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PETER A. ALLARD

Seaview, Chancery Lane
Christ Church, Barbados, W.I.

18 August 2009

Mr. William Gollop
General Manager
The Barbados National Trust
Wildey House
Wildey, St. Michael
Barbados, West Indies

Re: Graeme Hall Nature Sanctuary

Dear Mr. Gollop,

Thank you for your recent letter. As you may know, we had recently received an enquiry from Dr. Jerry Thorne about the same subject.

I share your concern about the future of Graeme Hall Nature Sanctuary, and appreciate the role the Government of Barbados and the Barbados National Trust could play in its future.

I ask only that our discussions about long-term management of the Sanctuary first consider the ultimate health of the environmental investment and the massive shortage of park space on the South Coast. Thorough and successful advocacy by the Trust in regard to these matters would ensure the survival of Graeme Hall Nature Sanctuary, the RAMSAR wetland, and their upland buffers as a single legal entity, in perpetuity.

Due diligence would also require submittal of Trust financial and management statements prior to and as part of any management agreement.

We are managing the Sanctuary as best we can despite the external problems and threats, but recent events such as massive crab and fish kills indicate escalating problems associated with external pollution and water level management.

This speaks directly to the Trust's interest and the exposure associated with a conventional lease operating agreement: Under current government-managed environmental and land use policies and actions, the Sanctuary cannot survive even with the most sophisticated internal environmental management system in place, simply because the environmental health of the Sanctuary is controlled by outside factors.

At the same time, a conventional lease operating agreement does not address the legal survival of the Sanctuary and the buffer lands around it in perpetuity.

Please do not take this as a rejection of the spirit and intent of your letter, instead I ask that you and the Council review some principles and issues that we had put to the Government of Barbados last year prior to closing of the Sanctuary. If we can solve these issues, the future of the Sanctuary can be assured:

1. We believe there are powerful opportunities that could create a National Trust legacy at

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Graeme Hall in perpetuity: Not only could they re-open the Sanctuary, but they could also transfer its ownership to the people of Barbados and create one of the most significant urban environmental parks in the world.

2. We believe that the Sanctuary's environmental survival, as well as revitalization of the South Coast will be possible if the Sanctuary is part of a new 240-acre re-developed National Park similar to the draft proposal by the Friends of Graeme Hall. (www.graemehallnationalpark.org) We support the concept that a new National Park declaration be inclusive of surrounding RAMSAR wetlands and upland buffers, legally bound and protected in perpetuity.
3. We support the concept that management of the Sanctuary and Park be done by a grassroots NGO in a publicly transparent manner, with appropriate controls so as to be able to access public and private funds on an ongoing self sustained basis.
4. We have asked that underscoring all discussions should be a fundamental understanding that preserving the national legacy in perpetuity at Graeme Hall requires a science-based approach combined with tangible efforts to legislate and enforce meaningful environmental policies within the Graeme Hall Watershed. To a much greater extent than conventional business models, this issue speaks directly to the health of the investment at Graeme Hall, as the survival of its "inventory" of flora and fauna relies exclusively on a clean environment. It is impossible for the Sanctuary to physically correct the degradation of its environment caused by pollution and mismanaged environmental control infrastructure outside of its boundaries.
5. To ensure legal protections in perpetuity for the environmental and recreational legacy at Graeme Hall, we have asked that environmental policy and management be led, proactively, by government and not overly dependent on any one person or family.

We also stated our willingness to discuss potential National Park issues associated with naming rights, technical assistance to government to acquire multilateral and NGO funding, assistance to acquire World Heritage Site status, and assistance for NGO management concession and government capacity-building programmes.

We believe the National Park draft proposal could positively transform the urban South Coast, and is as significant to the people of Barbados as New York's Central Park proposal was to New Yorkers in 1870.

You are cordially invited to contact my representative, Mr. Stuart Heaslet if you have further interest or questions.

I thank you for your concern and interest, and trust that we will speak again.

Regards,

Peter A. Allard
Chairman
Graeme Hall Nature Sanctuary, Inc.

cc: Stuart Heaslet