Cryptocurrency could also be introduced as a valid method of payment, with blockchain technology a long-term and safe solution to complicated banking procedures. Any potential second citizenship must come with reassurances of solid financial stability and fiscal policies.

EU COUNTRIES MAY YET INTRODUCE NEW PROGRAMMES

Investment migration has undeniably played a gargantuan part in economic growth in EU countries. It is probable that other EU countries will follow suit. We could see new programmes popping up to shore up that economic gap created by the pandemic.

New programmes, such as Greece’s recently announced seven percent flat tax rate route for pensioners could aid in recovery. Flat tax programmes are transparent solutions that bring with them great benefits. Some fine-tuning of existing EU programmes, and the introduction of new ones, could expedite recovery. The EU Commission may yet change its view of RCBI as it aids in the economic recovery of one of the hardest-hit continents in the world.

The pandemic has opened a path of unprecedented opportunities to explore. The future of this industry is now, and it is up to all players to determine how we want to shape it. ●



THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

by

Abire Mansoor
Licensed Agent
Citizens International (Antigua)

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING GUIDED, IN EARNEST

here is so much more to second citizenship than simply being able to travel around more easily, with our current world crisis highlighting some compelling reasons to arm yourself with multiple passports. But how do you decide which programme best suits you and your needs for second citizenship?

If you have the option to physically move to another country when borders are closed, you have the ultimate personal freedom and security. With your future travel or relocation pathway secured in the guise of your second passport, you are also able to create a concrete personal and financial foothold in your second home, opening up some attractive benefits.

All well and good so far. However, those individuals and families looking to obtain a second citizenship in today's world have many avenues to choose from, making it that much more complex to navigate the multiple options and programmes. On top of that, how do you decide which citizenship will not only allow you more freedom of travel, but invite better investment opportunities, higher education options or even that alternative vacation home? *Which one is better than the other based on your needs?*

Google is filled with hundreds, if not thousands, of self-appointed experts; so who do you trust with a decision that has the potential to expand your life and also you as an individual?

In the case of a second citizenship, a top resource is the government-appointed representatives listed on official government websites. However, you may find they will oversell the jurisdiction they can best monetise. A little research online for residency and citizenship, and going beyond page one of Google, will bring up some firms that have broad experience over multiple countries. Don't



"From corporate structuring and tax to personal security and global connections that can expand your life in unexpected ways, a second citizenship is much more than a passport, and your "(wo)man on the ground" is going to influence the depth and breadth of the benefits you can enjoy."

be afraid to dig and look for the ones that present well and give transparent information that answers a lot of questions upfront.

When you eventually speak to individuals who might assist you through the process, ask them if they themselves are an international citizen. Have they lived with multiple passports? Resided in multiple jurisdictions? And have they been assisting others to achieve their global citizenship goals for some time? If the answers to those questions are yes, you know that you are listening to a valuable perspective.

It's important that you are carefully listened to. The person you ultimately choose as your representative should take care to understand your needs and goals in detail. Getting through a citizenship or residency application in any jurisdiction is as much down to a good licensed agent as it is you collecting the correct paperwork. It's their job to guide you and advise as you

create your application with them to ensure you have given a clear transparent picture that can be assessed in a straightforward manner.

They should advise you, prior to your application, about the reasons why you might not be approved, and, in the course of speaking with you, they should be asking you pertinent questions to assess your eligibility. In essence, you should get the sense that they are interviewing you! A good agent will only want to put forward applicants who can be successful.

Many firms will run a due diligence report on you before representing you and that's not a bad thing. It shows that they take their roles seriously and will not take your money without some comfort that you are a viable applicant.

Once you have spoken to a number of professionals that might assist you, there are other considerations to take into account, such as their professional fees and their services that go beyond the initial applications. Lower fees aren't necessarily a mark of a lesser service, but buyer beware. My best advice is to firstly ask whether they are directly appointed by the government as a licensed agent or whether they themselves use an intermediary on the ground. You may as well go straight to the source and deal with someone on the ground. And is citizenship their primary business, or is it an add-on? Someone who is focused on citizenship and residency - and only that - will likely be more efficient and knowledgeable.

Secondly, what happens once you become a citizen? Will that person or team be your representative on the ground and how will they be able to help you? Beyond the passport, you should be able to create a personal and financial foothold that will benefit you and your family in many ways.

You may initially think that that the passport is a backup or a future hedge, but the truth for the great majority of economic citizens is that the country becomes a part of who they are, and potentially a part of their business decisions.

From corporate structuring and tax to personal security and global connections that can expand your life in unexpected ways, a second citizenship is much more than a passport, and your "(wo)man on the ground" is going to influence the depth and breadth of the benefits you can enjoy. ●



THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

by

Karen Kelly
Director, Strategy & Development
Russell Scarcella
Director
Exiger

THE CASE FOR REGULAR LOOK-BACKS IN THE RCBI COMPLIANCE FRAMEWORK

esidency and Citizenship by Investment (RCBI) programmes are actively seeking to strengthen their compliance regimes to meet the challenge of increased industry scrutiny. Efforts in this regard have included, depending on the country, enhancing due diligence processes, strengthening legislation around approval requirements and revocation processes, and performing periodic, scheduled reviews of previous applicants and decisions. An applicant's risk profile may change over time due to new personal and business circumstances and relationships; they may move to new countries; their marital status may change; they may become involved in litigation, start new businesses or enter new industries; their political associations and affiliations may strengthen or diminish. Likewise, geo-political issues and an ever-changing global landscape can have a significant impact on the risk profile of an applicant without any action or changes on their own behalf. An RCBI programme's risk framework can also change, as new due diligence standards are adopted, or when new regulations are introduced. Periodic reviews or "look-backs" on previously approved applicants present an opportunity to proactively view such changes across the entire approved applicant population, identify individuals requiring renewed due diligence, and reassess overall and individual levels of risk against the current framework.

Reviewing previous applicants is a powerful tool to identify and flag instances where their profiles no longer align with an RCBI country's standards. The potential of a look-back is fully realised, however, when incorporated as a regular and periodic event within a robust and structured compliance programme. In performing reviews of an applicant population, information is updated, profile



“Reviewing previous applicants is a powerful tool to identify and flag instances where their profiles no longer align with an RCBI country’s standards.”

changes are identified, a risk-based approach is employed, and the internal risk assessment framework is optimised based on review findings.

WHAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN AN RCBI LOOK-BACK?

RCBI programmes collect documentation – application forms, government identification, financial statements, business records, personal statements – as a standard part of the residency or citizenship application process, similar to a financial institution’s collection of documents when onboarding new clients. This documentation is the backbone to the applicant due diligence process. It is critical to validate whether the applicant meets stated requirements, to perform basic screening against sanctions and watchlists, to assist third party due diligence experts in conducting enhanced due diligence investigations, and to perform any additional intelligence or law enforcement checks. The assessment that follows by the programme’s compliance team is then based on the results of these comprehensive checks, and the final decision is based on how the risk profile aligns with the risk appetite and framework.

Just as financial institutions have an ongoing due diligence obligation and will request updated documentation to determine if a customer’s profile has changed during periodic reviews, so too should an RCBI programme update its due diligence and risk assessment on each approved applicant. If reviews occur on a known schedule (such as five years after the initial application), applicants can be informed from the start about this future requirement. This marks one of the key differences of look-backs as compared to ongoing monitoring of applicants (another critical component of a best-in-class compliance programme). Updated documentation allows for a reassessment based on the current information and circumstances of the individual.

Once new documentation is available, a baseline level of rescreening – using updated jurisdictions and affiliations – should be performed on the historic applicants. This should include, at minimum, public records screening for sanctions and watchlist hits, political exposure, and adverse events such as criminal proceedings or investigations. The rescreening results can be risk-rated and compared to the original rating. Using a risk-based approach, RCBI programmes can determine the next steps, including updated enhanced due diligence on those with higher ratings to better understand the heightened risks. By combining AI-powered due diligence screening platforms, third-party due diligence expertise, and a tiered approach to the level of due diligence required, look-backs can be performed quickly and at a fraction of the cost of the original due diligence.

IMPROVING THROUGH REVIEW

Through a risk-based model which updates applicant ratings on a regular basis, an RCBI programme can identify approved applicants whose overall risk profiles no longer meet its stringent acceptance criteria and determine if further action is needed. This allows problematic applicants to be proactively addressed.

Periodic reviews are a critical component in a robust compliance programme. The results can identify trends to consider and incorporate into the risk framework going forward. For example, applicants from a particular country may consistently present with a higher risk rating after a look-back. It could therefore become prudent to assign a higher rating for new applicants from that country. In documenting and incorporating look-back results, an RCBI country can demonstrate to the wider industry, and to the public at large, that it maintains a best-in-class, robust, and continuously improving compliance programme focused on accepting only the highest quality applicants. ●

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U G H






THE RHYTHM OF INNOVATION

By Hendren Parker

Antigua & Barbuda has been at the forefront of every significant economic shift in the Caribbean region. The concept of a Caribbean vacation was created around four islands: Cuba, the Bahamas, Jamaica, Barbados, and Antigua & Barbuda, forming part of the lure of sun, sea, and sand for which the region is so known today.



By breaking early from the tradition of an agricultural economy and investing in an international airport and the construction of luxury resorts on the beach, visitors from across the globe were invited to vacation on the islands. Before that time, there weren't many people who could imagine an economy built on providing services rather than products.

The melodic sounds of steelpan music and the rhythm of carnival are synonymous with the twin islands. But few people know that the steelpan is reputed to be the only musical instrument invented in the twentieth century sophisticated enough to produce a full orchestral presentation. Antigua & Barbuda was one of the pioneers of this art form, hot on the heels of Trinidad & Tobago, with the islands' Hellsgate Steel Orchestra, founded in 1945, being one of the oldest steelbands in the world and still going strong today. The rhythm and style emanating from "pan music" was the basis for the creation of the genre of music known as calypso and the later soul of

gaming as part of the new financial services sector. This unique ability to cooperate and collaborate, yet still innovate, distinguishes the country from all others. The digital asset economy is the latest iteration in the tradition of innovation. The global rollout of 5G is giving life to the Internet of Things (IoT). As true artificial intelligence takes hold, new things are created, new pathways to do old activities are developed, and learned new activities appear.

Alongside the emergence of the IoT, the world is witnessing the advent of the Internet of Money. Blockchain technology has unlocked the door to a new system of communicating value digitally and separately from the traditional system. Trust in the technology that powers this new system is replacing trust in governments and central banks, while Blockchain is demonstrating a potential beyond the cryptocurrency, for which it is best known, to become a new value exchange system for any asset. Indeed, Antigua & Barbuda is strategically positioning itself for a role in that very infrastructure by passing the necessary legislation, and together with its robust legal system and strong history in the innovative financial area, the country offers reassurance to any potential practitioner. By managing to keep pace and being compliant with the ever-changing and rigorous demands of required protocols and treaties, the country has avoided being classified as a grey or blacklisted territory.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA HAS BEEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF EVERY SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC SHIFT IN THE CARIBBEAN REGION.

calypso or "soca" as it is better known. One of the keys to participating in the digital asset industry is this continual innovation, which enables a nation to constantly charge forward.

Another example of this spirit is the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU), established in 1983. Antigua & Barbuda is one of eight independent countries that share a common currency and central bank. Predating the European Union, the ECCU is limited to monetary currency, although fiscal governance remains with each individual country. Even in this shared space, Antigua & Barbuda has still been able to pursue unique opportunities for its own economic development. This dichotomy allowed the country to become one of the regional pioneers, together with the Cayman Islands and Barbados, in developing offshore financial services and offshore

The country, therefore, stands ready to receive further investment in this field through the passing of the Digital Assets Business Act No 16 of 2020. The Act creates a licensing regime for businesses that issue, sell, trade, or redeem cryptocurrencies; provide custodial services for owners of digital wallets; and convert between currencies. It also welcomes businesses that create digital assets by accepting and making payments for goods and services, both physical and digital, and recording the rights and value as a digital asset. It opens the field to digital-based financial services such as lending, borrowing and issuance of derivatives, and can radically transform the working of the local economy at the same time as integrating it globally. The scope is wide and expanding, and so we invite you to explore the opportunities on offer and join us in the rhythm of innovation. ●

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THE EMERGING DIGITALISATION OF WEALTH MANAGEMENT

“Wealth managers need to use events in 2020 to determine which critical capabilities have the biggest potential to boost profit and improve customer experience. Emerging technologies like AI, analytics and automation are enabling firms to enhance revenues through better client engagement and reduce costs by streamlining processes. There are numerous opportunities for firms to assess and reinvent their business for post-pandemic success. How firms respond today will determine the success of their business tomorrow.”

ANIRBAN BOSE, FINANCIAL SERVICES STRATEGIC BUSINESS UNIT CEO & GROUP EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER, CAPGEMINI

THE ACCELERATING PACE OF CHANGE

The pace of change pre-pandemic was rapid, but there's no reason to think these trends won't accelerate post pandemic. In a Darwinian sense, the companies that are faring best are those that are either digitally native or have invested the most in digital. These companies will take market share at the expense of all other companies and, in turn, raise the level of digitalisation across the economy. Many of the corporate, social, and regulatory impediments to change are being swept aside by the overpowering force of the pandemic and the lockdown, in turn, driving innovation and digitalisation across most sectors.

THE IMPLICATIONS FOR WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Like in many other industries, the rate of digitalisation in wealth management has accelerated markedly as an effect of the pandemic. This clearly requires wealth managers to adapt their operating, servicing and sourcing models. However, the pandemic has wider ramifications that tie into changing customer and societal needs and, by extension, the services that wealth managers need to offer going forward. Digitalisation in wealth management was gradual until it was sudden, and most wealth managers and private banks were working through three or even five-year digitalisation plans.

With the pandemic the situation has changed. From one day to the next, physically meeting with clients became impossible, which demanded a rapid change in servicing models. In the meantime, markets were extremely volatile, and clients needed advice and reassurance.

Simultaneously, financial institutions' workforces were sent home under quarantine which meant running the company with everyone working remotely. That marked the onset of a fundamental and mandatory rethink in their operating model, with wealth managers needing to find a way to invest in, and accelerate, digital roadmaps.

One option is to revisit existing projects and stop many of them in favour of digitalisation of operating and servicing models. Another, better option, is to do this in conjunction with the undertaking of smaller projects, which can be pushed into production quicker and with a more predictable return on investment. Whatever the route, it's clear that digital projects cannot be postponed until after the economic crisis.

Capitalising on the native properties of digitalisation, two notable opportunities stand out: the ability to produce at near-zero marginal cost and the capacity to gather and process a significantly larger amount of data about customers to personalise services - and do so at scale. With this in mind, digital wealth management can - and should - be opened up to a much larger demographic segment of customers. By lowering the fees attached to wealth advice, the addressable market could expand from the 42 million people who have a personal wealth manager today to the 1.8 billion people who have more than US\$10,000 in investable assets.

Wealth managers need to look and invest through the cycle to be ready for what is on the other side, which won't be a return to normal so much as moving towards a new normal.

A FULL SHAKE-UP: MOVING FROM ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT TO ASSETS UNDER INTELLIGENCE

The societal and business impact of the pandemic will be widespread. Even though we don't yet know its shape, the pandemic will produce a sharp recession. But recessions are nothing new. Expect, for example, that matters related to rising inequality will gain in importance, prompting a call for greater wealth redistribution as well as a move to measure the societal and environmental impact of policy decisions.


For wealth management, we can expect a rapid acceleration in the rate of digitalisation. This means much more than just providing wealth management through digital

channels. It entails a reappraisal of the servicing, sourcing, and operating models to deliver greater quality at scale, which will mean more plentiful and personalised access to wealth planning for society at large.

We can also expect the bundle of wealth services to change and grow. There will be more focus on education and planning. New services will add to the current offer, especially around helping clients to draw down their wealth in a structured and optimised manner. And there will also be a different interpretation of risk, with cyber defences becoming more critical than physical defences, for example.

If we had to point to one meta trend in wealth management, it would be the move from assets under management to assets under intelligence. Post-pandemic wealth management will be characterised by firms' abilities to add value to clients by interpreting and drawing insight from multiple datasets to deliver services that are more personalised, more helpful, more optimised for risk, and which deliver stable and high returns against their financial goals. And it's all happening at once.

by Silvan Schriber, Additiv



"If we had to point to one meta trend in wealth management, it would be the move from assets under management to assets under intelligence."

THE IMPORTANCE OF ETHICAL AI IN FINANCIAL SERVICES

Artificial intelligence (AI) impacts the fabric of the financial services industry. Those companies which understand this paradigm shift are already making provisions to become AI-driven companies, otherwise known as technology companies operating in the financial sector.

In their quest to become AI companies, they have to change how they operate and stay profitable - their operational model, revenue model, and business process redesign. One of the first steps towards companies' technology-driven futures, is to ensure that their business processes are redesigned to enable humans and machines to work together. When business processes are designed correctly, they enable scaling AI across the enterprise with a high success rate. Business process design is also essential because it allows embedding ethical values into AI models right from the beginning. In other words, ethical AI is all about design and a robust approach to delivering business value in a way that is compatible with a technology-driven industry.

HOW SHOULD BUSINESS LEADERS BE APPROACHING ETHICAL AI?

AI is a strategic business tool for growth, profitability, and improved customer service. However, as there's limited governance around AI, regulators are working hard to build guidance frameworks for its adoption. In the meantime, institutions need to lead by adding to their board of directors an AI ethicist with specific industry experience. Ethical AI is modern corporate governance and improved governance of technology: it is not compliance. I would argue that it is good business as it is grounded in sound business models deployed with technology designed to follow the principles of fairness, privacy, transparency, explainability and accountability.

The opposite of ethical AI is ungoverned

and unethical AI, which automates wrong decisions and puts businesses at risk, escalating new types of risks very quickly. Using an analogy contemporary to the Covid-19 pandemic, unethical AI is like a virus; it spreads very quickly and is hard to contain. The damage is long term, sometimes unknown, and not immediately quantifiable.

Bias is one of the most prominent concerns. For instance, a biased dataset in insurance, translates into a biased AI model with biased insurance decisions. These lead to errors, erosion of customers' trust - which affect a company's reputation - and its market share. It makes no sense to deploy technology which is unfair, insufficiently tested and reliant on biased data. The effects could be privacy breach, lack of transparency, explainability and accountability.

"Ethical AI is all about design and a robust approach to delivering business value in a way that is compatible with a technology-driven industry."

THE FUTURE OF AI IN FINANCIAL SERVICES

For the first time in the history of our sector, we have the opportunity to deliver personalisation at scale. This can eradicate financial advice gaps, for instance, and help people manage and grow their wealth more efficiently.

When properly designed, deployed and maintained, AI technologies open new possibilities for business growth and profitability. One of these possibilities is personalisation at scale to delight customers and provide improved services.

by Clara Durodié



A SAFE HARBOUR FOR FINANCIAL SERVICES

Many of the same attributes that make Antigua a successful tourism destination also make it a well-regarded international business centre. With the nation's enactment of the International Business Corporations Act in 1982, which governs international business services and foreign direct investments, and with ever-changing goal posts of international regulatory and tax requirements, the Act has continuously been updated and amended.

To this end, local regulations have kept pace with the demands of international authorities for fully transparent financial services, and the government has strengthened its regulatory and supervisory machinery for financial institutions.

With an international crisis underway and political instability growing in many countries around the globe, an increasing number of affluent investors are looking to the Caribbean in an attempt to seek a safe and stable financial environment and second home. Antiguan banks have had less direct exposure to the global crisis and political controversies and in fact, our jurisdiction has always consistently practiced prudent banking standards by being conservative in their lending guidelines whilst being closely monitored by their respective regulatory authorities. Indeed, Caribbean banks are considered to be one of the safest depository opportunities in the world at this time.

Antigua & Barbuda's international business sector is truly committed to maintaining its position as a leading Caribbean jurisdiction and safe financial centre. With the recent passing of the Digital Assets Business Act, a forward-thinking framework has been provided for those companies which operate in the digital eco-system. And in today's global village, geographic focus is becoming less and less relevant to international clients. Modern technology can deliver a consistently high standard of service for customers to conduct secure banking business regardless of physical presence no matter where they are located. The combination of well-regulated financial services, a strong legal and democratic environment, world-class communications, an English-speaking and skilled workforce, and strong professional resources makes Antigua & Barbuda a positive environment for international financial and business services.

by Brian Stuart-Young, CEO, Global Bank of Commerce

For more information, please visit the Financial Services Regulatory Commission's website: www.fsrb.gov.ag

GLOBAL REACH THROUGH LOCAL INVESTMENT

Since the days of welcoming the British Navy to Nelson's Dockyard, Antigua & Barbuda has been known as a friendly and safe harbour for all its visitors. This tradition of service continues today, with the islands attracting super yachts, mega-cruisers and international flights from across the globe.

Among the many attractions offered to visitors are opportunities for a second home, a second citizenship and a second banking relationship; all of which can be coordinated by most financial institutions in Antigua & Barbuda.

This 38-year-old jurisdiction has vast experience in catering to the wealthy, regardless of whether they are looking for an investment in Antigua itself or a wealth management service, and the nation has consequently developed banking products tailored to suit both Caribbean and international client relationships. There can be no doubt that Antigua offers a safe financial habitat with a stable business environment to shelter from the 'storms' of volatile economies elsewhere.

Antigua attracts those international investors from Latin America, Europe and the Far East wishing to balance their portfolios with domestic investments, and whose interest is piqued by real estate investment and other wealth management

services in the jurisdiction.

One of the products offered for commercial development is the Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT). Both developers and investors can benefit from REITs, with the former gaining relatively lower cost capital allowing them to develop institutional grade real estate, and the latter the potential to acquire a total return on their investment by receiving both the capital appreciation and yield. With certain clauses having been incorporated in the REIT regulations, Antigua & Barbuda Real Estate Investment Trust (AB-REIT) is an attractive investment for UHNWI investors and includes D-REIT, I-REIT and EH-REIT options. This is the newest investment option in the Caribbean region, with exciting opportunities for both developers and investors.

And with increasing numbers of investors purchasing properties in the twin islands as vacation and second homes, these investments, together with a satisfactory due diligence procedure, may qualify them for citizenship under the Citizenship by Investment Programme (CIP). So, what are you waiting for?





WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE FINANCE?

In the past, investments were evaluated based on financial measures alone. However, in today's more consciously aware world, environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues have become hot topics in financial investments. Although sustainable finance is an extremely broad term, it is basically any form of financial service and/or product that incorporates ESG criteria into financing, business or investment

decisions. And as many of its advocates argue, sustainability and finance should go hand in hand if we're to solve the world's environmental and societal challenges.

As both financial institutions and companies are increasingly seeking ways in which they can conduct business in an environmentally conscious manner, the sector is becoming increasingly sophisticated, with new frameworks, initiatives and financial products emerging almost every day. There is also a growing distinction between the use of risk filters, which do no harm, and impact financing or investing, which seek to actively do good. Although there have always naturally been convincing reasons for sustainable financial products, it is only recently that the economic motivation has existed. With US\$465 billion of sustainable debt issued globally in 2019 up from US\$261.4 billion a year previously, this incredible increase of 78 percent made it a record year for sustainable finance.

There can be no doubt that Antigua offers a safe financial habitat with a stable business environment to shelter from the 'storms' of volatile economies elsewhere.

To say that there is potential in the sector, is putting it mildly. The International Finance Corporation (IFC) estimates that there are US\$23 trillion of climate-related sustainable finance opportunities in emerging markets alone in the years leading up to 2030. And according to the World Resources Institute (WRI), 25 of the world's largest 50 banks have made public sustainable finance commitments totalling more than US\$2.5 trillion. Sustainable finance is gaining traction as investment companies increasingly accept that adopting ESG factors doesn't hamper returns, but in fact can deliver risk and performance benefits. The IFC analysed 656 companies and found that those with a good ESG performance outperformed others by 2.1 percent in terms of return of equity. Current world events are making us all change our priorities and look at sustainable ways we can protect our societies and environment. With financial institutions having a powerful tool to promote change, sustainable finance is something we will be hearing a lot more of in times to come.

International business companies (IBCs) in Antigua & Barbuda are exempt from taxes on dividends, interest and royalties for 50 years.

High Net Worth Individuals' (HNWI) population grew by 31 million or 9.1% globally in 2019, while wealth grew by 8.2%.

65% of financial services firms have major to extreme concerns regarding the potential risks associated with AI.

US\$2.5 trillion commitment to sustainable finance by half of the world's largest 50 banks.

Antigua & Barbuda's economic growth was 4.7% in 2019 and 7.4% in 2018.

Antigua & Barbuda's GDP was US\$1.73 billion in 2019.

74% of HNWI's are willing to consider wealth management offerings from BigTechs.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) expected to replace nearly 9% of all jobs in incumbent organisations by 2030, and increase by 19% in FinTechs.

45% of AI frontrunner firms are investing over US\$5M in AI initiatives today, three times the level of starters or late adopters.

HNWIs to allocate 41% of their portfolio to sustainable investing (SI) products by the end of 2020, and 46% by the end of 2021.

FACTS & FIGURES

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INTERVIEW

I

Established in 2004, Global Ports Holding Plc (GPH) is the world's largest cruise port operator with 21 ports in 13 countries which serve 14 million passengers a year. GPH took over operations at Antigua & Barbuda's cruise port in November 2019 for a 30-year concession. Investing nearly US\$50 million in the first year to upgrade existing facilities, including the creation of a pier able to host the largest Oasis-class ships to its berths, the plan is to continue making improvements to increase cruise visitor numbers and improve their overall experience. As chairman and co-founder of GPH, not only is Mehmet Kutman actively involved in business development at the company level, he also serves on the board of directors of several of Global Investment Holdings operating subsidiaries and affiliates. We caught up with Mehmet virtually to find out more about the company's plans in Antigua and beyond.



What was your first experience of Antigua? And how has the first year or so of operations been?

I first came to Antigua three or four years ago. I must admit that upon arrival, a doubt crossed my mind about why we had decided to come to the twin islands. However, as soon as we received such an incredibly warm welcome from everyone, I knew we had come to the right place. I believe that the welcome you receive somewhere is extremely important for

your first impression. Furthermore, when we later submitted our proposal to Prime Minister Gaston Browne and the other members of cabinet, upon seeing their excitement and enthusiasm for the project, I remember thinking, “This is it, we’re in the right place for sure.”

Thankfully, we were awarded the tender for the concession to the port and were extremely fortunate that Dona Regis transferred from our port in the British Virgin Islands

to become the General Manager in Antigua. As we have a very lean and mean operation, the fact that we didn’t have to bring anyone from the head office to run operations and were instead able to use local people, has been the perfect scenario for us. Currently, the pier is nearly finished. Construction has been ongoing, and we only expect a very short delay, which considering everything happening worldwide is a success I believe.

On a personal note, my own feelings about Antigua & Barbuda is that it has beautiful nature, wonderful scenery and fabulous food. And being what I would call a “water” person, I love the incredible sailing on offer. However, I think the most important thing is that I feel completely at home here.

Can you tell us more about Global Ports’ plans in Antigua?

The first thing we’re doing is building the Oasis-class pier, which will be finished in mid-October this year at the latest. If the cruising ban is lifted in time, there should be some Oasis-class ships coming to port later this year.

The next stage of our plans is to develop a plot of land, which is located to the left of the pier, into an entertainment area where local people can meet the incoming cruise passengers. There are other assets which we may additionally be interested in developing and we are also studying the hotel potential. Furthermore, we are waiting to hear back from the government about a solar energy proposal we submitted. We like to make sure that all of our plans go hand-in-hand.

How important is it to work with the local community in Antigua & Barbuda?

We want to ensure the port works for all the stakeholders involved; whether

it's the person who sells bracelets, or the one who gives manicures to the incoming passengers; absolutely everyone. If the local people are happy then the government will also be happy since the people are the electorate who will vote for the government in the end. Our general approach is always to work with the community. Ultimately, we are tenants - albeit on a long-term basis - but we are still just tenants. Unless you coordinate with the local people you cannot get anywhere at all. Our goal is always to boost the communities in which we work. For this reason we will be introducing our Yes Foundation into Antigua.

Can you tell us more about Global Ports' Yes Foundation?

The foundation is geared towards education, sports, and activities for the young, so that the next generation makes a better job of the world than my generation has. It is giving back to the community by supporting people in need and making a difference to the communities we touch.

How important is the sustainability of your ports?

Although we work to ensure that our ports have zero emissions and pollution, undoubtedly the cruise ships themselves produce a certain amount of pollution. In an ideal world, all cruise ships should be shore powered and for that reason all our ports provide this service. However, since ships need to make significant investments to be shore powered, and as we naturally do not control what individual cruise companies do, it's not such an easy task. Unfortunately, cruise ships sometimes unintentionally pollute the oceans, but post-pandemic, the companies are taking major steps to limit their footprint. I would say that public relations are a major issue for these companies, and they are often unfairly

I WANT TO DO
SOMETHING THAT
WE ARE PROUD
OF; SOMEWHERE
WHERE THE LOCAL
COMMUNITY
CAN MEET THE
PASSENGERS AND
CREATE FANTASTIC
MEMORIES WITH
THEM, IN ORDER
THAT THESE VISITORS
WANT TO COME
BACK TO ANTIGUA
& BARBUDA AGAIN.

blamed for many issues. I feel I have to take a stand and defend them.

When do you foresee cruise ships back in the water?

We are in daily contact with the cruise lines. In the Mediterranean, cruising will commence in August with all the special and new protocols in place. In the Caribbean, there will be a gradual return once the ban is lifted, which is expected to be in the third quarter of this year. However, the public firstly need to be convinced that what they've been reading in the media is erroneous. Extremely strict health and safety measures will be in place and everyone aboard the ship will be tested before boarding. I believe that after taking measures, cruise lines will be fit to deal with any pandemic that comes our way. The current situation has been a lesson for the industry as whole. But it will come back stronger than ever.

Are you planning further expansion in the Caribbean?

I love this business and we will keep moving forward. We are naturally

planning further expansion in the Caribbean – it's heaven on Earth! At the current time, we are working on six or seven different destinations and in fact we've recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on an undisclosed island. I think we will be signing five destinations over the next six to 12 months.

How important is it to show off each island's unique character?

Each island is different: the food, the culture, even peoples' accents are all unique. It's important that our passengers are aware of this and thus we believe our job is to bring the different cultures to the visitors. In each of our ports, we try to build a unique landmark in order that visitors remember the particular island they've visited. We also introduce them to the islands' local cultures, whether it's through the gastronomy available or an event such as a festival.

What would you say to our readers about what Global Ports will achieve in Antigua?

The standard answer would be to wait and see! However, we are asking people to come and join us for the creation of something unforgettable here on the twin islands. I must add that the support we've received from the locals, cabinet and the Prime Minister has been a key driver for our expansion in the Caribbean. Truly, without them we couldn't have succeeded. The Antigua & Barbuda government took a risk with us and it is therefore crucial that we keep our promises to them. On a personal level, I want to do something that we are proud of; somewhere where the local community can meet the passengers and create fantastic memories with them, in order that these visitors want to come back to Antigua & Barbuda again. ●

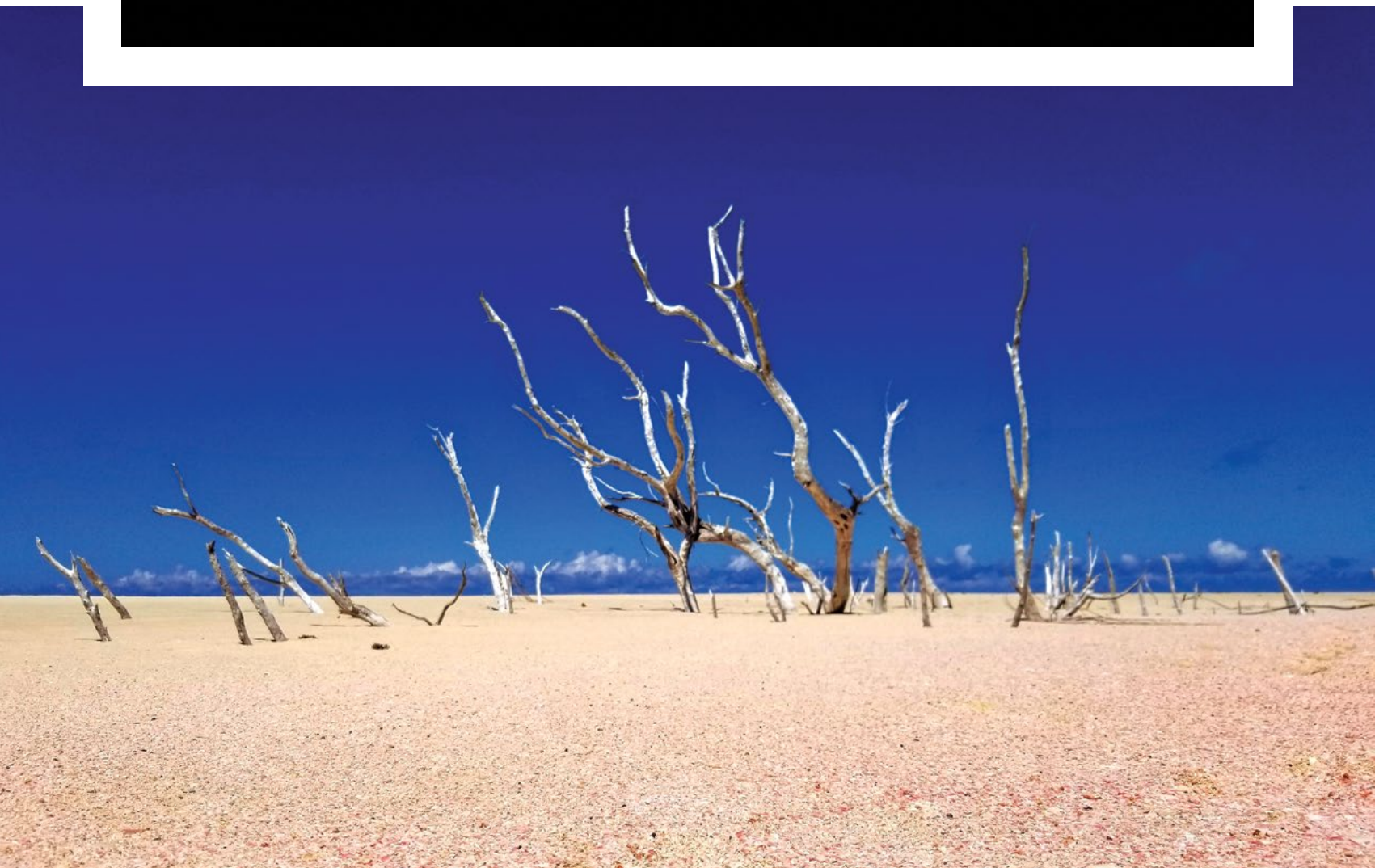
BARBUDA THROUGH MY LENS

Mohammad Walbrook

As a passionate advocate of his stunning and relatively unknown home of Barbuda, Mohammad Walbrook's photos capture the spirit and essence of this unique island. After studying at the prestigious School of Visual Arts (SVA) in New York, he returned to document the daily life and beauty of his home island.









QA



To view more of Mohammad Walbrook's work, check out
www.instagram.com/mohammadwalbrookphotos
 and
www.facebook.com/mohammadwalbrookphotography

You did a Bachelor of Fine Arts at the School of Visual Arts (SVA) in New York where no doubt you were exposed to many different media. What attracted you so much to photography?

The ability to freeze a moment in time, print it and show it to the world was one of the things that attracted me to photography. I did video as well, but my first and true love in art will always be photography.

Once leaving Antigua & Barbuda to pursue studies or careers, many young people never return. What brought you back to Barbuda?

I showed my work on Barbuda to a couple of the instructors at school and they encouraged me to return and continue to document the distinctive culture we have on the island to show the rest of the world. I believe we have an extremely unique way of life in Barbuda and I am enormously proud to be the person to freeze as many moments in time as possible to document our culture and heritage.

How did living in New York give you a fresh perspective on your home island upon your return?

New York made me appreciate Barbuda even more and I've become more aware of things that I never used to pay attention to. Things we have easy access to in Barbuda, such as seafood, fresh organic fruits and vegetables, clean air, and beautiful beaches cost a lot of money in New York.

How did you start becoming interested in photography? Can you remember your first shot?

My grandmother on my mother's side lives in the UK and whenever she came home for a vacation, she would ask me to take photos at family events. I did it just for fun until the photographer Allan Aflak saw some

of my photos and encouraged me to take it seriously. My first shot, as far as I know, is probably of my grandmother and the family.

Which of your photos means the most to you and why?

The photos that show the Barbudan way of life mean the most to me. I don't just want to show our beautiful beaches, but the people and incredible way of life we have here.

Who or what has been the biggest influence in your photography and why?

Radcliffe "Ruddy" Roye, a Jamaican photographer who lives in New York, has been a major influence on me. He was a guest speaker at SVA where he made a presentation about how to document your own people. This changed my focus away from doing strictly commercial work to continue my work on Barbuda. Since I am a local and almost all the professional photographers I had previously met who were photographing Barbuda were from other countries, this was especially important. He was the first Caribbean photographer I'd ever met that worked for some of the big publications and he deeply inspired me.

Who would you like to inspire with your photography?

I would like to inspire more Barbudans to cherish what we have. I also hope to inspire the younger generation to get into photography and continue to document their people when I am gone, not just in Barbuda but around the world.

What would be your dream subject matter?

Africa - the other side of it; the side we don't see in mainstream media.

What is your life motto?

Never give up! ●

“ When was the
last time you did
something for
the first time? **”**



NEW CITIZEN



Once again, in this issue we meet up with a new citizen to find out why they've decided to become an Antigua & Barbuda passport holder. Mouna Ayoub, a French businesswoman, author and socialite of Lebanese origin, is one of the newest citizens of these paradise islands. Just as comfortable on the red carpet at events like the Cannes Film Festival as she is in one of Antigua's local eateries during her recent visit to Antigua, we asked about her experience in becoming a citizen of the twin islands.

You are certainly cosmopolitan and have lived in many places around the world. Why did you decide to become a citizen of Antigua & Barbuda?

I chose Antigua & Barbuda because it is beautiful and the people are welcoming. I feel completely at peace here and enjoy the company of many of the islands' new and old citizens. St John's is a charming place where I can find everything I need, and some of the other places on the island are so unique and special to me that I just can't get enough of them! It is also an extremely private island where I can live away from the prying eyes of others and the glamour of the life I lead in Europe to experience a simpler luxury.

Being in Antigua is a good break from my life in the limelight and the island provides a haven of discretion that shields me from the press and the unwelcome gossip elsewhere.

MOUNA AYOUB

What does luxury mean to you?

To me, luxury is about being free to do what I want when I want. If I wake up one morning and I feel like doing something that is not part of my routine, even if this means flying to Antigua, I want to be free to do it without any restrictions. Materialistically speaking, the highlight of luxury is to be able to buy everything I desire without ever having to ask the price.

What are the advantages of having a second citizenship for you?

I applied for citizenship of Antigua & Barbuda mainly for the ease of visa-free travel and with the Antigua & Barbuda passport, I've found that I do not need visas for many of the countries I visit. In the case that a visa is needed, the consulates are very welcoming to my new citizenship.

Many celebrities have chosen Antigua & Barbuda to live or have their second homes since they can escape the glare of the international press. How attractive is that idea for you?

It is both extremely attractive and necessary. As I said before, being in Antigua is a good break from my life in the limelight and the island provides a haven of discretion that shields me from the press and the unwelcome gossip elsewhere.

When did you first visit the island and what was your first impression?

I first visited the island in 1990 on board my former yacht, Lady Moura. At that time, I was with my children and ex-husband and we decided to go to town for grilled chicken, rice and beans. I fell in love with the charm and authenticity of the place and the chicken was absolutely delicious! I decided that one day I would return.

You were once the owner of the largest sailing yacht in the world. Given that Antigua is a mecca for yachting and sailing, are you looking forward to taking to the water here?

Of course, one of my dreams and endeavours is to find an old yacht that I can restore to my liking and give an Antiguan name. This time it will not be as big as my former sailing yacht Phoebe, so it's not too much hassle or overwhelming for me.

Are you planning to invest in real estate here?

I might one day. But first I intend to rent a large house and make it my home.

How did you find the application process to become an Antigua & Barbuda citizen?

At first it was difficult, but I was supported by a good company that accompanied me each step of the application, so in the end it became an easy process.

What would you say to someone considering becoming an Antigua & Barbuda citizen?

To someone thinking of becoming an Antiguan & Barbuda citizen, I say go for it! You are going to belong to a paradise if you choose to live on the islands, and if you choose to travel, you will have the freedom to travel to many countries without the hassle of visa applications. It is a wonderful citizenship to have.

You have the world's largest collection of haute couture clothing and often auction or donate them for your philanthropic efforts. How important is giving back to you?

Giving back is very important to me so I can live with myself and my wealth knowing that my efforts are helping others. I choose my charities according to the pressing needs of people or organisations. I feel really good when I know that my donations are benefiting them in a positive way; I can sleep better at night and live better by day. Perhaps I should go back to your previous question and tell you that luxury is when you share your wealth, your time and your efforts in favour of less advantaged people and you feel good and complete.

What does being a global citizen mean to you?

It means being open to new and different people and ideas and to listen to what people express in happiness and in sorrow - and even in politics though I absolutely loathe political discussions. It also means being accepted and accepting others as they are without any judgement. I am blessed to be a global citizen! ●

A long, brightly lit ship deck at dusk. The deck is made of light-colored wooden planks and runs along the side of a large white ship. On the left, there are several large, arched windows with white frames, each with a small light fixture above it. A person is sitting on a small bench or ledge near the middle of the deck. The ship's hull is white, and the upper part of the image shows the ship's structure and lighting. The sky is a mix of orange and blue, and the ocean is visible in the distance. The overall mood is serene and modern.

FOCUS



CRUISING TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

No-one can ignore the fact that the cruise industry has been receiving a bad rap recently. The media's insistent images of coronavirus-infected ships moored around the world has added to the strife that the industry has garnered over the past few years about its environmental footprint. As cruises are slowly but surely getting back in the water with stringent health measures to ensure the safety of their passengers, crew, and indeed the destinations they visit, the industry is similarly making great strides in innovation to ensure more sustainable cruising.

Unquestionably, cruising has never been so popular. Before the travel plans of the world were scuppered earlier this year, 32 million passengers were projected to travel on cruise ships in 2020, up from 30 million in 2019 according to Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA), the world's largest cruise industry trade organisation. The growth of the industry has been extraordinary; since 2009, cruise ship passengers have almost doubled from 17.8 million to 30 million passengers. And with revenues of about US\$45 billion, the industry is certainly a lucrative one.

With 60 percent of its GDP coming from tourism, the cruising sector plays an important role in Antigua

& Barbuda's economy. Around 800,000 cruise passengers a year have been arriving in the twin islands, and with the current expansion of the cruise pier to accommodate the largest cruise ships in the world, these figures are expected to rise to 1.2 to 1.3 million per year. According to the government, this project would lead to almost US\$80 million in direct government revenue over the next 30 years and more than US\$1 billion in indirect revenue, impacting a wide variety of people throughout the islands, including tour operators, taxi drivers, retail outlets and vendors. And although the average cruise passenger spends less per day than overnight visitors, by giving a "taster" to these temporary visitors, the conversion rates of those who may return to sample a land-based holiday at a later date can be a much more effective way of marketing a destination than through pure advertising. It really is a no brainer why the cruise industry is an important part of many countries' tourism programmes.

As pollution fell worldwide during the height of the global lockdown, and as things now gradually get back to normal, the topic of sustainability - especially in transport and tourism - has been growing more urgent. And cruising is certainly well under the microscope.



According to the Global Sustainable Tourism Dashboard, cruise ships account for 0.2 percent of all global carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel combustion and cement production. With a large cruise ship able to use up to 250 tons of fuel a day, mile-for-mile the carbon footprint for cruises is worse than flying.

For countries like Antigua & Barbuda who take their green credentials very seriously, finding the balance between boosting its all-important tourism sector through the restoration of cruise arrivals later this year and protecting the environment is key. As a small-island nation, the islands have limited natural resources and are vulnerable to climate change.

Global Ports, who hold a 30-year concession for the cruise port in St John's, sets great store by the environmental impact of their locations.

By providing shore power at Antigua's cruise ship port, even the world's largest cruise ships will be able to shut down their engines while at berth and connect to the port's electric grid. Using local power can significantly reduce diesel emissions from ships at dock and when a vessel is connected to shore power, overall pollutant emissions can be reduced by up to 98 percent. However, it is the cruise companies who are ultimately responsible for investing in the technologies which allow their vessels to use shore power. Currently about 30 percent of the global cruise fleet are configured to connect to shore systems although going forward, 88 percent of newbuilds will either be fitted with shoreside electricity systems or will be configured so they can be added in future.

As per the 2020 State of the Cruise Industry Outlook report by the CLIA, the cruise industry is taking sustainability and environmental stewardship extremely seriously. By investing US\$22 billion to reduce its rate of carbon emissions by 40 percent by 2030 compared to those of 2008, they are demonstrating a true commitment to reducing their environmental footprint.

Single-use plastics have become chastised all over the travel industry and the cruise industry is no exception. With Antigua & Barbuda being the first nation in the region to ban single-use plastic in 2016, the fact that many cruise lines have been significantly reducing their use of single-use plastics or pledging to abolish them once and for all, has been music to the country's ears. Other measures such as recycling are key.

FOR COUNTRIES LIKE ANTIGUA & BARBUDA WHO TAKE THEIR GREEN CREDENTIALS VERY SERIOUSLY, FINDING THE BALANCE BETWEEN BOOSTING ITS ALL-IMPORTANT TOURISM SECTOR THROUGH THE RESTORATION OF CRUISE ARRIVALS LATER THIS YEAR AND PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT IS KEY.

The CLIA claims that cruise ship waste management recycles 60 percent more waste per person than the average person recycles on shore each day, with some ships repurposing 100 percent of all waste generated onboard. Together with other initiatives such as desalination systems for fresh water or even simply using energy-efficient lighting onboard, little by little things are certainly changing for the better.

However, some critics contend that although they are valuable in themselves, these schemes are just a drop in the proverbial ocean compared with cruising's overall environmental footprint. With shipping fuel emitting large amounts of CO₂,

sulphur oxides and nitrogen oxides and other particulate matter, the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) has introduced regulations requiring ships to change from heavy-sulphur fuel to more expensive but low-sulphur alternatives.

As an alternative to the change in fuel, many cruise companies are opting to install exhaust gas cleaning systems (EGCS) or "scrubbers" as they are commonly known. Using seawater to "wash" dirty fuel, they effectively eliminate 99 percent of sulphur and over 50 percent of particulates. Although the majority of cruise ships are planning to introduce EGCS, concerns about "washed fuel" being released into the ocean is prompting other less contaminating fuels to be considered.

Indeed, one of the hottest green trends in cruising is the use of liquefied natural gas (LNG). As probably the cleanest-burning, non-electric marine fuel, according to a 2018 paper from the University of Texas it can reduce sulphur emissions by as much as 99 percent and nitrogen oxide

emissions by up to 85 percent. Not only that, greenhouse emissions can be reduced by up to 30 percent. By being cheaper to use than petroleum, it could prove to be a win-win situation for the environment and industry alike.

Cruisers are extremely loyal. Arguably the best way of seeing the most exotic destinations in the world, these luxury floating hotels allow passengers to wake up every morning in a new and exciting port with every conceivable amenity to hand. With the industry pulling out all the stops to ensure that cruises are not only safe and hygienic places to be, but also environmentally friendly, cruisers will soon be getting back on the seas with true peace of mind. What is more, these measures ensure that tourism-dependent and ecologically minded countries like Antigua & Barbuda will be warmly welcoming visitors for a long time to come. ●

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FOCUS





UNEARTHING OF ANTIGUA & BARBUDA THE HISTORY

by
Reg Murphy

For the past 25 years, Antigua & Barbuda has benefitted from archaeological research programmes that have significantly contributed to our understanding of the islands' rich past and the successive waves of peoples that have occupied and made the islands their home.

For a long time, archaeology was considered an exotic activity for adventurous academics who, armed with a trowel and shovel, seasonally hunted for treasures of lost civilisations for their dusty museums and universities. However, archaeology has evolved into a science-based discipline that utilises a multiplicity of analytical methods and tools now permitting the re-examination of old sites and findings, and in the process, gaining deeper insights into the past.

In the 1970s, over 1,500 archaeological sites were documented on Antigua & Barbuda. Of these, more than 50 were military sites (forts, defence platforms, guard- or look-out stations), and over 175 sugar estates and related works, three long abandoned 18th century settlements, and much more. We have been blessed with a massive historical legacy, although it is certainly a mixed blessing given that most of these sites were built of perishable materials and little now remains on the surface or noticeable to an untrained eye. Unfortunately, due to economic development on the island starting in the 1970s, many sites have been lost. Nevertheless, as archaeological methods have improved, a new opportunity has arisen to locate and examine some of these thought-to-be lost sites.

Our research today is focused on mapping and updating our old inventory of sites, concentrating on coastal sites given the predicted rise in sea levels and the increase in storm frequencies. By gathering data on the elevation, distance from the waterfront, exposure of site and erosion, we can map the most threatened sites for immediate action and develop phased long-term plans for others. Regrettably, we have found that several sites we surveyed and on which we conducted preliminary archaeological testing back in the 1990s, have already been lost to the encroaching sea. Marine erosion is clearly on the increase and evidence of this can be observed at Fort Berkeley, Blacks Point, and Fort James. →

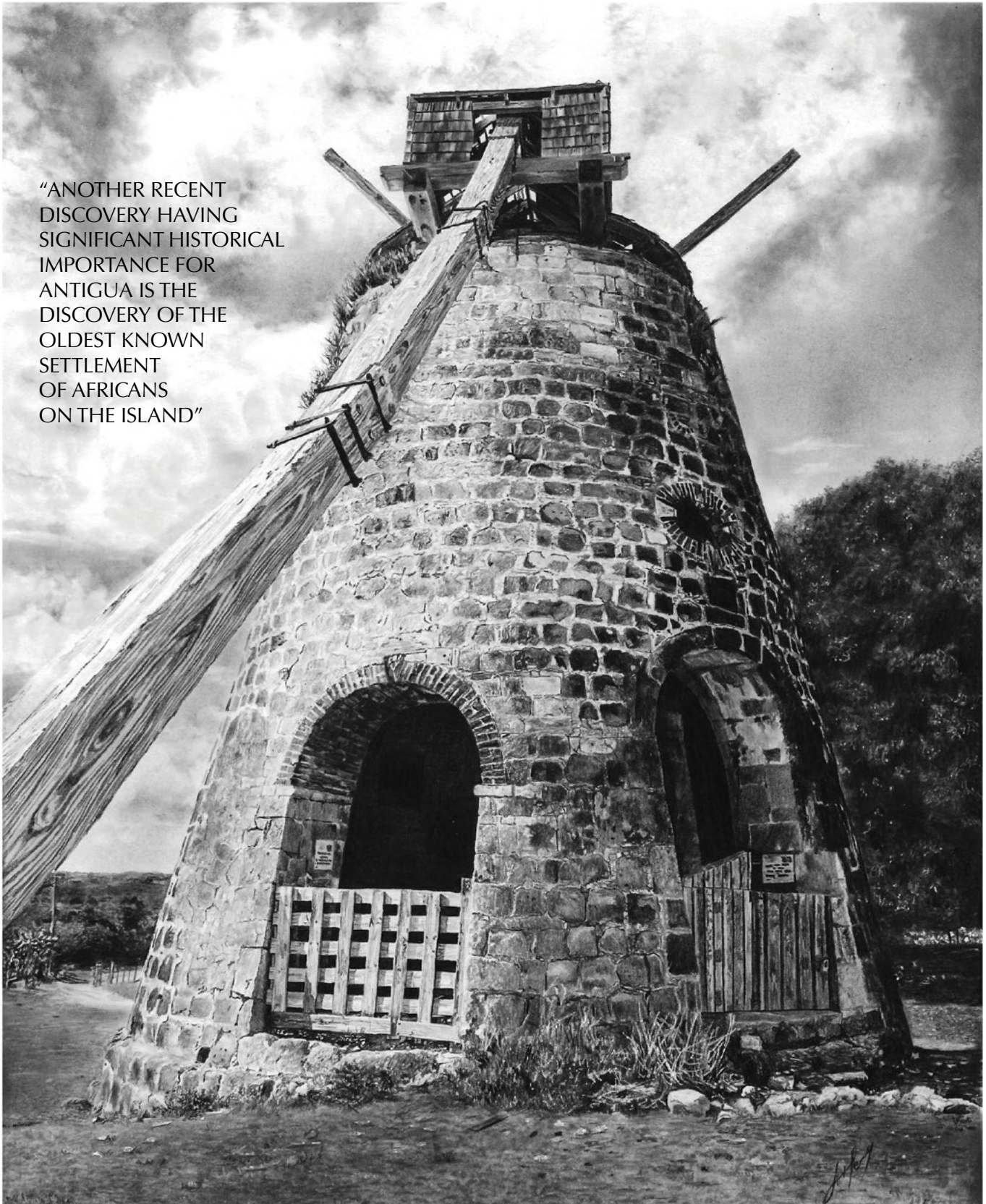
On the more positive side, recent research finally located the village area of the enslaved people at Betty's Hope, where after ten years of major excavation we successfully located and excavated the rum distillery, the great house, and many of the domestic areas on the site. With research documenting the food consumed at the site, fascinating comparisons have been made between the elite residential areas and the domestic areas. Similar dietary studies at the different barracks for officers and regular soldiers at the British military site on Shirley Heights are now being carried out. The results of this will make intriguing comparative studies with Betty's Hope, and provide a more in-depth understanding about not only the daily lives of the people who resided at both sites, but also on their health, nutrition and social-cultural activities. Another on-going study is related to the recovery of human remains that were discovered in sand dunes in English Harbour after two tropical storms eroded the beach exposing the burials. It was clear quite quickly that these remains were from a previously unknown and undocumented cemetery. At the same time, residential development that expanded into the former historic naval hospital cemetery uncovered a larger-than-expected 18th and 19th-century cemetery. This exciting discovery led to archaeological investigations to determine the ancestry of these human remains and to seek insights into how they came to be buried on the beach. We have since determined that these unknown burials were likely affiliated with the British navy. All were males, mostly younger in age, including teenagers, and as several were clustered together without coffins, we can further assume that they may have perished in one of the many epidemics that killed hundreds of sailors on a regular basis; hence the reason why English Harbour garnered the grim moniker of the "Graveyard of the Englishman". Interestingly, in the hospital cemetery there was no segregation in death; people of both European and African ancestry were interred together. Today, a combination of biological, archival, and cultural research is beginning to provide insights into the past and the lives of these people buried in the sand and graveyard long ago.

In the realm of prehistoric research, another recent and exciting discovery was made by a graduate student who was testing the location of ancient settlements and determining the internal layout of their structures and communal areas of the islands' large pre-Columbian sites. He located the burial of an adult Arawak who was radiocarbon dated to AD 750. He was found interred in a foetal position in a small shallow grave typical of the time with an ornate and beautifully crafted oval bowl covering his pelvis. This ceramic or clay bowl was modelled in the shape of a frog; what is known as a zoomorphic effigy vessel. This find was rare enough, but of major interest was that the individual showed clear evidence of cranial deformation, or more specifically, an intentional shaping of the skull that began from birth. By binding and strapping a board or flat piece of wood to the head from a very young age, adult skulls were flattened accordingly. Although this was a common practice in Central America among the Maya, it was only the second time it had been observed on Antigua.

Exotic findings are rare, but when found these create huge interest beyond the original brief. An example of this was finding evidence for the manufacturing of ornaments from shell and exotic stones on Antigua. Similar activities had previously been observed on other islands and so a pattern began to emerge whereby islands that had locally available unique

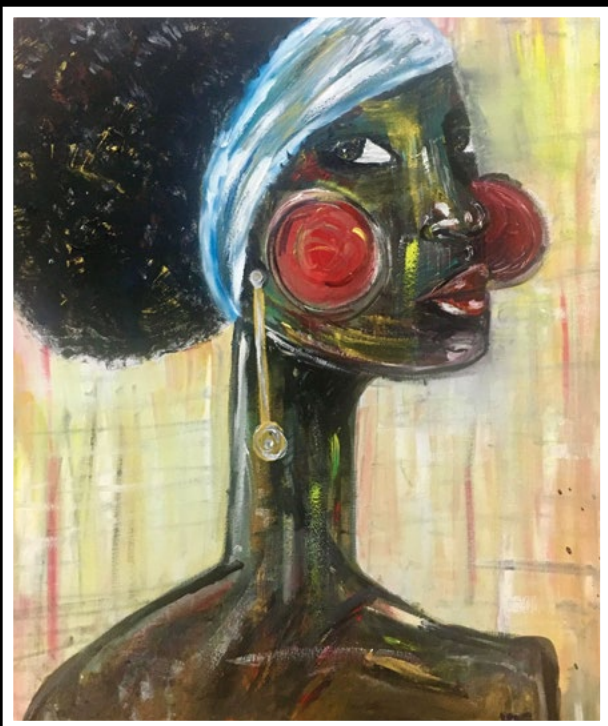
minerals and rocks had been making objects and trading or exchanging them with other islands. This distribution of exotic items in the Lesser Antilles took place roughly between 200 AD and 800 AD and is important on so many levels. Another recent discovery having significant historical importance for Antigua is the discovery of the oldest known settlement of Africans on the island. Researchers conducting a standard heritage assessment prior to a proposed development on the hills west of the naval dockyard were extremely surprised to uncover evidence of a sizeable settlement area that was associated with and dated to the time of the naval dockyard. Moreover, archival documentation noted that the area was utilised by freed and escaped slaves who worked under the protection of the British navy. The planters were tremendously aggrieved about this situation, resulting in threats made to the Admiralty. However, these workers, many of whom were skilled tradesmen, were crucial to the operation of the naval dockyard in repairing the ships, structures, and other essential services. This discovery is an excellent example of the potential of archaeology to contribute to knowledge and cultural enrichment where the discoveries are often not only totally unexpected and but extremely meaningful. Given it is of major importance to our history, this finding will continue to be explored and researched. New archaeological methods of analysis and study have opened many new avenues of research in the Caribbean, and Antigua & Barbuda is at the forefront of this development. In my opinion, five of the best preserved and most intact pre-Columbian sites remaining in the region are on the twin islands. Each of these contain evidence of specific cultures and peoples that settled the islands going back as early as 3,000 BC. These sites are in urgent need of a massive, well-funded programme as all are critically endangered and will likely be lost in the near future. ●

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ARTS
& CU
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Born and bred in Antigua, Kierstyn Werth was born into a creative family to an architect father and an interior designer mother. Inspired and encouraged by her art teacher at school, she has been painting as long as she can remember.

After studying in California, Kierstyn took the leap to the other side of the world to become a primary school art teacher in Cambodia where she was lucky to meet a melting pot of friends from all corners of the globe.

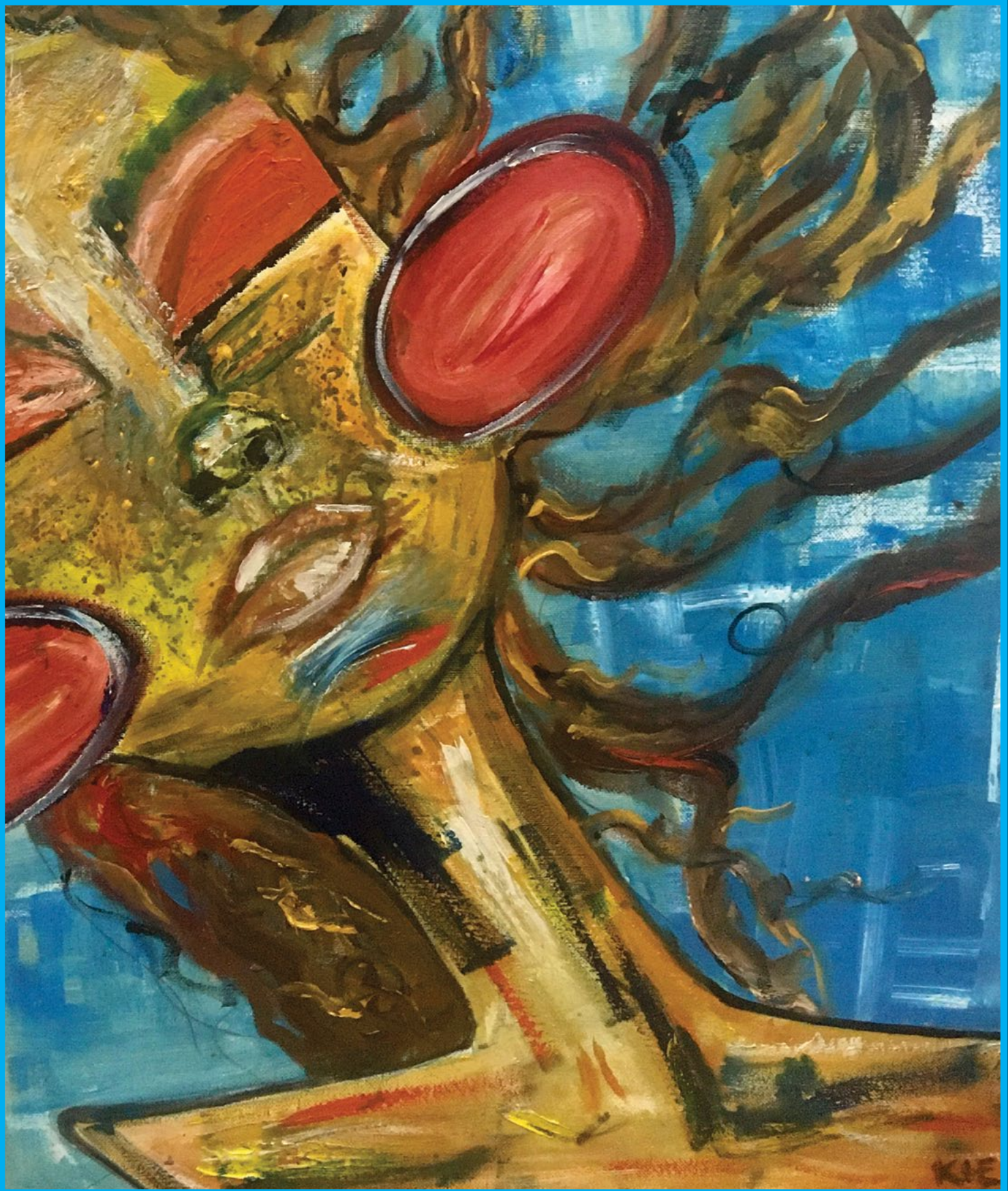
This year, in light of the events unfolding in the USA and worldwide, she and her friends decided to organise and hold the first Juneteenth Fundraiser social in Cambodia which gave attendees a brief history of Juneteenth through dance, poetry, and the spoken word. As well as raising awareness, Kierstyn donated 40% of the proceeds of selling prints of her Juneteenth works to The Bail Project and the Community Action Justice Fund (CAJF).

The muses for the eight pieces of art she created for Juneteenth were her Antiguan friends, although she also garnered inspiration from her beloved twin islands, giving her a small degree of home comfort which current events had denied her and so many others. Her creative juices in full flow, she is currently working on a new piece for the series.

Having already published an illustrated book last year about gender inequality entitled "Unimpressed girls (and the things that bug them)", Kierstyn is currently working on her first children's book which she hopes to finish and illustrate by the end of this year. ●



Kierstyn Werth





USING TECH TO DO GOOD

It's almost impossible to imagine living in a world where technology doesn't exist; where the iPhone in your pocket, the computer you're reading this on or even the electric light above you are all gone with a single blink of an eye. Having permeated and revolutionised every aspect of our lives, technology is truly omnipresent. It cannot therefore come as much of a surprise that it is also disrupting the way we give too.

When you think of a philanthropic organisation, chances are that one of the tech billionaires' organisations spring to mind. The Gates Foundation, anyone? Their foundations are some of the most recognisable names in philanthropy today, but beyond these billion-dollar organisations, technology is significantly altering the landscape of the charitable world at the same time as changing just how and to whom we give our money.

Love it or hate it, social media has altered the way we're living out our lives. Rapid response and instant gratification are the name of the game in this new world. And with transparency, accountability and just knowing where our bucks are being spent, becoming major considerations when choosing who or what to support, social media is providing many of the answers. Through real-time updates and notifications, information can be had, and donations can be made by a mere click of a mouse. Simply speaking, social media and the internet means there is less place to hide.

And indeed, the importance of social media is not to be sniffed at. According to Nonprofits Source, 55 percent of us who use social media to engage with charitable organisations, will finally take some sort of action whether it's giving away some of our hard-earned cash or even

getting involved on a volunteering basis. And not only that. With a great social media presence, the playing field is levelling out - smaller organisations are finally able to compete with the larger ones in a true David and Goliath scenario.

Let's face it - is there anyone out there that doesn't remember the ice-bucket challenge raising funds for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) back in 2014? The efficiency of the campaign was truly awe-inspiring. By engaging people in a memorable (and less face it, frankly entertaining way) the challenge went viral, raising US\$100 million in one month alone. The campaign also demonstrated the power of a handful of people who feel passionately about a cause being able to disrupt the traditional forms of fundraising.

Indeed, modern philanthropy is no longer about searching for rich people, soliciting them for money and holding dinners and fundraisers to expand the cause, but rather about reaching and building awareness to a broad base of donors (of all ages and socioeconomic levels). And what better than the internet to do that? Not everyone wants a fanfare when donating either. By using tech for your donations, the possibility of being anonymous when giving means that no matter how large or small your donation, there is no-one silently or otherwise judging you.

And as the ALS challenge demonstrated, anyone can start a fundraising campaign. We all have a story to tell, or something close to our hearts. Through crowdfunding platforms like JustGiving or GoFundMe, we can tell the world about this story to raise money for the charities of our choice, or simply to raise money for a loved one

Modern philanthropy is no longer about searching for rich people, soliciting them for money and holding dinners and fundraisers to expand the cause, but rather about reaching and building awareness to a broad base of donors.

in need. Donations no longer have to go through large organisations where your money may be diluted through administrative costs, but direct to source, where you choose it to go.

Chances are, if you look in your wallet right now, you don't have much cash in there. As we are being shuttled into a cashless society, accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, gone are the days of jangling pockets full of coins. Popping a few coins in a collection tin after your weekly shop is no longer a viable way to donate. Even pre-pandemic, street fundraising in the UK – the most traditional way of raising money – was falling, simply because we don't carry cash with us anymore. But with 45 percent of the world population carrying a smartphone in their pocket – that number rising to 81 percent in a country like the United States – we are able to instantaneously contribute or connect to a cause

from wherever we find ourselves and no matter what we're doing. Charity apps can make it fun and easy to donate money by turning our everyday activities into fundraising for meaningful causes and text-to-give fundraising has been a literal lifeline following natural disasters and other rescue and relief efforts. The rapid advance of technology may leave you breathless. But as the postmodernist novelist Don DeLillo says, technology "connects you in your well-pressed suit to the things that slip through the world otherwise unperceived." It may just be the way that lasting change is achieved in today's complicated and ever-changing world. ●

CONSERVATION

By Natalya Lawrence, Antiguan birder and conservationist



WEST INDIAN **Whistling-Ducks**

A

Antigua & Barbuda is famously known for gorgeous beaches with powdery white sand and impossibly turquoise waters. And yet, as our tourism slogan goes, “The beach is just the beginning.” In many instances, beaches are flanked on the landward side by their often under-appreciated and dismally less-visited cousin, the wetland! To the untrained eye, wetlands do not hold the pleasing aesthetics of scintillating seascapes fringed by soft, inviting sand. However, once you begin to understand the value of the wetland ecosystem to support our lives and well-being, the earth-coloured water and the mangrove forests will offer a different kind of appeal for the intrepid adventurer.

There, just off to your left, on the periphery of your vision, the sudden movement, what could it be? You stand still, hoping that your neutral tones will blend into your green and brown surroundings. Ah! You are rewarded. A family of waterfowl; mom, dad, and young ones, venture out from the rushes and slide effortlessly into the water. Such poise, such rich colours! You are not familiar with this bird and so you ever so slowly refer to your birding app, but not before you gingerly position your camera to grab a few quick shots before the family once again withdraws from view. You remain in awe of their beauty, of their elegance, and confirm them as West Indian Whistling-Ducks!

Indeed, wetlands bring observers up close and personal to biodiversity that cannot be observed on your regular jaunts to the city, to the shopping plazas, to work or to church. Here, quiet trees and still water turn into a squawking, swirling, swooping cacophony of wetland, shore and land birds when no one is noticing. Rare birds such as West-Indian Whistling-Ducks are a sight to behold especially when you consider their story.

Though the Caribbean accounts for only 0.15 percent of the world’s area, we are a proud people who boast about our heritage, culture and of course our natural beauty.





Classified by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund as a Biodiversity Hotspot, the Caribbean is also an area of high endemism. Endemic species are animals or plants that occur in one area and nowhere else in the world. As an example, according to BirdsCaribbean, the region is home to over 700 species of birds, with 171 of those species not shared with any country outside the Caribbean. In many cases, these endemic species are only found on one island. The West Indian Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocyna*

arborea, is a Caribbean endemic with a restricted range, found only on a handful of islands, including Antigua & Barbuda and its offshore islands. This handsome bird is the epitome of grace and elegance. The adults measure nearly two feet and walk with a noble gait, commanding the observer's admiration. They have deep brown upperparts interspersed with some white and black feathers on the underside. They also boast a shiny black bill and large black eyes. Wetland inhabitants, they primarily feed on Royal

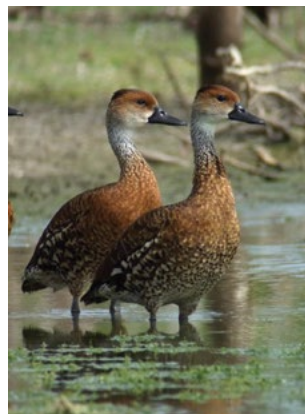


palm berries, other berries and grass seeds. However, during severe dry seasons, and unfortunately for farmers, they also feed on some food crops! Should you score a stare-off with one of these birds, they will pierce into your inner being with their withering gaze. Then, without warning and quite unceremoniously, they fly off, into the distance trailed by their distinct, haunting, banshee-like whistle - an altogether other-worldly experience. Sadly, this bird is threatened with extinction. Of the eight species of Whistling-Ducks in the world, ours is the most threatened. With our desire to become more advanced countries, we have often pursued traditional, less sustainable development options and our biodiversity has suffered. West Indian Whistling-Ducks constantly face threats such as destruction of their wetland habitats for development, deterioration of their habitats from pollution and illegal dumping, loss of life from natural disasters, and predation of their chicks and eggs by rats, mongooses, dogs and cats - all introduced species that can severely impact endemic plants and animals. Additionally, in some countries, West Indian Whistling-Ducks were heavily hunted. Although legally protected throughout its range, some poaching still occurs. Many persons attribute their shyness to humans as a direct result of hunting.

Their story of survival is amazing though. BirdsCaribbean, a regional conservation NGO, developed a book and an outreach programme to raise awareness about the WIWD and threats to wetlands. Over 150 workshops have been held across the region, training thousands of partners and teachers to educate youth and community members about the duck, the joys of birdwatching, and the values of our wetlands.

One of the most ardent local hunters in Antigua attended one of these workshops and was converted into the biggest advocate for their conservation once he learnt of their significance. His passion led to active conservation work by the Environmental Awareness Group (EAG), to restore their habitats (by permanently removing species such as rats and mongooses), particularly on undeveloped offshore islands and away from the destructive claws of the developing world. It also led to strong educational outreach by volunteers from EAG, and most recently, their protection under the Environmental Protection and Management Act 2019.

Additional international funders and partners such as Cape Cod Bird Club, Conservation Leadership Programme, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Fauna &



Flora International, Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund and Disney Conservation Fund have proven their support to the conservation of this bird and its habitat, and education and capacity building of the local team.

It can be challenging to find these birds, particularly during the dry season. However, the advantage of wetlands in Antigua & Barbuda is that they are often found in central locations, along a regularly travelled road. If West Indian Whistling-Ducks are on your Life List, we encourage you to visit easily accessible sites such as McKinnon's Pond, southwest of Sandals Resort; Potworks Dam on the way to the historic villages of Bethesda, Newfield, St. Phillips and Freetown; Christian Cove between Bethesda Village and Christian Hill; Bethesda Dam, in Bethesda Village; or the wetlands at Darkwood Beach, on your way to Crabbe Hill Village.

Other amazing opportunities to view these birds are on the shores of Jabberwock Beach or Shell Beach. Like clockwork, these crepuscular birds, active mostly at dawn and dusk, can be observed gracefully slicing the skies as they come in at early morning from the safety of the offshore islands, or as they head off around sunset to different wetlands to feed during the night.

As we in Antigua & Barbuda continue to monitor our Whistling-Duck populations we are excited for you to document your sightings on eBird Caribbean (<https://ebird.org/caribbean/home>). Remember to be considerate around wildlife, being careful not to destroy or degrade habitat, or scare the birds. Birding is a low-impact, cost-effective and fulfilling way to learn about our country. Get to know us, one bird at a time. Happy Birding! ●

WORTH QUOTING

FROM RUM TO HAND SANITISER

Antigua Distillery, the producer of the islands' famous and award-winning English Harbour rum has added hand sanitiser to their portfolio. As well as a "no virus" surface cleaner, its hand gel using local aloe vera is being distributed around the region.



INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS RESUME TO ANTIGUA

With American Airlines having recommenced daily flights from Miami to Antigua in early June, the airline plans to recommence its JFK New York and Charlotte, North Carolina flights later this year. They join other airlines who have already started services from international hubs in North America and Europe. Jet Blue has resumed its JFK to Antigua twice-weekly flights, as has Delta for a weekly flight from its hub in Atlanta, Georgia. United Airlines from Newark airport and WestJet from its Toronto hub will be following shortly. As of 1st August British Airways has resumed their flights from London Gatwick to Antigua & Barbuda's V.C. Bird International Airport. Virgin Atlantic's flights to the twin islands are expected back in the skies in October.





FIRST RESORT IN ANTIGUA FOR “PLUS SIZE” VISITORS

The Resort, a new-concept property that caters to the needs of plus-size guests, will be opening at the Catamaran Hotel in Falmouth which is one of the nation’s oldest hotels and was built by local sailing legend Sir Hugh Bailey. It is the second of its kind to be found in the Caribbean region following the success of its Bahamian counterpart, and it aims to create an environment where everyone can be themselves without worrying about their size or appearance. Although all furniture, beds and swimming pools are geared up to the larger person, people of all sizes are welcome. The Resort will also feature in a non-reality, factual eight-part prime TV show.



WINAIR RELAUNCHES SERVICE BETWEEN ANTIGUA AND ST MAARTEN

The St Maarten-based carrier has relaunched its service to Antigua on a twice-daily, five-days-per-week basis.



RESTORATION OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE RECEIVES FURTHER SPONSORSHIP

The restoration of the West Wing buildings at Government House, a key historical landmark in St John's, has received sponsorship to the tune of US\$2.1 million from the Calvin Ayre Foundation (CAF). The building is an architectural treasure and a symbol of Antigua & Barbuda's democracy. The restoration project has been ongoing since April 2019.



CARIFESTA 2021 STILL ON TRACK

Antigua & Barbuda has given the assurance that it is still committed to hosting the 15th edition of the Caribbean Festival of Arts (CARIFESTA) in August 2021. The theme has been set as "One Caribbean. One Environment. Diverse Cultures". A CARIFESTA hosting proposal has been presented which outlines the promotion and celebration of diverse cultural expressions. And in line with the twin islands' stand on ecological matters, environmental sustainability and justice are a priority with a strong focus on greening the festival.





UKRAINE HAS APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

The current Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States, Volodymir Yelchenko, has been given the additional, concurrent appointment as Ambassador and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to Antigua & Barbuda as well as to Jamaica. Yelchenko has headed the Ukrainian Embassy in the US since December 2019.

SARGASSUM BEING PUT TO GOOD USE

Young St Lucian, Johanan Djuon, owner of Algas Organics – the first biotech company on the island - has found a great use for the sargassum seaweed which is usually viewed as a serious problem for Caribbean countries, washing up on the shores and affecting coastal ecosystems. The company turns the seaweed into natural and organic fertilisers, which stimulate the growth of plants through root development. The product will soon be available in Antigua and the company hopes to work with the twin islands to make the best out of this problem weed.

SUGAR RIDGE REOPENS WITH HEALTH AND SAFETY IN MIND

Sugar Ridge Resort will be reopening their doors on 5th November with the highest standards of health and safety. The luxury boutique property has established an initiative "Safety at Sugar Ridge" which implements protocols to ensure the health and safety of their guests, staff and the larger community. With online check-in and check-out services, expanded in-room dining options, advanced training and testing of employees as well as increased sanitising throughout the 60-room wellness resort, visitors can be assured of a safe and healthy holiday in paradise.



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TWO-YEAR RESIDENCY IN PARADISE WITH DIGITAL NOMAD RESIDENCE PROGRAMME

Antigua & Barbuda is offering a long-stay visa programme named the "Digital Nomad Residence". The programme is designed for persons whose work can be done remotely and would like to do so in paradise. Eligible persons will be granted a special resident authorisation that will be valid for up to two years in the first instance.





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NEW CAMPAIGN BY ABTA

The Antigua & Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) has launched a new campaign this summer. The "Your Space in the Sun" campaign positions the twin islands as the perfect place for travel in today's world. As tourists are seeking out space and freedom to move and explore after a period of confinement, the campaign shows Antigua & Barbuda as the perfect destination for that sense of space in all meanings of the word. The campaign will highlight an experience within each one of the destinations' main tourism pillars – romance, wellness, heritage, and yachting.

INTERNATIONAL TRACK FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS FROM THE UK

In accordance with the UK's General Medical Council (GMC), the American University of Antigua (AUA) College of Medicine has launched an International Track allowing students from the UK to complete their Pre-Clinical Sciences in Antigua before carrying out their clinical training in AUA affiliated teaching hospitals back in the UK. After the success of supplying doctors to the US workforce, this International Track plans to translate that goal to the UK physician workforce.

THE UWI IN TOP 100 WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

The University of the West Indies (UWI), whose Five Islands campus is situated in Antigua, is now found amongst a list of the world's top 100 universities in the trusted and renowned Times Higher Education (THE) rankings. THE published its "Golden Age University Rankings" of established higher education institutions across the world that have been around for 50 to 80 years. These make up a unique group of higher education institutions that have embedded academic practises but haven't been around for hundreds of years. As well as this ranking, since 2018, the UWI has earned a place in the top 40 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and within the top 600 universities in the world. It remains the only Caribbean university to make these prestigious lists.

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TURTLE MONITORING PROGRAMME STARTED ON BARBUDA

Barbuda Ocean Club has established the island's first permanent sea turtle monitoring programme. Led by acclaimed environmental scientist and Barbuda Ocean Club's chief environmental consultant Dr Deborah Brosnan, the monitoring programme was created to help recover and protect endangered sea turtles. Its goal is to use the best-available science to establish a robust, long-term monitoring protocol on Barbuda to enhance the understanding, protection, and conservation of critical habitat.

ANTIGUA'S SPECIALITY "LIFT OFF" COCKTAIL

Antigua & Barbuda's award-winning mixologist, Altino Spencer, has created a new cocktail inspired by the Antigua & Barbuda Tourism Authority's "Your space in the sun" campaign. Called "The Lift Off" the cocktail's crisp, light flavours, conjures up images of the twin islands. By combining citrus flavours, the famed Antigua Cavalier Rum, a drizzle of blue and fun fruit garnishes, Spencer has managed to create a delicious drink reminiscent of the islands' famous turquoise waters. The recipe calls for 0.5 ounces (oz) simple syrup, 0.5 oz lime juice, 0.5 oz Grand Marnier, 1.5 oz Antigua Cavalier white rum, 0.5 oz Blue Curaçao (for drizzling), one orange (for garnish) and ice.

CARIBBEAN AIRLINES RELAUNCHES FLIGHTS FROM JAMAICA TO ANTIGUA

Passengers can now fly from Antigua to Kingston, Jamaica using the Trinidad-based carrier, Caribbean Airlines.

CONSTRUCTION FORGES AHEAD AT ANTIGUA'S CRUISE PORT

Despite the hiatus caused by coronavirus, construction of the new cruise pier in St John's is forging ahead. Meridian Construction, the marine contractor leading the works, introduced both day and night shifts to reduce the number of people working on the site at any one time but continue the rhythm of the work. The pier, which will accommodate the largest cruise ships in the world, the Oasis-class ships, is part of a redevelopment plan being carried out by Global Ports Holding who have a 30-year lease agreement with the government of Antigua & Barbuda. Work began in October 2019 and is expected to finish by mid-October this year.

AMENDMENT TO CIP ACT

An amendment to the 2013 Citizenship by Investment Programme (CIP) has been made to prevent people losing their Antigua & Barbuda citizenship during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Act states that a holder's citizenship may be lost if they do not spend at least five days in the twin islands during the period of five calendar years after their registration. Given worldwide travel restrictions hampering many citizens visits to the islands, this requirement will be suspended during periods of infectious, dangerous diseases or other situations of importance.



HOPES OF HAVING LIAT BACK IN THE SKIES

The Government of Antigua & Barbuda continues in its bid to keep regional carrier LIAT in Caribbean skies. They have brought in an administrator in order to reorganise the regional airline by cutting liabilities and realigning expenses once funds are in place. Antigua also will look to acquire the shares of the two other major shareholders: Barbados and St Vincent & the Grenadines. It is expected that the administrator will submit his plan within 120 days to the courts and LIAT will return to the skies before the end of 2020.

DIGITAL ASSETS BUSINESS BILL 2020 PASSED IN ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

The Digital Assets Business Bill 2020 was passed by the Upper House in June. The Bill will govern the use of blockchain technology and introduces a comprehensive regulatory framework for businesses that use digital assets in the twin islands, as well as their clients and customers. Amongst the new regulations, the Bill will ensure that all cryptocurrency establishments on the islands attain a licence for dispensing, vending or redeeming digital currencies.

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A man and a woman are walking hand-in-hand on an airfield. The woman is wearing a beige cardigan over a white top and a matching skirt, carrying a large white and brown tote bag. The man is wearing a brown V-neck sweater over a light-colored shirt and khaki pants. In the background, a private jet is parked on the tarmac, and a dark-colored car is partially visible on the right. The sky is clear and blue.

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