

Sustainable Grenadines News

Institutional Self-Assessment for Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has contributed funds to support the Sustainable Grenadines Project (SGP) in carrying out institutional self-assessment for Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). This is a tool for strengthening organisations whereby they examine themselves and use constructive self-criticism to improve their organisation. Through this assessment groups identify their strengths and weaknesses and devise a workplan to improve.

The assessment is intended to help groups:

- Better identify organizational priorities as well as institutional shortcomings
- Improve organizational effectiveness in achieving its mission
- Revisit and review the effectiveness of the organization's strategic plan
- Demonstrate a high degree of professionalism to donors and external collaborators
- Improve documentation and monitor institutional progress according to benchmarks

- Highlight areas for organizational learning and improvement
- Increased ability to undertake strategic alliances
- Develop a more proactive attitude among staff and volunteers

PIU staff along with Martin Barriteau from the Caribbean Regional Environment Program (CREP) received training from February 27th-March 2nd, 2006 by TNC consultant Paige McLeod. Paige assisted the project in tailoring the tool to the Grenadines situation and in the delivery of the tool and reporting. The Southern Grenadines Water Taxi Association was assessed as part of the training exercise and they used the report to establish a workplan for improvements.

SGP will continue this activity with 12 groups across the Grenadines including those NGOs awarded mini-projects. The project will then provide the technical assistance to address the weaknesses identified and to build the group's capacity.

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Fisherfolk Planning Workshop in Mayreau



Fishermen from across the Grenadines came together at the Fisherfolk Planning Workshop in Mayreau to

discuss their problems and develop projects to address them. The two-day workshop was coordinated by the Sustainable Grenadines Project and facilitated by Janice Cumberbatch from the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Management (CERMES). Dr. Patrick McConney, senior lecturer at CERMES and Chief Fisheries Officer in Barbados for many years and Ms. Jennifer Cruick-

shank from the Fisheries Division in St. Vincent and the Grenadines made presentations on co-management and the experience of the Barrouallie fisherfolk respectively. The presentation on co-management encouraged fishers to become involved in managing their busi-



ness, given the fact that this approach was found to be working in various places across the Caribbean.

The three major workshop activities were the identification of the issues affecting fishers, the stakeholders who play a role in the fishing industry along the nature of their interaction with the industry and the development of project ideas to improve fisheries. The participants broke into groups and came up with four projects which they thought would improve their livelihoods. Then they developed some details on two of these projects including the activities and funds needed. The two detailed projects were the formation of a fishermen's association and a training programme for fishers which would both be implemented over an 18 month period.

Fisherfolk Planning Workshop (cont'd)

The group formed a steering committee of two persons from each island (from the workshop participants) which would be responsible for both sharing information from the workshop and garnering support for the establishment of the fishermen's association and the other project ideas they wish to pursue.

The Sustainable Grenadines Project will have a role to play in further developing the projects to meet the requirements of funding agencies. They will also be involved in coordinating and sourcing persons to carry out training for executive members of the group. The formation of such a group would provide opportunities for further training and the



development of the fishing industry in the Grenadines. A report for this workshop is available at the Sustainable Grenadines Project office.

Intern from Germany will coordinate coastal clean-up



Julia Naundorf will be interning with the Sustainable Grenadines Project over the next five months. She will be developing a beach and coastal

clean-up programme to be implemented across the Grenadines whereby Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and schools will be encouraged to adopt a beach and record the garbage collected as part of an international effort to reduce the amount of marine litter found on beaches. The effort will be coordinated for World Oceans Day on June 8, 2006. The litter collected will be analysed for its type and origin and will contribute to the world wide database on marine litter. Julia is a Masters geography student at The Christian-Albrechts University in Kiel, Germany. Her internship report is part of her degree.

Grenadines PADI AWARE Reef Check Implementation



PADI Project AWARE has awarded Kim Baldwin of CERMES a second grant to continue the Reef Check in the

marine organism identifications, Reef Check survey techniques and data management. All survey supplies were provided free of charge to newly formed teams and initial surveys were conducted in St. Vincent, Bequia, Mustique, and Grenada in order to complete the monitoring network for the Grenada Bank.

Grenadines during 2006. Last year they awarded a grant to begin the implementation of Reef Check in the Grenadines. In 2005, seven teams were mobilised in five islands of the Grenadines and St. Vincent.

This year establishment of a Grenada Technical Planning Committee will be a priority. Additional training and surveys will be conducted for local communities in the remaining Grenadines islands — Carriacou, Petite Martinique, and Canouan to collect data on reefs that can be used for local management decisions and help ensure the long-term sustainability of the reefs.

A technical planning committee was formed in St Vincent and volunteers were educated about basic marine ecology,

Farewell Casper

Casper Smith has resigned as Project Manager of the Sustainable Grenadines Project, a position he assumed in 2004. He was dedicated to the vision of the project which seeks to strengthen the capacity of our local people to care for the natural environment on which many of us depend. Casper has gotten the project off to a good start, including developing many connections with stakeholders and getting their ideas for what they need to develop as groups. He has led the development of several of the associated projects and the day-to-day management of the Project Implementation Unit. His contribution to the project has been invaluable and we hope that his involvement will continue. We thank him for his hard work and dedication to the project and wish him all the best for the future.

Beach Erosion in Union Island

Beach erosion is taking place along the coast of Union Island and is evidenced by the fallen trees and undermined structures both in Ashton and Clifton. At



Richmond, on the north coast, property owners are constructing groynes in the hope of saving their homes.

the problem. One resident shared that in constructing a groyne her property was being protected to some extent. However, the properties adjacent to hers are still being eroded.

One resident remembers being able to comfortably walk along the beach there because it was much wider than what remains today. He also noted that further down the coast, a beach has emerged where previously none existed.

One resident said that she believes that the problem started immediately after Hurricane Ivan in 2004 which caused major nearshore and shoreline changes on several islands. She also thinks that coastal deforestation has contributed to

In Ashton, property owners are placing gabions on the seaward edge of their property to reduce land loss.



The Sustainable Grenadines Project is implemented through collaboration among:

- The Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), UWI, Barbados
- The Carriacou Environmental Committee, Grenada
- Projects Promotion Lt., St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- The Caribbean Conservation Association, Barbados
- The Governments of Grenada and St Vincent and the Grenadines
- Numerous Grenadines NGOs.

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