

## **Barbados Marine Spatial Plan, Newport and NCC Launch Hydrate Water Stations to Promote Sustainability and Community Well-being within the Marine Environment**

**August 23, 2024, Bridgetown, Barbados** – The Barbados Marine Spatial Plan (Barbados MSP), Newport and the National Conservation Commission (NCC) are proud to announce the launch of two new hydrate water stations. These stations have been strategically placed at Brandon’s Beach and Browne’s Beach which are both frequented by scores of Barbadians and visitors alike.

“We are delighted to partner with Newport and NCC to install these stations and provide free access to clean drinking water to help reduce plastic waste, contributing to both community health and the protection of Barbados' precious marine ecosystems,” said the Director of the Coastal Zone Management Unit overseeing the Barbados MSP process, Dr. Leo Brewster.

The Hydrate Water Stations are part of a broader effort to integrate sustainable practices into the everyday lives of both locals and visitors. By providing free, easily accessible water stations, the Barbados MSP, Newport and NCC are encouraging beachgoers to stay hydrated while minimizing their reliance on single-use plastic bottles.

“Through thoughtful planning and innovative strategies, we at Newport have used the Hydrate Caribbean programme to promote environmental sustainability. The Barbados Marine Spatial Planning Unit brings invaluable expertise to this initiative. By placing water stations at key beach locations, we’re taking a crucial step towards reducing single-use plastics, minimizing waste, and promoting healthier, hydrated communities,” said Sheridan Greaves, Sales Coordinator at Newport.

The first two water stations sponsored by the Barbados MSP are now operational at two of Barbados’ most beloved coastal spots. The Barbados MSP team aims to expand this initiative to other key locations in the coming months to ensure that the benefits of clean, free drinking water are felt island-wide, and that the messages about responsible practices in the marine environment traverse the length and breadth of Barbados.

Dr Brewster emphasized that the “water stations are a part of our 360-degree public outreach and visibility approach to ensure that we promote sustainable practices, raise awareness about MSP, educate the public, and encourage them to get involved in creating the marine spatial plan. Each station will have key messages with information on the Barbados MSP, a QR code to scan and obtain further information, as well as links to our digital platforms where the public is encouraged to engage with us. These stations quite seamlessly reflect our commitment to balancing development with environmental stewardship.”

For more information on the Barbados Marine Spatial Plan, please visit [www.barbadosmarinespatialplan.com](http://www.barbadosmarinespatialplan.com) .

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**About the Barbados Marine Spatial Plan:**

The Barbados Marine Spatial Plan (“Barbados MSP”) speaks to the evidence-based, participatory zoning of Barbados’ marine space as well as the requisite administrative and legal arrangements to achieve long-term sustainable ocean management. It is administered by the Marine Spatial Planning Unit (MSP Unit), which is a division of the Coastal Zone Management Unit (CZMU) of the Ministry of Environment and National Beautification, Green and Blue Economy as the MSP authority in Barbados. The Barbados MSP is being developed in partnership with the University of the West Indies Cave Hill and The Nature Conservancy, and with the financial and technical support of the InterAmerican Development Bank, to encourage sustainable national socio-economic development, promote cooperation and reduce conflicts between users.