



ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES VOLCANO ERUPTION 2021

CBF NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

St Vincent and the Grenadines has one of the most active volcanoes (La Soufriere) in the Lesser Antilles located in the northern part of the island. La Soufriere, began an effusive eruption on 27 December 2020 and on 9 April 2021 there was an explosive eruption that emitted tones of volcanic ash and sulfur dioxide gases into the atmosphere.



The resulting ash fall has done a tremendous amount of damage to flora and fauna biodiversity, livelihoods and agriculture.



Understanding the gravity of this disaster the SVGCF immediately consulted with key government agencies – National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority (NRPBA) and with share information from the Forestry and Fisheries Division under the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour. The following critical activities were identified:

- Post eruption environmental monitoring of marine and terrestrial conservation areas
- Rehabilitation of conservation areas and National Parks
- Support to biodiversity and conservation agencies to be able to carry out key commitments and national priorities.



As a direct result of this natural disaster event, the SVGCF made the following request to the CBF:

- (i) That the 2nd payment under the partnership agreement be re-directed in full for volcano recovery efforts, and;
- (ii) That the CBF provide emergency funding, in the amount of USD\$200,000, from the St. Vincent and the Grenadines sub-account within the CBF Endowment Fund for the recovery response.

It is very important that the SVGCF continues to be known for its unique role as a financial mechanism that mobilizes and manages resources for the benefit of conservation practitioners in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, while at the same time, be able to provide support to key conservation agencies where most of the recovery efforts will be needed at the national level.