

**Statement by the OECS Director General
OECS / RSS MOU Signing
RSS Council of Minister of Meeting
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Friday 5th April 2019**

The OECS Commission coordinates Implementation of the OECS Eastern Caribbean Regional Ocean Policy and Strategic Action Plan - an international best practice - approved by the OECS Authority on 2013. The ECROP provides the framework for leveraging the endowments in our marine space which categorizes us as great ocean developing states.

ECROP is a comprehensive initiative that seeks to address the multifaceted complexity of our seascape. We are taking account of our ocean space as a fluid geographic asset that is threatened by climate change, by unsustainable economic practices, by pollution, and a host of other challenges.

The Grant Agreement between the RSS and the Caribbean Development Bank also signed today will support the implementation of some of the ECROP strategic actions. This is a good case illustrative of the exponential Mathematics of integration and cooperation - one plus one equals 11

Deliverables under the US\$6.3M Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project (CROP) which is being executed by the OECS Commission will include an enhanced ECROP by year end.

The MOU signed today between the OECS and the RSS evidences the deepening of engagements to strengthen resilience in the Eastern Caribbean.