



Sustainable Grenadines News

Volume 4 issue 4

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Sandy Island Oyster Bed MPA: Centre of Conservation Activities in Carriacou



Carriacou is moving forward with its first marine protected area. The Sandy Island Oyster Bed Marine Protected Area (SIOBMPA) is an exciting place both underwater and above ground!

The 787 hectares park contains extensive reef systems with many types of corals, mangroves and seagrass beds. Endangered species in the park home include the green sea turtle (Chelonia mydas) and the hawksbill turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata). Sandy Island, with its postcard quality scenery and white sandy beach surrounded by turquoise waters is a cultural landmark for the people of Carriacou and an important tourism destination.

With the support of Carriacou, activities are

progressing towards the development of a functioning MPA. Cabinet has approved the SIOBMPA in principle, and last steps are underway to finalize the legal establishment of the park.

Three contracts are being processed through the Fisheries Division and funded by the OECS. These contracts are (1) to develop a communication strategy and promotional materials for the park, (2) to install moorings and develop a maintenance plan and (3) to develop and expand park infrastructure to include an interim protected area office, design for an interpretation centre and park trails.

SusGren has played an active and important role in developing the contracts, liaising with local groups, evaluating proposals and coordinating meetings.



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Beauty on the Water in Petite Martinique

The boating community of Petite Martinique had another historic moment when "Beauty" hit the sea in a traditional boat launching ceremony on Sunday November 30, 2008.



Villagers came out in their numbers to perform the traditional ceremony that comes with boat launching in Petite Martinique,

which is known for its unique boat building skills.

The blessing of the boat began the day-long activity, followed by the dancing of the cake and the actual maiden voyage of the vessel, which was given its "baptism" when villagers put their "shoulders to the wheel" and shoved the vessel until it was bordering on

the edge of the bay. Another vessel was used to give "Beauty" the final tug of its journey into the water to sail off into the sunset.

The 48-foot vessel, built by Baldwin "Balo" DeRoche, is a 'green boat' propelled by a high efficiency electric motor. It joins the fleet of vessels owned by Mr. Jeff Stevens, known for his excellent tours within the Grenadines.

People from all over the Grenadines and from the mainland of Grenada were present to part take in the activities.

SusGren is planning to hold a boat builders survey and workshop in 2009.



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ICC 2008—A Success in the Grenadines

Despite inclement weather, approximately 300 volunteers joined forces on the coasts of the Grenadines



for the 3rd Annual International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Day. Community groups organized themselves all over to collect nearly 2 tonnes (4300 lbs) of debris from 10 miles of shoreline from Bequia to Carriacou. The event is endorsed by The Ocean Conservancy, whose mission is to engage people to remove trash from the world's beaches and waterways, to identify the sources of debris and to change the behaviours that cause pollution. This year SusGren chose the theme "Keeping it Clean in the Grenadines" for the activity.

Although rain on the scheduled day of the worldwide event (September 20th) resulted in several islands postponing the cleanup, this did not deter from the success of the event, but seems to have strengthened it, as many groups held cleanups on consecutive weekends.

SusGren would like to thank all of the dedicated volunteers and sponsors for making this event another great success!



## NGO Capacity Building for the Grenadines



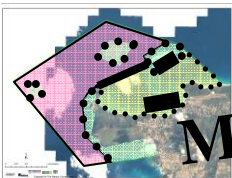
SusGren with support from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) undertook an assessment of several Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Community-Based organisations (CBOs) throughout the Grenadines in an Institutional Self Assessment (ISA) survey. The results indicated several weaknesses mainly in the management and the execution of organisational functions, which was attributed to the absence of proper use of processes and procedures in the execution of group functions. SusGren collaborated with TNC and embarked on a part-time staff hire initiative project, in an effort to strengthen group competencies throughout the Grenadines, with special emphasis on the implementation of the developed work plan for each assessed group and in addition develop an operational manual which will serve to provide practical guided support and training for all NGOs in the Grenadines.

The project is primarily geared towards strengthening the governing structures, answering developmental and structural questions and increase openness and responsiveness of NGOs in the Grenadines, particularly in Bequia, Canouan, Mayreau, Union Island, Petite Martinique and Carriacou.

Currently, seven groups are attached to the project for one year. They are the Union Island Environmental Attackers, Southern Grenadines Water Taxi Association, Mayreau Regatta & Sporting Committee, Young Help Striders 4-H Club, Carriacou Environmental Committee, Bayaleau Development Committee and Paget Farm Social, Cultural and Environmental Organization.

## Cont'd.. Sandy Island Oyster Bed MPA: Centre of Conservation Activities in Carriacou

Continued efforts are underway to finalize the co-management agreements for the MPA. SusGren organized a workshop in April bringing together stakeholders to discuss options of how the MPA could be operated. The aim of the workshop was to look at possible co-management institutional arrangements for the MPA, and develop a 90-day action plan as a test run for co-management. Co-management arrangements enable governments to manage areas along with non-governmental organizations. Key stakeholders include the Carriacou Environmental Committee, Carriacou Historical Society, Dive Operators, the Port Authority, Department of Fisheries and KIDO. A mid-term report describing the status of the process has been distributed to stakeholders and planning for the next steps are underway.



A zoning plan, management plan and mooring feasibility study have already been developed for the area by the community and local stakeholders with support from other programs like Sustainable Grenadines Project, the Caribbean Regional Environmental Program (CREP) and The Nature Conservancy.

## Congrats! On your accomplishments Attackers



In 2008, Union Island Environmental Attackers were awarded by the Commonwealth Youth Programme for their outstanding project in the Beautification of Union Island with emphasis on Diabolo Beach. The group went on to secure funding from The GEF Small Grant Program for Capacity Strengthening of the group.

Upon completion of the first phase of the project which is the capacity strengthening of the group through the hosting of several workshops including Effective Communication, Conflict Management and Strategic Planning, UIEA continued its efforts to enhance the Clifton Harbour and its surroundings and to minimize the extent of environmental degradation caused by the unscrupulous actions of some resource users. The group organized clean up campaigns, provided canvas shopping bags to homes in the community in an effort to reduce the usage of plastic and conducted water testing along the Clifton Beachfront areas.

SusGren assisted UIEA to develop the proposal, while staff of the project also assisted in facilitating some of the workshops hosted by UIEA. The project officially closed off on November 27<sup>th</sup> 2008 with a closing ceremony to express gratitude to its stakeholders and to showcase the achievements of organization.



## Feliz Navidad y Prospero Año



The Staff of SusGren wish every one a Bright and prosperous 2009.

We appreciate your dedication, commitment and support throughout the life of the project especially during 2008.

You have made a difference with your contributions and we look forward to working with you in 2009 and beyond.

Enjoy the New Year—Blessings!!



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 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

