



November 26, 2021

IPBES Secretariat

RE: Nomination for Ruth Spencer as IPBES Focal Point

The Marine Ecosystems Protected Area (MEPA) Trust is pleased to nominate our Chairperson - Ms. Ruth Spencer as our Focal Point to IPBES.

Ruth has built many partnerships from her attendance and participation in many international meetings and she is an advocate for ensuring that IPLC's voices are part of the decision making processes through inclusive and participatory processes. This is the way forward and ensures good governance processes and moves to the "all of society approach" towards solutions for the urgency towards the protection and conservation of our marine and coastal ecosystems, which is the habitat for many vulnerable species. Since the marine and coastal area being the first line of defense for our small Caribbean islands, Ruth is empowering groups ensuring that strong advocacy through education and outreach programs is provided. This also ensures that Disaster Risk Reduction programs are integrated into marine and coastal biodiversity activities to strengthen our adaptation and mitigation responses. Ruth is involved in mentoring programs aimed to benefit local community groups, small scale fishers as well as Graduate students so her ongoing participation in the IPBES processes provides information and knowledge which will have multiple benefits here in the Caribbean region and further afield,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sashagay Middleton".

Sashagay Middleton
Chief Executive Officer

MEPA Trust Inc. Secretariat

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