

Centre for Resource
Management and
Environmental Studies



University of the West Indies
Barbados

Projects
Promotion Ltd.
St. Vincent and the
Grenadines



Carriacou
Environmental
Committee
Carriacou, Grenada

Government of St. Vincent
and the Grenadines

Government of
Grenada



THE SUSTAINABLE GRENADINES PROJECT

**SUSTAINABLE INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION IN
THE GRENADINE ISLANDS**

Annual Report for 2009



**Project Implementation Unit
Clifton, Union Island
St. Vincent and the Grenadines
January 2010**

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Cover photograph: Leatherback Turtle: Turtle monitoring with Union Island Environmental Attackers, Bloody Bay, Union Island.

Correct citation: Sustainable Grenadines Project. 2009. Sustainable Integrated Development and Biodiversity Conservation in the Grenadine Islands - Annual Report for 2009. Clifton, Union Island, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. 26 pp.

1 INTRODUCTION

This report covers the implementation of the Annual Workplan for 2009, Phase 2 of the Sustainable Grenadines Project; the fifth full year of operation.

In the middle of 2009, the Sustainable Grenadines Project ceased implementation of its core activities and refocused more on the development of associated projects for funding. This is because SusGren future existence became uncertain after learning that the phase 3 project proposals submitted to the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) missed the GEF 4 funding cycle. A GEF project would have allowed SusGren the possibility of receiving funding in order to start Phase 3 sometime in late 2010. In spite of having the GEF PIF proposal from SusGren since September 2008 it took the GEF focal points within the Governments of Grenada and St. Vincent and Grenadines 9 months to provide the GEF with the endorsement letters needed to obtain this funding. With this setback the Project decided to make reduce spending on present programs and to focus on seeking bridging funding until a sizable grant, such as the GEF, could be secured.

As a cost cutting measure the project decided to postpone core funding for training and planning workshops, mini-projects, training attachments and other programs in order to extend Phase 2 as long as possible, giving staff time to seek new funding opportunities and to set up SusGren as an NGO.

Despite the change in workplan activities for 2009 significant progress was made by SusGren in pursuit of the integrated sustainable development of the Grenadines area. The Grenadine NGOs capacity building programme funded by TNC ran until July 2009 and placed seven paid staff within the Grenadines NGOs, trained NGO staff and developed an operational manual for Grenadine NGOs. SusGren was active in startup activities for the newly established Carriacou Sandy Island Oyster Bed MPA with new funding made available by the OECS and TNC. This included: spearheading the commencement of the implementation of a communication strategy and mooring installation projects; setup of a co-management SC and assisting with conducting one week of public consultation to raise the awareness of general public of Carriacou. SusGren also assisted the 4H Club of Union Island established a seamoss cooperative.

Considerable progress was made in preparation for and transitioning of SusGren to a permanent transboundary Grenadines NGO. SusGren is being registered as a not-for-profit company under the laws of Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and possibly a US state. The document which is guiding the SusGren transformation to NGO status was revised by the Steering Committee and was used by the selected law firm, the Caribbean International Law Firm of SVG, to develop the Articles of Incorporation. The Government of St. Vincent has already pledged support for office space and SusGren is following up with the Government of Grenada to get formal confirmation of the matching cash contribution that was promised during the scoping mission to Carriacou and Grenada.

There was also great success with the development and implementation of associated project activities. Six grant proposals were developed, two received funding in 2009, the results of three will be known in 2010 and the other will be submitted in 2010. The projects include: Litter Management Project for the Grenadines submitted to GCFI/CaMPAM; Strengthening MPA Management in the Grenadines submitted to NFWF; Marine Multiuse Zoning Plan for the Grenadine Islands submitted to NOAA; Restoration and Sustainable Use of Ashton Lagoon: Phase II submitted to USFWS NMBCA; Strengthening of fisher folk collaboration in the

Grenadines submitted to UWI, CERMES MarGov and Strengthening Civil Society to Address Marine Ecosystem Based Management and Climate Change in the Grenadine Islands will be submitted to the MacArthur Foundation.

Two interns from Canada continued to provide tremendous staff support to SusGren in 2009 in the areas of, capacity strengthening of NGOs, implementing the priority goals for the Sandy Island/Oyster Bed MPA, the Seamoss Project, International Coastal Cleanup and development of associated projects. As the Project transitions to NGO status with less money available for administration and staff support, internship may have to be an integral part of meeting the staffing needs.

The achievements of the Project in relation to the activities outlined in the 2009 workplan are presented below.

2 TRAINING COURSES (NGO CAPACITY BUILDING)

In an effort to encourage longevity and success and to improve areas of weaknesses such as management and organizational function, the Sustainable Grenadines Project continued with providing training and capacity development for NGOs and CBOs throughout the Grenadines in 2009.

The initiative to create functional NGOs throughout the Grenadines by developing an operations manual and hiring part-time staff for Grenadines NGOs to support implementation of their conservation and capacity building strategies continued until July 2009 through partnership with The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

The focused areas for capacity development for 2009 were as follows:

- Group Development for NGOs
- Continuation of policies and procedures for NGOs – to include staffing of Grenadines NGOs
- Empowerment workshop for NGOs – to include training in the use of the Grenadines NGOs Operational Manual
- Team Building for NGOs
- Management for NGO (postponed as a cost cutting measure due to the uncertainty of future funding of SusGren).

2.1 Group Development for NGOs



The Project continued to support the strengthening of groups throughout the Grenadines. Although Strategic Planning workshops and ISA exercises was scheduled for groups during 2009, the groups did not follow up on request made by SusGren to have these exercise conducted. However, the NGO's which completed the ISA and benefitted from the part time staff were able to implement and carry out most of the activities as stated in the ISA workplans.

Two conflict management and capacity development meetings were held with the Southern Grenadines Water Taxi Association January 9th and 16th, in order to manage work related matters between the hired staff and President. The second financial and programmatic reports on the project were submitted to TNC. The report is available at SusGren.

Ms. Kavanaugh and the PM held five work planning meetings with the NGOs' hired staff on March 1st, 4th, 9th, 10th, and 18th. The groups involved were Bayaleau Development Committee, Southern Grenadines Water Taxi Association, Union Island Environmental Attackers, Paget Farm Sports, Culture and Environmental Organization and the Young Help Striders 4H Club respectively. Two meetings were not held; CEC was unable to organize a meeting despite continuous request from SusGren and the Mayreau staff person travelled.

Ms. Ruth Blyther of TNC paid a visit to the Project from October 17th – 19th, 2009. Among the activities she engaged in were visits to Ashton Lagoon and Fort Murray, finalizing the programmatic and financial reports and discussions on future project for the region.

2.2 Policies and Procedures for NGOs (including staffing of NGOs)

This falls under the Grenadines NGO Capacity Development Project which was completed at the end of July, 2009. The policies and procedures component had two parts, Development of an operational manual for NGOs of the Grenadines and placing Part-time Staff into Grenadines NGOs.

Groups involved in the programme were as follows:

- Southern Grenadines Water Taxi Association (SGWTA)
- Bayaleau Development Committee (Carriacou) (BDC)
- Union Island Environmental Attackers (UIEA)
- Carriacou Environmental Committee (CEC)
- Paget Farm Sports, Cultural and Environmental Organisation (Bequia) (PFSCEO)
- Young Help Striders 4-H Club (Union Island) (4-H)
- Mayreau Regatta and Sporting Committee (MRSC)

Part one: Development of an operational manual for NGOs of the Grenadines

On March 24th, the Project staff met to review the Operational Manual. A final draft of the manual is completed and used as a training guide for the NGOs taking part in staffing programme. The operational manual is distributed for final comments. Both the operational manual and the standard forms and spreadsheets forms within have been burned into DVD and have been distributed both in hard copy and soft copy to the participating groups. This distribution was done during one of SusGren's workshops – the Empowerment Workshop – held between June 25 and 26, 2009 in Ashton, Union Island. All seven participating NGOs took part in the workshop along with various other groups from the Grenadines. Many of the part-time staff also took part in the Teambuilding Workshop which was held between March 27 and 29, 2009. These workshop reports can be seen on the website at <http://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes/susgrenadinesPub.html>. In both cases, the part-time staff and other participants were responsible to report back on their experiences and to implement the procedures and activities they learned to their group members.

Part two: Part-time Staff for NGOs

Seven NGO staff members participated in the part-time staffing with the aforementioned Grenadines NGOs. However the Carriacou Environmental Committee, the Bayaleau Development Committee and the Mayreau Regatta and Sporting Committee staff members were not able to complete their contracts up to the completion date of June 30, 2009 due to problems.

The part-time staff's responsibilities were to ensure that day-to-day management, accounting and administrative operations were accomplished and the work plans of the groups were implemented. Staff persons also assisted with the implementation of mini-projects, registering of groups and all other forms of group activities. Daily supervision was the responsibility of the NGOs however part-time staff submitted monthly reports to SusGren. These were signed by a member of the NGO's executive body. Unfortunately, no further funding was received to continue the initiative; therefore most of the part-time staff are currently back to volunteer status within their organizations.

2.3 Empowerment Workshop for NGOs – to include training in the use of the Grenadines NGOs Operations Manual

Ten NGO's from throughout 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, funded by The Nature Conservancy was based on the idea that the equitable and lasting transformations that are needed within society are achievable through the work of CBOs and NGOs. SusGren Staff facilitated the workshop and presented case studies on how "regular persons" were able to influence changes as a reminder to the Grenadines community that they are not alone in the quest for social justice and sustainability.



In addition to the empowerment sessions, the Operational Manual which was developed to encourage a homogenous approach to group management was distributed. Representatives of participating groups received copies of the manual and were trained in the use of the policies and procedures developed. They were encouraged to return to their communities to implement and to assist other members and groups in the use of the manual.

An evaluation of the workshop from both the participants and the facilitators indicated that it was successful. Participants agreed that the need for standards in processes and procedures in NGO's operation are needed and the workshop proved to be timely. A copy of the workshop report can be accessed through the project's website: (<http://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes/susgrenadinesPub.html>).

2.4 Team Building Workshop for NGOs



NGO's and other community groups in the Grenadines participated in a "Team Building" workshop, organized and funded by SusGren and facilitated by Messrs. Gloria Payne-Banfield and Jacqueline Loric Pascal, at the Seawave Upper Level in Carriacou, on March 28 & 29, 2009.

Participants from Bequia, Canouan, Mayreau, Union Island, Petite Martinique and Carriacou attended the workshop which was designed to address a deficiency in organizational skills needed by NGOs to function as a team; and to improve coordination within groups.

The objectives of the workshop were to:-

- Demonstrate how a group can function as a team to execute a specific activity
- Get participants to develop a common bond, trust and confidence in each other making it possible to function as a team
- Develop and identify as a team
- Work towards shared goals
- Understand the importance of leadership in the process of team building
- Recognize the positive and negative aspects of conflict and to show how conflict resolution cements the team's ability to achieve its goal
- Demonstrate the growth and development of the individual within the Team
- Highlight the importance of communication for the operation and survival of the team
- Learn to arrive at decisions through consensus building thus ensuring ownership by all team members

Groups were encouraged to practice the principles demonstrated in an effort to increase efficiency and to function better as teams. A copy of the workshop report can be accessed through the project's website: (<http://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes/susgrenadinesPub.html>).

3 PLANNING WORKSHOPS

Several proposals were developed and donors sought for previous planning workshops such as; Fisher Folk Co-management, Green Schools and Grenadines Green Hotels. Although Boat Building Skills and the Grenadines as a World Heritage Site planning workshops were proposed for 2009, only the Grenadines as a World Heritage Site workshop was completed.

3.1 Boat building skills

This workshop was put on hold due to the uncertainty of the future of SusGren.

3.2 The Grenadines as a World Heritage Site

SusGren held a one-day Workshop on "Pursuing the possibility of establishing a Grenadine Islands World Heritage Site (WHS) Planning Workshop on March 17, 2009 at the Anglican Pastoral Centre, St. Vincent.



The main resource person was Mr. Giles Romulus, Sub-Regional Coordinator of Global Environmental Facility/ Small Grants Programme, who has experience with the preparation of a successful St. Lucia World Heritage Nomination Dossier.

Participants included UNESCO representatives from Grenada and St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Government Officials, Tourism Agencies, National Trusts, Museum and Ecological Societies, NGOs and other key stakeholders from both countries.

The main aims of the workshop were:

- To determine whether the Grenadines when put together has world heritage value, if so, examine the feasibility of moving forward with world heritage nomination.

- To explore and discuss the procedures necessary for the submission of a nomination of the Grenadines Islands for World Heritage listing
- To develop a transboundary joint action plan and strategy paper between Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines to obtain multi stakeholder support for the preparation of a Grenadines position paper to guide future action in the project.

Several action points including creating an E-Group for discussion of the initiative emerged from the workshop. Meetings of the Grenada Grenadines and the St. Vincent Grenadines are scheduled to take place early in 2010 to follow up on the other action points emerging from the workshop.

4 ATTACHMENTS AND EXCHANGES

SusGren continued to assist community groups to build capacity and to enhance their knowledge and experience through attachment and exchanges with entities of similar nature. In 2009, the following areas were focused on:

4.1 MPA Co-management, NGO Management & Protected Area Management and Coral Reef Investigation Trainings

In an effort to cut costs management attachments and trainings were put on hold in 2009. The applicants from the Grenadines who applied to participate in Coral Reef Investigation trainings were not accepted to participate in the training.

4.2 Strengthening NGO Leadership



SusGren supported Ms. Katrina Collins from the Union Island Environmental Attackers in pursuing a Diploma in Development Leadership at the COADY International Institute Canada (www.coadystfx.ca), from June 29 - December 4, 2009.

Ms. Collins successfully completed her course of study after undertaking courses such as Advocacy and Citizen Engagement, Community-Based Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding, Community-Based Microfinance, Livelihoods and Markets, Mobilizing Assets for Community-Driven Development, Organizational Learning and Change, Community-Based Natural Resource Management and Facilitation and Training Approaches for Community Change. These are all geared towards providing the necessary tools for encouraging changes and enhancing development which can positively impact on the Community. Ms. Collins reported that the experience was a bit challenging but it has deepened her understanding and allowed her to gain practical knowledge, skills and ideas to enhance her leadership styles.

4.3 Reef Check EcoDiver training

The Tobago Cays Marine Park (TCMP) hosted a four-day Reef Check EcoDiver training during September on Union Island. This training was a follow-up programme from the Training of Trainers in MPA held in Tobago by the Buccoo Reef Trust. The training, organized by TCMP and facilitated by Dr. Gregor Hodgson, Founder and Director of Reef Check, focused on teaching participants the Reef Check monitoring methodology. 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. 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.

4.4 Grenadines Museum Societies Training Attachment

Conflicting schedules and other constraints prevented the attachment and exchange between Union Island Museum and Ecological Society (UIMES) and the Carriacou Historical Society in Carriacou in 2009.

5 MINI-PROJECTS

SusGren's mini-project programme ended in 2009 because phase 2 of the project comes to an end in the first half of 2010. Of the five projects approved by the SC in January 2009, only two of projects commenced implementation.



The Carriacou and Petite Martinique Water Taxi Association implemented the “Beautification of the Hillsborough Beach” project, which is 90% completed while The Clifton Pre-School and Library Committee implemented the Environmental Education/Awareness Corner project which is 50% completed. A visit to the site of the Clifton Pre-School project revealed that there are some other challenges that the Committee needs to resolve before the continuation of the mini project. As a result further funding will not be released and SusGren will concentrate on getting the necessary reporting for these projects. The Project Manager held a meeting with members of CPMWTA on proper record keeping and adopting proper processes and procedures in their operation.

6 ASSOCIATED PROJECTS

Sustainable Grenadines Project developed projects with local, regional and international partners that brought further funding and opportunities to the Grenadines. Developing and implementing projects was the main focus of the project for the second half of 2009. SusGren pursued many avenues and contacts seeking new funding opportunities. Several project ideas emerged from those initiatives coupled with existing projects from planning workshops for which proposals were written seeking funding. In total seven grant proposals were worked on, the GEF proposal was not submitted in time, two received funding in 2009, the results of three will be known in 2010 and the other will be submitted in 2010.

6.1 Water Taxi Association development

SusGren continued to play a supportive role to the Water Taxi Associations in the Southern Grenadines. The project assisted in the revamping of the Carriacou and Petite Martinique Water Taxi Association and continued to assist financially with the part time staff initiative for the Southern Grenadines Water Taxi Association after the completion of the TNC NGO Capacity Development Project in July 2009. Office space is provided for the SGWTA, while the CPMWTA was awarded funds for a mini project which is intended to increase the association project management skills.

A meeting was held on January 24th, at the Project Office between the Southern Grenadines Water Taxi Association (WTA) and the Carriacou and Petite Martinique WTA to address the difficulties experienced by the water taxi operators when moving across the border between St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) and Grenada. The major outcome was that SusGren will write a letter to the governments of both SVG and Grenada inviting them to a meeting to discuss the issue. The meeting was sponsored by SusGren and facilitated by Dr. Mahon.

CEC staff headed by Luther Rennie met with the Project Manager (PM) and Dr. Mahon on January 24th, at the Project Office to discuss the paying of outstanding bill incurred under the water taxi project. Mr. Rennie who heads the CEC investigation sub-committee was advised to pay the CEC outstanding bills which is long overdue and produced a report on his investigation.

On June 3rd, a meeting was held in Carriacou between representatives from CERMES, SusGren, Carriacou Environmental Committee (CEC), the Southern Grenadines Water Taxi Association and the Carriacou and Petite Martinique Water Taxi Association to discuss the payment of outstanding bills under the GEF Small Grant Water Taxi project. The Executive Committee of CEC was concerned about the legitimacy of the bills; therefore they did not act on making payment. CEC agreed to immediately pay outstanding bills under the GEF Small Grant Water Taxi project.

Tara Sawatsky assisted in organizing and attended two Water Taxi Association meetings on January 8th and 22nd.in Carriacou.

6.2 Grenadines Green Hotels

Unfortunately, no proposal was developed for this project idea in 2009. SusGren is unable to find a donor who is interested in this project.

6.3 Green schools

Unfortunately there was no successful donor for this project in 2009. The concept paper developed three years ago was submitted to the Mustique Island Company but was unable to attract funding. However, it was agreed that the proposal should be resubmitted to the new manager of the Mustique Island Company for consideration. This will be followed up on in 2010.

6.4 Grenadine Fisher Folk Organisations

The Sustainable Grenadines Project submitted a successful application for a University of the West Indies, CERMES, Marine Governance (MarGov) small grant (http://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes/margov_small_grants.html) to assist with the implementation of a Grenadines fisher folk's project.

The objectives of the Strengthening Fisher Folk Collaboration in the Grenadines Project are:

- To update information on shared fisheries issues;
- To improve the network of fishers on each of the islands and amongst islands;
- To improve collaboration among fishers of the Grenadines and existing private fisher folk Organizations (PFOs), national fisher folk organizations (NFOs) and the Caribbean Network of Fisher Folk Organizations (CNFO);
- To improve collaboration between Grenadines fisher folk and the two governments;
- To build the capacity of Grenadines fisher folk to participate in any fisher folk organisation that serves the Grenadines; and
- To establish a networked fisher folk organisation specifically for the Grenadines if this is warranted and feasible.

SusGren has begun implementing the Strengthening Fisher Folk Collaboration in the Grenadines Project. In November preliminary assessment of interest, readiness and requirements for engaging Grenadines' fisher folk in fisher folk organizations took place. Meetings were held in Canouan, Mayreau, PM and Union Island with the aim to form a Grenadines fisherfolks organization which is expected to represent fishers in the community. Discussions were also held at different levels of the Fisheries Divisions and with fisher folk organisations in Grenada and SVG. A news release was placed on SusGren's e-group and distributed to the fisherfolks who attended the meetings. Union Island fishers have made further progress by electing a fisher folk committee, headed by Matthew Harvey, to lead the processes and activities of the organization.



Preliminary implementation activities continued. SusGren facilitated two meetings of the Union Island Fisher Folk Committee on December 1 and 17 respectively. One of these meetings was for the general fisher folk on Union Island and the other was to plan for the registration of members. The Union Island Fisher Folk Committee also met with members of the Department of Cooperatives on December 9, to learn about Cooperatives and the benefits that can be derived.

A workshop to implement the training and other aspects that evolved from the 2006 workshop is scheduled for 2010. The project is expected to run for the first half of 2010.

6.5 Seamoss Farming Project



In 2009, the Young Help Striders continued to successfully harvest their two plots of seamoss despite some problems with invasive species. The group has collected data for 2009, which has been inputted in a standard Excel spreadsheet. They have also experimented with various seamoss products including seamoss ice cream, jam, and pudding. The group has taken its first steps toward forming a Seamoss Cooperative and has become a registered cooperative under the name Ashton Multipurpose

Cooperative Ltd. They are looking forward to receiving small business training in 2010 with support from SusGren.

The Bayaleau Development Committee has continued to struggle with their seamoss harvesting. With the aid of the Canadian interns and SusGren a couple of harvests were made and the group further developed their own label. Despite these efforts, the lack of know-how and impetus are significant problems within the group which is affecting their ability to manage the seamoss plots. The Canadian intern has completed a draft report of the seamoss project and is awaiting further corrections for finalization.

During 2009 Ms. Kavanaugh and the project staff met with the 4H Club of Union Island several times to assist the Club in building capacity and sustainable development. The following is a list of meeting and the activities undertaken:

- Discussion on and assistance with funding applications to SEED and the Agriculture Diversification fund, assist with the development of a SusGren mini-project proposal, follow up on the seabed lease letter with Fisheries, sourcing information on standards for processing and bottling seamoss drink and brainstorming ideas to promote seamoss sales. The 4H Club developed two new seamoss products; seamoss jelly and seamoss pudding.

- Meeting with Ms. Shevon Scrubb to continue training in inputting data collected during seamoss farming. Ms. Kavanaugh also attended a meeting of the 4H Club and representatives of the SVG Social Development Division on how to form a Co-operative. With regards to forming a co-operative, progress was made in developing bylaws and a Steering Committee was formed, of which Ms. Kavanaugh is an ex officio member.
- The Project Staff met with the 4H Club on May 5th, to discuss progress with the seamoss farming and other initiatives including forming of the Co-operative.
- Discussion on the status of seamoss farming and the Club's future plans. The fowling of the GT seamoss continued to be a problem. Pictures were taken and sent to Allan Smith along with information on the situation. The group reported that they did not follow up on the mini-project funding because of the work that needed to be completed on the Club House in order to produce seamoss for retail. This work was suggested by the Health Inspector.
- A regular meeting between the Young Help Striders 4H Club and the Sustainable Grenadines Project was held at the Young Help Striders 4H Club building in Ashton, Union Island on Thursday October 15th, 2009. Among the activities discussed were; seamoss data collection, health and harvesting data, progress with forming a cooperative, seamoss sales and product development and the status of the lease agreement from Fisheries. The detailed report is available.
- A seamoss cooperative is now formed. The Programme Officer met with the department of cooperative team and 4-H Club on December 8, 2009 and facilitated the formation and registration of the Ashton Multipurpose Cooperative Ltd. The cooperative team held a follow up meeting with SusGren on December 9, to discuss a partnership arrangement with SusGren as it relates to the registration of cooperatives in the Southern Grenadines and the development and implementation of projects under their poverty alleviation strategy for the Grenadines.

6.6 The OECS Protected Areas and Associated Livelihoods Project (OPAAL)

SusGren continued to support Tobago Cays Marine Park (TCMP) on the OPAAL project for St. Vincent and the Grenadines by attending meetings, participating in workshop and assisting in interview processes for the application of the Seed Fund under the alternative livelihood programme.

6.7 Marine space use plan for the Grenadines (MarSIS)

SusGren, together with CERMES continued to collaborate and support the MarSIS research project conducted by PhD student Kim Baldwin in 2009. The 4-week summer intensive 'ground-truthing' or validation cruise scheduled for July 2009 attracted participating fishermen from Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The aim of the cruise was to identify and map critical marine resources such as reefs, seagrasses, and mangroves as well as working with local communities to identify other areas which are important for conservation and the livelihoods of the Grenadine people. Information on marine habitats was recorded using a live-action drop-camera (up to 250 ft. in depth) and was made available for download in the files folder of the MarSIS e-group and daily blog.

A series of evaluation workshops on the research was later conducted and stakeholders had 'hands-on' opportunity to use the Grenadines Marine Resource and Space Use Information System (MarSIS) using either an ArcGIS or Google Earth interface. Stakeholders were also trained in the use of Google Earth so they could use MarSIS as a planning, management and

decision-making tool. Moreover, these workshops were used to obtain stakeholder evaluation of the research methods employed and assess the practical usefulness of the MarSIS product. Ms. Kim Baldwin and Ms. Meg Stewart, a geospatial technologist from Vassar College, facilitated the workshop.

6.8 Restoration and Sustainable use of Ashton Lagoon: Phase II

A possible Union Island Ashton Lagoon Restoration Project was called off. The proposed funder for the project was the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) under the Special Programme for Adaptation to Climate Change (SPACC) for SVG. Despite advance planning by SusGren to hold a stakeholder meeting on Saturday, July 4th, on Union Island. The decision to cancel the project came from a meeting held on the mainland and was based primarily on information pertaining to the land tenureship of the proposed project site. The meeting was attended by senior officials from the Ministry of Health, as the National Implementing Agency for the SPACC; other interested local government and quasi-government officials and the SPACC Project Manager and National Coordinator.

SusGren along with project leader Dr. Lisa Sorenson of SCSCB and other key partners resubmitted the grant proposal to the USFWS NMBCA (Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Fund) for funding the Restoration and Sustainable use of Ashton Lagoon: Phase II. The proposal was considered and a formal response is being awaited.

6.9 Implementing Priority Management Actions for Sandy Island/Oyster Bed Marine Protected Area



SusGren led a number of activities related to the SIOBMPA in 2009. These activities were greatly advanced by the Canadian intern, Ms. Tara Sawatsky, attached to SusGren from September 2008 – February 2009 and assigned to Carriacou for the duration of her attachment with SusGren.

6.9.1 Implementation of the OECS-USAID SIOBMPA Biodiversity Project

Two field visits were made to the SIOBMPA on January 23rd and 27th. One visit was to introduce the new MPA Officer from the Grenada Fisheries Division to the area and the other was to take USAID Officer, Mr. Michael Taylor, on a tour of the area. USAID is funding the SIOBMPA OECS Projects.

The Project Manager attended a meeting held with the Grenada Ports Authority, TNC and Fisheries in Grenada, February 27th, to discuss mooring installation, SIOBMPA interim management and collection of fees.

A visiting TNC team, SusGren and local counterparts conducted a mooring assessment of the SIOBMPA, February 28th – March 3rd, to prepare a mooring procurement list for the OECS USAID mooring project. GPS information was also gathered in order to develop a detailed map of the SIOBMPA indicating names of areas, locations and the number of boundary and other moorings needed. The visiting TNC team, SusGren and local counterparts continued with the mooring assessment of the SIOBMPA up to March 3rd.

SusGren coordinated activities for the April 7-8 scheduled Communications Strategy Workshop in Carriacou which started the development of promotion materials for the SIOBMPA. The Project staff attended the workshop and the Project Manager made a presentation on the history of establishing the SIOBMPA. Ms. Claudia M. Chambers and Mrs. Janet Bedasse of PSEARCH Assocs. Ltd., Jamaica facilitated the workshop. PSEARCH Assocs. was hired by the OECS under the USAID SIOBMPA Biodiversity project to do the communication strategy for SIOBMPA.

The Project Manager visited Carriacou from June 5th - 8th, to provide technical support to the communication strategy consultancy development process. The PM participated in a field trip to the SIOBMPA on the 7th, attended a Co-management Steering Committee (SC) meeting on 8th and contributed to the filming of a video documentary.

Another visit was made to Carriacou by the Project Manager from July 14th - 19th, 2009, to participate in a series of public consultations on SIOB MPA which was held throughout Carriacou and Petite Martinique. The PM was one of the resource persons at the consultations and delivered presentations on the history of SIOB MPA process. The consultation was organized by the Fisheries Division and the Ministry of Carriacou and PM Affairs. SusGren created a SIOB MPA fact sheet of which 2000 copies were printed and distributed to all house holds on Carriacou. The PM trip was funded by SusGren through the TNC Grenadine NGOs Capacity Development Project.

On October 20th, the Project Manager attended a Communication Strategy prototype workshop to evaluate communications' products develop for the MPA. Among the prototypes assessed were logos, posters, signs, documentaries and PSAs. The PM attendance was funded by SusGren.

6.9.2 Designing a co-management arrangement for SIOBMPA

SusGren continued to assist in designing a co-management arrangement for SIOBMPA. The project coordinated and facilitated a number of meetings and workshops with the aim of forming a Steering Committee to take the lead in coordinating activities for the Grenadines newest MPA. A meeting was held with the co-management drivers on January 23rd, at CEC office to discuss ways of moving forward with the process. The outcome of that meeting was to hold a co-management workshop on February 9th. One of the regular briefing meetings was held with the Minister of Carriacou and PM Affairs on matters related to SIOBMPA and other SusGren related activities on Carriacou.

An evening co-management workshop was successfully held on February 9th, at the Hillsborough Government School, Carriacou. The workshop was organized to move the co-management process forwards with the support of key organizations by reviewing existing actions in the co-management implementation plan. The major outcome was an agreement to form a steering committee to drive the co-management process. Thirty-eight participants were present at the workshop. The workshop report was prepared and distributed.

Two other co-management meetings were held on March 2nd, and 9th, at the Carriacou Historical Society. Reports of these meetings are available from the SC. The co-management Steering Committee was formed and now has the responsibility for spearheading the co-management process and the chairing of all matters related to the SIOBMPA including the present OECS-USAID and TNC projects.

The Project Manager also attended a Co-management Steering Committee (SC) meeting on May 11th and gave an update on the OECS-USAID moorings installation project. The SC was mandated to put a team of fishermen/divers together who would be trained in mooring installation.

SusGren Staff attended a SIOBMPA workshop on June 18th, to further develop the designing of co-management MOU for the area. The process was facilitated by the Project Manager.

The Project Manager attended a SIOB MPA SC meeting on September 16th, 2009. The meeting discussed, among other business, the details of the procurement of a boat and engine for the MPA and the reelection of a new SC as requested by the MC&PMA and Fisheries Division.

A SIOB MPA general meeting was held on October 5th, 2009 for the purpose of reelecting a new SC. The election was based on recommendations made by the Ministry of Carriacou and PM Affairs and Fisheries Division. Mr. Luther Rennie of CEC was appointed chairman of the SIOB MPA SC. The Project Manager attended the meeting.

6.9.3 GEF-SGP functioning of SIOBMPA and Capacity Development for CEC planning grant

The Canadian intern based on Carriacou assisted with revamping the defunct CEC by organizing a meeting of the old CEC executive committee on January 11th, with SusGren's Project Manager to plan for the CEC's AGM.

An AGM took place on January 14th in which a new executive was elected. The new CEC executive met on January 20th to discuss the way forward for the organization. However even with a new executive, CEC was unable to get organized and with the conclusion of the intern attachment, the group literally collapsed.

Due to the inactivity of CEC after their AGM and their inability to finalise and sign the co-management agreement, identify alternative livelihoods options for the fishers and their families in the SIOBMPA, develop capacity for CEC (i.e. preparation of an organizational assessment and needs assessment), prepare the draft monitoring system for the park based on the existing management plan and prepare a full grant proposal (with co-funding secured), the Committee was unable to attract the planning grant from GEF-SGP. The total amount contributed by GEF-SGP was US\$4,000 with co-funding from SusGren, TNC, CERMES and others. CEC has also incurred debts which they promised to pay, however the organization has not fulfilled its promise and still has an outstanding sum for SusGren.

6.9.4 Holding a ceremony in Carriacou to announce the official declaration of the SIOBMPA

Unfortunately, the SIOBMPA is not officially gazetted and as such the ceremony for the official declaration did not take place in 2009.

6.10 CBD's Program of Works (PoW) on Protected Areas

The Sustainable Grenadines Project is a member of the TNC NISP committee in Grenada and SVG and acts as a regional (NGO) Grenadines support agency working closely with TNC in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Program of Works (PoW) on Protected Areas for St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada.

The Project Manager attended the System Plan for Protected Areas for Grenada Workshop in Grenada, February 25th – 26th: The workshop identified the natural and cultural resources for preservation and sustainable use in Grenada and addresses the governance of the protected areas system. The PM represented the Grenadines Island of Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

He also attended a National Implementing Support Partnership (NISP) Committee Meeting held in Grenada on July 10th, 2009 and made a presentation on the work of SusGren. Funding for the PM's travel came from the TNC Grenadine NGOs Capacity Development project.

6.11 GEF Small Grant Capacity Strengthening Programme for the Union Island Environmental Attackers (UIEA)

The Union Island Environment Attackers (UIEA) has embarked on a programme to enhance Clifton Harbor and its surroundings and to minimize the extent of environmental degradation caused by the unscrupulous actions of some resource users. The completed first phase of the project was geared towards capacity development of the group. The Project Manager and Ms. Kavanaugh met with Ms. Collins of the UIEA on May 25th & 26th to complete the evaluation report for the first phase of the project. However, UIEA is awaiting feed back from GEF before moving on to the next stage which will be a full-size GEF-SGP to develop and implement a management plan and system for Clifton Harbor. SusGren will continue to be an in-kind contributor to this project and work along with UIEA to develop the proposal.

6.12 Restoration of Fort Murray Project

Unfortunately the Union Island Museum and Ecological Society was unable to take up the assistance offered by SusGren in building the capacity of the organization with a view to manage the Fort Murray site.

No action was taken on this activity from the UIMES end as it relates to SusGren's assistance. The Organization did not complete the ISA and efforts to arrange an attachment with the Carriacou Historical Society proved to be challenging. As such, with all the set backs, and the inability of UMIES to show preparedness in being able to manage the site, the EU funds allocated for the restoration of Fort Murray was no longer available.

6.13 Litter Management Project for the Grenadines:

This project is approved by the donors, GCFI/CaMPAM. SusGren is now waiting on contract documents and the disbursement of funds. In the meantime a series of meetings are being held to build collaboration for this project. One of such meetings was held with Ms. Joan Ryan of SVG on October 21st, 2009 in Union. As part of receiving this project sponsorship will be rendered to SusGren's to attend the GCFI annual conferences for 2009 (the Project Manager to attend the GCFI annual conferences in Cumana Venezuela, November 2 – 6, 2009) and 2010. As follow-up action SusGren developed a pre-implementation plan and sent out a news release on the project. GCFI/CaMPAM is in the process of developing the contractual agreement and determining the best way of engaging SusGren which is not yet a legal entity. In the meantime work is being done on finding funding to leverage the CaMPAM Reducing Marine Litter Project.

6.14 Strengthening Reef Management in the South Eastern Caribbean (SEC)

A pre-proposal was developed and submitted on October 12th, 2009 to the NFWF/NOAA International Coral Reef Conservation Fund. The pre-proposal was approved and SusGren is requested to prepare a full proposal by January 8, 2010. Requests were made to partnering

organizations for support letters and personal biographies. The project is being reworked to address specifically MPAs strengthening in the Grenadines.

6.15 Multiuse Zoning Plan for the Grenadines

A pre-proposal was developed and submitted to the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program on November 9th, 2009. Ms. Kavanaugh did the online registration requirement procedures outlined by NOAA in preparation for uploading a full proposal for this project in case SusGren application makes it past the first round. Some of the preparatory work includes developing Trading Partner Profile (TPP) for SusGren to include obtaining a CAGE Code and DUNS number from the US government.

7 COMMUNICATIONS AND NETWORKING

Communications with and networking among Grenadines stakeholders and the wider public in both countries continued throughout 2009.

7.1 Newsletter

The Project continued to produce its quarterly newsletter during 2009. The newsletter was distributed electronically as well as in hard copy to all of the Grenadines islands through the SC member on the islands or the part time staff from the NGO Capacity programme. It was also distributed to the mainland's electronically through the media.

7.2 Internet discussion group

The SusGren E-Group continued to provide the forum for ardent discussion during 2009 as the membership increased to 225. Although there was an unfortunate incident where the forum was used in a manner for which it was not intended, discussion on the various environmental issues continued.

7.3 Media Releases and Programmes

Media Releases: The project continued to prepare media releases on all its activities during the year and provide these to newspapers, TV and radio stations in both countries.

List of Press/News Releases for 2009

Communication Channel	Date	Topic	Agency	Records
Radio Announcement	25/1/09	Team Building Workshop Announcement	Sister Isle Radio WEE FM Radio, BDS Nice	filed
Radio Announcement, Newspaper Article	4/3/09	Grenadines as a World Heritage Site	Sister Isle Radio, BDS Nice, WEE FM, Compass	Filed
Radio Announcement	25/5/09	Empowerment Workshop Announcement	WEE FM Radio Sister Isle Radio, BDS Nice	filed
News paper Article, Radio Announcement	9/9/09	International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) 2009, Saturday 19 September, 2009	Sent to all media houses	Filed
Newspaper Article, Radio Announcement	22/10/09	International Coastal Cleanup Day 2009, another great success in the Grenadines!	Sent to all media houses Published by: Grenada Informer Newspaper	Filed

International Environmental Initiatives: SusGren, for the fourth consecutive year promoted and coordinated the activities of the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Day global environmental initiative in the Grenadines. The project worked along with NGOs in all the islands to coordinate the activities and received tremendous assistance from all islands. Due to the economic downturn and other challenging factors, the Project was unable to secure monetary donations to assist with the sponsoring and printing of T-Shirts. However, other donations in the form of water, gloves, garbage bags, transportation and voluntary assistance were received.

Erecting Project Signs: SusGren sought the permission of the Ports Authority in Grenada for erecting the project sign at the main port of entry in Carriacou. However, a response quoting a fee was received, but on consideration that SusGren main purpose is development in the Grenadines, it was decided that the project will explore alternative options. To this end, a request was sent to the Grenada Board of Tourism for consideration to which a response is yet to be received.

Networking:

SusGren Collaborated and networked with different sectors of the community. Presentations on the work of the project were made in activities planned by several organizations throughout the Grenadines. The project continues to build relationships with groups within the community as a means of forging partnership and providing support.

7.4 Website

Information from the Project was continually updated on the website during 2009. The website address is <http://mypages.vincysurf.com/~susgrenpa/> which can also be accessed through the UWI, Cave Hill, CERMES home page (www.cavehill.uwi.edu.bb/cermes).

7.5 Project Accomplishment Flyer

The project's accomplishment flyer which was available to visitors at the PIU office, was continuously displayed and distributed in activities of the Project. A batch of flyers and other materials such as the Water Taxi Best Practices and the Environmental Legislation handbooks were requested and received from CERMES to replenish the decreasing stock. As a means of evaluating the Project and capturing its success, an extended version of the project accomplishment flyer is proposed to be produced in the first quarter of 2010.

8 OTHER ACTIVITIES

8.1 Conference Participation

The Project Manager and Programme Officer attended and participated in the discussions and working sessions of The Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds 17th Biennial meeting in Antigua, from July 13—18, 2009.



An abstract on “Protected Areas Management in the Grenadines Islands” was submitted by the Project and the core and associated activities of the project in the following three projects were displayed in poster presentations: (1) the implementation of priority management actions for the Carriacou, Sandy Island/Oyster Bed Marine Protected Area (SIOBMPA), (2) Restoration of Ashton Lagoon, (3) pursuing the establishment of a Grenadine Islands World Heritage Site (WHS).

The meeting also provided an opportunity for staff to network and creates linkages with organizations and possible donor agencies (TNC, USAID, CI, WWF, USFWS) to seek future funding for SusGren. One of the short term outcomes from these talks is a marine litter management project for the Grenadines. Funding for the PO attendance to the Conference was provided by SusGren and the PM was funded by SCSCB and TNC. SusGren poster was developed by Krista Kavanaugh.

8.2 Workshops and meetings attended

Throughout the year the project staff was invited to participate in a variety of workshops and meetings relevant to the Grenadines.

- **SusGren Staff attending the Tobago Cays Marine Park (TCMP) sod turning ceremony on January 16th**, which officially marked the beginning of construction of the TCMP Interpretive Centre.
- **The Project Manager facilitated a series of Geo-Tourism Global Environmental Facility (GEF) meetings and a workshop in Carriacou January 27 – 31:** The activities were organized by the People in Action (PIA) with support from the Ministry of Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs and sponsored by the Global Environmental Facility, Small Grants Fund. The PM travel and accommodation was funded by PIA.
- **Tara Sawatsky** attended a Geo-Tourism meeting on January 28th, at the Resource Centre.
- **SusGren Staff attending a Union Island Environmental Attackers Environmental Retreat, February 26th.** The aim of the retreat was to raise membership for the group.
- **The Project Manager and Ms. Kavanaugh attended a TCMP Site Implementation Entity (SIE) meeting, February 11th, Union Island:** SIE is site level committee which should be responsible for providing advice and support to the OPAAL Livelihood project. SusGren is a member of the TCMP SIE.
- **The Project Manager and Ms. Kavanaugh attended the Grenadines Marine Resource and Space Use Information System (MarSIS) workshop in Kingstown, St. Vincent, March 11th and the Programme Officer attended the same workshop in Grenada March 12th:** The workshops reviewed the MarSIS PhD research using the Global Environment Facility (GEF) project's toolkit (Knowledgebase for Lessons Learned and Best Practices in the Management of Coral Reefs).
- **SusGren staff attended the meeting on the System Plan for Protected Areas for SVG in Union Island, March 5th.** The Protected Area System addresses the preservation and sustainable use of the natural and cultural resources for the people of SVG.
- **Ms. Patrice Froget, SusGren's 'YES' intern attended a TCMP Customer Service Training Workshop.** The workshop falls under the TCMP livelihood's project and was facilitated by the Ministry of Tourism of SVG.
- **Ms. Kavanaugh made a presentation to the RBTT Young Leader's Symposium - The Green Revolution on April 28th, at the Union Island Secondary School:** The

presentation provided information on the Sustainable Grenadines Project and encouraged students to make use of SusGren as a resource for their environmentally themed project. Approximately 40 students from Union Island Secondary School were in attendance.

- **A visiting team from SVG Forestry Department met with the Project Manager at the Office at the end of April:** Discussions were held on the existing forest reserves on Union Island and ways in which Forestry can assist with conservation issues on the island. Mentioned was made of the appointment of a new Forest Ranger to Union Island, Mr. Bertram Pollard.
- **The Project Manager attended a TCMP Meeting on developing a monitoring and evaluation system for OPAAL demonstration sites on May 27th, 2009.** The one day meeting was facilitated by Allen Putney an international consultant. A list of all the different monitoring parameters for the TMCP was identified.
- **The Programme Officer and Ms. Kavanaugh attended a Round Table Discussion of the Union Island Development Council (UIDC) on May 11th, in Union Island.** The meeting discussed the problems and functionality of groups and ways in which they could be improved and strengthened. Possible areas and source of funding were identified. The meeting was organized by the UIDC and in attendance were various community groups on Union Island. Mr. Edwin Snagg, representative for the Southern Grenadines, was present to discuss the Island's possibilities for obtaining SIF funding.
- **The Project Staff (PM, PO and Ms. Kavanaugh) joined the Union Island Environmental Attackers and other citizens of Union Island for 2009 Turtle Monitoring Programme.** The Staff went out for three nights on May 4th, 6th and 9th, to Bloody Bay and saw three leather back turtles. Up to 26 persons were out on one night.
- **Ms. Kavanaugh** assisted a member of the UIEA developed a SIF project proposal aimed at developing the skills of youths in the area of welding.
- **The Project Manager** met with Mrs. Suzie LeBlanc of the USAID COTS project in Grenada on June 21st and Dr. Gina Green of USAID COTS visited Union Island on June 26th - 28th to discuss project ideas for the Grenadines. From these talks a marine litter management project is being developed for the Grenadines.
- **The Project Manager attended the System Plan for Protected Areas for Grenada Workshop in Grenada, June 12th.** The workshop discussed the draft document and management structure for Parks and Protected Areas for Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique. The PM represented the Grenadines Island of Carriacou and Petite Martinique.
- **The Programme Officer sat on a TCMP OPAAL Seed Fund Interview Panel on July 27, August 5 and October 7, 2009.** The interviews were held with resource users of Tobago Cays to determine the "best fit" persons who will most likely benefit from the SEED Funding. The objective of the Seed fund is to build and strengthen the sustainability of new and existing livelihood activities in and around TCMP.
- **The Programme Officer attended a National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDC) Training of Trainers Workshop August 18th, 2009, Union Island.** The

workshop was organized in collaboration with the Union Island Tourist Bureau, to empower individuals with the necessary tools to identify and conduct needed training programmes for their community.

- **Ms. Froget, SusGren's 'YES' Trainee attended a Customer Service Training Workshop August, 17th, 2009, Union Island.** The workshop covered techniques on work ethnics as it relates to guests/clients and workers relationship and customer rights.
- **The Project Manager attended the Caribbean Conference of the International Association of Facilitators held in Barbados, September 23rd – 25th, 2009.** In a panel of five which deliberated on 'Facilitating Sustainable Development of Marine Resources in the Caribbean' the PM gave a presentation on 'Working with Local Level Environmental NGOs'. The PM travel, accommodation and meal were sponsored by CERMES.
- On returning from Barbados the PM held meetings in Grenada on developing a project for networking of MPAs. The meetings were held with Fisheries Officers, St. George's University personnel, Mrs. Suzie LeBlanc of the USAID-COTS project and Ms. Dominique Roby, Consultant hired to develop a management plan for Moliniere MPA in Grenada.
- **Ms. Froget, SusGren's 'YES' Trainee attended a Youth Empowerment Service Meeting on September 30th, 2009, at the Resource Centre, Union Island.** The meeting was coordinated by Mr. Edwin Snagg, Director of Grenadines Affairs.
- **SusGren Staff attended a MarSIS Grenadines Marine Habitat Datasets Validation Meeting at TCMP Office, Union Island, October 18th, 2009:** The meeting was a final attempt at filling any existing data gaps in the datasets so that they can be validated for accuracy before finalising the MarSIS geodatabase and atlases.
- **USAID COTS Litter Management Project for the Grenadines:** SusGren Staff met with Steven Sherman and Guntram Meier - USAID COTS consultants on Tuesday November 3, and Friday November 6, 2009 to identify where SusGren can play an active role in the upcoming project in the Grenadines. Mr. Sherman's focus was on waste reduction and recycling, and could potentially reach into the creation of an experimental community garden. Mr. Meier's focus was on biodiversity conservation through invasive species eradication, which may turn into the restoration of a native pond.
- **The Project Manager Attended an OECS Sustainable Financing and Management of Protected Areas Project meeting on November 23, 2009 in St. Vincent.** Grenada and St. Vincent have endorsed a regional Global Environment Facility (GEF) large grant project that will establish the Caribbean Biodiversity fund and national level protected area trusts with an initial endowment of three million US dollars per participating country (currently 9 countries in the Caribbean) and establish revolving fund mechanisms. This project is funded via the country's GEF Biodiversity Funds, the German Development Bank KfW and The Nature Conservancy. The PM's attendance was funded by SusGren.
- **The Project Manager attended a US Virgin Island EPSCoR Annual Conference on Integrating Science and Management in Island Ecosystems on December 4th 2009 in St. Thomas.** The conference brought together scientists, natural resource managers and decision makers from the Eastern Caribbean and the US to address important, cross-cutting

issues relevant to managing our fragile island ecosystems. The PM's attendance was covered by Buccoo Reef Trust of Tobago under their coastal and marine management programme for the southeastern Caribbean project.

- **The Programme Officer presented the livelihoods related activities of SusGen at a 'Capacity Strengthening for Community Management of Resources for Sustainable Development Consultation' in Canouan on December 10, 2009.** The public consultation was organized by Projects Promotion Limited to discuss the use and management of resources in Grenadines under their Organization of American States (OAS) funded project. The PO's attendance was funded by SusGren.
- **Tourism Week Activities** On Monday November 23, Ms. Kavanaugh delivered three presentations on SusGren's role in tourism in the Grenadines to Union Island Secondary School, Mary Hutchinson Primary and Stephanie Browne Primary Schools.

8.3 CERMES Field Visit

The usual visit of the CERMES students took place in June 2009. Eight students were accompanied by Dr. Robin Mahon and PhD Student Kim Baldwin. The groups visited historical, natural and cultural sites and received presentations from community group leaders and project officials on significant projects in the Grenadines.

8.4 Internships

The attachment of the two Canadian Interns concluded in the first half of 2009. However, seeing the need for the assistance and appreciating the contributions made by the interns, one intern requested further attachment, which was granted and returned to the project to assist with writing project proposals and seeking funding.

UWI, CERMES MSc Research Student, Ms. Michelle Margarita Fernandez, was attached to the SusGren to conduct her research in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Science. Ms. Fernandez research is on "Vulnerability and Adaptation Capacity to Climate Change Impacts on Livelihoods in Union Island, St. Vincent and the Grenadines."

SusGren developed and submitted detailed job descriptions to Coady International Institute in Canada for the YIP programme interns who will be attached to SusGren and working in the Grenadines. SusGren is expecting a continuous stream of interns from Canada for the period 2010 – 2012.

9 PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

9.1 Staff

The project continued functioning in 2009 with the present Project Manager, Martin Barriteau, Programme Officer, Valgine B. Francis, cleaner, Roslyn Delpesche, YES attachment worker, Patrice Froget and Canadian Interns, Krista Kavanaugh and Tara Sawatsky. However, Tara's internship ended in March, while Krista's ended in July. Krista requested an extension on her internship and rejoined the staff in September.

9.2 Office

The project functioned during the year without any major purchases of equipment. However, the two printers/photocopiers and desktop computers had to be serviced several times. Although the printers were serviced, the Project Manager remained without the use of a printer from August to December 2009, since a faulty part had to be ordered and replaced. The desktop computers although serviced, continued to operate very slowly and at times freezing up for several minutes. With these challenges of the office equipment and the consideration of their "age", it is suggested that new equipment be purchased for use in the office once the Project is continuing into a phase three.

Repairs were done to the refrigerator and microwave and both appliances are now working properly.

The outside of the building have been painted but the roof continues to leak on the inside. Noticeable cracks are in the walls and the paint on the walls continues to peel.

The PIU remained without running water for several weeks during 2009 since the tank from which water was supplied leaked and became dry, the Office resorted to filling containers to keep for use by staff.

9.3 Other Offices within the Project Building

The Union Island Tourism Bureau (UITB) has vacated the front room of the building and moved into their new building.

The Union Island Development Committee (UIDC) continues to occupy office space in the project conference room which is also made available to several other groups for meetings/workshops, mainly TCMP, the Southern Grenadines Water Taxi Association, the Union Island Environmental Attackers and the Union Island Tourism Association.

Southern Grenadines Water Taxi Association now occupies the front office vacated by the UITB.

9.4 Steering and Executive Committee Meetings

Two Steering Committee meetings were proposed for 2009. The January 25th meeting which took place in Union Island reviewed the work of the project during 2008 and considered the proposed workplan for 2009. The second meeting was held on June 4th, 2009 of both the SC and EC committees in Carriacou to further discuss the future of SusGren and to plan for Phase 3 and the transition of SusGren to an autonomous transboundary NGO.

9.5 Project Fair

A committee comprising of the project staff and Katrina Collins held several meetings in the first half of 2009 in preparation of the Project Fair. Letters were written to the Union Island Tourist Board and the TCMP inviting them to be partners to plan and implement the Project Fair. A decision was taken also, to create a tentative schedule of activities with action points for all the Grenadine islands and forward it to the SC members and to develop a sponsorship letter for seeking funding.

However, in light of the transitioning of the Project into a Grenadines NGO and other factors such as the uncertainty of funding, the idea of a SusGren Project Fair was aborted and it was

decided that the Project would collaborate with the Union Island Tourism Bureau to host an environmental fair during the celebration of Tourism Week in Union Island.

The Project staff attended meetings with the Union Island Tourism Bureau in order to plan for the activities and to discuss SusGren's involvement in organizing an essay and logo contest for schools, giving talks to various institutions on the importance of the environment and setting up a display booth in the environmental fair.

Tourism Week was celebrated from November 23—29, under the theme "Celebrating our Destination Diversity". SusGren participated in the Exhibition by setting up a display booth to showcase the projects, the activities, the achievements and the impacts of SusGren in the Grenadines. Pictorial representations from the other Grenadine islands to include mini projects and training workshops were also displayed in the SusGren booth. An oral presentation describing the work/activities of the project was made during the Exhibition.

9.6 Continuation of SusGren

As Phase 2 of the Sustainable Grenadines Project (2004 – 2009) draws to a close, one of the main concerns is to ensure continuity at the end of 2009. The idea of forming SusGren into a Grenadines NGO gained much support from the SC at its last meeting. Therefore, during 2009 SusGren focused its attention on obtaining support for a further five years as an NGO. Although the current level of funding is expected to take the Project to March or April 2010, to facilitate smooth transitioning, applications, letters and other contacts were made to donor agencies for consideration for funding. A completed Project Identification Form (PIF) was submitted to Global Environmental Facility (GEF), which was the main donor agency being considered.

The GEF funding that was pursued through the governments of Grenada and St. Vincent and Grenadines did not materialized because of the delays by both governments in providing support letters.

St. Vincent submitted their PIF and endorsement letter to UNDP Barbados while further adjustment was made to the PIF and resubmitted to GEF Grenada on their request. However, after ten months the Grenada GEF Focal Point submitted the endorsement letter to UNDP Barbados for the GEF Medium Size Grant funding for the next phase of SusGren. UNDP Barbados later informed SusGren that it missed the GEF 4 funding cycle and would have to wait until July 2010 to submit new endorsement letters in order to be entitled for GEF 5 cycle. With this new development the Project decided to make cuts to its present programs and to seek bridge funding until a GEF Grant could be secured. Letters were written to donor organizations and persons to seek information on funding opportunities for SusGren post 2010.

As such, SusGren would not have funding to support the core functioning of its programmes (i.e. office space, salaries for core employees, etc.). Nonetheless in the interim SusGren decided that its main focus will be on developing and implementing small projects until a donor comes along that would support administrative activities of office space and staffing. It is the hope that these small projects at least will provide some money to keep the office running and cover some cost for their coordination. SusGren administration and management may have to be done mainly by the 12 Canadian Interns expected until 2012 with support from the directors and project staff that may have to provide directorship remotely (not present at the office).

Therefore, as agreed to by the SC, SusGren has started making preparation for registration as a not-for-profit company under the laws of Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and possible

a US state. The two main documents guiding the registration and setup of the organization are SusGren transformation to NGO status and Article of Association.

Contact was made with the Caribbean International Law Firm out of SVG which provided information on the process and costing for registering SusGren as an NGO. Briefing notes on a draft constitution of SusGren as a Grenadines NGO were developed based on the request from the Attorney. The information for the draft constitution was gathered from regional NGOs and resource persons. The draft constitution was submitted to the SC committee for further input.

The revised draft document with suggestions for the constitution on the transformation of SusGren to NGO status was circulated to the SC for final input before it was sent to the attorneys as a brief to guide the process of incorporation.

A meeting between the Project Manager and Ms. Nicole Sylvester of Caribbean International Law Firm took place in Union Island on December 14, to discuss the requirements for SusGren's Articles of Incorporation (Aol). Subsequent to that meeting SusGren's Aol was circulated for signing by all members of the SC on all Islands of the Grenadines, Grenada, Barbados and on the mainland of St. Vincent. After signing the Aol was submitted to the Attorney General for review and lodging for incorporation.

9.7 Budget

The budget table below shows the project expenditures for 2009 including those prior to the beginning of the current period (2004-2009).

ITEM	Item code	Actual Spent 2003- Nov. 2004	Actual spent up to end of 2005	Actual spent up to end of 2006	Actual spent up to end of 2007	Actual spent up to end of 2008	Budget for 2009 - 2010 (April)	Actual Spent	Balance
<u>STEERING COMMITTEE</u>									
Full Annual Meeting	I-01	8,039.00	9,838.28	12,285.79	12,285.79	15,492.26	9,000.00	4,516.09	4,483.91
Executive Committee Meeting	I-02		1,773.53	3,730.87	7,373.37	10,715.10	7,500.00		7,500.00
Project Management	I-03	9,000.00	27,000.00	36,000.00	38,000.00	38,757.14	11,250.00		11,250.00
<u>PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UNIT</u>									
Salaries and Benefits									
Manager	I-04		47,641.00	74,762.00	101,883.00	118,725.62	39,000.00		39,000.00
Administrative Assistant	I-05			22,445.00	79,102.95	94,322.08	32,000.00		32,000.00
Relocation	I-06		381.34	381.34	1,873.88	2023.13	1,000.00		1,000.00
Operating									
Regional Travel	I-07	5,576.27	9,186.94	20,753.03	32,301.17	40,400.67	12,000.00	8,996.54	3,003.46
External Travel	I-08		1,511.19	3,295.68	5,912.76	7,437.00	3,000.00	1,838.88	1,161.12
Communication	I-09	254.77	2,769.92	3,733.43	11,910.54	15,405.92	6,000.00	4,763.71	1,236.29
Supplies	I-10	90.76	494.73	2,792.20	5,140.99	9,559.72	5,000.00	2,736.21	2,263.79
Utilities	I-11	6.42	1,385.74	7,579.44	8,896.65	10,740.28	3,000.00	3,012.98	(12.98)
Janitorial	I-12	157.28	1,867.65	3,210.93	4,666.15	5,673.61	2,000.00	1,343.28	656.72
Maintenance	I-13		529.10	1,487.91	2,083.06	3,531.53	1,000.00	435.45	564.55
Capital									
Office Equipment	I-14	1,282.97	8,666.76	10,749.92	10,749.92	10,749.92	1,000.00	111.13	888.87
Office Furniture	I-15	85.62	7,362.04	7,362.04	7,362.04	7,362.04	1,000.00	5.60	994.40
Technical Services	I-16		-	-	3,453.00	3,952.84	10,000.00	227.91	9,772.09

CRITICAL ACTIVITIES										-
Networking and Partnerships										-
Project Development & Management										-
Technical Expertise	I-17		6,522.98	9,373.00	13,454.44	16,999.22	2,000.00	558.96	1,441.04	
Sector Planning Workshops	I-18		1,916.26	6,742.20	21,993.42	21993.42	6,000.00	4,982.07	1,017.93	
Information & communications program										-
Capacity building program										-
Training Workshops	I-19		2,357.64	14,804.54	22,737.42	38,407.04	23,000.00	5,865.86	17,134.14	
Attachments and exchanges	I-20		5,983.21	9,189.81	14,063.38	16,282.45	8,000.00	3,369.54	4,630.46	
Mini-projects	I-21		8,003.36	18,246.37	22,938.07	22,938.07	8,000.00	3,591.43	4,408.57	
Communications Personnel	I-22				1,305.97	2,425.37	4,500.00		4,500.00	
TOTAL			24,693.08	145,191.67	268,925.51	429,487.97	513,894.44	195,250.00	46,355.63	148,894.37

9.8 Budget - Other inputs

The project has been supported by a variety of other inputs during 2009. The estimated value of those inputs that were implemented directly through SusGren is summarized below. There were also other indirect inputs generated by SusGren but implemented by other organizations that brought significant value to the Grenadines, such as, the moorings and communications strategy projects for SIOB MPA at a value of US\$63,000.00.

Contributions to the Sustainable Grenadines Project (IK = in-kind, \$ = actual funds)

Item/activity	Provider	Estimated value (US\$)	
		In kind	Actual
Office	Government of SVG		18,000
SC and EC	Government of SVG	1,500	
	Government of Grenada	1,500	
YES Programme	Government of SVG	224	1792
ICC 2009	Local donors: Ade's Dream, ECGC, Solid Waste Department (SVG & GND) & Mitchell's Hardware	1,000	112
NGOs Capacity Development Project	TNC	35,000.00	30,075
Continuation of SusGren and Data Analysis for NGOs	CERMES	1,200	
MARSIS Project	CERMES	3000	3000
Sandy Island Project	CERMES/SusGren	6,000	
Union Island climate change vulnerability	CERMES	6,000	1,500
Internships	Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) International Youth Internship Program via Dalhousie University and Coady International Institute (salaries and airfares)		19,500
MarGov – Fisherfolks Project	CERMES, University of the West Indies	1,000.00	3,489
Total		56,424.00	47,393.00