

# **Strengthening environmental stewardship among major stakeholders in the Grenadine Islands**

## **The Grenadines Water Taxi Project**

### **“TELLING OUR STORY” TRAINING MODULE**



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**SGP**

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# Strengthening environmental stewardship among major stakeholders in the Grenadine Islands

## “TELLING OUR STORY” TRAINING MODULE

A project implemented by:

The Carriacou Environmental Committee (CEC), Hillsborough, Carriacou, Grenada

On behalf of:

The Southern Grenadines Water Taxi Association

The Carriacou and Petite Martinique Water Taxi Association

Assisted by:

Counterpart Caribbean, The Future Centre, Edgehill, St. Thomas, Barbados

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Cover photo:

Participants engaged in the activity, “Telling Our Story” during a workshop called, “Caring for Our Coasts and Our Future” in Carriacou, 2005 (*Susan Mahon*)

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# TELLING OUR STORY – TRAINING MODULE

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## SUMMARY

The activity called “Telling Our Story” encourages participants to describe the nature and culture of a site, in terms of their own experience and imagination and, in terms of the specific knowledge that they gain while participating in a workshop or other educational activity.

One or more sessions of any training program can be devoted to the subject of “Telling Our Story”. For an example of the inclusion of this activity in a training program, please refer to the Program for the “Caring for Our Coasts and Our Future”, 2-Day Workshop in the Grenadines (Appendix 1)<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> These workshops were conducted with reference to commitments made by Counterpart Caribbean to contribute to the GEF/UNDP Small Grants Project being managed by the Carriacou Environmental Committee, and considering the ongoing activities being undertaken by the Sustainable Grenadines Project of CERMES, and the Sandy Island/Oyster Bay Project of CREP. Planning and coordinating the logistics of the workshops highlighted the collaboration among all the local principals involved -- especially the Sustainable Grenadines Project (SGP) and the Carriacou Environmental Committee/Carriacou and Petite Martinique Water Taxi Association (CEC/CPMWTa), the Southern Grenadines Water Taxi Association (SGWTA) and Bequia Independent Water Taxi operators.

Counterpart funding for the workshops was provided by the European Commission as part of the Caribbean Coastal Co-management and Coral Regeneration Programme (4Cs Programme) of Counterpart Caribbean; managed on a global level by the Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific (FSPI).

The session(s) called “Telling Our Story” are usually scheduled towards the end of a workshop or training course, so that the participants are offered the opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge that they have gained.

The session(s) are fun, and since they also provide the chance for participants to move around, they make a welcome break in a program where participants are required to sit quietly for other sessions.

Participants are most likely to relate to examples of story-telling that are familiar to them, so it is important to provide these during the training session(s). For example: Individuals were requested, during the workshops in the Grenadines, to volunteer to read excerpts from the book, “This is Carriacou” by Frances Cay (Appendix 2). These readings stimulated discussion and imagination – especially as the book includes stories about other Grenadine islands in addition to Carriacou (sample excerpts, Appendix 3).

Participants may tell their story verbally and/or write it down. Drama and role-play are also encouraged.

## **ACTIVITY OUTLINE FOR TRAINERS**

### **Goal**

To train participants to “tell their story” during their work or daily lives – for example, to train water taxi operators to provide tourists with an informed overview of a snorkeling site -- in order to ultimately contribute to sustainable livelihoods and stewardship of the environment.

### **Objective**

To train participants to use their existing knowledge, plus the knowledge they have gained during other training session(s), to tell a story about their culture and environment.

### **Result**

Participants who are able to “tell their story” in an interesting and informed fashion. Examples of stories may be recorded and kept, for further use as reference for other training sessions

Samples of the stories told by participants in the Workshop called “Caring for Our Coasts and Our Future” held in Union Island (September 2005), are attached to this module (Appendix3).

## **Time Period of Session(s)**

One, two or three hours – depending upon number of participants and extent of content.

## **Outline**

1. Begin by reading an excerpt of a relevant story to participants
2. Ask for volunteers to read other excerpts
3. Use a question and answer session and open discussions, to analyze the stories regarding:
  - Content
  - Relevance and Interpretation
  - Technique(s) for telling the story
4. Guide participants into recalling some of the subjects covered in the other training sessions. For example, during the session called, “Developing Our Story – Where do we go from here?” (Appendix1), participants were asked to recall the topics listed below; and to incorporate these topics into their own stories.
  - Peoples’ Interactions with sea life
  - Landmarks/Attractions of Special Significance
  - Communications
  - Briefing and Managing Your Visitors
  - Proper Boat Care
  - Monitoring and Rescue
5. Request participants to break into groups and develop a story based on the knowledge gained during the other sessions, and their previous experience and interests.
6. Remind participants that they may use several ways to tell their stories. For example; they may designate one person to read or tell their story, or they may all be involved in “role play” or a drama that tells their story.
7. Request participants to tell or enact their stories. Examples of stories are provided (Appendix2). You may want to add another element to the excitement or interest here, by making this story- telling activity into a friendly competition amongst teams of participants - and/or by including discussions of each story.
8. Review and summarize the common and important elements in the stories, either at the end of the session or in a separate session, so that the participants are encouraged to remember these elements.

# APPENDIX 1 – SAMPLE WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

## PROGRAMME CARING FOR OUR COASTS AND OUR FUTURE 2-DAY WORKSHOP IN THE GRENADINES

### DAY ONE - DEVELOPING A LEARNING AND ACCREDITATION SYSTEM

**9:00-9:15 Welcome and Introductions**

*Virginia Fleary-Noel (Carriacou Environmental Committee)*

**9:15-9:30 Expectations -- What's in it for You**

*Susan Mahon (Counterpart Caribbean)*

**9:30-10:00 Introduction to the Carriacou and Petit Martinique Water Taxi Association, 4C's Program, and the WiSe Scheme**

*Kim Bethel (CPMWTa) and Susan Mahon (Counterpart Caribbean)*

**10:00-10:15 BREAK**

**10:15-11:00 The Coral Reef Ecosystem in the Grenadines**

*Susan Mahon (Counterpart Caribbean)*

- Overview of Reef Types and Coral Biology
- Unhealthy Coral: Bleaching and Disease

**11:00-12:00 Human Interactions with Coastal Systems**

*Susan Mahon (Counterpart Caribbean)*

- People and Turtles
- Reporting Damaged Corals
- Identification of Damaged Corals That Can be Restored
  - Coral Handling and Securing (in situ)
  - Good Ethical Practices

**12:00-1:00 LUNCH**

**1:00-2:00 Developing Good Practices – Where do we go from here?**

*Susan Mahon (Counterpart Caribbean), other team members and participants*

- Interaction with Corals, Fish, Turtles and other sea life
- Mooring Buoys Installation and Maintenance
- A proposed Coral Response Team
- The CEC and Communications
- Reef Monitoring (Reef Check)
- Briefing and Managing Your Visitors
- Proper Boat Care
- Accreditation

**2:00-4:00 Designing the Learning and Accreditation Scheme**

*Virginia Fleary-Noel (CEC), Kim Bethel (CPMWTa), Susan Mahon (Counterpart Caribbean), other team members and participants – creative session*

**PROGRAMME (Continued)**  
**CARING FOR OUR COASTS AND OUR FUTURE**  
**2-DAY WORKSHOP IN THE GRENADINES**

**DAY 2 - INTERPRETATION AND IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS**

**9:00-9:15 Welcome and Introductions**

*Virginia Fleary-Noel (Carriacou Environmental Committee)*

**9:15-9:30 Expectations -- What's in it for You**

*Susan Mahon (Counterpart Caribbean) and Participants*

**9:30-10:00 Telling Our Story**

*Susan Mahon (Counterpart Caribbean)*

- Interpretation of Nature and Culture
- Concepts
- Techniques
- Content

**10:00-12:00 Field Visit to a small island reef**

*All participants to Sandy Island*

**12:00-1:00 LUNCH**

**1:00-2:30 Developing Our Story – Where do we go from here?**

*Virginia Fleary-Noel (CEC), Kim Bethel (CPMWTA), Susan Mahon (Counterpart Caribbean), other team members and participants*

- Peoples' Interactions with sea life
- Landmarks/Attractions of Special Significance
- Communications
- Briefing and Managing Your Visitors
- Proper Boat Care
- Monitoring and Rescue

**2:30-3:00 Review of the Workshop, Reflection and Evaluation by Participants**

**3:00-4:00 Presentation of Certificates and Workshop Materials to Participants, and Celebration**

*All participants*

## **APPENDIX 2 – SAMPLE EXCERPTS FROM THE BOOK, “THIS IS CARRIACOU” BY FRANCES KAY**

### **Part 1**

My first trip to Carriacou was in 1965 on Zig Zag with the well-known yachtsman, Carl Schuster. When Carriacou was close, Grenada was grey-blue behind, her islets silhouetted against her and her head in the clouds. As we entered Hillsborough Bay, rounding Mabouya and Sandy islets, the wind dropped. Seemingly close by was the distinctive W-shape of the center of Union Island. Although the wind was slackening by the moment, Carl didn't start the engine, but came in slowly on long tacks. The Zig Zag needs little wind to sail, a sneeze would move her, and to come into Hillsborough under sail alone, Carl said, was an *affaire d'honneur*. The Carriacouans, who are great sailors, watch arriving yachts with the critical eye of experts.

### **Part 2**

Since then the Regatta has become an annual event, the most exciting of Carriacou's year.

It surprised no one that Petit Martinique took so many prizes in that first Regatta, at least no one who knows something about Petit Martinique.

Along with Carriacou, it is also a dependency of Grenada. A 586-acre island which faces Windward village across 2 ½ miles of water, it has a volcanic cone of 745 feet and some 500 inhabitants of mostly French origin. It is one of the wealthiest islands per capita in the West Indies. The men are practically all mariners.

The reputation of Petit Martinique is seamanship, smuggling, and a be-damned-to-you attitude. As to the truth of the second I have no evidence and want none. The last man who had evidence got dropped over the side of a boat and was never seen again. At least the reputation has given birth to some delightful stories. There is the one about the time the very strict customs official from Grenada was sent to Petit Martinique to make a thorough search. When he arrived he found the entire population standing mournfully around an open grave. "Who died?" he asked. "Nobody," came the matter-of-fact reply, "we dug it for you." And the one about the new priest whose first sermon was on the sin of smuggling. When the collection plate was passed around, it came back empty. The priest, baffled by this, later asked one of his parishioners – why? "Well, Father," the man answered apologetically, "we knew you wouldn't want sinful money, and that's the only kind we have."



### **Part 3**

The citizens of Petit Martinique lived in considerable awe of the lady. When her house blew down in Hurricane Janet her money was blowing all over the island like milkweed. Not a pound note was stolen – she was much too formidable for anyone to try that.

At the time I met her she was the owner of the adjacent island, Petit St. Vincent. This had been sold to some Americans, but due to various papers and permits that hadn't come through yet, she had not received payment, though the money was in escrow and she had received interest. "I want me money," she complained. "I gon' sell it again. Then they gon' come to put me in jail, at my age. But when they come I gon' to bed, and shut the door, and me children gon' line up outside the door, and they won't see me face."

### **Part 4**

HISTORY. The name Carriacou itself is supposed to come from the Carib word for the island. In the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century records it was spelled Kayryouacou – which is quite a mouthful – and is suspected by some wits to be a Barbadian's pronunciation of the Carib word.

### **Part 5**

Well from what I was told by Mr. Linton Rigg, a group from the United Nations made a scale map of Carriacou (please don't ask me why) and that's how it measures. The two highest points are almost equal, High North being 955 feet, and Chapeau Carre, 954 feet.

The population is around 6,000 and the island (along with Petit Martinique) is administered by a Senior Executive Officer under the supervision of a Parliamentary Secretary. Hillsborough, the port of entry, is the only town.

### **Part 6**

Agriculture and the building of schooners are the main occupations. The island was originally a cotton island, with a few sugar estates. Now corn and peas for local consumption are the main crops. Livestock is the chief export. This varies from Craigston Estate's aristocratic black-bellied sheep to mixtures of white, black and brown. These, along with the goats, go mostly to Trinidad. Also, believe it or not, there is a demand for Carriacou dogs in Grenada. So if you see two or three dogs with their heads sticking out of gunny sacks in the market place, the answer is that they are being exported to Grenada.

## **Part 7**

Back again at Hillsborough you can see SANDY ISLAND in the bay. This tiny islet has reefs around it that are, in some ways, better than Buccoo in Tobago. It is a twenty-minute trip by outboard motor from town and is a pocket-size version of a desert island. You can walk around the islet in about twenty minutes, from the south end, where you scare up a flock of sea birds, past the north end, where the reef rises above the water and back again. On one side are coral gardens in from two to five feet of water where, with a mask and snorkel, anyone from eight years to eighty can sit, lie or float, and watch fish from ½ inch on up swim in and out, and, in curiosity, come right up to you. On the other side the reef is deeper for the more adept swimmers.

## **APPENDIX 3 – SAMPLE STORIES DEVELOPED BY WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS IN THE GRENADINES**

### Sample 1 -- as Told by a Group Called “Progress”:

Members of the teams called, “Progress” and “Protect and Serve” enacted their stories as if telling a tourist about their island. They also prepared written versions which they submitted to the workshop coordinator

Participants told their story at the end of the workshop (just before they received their certificates of participation) immediately after going snorkeling in shallow water at Richmond Bay. Most of the participants were water taxi operators, some of whom had never been snorkeling in the bay (or even snorkeling at all). The snorkeling activity was part of a field excursion. Most participants did go snorkeling or swimming but those who did not feel comfortable in the water were informed and entertained by the others about their experience.

### **The Group called “Progress”**

“Progress” began telling their story with an acrostic poem as follows:

P – People  
R – Respect  
O – Organized  
G – Gratitude  
R – Reliable  
E – Entertaining  
S – Success  
S – Simplicity

These were all the words, they explained, that described their caring team.

### **The story of Richmond Bay as told by members of “Progress” to a visiting tourist**

“Just two miles from Clifton Harbour -- north side of the island -- lies the quarter-mile-long sparkling aquamarine beach, Richmond Bay. It harbours a beautiful coral reef approximately 80 yards away from the beach-front which is the main attraction habitat for our famous Caribbean lobsters and bottom-feeders – snappers, groupers, shellfish, etcetera.

The area contains three main types of corals – staghorn, elkhorn, and brown corals. Numerous sea fans and different specimens of sea sponge can be seen.

Ninety percent of tourists enter this small island by aircraft. A 45-minute drive allows some to enjoy the privilege of the scenery of this 8 square mile-island.

Meeting and greeting the native people is simple – a smile and a shake of the hand. This warm comforting gesture allows anyone to be melted by the touch and unbeatable beauty and tranquility of our small island.

Welcome to Union Island. Enjoy your stay, and please come again”.

Sample 2 -- as Told by a Group Called “Protect and Serve”:

“Protect and Serve”, told the following story:

“Union Island is about 5 square miles with a population of 2600 people... and it well-known for its friendly people.

It has a dramatic mountain peak; the highest peak is called Mount Taboi, which is located west of the island... overlooking the island.

At present we are now at the northwestern part of the island on one of the most beautiful beaches called, Richmond Bay. It is the most equipped beach on the island. It has a rest-room, so the visitors can use it to their disposal.

The reef is very equipped for snorkeling – Nice corals, brain corals, finger corals, and some very beautiful sea fans. It has small conch, star fishes, and a wide variety of fishes. The beach has mangrove patch which is the breeding place of fishes (barracuda, lobsters, and cavali)

The beach has a picturesque view of Mayreau and Canouan, and Tobago Cays in the distance.

People of all creed and race are attracted to this beach and will always be delighted to snorkel in little cay.”