

Sustainable Grenadines News

Volume 5 issue 3

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SusGren attended SCSCB 17th Meeting in Antigua

The Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds held its 17th Biennial meeting in Antigua, from July 13–18, 2009.

The meeting, held under the theme Beyond the Beach—Birds and Tourism for Sustainable Islands, is the first meeting of the Society in any Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) country, and the first to focus primarily on ecotourism.

A wide variety of persons participated in the meeting from almost every island state in the Caribbean, all of whom shared a common interest in the conservation of birds and their habitats. (Source: www.SCSCB.org)

SusGren's Project Manager and Programme Officer attended the

meeting and participated in the discussions and working sessions.



An abstract on "Protected Areas Management in the Grenadines Islands" was submitted by the Project and a poster presentation giving information on the Sandy Island Oyster Bed MPA in Carriacou, the Restoration of the Ashton Lagoon Project in Union Island and the possibility of the Grenadines becoming a World Heritage Site were presented by the Project staff.

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The meeting also provided an opportunity for staff to network and create linkages with organizations and possible donor agencies in light of the continuation of the project into a third phase.

Local Arts and Crafts Workshop and Exhibition



On September 3rd, participants of two arts and crafts trainings converged in Mulzac Square on Union Island to exhibit the work produced during two-week trainings on Union Island and Mayreau in August. At the former Union Island Secondary School, Vonley Greaves, an artist and businessman from St. Vincent, taught sixteen community members how to make crafts and jewelry out of bamboo and coconuts. Another local Vincy artist and businesswoman, Merle Gellizeau, taught basket weaving to ten community members on Mayreau. The Tobago Cays Marine Park organized both the trainings and the exhibition with funding from the World Bank and the FFEM under the OECS Protected Areas and Associated Livelihoods (OPAAL) project. The objective of the livelihood component of the OPAAL project is to contribute to poverty reduction through education on the environment, the building of skills, and the expansion of small-scale markets such as arts and craft manufacturing. Also provided under the OPAAL project is a Seed Fund to support the participants by providing them with tools and materials needed to develop new livelihoods using the skills they learned. (Source: S.Gulick, TCMP)

MarSIS Summer Cruise

Kim Baldwin, a PhD researcher, with the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), University of West Indies, Cave Hill, conducted a research cruise through the Grenadines from August 16–September 5th, 2009.

This three-week research cruise identified and documented critical marine-life habitats such as reefs, seagrasses, and mangroves through SCUBA diving and the use of a live-action video camera that can be lowered to 250 ft. Data gathered through these methods will be combined to create a first-of-its-kind 3-D underwater map of the Grenada Bank.

The cruise travelled from the Vincentian mainland to Bequia, Mustique, Canouan, Mayreau,
Cont'd.....

Certified Reef Check EcoDivers for SVG



The Tobago Cays Marine Park (TCMP) hosted a four-day Reef Check EcoDiver training during September on Union Island. The training, facilitated by Dr. Gregor Hodgson, Founder and Director of Reef Check, focused on teaching participants the Reef Check monitoring methodology, a relatively easy and effective survey method that will provide participants with the skills needed to collect coral reef data. A Reef Check monitoring plan and schedule for the long-term continuation of Reef Check monitoring was also developed. Participants were invited from neighboring Grenadines Islands and St. Vincent in an effort to help build capacity for protected area management in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Participants included TCMP rangers, SVG Coast Guard Service, SVG Customs Department, and community members. SusGren, took the opportunity to engage the Carriacou & Petite Martinique Water Taxi Association to participate in the training by financially supporting one of the members to attend the Training, under the Attachment & Exchange aspect of the project. [\[Source: S. Gulick, TCMP\]](#)

MarSIS Summer Cruise.....cont'd

the Tobago Cays Marine Park, Union Island, Petit Saint Vincent and Petit Martinique, Carriacou and Il de Rhonde.

This cruise forms part of Baldwin's, PhD research project. The Grenadines Marine Resource and Space-use Information System (MarSIS) project is unique in that it brings together data from many sources (including local knowledge) so that a transboundary marine geographic information system (GIS) can be developed. This research will aid planning and management of the Grenadines marine environment in order to preserve

it for future generations. Furthermore this research and development of the MarSIS will lay the foundation for the designation of the area as a World Heritage Site.



Research team

[\[Source: www.CaribbeanPressRelease.com\]](http://www.CaribbeanPressRelease.com)

NGO Staffing Project ends

The Nature Conservancy funded Part-Time Staffing Project, that placed workers in 7 Grenadines NGOs has officially ended after a year of hard work. The project aimed at increasing the capacity of these groups to undertake conservation work throughout the islands by alleviating some of the work load that is placed on the volunteers. The Part-Time Staff were involved in all aspects of

group functions, from financial management to reporting. The initiative ended with an Empowerment Workshop, where staff were trained in general NGO management and were taught that an empowered self translates to an empowered group and community. SusGren thanks the employees for jobs well done and encourages them to keep up the good work! [\[Source: K. Kavanaugh, SusGren\]](#)

'Flipper' the Bride!

Originally identified as a fin whale, but later confirmed to be a Bryde's whale, 'Flipper,' as it was affectionately referred to, approximately 35ft



in length, was spotted by yachties, off Frigate Rock in Union Island. 'Flipper' was rescued through the efforts and quick responses of both Sidiki and Grenadines Dive team. Jeremiah Forde and Jerome Lewis were able to tie the tail of the whale and dislodge it from among the stones where it was trapped, using power from the dive boat. Once freed and in water depth of 15-20 ft, the rope was released and 'Flipper' swam away like a lightning bolt. 'Flipper' sustained minor bruises and scratches to its upper belly from the corals and stones which trapped it, but was full of energy as evident in his last dive making a big "goodbye" splash with his tail.

Despite the fact that Union Island is a small community, Islanders count it a privilege to be a part of the protection and preservation drive of marine life, recognizing that their livelihood is reliant on its preservation. [\[Source: M. Lewis-Adams, Grenadines Dive\]](#)

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



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