

CSO SPOTLIGHT

LOCAL ACTION GLOBAL IMPACT



Marine Ecosystems Crucial for Life around Antigua & Barbuda

— page 12

Photo Credit: Nick Hollands

Antigua & Barbuda Horticultural Society
promoting food security and fighting
hunger with Seed-Saving Bank

— page 04

Taking steps to preserve Sherwood
Forest in Antigua

— page 08

Female Ambassadors paving the way
ahead!

— page 13

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IN THIS ISSUE

In this first publication of CSO Spotlight, join us as we shine the spotlight on four of our Grantees who have been doing amazing work in Antigua & Barbuda: The Antigua & Barbuda Horticultural Society, Environmental Awareness Group (EAG), the Gilbert Agricultural and Rural Development Center (GARDC), and the West Indies Sail Heritage Foundation.

In addition to this, learn more about the services provided by one of the most essential but often overlooked marine ecosystems in this issue's Feature on seagrass beds. We will also hear from Antigua & Barbuda's first National Coordinator of the GEF Small Grants Programme, Ms. Ruth Spencer, who worked tirelessly with community groups, NGOs and other CSOs to ensure that they had a say in the development of our nation.

Meet the members of the National Steering Committee, the main decision making body of the Small Grants Programme at the country level; learn more about the funding opportunities available in the current operational phase (OP7); and finally join us in congratulating three stellar young women who have been showing leadership in the field of biodiversity conservation in Antigua & Barbuda.

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Coordinator's Message

It is a great pleasure to present to you our first publication of the CSO Spotlight! This newsletter will showcase the efforts of our local CSOs to effect change as they contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through innovative, impactful and inclusive environmentally-based initiatives.

A lot has happened in the past few months. In December 2019, the programme said goodbye to Ms. Ruth Spencer, the energetic, charismatic National Coordinator who successfully served in this role from 2012 to 2019.

In early 2020, we grappled with the effects of a pandemic, an unprecedented crisis under which we all had to learn to quickly adapt. Our grantees were all impacted, but viewed this as a challenge, pressed on and overcame the odds. We are proud of the perseverance of the CSOs and congratulate them on their many successes through their work to phase out the use of mercury, improve food security, conserve nature, culture and tradition, reduce the use of plastics, build capacity within communities and to improve honey production.

In June, 2020, I was welcomed into the GEF SGP Family becoming the National Coordinator of our local programme.

On behalf of the GEF SGP Team, I would like to thank all the current and past grantees for your tireless efforts to implement local actions that have positive, global impacts.

Thank you to all the contributors of this newsletter, and we hope that this will be an enjoyable, insightful read.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Lawrence'.

S. Natalya Lawrence
National Coordinator

Reflections from Ms. Ruth Spencer

Retired National Coordinator, GEF-SGP Antigua & Barbuda

Ms. Ruth Spencer became the first National Coordinator of the GEF Small Grants Programme in Antigua & Barbuda in 2012. Until her retirement in 2019, Ruth worked tirelessly in this role, engaging with community groups, NGO's, Faith Based organisations and other registered CSOs, bringing them to the table, showing them that they too, had a say in the development of our nation.

As she passed on the baton to me, I asked her to share her reflections, after being in the position for the past seven years.

INSIGHTS FROM THE DESK OF RUTH SPENCER

Mission

When I became National Coordinator, my mission was to give opportunities to local community groups left out of mainstream conventional funding. Overtime, agencies bought into this concept. It created action, awareness, and led to a new type of awakening among the groups not experienced before. They began to get recognized and their work was seen as significant and the growth of the program was driven by local word of mouth.

Strength

The strength of the programme is its flexibility, which gave me the scope to be innovative, think outside of the box and meet the needs of people at their own level. We built from there, creating authentic grassroots movement that are founded on their own ideas, with their solutions and their efforts built in for their sustainable actions.

Struggles

While groups had ideas, it was a struggle to move from ideas to actions. Many of the groups had not been legally registered and this was an inhibitor to receiving funding. During the waiting period, as the groups became registered, we never faltered, they worked on the plans, and did what could be feasibly done. When funding was received, the projects only continued to progress. I had a fellow coordinator with whom I often conferred with for guidance to move the groups along. When I needed help, I turned to Hyacinth Douglas, National Coordinator in Jamaica, and she, to this day, continues to be my Mentor and Strength.

Rewarding

It was most rewarding to witness the reserved people develop boldness, taking control of their programmes and creating the change that is needed to



Above: Former National Coordinator, Ms. Ruth Spencer

improve our society.

For the new Coordinator

Listen to people, respect their ideas, though simple, and go where no one else wants to go- find the local people with solutions, give them a voice to showcase community-based adaptation processes. It is easy to fund and support a group that can raise their own funds but the reward, satisfaction and benefits are greater when you move on ideas from groups implementing solutions using their own local knowledge.

Grantees

Don't be afraid to move forward and share your ideas as this is what is needed, the genuine, passionate, committed and dedicated voices and actions from the grassroots are what is sustaining our world.

Although Ruth has changed roles, she has not relented in her unwavering commitment to empower CSOs. Thank you, Ruth for believing in and supporting the groups. Ruth continues to serve, through her position as Vice Chairman on the Marine Ecosystem Protected Areas Trust.



The Seed-Saving Bank at the Antigua and Barbuda Horticultural Society

“Seeds never lose their potential, not even in dirt.” - Matshona Dhliwayo

As our country and region face the onslaught of dramatic and frequent climatic events, food security has been placed as top priority in Antigua & Barbuda's national agenda. As the world, gripped with uncertainty, tackles the COVID-19 pandemic, scores of residents, supported by the Ministry of Agriculture, turned to their backyards and began their own gardens. Many have noted the drop in their food bills, the pride of consuming food produced by their own hands, and the importance of food security.

On a larger scale, the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) was happy to support the Antigua & Barbuda Horticultural Society, to construct the first seed-saving bank on island. Aably led by the Society's president, Mrs. Barbara Japal, the project was successfully completed in March 2021. The Society's vision for the bank is first and foremost to fight hunger in our country, by having a viable stock of seeds

safely stored in a regulated environment.

In addition to this, the Society is concerned about preserving our cultural and historical patrimony, linked to plants. This is done by maintaining stocks of seeds and plants that played a huge part in our country's diet, medicine, craft and traditions, from a local species of cucumber to jumbie beads that were used as coffee substitute and also very popular in craft and jewellery-making. There is also an entire section on the grounds that is home to traditional medicinal plants.

Lastly, but by no means the least important, the Society has positioned itself to support the beautification of Antigua & Barbuda. There seed collection, therefore, includes shade trees and all sorts of flowering plants. As we know, science has proven that a few minutes with nature helps to reduce stress. Add to this the other services trees provide to us – they create an aesthetically pleasing environment, reduce the ambient temperature by 1-5°C, buffer against storm

winds, extract CO² from the air, just to name a few more benefits.

The Society is currently on a drive to collect, store and package seeds for purchase. The seed-saving bank is found in the idyllic Agave Gardens, an earlier, also successful grant from GEF SGP. Congratulations on a job well done!



Photo Credit: Natalya Lawrence



Photo Credit: Natalya Lawrence



Photo Credit: Natalya Lawrence

Clockwise Top Left: The beginnings of the seedbank collection

Above: Cleaning and sorting station

Top Right: President shows off packaged seeds collection

Right: Packaged seeds

Bottom: Wall art showing the National Dagger Log painted by Society Members Agnes Meeker and Margaret Punnett

Bottom Left: President and Treasurer of the Horticultural Society



Photo Credit: Natalya Lawrence



Photo Credit: Natalya Lawrence



EAG engages CSOs to collaborate for 268

by Arica Hill, Environmental Awareness Group

As the Environmental Awareness Group (EAG) team stood ready to welcome our guests on Thursday 28 January, we were excited at the prospect of engaging with civil society organisations (CSOs) from across Antigua and Barbuda to “raise our voices for environmental change”. Through the GEF Small Grants Programme, the EAG was able to begin implementing a critical part of our project that includes executing an inaugural environmental conference as a platform for networking and information sharing. A part of that meant hosting an initial workshop with 19 participating CSOs, both in-person and virtually, to identify 3 key things:

1. What are we all working on?
2. What would we like to work on (our pipe dreams)?, and
3. What resources do we all need to get the job done!

That discussion helped to understand where synergies exist across organisations and CSOs raised their “paddles” to agree to “Collaborate for 268”!

Importantly, CSOs recognised that two main things needed to happen:

1. We need to be involved; and
2. We need to support each other.

A Decision to be Involved

The Escazú Agreement is a multilateral environmental agreement recently signed by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, which speaks to the need for environmental rights in partner countries. Within the scope of those environmental rights is the notion that individuals can actively participate in environmental decision-making because they are informed and empowered so to do. During the workshop, CSOs identified how they could ensure that they could become more involved the policy level.



Above: Zero Waste Antigua Barbuda agrees to collaborate for 268.

Top: Group photo of in-person CSO participants.

Below: Group photo of virtual CSO participants.

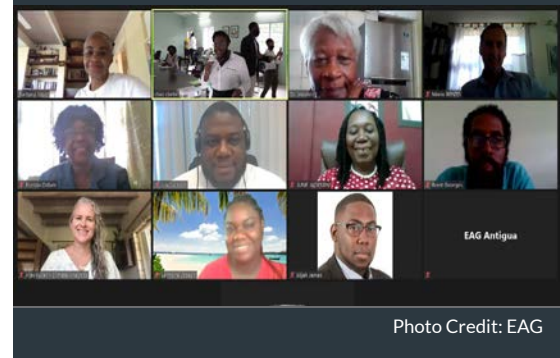


Photo Credit: EAG



Above: GEF SGP Coordinator, Natalya Lawrence, poses with "Marvellously Magnificent Mangroves" group following a discussion on the work CSOs are doing.

EAG engages CSOs cont'd

A Philosophy of Support

A local proverb says "likkle likkle fill basket", meaning that even small additions can have a big impact. CSOs know that they all have limited resources, but we all know that sometimes if we offer just a little bit of support, it can make a huge difference.

For EAG that support comes in the form of offering CSOs the chance to submit articles to EAG Talk, a weekly article in the daily newspaper, so that their stories and concerns can be amplified.

That one-day workshop was just the beginning. It filled us with hope of a future where CSOs in Antigua and Barbuda are recognised nationally and internationally. It is only the beginning as we raise our voices for environmental change!

This project is being implemented through the support of the GEF Small Grants Programme, the British High Commission of Antigua and Barbuda, and the Chevening Alumni.

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Support National Development through building up Civil Society Organisations

The GEF Small Grants Programme – Antigua & Barbuda invites suitably qualified persons from non-governmental organisations and community-based organisations to apply to serve on our National Steering Committee.

The position is 100% voluntary and will last for 1 year, but may be extended based on performance and mutual agreement.

The National Steering Committee Meets once per quarter, or as needed, to make decisions on proposed projects that contribute to the focus areas listed below:

1. *Community-Based Conservation of Threatened Ecosystems and Invasive Species Management.*
2. *Sustainable Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food Security.*
3. *Low Carbon Energy Access Co-Benefits.*
4. *Local to Global Coalitions for Chemicals and Waste Management.*
5. *CSO-Government-Private Sector Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms*

The National Steering Committee also evaluates the Country Programme, ensuring that it is aligned to national and international priorities, and Sustainable Development Goals. Additional responsibilities include supporting a platform that allows networking and capacity-building among Civil Society



Organisations (CSOs), supporting dialogue between CSOs, government and the private sector, and resource mobilization for CSOs.

Persons with experience in any of the aforementioned focus areas are encouraged to apply. Interested persons are asked to submit a one-page document outlining their skills and competencies to meet the requirements of the position.

For more information about the GEF Small Grants Programme or about the Programme's steering committee, please contact:

S. Natalya Lawrence – National Coordinator
shawna.lawrence@undp.org

Applications should be received no later than 15th July, 2021

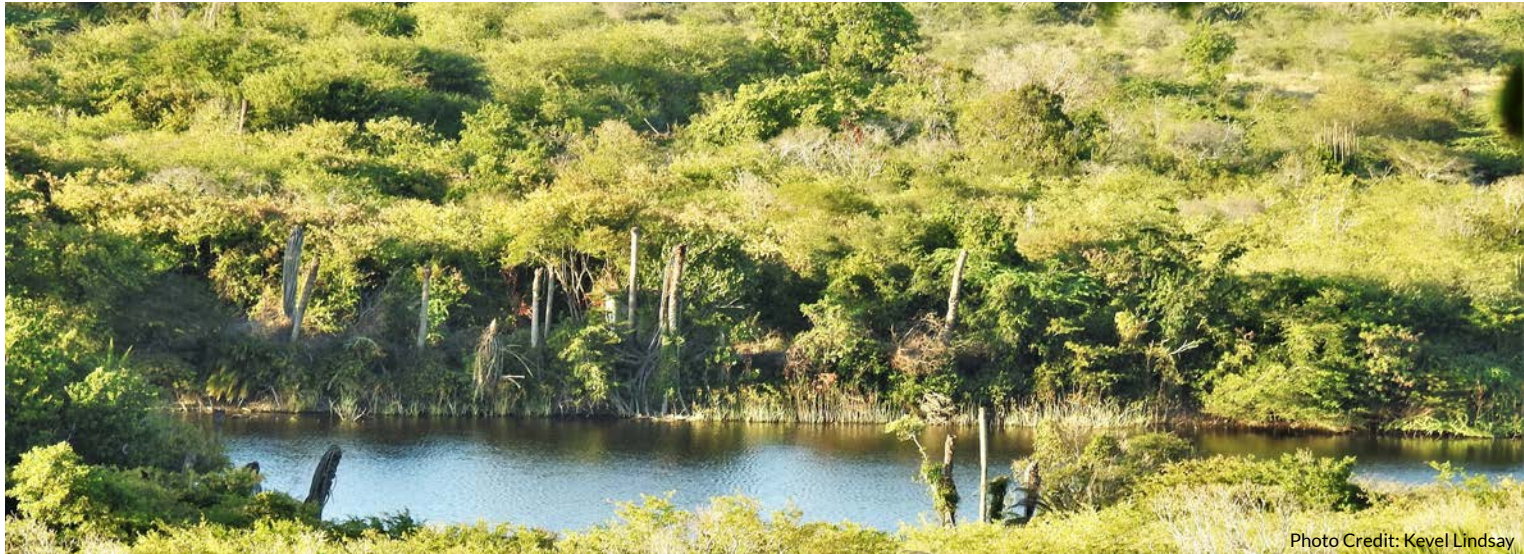


Photo Credit: Kevel Lindsay

Sher-What? Sher-Who?

Sherwood Forest in Antigua

by Dr Anthony Richards

Hidden in the heart of Antigua lies a secret garden, nurtured by Mother Nature, which the old people in the surrounding communities know as Sherwood Forest. Here you will find cool ponds, fed by temporary springs overlooked by mighty baobab trees, evergreen ficus, and the famous Painkiller Tree. Rare plants cling to the moist shores of wetlands, and favourite fruits of past generations fall to the earth, unseen and forgotten. This treasure lies between the inland villages of Sea View Farm and Freemans Village, not far from the Centre Point Service Station. Robin Hood and his Merry Men never knew this Sherwood, but our own outlaws would meet here in the nights of 1736 to plan the overthrow of slave society.

Cloaked by the trees, Kwaku Takiye (King Court/Prince Klass) and men & women pledged to give their lives to the sacred cause of freedom. This is Pappa Sammy country. A new project, led by the Gilbert Agricultural and Rural Development Center (GARD Center) plans to rejuvenate agriculture and

conservation in the area, providing new training opportunities for women and youth.

RICHER THAN WALLINGS FOREST RESERVE?

Sherwood Forest has survived into the present day, perhaps because of its rocky soil, peppered with boulders of petrified wood. This was the archaic shoreline of old volcanic Antigua, when we had hot springs and black sand beaches, like Montserrat and Dominica. That was before the coral animals built the white soils of the north east half of the island, and the white sands. The Forest of Petrification used to be Antigua's premiere tourist attraction during the 18th century.

The ancient watercourses flow north to the sea from Clarkes Hill through the North Sound Watershed. Thanks to a sensitive documentary film by the Precision Centre, we know how local families relied on these well-known springs for water, washing, recreation, food and fishing. Over the years, the ghauts and temporary watercourses have



Photo Credit: Kevel Lindsay

Above: Baobab tree in Sherwood Forest

Top: View overlooking Sherwood Forest.

Below: Bright pink lotus flowers in bloom.



Photo Credit: Kevel Lindsay



Eugenia ligustrina
Photo Credit: Kevel Lindsay

been channeled into a series of dams and weirs, like Lightfoot Pond, to meet the water needs of the sugar factory.

Where these flows meet the sea, they feed enormous mangrove channels at Parham and Fitches Creek. They provide nutrients for fish and turtles on the rich coral reefs and onward to the shores of a necklace of islets: Guana Is, Greater Bird Is, etc. These are the refuges of the world's rarest snake, the Antigua Racer and home to many nesting seabirds. It has become a mecca for sailing. Taken together with the historical and cultural wealth of the people, this area from peak to reef has been pronounced "richer than Wallings"!

BLAST FROM THE PAST..... CREATING WEALTH FOR THE FUTURE?

However, years of neglect and the encroachment of housing threaten to consume the vestiges of our inheritance. Mr. McRonnie Henry, former Chief Forestry Officer, a native of Sea View Farm laments the ruin of the potteries, the clearing of forests and the draining of ponds in the area. He tells how workers, walking to work at the Sugar Factory would breakfast on the dew-chilled berries of wild Black Cherries, a fruit which few of today's Antiguan have enjoyed. How will we begin to restore this area to its former glory, and create new opportunities?

Continuing its work with the young people of Antigua & Barbuda, GARD Center is launching an 18 month project to consult with the upstream communities on the past and future uses of these lands. Young people will be offered opportunities for training in Tour Guiding, and Climate-Smart Agriculture.

WHAT DO PEOPLE WANT? Engaging the community

The project kicks off with a gathering of the experiences of the older members of these 4 communities. What were the ponds used for? Where was wood gathered for pottery kilns and coal kilns? Where were the best fishing, medicines and herbs? Young people will carry out interviews with their own grandparents, stimulating hundreds of inter-generational conversations. What do the people want to see done with the lands and its rich resources?

Over 18 months, the project aims to engage the community in consultations on the past uses, and eco-friendly options for the future that preserve the resources for the next generation.

This Project is funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme.



Photo Credit: West Indies Sail Heritage Foundation

West Indies Sail Heritage Foundation's NO Plastic NO Waste. Ocean Love Project

"If recycling is the future, then we must focus our efforts on mitigating negative impacts to our community while protecting our environment." - Tony Cardenas

Billy Gernertt and Charlotte Hooidjonk are the amazing couple who spend part of the year in Antigua teaching our children how to sail. Their foundation is called the West Indies Sail Heritage Foundation or WISH Foundation. On their beautiful Carriacou Sloop, New Moon, Charlotte and Billy have taught quite a number of young people to embrace and care for our marine environment. In addition to giving their students the handy life-skill of sailing, Charlotte and Billy have gone a few steps further to invest in our future by inculcating in their team, the need for us all to be stewards of our natural environment.

On their Ocean Love Sailing Days, students, in addition to learning the tips and tricks of sailing, are taken to nearby beaches, where plastic waste is collected from the shore. Plastic waste presents many risks to human and animal health. Plastics break down and become

microplastics that may then enter our food chain. Bioaccumulation of plastic in our bodies can lead to health complications. Larger pieces of plastic waste can choke and maim wildlife including seabirds and endangered sea turtles. Therefore, while keeping our coastline clean, the children are also improving the health of the marine environment.

WISH Foundation did not stop there! They are now in the process of opening their plastic upcycling workshop. Teams of students will now be able to upcycle plastic waste, turning them to beautiful, useful items and ensuring a circular rather than linear plastic life cycle. Some students have already been able to make their own seedling pots. Other upcycled products made thus far include key hangers and bowls. These items are sold at the Posh Pirate Antique Shop, and all proceeds go towards supporting the training of more young sailors and stewards of our oceans. The final part of this project will include

training the children to conduct water quality testing. This will allow them to appreciate the make-up of our seas, and take steps to maintain or improve its quality.

The COVID-19 Pandemic could have severely impacted the start and implementation of this GEF SGP project. However, with a few small adjustments and a strategic alliance forged and maintained with ContoursKids268 and the Antigua and Barbuda Waste Recycling Corporation, this project has been progressing full steam ahead. We look forward with eager anticipation for the successful completion of this project.

This summer, WISH Foundation in conjunction with Contours Antigua will be offering a sailing programme from 5th of July till 8 August, Ocean Love Sailing Days, and NO Plastic NO Waste workshops.



Photo Credit: Natalya Lawrence

Clockwise Top Left: Students learn the tips and tricks of sailing through the Ocean Love Sailing Days programme.

Above: Team of sailors boarding the vessel, *New Moon*.

Top Right: Upcycling of plastic waste.

Right: Some of the upcycled plastic products on display.

Below: Billy and Charlotte pose with some stewards of our natural environment onboard *New Moon*.



Photo Credit: West Indies Sail Heritage Foundation



Photo Credit: West Indies Sail Heritage Foundation



Photo Credit: Natalya Lawrence

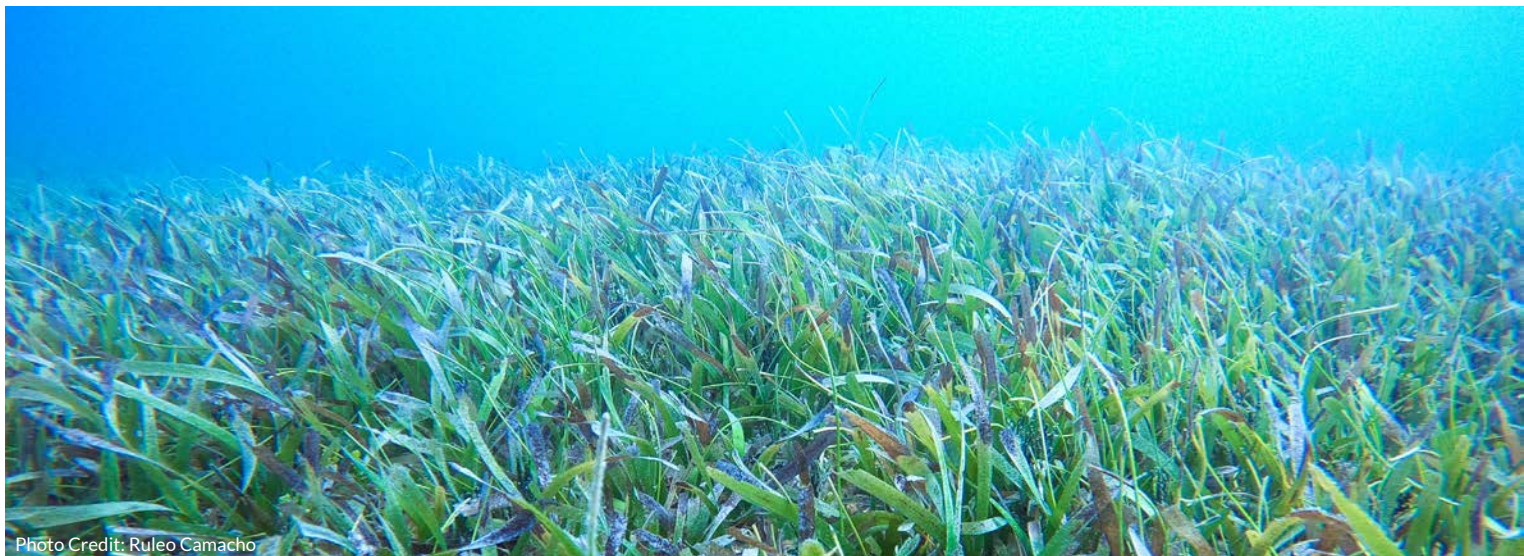


Photo Credit: Ruleo Camacho

FEATURE

A Little about Seagrass Beds

by Ruleo Camacho

Antigua & Barbuda (and Redonda) are home to a variety of marine ecosystems. These include beaches, sand flats, seagrass beds, coral reef and deep-water environments. One of the most important, but often least emphasized are the Seagrass Beds ecosystems. Seagrass are marine flowering plants, which have roots, stems, leaves, and produce flowers and fruits. Seagrass bed ecosystems are found along the coast, from shallow intertidal zone to depths over 100ft. Seagrass-beds require sunlight to produce food via photosynthesis, and thus require clear water to grow.

Seagrass beds are the base of the food-web, and provide food for a variety of creatures, including Conch, Sea Turtles and other fish species. They provide habitat and nursery grounds for marine organisms, including fish and the Caribbean Spiny Lobster, and are a crucial link between Mangrove Wetlands and Coral Reef ecosystems. There are many different species of seagrass beds, but the most common found in the waters around

our islands are the Turtle Grass, Manatee Grass, Broad-leaf and the Halimeda.

Seagrass beds provide a variety of ecosystem service crucial for the maintenance of life around Antigua & Barbuda. These include nutrient recycling and improvement of water quality, support of livelihoods through ecotourism and other livelihood activities, food security via the support of local fisheries, shoreline protection through reduction of wave energy, and are a major carbon sink and an essential tool in our fight against climate change. The value of seagrass bed ecosystems is estimated to be in the region of USD\$90,000/acre. Yet, despite this value, Seagrass beds continue to be primarily threatened by human activities, including dredging, overfishing, climate change and pollution. The maintenance of healthy seagrass beds is essential for the maintenance of healthy oceans and continuance of life as we know, and we all have an important role to play in the protection of these vital ecosystems.



Photo Credit: Ruleo Camacho



Photo Credit: Ruleo Camacho

Above: *Oreaster reticulatus*, the cushion sea star inhabits shallow seagrass beds.

Top: *Thalassia testudinum*, more commonly known as Turtlegrass.

Centre: Juvenile Queen conch, *Lobatus gigas*, also inhabits seagrass beds.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Ms. Refica Attwood, YLAI Ambassador 2021

Ms. Refica Attwood, Executive Director of the Wallings Nature Reserve Inc., was selected as one of 13 Ambassadors from Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean for the Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLAI) Fellowship Program 2021. Refica was selected from among over 2,300 applicants from the region and has been working along with a U.S. based organization and a mentor, receiving training and gaining entrepreneurial skills which she applies in her day to day running of the reserve.

Wallings Nature Reserve is a community-managed reserve borne out of Refica's dream to see a natural and historical gem restored, appreciated and enjoyed. The reserve is a current grant recipient of the GEF SGP with the project entitled: Improved



Ms. Refica Attwood
Photo Credit: Randy Candy Photography

Forest Management and User-Experience at the Wallings Nature Reserve through Rehabilitation of waterways and water catchments, improved monitoring equipment and attractive interpretive signage.

Ms. Sashagay Middleton and Ms. Shanna Challenger, Youth Ambassadors of the My Future My Voice Campaign cont'd

which humans and wildlife can live and enjoy.

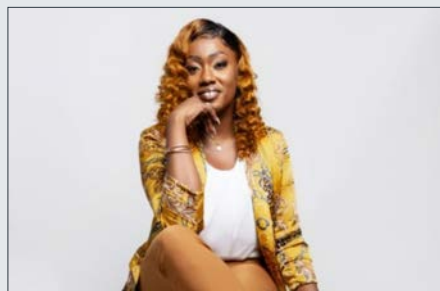
Currently Sasha is the Chief Executive Officer of the Marine Ecosystems Protected Area Trust, which is one of 10 National Conservation Trust Funds set up throughout the Caribbean region to support environmental initiatives through grant making. Shanna is the Coordinator of the Offshore Islands Conservation Programme at the longest existing Environmental NGO in Antigua, the Environmental Awareness Group.

Shanna's programme has been responsible for saving the Critically Endangered Antiguan Racer, once the world's rarest snake, from the brink of extinction. The programme has restored 16 of Antigua and Barbuda's offshore islands, often considered a refuge for endemic and globally significant plants and animals. Shanna is also a recent recipient of the Euan P. McFarlane Award for Outstanding Environmental Leadership.

Congratulations to you both!

Ms. Sashagay Middleton and Ms. Shanna Challenger, Youth Ambassadors of the My Future My Voice Campaign

It gives us immense pleasure to announce that Ms. Sashagay Middleton and Ms. Shanna Challenger have been selected as Youth Ambassadors for the #MyFutureMyVoice Campaign for the Earth Day Network. Sasha and Shanna were selected from thousands of applicants to be among the 140 youth ambassadors from across the globe who all have committed their lives to be stewards of the natural environment. Both of these Chevening Alumna, continue to burst through boundaries, forging ahead to support a safer, healthier environment in



Ms. Sashagay Middleton
Photo Credit: Sasha Middleton



Ms. Shanna Challenger with Redonda Ground Dragon.
Photo Credit: Johnella Bradshaw, EAG.

Meet the National Steering Committee

The SGP National Steering Committee (NSC) serves as the main decision-making body of the Small Grants Programme at the country level, and provides overall oversight, guidance, and direction to the Country Programme.



Dr. Karron James Scholl



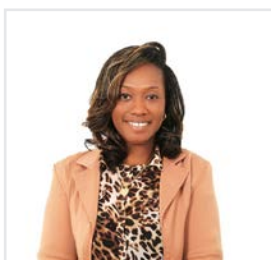
Ms. Brenda Thomas Odum



Her Excellency, High
Commissioner Karen-Mae Hill



Ms. Eleanor Frederick



Ms. Sashagay Middleton



Dr. Nneka Hull-James



Mr. Andelle Trotman

Also included in the National Steering Committee are:

- Ms. Natalya Lawrence - GEF SGP Coordinator-Antigua & Barbuda
- Mr. Ugo Blanco - Deputy Resident Representative Barbados and The Eastern Caribbean/Alternate - Mr. Kerron Hamblin - Sub-Regional Junior Programme Officer - GEF Small Grants Programme
- Her Excellency, Ambassador Diann Black-Layne - GEF Operational and Political Focal Point, Antigua & Barbuda
- Mr. Jonah Ormond



Types of Funding Available

Planning Grants

These grants help applicants initiate a participatory planning process, undertake research, assess their capacity and/or hire consultants to help them define a project and prepare a proposal. These grants are up to a maximum of USD \$5,000 but generally average USD \$3,000.

Full Grants

These grants are given for project implementation and can be for a maximum of USD \$50,000. Grantees may apply for several grants within an operational cycle or one grant, but neither option can exceed a total of USD \$50,000. Single grants average \$30,000. Organisations applying for the maximum amount of funding must present proof of a track record of strong project management skills and previous, successful grant implementation.

Total Grant for any organization within the funding cycle: \$50,000 (Planning + Full Grant).

Funding and Support Opportunities

GEF SGP provides non-governmental and community-based organisations (NGOs/CBOs) in developing countries with grants to enable them to tackle global environmental challenges while addressing local sustainable development needs. SGP is a GEF corporate programme, implemented by UNDP and executed by UNOPS.

SGP is committed to changing lives, one community at a time. In Antigua & Barbuda, SGP has been financing projects, providing technical support, and transforming communities through hard work and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

Funding opportunities for Civil Society Organisations, Non-Government Organisations, Community Groups and Associations to undertake projects that contribute to the focus areas listed below while providing livelihood opportunities for local communities.

Focus areas

- Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species.
- Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security
- Low-carbon energy access co-benefits
- Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management
- CSO-Government-Private Sector Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms

Each approved project must include the following components:

- Social Inclusion
- Results Management
- Knowledge Management
- Monitoring & Evaluation

To access the grant application

pack, please visit this link: <http://bit.ly/anubbqgefsgpgrantpackage>

All regular proposals must be preceded by an approved concept note. Concept notes and proposals are received on a rolling basis, while the National Steering Committee will deliberate on projects 4 times per year.

Training Opportunities

GEF SGP is also concerned about building the capacity of CSOs. Please contact us if you have have a need for training in the following areas:

- Grant Proposal Writing
- Project Implementation
- Financial Management
- Project Reporting
- Communications and Knowledge Management
- Monitoring and Evaluation

For any questions, to book a meeting, or for the submission of concept notes and proposals, please contact the National Coordinator:

National Coordinator – S. Natalya Lawrence
Email: shawna.lawrence@undp.org



Photo Credit: Nick Hollands

Active Grants for Operational Phase 6

Chemicals and Waste Management

- Clare Hall Christian Union Church
- Medical Association of Antigua & Barbuda
- Marine Ecosystems Protected Area Trust Inc.
- Zero Waste Antigua Barbuda
- Another Chance Ministries

Biodiversity Conservation & Capacity Building

- Environmental Awareness Group Inc.
- West Indies Sail Heritage Foundation Inc.
- Gilbert Agricultural and Rural Development Center

Biodiversity Conservation

- Antigua & Barbuda Horticultural Society
- Wallings Nature Reserve Inc.

Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States

- Antigua and Barbuda Beekeepers Cooperative



Photo Credit: Xavier Roberts

Acknowledgements

The GEF Small Grants Programme – Antigua & Barbuda expresses sincere thanks to the many players who have made this programme a continued success. What is our success? Active community groups that implement change on the local level, having a global impact.

1. H.E. Ambassador Diann Black-Layne, the GEF Operational and Political Focal Point of Antigua and Barbuda
2. The Department of Environment, led by H.E. Ambassador Diann Black-Layne
3. The Ministry of Social Transformation and Human Resource Development, specifically the Community Development Division
4. The Ministry of Tourism and Investment
5. The United Nations Development Programme Project Office – Antigua & Barbuda
6. The National Steering Committee
7. The National Coordinators of Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean
8. The Central Programme Management Team
9. The United Nations Office of Project Services
10. The United Nations Development Programme – Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean
11. Mr. Kerron Hamblin, Sub-Regional Junior Programme Officer
12. All the grantees, past and present, for your tireless efforts

THANK YOU!



GEFSGPAntiguaBarbuda



GEFSGP_AntiguaBarbuda



sgp_gef



GEF SGP Antigua & Barbuda

“The proper use of science is not to conquer nature but to live in it.”

— *Barry Commoner*

Photo Credit: Natalya Lawrence



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

Let's keep in touch

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