

Sustainable Grenadines News

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Empowerment Workshop

Ten NGO's spanning the Grenadines from Bequia in the north to Carriacou and Petite Martinique in the south participated in an Empowerment Workshop for Grenadines NGO's on June 25 & 26, 2009 in Union Island.

The workshop was part of a collaborative initiative of SusGren and The Nature Conservancy, in which seven NGO in the Grenadines benefitted from having a paid part time staff in their organization during the period July 2008–June 2009. This effort was deemed to increase the capacity and development of NGO's in the Grenadines.

As part of the programme, an Operational Manual was developed

for use among NGO's in the Grenadines to standardize policies and procedures for the operation of Organizations.

SusGren Staff facilitated the workshop and assisted the participants in the use of the manual. A draft copy of the manual together with a CD containing the appropriate templates needed to complement the use of the manual was given to all the groups represented at the



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Attachment & Exchange



Ms. Katrina Collins, President of the Union Island Environmental Attackers is the most recent beneficiary of SusGren's "Attachment and Exchange" program.

Ms. Collins left Union Island to pursue the 2009 Diploma Program in Development Leadership at the Coady International Institute, St. Francis Xavier University, Canada.

The six months Diploma program is part financed by SusGren together with a bursary from Coady Institute.

We wish Ms. Collins the very best in her studies and look forward to her continued contribution to environmental conservation on her return in December 2009.

A New Face for Conservation in the Grenadines



Sharon Gulick, originally from Washington, DC, is the new OECS Protected Areas and Associated Livelihoods (OPAAL) Site Coordinator for St. Vincent & the Grenadines. Based at the Tobago Cays Marine Park (TCMP) Office on Union Island, her main duties focuses on coordinating the implementation of OPAAL project activities and the OPAAL Livelihood Subproject. She comes to the

Caribbean from the Asia Pacific region where she worked for five years managing coral reef and fresh water environmental projects and coordinating capacity building initiatives. Most recently she coordinated natural resource management, communications, and research activities for American Samoa's Coral Reef Initiative. She holds a Master of Environmental Management degree from Yale University and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Virginia.

The objective of the OPAAL project is to protect and conserve ecologically sustainable samples of the OECS region's biodiversity, while creating sustainable livelihoods and increased awareness on protected areas and their benefits. Since the inception of the OPAAL project, the TCMP's list of accomplishments related to biodiversity conservation, protected area management effectiveness, capacity building, and sustainable livelihood development has been growing.

Special Steering Committee Meeting

SusGren's Steering Committee (SC) usually meets once per year. However, as the Project is in its final phase, the committee at its annual meeting in January 2009 decided to schedule a SC meeting instead of the regular Executive Committee meeting to further discuss the future of the Project.

The SC meeting took place on June 4, 2009 in Carriacou and discussed among other things, a possible phase three of SusGren in which the project will be transformed into a permanent Grenadines NGO. A draft document with suggestions for the constitution of the new NGO was presented to the SC for their input.

Despite these preparations, Phase 3 of SusGren remains uncertain. This became known after the required endorsement letter from the Government of Grenada GEF Focal Point was submitted to UNDP nine months after they received SusGren's PIF GEF proposal. Both SVG and Grenada agreed to secure GEF funding for SusGren after visits were made to them last September.

Turtle Monitoring in Union

The Union Island Environmental Attackers have embarked upon a turtle monitoring drive during the closed season, March to July 2009.



The group encouraged residents and community groups to accompany them on their surveillance in an effort to educate and create awareness on turtle conservation. UIEA recorded sighting of nine turtles in the Bloody Bay area.



Other tracks were seen indicating further turtle activities not witnessed by the group.

Communication Strategy Workshop—Carriacou

On April 7th and 8th, 2009, the Sandy Island/Oyster Bed MPA moved into a new phase. A workshop was held at the Seawaves Upper Level in Hillsborough, Carriacou, to engage local stakeholders in developing a communication strategy for the MPA,



The goal of the workshop was to design a public awareness campaign strategy to educate Carriacou residents about the existence and importance of the marine protected areas; and Visitor and local interpretation programme to be used to educate people about the ecological benefits of the SIOBMPA as they visit the protected area.

On day 1, participants determined target audiences, which ranged from the local population to tourists and media outlets. Next, the types of media to develop for targeting these audiences was determined.



On the second day, local artists were asked to graciously volunteer their talents to develop a logo for the MPA, poster designs, and ideas for a documentary. Please keep your eyes open for SIOBMPA's new logo!!

UIDC – Round Table Meeting

The Union Island Development Committee (UIDC) held a meeting on May 11, 2009 to evaluate groups in Union Island and the Grenadines as a whole.

The main aim of the meeting was to identify problems faced such as duplication of efforts, continuity or lack thereof, general functioning of the groups, ways to improve the problems identified and how to strengthen groups capacity.

Possible areas and sources of funding were also identified.

Mr. Edwin Snagg, Director of Grenadines Affairs, was present to discuss the Island's possibilities for obtaining SIF funding.

Several NGOs attended the meeting and voiced their concerns. It was noted that groups referred to lack of funds as the biggest problem while others identified accountability as their "stumbling block".

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

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