

GREEN REPORTER

Seasons Greetings and Happy Holidays from SGP Barbados

Highlights

SGP Barbados Participation in COP 25
NSC Project Site Visits
Biocultural Education and Research Programme
Solar Express: Expressions of Bridgetown
OP6 Achievements
CPS Stakeholder Consultation

HOLIDAY MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR

Welcome to another special edition of the SGP Green Reporter. The *Time for Action and Raising Ambition* was the rallying cry of COP25 held in Madrid, Spain. As I reflected on the work of SGP while cocooned in a dense network of environmental stakeholders and negotiation at multi-levels in Madrid, I could not help but to conclude that SGP has always been action oriented from inception and has consistently raised its ambition and impact.

In this edition of the SGP Green Reporter we are pleased highlight how communities are ensuring that action is being taken through meaningful partnerships, strategic interventions and scalable initiatives that can facilitate the actualization of raised ambitions not only for the climate emergency but for a better global environment. The time for action is now!



We know that you will find this special edition informative and interesting so please share it within your networks, inclusive of partners, colleagues, friends and family.

On behalf of the GEF SGP Barbados team, I take this opportunity to wish you all the best for this holiday season and we look forward to your sustained support in 2020 as we continue to take ambitious community action with a global impact.

"...action is being taken through meaningful partnerships, strategic interventions and scalable initiatives..."

COP 25 Snapshots



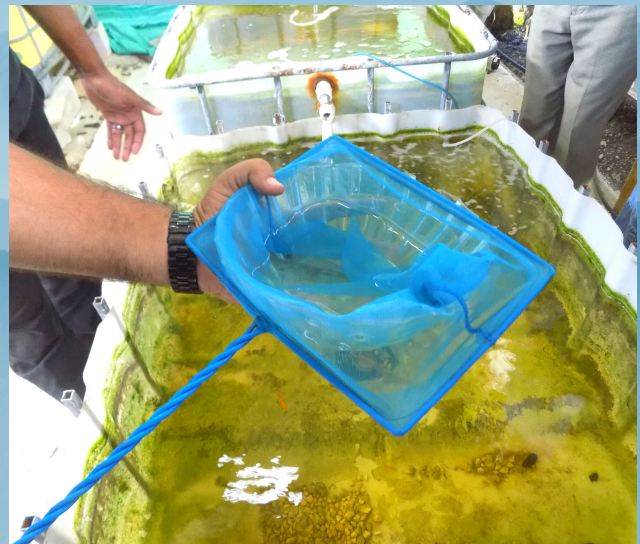
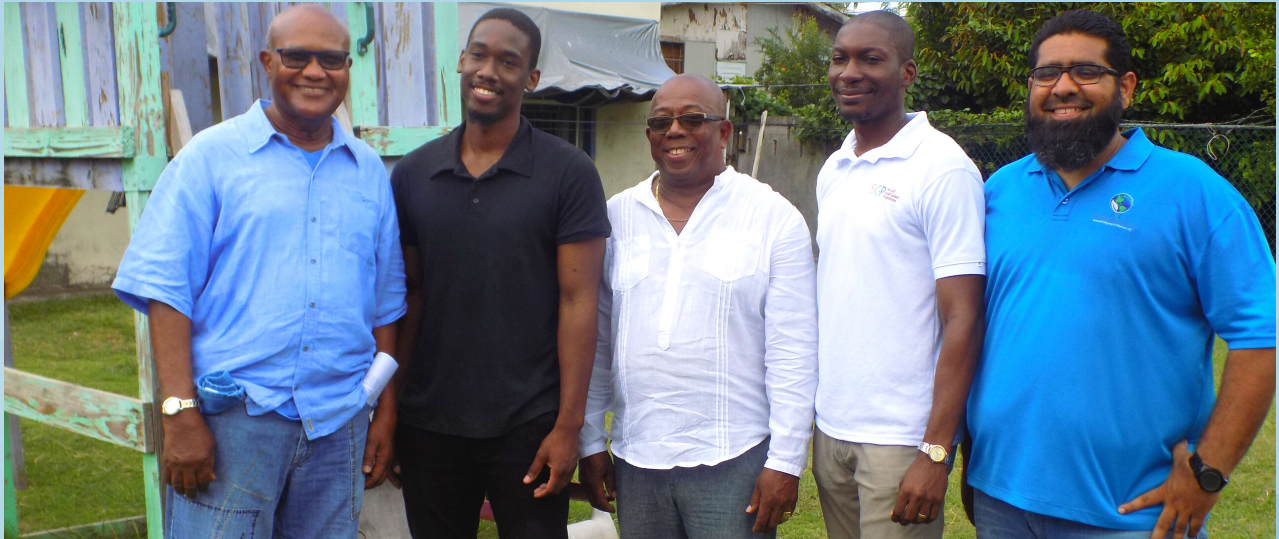
Above and below: GEF SGP Barbados National Coordinator, David Bynoe and colleagues, Marium Alleyne (left), Ayesha Constable and Sherri Frederick (right) from the UNDP Japan Caribbean Climate Change Partnership (JCCP) during a panel discussion forum.



NSC PROJECT SITE VISITS

October 4, 2019 - SGP Barbados alongside the National Steering Committee (NSC) toured 4 SGP project sites across Barbados to provide first hand visibility of the groundbreaking work in the local communities.

Stop #1 - Blue Green Initiative (BGI)



Top (l-r): Part of the touring group including Lionel Weekes, NSC Chair, SGP Barbados; Jehroum Wood, President, BGI; Hon Trevor Prescod, Minister of Environment and National Beautification; David Bynoe, SGP Barbados National Coordinator and; Mohammad Nagdee, CEO, BGI.

Left: Jehroum Wood explaining the shrimp growth system to the group.

Right: In net is a *L. vannamei* or saltwater shrimp at market size.



The shrimp micro-farm system.

BGI - Alternative Fisheries for Sustainable Livelihoods

The project sought to establish a pilot model for climate-smart, community-based shrimp farming in Barbados. The pilot was evaluated based on operational and sustainability feasibility and seeks to build awareness on the value and importance of sustainable agricultural practices like biodynamics and integrated multi-trophic aquaponics.

Stop #2 Codrington College

Barbados Medicinal Plants: Development of College Land, St John in to an herbal Health and Wellness Destination

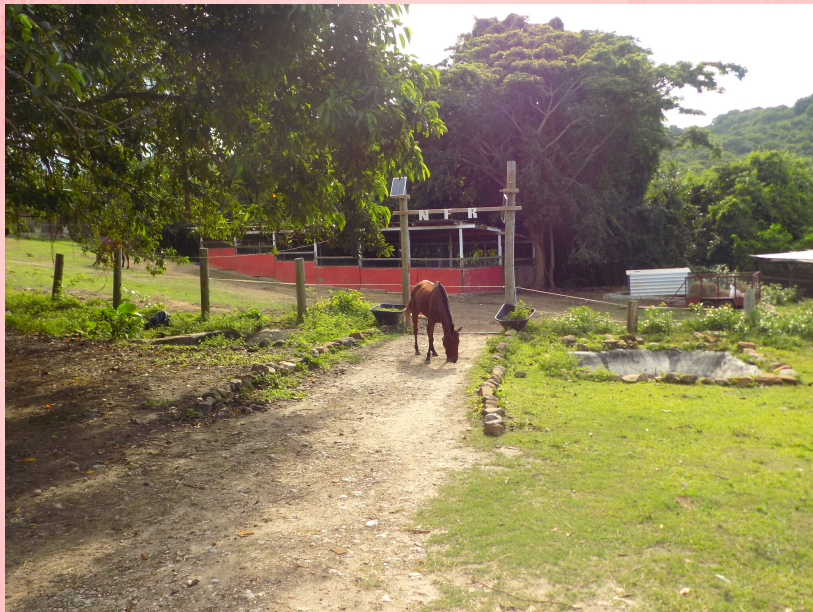


The touring group observing the variety of medicinal plants grown at Codrington College.

The project seeks to establish a collaborative team between Codrington College, UWI and the community of College Land to document, preserve and cultivate medicinal plants historically and currently used to treat ailments in Barbados.

Stop #3 Nature Fun Ranch

The project seeks to demonstrate how a focus on a structured intervention of environmental conservation via alternative energy integration and a reliance on evidence-based activities can add value to the rehabilitative process of 'at risk' youth and positively alter the national approach to rehabilitative efforts.



Stop #4 Caribbean Permaculture Research Institute

The Caribbean Permaculture Research Institute of Barbados is applying the new approach of permaculture to promote sustainable regenerative soil practices and a climate smart approach to agriculture in communities across Barbados. With support from Walkers Reserve, the project seeks to create a financially solvent organisation to serve as a permaculture educational facility and tropical training site.



Healing plans of the Ancestors in Barbados

Dr Sonia Peter, Executive Director, Biocultural Education and Research Programme

25 October 2019 – The annual lecture of the Biocultural Education and Research Programme examined plants used during the period of slavery on the island demonstrating the value of plant biodiversity then and now.

Executive Director of the nonprofit organisation launched in 2018 and funded by the **Global Environmental Facility (GEF), Small Grants Programme (SGP) implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, Dr Sonia Peter, examined the use of plants for mediating the effects of harsh living and working conditions, and poor diet.

The International Decade for People of African Descent, 2015–2024, as proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in its second objective seeks to promote a greater knowledge of and respect for the diverse heritage, culture and contribution of people of African descent to the development of societies. According to the David Bynoe, the National Coordinator of GEF SGP UNDP, this lecture on the healing plants of our ancestors is an excellent way to promote a greater knowledge, understanding and respect for diverse African heritage, culture and contributions in shaping the Barbadian society through the lens of healing plants.



Dr Sonia Peter highlighting her book on healing plants during the presentation.



David Bynoe, SGP Barbados National Coordinator offering remarks.



The audience listening attentively to the presentation.



The Botanical Treasure Award (Individual) being presented to Curator, Andromeda Botanical Gardens, Sharon Cooke by Melinda Belle, Treasurer, Biocultural Education and Research Programme

During the event, the Botanical Treasure Awards 2019 was presented to Andromeda Botanic Gardens, an exemplary site of plant biodiversity on the island, and also to Sharon Cooke, the curator, for her contribution in maintaining the site in accordance with global standards.

Also, on display were projects engaged by the Biocultural Education and Research Programme covering areas of Agroecology, New Use Agriculture for underutilised plants, a 'Living Library' of medicinal plants, art, biodiversity as well as Green Roofs and Walls.

The ultimate aim of the nonprofit organisation is to 'Promote plant conservation through education and research'.

Solar Express: Expressions of Bridgetown

Small Business Association (SBA)



1: All Aboard! Guests boarding the Solar Shuttle as they prepare to depart Queens Park;

2: Tour guide, Mr Martin Parris (right) sharing information on sites and monuments in National Heroes Square;

3: Thumbs up in the City: Tour guide, Mr Parris and guests give a thumbs up as they complete the tour stop in National Heroes Square;

4: Flashback to the Small Island Future Fest (SIFF) on June 29; Hon Trevor Prescod, Minister of Environment and National Beautification (in the driver's seat) along with David Bynoe GEF SGP Barbados National Coordinator and Mr Travis Sinckler, NSC Member (rear) awaiting their guided tour of the City.

Solar Express: Expressions of Bridgetown

BRIDGETOWN, the capital of Barbados is a UNESCO World Heritage site and also the home of the Solar Express: Expressions of Bridgetown Tour. Every morning, the city comes alive with vendors, street characters, business men, children and adults who use the city as a rendezvous to make their way to work or school. Horns are blowing as cars navigate through traffic in attempt to make it to their varying destinations. Over by the careenage the boats rock gently on the water as boat captains and their crews prepare for a day at sea as the chimes from the clock tower beautiful perched on the West Wing the Parliament Building echo through the city signaling that is it 10 o'clock in sunny Bridgetown. Close to the border of Bridgetown in Pelican Village, a group of excited persons have just boarded the Zero-Emission Solar Shuttle and under the care of a very knowledgeable tour guide are entering the heart of Bridgetown to explore the beautiful architecture and rich antiquity found behind the hustle and bustle of the historic city.

The Solar Express tour is an initiative of the Small Business Association of Barbados funded in part by the **GEF Small Grants Programme implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, and is aimed at increasing awareness of sustainable transport in the City of Bridgetown. These unique tours are made possible via the novel zero-emissions solar vehicle which harnesses the power of the sun, making each tour energy efficient and environmentally safe.

Each tour begins in Pelican Village, Bridgetown and travels to over 20 sites in the city, such as St. Mary's Church, Chamberlain Bridge and the Parliament Buildings. Its goal is not only to share the history of Bridgetown but to showcase that solar power is a viable option for transport within the city.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require rapid, far reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society. It is hoped that the Solar Express tour can be the model for the revolution of tourism transport in Barbados and the wider Caribbean.

To experience the Solar Tour, call 246-228-0162 or email solarexpress@sba.bb.

OP6 Achievements

Landscape conservation

- 7 project within the Scotland District and National Parks Area;
- 4 projects specifically landscape conservation;
- Establishment of three (3) of the four (4) hiking trails in the area identified for the development of an Arboretum;
- Co-management of acres rehabilitated land in the Scotland District;
- 200 sand dune plants have been planted for sand dune restoration at Walkers Reserve, St Andrew and baseline data have been obtained;
- Hosting of the first Biannual Ethnobotany Conference within the National Parks Area and;
- 250 Persons trained in areas relevant to landscape conservation.



Seascape conservation

- 2 projects within the seascape and marine protected area identified;
- Over 75,000 individuals have been reached through promotion awareness campaigns;
- 13 Scuba divers certified and 16 trained;
- Coral gardening at 3 sites within the seascape identified;
- Coral monitoring at three sites within the Marine Reserve and;
- 126 volunteers engaged to work within the identified seascape utilizing citizens science.

OP 6 Achievements

Energy Access w/ Co Benefits

- 5 Energy access co-benefits projects;
- 5 distinctively demonstration models highlighting co-benefits;
- 2 commercial applications of the models annual CO2 reduction;
- 130 persons trained and 24 persons certified;
- USD 60,208.15 in revenue generation.

Innovative Climate Smart Agroecology

- 5 innovative climate-smart agro-ecology projects initiated;
- 3 demonstration farms established;
- 1 model climate smart community production system established and;
- 200 persons trained in areas relevant to climate-smart agro-ecology.



Aerial view of Substance Abuse Foundation

OP6 Achievements

CSO-Government Dialogue Platforms

- 2 Civil Society Government Dialogues;
- The Barbados Renewable Energy Association held a State of the Renewable Sector Dialogue at UN House under the auspices of GEF SGP to discuss financing, policy and Government's recent budgetary measures;
- The meeting facilitated dialogue among private sector, government and civil society actors within the sector;
- NGO Legislation Civil Society Government Dialogue and;
- The production of a white paper to facilitate the development of relevant NGO Legislation.



Hon Colin Jordan, Minister of Labour and Social Partnership Relations (centre) with GEF SGP Barbados National Coordinator, David Bynoe (left) surrounded by Civil Society Representatives reviewing the White Paper that will facilitate the development of NGO legislation.

Promoting Social Inclusion

- All projects included gender mainstreaming in the design and approval process;
- 61% of the projects were women led;
- 38% of the projects were led by youth; 5 projects specially targeting vulnerable groups and;
- CPS developed in consultation with the disabled community.



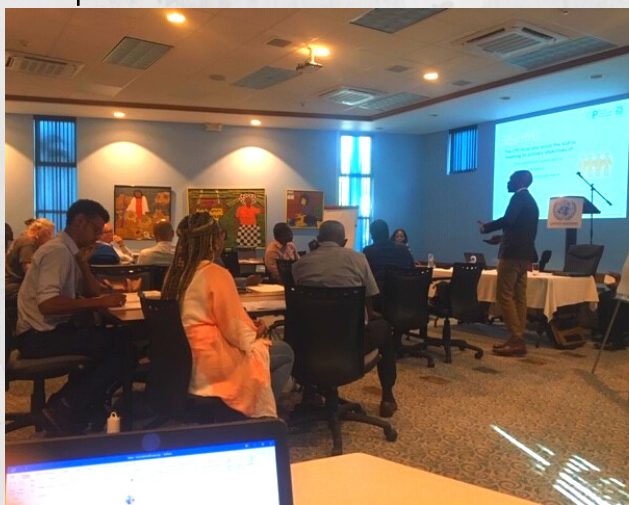
Gender and Climate Change Exploratory Discussion in Partnership with the Commonwealth Foundation

Country Programme Strategy (CPS) Consultation

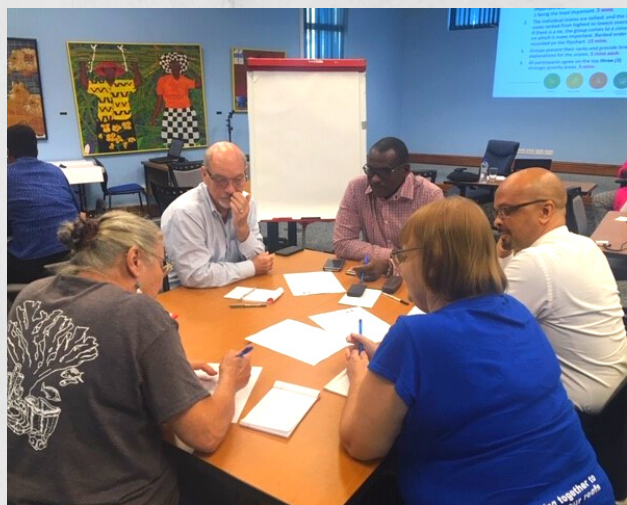
Prioritizing Areas for SGP Barbados 7th Operational Phase

19 November 2019 - 'GEF SGP Barbados hosted the stakeholder consultation at UN House with various civil society representatives and other stakeholders to prioritize the initiatives for Barbados in the GEF SGP 7th Operational Phase. The Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus facilitated the session led by facilitator, Dr Janice Cumberbatch. She commenced the session by giving a brief overview of the GEF SGP's history in Barbados and the purpose of the workshop was outlined. The National Coordinator, GEF SGP Barbados presented the results of Operational Phase (OP) 5 and 6 and discussed the strategic objectives for OP7.

During the session, Stevenson Skeete, Consultant presented the results of the SIDS CBA Review (Small Island Developing States Community Based Adaption) and he highlighted the achievements of the projects by St George Farmer's Cooperative and Weston Fisherfolk Association.



Left: SGP Barbados National Coordinator, David Bynoe during his presentation to attendees.



Right: Working groups discussing and sharing ideas.

The participants were guided through an exercise to prioritise the five OP7 strategic areas by ranking them from most to least important over the next three years. Participants were also engaged in an activity to propose recommendations for how the GEF SGP could 1) organised and/or sustain Civil Society-Government-Private sector policy and planning dialogue; 2) enhance social inclusion in country portfolio programming and projects (e.g. strategies and approaches to promote women's empowerment and gender equality, empower youth, engage persons with disabilities) and 3) Facilitate greater knowledge management.



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*Seasons Greetings
&
A Happy New Year!!!*

