

# Sustainable Grenadines News

Volume 4 issue 1

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## Gold and Silver swept ashore

In a practical demonstration of commitment to safeguard and enhance the environment, two Union Island community groups struck gold and silver.



Environment watch dogs "Union Island Environmental Attackers" and "Young Help Striders 4-H Club" captured Gold and Silver Commonwealth Medals while taking care of our shores right here in Union Island.

These organizations submitted environmental projects that were being undertaken by their groups to the Commonwealth Youth Programme and succeeded in capturing Gold and Silver Medals. This achievement is very significant considering that these projects were judged against projects from all over the world.

In February, award ceremonies were held to present these gold and silver medals to members of the respective organisations.

Although they won the medals, they however emphasize that keeping our environment clean and taking care of the marine life should be the business of all Unionites and visitors to our beautiful island.

The Young Help Striders 4-H Club swept in twenty Gold and twenty Silver medals while the Union Island Environmental Attackers captured ten Silver.

The project capturing the Gold and Silver medals for the 4-H Club was the beautification of the Ashton Wharf which was partly funded by SusGren under its mini-project, whilst Environmental Attackers also submitted a general beautification project with emphasis on the activities in the Diablo Area which landed them the award for the silver they now show off so proudly.

The Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) is dedicated to empowering young people (aged 15-29) in its member countries.



## Charting the way forward for SusGren.

The Sustainable Grenadines Project held its annual Steering Committee (SC) on January 10th and 11th 2008 in Carriacou, to discuss its annual work programmes and the future of the project.



Having reached its mid point, the achievements of the project were reviewed and an accomplishment flyer produced.

At the SC meeting, the donor organization, the Lighthouse Foundation CEO, Mr. Jens Amsbodor, and other SC members were

brought up to date on the progress of the Project and discussed different prospects for the way forward.

In the midst of the planning, the Committee had the opportunity to visit the proposed Sandy Island and Oyster Bed Marine Protected Area (SIOBMPA), which is one of the associated projects of SusGren.

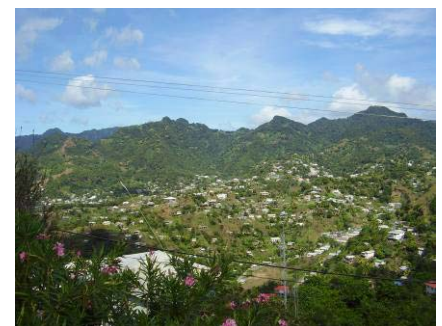
During the field visit, Sandy Island's resilience to climate change was discussed as was the status of official declaration of the site as an MPA. Presently, a Cabinet Submission document is on its way to the Grenada Government in this regard.

SusGren has been one of many partners working on the development of this MPA over the years and intends to continue working along with the authorities and other stakeholders.

## Sustainable Land Management Project for SVG

A three-year project funded by the Global Environment Facility and being executed by the Environmental Services Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Integrated Forest Management and Development Programme, was launched on January 30, 2008 in St. Vincent.

The Capacity Building and Mainstreaming of Sustainable Land Management Project aims to build capacities for sustainable land management in government and civil society institutions and to mainstream SLM into national development planning. The long-term goal of the project is "sustainable management of natural resources in SVG, through improved land management practices that will contribute to the protection of biodiversity and the preservation of ecosystem goods and services for the economic and social benefit of all the people living in SVG."



## TCMP Launches Sustainable Livelihood Project

The people of Union Island are enhancing efforts towards reducing unsustainable livelihood practices as well as negative impacts on an environmentally sensitive areas of the Tobago Cays Marine Park (TCMP).

The TCMP benefits from the OECS Protected Areas and Associated Livelihoods (OPAAL) Project, through the recently launched OECS Sustainable Livelihoods Project sub-project, which aims to provide employment opportunities specifically for low income households in the Southern Grenadines.

During a short ceremony on March 8th, at the Hugh Mulzac Square, residents witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the TCMP Board as the National Implementation Coordinating Entity (NICE) for the OPAAL project, and the Site Implementation Entity (SIE) put in place to assist in execution of OPAAL at the site level.



The endorsement of this MOU followed an official handing over of new patrol vessel to the Park.

Overall, the livelihoods sub-project is expected to ensure that eligible, affected persons are assisted in their efforts to restore or improve their livelihoods in a manner that maintains the environmental integrity of the proposed protected areas.

## SusGren Visibility Increased

Can you see it?...what is it?...Oh it's the SusGren Sign!



The Sustainable Grenadines Project has increased visibility on the Grenadines Islands by placing project awareness signs at strategic points on the islands.

On Union Island signs are erected in Ashton and Clifton at the main ports of entry and smaller project signs are posted on mini-projects funded by SusGren in the communities.

Other Grenadine islands including Mayreau, Canouan, Bequia, Carriacou and Petite Martinique have also erected larger project signs at the ports of entry and smaller signs on mini-projects.



## Grenadines NGOs sharpens their writing skills

Responding to the need to build stronger NGOs in the Grenadines, SusGren held its first training workshop for 2008 on "Effective Writing Skills".

An assessment conducted by SusGren shows that Grenadine NGOs lack skills in most aspects of communication including effective writing techniques which affects their ability to take and keep proper records.



Over 35 persons from community groups within the Grenadine Islands participated in this Workshop on March 29th and 30th, 2008 at the Learning Resource Centre in Ashton, Union Island.

The Workshop, facilitated by Ms. Sarah Venable of Barbados exposed participants to the practical aspects of writing reports, minute-taking, scripting newsletters and news releases, and also gave them the opportunity to discuss ideas and reflect on approaches that will improve their writing skills.

## World Wetland Day Celebrated in the Grenadines



Grenadine islands joined with the global community in celebrating World Wetland Day on February 2, 2008 under the theme "Healthy Wetlands, Healthy People".

In keeping with the theme, Union Island undertook a clean-up campaign of the coastal and land areas, followed by a walk against litter on February 1, 2008 which was deemed a huge success.

Garbage was removed from Clifton Harbour and along the coast to the Campbell area in Ashton. This is indicative of the efforts of the students from the various schools on the island who were joined by community groups and other locals as early as 6:30 am to ensure the coastal areas were cleaned. Approximately 85 persons participated in the activity.

To conclude the days activity, students supported by their teachers and other environmental groups marched through the street from St. Joseph's R. C Church to Mulzac Square with important messages for the public to make them aware of what litter can and will do to our coast lines.



## Global Warming CD Launched

"Wha' ah we go do boy

Wha' ah we go do gal

Global warming go destroy we land"

The cries that will be heard if we do not take heed and care for our environment.

These are the words in a song of our local citizen and environmental "police" Vernalyn Blencowe who is also a member of the Union Island Environmental Attackers. The song, used as the theme song for the World Wetlands Day Clean up campaign in Union Island, urges us to care our environment before its too late. Copies of the CD are available for EC\$20.00 at the Union Island Internet Café.

The Sustainable Grenadines Projects 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 primarily by the **Lighthouse Foundation**, Germany. The Project office is located in Clifton, Union Island, St. Vincent and the Grenadines: Tel.: (784)-485-8779 E-Mail: susgren@vincysurf.com

