

GREEN REPORTER

The Holiday Edition

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National Coordinator's Message



Welcome to the SGP Green Reporter Holiday Edition! The year 2021 has been another remarkable year for the country of Barbados and GEF SGP Barbados. The Prime Minister of Barbados, The Hon. Mia Amor Mottley, Q.C., M.P. delivered a riveting and unforgettable speech at the UNFCCC Glasgow Climate Change COP 26. She led the global charge against climate change, reminding us that “Failure to provide this critical finance to small island nations is measured in lives and livelihoods being lost in our communities.” For her consistent sterling contributions to environmental policy leadership, she was conferred the UN Champion of the Earth Award. On the behalf of the GEF SGP Barbados and the National Steering Committee, I want to take this opportunity to publicly congratulate the Hon. Mia Amor Mottley on her well-deserved achievement.

In this holiday edition of the SGP Green Reporter, we continue to celebrate remarkable achievements. Therefore, we pause to celebrate some of our civil society grantee partners’ initiatives that are truly remarkable.

We are pleased to highlight the Barbados Energy Professionals contribution to the Republic Celebrations in partnership with SGP as Barbados transitioned from a constitutional monarchy to a Republic. Barbados is a small island but a big ocean state and therefore we continue to dive into the blue, applauding the contributions of the Pineland Creative Workshop, The Coral Reef Restoration Alliance, and the The Barbados Sea Turtle Project. The green economy also takes center stage as we celebrate the local, regional, and international partnerships that are embodied in the Greening Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity and Biocultural Education and Research Programme projects. When you read this edition, I am sure that you will find your own reason to join the celebrations.

On behalf of the GEF SGP Barbados team, a special thank you to all contributors who submitted articles to make his holiday edition possible. We know that you, the reader, will find this edition informative and interesting; so please share it within your networks, including partners, colleagues, friends, and family.

Happy Holidays & A Prosperous New Year!

David Byrne



Republic Celebrations!

...Solar fountains in The Careenage

by Dr Erwin Edwards and William Hinds, Barbados Energy Professionals

At the stroke of midnight ushering in November 30, 2021, the Independence and Republic Day celebrations were marked with pomp and grand ceremony in a spectacular array of fireworks and water fountain displays in Bridgetown.

As part of the the activities marking this grant occasion were six solar fountains in The Careenage. This display was undertaken by **Barbados Energy Professionals (BEP)** with funding support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) implemented by UNDP and with addition support from The Barbados Port Inc, the project was expanded to four fountains.

Despite the challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, we procured the fountains successfully. As the plans for Barbados' transition to a republic were taking shape, the Association was seeking the assistance of institutions which could provide an electrical connection in the independence square area. This search led to a combined partnership with the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc (BTII) and the Barbados Port Inc to provide a power solution that could supply the fountains.

We also discovered that the Prime Minister had commissioned Barbados Tourism Investment Inc to install fountains in the constitution river. Recognizing our common objectives, we

joined forces and assisted BTII in purchasing two additional large fountains to complement our four smaller fountains. Together we worked with a third party electrical company to install the required infrastructure. In addition, we also developed plans to test and install equipment while we awaited the arrival of the remaining required equipment. The team had grown to include an Electrical contractor, independent installers, the Barbados Defence Force Coast Guard, the Barbados Port Inc and the Barbados Tourism Investment Inc, with Barbados Energy Professionals playing the key pivotal project management role.

We tested the fountains in the Careenage and the Constitution River and finally decided to deploy all six fountains in the Inner basin of the Careenage at Independence Square.

With special permission, the full team worked after curfew several nights to complete installation, testing and final deployment of all six fountains with lights. With special permission, the full team worked after curfew several nights to complete installation, testing and final deployment of all six fountains with lights before the national deadline of November 27, 2021. We again ensured that the project was running for the Official Republic Day and Independence Day celebrations.

Bystanders and pedestrians were excited to see the water rise above the skyline. Feedback was gratifying, culminating three months of intense work to accomplish this task for our Republic Barbados. The fountains operate from 6pm to midnight. Families now frequent Independence Square at night to admire the beautiful fountains.



Photo credits: Dr Erwin Edwards and William Hinds



PCW Breathing Life into The Blue Economy

Article credited to Write Right PR Services



L-R: Rodney Grant - Project Consultant; Avril Trotman - Ichirouganaim Council for the Advancement of Rastafari; Sophia Greaves-Broomes - CEO, Pinelands Creative Workshop; Hon. Kirk Humphrey - Minister of Maritime Affairs and the Blue Economy; Cardelle Fergusson - Barbados Youth Business Trust; Donna Russell - Barbados Association of Non-Governmental Organizations and Peter Skeete - Head of Haynesville Community Group.
Photo credit: Write Right PR Service

Pinelands Creative Workshop (PCW) has launched Social Entrepreneurship for Caribbean Transformation, which is a collaborative project between the GEF Small Grants Programme implemented by the United Nations Development Programme, the University Of The West Indies, Open Campus and the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and the Blue Economy.

Speaking at the launch of the event on Wednesday December 8 at the University of the West Indies Open Campus, Minister of Maritime Affairs and the Blue Economy, the Hon Kirk Humphrey said that the course Social Entrepreneurship for Caribbean Transformation is a historical collaboration that must be taught outside of the traditional academic spaces. "We need to teach this course outside of UWI Open Campus as we need to start to talk to people about how to live differently. Because unless we do this all that we are doing is in vain. For me, we need to empower as many persons as we can empower with this course, we can change the world."

Deputy Director of the UWI Open Campus Ryan Byer said that the UWI Open Campus decided to become involved as they understand that resource mobilization has been a bit challenging for non-governmental institutions especially with the onset of COVID-19. "The programme is one which is done under our continuing professional education which is competency-based. The concept of social entrepreneurship is one that is useful particularly for the non-governmental sector as a part of their development and transition as the whole issue of resource mobilization becomes a bit challenging as you seek to solve social problems whilst earning revenue at the end of the day. This is one that the open campus wanted to play a part of." he said.

National Coordinator of the GEF Small Grants Programme, Dr David Bynoe said that the collaboration is indeed a historic one between the partners' Pinelands Creative Workshop, GEF Small Grants Programme, Ministry of Maritime Affairs, and the Blue Economy and the UWI Open Campus.

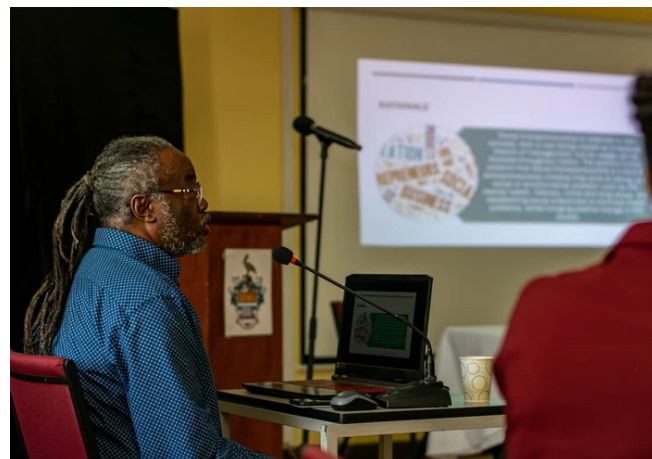
"Social enterprises and NGO's have a major role to play in addressing our socio-economic challenges that the Caribbean currently faces, and it also has a role to ensure that we can facilitate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals," he said.

Dr Bynoe gave his assurance that the GEF Small Grants Programme remains committed to ensuring that non-governmental organizations such as Pinelands are able to continue to address the social concerns that the country faces.

Chief Executive Officer of the Pinelands Creative Workshop, Sophia Greaves-Broome said that the course would allow for a new conversation to be had about the Blue Economy. "We are looking at the future of this programme. How can we bring about a new conversation about the Blue Economy? How can we bring about a new conversation about non-governmental development and sustainability? And these are the questions that we want to engage with you on. We are thinking about the future of the sector, whether it is tourism, the NGO sector across the board and this programme is for everyone and we will continue to think as we develop initiatives that speak to the wider society as well as nationally," she said.

The programme Social Entrepreneurship for Caribbean Transformation is a thirty-hour programme that will be taught virtually for ten weeks and will cover twelve units of study which is set to begin in 2022.

Photos (top to bottom): Sophia Greaves-Broome, CEO - Pinelands Creative Workshop and Hon Kirk Humphrey - Minister of Maritime Affairs and the Blue Economy; Ryan Byer - Deputy Director, UWI Open Campus offering remarks at the launch; Rodney Grant - Project Consultant and NGO participants at the course validation session. *Photo credits: Write Right PR Services.*





L-R: Group photo during the tree planting session including Hon. Ronald Toppin - Minister of International Business and Industry; Mr. Ian Drakes - Principal, Samuel Jackman Prescod Institute of Technology; Mr. Chevron Nesfield - Project Officer "Greening BIMAP Project"; Mrs. Kelly Hunte - Project Administrative Officer, Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre; Dr. David Bynoe - National Coordinator, GEF SGP UNDP; Dr. Sonia Greenidge- Franklyn, Executive Director, BIMAP; Mr. Anthony Niles - Senior Sales & Marketing Representative - Solar Watt Systems Inc. /LED Illuminations Inc. and Mr. John Rocheford - Chairman Board of Trustees, BIMAP. *(Photo credit: Chevron Nesfield)*

A Greener BIMAP on the Horizon

by Chevron Nesfield, Quality Assurance & Research Assistant - Barbados Institute of Management and Productivity

At the beginning of the year 2020, to formalize our efforts and to further enhance our contribution to Government's 2030 carbon neutral goal, BIMAP decided to introduce a "Greening BIMAP" project which seeks to build on initiatives already established and to add components to further assist the country with its goals. In September 2021, we officially and successfully launched our Greening BIMAP project.

The Greening BIMAP project has already resulted in partnerships with local, regional and International organizations. Locally, we have entered into an agreement with the Samuel Jackman Prescod Institute of Technology (SJPI). Areas of cooperation include:

- Industrial attachment for SJPI students in the areas of photovoltaic, electrical and plumbing installations.
- Integration of greening and renewable energy into BIMAP's programming
- Practical on-the-job training opportunities on a rotational basis for registered students of SJPI within their area of study.
- Public relation activities to promote renewable energy and greening.



The Hon. Ronald Toppin - Minister of International Business and Industry addressing attendees at the Greening BIMAP launch. *Photo credit: Chevron Nesfield*

In the development of our proposal for grant funding we learnt of the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC). This organization which is based in Belize seeks to support the people of the Caribbean as they address the impact of climate variability and change on all aspects of economic development. With their expertise and guidance BIMAP's the application for grant funding to assist with the financing of the project was successful.

The application was made to the GEF SGP UNDP, which provides "financial and technical support to projects that conserve and restore the environment while enhancing people's well-being and livelihoods". The National Coordinator and the Programme Assistant were very supportive in the development of the proposal.

The Launch was attended by Representatives from Government of Barbados, Members of the Board of Trustees, and members companies of BIMAP. Also in attendance were representatives from our partners Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), SJPI and Solar Watt Inc. which is indicative of the support and buy-in BIMAP has received for the Greening BIMAP project.

As an institute, BIMAP is more conscious of the environment and the effect our actions have on it. We are committed to making a meaningful contribution to carbon neutrality in Barbados and preserving the environment. Following the launch of the project other trees were planted around the compound. Also, many of the initiatives implemented have been transferred into our personal lives and our homes. The success of the project will lead to long lasting and mutually beneficial relationships between all parties involved.



Major Success with CORALL Project

by Susan Mahon, President - The Coral Reef Restoration Alliance



L-R: Dee Ann Wood, Co-Coordinator of CORALL's Community Engagement and Communications Team with CORALL's giant Ridge to Reef poster at Arborfest 2020; Zoe Lisk cleaning a palmata fragment during Feb 2020 and A Palmata during May 2018. Photo credits: Susan Mahon

The Coral Reef Restoration Alliance (CORALL) has continued to engage members of the community in activities towards restoration and conservation of coral reef ecosystems in Barbados.

Rapid visual inspections, measurements and photographs taken by CORALL's snorkelers, divers, and free-divers throughout the year, show that fragments are growing and thriving.

In summary, the CORALL restoration project has resulted in a measurable impact since inception in May 2018. A total exceeding one hundred fragments, of three species of coral, at CORALL's three restoration sites have survived and are in demonstrably good condition; thereby indicating that coral restoration is feasible along the west coast of Barbados.



These sites are located near to the so-called ‘platinum coast of Barbados’ which is characterized by hotels, restaurants, bars, and nightclubs, bordered by beaches and the Caribbean Sea. CORALL’s restoration project has involved the staff, managers and owners of tourism properties and service providers along this coast and in other areas of Barbados, as well as students, teachers, professors, developers, fishers, journalists, and other people engaged in environmental stewardship to protect the coral reef ecosystems.

The original objective of the project was to engage 1500 members of the community in coral restoration which was achieved by a combination of physical restoration and actively increasing the engagement and understanding of members of the public through CORALL’s social media and the Adopt-a-Coral program.

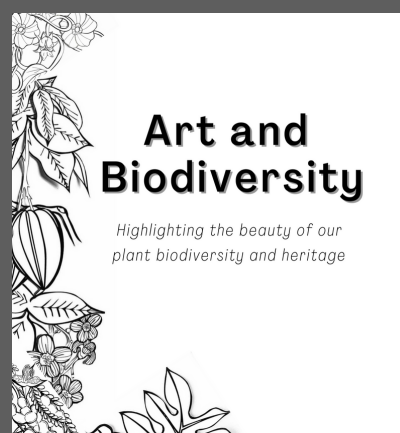
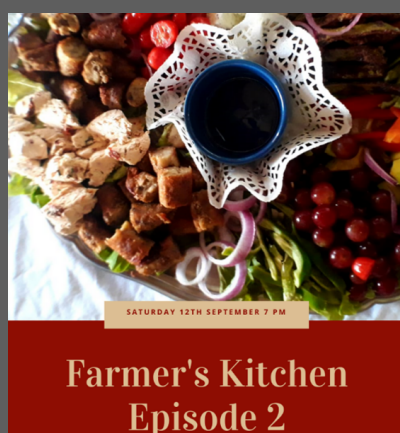
More than 450 members of the community actively participated in outreach activities specifically pertaining to learning about coral reef restoration – of these; 25 individuals engaged in baseline studies in the field; 15 individuals engaged in desk-based research; and at least 394 members of CORALL, plus more than a thousand members of the public participated in Ridge to Reef sessions. The total number of CORALL members (including past and present) exceeds 400; and, hundreds of members of the community participated in over fifty events and activities that focused on the importance of coral restoration in terms of the ‘Ridge to Reef’ approach.



Education & Research fueling conservation of local plant biodiversity and traditional knowledge

by Dr Sonia Peter - Biocultural Education and Research Programme

The Biocultural Education and Research Programme works on a platform of education and research to promote the conservation of local plant biodiversity and traditional knowledge. Our educational platform aims to create investment within our target public and works toward stakeholder partnership in conservation activities. Our team has been creative in our public outreach, being mindful of the COVID - 19 regulations, and developed a series of creative products to provide exposure to the foundation knowledge around issues of biodiversity, food security and health. Effective engagement around science-based topics required the use of a variety of narratives that provided an interface for conversations with stakeholders. Our creative products were developed in collaboration with local, regional, and international scientists and professionals, as well as stakeholders.



UNDER THE BREADFRUIT TREE SERIES

A collection of interviews with international and regional scientists where the issues surrounding food security and the value of plants as sources of healing agents were discussed. Scientists included Dr. Cassandra Quave, now known as *The Plant Hunter* from the title of her best-selling book on drug discovery, Professor Alvin Holder, a Barbadian working in Virginia, at Old Dominion University, on diabetes interventions and equitable access to tertiary education, Dr. John de la Parra, Manager of the Global Food Portfolio at Rockefeller Foundation, Professor Laura Nkrumah, author of *The Breadfruit Germplasm Collection* at the University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus. *Learn more [here](#).*



THE FARMERS KITCHEN

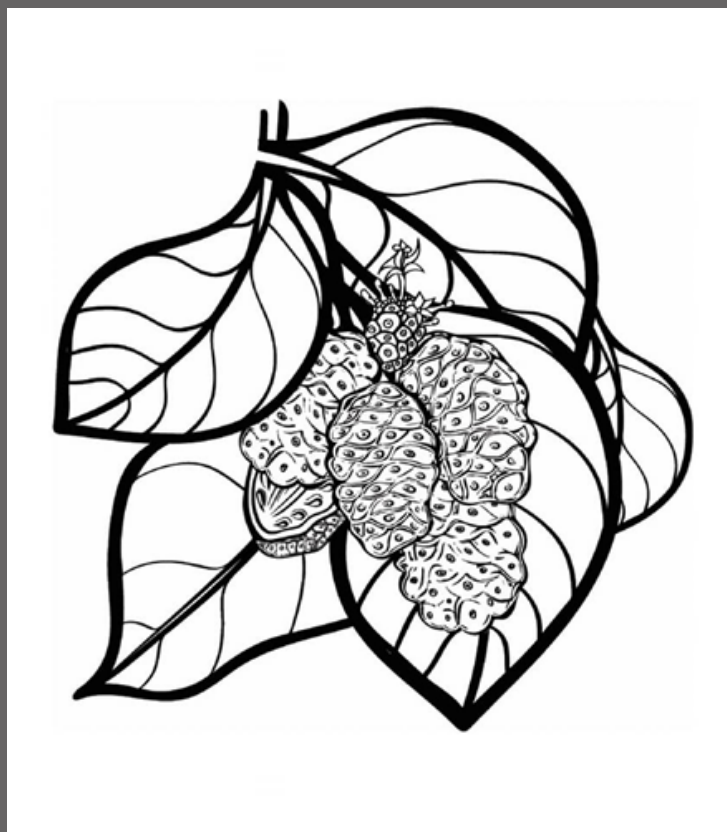
A three-part series filmed at J&P Farms Ltd. that exposed the nutritional value locked within underutilized plants and methods of incorporating them in innovative food preparation. This project is being expanded and several innovative products are in the pipeline for development. J&P Farms Ltd, founded by Peter and Bernice Chase, is focused on embracing new agricultural systems to address food and nutrition security. Learn more [here](#).

ART AND BIODIVERSITY

This project was executed in collaboration with mixed media artist Llanor Alleyne who produced unique collages capturing the beauty in local fruits and tree foliage. This output will be used in a colouring book, with versions for adults and juniors, offering reconnection with the value of our plant biodiversity. *Learn more [here](#).*

HEALING ROOTS

A documentary produced in collaboration with Dr. Julia Jordan Zachery, noted scholar in feminism within the African diaspora and current Chair of the Department of Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies at Wake Forest University. The documentary examines the value of traditional knowledge safeguarded by ‘root healers’, and the need for spiritual reconnection to the healing powers of plants. *Learn more [here](#).*



Juniors Dog Dumpling
Collage by Llanor
Alleyne.
Photo credit: Dr Sonia Peter.

THE BARBADOS SEA TURTLE PROJECT

Professor Julia Horrocks, Director - Barbados Sea Turtle Project

Training of the first group of Barbados Sea Turtle Project (BSTP) volunteers in sea turtle monitoring and conservation took place in the first three months of the hawksbill nesting season (mid-May to mid-August), and the second group joined us from mid-August to mid-November. Barbadian trainees enjoyed interacting with trainees from Curacao, Grenada, Mexico, Jamaica and Antigua. All learned to collect biological data on endangered sea turtles, and how to conduct informed actions to conserve them. Although the fun part is working with the animals themselves, part of the training also involved being exposed to other necessary components of a comprehensive sea turtle monitoring and conservation programme, including time management, teamwork, and proper care of equipment. Post-training, all had had plenty of practice in tagging and measuring turtles, and in quantifying aspects of their nest sites.

Considerable skill is needed to recognize the different phases of nesting on a dark beach, to know when to approach a turtle and when in the nesting process it is safe to tag, and how to recognise nests that need to be relocated. All had direct experience of the impact of beachfront lighting on hatchlings; with disoriented hatchlings from hundreds of nests being rescued and released on dark beaches. Everyone learned how to manage the general public and the tourists that are attracted to nesting turtles and hatchlings, so that turtles were not scared off the beach and hatchlings were collected properly, but onlookers were able to ask questions and get a better understanding of what it takes to conserve these ancient animals. In addition to experiences on the beach, volunteers learned how to capture turtles in water. Two turtles were hooked and released by hook and line fishermen, but both were trailing fishing lines.



Volunteers learned to remove hooks and clean the injuries. The experience of seeing this type of by catch is particularly important because bycatch in nets and lines is now a major threat to sea turtles in the Caribbean.



Clockwise: A volunteer with some of the many disoriented hatchlings collected and being readied for release. The red light is used because it is hard for the hatchlings to see; A volunteer filling in a data sheet at a nest site; Equipment storage – everything kept clean and dry and a volunteer examining a nest site. *Photo credits: Carla Daniel and Prof. Julia Horrocks.*



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Public Administration Specialist



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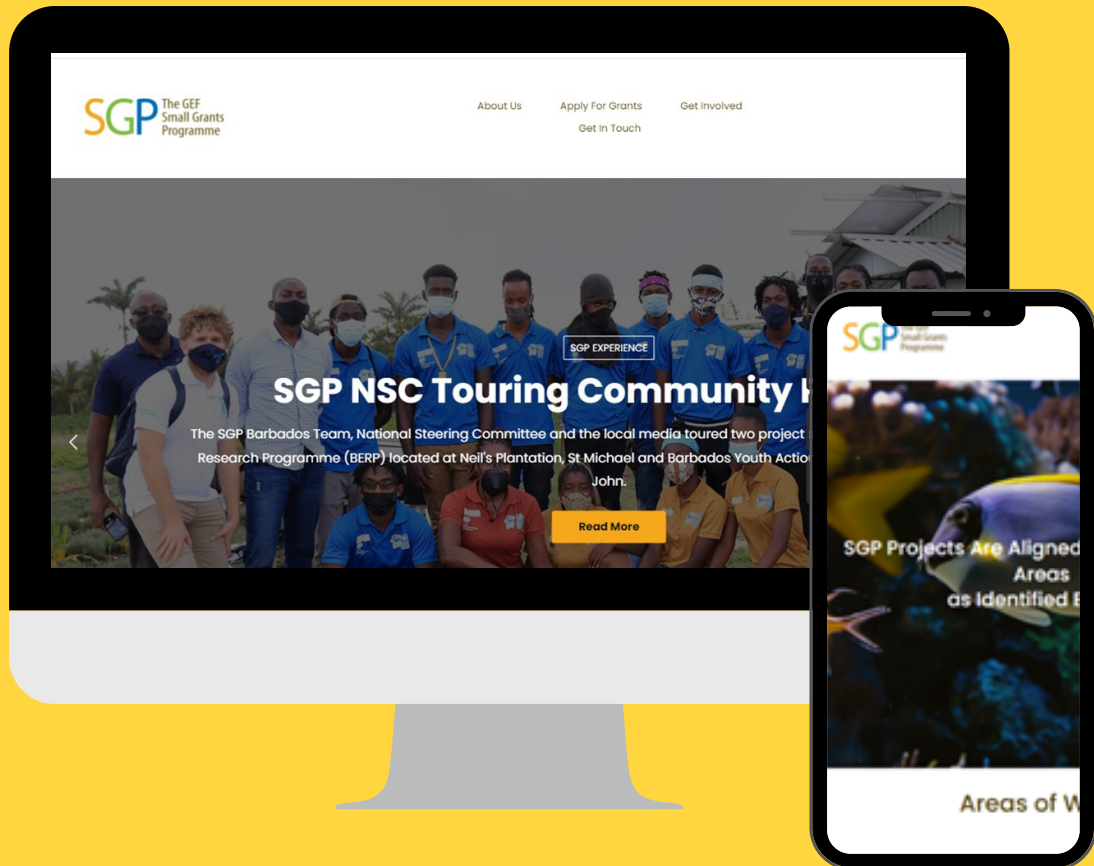
Tonya Millar
Caribbean Development Bank
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UN Champion of the Earth 2021



**HON. MIA AMOR MOTTLEY
PRIME MINISTER OF BARBADOS**

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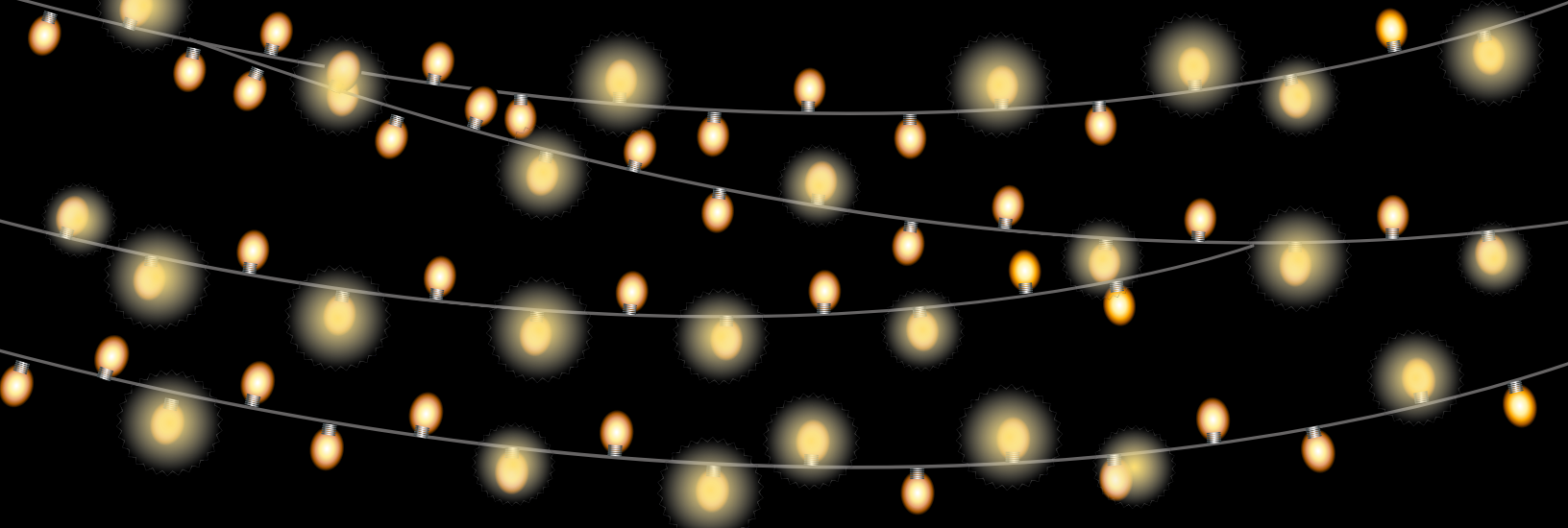


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Happy
HOLIDAYS

& Happy New Year!

From SGP Barbados

