



The GEF Small Grants Programme

Community Action, Global Impact

Established in 1992, the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP), implemented by UNDP, embodies the very essence of sustainable development by “thinking globally, acting locally”. By providing financial and technical support to projects that conserve and restore the environment while enhancing people’s well-being and livelihoods, SGP demonstrates that community action can maintain the fine balance between human needs and environmental imperatives.

KEY FACTS

- Over the past 19 years, the Small Grants Programme has invested \$450million and leveraged similar levels of co-financing for over 13,500 projects by communities in 122 countries.
- The programme provides grants of up to \$50,000 directly to local communities including indigenous peoples, community-based organizations and other non-governmental groups.
- The decentralized structure of SGP encourages maximum country and community-level ownership and initiative.
- The unique SGP National Steering Committees provide for country driven programmes that bring together the civil society, the government and the UNDP Country Offices to work towards community –based environmental efforts by being the key decision making bodies of the SGP country programmes.

FOCAL AREAS

The Small Grants Programme aims to deliver global environmental benefits in the Focal Areas of biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, protection of international waters, prevention of land degradation (primarily desertification and deforestation), and elimination of persistent organic pollutants through community-based approaches.

SGP BARBADOS AND THE ORGANISATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES REGIONAL PROGRAMME

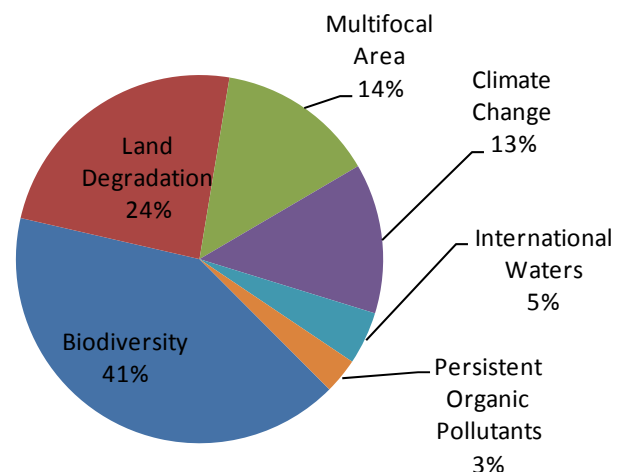
The GEF SGP sub-regional programme for Barbados and the OECS brings together six independent countries and 16 inhabited islands in one programme area.

This sub-regional programme includes Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and Grenadines. The sub region is located within Udvardy’s Neotropical Realm and is considered one of the biological Hot Spots of the world by Conservation International.

Currently, SGP has supported 107 community-based projects in the sub-region for a total grant amount of US\$2,145,271. In addition, the programme has been able to raise US\$945,002 in cash co-financing and US\$ 1,620,202 in-kind co-financing.

The most significant contribution by communities and local organizations through the SGP has been in the biodiversity focal area, with 41 % of the SGP portfolio in the sub-region, followed by local initiatives on land degradation with 24%, multifocal area with 14%, climate change with 13 %, international waters with 5%, and Persistent Organic Pollutants with 3%.

PORTFOLIO DISTRIBUTION BY FOCAL AREA



PORTFOLIO DISTRIBUTION BY COUNTRY

Country	Number of Projects	Grant Amount	Co-financing in Cash	Co-financing in Kind
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	15	429,971 USD	250,348 USD	253,122 USD
BARBADOS	35	610,110 USD	319,750 USD	503,174 USD
GRENADA	20	365,105 USD	114,172 USD	370,865 USD
ST. KITTS AND NEVIS	6	126,034 USD	22,337 USD	204,160 USD
ST. LUCIA	14	282,028 USD	157,503 USD	81,149 USD
ST. VINCENT AND GRENADINES	17	332,021 USD	80,891 USD	207,731 USD
TOTAL	107	2,145,271 USD	945,002 USD	1,620,202 USD

SUCCESS STORIES



NUTMEG TREE

IMPLEMENTING RENEWABLE ENERGY AND PREVENTING LAND DEGRADATION: A PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERVENTION IN THE NUTMEG INDUSTRY—GRENADA

Given the health issues associated with nutmeg processing, the impact of Hurricane Ivan on nutmeg and other forest trees in Grenada in 2004, and the energy source used for processing, the Windward Islands Research and Education Foundation, worked with the Grenada Cooperative Nutmeg Association and factory workers to design and implement a renewable energy project with a reforestation component. This SGP project is currently under implementation and has already had several positive outputs that will revolutionize the nutmeg industry in Grenada.

Benefits and Impacts

To date, a total of 16.19 hectares of land has been reforested with over 1700 nutmeg trees and 1500 citrus, banana and cinnamon trees which contributed US\$ 6,111 in wages to the community. The project has also successfully tested a fabricated solar dehydrator which is currently being installed at the nutmeg factory in Gouyave, Grenada. To address the health issues, the project has trained 60 workers (45 males and 15 females) in Occupational Health and Safety, 8 students in data collection and management, 2 local nurse practitioners, and 1 local physician in Allergy Skin Prick Test Application. The support network for monitoring health and wellness is now in place. The full impact of the solar dehydrator will be determined by the end of the project.



VISIT BY RESEARCH STUDENTS

AWARD WINNING PROJECTS

2005 United Nations Volunteers Regional Award- **Antigua and Barbuda**

2009 Most Eco-friendly Business Award by the St. Kitts Tourism Authority- **St. Kitts & Nevis**

WASTE RECYCLING—ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA



STAFF OF THE PLANT

In 2005, The Rotary Club of Antigua Sundown identified the impact of plastics on the environment as a major issue and set out to reduce the indiscriminate disposal of such waste through public awareness, education and the establishment of a national waste recycling plant. By 2007, working in partnership with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and other stakeholders, the club had established the first fully functioning recycling plant managed by an NGO in the Barbados and the OECS GEF SGP sub-region. The project has been a beacon of success and won the UNV Regional Award for volunteerism in 2005.

Benefits and impacts

The impacts have been significant. By 2009 the plant was employing 4 persons; collecting and diverting from the national waste stream an average of 46 metric tons of plastics and 11 metric tons of aluminum per year and had diversified into collecting and exporting copper, car batteries, and UPS batteries. In 2008, the net foreign exchange earnings were estimated at US\$71,250. In terms of public awareness and education, the project produced widely aired infomercials, a newsletter, a DVD and organized a regional workshop on recycling for participants from other Eastern Caribbean islands.



GARBAGE CANS

CREATING SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS THROUGH COMMUNITY BASED SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION—ST. KITTS & NEVIS

Between 2008 and 2010, the St. Kitts Sea Turtle Monitoring Network developed, implemented and established one of the most successful sea turtle management projects in the Eastern Caribbean, in partnership with local Fishers and the Government of St. Kitts & Nevis. The programme has created three revenue streams and employed several fishers as eco-guides. This project was awarded the Most Eco-friendly Business Award by the St. Kitts Tourism Authority in October 2009.



A LEATHERBACK HATCHLING

Benefits and impacts

The project has reduced the impact of garbage on two of the main turtle monitoring beaches; protected the dunes and nesting sites; and created new income streams and alternative employment for up to ten fishers/poachers. In addition, a policy paper on turtle conservation in SKN was prepared and submitted to the Government for consideration.



VOLUNTEERS OF THE SEA TURTLE MONITORING PROGRAMME

Between 2009 and 2010, 104 leatherback turtles were processed, tagged with satellite tags and recorded; 10 fishers were employed; 299 eco-tours were organized which produced wages of US\$7,084 in 2009 and US\$15,023 in 2010, and net profits of US\$824 in 2009 and US\$2,714 in 2010. In that same period, over 6 tons of garbage was collected and disposed from the two main turtle nesting beaches, and the collected bottles were used in a glass jewelry making business which generated sales of US\$6,364 in 2009 and US\$5,792 in 2010, out of which wages of US\$726 and US\$567 were paid in 2009 and 2010 respectively.

Another income stream is from teaching persons Italian Glass making at US\$50 per session, which earned the organization US\$908 in 2009 and US\$350 in 2010. Foreign students/researchers have also been attracted which has produced an additional income stream that brought in US\$222 in income in 2009 and US\$296 in 2010. This project is an excellent example of how viable alternative livelihoods can contribute to reducing impacts on natural resources.