



SGP The GEF
Small Grants
Programme



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GEF SGP Trinidad & Tobago Small Grants, Big Impacts

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About us

The Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme seeks to address global environmental problems through local community initiatives. We give grants, build partnerships and facilitate stakeholder collaboration. The aim of this is to support these communities as they attempt to solve environmental issues and promote sustainable development.

If you are a civil society group like an Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), Community Based Organisation (CBO), academic or activist group with a project in mind that falls under our mandate, you may be eligible for a grant up to 50,000 USD. Read more at <http://sgp.undp.org> or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GEFSGPTT

December 2012– Issue 4

Dear Readers,

Thank you for subscribing to the 4th issue of our newsletter which highlights updates from a few of our grantees. We look at UN Day 2012 and have featured articles from projects in the Caura Valley. We also focus on the importance of climate change adaptation strategies within these communities.

We invite you to take a read and gain some insight into our work over the past few months building partnerships among stakeholders to enhance livelihoods through community action.

Season's greetings from all of us, and all the best for 2013!

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Commemoration of United Nations Day 2012

By Sasha Jattansingh

United Nations Day, which is celebrated on October 24th every year, was commemorated on October 26th, 2012 at Caura Valley, in the lush Northern Range. The event was hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the United Nations to highlight the contribution of the UN in Trinidad and Tobago. Projects by the GEF SGP and FAO which have been implemented in the Caura Valley were showcased at this event. Over 150 persons attended the event, which included members of the diplomatic corps, UN personnel, officials from Ministries and government agencies, Caura community members and students from surrounding high schools. As part of UN Day 2012, these GEF SGP community-led pilot initiatives were utilised to show progress that has been made in this area of Trinidad. They are led by the Caribbean Natural Resource Institute (CANARI) and the Caura Valley Village Council (CVVC).



Mrs. Donna Sylvester, President of the CVVC addressing the head table and audience at the formal programme commemorating UN Day 2012

The two projects focus on biodiversity conservation, climate change resiliency building and capacity building within communities in order to promote sustainable livelihoods. The CVVC project seeks to develop a payment for ecosystem services (PES) model for Caura Valley through implementing a fire guardian system, which includes creating fire trails and eco tourist trails in the Caura forest. The CANARI-led project aims to build awareness in the Caura community to build resilience to the impacts of climate change, which is being done through activities such as developing community action plans and producing participatory videos on climate change.

The day's proceedings involved a tour of a fire trace in the Caura Valley, which was part of the CVVC project for the Ministerial contingent, that included the Honourable Minister, Mr. Winston Dookeran, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Barton Clarke, UN Resident Coordinator a.i. and Mr. Henri Morand, UNDP Resident Representative a.i.. This sought to sensitize the tour party to the importance of fire management in the Caura forest. The Caura community members also highlighted the importance of environmental conservation and the collaboration between the UN and their community through songs, drama and video. Dr. Shango Alamu and the Jewels of Nature provided musical interlude and demonstrated their unique handmade instruments, crafted from natural materials found in the Caura forest. CANARI and the Caura community also screened their participatory video "Climate Change in Caura Valley" which emphasized the impacts of climate change currently being felt in the Caura Valley. Remarks were provided by the UN Resident Coordinator a.i. and the Honourable Minister Mr. Winston Dookeran on the occasion of UN Day and the significance of the contribution of the UN in Trinidad and Tobago, through the work in the Caura Valley.

The commemoration of UN Day 2012 was very different from previous years as it was held outside of Port of Spain and also allowed local community members to interact with the diplomatic corps, the Government as well as the UN personnel. This event demonstrated the relevance of the UN in Trinidad and Tobago through capacity building projects amongst local communities to effectively deal with current issues facing them, through promoting sustainable livelihoods and environmental sustainability, thereby assisting in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Caura Valley Project Updates

By Celeste Chariandy & Maurice Rawlins

Community reporting enhances public awareness: The climate change resilience-building efforts of the Caura Valley community took centre stage at this year's UN Day observance, and insight into the work of the project, was featured in the team's [participatory video](#). The video focused on the issue of dumping of garbage in the valley and river, and how this encourages pests. CANARI identified the root problem of this dumping issue, generated ideas for solutions, and captured pertinent footage, and hosted a [community screening of the video](#). One solution to the problem identified by the team is to develop partnerships with the Tunapuna/Piarco Regional Corporation, Ministry of Health and Insect Vector Control Division. The local councillor indicated his desire to use the video in educating other members of the Corporation and other surrounding communities.



Participatory video storyboard

The project team also finalised a photo journal about low water quality and quantity and its impact on the valley. The team visited a rainwater harvesting installation in November, to gain information about the possibility of using such a system to address their water vulnerability. This is seen as a critical step in the project, to take a practical approach to dealing with climate change impacts on the community.

The Fire Guardianship Project (FGP): started in April 2012 in the Caura Valley, in order to design a model for community-led payment for ecosystem services (PES) and community-based management. Through partnering with the GEF SGP and the Forestry Division, members of the Caura community have developed fire trails and traces to protect forests within the area from fire. The project also seeks to develop an ecotourism enterprise through the use of these fire trails and traces as recreational hiking trails. The Forestry Division has been playing a major role in providing training and guidance to the project participants, known as 'eco-protectors', in fire trail development and fire management, as well as in ecotourism development. The Community Forestry Department of the Forestry Division developed a thorough 6 month programme, to increase the capacity of project participants to better manage forest resources against fires, to develop trails for ecotourism, tree species identification, and ecotourism management. As a result, the eco-protectors have shown a high interest in sustainable resource management.



Tour of Fire Trace with the Honourable Winston Dookeran, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Member of Parliament for Tunapuna, Mr. Barton Clarke, UN Resident Coordinator a.i., Mr. Henri Morand, UNDP Resident and Representative a.i., and Caura community members Dr. Shango Alamu and Mrs. Donna Sylvester.

The FGP was one of two projects featured in the UN day celebrations held in the Caura Valley on October 26th, 2012. The eco-protectors treated the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honourable Dr. Winston Dookeran to a short tour on one of the hiking trails highlighting the steps taken by the community to protect their ecosystems, and to generate sustainable livelihoods. The tour was well received, and Mr. Dookeran expressed his congratulations to the Caura community.

The FGP comes to an end in January 2013, and plans are already in place to extend the project. The lessons learnt from this pilot study will be documented as a case study, and used to leverage funding for similar projects in the Caura Valley.

Developing Adaptation Strategies to Global Climate Change in Tobago - Using Participatory 3D Modelling Strategies

By Bheshem Ramlal

Most economic development in the Caribbean is located in the coastal zone of the islands and therefore, Global Climate Change, and the resulting sea level rise, is expected to significantly impact the stakeholders of the region. The livelihoods of many are predicted to be negatively impacted as a result of environmental change, coastal inundation, changing weather patterns and other consequences of climate change. As part of an effort to prepare Caribbean stakeholders to develop adaptation strategies to better cope with the changes that are already occurring and further changes that are anticipated, the University of the West Indies (UWI) with funding from the GEF SGP, in collaboration with CANARI, with funding from the Centre for Agriculture and Technical Cooperation (CTA), embarked on a project: participatory three dimensional mapping of the island of Tobago.

Through this participatory process, participatory 3D modelling merges conventional spatial information (contours) with people's mental maps; makes information tangible and meaningful to all, and visualises scaled spatial knowledge.

The project entailed two major components. Firstly, the building of a three dimensional model (3D) of the island of Tobago, complete with mapped locations of information from community stakeholders in order to identify possible impacts of climate change on their communities. The second component involved training of participants from several Caribbean islands to enable them to undertake similar activities in their own countries.



Students tracing of contours from the topographic map of Tobago onto cardboard before cutting and sticking together to form the model. This was done by high school and pre-university students from Tobago to show elevation variations.



The project team. Overall, there were twenty-two participants from several countries, including Cuba, Canada, Jamaica, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, and Haiti who were trained.

Once the model was constructed, stakeholders from various communities, who were previously briefed about the process, were invited to populate the model with various types of features that they considered important. Over one hundred stakeholders participated in the mapping process. They came from various community groups involved in fishing, farming, tourism, hunting, environmental protection, forest management, and resource management.

A final ceremony was held to formally hand the completed model to the Tobago House of Assembly, where community stakeholders had the opportunity to describe the impacts that they were likely to encounter as a result of global climate change and the adaptation strategies necessary. Most felt that they were better prepared to deal with the changes that were anticipated in the short and longer term. Overall, the project objectives seemed to have been achieved, however, follow up work will determine the real benefits of this intervention on the communities of Tobago. This will occur in the coming months.



Pins, yarns, paint, and other materials were used to complete the final product

Climate Change Adaptation Workshop to be held in March 2013

By Nesha Beharry-Borg

The GEF SGP is planning to hold its regional workshop for the Caribbean in Trinidad and Tobago from March 4th-8th, 2013. The workshop is primarily targeted towards SGP National Coordinators from countries within the region and is designed to strengthen their capacity on strategic and programmatic Issues relating to the SGP and the AusAID Small Island Developing States Community Based Adaptation (SIDS CBA) programme, which is ongoing until June 2016. This programme was officially launched in November 2011 in Managua, Nicaragua and since then, we have established several new country SGP programs in the Caribbean.

National Coordinators have been recruited in the region and will come together to assess progress, provide additional sectoral and technical training in methods and approaches to CBA, together with initiating supporting partnerships with the regional organisations based in Barbados. In addition to the National Coordinators, staff of the SGP Central Programme Management Team (CPMT), the UNDP GEF Unit, a representative of the GEF Secretariat, and a few other programme partners are expected to participate.

GEF SGP Gives its Supports to Children Water Awareness and Education

By Fredericka Deare



The Children Water Camps Programme, led by the Institute for Gender and Development Studies/Women Gender Water Network (IGDS/WGWN), provides an excellent model, through which children can learn to protect and conserve our water resources. Teaching children to respect, manage and protect our water resources is a healthy and constructive way to learn about their environment and conservation.

The Programme consists of water education camps for children ages 7 to 12 years during the July-August vacation. Each camp had 45-50 children who participate in activities, games, arts & crafts, field trips and a project to benefit the local

primary school. This year's theme was "Water, Food and Me" in keeping with this year's United Nations World Water Day.

"Teaching children to respect, manage and protect our water resources is a healthy and constructive way to learn about their environment and conservation!"

The water camps first opened in Matelot, Biche and Icacos and this year the camps were extended to East Port-of-Spain and Erin, providing an even more diverse case study.

With the assistance of GEF SGP through the UNDP, the Programme was able to conduct the camps in two of its five targeted communities – Matelot and Biche. The campers constructed an irrigation system in Matelot Community School as well as a greenhouse in Biche RC Primary School. This was part of an agricultural science class which has been newly reintroduced in the primary school curriculum.

As a follow-up exercise to the camps, the IGDS/WGWN will finalise children water education materials and stage Children Water Education Workshops in Biche and Matelot, where the work of children will be debuted and they will be encouraged to form kids' water clubs.



Some of the participants during their daily activities

BEAT Moves Forward

By Kenneth Fournillier

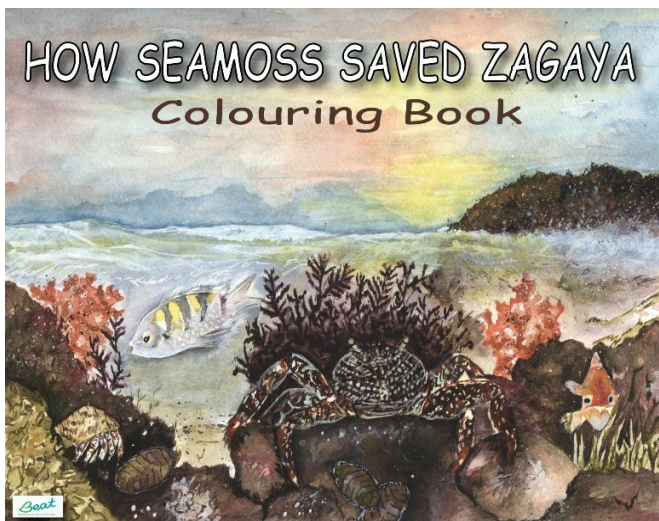
Blanchisseuse Environmental Art Trust (BEAT) is charting the way towards sustainable growth within the village community of Blanchisseuse, situated on the North coast of Trinidad.

Art classes, workshops and exhibitions have been held and two murals were completed. The first depicting 'The Washerwoman' and the terrestrial habitat, and the second depicting the marine habitat, both of which are situated at the entrance/exit to the village. The launch of these two pieces of environmental art generated a successful turnout from residents, visitors and special invitees. It has become a landmark of pride, created by local stakeholders.



Participants at a BEAT workshop

The consensus was that there is a dire need for continuation of knowledge sharing among communities, in order to enhance the quality of life for all.



A coloring book for 5 to 9 year olds was also designed by members of BEAT- "How Seamoss Saved Zagaya" ("Zagaya" being a local description of a rock crab) is a story which reflects cultural traditions and history of the fisher folk of Blanchisseuse. The storyline emphasizes the need for conservation and protection of the marine environment in the area.

Earlier in 2012, a comprehensive plan was completed with input from its members, to guide and manage the operations of the organization. A workshop on strategic planning was held on November 17th. Invitations were extended to five Community Based Organizations (CBO's) from the Blanchisseuse community for stakeholder participation. This impacted positively on all groups, and it was an opportunity to identify issues, problems and share common experiences.

The consensus was that there is a dire need for continuation of knowledge sharing among communities, in order to enhance the quality of life for all. An example of this would be 'The Seamoss Management Project'. It was created to look at the management of *Serralatum Grassifolia*, a species of seamoss found only on this area of the island. The group undertook research and the data collected was used to educate these coastal communities.

We welcome our newest grantees to the GEF SGP family

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