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PRESS RELEASE: Prince Harry launches dedications to The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy during official visit to the Caribbean

His Royal Highness Prince Harry today unveiled St Kitts and Nevis' dedication to The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy (QCC), the Central Forest Reserve National Park (CFRNP).

Accompanied by the Governor General, His Excellency Sir Tapley Seaton, Prince Harry visited the Brimstone Hill Fortress, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in the shadow of Mount Liamugia.

After watching a performance of traditional dances, Caribbean songs and local poetry recitals, Prince Harry unveiled a plaque, to formally acknowledge the CFRNP dedication, on behalf of Her Majesty The Queen. The CFRNP is the last remaining area of tropical forest on the island of St Kitts, and makes up about 25% of St Kitts' total land area.

Speaking at the event, His Royal Highness said: "Your contribution is incredibly generous. Not only will it encourage more visitors to this beautiful place, but will also give people around the Commonwealth the opportunity to learn about your forests and the ways you protect them. The forests we see behind us are truly amazing, thank you so much for contributing them to this project in the year of The Queen's 90th birthday, and wow what a present."

Prince Harry yesterday unveiled the first of four recent Caribbean dedications to the QCC in Antigua and Barbuda, the Victoria Park Botanical Gardens located in St John's. After meeting with people behind the scheme to grow 90,000 trees for planting across the island, The Prince planted a tree and unveiled a commemorative plaque to mark the dedication of the Gardens to the QCC.

His Royal Highness will unveil two further dedications in St Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines later this week.

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Notes to Editors:

The Queen's Commonwealth Canopy (QCC) was launched in 2015 with the goal of uniting the Commonwealth's 52 members in conserving forests for future generations. The initiative, in The Queen's name, will raise awareness of the Commonwealth's 2.3 billion citizens of the value of saving forests and facilitate knowledge exchange between Commonwealth members, sharing best practices and creating new, collaborative initiatives for forest conservation. www.queenscommonwealthcanopy.org

The 20 Commonwealth countries which have made dedications so far are: Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Belize, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Fiji, Jamaica, Malta, Mauritius, Namibia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom and Zambia.

The QCC Partners:



THE ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY

The Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS)

is a network of individuals and organisations committed to improving the lives and prospects of Commonwealth citizens across the world. www.thercs.org



Cool Earth is an award-winning, UK-based charity that works alongside indigenous villages to halt rainforest destruction. www.coolearth.org



The Commonwealth Forestry Association links foresters, scientists, students and policy-makers throughout the Commonwealth to seek ways of wise forest management.

www.cfa-international.org

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