

# Sustainable Grenadines News

## Seamoss Farming Pilot Project Launched

The Seamoss Farming Pilot project commenced in Union Island on November 4th with the Young Help Striders 4-H Club. The project is a pilot project to determine the areas in Union Island suitable for seamoss farming. This will reduce impact on natural stocks and help in the conservation of this threatened natural resource.



Participants included young children from the group, women and fishers and was supported by the staff of the Sustainable Grenadines Project. The training session was also attended by Recardo McGillivray of Carriacou and Kiemanni Martineau of Petite Martinique.

The project was funded by the White Water to Blue Water Initiative through the US National Marine Sanctuaries Foundation and is expected to be completed by November 2007.

The project began with a presentation on opportunities, constraints and considerations by seamoss expert Allan Smith from the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute in St. Lucia which was followed by a practical session on the establishment of seamoss farms. This session involved the techniques for making the frame, the seeding of the rope and the physical placement of the frame once constructed.



In 2007 the project will continue with the harvesting, processing, marketing strategies and a management plan. If successful, the project can be extended to other islands.

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## Attachments in 2006

The project worked with the Carriacou Environmental Committee to select Recardo McGillivray of Carriacou and Kiemanni Martineau of Petite Martinique as the two training attachments for the Seamoss Farming Project in Union Island. They received training on the establishment of a seamoss farm. They will also be provided with materials to establish trial plots in their islands.

Jerry Felix and Keron Caesar of the Bayaleau Development Committee and the Petite Martinique Catholic Youth Movement, respectively, went on a one-week attachment to St. Lucia. They were hosted by the St. Lucia Forestry Department who delivered a programme based on the location, development and management of nature trails.

The Bayaleau Development Committee has already embarked on trail development and the Catholic Youth Movement in Petite Martinique and the Women's Organisation are exploring ideas for the trail development in that island.

## Mini-Projects in Review

NGOs awarded mini-projects at the beginning of 2006 continued their work and were able to produce visible and useful results for the benefit of their communities and visitors to their islands. The Petite Martinique Catholic Youth Movement in conjunction with the Petite Martinique Women's Organisation completed their village signs and erected them across the island.

This is a historic time for the people of Petite Martinique since these are the first set of signs to be erected on that island. The signs were built to enhance the tourism product of



the island by giving direction to visitors to the island and informing the public.

The Paget Farm Social

Cultural and Environmental Organisation in conjunction with the Bequia Tourism Association continued the coastal clean-up activities of beaches in the harbour and the trail used by locals and visitors to cross from one beach to the other. The group also planted coconut trees on a number of beaches around Port Elizabeth including Hope Beach and Princess Margaret Beach.



Canouan Sailing Club has just about completed their sailing boat 'Sustain' and will commence training of young persons in the near future. The project seeks to revitalize and safeguard the sailing tradition in Canouan.



## Mini-Projects 2006 Cont'd

The Union Island Environmental Attackers completed their project at Diablo Beach in Clifton, Union Island. The beach was trans-



formed from a bushy overrun state into a beautiful recreational spot. The group was also involved in a coastal clean-up campaign in celebration of World Oceans Day. This campaign was driven by the need to reduce marine litter which has significant negative impacts on marine life.



The projects undertaken by the L'Esterre South Striders Social Club and the Dover Government School in Carriacou also commenced but were delayed due to a lack of material on the island. The L'Esterre group has undertaken to enhance Paradise Beach while Dover Government school undertook to enhance the Esplanade area in Hillsborough.

The mini-projects have mobilised groups into action for the benefit of their communities and the Grenadines. The execution of these small projects has helped the groups to develop their skills in areas such as project proposal writing, accounting, project monitoring and evaluation and report writing.

These are skills which groups need to develop if they hope to access larger funds and for institutional memory.

## Grenadines in Belize

CERMES students, Kim Baldwin, David Gill, Donna Roach & Tanya Staskiewicz attended the 59<sup>th</sup> Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute Conference in Belize (November 6-11, 2006) to present their research that was conducted in collaboration with the Sustainable Grenadines Project this year.



The presentations included: 'A Profile of Grenadine marine resource users'; 'A socio-economic analyses of Grenadine fisheries'; 'A livelihoods analyses of Grenadine fishers', and 'The management effectiveness of the Tobago Cays Marine Park'. The TCMP presentation was made by Ms. Meritha Small from the TCMP office.

All of the CERMES students entered the GCFI student competition and David Gill was the first runner-up in the student oral presentation category.

Students commented that the GCFI conference was a great learning experience and they were able to meet and exchange ideas with other Caribbean scientists and fishermen. Special thanks is being extended to everyone in the Grenadines that assisted the students with their research in 2006.

Copies of these research papers will be made available at the Sustainable Grenadines Project office and on the website.

## TCMP Launched

The Tobago Cays Marine Park with its array of wonders and natural beauty was launched on December 2nd at the Hugh Mulzac Square in Clifton, Union Island. The feature address



was delivered by Mr. Edwin Snagg, Director of Southern Grenadines Affairs while remarks were made by Fr. Andrew Roach, Mr. Herman Belmar (Grenadines Affairs), Honourable Terrence Ollivierre (Southern Grenadines Parliamentary Representative), Ms. Tecla Fontenard of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States-OPAAL Project

among others.

The President of the Southern Grenadines Water Taxi Association, Mr. Montgomery Laborde also addressed the gathering and encouraged operators to abide by the rules of the Park. A fee system was put in place for resource users including yachts, water taxis and dive operators which took effect from December 5th.

Presentations were made by Roots Connections Cultural Club, Union Island Secondary School Band, Stephanie Browne Primary School, Kevin Charles and Don Tittle and 'Tebo'



## Ashton Lagoon Rehabilitation Project

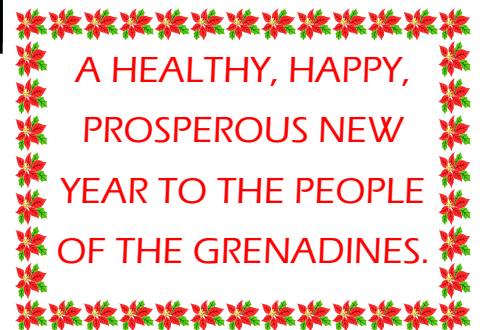
The Ashton Lagoon Restoration Project started this year with consultations and site visits across the Grenadines and Grenada. The project aims to reverse the damage caused by the marina construction and move towards sustainable use of this area. Dr. Lisa G. Sorenson of Boston University is spearheading this initiative in which the Sustainable Grenadines Project is partner.



During December 4<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, the core project planners [Dr. Lisa Sorenson of the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds (SCSCB), David Wege

and Amiro Pérez-Leroux of BirdLife International, Lystra Culzac-Wilson of AvianEyes Birding Group and SusGren Project staff] held a series of planning meetings with local organisers and key stakeholders particularly in Union, St. Vincent, Grenada and Carriacou.

Site visits to the Ashton Lagoon and mangrove field visits were conducted. The primary outcome of the planning is a 3-day participatory planning workshop with interested stakeholders in Union Island by April 2007.



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 Governments of Grenada and St Vincent and the Grenadines
- Numerous Grenadines NGOs.

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