

Sustainable Grenadines News

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National Sea Turtle Conservation Programme

The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Fisheries Division is about to embark on a National Sea Turtle Conservation Programme (NSTCP). The primary goals of the programme are to conserve the present nesting and foraging populations of sea turtles in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, enhance the recovery of depleted populations and promote the sustainable use of sea turtles. These goals will be achieved through the following objectives:

- Determine the distribution and abundance of sea turtles
- Identify and protect critical nesting and foraging habitats for turtles
- Enhance public awareness of sea turtles
- Promote the sustainable use of turtles

Four species of turtles are believed to utilize the water and sandy beaches of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. These are the hawksbill and leather back, classified as critically endangered by the

World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the green and loggerhead which are classified as endangered.

Activities in the programme will include tagging of nesting females, hatchling release, nesting beach surveys and public education and awareness. 12 persons including members of The Union Island Environmental Attackers and the Tobago Cays Marine Park have already received basic monitoring training at a workshop held on August 10th at the Union Island Court House. Further training workshops will be held in communities across St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Poster, slogan and logo competitions open to the public are presently being held for the development of materials for the NSTCP. The Fisheries Division invites members of the public who are interested in participating in the programme to contact Fisheries Officer Ms. Lucine Edwards at tel: no. 456-2738 or by email at fishdiv@caribsurf.com.

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Grenadines MarSIS Update

During the months of June-August, David Gill, Tanya Staskiewicz and Kim Baldwin (students of the University of the West Indies), conducted surveys on the marine resource users and socio-economic and livelihood profiles of fishers in the Grenadines. This survey was successfully completed and we would like to share our findings with the various communities, especially those actively involved in fishing.



Cleaner Coasts in the Grenadines

Canouan was ablaze with activity as over one hundred community members along with the Caribbean Construction Associates (CCA) Ltd. joined forces in cleaning up the island. The effort was part of a world-wide International Coastal Cleanup to protect the oceans and waterways from pollution. Community members dressed in their white t-shirts and green gloves and separated into three teams to clean



up Canouan. This activity was coordinated by Ms. Iva-Lisa Mendez, the Human Resources Manager with CCA with sponsorship from the United Nations Environment Programme.

As part of the activities for the weekend, the primary school students were engaged in a coconut tree planting competition in recognition of this the United Nations designated Year of Deserts and Desertification. Measurements will be taken every year and this will encourage the

students to care for the trees.

A similar atmosphere was found in Carriacou with the Grenada Scuba Divers Association coordinating an underwater component of the coastal cleanup. In Carriacou, the activities were based at Tyrrell Bay, which is home to a commercial jetty and a Marina, and White Island. Dive shops from across the island along with the local community and visitors retrieved a large amount of garbage from these two areas. It was estimated that one ton of garbage was collected from Tyrrell Bay and volunteers recovered a puzzling amount of light bulbs at White Island.



Signs were posted on the beach to encourage beach goers not to leave their garbage behind when they leave the beach.



Meetings are scheduled to take place between October 6th—20th. Prior to each of these meetings, notice will be given as to the specific times and locations.

Teacher's Word is Gospel

Twenty-six primary school teachers from across St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada met in Carriacou from September 26th –27th, to receive training for the use of the People and Corals Workbook. This training is the second phase in the Coral Conservation Awareness in the Grenadines Project. This project was developed with the aim of promoting and improving coral reef conservation in the Grenadines.

In her address, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs, Ms. Bernadette Sylvester-Lendore noted that the project is a worthwhile venture especially given the high dependence of the people of the

Grenadines on the marine environment. She encouraged the teachers to make the most of this project and the materials provided while offering suggestions for places where teachers could take students for field visits.

The teachers agreed that students are an excellent way of reaching the community since they inform their parents about what they have learnt at school. Students tend to believe that the 'teacher's word is gospel' according to a Canouan teacher, Mr. Ian Rhynd.

Twenty five workbooks were given to each of the 15 schools to be used with students ages 9-11. The project will continue with the use of the workbook and an evaluation.

The project was sponsored by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the United Nations Environment Programme, The Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies, UWI and the Sustainable Grenadines Project.



The workshop was facilitated by Mrs. Cherrie Parris-Bourne and coordinated by Katherine Blackman of CERMES, Ms. Virginia Fleary-Noel of the Carriacou Environmental Committee and Alexcia Cooke from SusGren.

NGOs Learn More About Financial Management

The Sustainable Grenadines Project in conjunction with the Carriacou Environmental Committee's Water Taxi Project hosted the Record Keeping, Office Procedures and Accounting Workshop in Union Island from September 6th – 7th. The workshop was facilitated by Ms. Valgine Francis and Ms. Jeaneth Johnson from the Grenada Development Bank's Small Enterprise Development Unit in Grenada. The workshop was attended by 30 persons from across the Grenadines from Bequia to Carriacou and was aimed at improving the financial management of Non-governmental Organisations through improved record keeping, communications and various aspects of accounting.



Some participants considered the workshop to be informative and enlightening while others saw it a new learning experience. Jeremiah Jones of the Southern Grenadines Water Taxi Association expressed gratitude to the coordinators of the project and regarded the training as timely.

ISA Watch: Canouan Sailing

The Canouan Sailing Club was assessed by the Sustainable Grenadines Project as part of its capacity building programme for non-governmental organizations. The assessment determined the areas where capacity development is needed and will be providing training specifically to meet the needs of the group in 2007.

The group has developed a workplan that it will use to pursue its future development over a one-year period after which it will continue to assess itself for continued growth.



The group must be commended for its contribution to the Canouan community. It continues to support the less fortunate community members through monetary and in-kind contributions to individuals, other groups and the churches on the island.

Stakeholder Meetings

The Sustainable Grenadines Project began a series of stakeholder meetings to update Grenadines stakeholders on the progress of the Project and to obtain feedback on whether the needs of the communities and the community groups and organizations are being met.

The vision statement was reviewed with stakeholders to determine if these were the things they still wanted and to find out why groups were not make as much use as they could of the project staff and resources.

Project staff has thus far been to Canouan, Carriacou and Petite Martinique where they received valuable feedback from these groups and will take the

suggestions to the Steering Committee meeting scheduled for December 12th.

The meeting for Union Island is scheduled for October 12th at 7:00 p.m at the Court House in Clifton and the Bequia meeting will be at the Bequia Community High School on Monday October 16th at 6:00 p.m. The Mayreau meeting is also expected to occur in October.

For further information on these meetings, please contact the following persons:

Bequia: Sylvester Tannis

Union Island: Mr. Jeremiah Jones

Mayreau: Fr. Mark DaSilva

Canouan: Mr. Hansel Henry

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.

It is funded by The Lighthouse Foundation, Germany

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