



Consett Bay catch

PILOT PROJECT SHOWS PROMISE; SEEKS TO GET SUITABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR AREA

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Work on the Consett Bay pilot project titled, **Upscaling Sustainable Resource Management in Coastal Watershed Communities of Barbados' National Park and System of Open Space**, is continuing at a feverish pace. The project is expected to be completed by next month.

This was disclosed by programme coordinator at the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies at the University of the West Indies, Neetha Selliah.

She said that overall, stakeholders were pleased with the progress made on the project.

"It has been a very nice and quiet project. It is a preliminary project to gather baseline information for future work to be done, and also, to capture the vibe and feel down there [in Consett Bay]," she said.

Selliah further noted that residents were very co-operative and were working alongside officials to make the project a success. "The key for us is not to make promises we cannot keep," she revealed, adding that the United Nations Environment Project and the Ministry of Environment were happy with progress so far.

She urged all those living in Consett Bay, College Savannah, Sealy Hall, Sergeant Street, St. Mark's and College Bottom, St. John; and students of The Lodge School, Mount Tabor, St. Margaret's, St. Mark's, St. John and Society primary schools to get involved in the Consett Bay Photo Competition.

"The aim is to get residents to take pictures of some of the things that are happening in their community, the scenery or something abstract," she pointed out.

Selliah added that bulletin boards were also erected in the area and progress reports completed. In addition, she noted that information on the project could now be found on the CERMES website.

"All information relating to the project will be added to the website," she said, adding there was also a photo gallery.

The project, which was launched last October, follows other initiatives in the area such as the Sustainable Fishing Educational Exposition in Consett Bay during 2009 and 2010.

Its objectives include improving the management and monitoring of near-shore marine and terrestrial natural resources within coastal watershed areas, and enhancing the capacity of the local fishing community to participate in sustainable fisheries governance and management.



Meeting at Consett Bay.

LOVE FOR THE RBPF:
Constable Wayne Waithe accompanied the teachers and staff of Eagle Hall Primary School this morning on their second annual fitness walk from the school to Trevor's Way. Before setting out however, some of the students peppered him with questions about his job and gave him some hugs.



IT HURTS

PRIME MINISTER WARNS THAT PROFIT AT THE EXPENSE OF PEOPLE IS PERILOUS

Barbadian businesses that put profits ahead of people and the environment do so at their own peril.

Prime Minister Freundel Stuart said such a policy was simply unsustainable and he called on the Caribbean's Certified General Accountants to lead the way in "valuing and pricing the environmental and social costs".

He was speaking this morning at Hilton Barbados during the opening of the CGA Association of the Caribbean International Sustainability Conference 2012.

Stuart, who has been a member of the United Nations

Secretary General's High Level Panel on Global Sustainability for the past year, said unfortunately "many businesses still hold on to the perception that environment related issues do not matter to their product or business model. Case studies have given the lie to this perception".

"Businesses in our time have always to be aware of the existence of the ever more discerning consumer. Very often, consumers expect higher standards of environmental stewardship from entities with which they do business, and where these are lacking, adjust their spending choices accordingly," he stated.

"On the other hand, enterprises are also repositioning themselves to benefit from potential opportunities from evolving niche markets in environment related fields such as solar power, energy efficiency and water conservation.

"I believe that Barbados, with its track record on the subject of sustainability, can exploit these opportunities where they exist as long as the appropriate policy and partnership platforms are in place," he added.

The Prime Minister said he believed accounting professionals here and region wide were "ideally placed to assist the Caribbean region in valuing and pricing the environmental and social costs that attach to this or that policy decision, as called for by the region of the Global Panel on Sustainability".

"That sustainability is a desirable objective none will now contest. Protecting the environment is now intimately bound up with the development of people since a degraded environment puts at risk the very prospect of human survival. If there are no people around, any kind of bottom line is splendidly irrelevant. I ask you to consider the significance of this reality for your profession," he urged.

"Central to all that we want and to all that we do is the enhancement of the welfare of people wherever they can be found."

He also pointed to a "need for industry research in the Caribbean on the status of corporate sustainability reporting", something done by CGA Canada in 2003. (SC)