

Centre for Resource
Management and
Environmental Studies



University of the West
Indies

Projects
Promotion Ltd.
St. Vincent and the
Grenadines

Supported
by the:

Carriacou Environmental
Committee
Carriacou
Grenada



LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION



THE SUSTAINABLE GRENADINES PROJECT

ACHIEVEMENTS

PHASE 2 (2004 - 2009)

CORE ACTIVITIES

- Project Unit
- Sector planning workshop
- Training workshops
- Mini-projects
- Attachments/exchanges
- Institutional self-assessments
- Communication & networking

ASSOCIATED PROJECTS

- Water Taxi Project
- People & Corals
- MPA Management Effectiveness
- Reef Check Training & Monitoring
- Ashton Lagoon restoration
- MarSIS
- OPAAL
- SIOBMPA and TCMP
- Sea moss farming
- Supporting research
- Baseline surveys



The Sustainable Grenadines Project is implemented through collaboration among:

- The Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), UWI, Barbados
- The Carriacou Environmental Committee, Grenada
- Projects Promotion Lt., St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- The Caribbean Conservation Association, Barbados
- The Governments of Grenada and St Vincent and the Grenadines
- Numerous Grenadines NGOs.

The Sustainable Grenadines Project is committed to the conservation of the coastal and marine environment and sustainable livelihoods for the people of the Grenadines. This is being achieved through capacity building and increased awareness of the environment for non-governmental organisations and community groups.

This leaflet provides an overview of the project from 2004 to the middle of phase 2.

The Sustainable Grenadines Project is funded by The Lighthouse Foundation, Germany

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January 2008

VISION STATEMENT FOR THE GRENADINES

We see the Grenadines as a place comprising sustainable livelihoods with equity for the people through good governance, optimal utilisation and conservation of resources and enhancement of human capacity (empowerment) using participatory integrated sustainable development processes.

Prepared by Grenadines stakeholders in the Phase 1 planning process

The Sustainable Grenadines Project is based on the idea that in the Grenadines, civil society partners are the least able to participate in bringing about change that is equitable and lasting. The project therefore focuses on strengthening civil society so that it can better play its role. The project places emphasis on the conservation of biological diversity especially through its associated project activities. The achievements of the project are highlighted below.

CORE ACTIVITIES

Project Implementation Unit

The Project Implementation Unit was established with two staff in Union Island. Its purposes are: (1) to implement core activities and (2) to pursue funding for and facilitate implementation of associated projects.



Sector Planning Workshops

Sector planning workshops bring together stakeholders around a common interest or theme, to share their ideas and discuss the way forward. They have been a catalyst for the development of project proposals and associated projects.

- **There have been four workshops on — regattas, water taxis operators, green schools and fishing.**
- **Over 60 participants from across the islands have taken part in these workshops.**

Training Workshops

The numerous Grenadines non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs) and social groups are eager to make a difference but are uncertain what to do to ensure their organizations are functional and have an impact. SusGren provides training to help them.



Mini-projects

Mini-projects provide small NGOs, or groups of NGOs, the opportunity to implement a small project, valued at about US\$2,000. This component is a means to achieve visible outputs in many islands while building the capacity of the groups in project implementation.

- **There have been 16 mini-projects in 5 of the Grenadine islands,**
- **The projects focused on coastal or beach enhancement, fishing skills and enhancing the community.**
- **Four school clubs, seven NGOs/CBOs and one government agency implemented these projects.**

Some mini-projects were pioneer efforts: The Petite Martinique Island/Village Signs Project provided the first signs on the island while follow-up to enhancement of Diablo Beach in Union Island aims at designation as a National Park.



Attachments/Exchanges

Attachments and exchanges promote learning-by-doing and expose members of active NGOs to best practices in the region.

- **Fourteen persons from eight NGOs have benefited from attachments,**
- **The attachments were — sailing instruction, seamoss farming, heritage park development, water taxi association strengthening, nature trail development, MPA monitoring and NGO development.**

Institutional Self-Assessments

The project approach to training for NGOs has evolved and adapted The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Institutional Self-Assessment Tool (ISA) to the Grenadines. They have informed the strategic development of training workshops for capacity building. TNC was a primary supporter of this effort.

- **Institutional Self-Assessments have been completed for 11 NGOs.**

Communications/Networking

SusGren fosters linkages among Grenadines stakeholders to increase awareness of the project and its aims.

- There have been 11 quarterly newsletters.
- The project's e-group has a membership of 207 persons.
- All project reports and publications are available at the project website - <http://mypages.vincysurf.com/~susgrenpa/>
- The project has been promoted on radio and television and in newspapers, magazines.

ASSOCIATED PROJECTS

The Sustainable Grenadines Project has partnered with local, regional and international organizations to bring some associated projects to the Grenadines and increase the total value of the Project beyond the funding provided by The Lighthouse Foundation. Over 10 projects have been initiated and several completed, e.g. the Water Taxi Project and the People and Corals Project (see below). The Sustainable Grenadines Project's role has ranged from full implementation to facilitating projects of other agencies.

Water Taxi Project

The Water Taxi Project addressed several aspects of the daily operation of water taxis and especially their potential to have a negative impact on the environment. It strengthened the capacity of water taxi operators to act as environmental stewards while earning a livelihood on the sea. The project was funded by The Global Environment Facility Small Grant Fund (GEF/SMF) along with The European Union (through Counterpart Caribbean). It was implemented by the Carriacou Environmental Committee in collaboration with the Southern Grenadines Water Taxi Association and the Carriacou and Petite Martinique Water Taxi Association.

- Water taxi operators were trained in green boat operations, environmental stewardship and safety at sea.
- Two water taxi associations were provided with office space and equipment.
- Water taxi association members were trained in leadership, record keeping, office procedures and basic accounting, conflict management and negotiation skills.
- About 362 persons received training.



People and Corals Project

This project promoted coral reef conservation throughout the Grenadine islands through the introduction coral reef conservation concepts and approaches in primary schools. The project was funded by National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the UNEP Caribbean Environmental Programme, Jamaica.

- Each of 18 schools received 25 copies of the 'People and Corals' workbook.
- Twenty-four teachers from across the Grenadines and the main islands were trained to use the workbook and were briefed about environmental education.



MPA Management Effectiveness

This was part of a regional initiative of CERMES, funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). It evaluated marine protected area (MPA) management at three MPAs one of which was the Tobago Cays Marine Park (TCMP). Stakeholders at the 2005 workshop entitled 'Enhancing the management effectiveness of the TCMP' committed to implementing activities to improve the effectiveness of management. A follow-up activity was the adaptation of Negril MPA's Junior Rangers Programme to the TCMP.

Reef Check Training and Monitoring

Reef Check is part of the global initiative to monitor the health of coral reefs in areas of limited economic resources. The reef sites in the Grenadines are monitored bi-annually. The project is funded by Reef Check.

- Divers in St. Vincent, Mustique and Union Island were trained in Reef Check methodology for reef survey and monitoring.
- Ten sites in the Grenadines are being monitored.



Grenadines bibliography

Information on the environment, sustainable development, culture and anthropology of the Grenadine islands is widely scattered in the literature. Grenadine Islanders often find it difficult to access the information needed to make informed decisions about their own development. This project compiled this information to make it easily accessible to local community. The project is funded by CERMES and The Lighthouse Foundation.

- 'Annotated Bibliographic Information on the Grenadines' was produced in booklet and CD form.

Ashton Lagoon Restoration

The project aims to restore and ensure sustainable use of the Ashton Lagoon area. Key stakeholders met at the Ashton Lagoon Restoration Project planning workshop to develop the 'Ashton Lagoon Restoration and Union Island Sustainable Tourism Project' and an internet discussion group — the 'Friends of Ashton Lagoon'. The project is being implemented by the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds (SCSCB) in collaboration with Sustainable Grenadines Project and CERMES.

- Production and distribution of bird cards, mangrove booklets and field guides from SCSCB,
- Distribution of binoculars and bird watching books from SCSCB.
- An awareness brochure on Ashton Lagoon.

Marine Space Use Information System (MarSIS)

The aim of the project is to aid marine space use planning in the Grenadines by compiling information on marine space use that can be used in identifying areas for special coastal and marine management attention. The project is being undertaken by PhD student Ms. Kimberly Baldwin and is funded by CERMES, UWI and The Nature Conservancy. Some of the outputs include:

- An inventory of various marine resource users such as fishermen and yachters.
- Creation of Grenadine island maps indicating local names of beaches, bays and cays.



OECS Protected Areas and Associated Livelihoods Project (OPAAL)

The OPAAL project seeks to conserve biodiversity of global importance by removing barriers to effective management of protected areas, and increasing civil society and private sector involvement in the planning, management and sustainable use of these areas. The OPAAL project for St. Vincent and the Grenadines focuses on establishing the Tobago Cays Marine Park. The SG Project staff were involved in many of the activities, workshops and project developments.

Sandy Island Oyster Bed (SIOB) MPA and the Tobago Cays Marine Park (TCMP)

MPAs are valuable tools for the protection of marine resources in the Grenadines. SusGren has been a key facilitator through improving the operation and management structure of TCMP and also in the establishment of a new MPA-SIOBMPA in Carriacou. To date a declaration letter and associated documents have been submitted to Cabinet to officially declare the SIOB as a marine protected area.

Seamoss farming

This project aims to provide an opportunity for sustainable local economic development through seamoss mariculture and processing. The project is funded by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and is implemented by the Young Help Striders 4-H Club (Ashton, Union Island) Sustainable Grenadines Project and CERMES. The main outputs of this project are:

- The training and seeding of two modules from technical expertise.
- Community meeting in Ashton to sensitize the residents about seamoss farming.
- The project is working with St. Vincent Fisheries Department to get full project support.
- Over 80 pounds of dry seamoss has been accumulated for sale.



Supporting Research

CERMES students have conducted their research in the Grenadines between 2005 and 2007 adding to the knowledge base available for sustainable development:

- Water taxi livelihoods (Alexcia Cooke, 2005)
- Environmentally friendly boat practices (Dominique Lizama, 2005)
- TCMP co-management (Bertha Simmons, 2005)
- Environmental legislation (Indira Mattai, 2006)
- Environmental practices in the accommodation sector (Christine George, 2006)
- Fisheries livelihoods (Tanya Staskiewicz, 2006)
- Fisheries socio-economic profiling (David Gill, 2006)
- Land-based sources of pollution (Eugene Williams - ongoing)



Baseline surveys

- Baseline surveys were conducted in three areas — Environmental awareness, social and economic conditions, and social networking — these will prove a basis for assessing the impacts of the project.

Activities facilitated or supported

- CEHI water conservation and harvesting
- UNESCO indigenous plant inventory and training workshop