

# ACTING LOCALLY CONSERVING GLOBALLY

Newsletter of the SGP Subregional Office for Barbados & the OECS

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SGP Photo: Launch of Sub-regional Communications System for GEF SGP Barbados & the OECS.

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## CERMES MASTERS STUDENT INTERNS WITH GEF SGP



GEF SGP Intern, Ms. Tracy Phillips

A bright new face has joined the Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) Barbados and the OECS team as a summer intern. Ms. Tracy Phillips is a 22-year old Masters student at the Centre for Resources Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) of the University of the West Indies. She is currently studying natural resource management with an emphasis on coastal and marine resource management and will pursue a career in this area in the near future.

Ms. Phillips will be hosted by the GEF SGP subregional office in Barbados from June to September 2006 at the end of which she will submit an internship report to CERMES in fulfilment of the final requirements of the Masters Programme. The primary objective of the internship involves the review and evaluation of the impacts, outcomes and lessons learnt of completed GEF SGP-funded projects since its regional inception in 1993. The expected output is a final report that will clearly document the findings of the study.

It is anticipated that through this internship and the opportunity of direct exposure to the operations of GEF SGP and UNDP she will be further equipped to effectively tackle and manage Natural Resource Management issues currently faced by the subregion. Join us in welcoming her!

### GEF SGP's GLOBAL VISION:

*To become the most effective mechanism for the empowerment of civil society, especially local communities, vulnerable groups and indigenous peoples for environment and sustainable development at the national and global levels.*

## SRSC MEMBER MAKES PROFESSORSHIP!

GEF SGP Subregional Steering Committee (SRSC) member, Dr. Julia Horrocks is now Professor Julia A. Horrocks. Prof. Horrocks is head of the Department of Biological and Chemical Sciences, at the Cave Hill Campus, University of the West Indies and has been on staff since 1988. In 1999 she was promoted to Senior Lecturer and now in 2006 she has officially been made Professor Horrocks.

Her areas of expertise are behavioural ecology and conservation biology, particularly of sea turtles. She is Director of the Barbados Sea Turtle Project, which is a former SGP Grantee. She is also Coordinator of the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network's Marine Turtle Tagging Centre, a member of its Scientific Advisory Board and of IUCN's Marine Turtle Specialist Group. She is Chair of the CITES Scientific Authority and the Biodiversity Committees in Barbados. She received the Governor General's Environmental Award in 2001 for her work in conservation of biodiversity, especially sea turtles, and was awarded a Pew Marine Conservation Fellowship in 2004. Join us in saluting Professor Horrocks' achievement!

SGP Photo: After a Subregional Steering Committee Meeting at UN House, fellow SRSC Committee Member, Ms. Cecilia Babb (left) congratulates Dr. Julia Horrocks on earning her Professorship with the University of the West Indies (Cave Hill Campus).



**GEF SGP SUBREGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS LAUNCH**



SGP Photo: (From left to right) Mr. Rodney Grant, SGP SRSC Member; Ms. Rozanne Walfrond, NFP for SGP Barbados; Dr. Rosina Wiltshire, UNDP RR & UN RC for Barbados & the OECS; Mr. Giles Romulus, SGP Sub-regional Coordinator for Barbados & the OECS & Mr. James Paul, SGP Barbados NFG Member.

On Monday, 19 June 2006, the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) which is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on behalf of the Implementing Agencies launched its first video conference via webcam technology for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Barbados and the OECS. This facility makes use of modern webcam technology and enables a multi-party connection between participants from up to ten different locations.

This new subregional communications system is expected among other things to:

- ⇒ provide a more effective means for managing its recently decentralised modality of operations which includes a National Focal Group (NFG) and a National Focal Person (NFP) in each country;
- ⇒ offer cost-effective and sustainable support to CSOs through real-time communication. That is, GEF SGP and UNDP professionals will be able to assist CSOs to design projects, address technical problems and give advice where necessary in managing projects in the five GEF Focal Areas and sustainable livelihoods;
- ⇒ establish a mechanism for sharing information and experiences and knowledge acquired in project planning and implementation, i.e., contribute in a meaningful way to knowledge sharing; and
- ⇒ reduce the cost of travel and divert such funds to projects.

This new mechanism, according to Dr. Rosina Wiltshire, will build a strong and vital communications bridge, which is cost effective and brings the subregion closer together. This undertaking she emphasised is extremely relevant to the Caribbean where the Governments and people are moving towards a single economic space through the Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME). "Spatial boundaries", she concluded "will be bridged with technology in this initiative".



The GEF SGP in the Eastern Caribbean includes: Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent & the Grenadines. In March 2005, Dominica graduated to a separate SGP Country Programme.

**SGP: "The People's GEF"**

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## NEW MEMBER JOINS SUBREGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

Mr. Crispin d'Auvergne is the newest member of the GEF SGP Subregional Steering Committee (SRSC). He is the Chief Sustainable Development & Environment Officer in the Ministry of Physical Development, Environment & Housing in St. Lucia.

He brings to the SRSC his expertise in the GEF Focal Area of Climate Change. He has served as the Climate Change Focal Point for St. Lucia since 1999. Although not based in Barbados, Mr. D'Auvergne participates in SRSC meetings through the teleconference facility and very soon through the web-conference facility.



SRSC Member, Mr. Crispin d'Auvergne

## SGP: "The People's GEF!"

## "CARIBBEAN SIDS CONSIDER THE NEW GEF RAF AS DISCRIMINATORY..."

On 10 and 11 July 2006, a Global Environment Facility (GEF) *National Dialogue Initiative Sub-regional Consultation for Barbados and the OECS* was convened at the Barbados Hilton Hotel. Participants who were Operational and Political Focal Points or their designates for the GEF in their countries came from Belize, Guyana, Suriname and the English, French, and Spanish Speaking countries of the Insular Caribbean. NGO representatives came from the Caribbean Conservation Association, the Saint Lucia National Trust, the Caribbean Forest Conservation Association and the Trust for Sustainable Livelihoods. Also present were representatives from the three GEF Implementing Agencies (IAs) of the World Bank, UNEP and UNDP who facilitated the consultation.

The overall objectives of the consultation were to:

- ⇒ "provide an overview and provide guidance on the GEF's new operational policies and modalities; and
- ⇒ seek feedback from the GEF Focal Points on their needs and priorities under the new Country Support Programme (CSP) for Focal Points."

Based on a decision taken by the GEF Assembly in 2002 and confirmed for implementation in 2005 by the GEF Council, GEF allocations per country in the Biodiversity and Climate Change (CC) Focal Areas (FAs) for GEF 4 which is scheduled to begin in early 2007 will be determined through a Resource Allocation Framework (RAF) Score for each country. That score is determined by combining what has been referred to as the *GEF Benefit Index (GBI)* which measures a country's potential to generate global environmental benefits in the terrestrial and marine environments and the *GEF Performance Index (GPI)* which measures a country's capacity, policies and practices in environmental management. Kindly refer to the GEF website for a full explanation: <http://www.gefweb.org>.

In the feature address delivered by the Honourable Minister of Energy and Environment of Barbados, Hon. Elizabeth Thompson, she emphasised the disadvantages this new method would have for Caribbean SIDS as it fails to take into consideration the vulnerabilities of the islands. Building on the Minister's speech, the countries present led by the Bahamas produced a report titled *Report of the Meeting of the Caribbean Constituency of the GEF*. The Report contains fifteen conclusions and nine recommendations which were approved for submission to the new GEF CEO and the GEF Council in December 2006. The basic premise of the report was that the RAF discriminated against SIDS because it gave a higher weighting to large land-based countries and the terrestrial environment instead of the marine environment which comprised a larger geographical area of most SIDS. It also stated that the use of terrestrial species such as vascular plants and birds to assess global benefits, which are understudied in many small islands, place Caribbean SIDS at a disadvantage. In the CC FA the report concluded that inadequate consideration was given to the role of the marine environment as a carbon sink.

- ⇒ The Report will form part of the Minutes of the Meeting which will be published on the GEF Website in the future.