

Strengthening environmental stewardship among major stakeholders in the Grenadine Islands

The Grenadines Water Taxi Project

GREENING OF BOATS WORKSHOPS



CEC



SGP



Carriacou Environmental Committee
Hillsborough, Carriacou, Grenada

November 2005

Strengthening environmental stewardship among major stakeholders in the Grenadine Islands

GREENING OF BOATS WORKSHOP

A project implemented by:

The Carriacou Environmental Committee (CEC), Hillsborough, Carriacou, Grenada

On behalf of:

The Southern Grenadines Water Taxi Association

The Carriacou and Petite Martinique Water Taxi Association

Assisted by:

Counterpart Caribbean, The Future Centre, Edgehill, St. Thomas, Barbados

Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados

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Water taxis operators take part in a field activity

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Introduction and background

Counterpart Caribbean and 58 representatives of the water taxi operators and wider community in the Grenadines participated in two, one-day workshops called, "Greening of Water Taxi Operations and Services" during November 2005¹. The workshops were held in Petite Martinique and Carriacou

Each workshop encouraged participants to learn and interact with each other, while they reviewed the outcomes of the previous "Caring for Our Coasts and Our Future" workshops; recognised environmental stewardship activities using The Natural StepTM. (TNS) approach; and, produced a checklist to use while "greening" their operations and services².

Participants first recalled the information and guidelines relating to the following:

- The Coral Reef Ecosystem in the Grenadines
- Human Interactions with Coastal Systems
- Developing Good Practices - Where do we go from here?
- Designing the Learning and Accreditation Scheme
- Telling Our Story
- Nature Interpretation

Then participants drew their versions of past, present and future by referring to the four principles modified from The Natural StepTM.

The Natural Step approach encourages good environmental stewardship by providing context as follows:

1. We should not cause an increase in substances taken from the earth's crust – especially petroleum fuels (and plastics made from petroleum products) and heavy metals;
2. We should not pollute -- especially with synthetic chemicals and excess buildups of naturally occurring substances like carbon dioxide;
3. We should not damage or destroy the physical basis upon which our lives depend – especially trees, other plants, animals, and whole natural ecosystems like coral reefs and mangroves; and,
4. We should ensure that there is fair and efficient management of natural resources to meet human needs everywhere.

¹ Funding for the workshops was provided by the European Commission as part of the Caribbean Coastal Co-management and Coral Regeneration Programme (4Cs Programme) of Counterpart Caribbean; managed on a global level by the Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific (FSPI).

² Planning and coordinating the logistics of the workshops highlighted the collaboration among all the local principals involved -- especially the Sustainable Grenadines Project (SGP) and the Carriacou Environmental Committee/Carriacou and Petite Martinique Water Taxi Association (CEC/CPMwTA), and the Southern Grenadines Water Taxi Association (SGwTA).

Participants prepared their greening checklists with reference to TNS and their visions of the future during each greening workshop. Each greening checklist was then compared with a similar list that had been previously drafted by Dominique Lizama after a series of animated discussions with water taxi operators³.

Aspects of all greening checklists were combined and reviewed by participants in the workshops in anticipation that a final key checklist would be used by the water taxi operators in their day-to-day activities.⁴ The final checklist as developed by participants will include sections as follows:

- Maintenance
- Fuel and Engines
- Safety Equipment
- Anchoring
- Setting and Example
- Education

Understanding and use of the greening checklist represents **another crucial step towards accreditation of participants and the establishment of standards of practice in the coastal zone.**

Funding for the workshops was provided as part of the Caribbean Coastal Co-management and Coral Regeneration Programme (**4Cs Programme**) of Counterpart Caribbean.

Petite Martinique

The workshop was held on November 17th, 2005 and attracted a few participants from Petite Martinique. Most participants came from Union Island via water taxis. (Originally another workshop was planned especially to accommodate participants from Union Island but, due to a storm, the water was too choppy to travel between Grenadine islands so the Union workshop was cancelled).

40 persons participated in the Petite Martinique workshop: approximately three-quarters (29) of these were water taxi operators (23 from Union Island, 5 from P.M., and 2 from Carriacou); a quarter (6) were representatives from Carriacou (including the presidents of the CPMWTA and CEC); 3 were representatives of independent businesses in P.M.; one was a Peace Corps volunteer, one a representative of the Tobago Cays Marine Park, one a representative of the Sustainable Grenadines Project, and one the Manager of the 4C's Program of Counterpart Caribbean.

The basic program of the 1-day workshop (attached) was customised to suit the conditions and participant mix in Petite Martinique (as it was for the other islands). The President of the Carriacou and Petite Martinique Water Taxi Association, a Representative of the Petite Martinique water taxi operators, and the President of the Carriacou Environmental Committee welcomed participants, gave some background and set the tone for the workshop.

³ Ms. Lizama drafted the checklist in her capacity as a student of the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES of UWI) in partial fulfilment of the requirements for a Master of Science Degree (MSc.) at the University of the West Indies.

⁴ This check-list is also one practical aspect which will be included in a guide book called, "*Best practices for a cleaner marine environment through improved boating operation*".

Aspects of the Petite Martinique workshop that distinguished it from the other two workshops in this “Greening” series were:

1. The ratio of water taxi operators from Union Island to other participants – about half-and-half. This reflected the enthusiasm of the SGWTA despite the setback of having to travel to another country in challenging weather.
2. On-site co-ordination and logistics were performed by the Principal of the primary school in Petite Martinique and a representative of the Petite Martinique water taxi operators, Wendell Rock.
3. There were some challenges in communication between Petite Martinique and Carriacou which resulted in a misunderstanding about the amount of food that was required for the workshop. Consequently participants were distracted during the afternoon sessions of the workshop because they were hungry!
4. Water taxi operators from Petite Martinique were joined by an independent businessman, and also a fisherman and a seamoss farmer from Petite Martinique. This gave another perspective to the workshop.
5. Participants produced a basic checklist for use of water taxi operators to strive for good environmental stewardship. This checklist confirmed most of the elements listed independently by Dominique Lizama after her one-on-one interviews with water taxi operators throughout the Grenadines.

Carriacou

The workshop was held in Hillsborough on November 18th, 2005. This attracted participants from all over Carriacou plus 3 water taxi operators from Mayreau.

18 persons participated in the Carriacou workshop: over two thirds (13) of these were water taxi operators; 4 were representatives of the Carriacou Environmental Committee; and one was the 4C’s Program of Counterpart Caribbean.

The basic program of the 1-day workshop (attached) was customised to suit the conditions and participant mix in Carriacou (as it was for the other islands). The President of the Carriacou and Petite Martinique Water Taxi Association and the President of the Carriacou Environmental Committee welcomed participants, gave some background and set the tone for the workshop.

Aspects of the Carriacou workshop which distinguished it from the other greening workshop in Petite Martinique were:

1. The majority (2/3) of participants were water taxi operators (compared to the “Caring for Our Coasts Workshop” in which half the number of participants represented youth and community groups).
2. On-site co-ordination and logistics were performed by the President of the Carriacou Environmental Committee, Mrs. Virginia Fleary-Noel, in collaboration with the President of the Carriacou and Petite Martinique Water Taxi Association, Mr. Kim Bethel.
3. The participants added confirmation to the checklist for good environmental stewardship by independently suggesting activities that has also been suggested by participants in Petite Martinique, and by adding new elaborations – for example; use a “proper anchor” – and that “proper” anchor should be certified by the U.S. navy.



Participants from the Greening Workshop in Petite Martinique (Nov 2005) display their versions of the past, present and future -- with respect to the Grenadines and good environmental stewardship (left).

A sample of ideas about environmental stewardship (right) suggested by participants in the workshop in Petite Martinique (green paper) combined with ideas suggested in the Carriacou workshop (pink paper). These ideas were used to prepare a revised checklist for the use of water taxi operators.



Appendix 1: Sample programme

**“GREENING” OF WATER TAXI OPERATIONS AND SERVICES
1-DAY WORKSHOP IN THE GRENADINES**

MORNING

- 9:00-9:15 Welcome and Introductions
Virginia Fleary-Noel (Carriacou Environmental Committee)
- 9:15-9:30 Expectations -- What's in it for You
Susan Mahon (Counterpart Caribbean)
- 9:30-10:00 Review of outcomes of the previous “caring for our coasts and our future” workshops
All Participants – interactive session
- The Coral Reef Ecosystem in the Grenadines
 - Human Interactions with Coastal Systems
 - Developing Good Practices - Where do we go from here?
 - Designing the Learning and Accreditation Scheme
 - Telling Our Story
 - Nature Interpretation
- 10:00-10:15 BREAK**
- 10:15-11:00 Overview of “the natural step (TNS)” approach to environmental stewardship
Susan Mahon (Counterpart Caribbean)
- Managing non-renewable resources – especially oil, gas (plastics made from petroleum products), noble metals and toxic heavy metals
 - Avoiding pollution
 - Managing the natural resources upon which our lives depend – especially plants, animals, gases like oxygen and carbon dioxide, and water
 - Being fair and equitable
- 11:00-12:00 drawing our versions of the past, present and future with reference to the Natural Step
All Participants Group Work
- 12:00-1:00 LUNCH**

AFTERNOON

1:00-2:00 Developing a Checklist of Good Practices by, and for, Water Taxi Operators – so they practice good environmental stewardship

All Participants Group Work

2:00-4:00 Reconciling the Checklist (above) with the checklist that was developed by Dominique Lizama (CERMES Student) after interviews with Water Taxi Operators

All Participants Interactive Session

- Maintenance
- Fuel and Engines
- Safety Equipment
- Anchoring
- Setting and Example
- Education
- Doing it !!

2:30-3:00 Review of the Workshop, Reflection and Evaluation by Participants

3:00-4:00 Presentation of Certificates and Workshop Materials to Participants

All participants