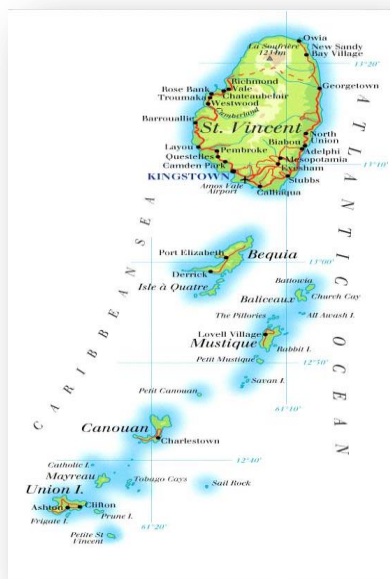




GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME
Implemented by
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



COUNTRY PROGRAMME STRATEGY FOR
ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

THE UTILISATION OF OP5 FUNDS (2011-2014)

Reviewed and Approved by the NSC on 26th of November, 2013

Reviewed and Approved by CPMT on February, 2014

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Resources to be invested: USD 1.5 million (XCD 4,050,000 million)

(USD1 million in Core Funds and USD 0.5 million in STAR Funds)

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List of acronyms

CARICOM	Caribbean Community and Common Market
CBA	Community Based Adaptation
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CPMT	Central Programme Management Team
CPS	County Programme Strategy
CSME	Caribbean Single Market and Economy
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Ecological Sustainability
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation
FS	Financial Sustainability
FSPs	Full Size Projects
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
HDI	Human Development Index
IWEco	Integrating Water, Land, Resources and Ecosystems Management
MDCs	More Developed Countries
MSPs	Medium Size Projects
NC	National Coordinator
NEMS	National Environmental Management Strategy
NFG	National Focal Group
NFP	National Focal Person
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NYC	National Youth Council
OAS	Organisation of American States
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
OS	Organisational Sustainability
PERB	Protecting the Eastern Region Biodiversity Project
RAF	Resource Allocation Framework
RBMA	Results Based Management Approach
RM	Resource Mobilisation
SC	Sustainable Communities
SCS	Socio Cultural Sustainability
SGP	Small Grants Programme
SIDS	Small Islands Developing States
SRC	Sub-Regional Coordinator
SRPS	Sub-Regional Programme Strategy
SRSC	Sub-Regional Steering Committee
SVG	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
UN	United Nations
UNCBD	United Nations Conference on Biological Diversity
UNCCD	United Nations Conference to Combat Desertification
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

UNDP United Nations Development Programme
UNEP United Nations Environmental Programme
USAID United States Agency for International Development

Executive Summary

Over the next three years, the GEF Small Grants Programme, implemented by the United Nations Development Programme will invest US \$1.5 million into St. Vincent and the Grenadines to projects from local communities and civil society group that address environmental challenges while also reducing poverty. The Country Programme Strategy (CPS) is the key document for the Small Grants Programme in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. It guides programme and project development, project implementation and monitoring and evaluation. It ensures that the Small Grants Programme is efficient, effective and achieves strong results.

This document identifies the project impacts, outcomes and outputs and gives a general idea of which projects will be funded if the impacts are to be achieved. The CPS also identifies project eligibility criteria and the indicators that will be used in determining the success of the programme.

The primary objectives of the Small Grant Programme (SGP) are: environmental sustainability, poverty alleviation, sustainable livelihoods, and community empowerment. To meet these objectives, the SGP gives grants to community based organisations and non-governmental organisations for projects in the five GEF Focal Areas, which are:

- Biodiversity Conservation
- Climate Change Mitigation
- Protection of International Waters
- Prevention of Land Degradation
- Elimination of Persistent Organic Pollutants.

This CPS was developed through a consultative process that included the review of existing documents, meetings with civil society organisations, discussions among local stakeholders, and subsequent comments from stakeholders on the draft CPS.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is signatory to many international environmental conventions and there are several pieces of legislation and policy documents that support environmental protection. The GEF SGP will focus on complementing the initiatives of the government, NGOs and the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to comply with these international conventions. The SGP will work with relevant Ministries and Agencies involved with environmental development, sustainable livelihoods and socio-economic development. The CPS for St. Vincent and the Grenadines will also focus on four cross cutting themes of:

- Capacity development of civil society organisations
- Environmental awareness and education
- Sustainable livelihoods
- Gender equality and women's empowerment

SGP Country Programme Background

The SGP 5th Operational Phase saw the shift from a sub-regional programme modality of the operations of SGP in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to that of a country programme modality. SGP in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines performed well during the OP4 (2007-2010), with eligible organizations successfully accessing SGP funds (US\$442,224 accessed in total, including of US\$191,228 of GEF funds and US\$250,996 of co-financing including US\$77,391 in cash and US\$173,605 in kind). However, significant untapped potential for grant making and partnerships still remains in the country.

The country programme modality is expected to significantly expand access to funds and improve support provided for project implementation by a dedicated country programme. It will operate with higher levels of funding, by receiving a maximum of \$1 million from the SGP global core funds and accessing US\$0.5 million in STAR¹ funds endorsed by the government. Other features include a dedicated and full-time National Coordinator with a separate Country Operating Budget for the operations of the SGP. While a country programme modality entails higher management costs, increased efficiency can be achieved through higher overall volume of funds made available from a combination of SGP core and STAR funds. Additional resources will also come from the Community Based Adaptation funding secured by SGP (approximately US\$150,000). The country has formed its own SGP National Steering Committee with representatives from government, civil society, academia, private sector, and UNDP, with majority representation coming from civil society².

With the current strained economic situation in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (which is exacerbated by the global recession) increased SGP funding will provide an opportunity to simultaneously address global environmental problems, as well as poverty and capacity development issues at the community level. Therefore, building on the achievements of the sub-regional program is essential for SGP success at the country level. The new country programme will also build on existing country and regional efforts and form partnerships with other development partners, to provide greater access to SGP funding.

¹ GEF System of Transparent Allocation of Resources (<http://www.thegef.org/gef/STAR>)

² Excerpt from SGP SVG Start Up Mission Report.

Situational Analysis

Economic and Political Situation

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is an archipelagic State in the Eastern Caribbean. The country is comprised of a main island, St. Vincent, and a chain of 32 islands and cays, the Grenadines, of which only seven are inhabited – Bequia, Mustique, Canouan, Mayreau, Union Island, Palm Island and Petit St. Vincent. The total area of the country is 150 sq.miles (389 km²) of which the main island is 133 sq. miles (344 km²). The Country is located between the latitude 13° and 13° 30' N and longitude 61° and 61° 30' S within the Lesser Antilles Island Arc. It lies about 100 miles (160 km) west of Barbados, 68 miles (109 km) of Grenada and about 100 (160 km) miles north of Trinidad.

Based on the 2001 Population and Housing Census Report, the population of St. Vincent and the Grenadines stood at 106,253. The population density is currently 285 per km². The population is predominantly Afro-West Indian with a minority of East Indian and indigenous Calinago dependents.



Figure 1: Location of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The economy of St. Vincent and the Grenadines is externally driven, with employment and incomes being mainly dependent on tourism and tourism-derived activity, export agriculture, and offshore business services (CDB, 2006). The Real Gross Domestic Product of St. Vincent and the Grenadines was estimated at EC\$1.07 billion in 2000. It subsequently expanded at an average annual rate of 2.7 percent. During this period, the major performers were Communications, Mining and Quarrying, Transport, and Other Services. Manufacturing and Education experienced average negative growth while Agriculture realized average growth rates of 0.5 percent. The decline in Education was associated with the closure of the Medical College.

In 2001, the economy experienced real growth of 1.8 percent and continued to demonstrate positive real growth up to 2008, with 2005 being the lowest (2.8%) and 2003 being the highest (7.6%). The performance in 2003 was influenced by a positive spill-off from the liberalisation of the telecommunications sector as well as activities in the hotel and restaurant and construction sectors.

In 2008, St. Vincent and the Grenadines was affected by the global economic crisis. As a result, there was negative growth of 0.6 percent. Several sectors were adversely affected. These include a decline in construction (10.3%), and Restaurants (5.5%) and Agriculture (4.1%). Despite the adverse economic climate, some sectors still managed to post growth. These are Public Administration, Defence and Compulsory Social Security (8.0 %), Private Household Employment (9.4%), Wholesale and Retail Trade (3.9%), Communications (1.8%), Mining and Quarrying (5.1%), Real Estate and Housing (2.1%) and Health and Social Work (5.4%).

In 2009 the economy experienced a further negative growth of 2.3 percent. The major contributors to the contraction were Hotels and Restaurants which declined by 22.1 percent and Construction which declined by 8.3 percent. Manufacturing as well as Mining and Quarrying also experienced significant declines of 8.6 and 8.3 percent, respectively. Notwithstanding the prevailing economic conditions, some sectors posted positive growth. These included Financial Intermediation (1.4%), Health and Social Work (4.6%) and Agriculture (15.2%)³.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines gained political independence from Great Britain on 27th October, 1979. The country has a unicameral parliament with 15 elected members and six (6) appointed senators. The parliamentary term of office is five years. There are two major political parties in the country, the Unity Labour Party (currently in government for a third consecutive term, with 8 of the 15 seats) and the New Democratic Party. A third party has contested the last two general elections - the Green Party. There are many Civil Society Organisations (CSO) in St. Vincent and the Grenadines ranging from the urban professional organizations like the Rotary Club to rural community based organisations (CBO), such as JEMS Progressive Community Organisation, the National Trust, Project Promotions, Sustainable Grenadines Inc., Mayreau Regatta & Sporting Committee, Union Island Environmental Attackers, Union Island Development Council and the Southeast Development Council. Most of the CBOs are organized to deal with specific challenges facing their communities and are able to access some resources from government agencies, the private sector, development agencies and other donors.

Biogeographic characteristics

The climate of St. Vincent and the Grenadines is a humid tropical marine type. Characteristic of small tropical islands, the temperature of St. Vincent at sea level is generally rather high (annual mean of 26.7°C, with minimum of 31°C). However, the fairly strong and continuously prevailing north-easterly winds help to maintain a relatively cool temperature. Approximate annual precipitation ranges from 1700 mm on the dry coast to 7000 mm in the wet central mountains. The climatic condition is mainly affected by the subtropical anticyclone belt and the intertropical convergence zone. These meteorological occurrences help to shape the seasonal character of the local weather. Rainfall in St. Vincent, as a result, has a strong seasonal variation, with most of the precipitation occurring between June and December during the wet season. The dry period occurs between the months of January to May, where rainfall tend to be less showery and unevenly distributed. The Grenadines islands are typically dryer and experience acute seasonal variation in rainfall. Climate variability and cyclonic activities continue to influence rainfall patterns and cause further erratic precipitation. Rainfall is highest

³ Information from the St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Economic and Social Development Plan 2013-2025

in the mountainous range of St. Vincent. This is due to orographic lifting that generates significantly higher precipitation in this zone than in the coastal regions.

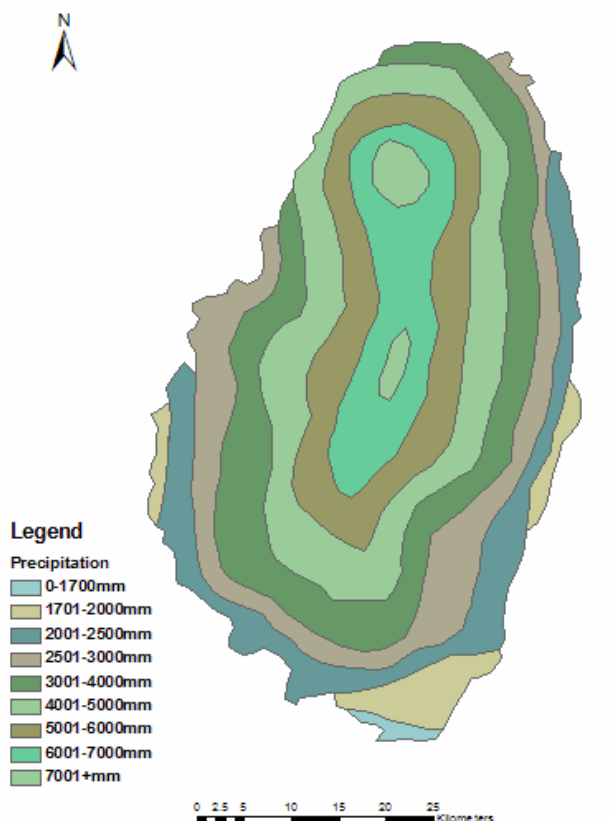


Figure 2: Rainfall isohyetal map of St. Vincent (Billingy 2007).

These rainfall patterns create a diversity of ecological zones, resulting in a nearly concentric zonation of vegetation types from the interior to the coast. The country is home to about 31, 300 acres (12666.7 ha.) of tropical forests.

The classification according to Beard (1949) includes: primary and secondary rainforests found in Colonarie, Cumberland and Buccament valleys; dry scrub woodlands typical of King's Hill Reserve; palm brake and elfin woodland, that occupy both the windward and leeward sides of the central mountains; the littoral woodland located adjacent to the sea; and the mangrove forests that are mainly found in the Grenadines Islands of Union and Mustique (CIDA, 1994a). The Northern part of the island is covered by secondary forest because of frequent disturbances of the intermittent eruption of the La Soufriere volcano.⁴

⁴ Development of an Erosion Risk Map for the Montreal Sub-watershed, St. Vincent, using the RUSLE, Remote Sensing and Geographical Information System written by Hayden Billingy.

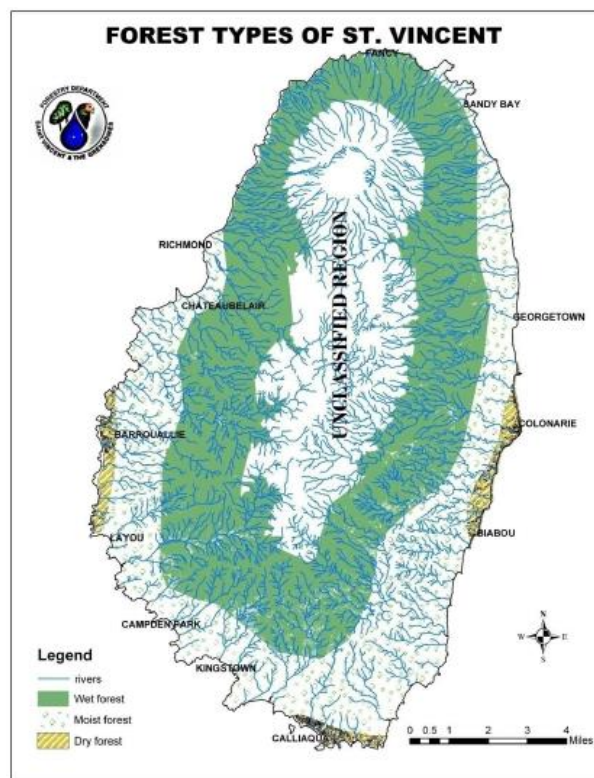


Figure 3 Forest Types in St. Vincent. Source: Forestry Department

The soils of St. Vincent are derived mainly from volcanic ash and rock fragments, and most are relatively young and immature. According to Hardy et al. (1934) and the Caribbean Conservation Association (1991), three major soil groups are usually recognized. These include the recent volcanic rock soil that covers roughly the northern third of the island, especially the slopes of the Soufriere volcano. The yellow earth soils (that are generally leached) occur in high rainfall area of Mesopotamia Valley and other interior regions. It also includes the alluvial soils, which are the most productive soils located in the south-west of the island; along coastal plains and valleys.

Topography and Biodiversity

The island of St. Vincent is traversed centrally by a range of mountains starting from La Soufriere Mountain, towering over 1,178m in the north, to Mount St. Andrew (736m) in the south and is referred to as the Central Mountain Range. This geographic area of 132 square kilometres constitutes up of seven conservation areas or "key biodiversity area" of the Caribbean Biodiversity Hot Spots identified by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund. The rugged topographical landscape gave rise to numerous watersheds that contain the greater percentage of the terrestrial biodiversity of St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The Central Mountain Range is therefore considered the most critical conservation corridor of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and is home to many species including but not limited to island endemics and IUCN Red List Species such as the St. Vincent Parrot (*Amazona guildingii*), the Whistling Warbler (*Catharopeza bishopi*), the Black Snake (*Chironius vincentii*) and the *Pristimantis shrevei*⁵

⁵ CEPF funded Integrated Watershed Management Planning and Forest Reserve Protection in the Central Mountain Range Conservation Corridor of St Vincent- Project proposal writing by Hayden Billing et al.

In general, SVG boasts a relatively wide diversity of biological resources. According to the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2006), the following species that have been recorded on SVG:

- Mammals – 17 species, including 12 species of bats.
- Birds – 190 species including 2 island endemics, the St. Vincent Parrot (*Amazona guildingii*) and the Whistling Warbler (*Catharopeza bishopi*) and over 14 regional endemics. Two endemic subspecies of *Myadestes genibarbis* and *Troglodytes aedon* also exist.
- Reptiles – 21 species, including 5 endemics, - four lizards: *Anolis griseus*, *Anolis trinitatus*, *Sphaerodactylus kirbyi* (endemic to Bequia and Mustique), and *Gonatodes daudini* (endemic to Union Island) and one snake - the Black Snake (*Chironius vincentii*). There are 4 species of turtles, Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), Green (*Chelonia mydas*), Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) and Leatherback (*Dermochelys coraica*). Two of the 21 species are apparently recent invasive species.
- Amphibians – 4 species including one endemic, *Eleuthrodactylus shrevei*, and two invasive species.
- Plants – 1,150 species of flowering plants with 16 endemics. There are 163 species of ferns, 4 are endemic, including the Tree Fern (*Cyathea tenera*) found on the uppermost ridges within cloud and rain forests.
- Fresh water – There are 25 fresh and brackish water species.
- Marine – There are over 500 marine species including 450 species of finfish, 12 species of whales and dolphins, 4 species of turtles, 9 species of gastropods, 11 species of seaweed and 30 species of corals recorded.
- 25 species of diplopods (centipedes and millipedes), 220 species of arachnids (not including microscopic mites), 2,000 species of insects, and 35 terrestrial crustaceans have been recorded in the country.
- 875 species of molluscs (75 terrestrial and aquatic, 800 marine) exists.
- 16 species of nematodes have been recorded for Union Island alone.

Environmental Problems

St. Vincent and the Grenadines has made significant progress in responding to the environmental issues, especially in formulating policies and plans. However, like other emerging small island states, implementation and enforcement are still lacking to a large extent caused primarily by lack of resources (financial and human), inadequate integrated sectorial policies and poor coordination at the ministry/agency level.

According to the UNEP National Environmental Summary for St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the major environmental problems are as follows:

1. **The Effects of Climate Change:** The effects of global climate change are noticeable through extreme weather events in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. These included a drought in the first half of 2010 followed by Hurricane Tomas. The dry period affected the agricultural sector and resulted in increased incidences of bush fires. Torrential rainfalls and flash floods in 2011 destroyed substantive areas of forest and agricultural ecosystems, as well as residential dwellings on the northern most part of St. Vincent, leaving in its wake an estimated cost of damage amounted to approximated US\$11.2 million. These events have caused significant loss of upland biodiversity and in conjunction with sea level rise and coastal erosion have contributed to associated loss in coastal vegetation.

2. **Deforestation:** Further lost in biodiversity has been attributed to the removal of forested lands for agriculture. More rapid upslope (land above the 1000 ft. contour) expansion of agricultural and illegal marijuana farming has therefore encroached on ecologically valuable zones, namely upper watersheds. Other activities that have contributed to the loss of prime habitats are the development of resorts, urban centres, illegal squatting, fuelwood and charcoal industry. While efforts through the Integrated Forest Management Programme and the Forestry Department to curb forest lost through conservation and/ or rehabilitation of vital ecosystems, the problem is cross cutting and needs a more concerted and programmatic approach.
3. **Land Degradation:** Deforestation and indiscriminate agricultural and other land use practices often lead to degradation of large ecological units and the consequences are evident in acute erosion of slopes and the subsequent reduction in the quality and quantity of water for residential and industrial purposes. Competition for limited land space from commercial development, housing, recreation, agriculture and other uses have created incompatible land use patterns, including squatting in unsuitable areas, have resulted in problems ranging from landslides, water pollution, coastal squeeze and unplanned developments.
4. **Loss of Agricultural Lands to Development:** Agriculture has traditionally been the mainstay of the Vincentian economy with monocultural crops ranging from sugar cane, cotton, coconut, arrowroot and recently bananas. However, open trade stipulations for banana trade by the European Union have significantly reduced the agricultural output and many farms were abandoned. Private agricultural lands have therefore been converted to housing and other developments. In the absence of a formal land use policy and the fact that these lands were privately owned, the decision was almost irrevocable. Sustainable farming and food security are therefore genuine concerns for economic stability of SVG.
5. **Pollution of Coastal Water and River system:** Riverine and coastal pollution are directed linked to land-based sources of pollution, namely sediments from erosion and subsequent runoff, agrochemical leaching, direct agrochemical influx, industrial and commercial discharge, liquid waste, and storm water runoff from city streets and construction sites. River and coastal water quality are being affected by pollutants that also affect aquatic and marine habitats. Ship generated waste; including swage and oil spill also contribute to the pollution of the waterways.
6. **Solid Waste:** Indiscriminate and improper disposal of garbage has been a major problem in SVG, even if there is a good waste collection system on St. Vincent. The Grenadine Islands have greater solid waste management issues with the absence of proper landfills and solid waste disposal systems. There is a lack of pride among Vincentian regarding their surrounding and plastic bottles, styrofoam containers, plastic bags and tires are dumped carelessly over banks and open vacant lands. Solid waste legislations are seldom enforced and there is need for an integrated waste management system.

Environmental Legislations and Institutional Framework

St. Vincent and the Grenadines has been one of the forerunners for environmental protection within the Caribbean. This was evidenced through the early thrust to declare one of the oldest Forest Reserve in the Western Hemisphere – the Kings Hill Enclosure Act of 1791. Further initiatives have been taken towards environmental protection and sustainable livelihoods. These have been done through drafting and enacting of several policies, over the last 20 years.

There are about 30 pieces of legislation with direct and indirect impact on the environment that fall under the administration of about different state agencies with jurisdiction over various aspects of the environment. The institutional capacity for enforcement of these legislations varies among different Ministries and Statutory Agencies. However, there is a general need for capacity building in this area. These institutions include, but not limited to The Forestry Department, National Parks Rivers and Beaches Authority, Fisheries Division, Public Health Department, Environmental Services Unit, Physical Planning and Development Board, and the Central Water and Sewerage Authority, The Maritime Administration and the Tobago Cays Marine Park Board. There are other NGOs that are involved in environmental protection, namely the St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Trust and the Sustainable Grenadines Inc.

Key Environmental Legislation and Policies in St. Vincent and the Grenadines include:

- National Parks and Protected Areas Policy 2010
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines Forest Resource Conservation Act, 1992
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) Sustainable Energy for SVG: The Government's National Energy Policy 2009.
- The National Parks Act, 2002
- The Forest Resources Conservation Act, 1992
- The Wildlife Protection Act, 1987
- Marine Parks Act, 1991
- Fisheries Act, 1986
- The Central Water and Sewerage Authority Act, 1992
- Mustique Company Limited Act, 1989
- The Saint Vincent and the Grenadines National Trust Act, 1969
- The Preservation of Historic Buildings and Antiquities Act, 1976

Many of these instruments or processes have demonstrated varying levels of implementation due to (i) lack of adequate financing, (ii) inadequate human and institutional capacity, (iii) lack of supporting regulations for proper enforcement and compliance, and (iv) absence of proper monitoring and evaluation to check for effectiveness. In effort to harmonize the separate legislations, an overarching Environmental Act was drafted in 2010 through the OECS PERP project. However, the draft document has not been finalized nor enacted.

The National Environmental Advisory Board (NEAB) was appointed by Cabinet to assist in the coordination of multi-sector environmental activities and is comprised of representatives from 11 government departments/units and other agencies. However this body has been inactive but efforts have been made to use the existing network to coordinate environmental related projects successfully over the years.

SGP Country Programme Niche

There were three basic steps in identifying the country programme niche. First there were meetings with officials from the public and private sectors, as well as various CSOs. This was followed by a workshop⁶ with representatives from the public sector and CSOs in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, which identified a number of priority areas for action. Finally, there was an extensive literature review of reports and policy papers on the environment, multilateral environmental agreements and sustainable development reports. The result of this process is presented in table 3, as priorities for St. Vincent and the Grenadines' country programme for OP-5 (2011-2014).

Table 1: List of relevant conventions.

LEVEL	CONVENTIONS, SUB-REGIONAL AGREEMENTS AND NATIONAL POLICIES	DATE OF RATIFICATION or COMPLETION
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS, COMMUNICATIONS AND PLANS.	UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	R - 1994
	CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	2000
	The Fourth National Biodiversity Report of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the UNCBD	2010
	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	R - 1994
	UNFCCC National Communications (1 st)	2000
	UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	A - 1997
	SVG National Report to the UNCCD	2002
	UN National Action Programmes (NAP)	2009
	Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites)	A - 1999
	Convention for the Regulation of Whaling	Ad – 1993
	International Plant Protection Convention	Ad - 1985
	Cartagena Protocol on Bio-Safety	R - 2004
	Convention on the Protection and Development of Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean	A - 1987
	Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean	A - 1987

⁶ GEF SGP UNDP St. Vincent and the Grenadines (2013) *Towards the Identification of Programme Priorities for GEF SGP UNDP St. Vincent and the Grenadines*: 2011 – 2014, Fisheries Conference Room, Kingstown.

LEVEL	CONVENTIONS, SUB-REGIONAL AGREEMENTS AND NATIONAL POLICIES	DATE OF RATIFICATION or COMPLETION
	Protocol of 1992 to Amend the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage	A - 1998
	Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter	DI - 1973
	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea	R - 1991
	Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer	A - 1993
	Montreal Protocol on the Substances that Deplete the Ozone	A - 1993
	Kyoto Protocol	R - 2002
	Convention for the Protection of World Culture and Natural Heritage	Ac - 1998
SUB-REGIONAL AGREEMENTS	St. George's Declaration of Principles of Environmental Sustainability in the OECS National	2001
	Caribbean Challenge Initiative	2008

A = Accession; AC= Acceptance; Ad= Adherence; R= Ratification; DA= Date of Deposit of Instrument

National Plans and Programmes

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is signatory to many international environmental conventions and locally there are several pieces of legislation and policy documents that support environmental protection. GEF SGP in St. Vincent and the Grenadines will utilize the following national plans/programmes in conjunction with the CPS to ensure that OP5 resources will support the achievement of national priorities within the context of GEF-5 Strategic Priorities:

- Draft National Physical Development Plan 2002-2022
- Energy Action Plan for St. Vincent and the Grenadines First Edition 2010
- Integrated Forest Management Programme 2002
- Master Plan: System of Protected Areas and Heritage Sites, 2004
- Medium Term Economic Strategy Paper 2002-2004
- National Environmental Management Strategy and Action Plan 2004-2006
- National Parks and Protected Areas Systems Plan 2010 -2104
- National Tourism Sector Strategic Plan 2002-2006
- Plan Preliminary Methodological Framework Report 2013
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines Development of a National Ocean Policy
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Economic and Social Development Plan 2013-2025

These documents contain the national priorities and programmes that are advocated by the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and mainstreamed through the annual work

programmes of the Ministries and Agencies involved with environmental development, sustainable livelihoods and socio-economic development of the country.

SGP Country Programme Strategy

This Country Programme Strategy for St. Vincent and the Grenadines was based on a review of the literature, especially the existing policies, plans and programmes, and agreed during a one-day consultative workshop with key stakeholders from several communities and government agencies. The major environmental issues identified by stakeholders were:

- Pollution (water and land) from solid and liquid wastes
- Deforestation
- Land degradation
- Increased erosion (inland and coast)
- Water resources scarcity (especially in the Grenadine Islands).
- Climate Change and Variability

Geographic Focus

St. Vincent and the Grenadines SGP will have a nationwide focus to address critical environmental issues in all five (5) GEF focal points of Biodiversity Conservation, Climate Change Mitigation, Protection of International Waters, Prevention of Land Degradation and Elimination of Persistent Organic Pollutants. Particular focus will therefore be placed on degraded ecosystems, biodiversity hotspots, coastal resource management, protected areas and vulnerable communities, areas where greatest global environmental benefits and poverty reduction can be attained. Such areas include the Georgetown watershed that was affected by the April 2011 floods. Consideration was made for possible collaboration of the GEF SGP with the GEF IWEco project.

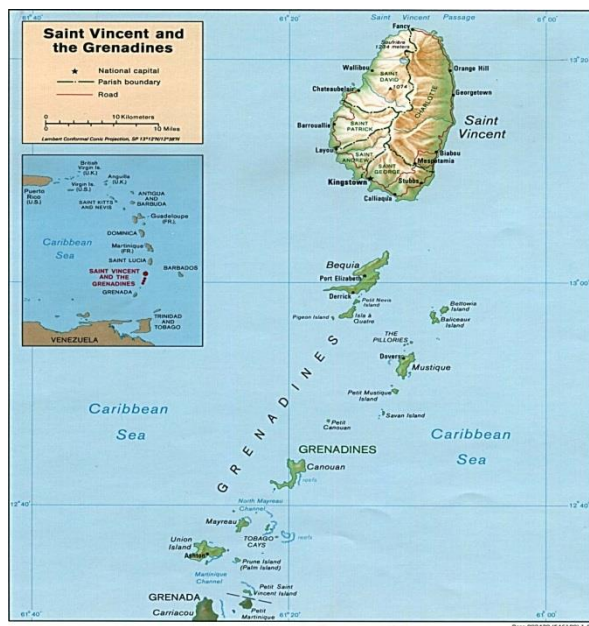


Figure 4: Map of St. Vincent and the Grenadines

There are four cross cutting themes because of the needs expressed among the stakeholders which are:

- Capacity Development of CSOs
- Environmental Awareness and Education
- Sustainable Livelihoods
- Gender Equality

Coastal Resource Management Issues

St. Vincent and the Grenadines, like many Small Island Developing States (SIDS), has depended on coastal and marine resources for local subsistence and tourism. This is especially true for the Grenadine Islands where land base resources are limited, and climatic and edaphic condition are less than optimal for farming. Although efforts have been made through legislation to protect the marine environment, including the declaration of the Tobago Cays Marine Park and numerous other Marine Protected Areas, limited enforcement has resulted in ineffective management and protection of these MPA and associated coastal zones.

In addition, St. Vincent and the Grenadines is a signatory to Marpol and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). These conventions make provision for the delineation of marine borders. Accordingly, St. Vincent and the Grenadines has established a 200 mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Jurisdiction of this area is more than the country can effectively patrol and manage but the resources of this area is under state control⁷.

While there are no real transboundary threats to coastal water in St. Vincent and the Basel Convention (to which SVG is a signatory) prohibits the transboundary movement of hazardous waste, it indeed cannot, prevent the pollution of coastal waters by polluted rivers flowing out of neighbouring countries. For example, waters from the Amazon and Orinoco impacts the entire Caribbean Sea.

Local pollutants originating from land based sources include agrochemical leaching, direct agrochemical influx from aerial spraying and indiscriminate disposal and improper disposal of solid-waste. Surface water in the lower coast of the river and coastal waters are severely impacted by industrial and commercial discharge, liquid waste, and storm water runoff from city streets and construction sites. Additionally, tourism related activities such as yachting and hotel establishments have contributed liquid and solid waste, fecal coliform bacteria, hydrocarbon residues and perfluorinated compounds into the marine environment.

All of the above cases are compounded by sedimentation occasioned by deforestation and poor agricultural practice in the upper watersheds. These indiscriminate and unsustainable land use practices have increased the quantity of suspended sediments that are contributing to the destruction of coral reefs, depleted fish stocks and reduction in water quality for recreational and domestic use.

The obvious symbiotic relationship that exists between coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangroves are being compromised as a result of these types of pollution. All reefs around SVG support fish life and some are hatcheries for lobsters and several species of reef fish (pelagic). Mangroves act as protectors of reefs by filtering land based sources of pollution and thereby reduces the amount of sediments that

⁷National Report Integrating Management of watersheds& Coastal Areas in SIDS of the Caribbean; The Vincentian Perspective. 2001

smothers reef reefs. Currently, there are two mangrove forests (wetlands) on the south east coast of St. Vincent (Canash, Brighton) but the major sites are in the Grenadines (Union Island, Canouan, Mustique). These coastal forests are threatened by coastal development. The need for coastal accommodation to support tourism is accelerating the destruction of mangroves.

Transboundary Marine Zoning.

The Grenadine Islands have traditionally depended on their coastal resources (including fishing, shipping and marine-based tourism), but have experienced land use conflicts relating to the marine and coastal ecosystems from competing developmental activities, sea level rise and shoreline erosion due to climate change. Efforts through the Sustainable Grenadines Inc., have implemented a Marine Resource & Space-use Information System Project to develop a transboundary marine multi-use zoning plan along the Grenada Bank of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada to increase the effectiveness of protected areas and reduce marine resource conflicts. The project supported the initiative for the designation of the Grenadine Islands as a transboundary UNESCO marine mixed (cultural/ecological) World Heritage Site (WHS).



Figure 5: The 2nd draft of the proposed marine multi-use zoning plan⁸

⁸ Developing a Framework for a Comprehensive Marine Multi-Use Zoning Plan for the Grenadine Islands by Kimberly Baldwin, 2012.

Coastal Resources Management is therefore a priority for the Grenadine Islands to ensure coastal protection and sustainable livelihoods of these vulnerable islands. Many of these communities depend on coastal resources for fisheries and tourism development along the coast as their only source of livelihoods. The demographic focus therefore, would be on forest users/small scale farmers/coastal resource users, women, and young people.

The GEF International Waters (IW) focal area addresses sustainable development challenges faced by countries like St. Vincent and the Grenadines sharing transboundary surface, and marine systems. SGP has a rationale to work with small NGOs and local communities, and actions are taken on the ground by local communities, while addressing transboundary water issues requiring coordination of activities beyond national boundaries. For further details on SGP Priority Areas of Action in International Waters for St. Vincent and the Grenadines (Table 2).

Within the programme period, SGP SVG will seek to work with partners and other co-financiers to ensure that NGOs/CSOs gain maximum benefits from the programme, ensuring a simple grant making process, quality project delivery, effective monitoring and evaluation of projects and build capacity at the CSO level. This will be done through continued consultation with CSOs, relevant stakeholders, as well as a process of iterative and participatory adjustment to the country programme based on the annual assessments and national priorities. These activities will be aimed at highlighting the work and progress of the SGP in SVG, identifying emerging needs and facilitating knowledge sharing of the impact of the programme in addressing environmental issue, creation of livelihoods and reduction of poverty.

Table 2: Consistency with national priorities

OP5 Project Objectives	National Priorities	SGP Niche (SGP Priority Areas of Action in St. Vincent and the Grenadines)
<p>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 1: Improve sustainability of protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas through community-based actions</p>	<p><u>National Parks and Protected Areas System Plan 2010-2014</u></p> <p>Legal declaration of 75 sites that are effectively managed and comprise the SVG National Parks and Protected Areas System.</p> <p><u>St. Vincent and the Grenadines Forest resource Conservation Act, 1992</u></p> <p>Make provision for the conservation, management and proper use of the forests and watersheds, the declaration of forest reserves, cooperative forests and conservation areas, the prevention and control of forest fires; and for matters connected with those purposes.</p> <p><u>St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Economic and Social Development Plan 2013-2025</u></p> <p><i>Strategic Interventions 4.7</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop appropriate measures to restore and protect the natural resources of the country. • Develop alternative and sustainable livelihood programmes for local communities in protected areas. • Develop and employ methodologies for the economic assessment and accounting of natural resources. • Develop and implement a Coastal Area Management Plan • Strengthen the existing legal and institutional frameworks to discourage environmental degradation. • Advance research on biological resources. • <p><u>Millennium Development Goals: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</u></p> <p>Goal 7. Ensure environmental sustainability</p> <p>Target 9. Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.</p> <p><u>Caribbean Challenge Initiative 2008</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conserving at least 20% of nearshore marine and coastal environments in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management planning of protected areas to include ecologically sound principles. • Participatory management and sustainable use of Protected Areas by community groups. • Promotion of sustainable livelihoods linked to environmental stewardship. • Promotion of Citizen Science projects to include areas such as reef check, bird monitoring, water quality monitoring and data base creation within protected areas. • Increased opportunity for knowledge transfer related to biodiversity conservation at the community level.

	<p>national marine protected areas systems by 2020; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> creating National Conservation Trust Funds, endowed by new sustainable finance mechanisms (such as tourism fees), dedicated to solely to funding park management. 	
<p>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 2: Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors through community initiatives and actions</p>	<p><u>National Parks and Protected Areas Policy 2010</u></p> <p>Establish and manage a national protected areas system that will provide for the sustainability of biodiversity and other ecosystem services and support socio-economic growth and sustainable development.</p> <p><u>National Environmental Management Strategy and Action Plan 2004-2006</u></p> <p>Strategy 2: Pursue sustainable development policies aimed at poverty alleviation, the general improvement of social, economic and cultural conditions, the conservation of biological diversity, the mitigation of adverse effects of climate change and the maintenance of essential ecological processes and life support systems.</p> <p><u>The 4th National Biodiversity Report of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the UNCBD 2010.</u></p> <p>Develop and articulate a National Biodiversity Policy which fosters the sustainable use of biological resources and the maintenance of biodiversity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate biodiversity conservation into national planning processes. Encourage integrated natural resource management techniques with emphasis given to developing practical and cost effective measures for the preservation of natural habitats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage community monitoring and research in environmental areas. Encourage sustainable consumption and production at the local level. Support for sustainable agricultural practices. Increase community awareness and involvement in protection and management of resources. Restoration of critical ecosystems and habitats (e.g. Mangroves, coral reefs rehabilitation).
<p>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 3: Promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level</p>	<p><u>St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) Sustainable Energy for SVG: The Government's National Energy Policy 2009.</u></p> <p>Increase the utilization of renewable energy technologies on all islands of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.</p> <p><u>St. Vincent and The Grenadines National Physical Development Plan Preliminary Methodological Framework Report 2013</u></p> <p>Energy Security: planning to increased energy efficiency in the use of buildings and transport; planning to support renewable Energy Technologies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstration projects on renewable energy technology. Support for the implementation of Low Carbon technologies. Reintroduction of tradition building technologies (buildings materials, eg. Brick) and incorporating new green technologies. Support for existing industries to include renewable energy technologies. E.g. Solar driers in agro-processing industries. Support for energy efficient methodologies sustainable consumer practices. Support for national policy to address emission reduction.

	<p><u>Energy Action Plan for St. Vincent and the Grenadines First Edition 2010</u></p> <p>Renewable Energy: promote the use of Renewable Energy Technologies (RET), potential of RES, develop local expertise, encourage private sector participation, initiate Renewable Energy (RE) education and awareness, provide fiscal and financial incentives to RET, explore benefits and potential of biofuels, mandatory installation of Solar Water Heaters (SWH).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of technical expertise to provide alternatives and accessibility to alternative energy technologies.
<p>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 4: Promote and support energy efficient, low carbon transport at the community level</p>	<p><u>Initial National Communication on Climate Change St. Vincent and the Grenadines, 2002.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of a proactive approach to climate-change issues taking into account and complementary to national economic policies and plans, land-use plans, and sustainable use of natural resources; • The identification and strengthening of complementary linkages between climate-change responses and current sectoral policies; • The identification of barriers to climate responses and the development of appropriate strategies to remove these barriers; and; • The development of educational programmes to strengthen public involvement and institutional response to climate-change issues. <p><u>St. Vincent and The Grenadines National Physical Development Plan Preliminary Methodological Framework Report 2013</u></p> <p>Climate Change: mitigation Strategy and measures; Restricting development in areas likely to be impacted by sea level rise; responding to increased volatility.</p> <p><u>St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Economic and Social Development Plan 2013-2025</u></p> <p>GOAL 4: Improving Physical Infrastructure, Preserving the Environment and Building Resilience to Climate Change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce the dependence on imported fuel • To reduce the adverse impacts of climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase public awareness about Climate Change and impacts. • Support for policies to reduce GHGs emissions from transportation. • Promotion of incentives to improve energy efficient vehicles. • Reintroduction and promotion of the use of non-motorized vehicles (e.g. bicycles) in certain areas. • Support for other zero carbon options e.g. walking and hiking trails. • Building capacity to promote low carbon technologies in the transportation sector. • Support for improvement in public transportation system and encourage the use of public transport. • Promote sustainable practices using low carbon technologies. • Support for storage of solar and the renewable energy produced on the local scale. • Support for carbon offsetting practices, including tree planting by tourists.
<p>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 5:</p> <p>Support the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry</p>	<p><u>Issue Paper: Sustainable Land Management in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, 2013</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management of natural resources in a way that minimizes degradation of terrestrial, coastal, and marine areas through: • The conservation and management of all forest reserves and water catchment areas; • The restoration of degraded forest resources; • The conservation of prime agricultural land; • The restoration of degraded coastal and marine resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of reforestation and afforestation activities on coastal and inland areas. • Promotion of coral and sea grass beds restoration. • Prevention of deforestation through creation of alternative livelihood. • Promotion of agro-forestry and buffer zone forestry.

	<p><u>National Environmental Management Strategy and Action Plan 2004-2006</u></p> <p>Strategy 5: Adopt measures to restore environmentally degraded areas and to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources in a manner which recognizes the intricate linkages between ecological systems in small island states, and between these systems and human activity, and which reflect the principles of island systems management.</p>	
<p>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 6 : Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities</p>	<p><u>St. Vincent and The Grenadines National Physical Development Plan Preliminary Methodological Framework Report 2013</u></p> <p>Agriculture and food Security: planning to support revival and diversification; restricting non-agricultural development of productive land; planning for the infrastructure agriculture needs.</p> <p><u>St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Economic and Social Development Plan 2013-2025.</u></p> <p><i>Strategic Interventions 1.2</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stimulate private sector investment in the agricultural sector and encourage public-private partnership. • Promote the sustainable use of land, forestry and marine resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest restoration and rehabilitation. • Sustainable Land Management and Cultivation Practices to include terracing and establishment of contour drains, etc. • Training in soil management and conservation practices for local farmers. • Establishment of demonstration farms to educate farmers on sustainable farming methods/practices. • Promote use of renewal resources such as Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs)
<p>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 7:</p> <p>Reduce pressures at community level from competing land uses (in the wider landscapes)</p>	<p><u>Issue Paper: Sustainable Land Management in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, 2013.</u></p> <p>There is urgent need for an overall national land policy and</p> <p>Land use plan to guide the physical development of the country to ensure optimal use of land resources for sustainable development.</p> <p><u>St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Economic and Social Development Plan 2013-2025</u></p> <p>Objective 4.1: To optimise the use of limited land space:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a comprehensive system for the sustainable management of land resources. • Develop national land use policies and land-use zoning plans. • Enhance the capacity for land management in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. • Preserve critical forest areas. <p>• <u>National Environmental Management Strategy 2004-2006</u></p> <p>Strategy 35: Design, promote and implement measures to prevent, mitigate and control degradation of aquatic, terrestrial and atmospheric environmental quality and processes conducive to desertification.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for community co-management approaches to land use management. • Support for implementation of sustainable land use practices and policy • Enhance community capacity to advocate for zoning and best land use practices. • Building composting (promote composting by demonstration • Promotion of agroforestry practices, incorporating traditional crops, herbs and species.

<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 8:</u></p> <p>Support transboundary water body management with community-based initiatives</p>	<p><u>St. Vincent and the Grenadines Development of a National Ocean Policy</u></p> <p>Healthy and richly biodiverse oceans, sustainably managed in an integrated way to promote economic development and the livelihoods and aspirations of current and future generations</p> <p><u>Grenadines Marine Resource & Space-use Information System</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a transboundary marine multi-use zoning plan builds on the MarSIS initiative and the Protected Area Systems Plans of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada to increase the effectiveness of Protected Areas • To build the foundation for the designation of the Grenadine Islands as a transboundary UNESCO marine mixed (cultural/ecological) <u>World Heritage Site</u> (WHS). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for management of contiguous cross boundary ecosystems eg. Coral reefs and network of MPA between Grenadines and SVG. • Public awareness programmes relating to Transboundary water body management. • Promotion of participatory mapping exercises for use of resources. • Facilitate dialoguing between SVG and Grenada with regards to integrated planning (harmonizing legislation) for MPA, • Promote customary practices for use of resources for particular communities.
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 9:</u></p> <p>Promote and support phase out of POPs and chemicals of global concern at community level</p>	<p><u>Strengthening National Capacity for the Sound Management of Chemicals in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National chemical profiles & identification of capacity needs • Strengthening national chemicals management institutions, plans, programmes and activities to implement SAICM (building upon work conducted to implement international chemicals related agreements) • Undertaking analysis, interagency coordination, and public participation activities to implement SAICM by integrating sound management of chemicals in national strategies <p><u>National Environmental Management Strategy 2004-2006</u></p> <p>Strategy 31: Adopt and implement appropriate measures to adequately manage solid and liquid waste, including hazardous waste, and atmospheric pollutants.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and promotion for the adoption of sustainable farming systems (organic agriculture, low agrochemical input,) • Support for alternative livelihood related to agroforestry and agro tourism. • Promotion of agricultural health and food safety issues.
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 10:</u></p> <p>Enhance and strengthen capacities of CSOs (particularly community-based organizations and those of indigenous peoples) to engage in consultative processes, apply knowledge management to ensure adequate information flows, implement convention guidelines, and monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends</p>	<p><u>St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Economic and Social Development Plan 2013-2025</u></p> <p><i>Strategic Interventions 2.5</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and support community-based and private sector initiatives. • Improve physical and social infrastructure at the community level. • Promote good governance in civil society organisations. • Facilitate community participation in national development. <p><u>Proposed National Capacity Building Strategy St. Vincent and the Grenadines (CANARI)</u></p> <p>NGOs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training and sensitisation in participatory forest management and rural 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support institutional strengthening and to address governance issues in NGOs and CBOs. • Need for continuous training of trainers and capacity development in leadership, communication, fund raising, project development and management, monitoring and evaluation. • Knowledge exchange and lessons learning session for NGOs and CBOs. • Mentorship programmes for CBOs and NGOS

	<p>development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancement of the project development and fundraising capacity of development agencies <p>CBOs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisational development and strengthening Networking and promotion of direct collaboration among organisations at the community level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote organization self-assessment and internal reflections through M&E and ISA.
<p><u>Cross-Cutting Results: Poverty reduction, livelihoods and gender.</u></p>	<p><u>St. Vincent and The Grenadines National Physical Development Plan Preliminary Methodological Framework Report 2013</u></p> <p>Rural Revival and Transformation: planning to reduce rural inequalities and poverty; planning to transform rural economies; planning to support rural communities;</p> <p><u>St. Vincent and the Grenadines Interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper 2003</u></p> <p>The National Poverty Reduction Strategy takes into account government's vision and proposed activities; projections and advice of the private sector, recommendations and solutions of para-statal agencies, trade unions, NGOs and the community at large.</p> <p><u>St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Economic and Social Development Plan 2013-2025</u></p> <p>Objective 1: To reduce poverty.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formulate a National Poverty Reduction Strategy. Foster greater collaboration among public policymakers, civil society, private sector and academics to develop appropriate solutions to poverty. Strengthen the enabling environment for persons to become self-sufficient. Promote and facilitate the establishment of cooperatives as a mechanism for poverty reduction. Strengthen social protection networks. Strengthen the poverty information system. Enhance rural development. Promote community agri-business. Facilitate community-based tourism. Enhance the enabling environment for private sector investment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote livelihoods relating to agriculture, fisheries, etc. Gender and youths mainstreaming in all activities for sustainably. Support for actions that address the local socio-economic situation, including employment for youths, especially young men. Stimulating through sport the participation of youth in development. Support for internship programmes targeting youths in environment conservation.

Capacity Development, Poverty Reduction and Gender Results for SGP

Capacity Development of Civil Society Organizations

Civil Society Organizations in St. Vincent and the Grenadines range from developmental, environmental, social and emergency response agencies that are generally set up as non-profit organization to meet a particular need. Most of these are small and emerging and their existence is based on project related activities. Hence many are not formally registered and lack capacity to develop and implement projects.

The Country Poverty Assessment report 2007/2008 reported that NGOs, and CBOs in SVG, is only moderately effective in dealing with poverty alleviation and poverty reduction, and that few of the economic type organizations displayed a poverty focus. In this regard, NYC, JEMS, Projects Promotion, Marion House, the Council for the Development of the Carib Community, and groups in Chateaubelair and Barrouallie have implemented projects towards poverty alleviation. The Mustique Charitable Trust and the SVG Red Cross have been instrumental in assisting the less privileged in providing basic commodities and responding during national disasters. Most communities lack such agencies, or have not been reached by those with a developmental orientation.

Although there is increasing competition among CBOs and NGOs for grant funding, especially by those that are small or emerging. Few donor agencies are willing to provide funding to Organizations that are less organized and have limited experience in project management and implementation. As such, the SGP St. Vincent and the Grenadines could, within the next three years (2013-2015), position itself to support community-based environmental projects for marginalized CBOs and NGOs through capacity building through trainer of trainers in leadership, communication, fund raising, project development and management, monitoring and evaluation.

Poverty Reduction

The Country Poverty Assessment report 2007/2008 reported that 30.2% of the population were poor, and 2.9% of the population were indigent a decrease of 7.3% and 22.8% respectively from the 1995/1996 assessment. In terms of geography of poverty, the Georgetown and Sandy Bay census Divisions, which together comprised 9% of the population, accounted for as much as 16.5% of the poor. The Bottle and Glass area within the Barrouallie census district was also a community with significant levels of poverty. Conversely, the lowest incidence of poverty was found in the Northern Grenadines reported at 12% of residents deemed to be poor.

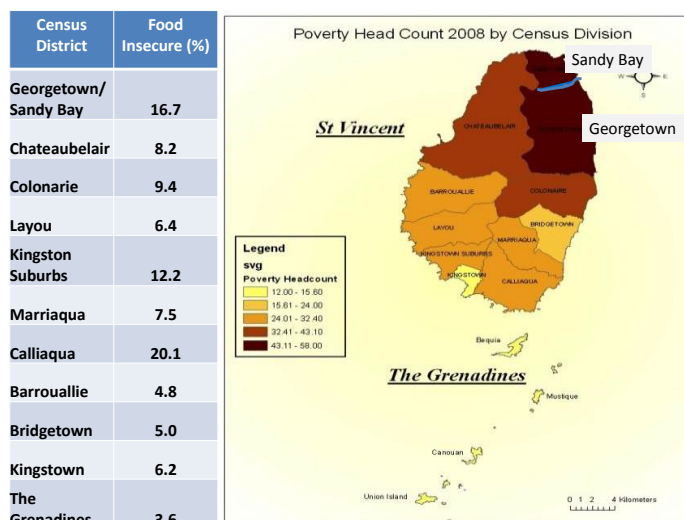


Figure 6: Poverty headcount by Census District⁹

Inequality as measured by the Gini Coefficient fell from 0.56 to 0.402, suggesting that there is less inequality in income and wealth locally. However the richest 10% of the population accounted for 33.8% of total consumption expenditure, while the poorest 10% accounted for a mere 2.2% of total consumption. As much as 44.3 percent of residents felt that conditions had worsened compared to the previous year, which might be explained in the context of the escalation of prices of basic food and energy that took place towards the end of 2007 and early 2008. In terms of the Millennium Development Goals, the country's Human Development Index (HDI) ranked at 92 among 182 countries in 2008, lagging significantly behind its neighbours like Barbados and St. Lucia, who ranked 66 and 37 respectively.

The report also shows that there were high levels of unemployment and underemployment, with a national unemployment rate of 18.8%. In general, the households that were estimated to be poor displayed lower levels of education and training, had more children, were larger, lived in poorer quality accommodation although the general living condition have been improved. They had few income earners, and had a higher incidence of unemployment among earners (25.3% of unemployment). Poor households had more persons below working age than the national average and much of the poor were youthful.

⁹ Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Assessment St. Vincent & the Grenadines; Presentation of Preliminary Report. Ballayram, 2013.

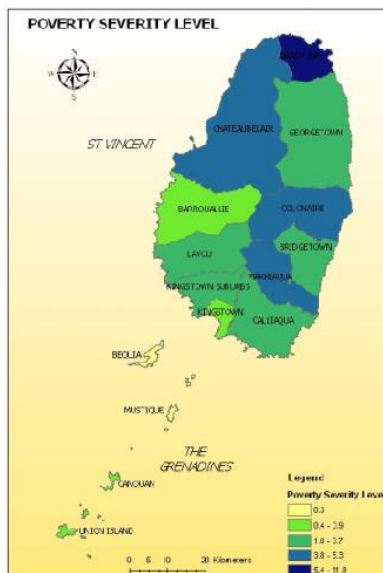


Figure 7: National poverty severity levels.¹⁰

Gender and Indigenous Peoples.

With respect to gender, female life expectancy was estimated at 74.1 years and male was estimated at 68.5 years (UNDP, 2006). In terms of the head of households across the country, 56% were male. There were significant gender differences across the entire country, in the lowest as well as in the highest quintiles. In all quintiles, the participation rates for women were lower than that for men. This was indicative of an underlying gender segmentation, in which the participation of women was limited to certain sectors, especially industry. Estimated daily earned income for females was US\$4.30 and for males was US\$8.51 (UNDP, 2006). Teenage pregnancies remain high, with nearly 50% women reporting their first pregnancy before the age of 19.

Discrimination based on gender or race has been minimized and the Government has ratified or acceded to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Therefore all projects are encouraged to promote the active participation of both male and female to ensure gender equity and women empowerment.

SGP will consider gender as one of the main criteria for the approval of grants and encourages the promotion of gender mainstreaming at the initial stages of project conception, approval and implementation. This will ensure gender equity and helps minimize conflict among different stakeholders. Needs assessment will be done at the project development phase and is used to define the roles of women and men early in the project. This helps during and after the project cycle with respect to roles in project activities and sharing of project benefits. In addition, the SGP National Steering Committees employ checklists and criteria to assess and screen projects for how they mainstream gender. In this regard, the SGP National Steering Committee is required to include a gender specialist. Training in areas of proposal writing and peer-learning networks are paramount in ensuring women's empowerment and increasing the likelihood of receiving proposals from women and other marginalized groups. Finally, field evaluation, including monitoring and evaluation and participatory

¹⁰ Poverty Assessment Report – St. Vincent and the Grenadines, 2006.

appraisals, will incorporate gender-based indicators to track the status of gender mainstreaming in SGP projects.

Based on the classification provided by the United Nations, there are no indigenous people in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The closest group to this would be the Caribs or Kalinago or Garifuna people, since the Garifuna culture has earned UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Recognition globally. This minority group live predominantly in the rural areas and depend on farming and fishing as their main livelihood.

OP5 Country Outcomes, Indicators and Activities

Table 3: Results framework

SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 1: Improve sustainability of protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas (ICCAs) through community-based actions.			
<u>Outcomes</u>	<u>Indicators</u>	<u>Means of verification</u>	<u>Activities</u>
<i>Outcome 1.1: improved community-level actions and practices and reduced negative impacts on biodiversity resources in and around protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas</i>	Numbers and hectares of Protected Areas influenced. Hectares of significant ecosystems with maintained or improved conservation status.	Project report, site visit reports and SGP database	At least 3 projects developed associated with protected areas.
<i>Outcome 1.2: Benefits generated at the community level from conservation of biodiversity in and around protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas</i>	Numbers of protected areas with increased community involvement in management.		
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 2: Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors through community initiatives and actions			
<u>Outcomes</u>	<u>Indicators</u>	<u>Means of verification</u>	<u>Activities</u>
<i>Outcome 2.2: Increased understanding and awareness of sustainable use of biodiversity</i>	Number and hectares of significant ecosystems with maintained or improved conservation status	Project reports, site visit reports and SGP database.	Minimum of 4 replicable projects.
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 7: Reduce pressures at community level from competing land uses (in the wider landscapes)			
<u>Outcomes</u>	<u>Indicators</u>	<u>Means of verification</u>	<u>Activities</u>
<i>Outcome 7.1: Improved community-level actions and practices and reduced negative impacts in land use frontiers of agro- ecosystems and forest ecosystems (rural/urban/agriculture/forest)</i>	Number of communities demonstrating sustainable land and forest management practices. Hectares of degraded land restored and rehabilitated.	Project reports, site visit reports and SGP database	At least 3 replicable projects.
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 8: Support transboundary water body management with community-based Initiatives.			
<u>Outcomes</u>	<u>Indicators</u>	<u>Means of verification</u>	<u>Activities</u>
<i>Outcome 8.1 Participatory and sustainable transboundary water body management through land based</i>	Hectares of marine/coastal areas or fishing grounds managed	Project Reports. Reports from	At least 4 projects.

<i>pollution abatement and transboundary cooperation</i>	sustainably. Hectares of marine/coastal areas or fishing grounds managed sustainably. Tonnes of land-based pollution avoided.	Protected Areas Agencies and from varies Ministries (Agriculture & Health).	
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 9: Promote and support phase out of POPs and chemicals of global concern at community level.</u>			
<u>Outcomes</u>	<u>Indicators</u>	<u>Means of verification</u>	<u>Activities</u>
<i>Outcome 9.1 Significant increase in awareness of chemical pollution and alternatives to agro-chemicals in use.</i>	Kilograms of harmful chemicals avoided from being used or burnt.	Project reports, field visits. Reports from Ministry of Agriculture.	At least 4 projects.
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 10: Enhance and strengthen capacities of CSOs (particularly community-based organizations and those of indigenous peoples) to engage in consultative processes, apply knowledge management to ensure adequate information flows, implement convention guidelines, and monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends.</u>			
<u>Outcomes</u>	<u>Indicators</u>	<u>Means of verification</u>	<u>Activities</u>
<i>Outcome 10.2: Improved information flows to/from CBOs and CSOs in SGP countries regarding good practices and lessons learned and application of such practices.</i> <i>Outcome 10.3: Increased public awareness and education at the community-level regarding global environmental issues</i> <i>Outcome 10.4: Capacity of CBOs and NGOs strengthened to support implementation of global conventions</i>	Number of Community Groups participated in training and capacity building sessions. Number of groups whose capacity has increased. Number of national policies influenced. Number of CSOs formed and strengthened. Number of publications and articles on SGP.	Project reports and SGP database Workshop reports Reports on mentoring system Media reports. Journals and online postings	At least 4 projects.
<u>Cross-Cutting Results: Poverty Reduction, Livelihoods and Gender</u>			
<u>Outcomes</u>	<u>Indicators</u>	<u>Means of verification</u>	<u>Activities</u>
<i>Improved livelihoods through increasing local benefits generated from environmental resources and mainstream gender</i>	Number of enterprises established. Number of persons employed (men and women). Total income generated Number of community members with sustained livelihood improvement resulting from SGP support.	Projects reports and SGP databases.	At least 7 projects

Monitoring and Evaluation plan

Evaluation reports will be the cumulative outcome of the monitoring reports, end of project and programme reports and at least one summative evaluation session. Evaluation shall take place at two levels as follows:

- **Project Level:** Every project will dedicate a minimum of 10% of its total budget for monitoring and evaluation and for an end of project evaluation and will produce a Lessons Learned Report which is independent of the end of project report. The activities, responsible parties and timeframe are listed in table 4 below. These will form the basis for monitoring the activities and outcomes of individual SGP projects. A pre-site visit will be conducted to gather baseline data and project impacts will be measured against the base-line data. Each project will select from a list of indicators linked to the expected results of the country programme, so that both the individual and cumulative contribution of projects can be ascertained. Ideally, the programme will endeavour to conduct two (2) site visits during project implementation, preferably halfway into the project and then a final visit close to the end of the project activities¹¹. These site visits will be conducted by the NC and or other members of the NSC, Participatory evaluations of projects are undertaken and include the SGP country programme, NSC members, stakeholders and grantees after completion.
- **Programme Level:** In satisfying this objective, a work plan is prepared and submitted to the NSC for approval. This work plan will provide details of activities to be accomplished in order to achieve the expected outputs of the CPS in set timelines. At the end of the programme cycle a major participatory evaluation session will take place which will be the basis of planning for the next programme cycle.
Quarterly programme updates/reports will also be presented by the NC to the National Steering Committee (NSC) members, UNOPS and CPMT. These reports will provide a synthesis of project activities as well as progress made in achieving the broader national priorities and goals. Lessons learnt and best practices will be documented and shared with Government and CSOs. Additionally, regular data updating of the SGP database is done on all projects to give the most current details.

Reporting Plan

Reporting shall be required at two levels as follows:

- **Project Level:** project reports will be a major component of the reporting process and for determining progress and project impact. The periodicity of reports shall be determined on a project by project basis. Each grantee (NGOs/CBOs) must submit interim and final project reports. No payments are approved by the NC until the reports are submitted and accepted. All grantees shall also produce separate lessons learned reports which shall be an integral part of the final report (with a detailed financial report). A digital photographic library is maintained of all projects, which facilitates assessment of project impacts.
- **Programmatic Level:** At the programmatic level there will be the following reports:
 - *Quarterly Financial Report:* prepared NC on grant disbursements, administrative and other programme expenditure will be prepared and sent to UNOPS.

¹¹ These M&E site visits will be cost efficient and depend on the budget available for M&E activities. To ensure cost efficiency, site visits should be clustered by geographic location so multiple projects can be visited within the same M&E site visit mission.

- *An annual country programme report*: status of implementation of the CPS and projects is submitted to CPMT/UNOPS each year. The reports will incorporate information extracted from reports submitted by grantees. They will also provide details on monitoring visits, global indicators uploaded to the SGP Global database, lessons learnt and co-financing partnerships. It will also focus on successes and shortcomings and make recommendations to address the shortcomings. It will also include a description of the work of the NC and the NSC for the period (see table below).

Table 4: M&E at both levels

Project level	Project Progress Report	Executing NGOs/CBOs	Periodic, prerequisite for release of next payment of funds
	Final Project Report		End of project
	Project data entered in database	NC/PA	Ongoing basis
Country level	NSC meeting minutes	NC/PA (signed by NSC)	Following each NSC meeting
	Country Annual Report	NC	Annually
	Thematic updates	NC	Periodic/ad hoc (based on information needs of CPMT)
	Financial updates	NC/PA	Regular (updates on commitment provided to UNOPS)

Stakeholder Participation

Building on one of the cross cutting themes of Capacity Development of CSOs; the SGP SVG has partnered with Ministry of Tourism, Sports and Culture, the National Community Tourism Organization, Invest SVG to conduct a workshop geared at building capacity and empower tourism related CBOs to acquire the skills on project proposal writing. However, there will be further capacity development workshop to assist all CSOs on what the key GEF focal areas, how to apply, and assist in project proposal writing, preferable after the calls for proposals is issued.

Stakeholders' participation was critical in developing the country niche within the Country Programme Strategy. Three steps were used to identify these national priorities. The first step included one (1) radio call-in programme and Twenty (20) consultations conducted with Civil Society Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, Community Based Organizations, Faith Based Organizations and Schools to identify local and institutional priority areas for action. This was followed by extensive review of reports, environmental policies and sectorial and national programme and plans to further identify the priority country niches. Finally, the national consultation to develop the framework of the Country Programme Strategy was conducted involving all stakeholders. Experts presented on thematic areas relating to Biodiversity Conservation Priorities for SVG, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, Land Degradation, Forestry, Soil and Water Conservation, Sustainable Agriculture/

Agroprocessing, Marine Conservation, Capacity Development Issues among CSOs and Nature and Heritage Tourism. Each Focal person presented on their respective thematic area and identified the priorities for SVG, challenges, causes and consequences; and SGP's possible strategies to address these issues. The result of this process is presented below as the focus for action in St. Vincent and the Grenadines programme for OP-5 (2011-2014).



Photo 1: Radio Call-in programme and consultations with NGOs, CBOs, FBOs and schools.



Photo 2 and 3: CPS Workshop Plenary.



Photo 4 and 5: CPS Workshop Work Groups

Table 5: M&E Plan at the Project Level

SGP Individual Project Level		
M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe
Participatory Project Monitoring	Grantees	Duration of project
Baseline Data Collection ¹²	Grantees, NC	At project concept planning and proposal stage
Two or Three Project Progress and Financial Reports (depending on agreed disbursement schedule)	Grantees, NC, PA	At each disbursement request
Project Workplans	Grantees, NC, PA	Duration of project
NC Project Proposal Site Visit (as necessary / cost effective ¹³)	NC, NSC	Before project approval, as appropriate
NC Project Monitoring Site Visit (as necessary / cost effective)	NC, NSC	On average once per year, as appropriate
NC Project Evaluation Site Visit (as necessary / cost effective ¹⁴)	NC, NSC	At end of project, as appropriate
Project Final Report	Grantees	Following completion of project activities
Project Evaluation Report (as necessary / cost effective)	NC, NSC, External party	Following completion of project activities

¹² Capacity-development workshops and M&E trainings may be organized in relation to innovative techniques for community monitoring, including new technologies (i.e. GPS-enabled cameras, aerial photos, participatory GIS, etc.); as well as in response to guidelines for “climate proofing” of GEF focal area interventions; REDD+ standards; and/or other specific donor/co-financing requirements.

¹³ To ensure cost-effectiveness, project level M&E activities, including project site visits, will be conducted on a discretionary basis, based on internally assessed criteria including (but not limited to) project size and complexity, potential and realized risks, and security parameters.

¹⁴ Depending on Budget, about 3 visits will be made per project. If this is not possible it could be limited to 1 or 2 visits per project.

Prepare project description to be incorporated into global project database	PA, NC	At start of project, and ongoing as appropriate
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CPS Results: Impacts and Outcomes

While changes are unavoidable in the levels and modalities of donor funding and there will be notable differences in the outcomes and outputs between OP5 and OP6, the results of the CPS will vary on an annual basis. Therefore, there will be need for constant revision, at least on a semi-annual basis. Notwithstanding this, a number of results have been determined by stakeholders for achievement by year 3 (2015). These targeted impacts are in concurrence with the strategic and specific objectives of the GEF SGP, as reflected in the SGP project document for the fifth operational phase of the GEF. Further details are elaborated under the SGP Niche (SGP Priority Areas of Action in St. Vincent and the Grenadines) in Table 2.

Table 6: M&E Plan at the Programme Level

SGP Country Programme Level		
M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe
Country Programme Strategy Review	NSC, NC, CPMT	Start of OP5
Strategic Country Portfolio Review	NSC, NC	Once during OP5
NSC Meetings	NSC, NC, UNDP CO	Minimum twice per year
Performance and Results Assessment (PRA) of NC Performance	NC, NSC, UNDP CO, CPMT, UNOPS	Once per year
Country Programme Review resulting in Annual Country Report ¹⁵	NC presenting to NSC and CPMT	Once per year
Financial 4-in-1 Report	NC/PA, UNOPS	Quarterly

Knowledge Management Plan

Knowledge management (KM) is the process of capturing, developing, sharing, and effectively using knowledge. This is process that allow for learning and using knowledge to influence and monitor positive change over time. It facilitated learning in a dynamic environment where change is the major driving force and where SGP is striving to create learning programme which is knowledge driven. Any KM programme should have at least four major components as follows:

- Basis for Knowledge Creation (BKC): i.e., gathering and documenting data and information as well as explicit and tacit knowledge. This includes information generation through projects and programmes and the careful documentation of that information.
- Archiving (A): i.e., archiving or storing the information for ease of access and retrieval.
- Creating Knowledge (CK): i.e., analysis and synthesis of information to arrive at conclusions, generalizations and knowledge which can guide and influence future decisions.
- Sharing (S): i.e., dissemination of knowledge in various forms to target populations to achieve desirable results. Knowledge created and not shared is perishable which is contrary to the goal of making SGP a Learning Programme.

Knowledge management for SGP SVG would include information generated from projects and programmes, careful documentation, storage of information, analysis, synthesis then dissemination of lessons learned and good practices identified within the country portfolio. All SGP reporting template include a session to capture lesson learned. Grantee reports and field visit provide avenues for verifying information and to track progress and project impact. Step would also be taken to develop a network of grantee and yearly forum would be organized to allow for knowledge sharing and lessons learned from individual project. This will also help to improve the grant making and reporting process in successive programmes. The M&E process will also help to capture relevant information about project success and shortcomings, which will help with future planning and implementation of country programme. To achieve this goal the M&E system must be well integrated into the programming process and project cycle. The documenting and reporting process must also be responsive and efficient. Table contains the details of a KM strategy for St. Vincent and the Grenadines over the next three years.

Table 7: Knowledge Management Strategy for St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Objectives	Target group	Knowledge Products	Dissemination Strategy	Monitoring		Evaluation
				Indicators	Means of verification	
To provide baseline and empirical data to influence or change policy.	Policy Makers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet memos • Video documentary. • Discussion papers • News Releases • News Letters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visits and guided tours for politicians • Make prominent Ministers the champion. • Radio and TV talk shows. • Advocacy. • Knowledge Fairs • Cultural festivals show/events e.g. carnival, drama, shows, concerts. • Cocktails and with video to highlight the impact of environment 	Increased local dialogues State of the policy (has it changed?)	Public Statements of Commitment. Action taken.	Impact of the policy or change.
To change Knowledge, Attitude and Practices of resource users toward the environment.	Resource Users Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DVDs • Results • Art, Posters, cartons • Jingles/PSAs • Newspaper Pull-outs • Calypso songs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge Fairs • Learning Attachments • Radio and TV Programmes • Festivals/Carnival, Drama • SMS/ BBM/Apps • Listserv • Print media • Environmental Booth at fairs 	No. of changes observed.	Field reports KAP surveys	Changes in people's level of awareness, attitude and behaviour over time.
To inform the public and advocate for change.	General public.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patent/Copy right products and use for income generation. • Radio and television talk shows • Art, Posters, cartons • Jingles/PSAs • Newspaper pull-outs • SMS/ BBM/Apps • Calypso songs • Video documentaries • Online/ Cloud files 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live Media Phone-In programmes. • Published news releases. • Festivals/Carnival, Drama • Knowledge Fairs • Site visits • School presentations • Social media and marketing • Community notice boards • Lobbying/Advocacy • Blocko (street parties) • Festivals/Carnival, Drama 	Level of support received.	Reports	Impact of support.

		<p>system and databases (ensure management)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media releases. • Video documentary • Published results. • Discussion Papers • Published Testimonials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SMS/ BBM/Apps • Listserv • Print media • Environmental Booth at fairs 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase cash or in-kind co-funding. 	<p>Government</p> <p>Private Sector</p> <p>Other Donors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case studies • Annual reports • Audits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn and meet the donor's conditions. • Build relationships and partnerships • Negotiate • Publicise successes. • Lobbying/Advocacy tied to financier 	Amount of cash and in-kind available	Amount of funds and in-kind support actually received.	Total increase in funds and in-kind contributions to projects

Resource Mobilization Plan

Resource mobilisation is indispensable for the continued survival of the SGP programme in any country and is a basic requirement to help SGP in meeting the 1:1 co-financing ratio required by the GEF Council. The main objectives of the resource mobilisation strategy shall be to:

- cover the cost of project activities not fully funded by the SGP as in the case of baseline studies and alternative livelihoods activities;
- cover part of the administrative and operational costs;
- develop projects at scales which will ensure their viability and sustainability; and
- meet the project and programme co-financing ratios as required by the GEF regulations.

RM should result in *In-Kind* and/or *Cash* and take place at three levels targeting the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and its various Ministries, especially the Private Sector, Large NGOs like the Mustique Charitable Trust, Bi-lateral and Multilateral donors and where possible wealthy persons living in the country. The new GEF RAF is also one avenue through which the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines can allocate funds to local projects in the Biodiversity and Climate Change Focal Areas.

The three levels of RM are:

- *The Project Level:* it is expected that every project proponent shall raise at least 50% of the project budget in-kind and in-cash and provide evidence to the NC and NSC to that effect. A wavering of the financial co-funding component for selected CSOs will be dependent on the success of the national RM efforts and SGP policies in existence at the time.
- *The Country Programme Level:* Once completed, the CPS shall serve as a basis for raising funds over its three-year life span. This task shall be the direct responsibility of the NC and NSC.
- *The Sub-regional Level:* The SRPS and the CPS shall serve as the basis for RM at the sub-regional level and the country level. This task shall be the direct responsibility of the SRC and the SRSC with assistance from the CPMT.

Successful RM strategies are context specific and cannot be generalized as each potential donor has different requirements. There are however a menu of general guidelines which can be adapted to various contexts, all of which are in one way or the other linked to the credibility of the programme. These guidelines include:

- *Effective Promotions of SGP:* i.e. using various media forms to promote the SGP in the country and to disseminate the Lessons Learned from projects.
- *Knowledge of the Donor:* i.e., developing an information database on the donor which answers such questions as the donor programme focus; their requirements and preferences; and their project approval cycle. Cultivating a relationship with the donor is also indispensable for future funding prospects and this frequently requires an investment of time and patience. Very importantly, one must ensure that the donor is not involved in projects or programmes that contradict the principles and values of the UN and SGP.
- *Knowledge of Organisation:* i.e., one must know the strengths of the organisation and not misrepresent its achievements and capabilities. Honesty is usually the best approach as misleading the donor is guaranteed to smear reputations, as donors talk to each other.
- *Effective Management of the Funds:* i.e., ensuring that there is transparency and accountability for the funds and that all reporting requirements are met in a timely manner. Reporting requirements are to stakeholders, the community, donors and in many cases a report to the

appropriate Ministry of Government is recommended for strategic and information reasons. It is also necessary to ensure that all commitments made during negotiations are kept.

- *Covering the Administration Cost:* i.e., receiving a grant is one successful step in a two-step process which includes the management of the funds and the project activities. If a grant will add responsibilities to a CSO which is beyond the capacity of its volunteers and/or staff, it is wise to negotiate for sufficient funds to cover a part of the administration and operational cost. If this is not done, successful project implementation will be in jeopardy from inception.
- *Checking with the SGP Regulations and guidelines,* in particular the “dos” and “don’ts”; the legal instruments which can be used to confirm donor and SGP obligations; and the formulae used to calculate in-kind contributions from donors. These are all critical requirements to ensure that an initiative works well.
- *Monitoring and Evaluation:* It is a requirement that a monitoring programme on RM be established for St. Vincent and the Grenadines which could include a registry of funding sources, documenting successes, failures and lessons learned. It is also necessary that there be an annual evaluation of the RM programme to identify lessons learned and share at the national and community levels.

Sustainability Strategy

The true test for the sustainability of a programme or a project is the level and durability of results, particularly impacts, and whether the project or programme was the basis and/or catalyst for replication or up-scaling. Sustainability by its very nature is a multi-dimensional concept which covers several areas which include the following:

- *Environmental Sustainability (ES):* i.e., the long term impact of the project or programme on the ecosystems and ecological processes and the GEF Focal Areas.
- *Organisational Sustainability (OS):* i.e., the capacity of the organisation to implement the project and to improve its capacity to manage future projects. Management considerations such as vision, mission, human resources, structure, systems and income or profits are critical to OS. An important element is the nature of the organisation, i.e., is it static or dynamic or has it become a learning organisation. Finally, the enabling environment for the operations of the organisation or the institutional setting, is considered a major part of OS.
- *Financial Sustainability (FS):* i.e., the financial viability of a product or a service developed to generate a surplus need to be established prior to approval of funding for its development. That means the principles and practise of small business enterprise should be integrated into projects. Frequently, FS is not sufficiently considered and assessed in environmental and sustainable development projects and programmes.
- *Socio-Cultural Sustainability (SCS):* i.e., this is perhaps the least considered in the debate on sustainability. SCS refers to the sensitivity of a project or a programme to the social and cultural values of a country or a community. It is within their reality that a motivated community or a population is born. SCS serves as the basis for ES, OS, and FS.

Sustainability will be the essential test for a successful St. Vincent and the Grenadines SGP programme and shall in addition to ES, OS, FS, and SCS incorporate such factors as:

- *Country Priorities:* i.e., the extent to which the CPS helps in meeting the national priorities of the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines as articulated in various policy documents.
- *Genuine Partnerships:* i.e., the extent to which grantees can nurture genuine partnerships with the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the private sector, and donors.

- *Networking*: i.e., the extent to which the grantee and SGP can create a network of support and sharing among grantees, the Government and other stakeholders.
- *Level of Asset Control and/or Management*: i.e., in the case of land, the extent to which the land is legally owned or managed by the grantee and in the case of leases and rental agreements, the duration of time. This factor can easily cause a project to fail. Legal agreements are usually necessary to ensure long-term sustainability.
- *Level of RM*: i.e., the success of RM for project and programme implementation and management.
- *Quality of Human Resources*: i.e., the human resource capacity of CSOs and the SGP programme at the country and sub-regional levels are also important elements. The level of voluntarism is also an important factor. This factor is among the most important as it has a direct relationship to OS, FS and project implementation.

Capacity Development

GEF SGP prioritizes grantmaking to poor and vulnerable communities as well as sectors such as those of women, indigenous peoples, and youth. As such, the programme proactively seeks to increase the capacities of these communities and sectors and the civil society organizations (CSOs) that work with them to develop proposals as well as to implement projects successfully and sustainably. In this regard, while every project supported by SGP should have capacity development components, stand-alone capacity development projects targeted at larger groups of community and CSO stakeholders can also be supported. The purpose of Capacity Development is to “enhance and strengthen capacity of communities and civil society organizations to address global environmental challenges”. The focus of SGP for St. Vincent and the Grenadines would constitute workshop (s) that would include but not limited to the following topics:

- Environmental Conventions (i.e. the Rio Conventions such as the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, CBD; UN Convention to Combat Desertification, UNCCD; UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNFCCC; Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, POPs; as well as other related global environmental and sustainable development agreements that the country is party to)
- GEF Focal Areas addressing biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation, international waters protection, sustainable forest management, sustainable land management, and reduction and elimination of chemicals/POPs (including related national strategies and actions plans such as NBSAPs, National Communications, NAPAs, SAPs, and corresponding committees and institutions involved)
- Consultations leading to project design (specifically how to make a project community-based and include gender considerations, women empowerment and youth involvement)
- Proposal writing (relevant to SGP);
- Project management and implementation;
- Monitoring and evaluation (especially participatory M&E, identification and use of indicators, and reporting);
- Budgeting and financial management;
- Communications and knowledge management (for sharing, policy advocacy and inputting into national development planning; this is related to the objective of strengthening the capacity to “engage in consultative processes

Strategic Partnership and sources of co-financing

GEF funding is a major source for financing of environmental projects, particularly the enabling activities and action plans related to implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements. Most of these projects are consistent with the GEF SGP focal areas: climate change, land degradation and biodiversity conservation.

Other recent sources of funds for national environmental or related projects include: Japan International Cooperation Agency, United Kingdom Department for International Development, and the European Commission. The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, Environment and Sustainable Development Unit also provided some funding for local projects, namely the Protecting the Eastern Region Biodiversity Project. Recent projects included: Environmental Policy and Administrative Management; Forestry Policy and Administrative Management; Agricultural Policy and Administrative Management; Emergency Recovery and Disaster Management Programme; Fishing Policy and Administrative Management; Support to the Banana Industry; and the OECS Protected Areas and Livelihoods Project (OPAAL). The Pilot project for Climate Change Resilience and the Disaster Vulnerability Risk Reduction were funded by the World Bank. Watershed Management Project was funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund through the regional implementation agency CANARI. Funding for parrot conservation was funded through the Association for the Conservation Threatened Parrot (ACTP). The European Union (EU) Special Framework of Assistance (SFA 2006) project funded under special financing arrangement to implement the Environment Watershed project for sustainable livelihoods. Sustainable was implemented through the Forestry Department. Financing for the Eastern Caribbean Marine Ecosystem Project funded by World Bank through The Nature Conservancy (TNC). IWEco project to be implemented in the Georgetown Watershed is funded by Full Size Projects (FSP) accessed through GEF. The International Development Bank (IDB) also funded The Regional Monitoring and Evaluation System for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation in the Caribbean Tourism Sector. SGP will create partnership with key actors to capitalize on synergies and produce larger impact of the SGP portfolio.

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Appendix 1

PROGRAMME

WORKSHOP- IDENTIFICATION OF PROGRAMME PRIORITIES FOR GEF SGP UNDP (St. Vincent and the Grenadines): 2011 – 2014/15

Wednesday 13th November 2013

9:00am – 4:00pm

Fisheries Conference Room , Market Square, Kingstown

Objectives: By the end of the workshop participants would have:

- (i) understood the mandate, the philosophy and the focus of the GEF SGP country programme in St. Vincent and the Grenadines;
- (ii) identified and approved the priority niche(s) for GEF SGP funding for St. Vincent and the Grenadines over the programme period;
- (iii) reviewed and approved the principles which will drive the programme;
- (iv) developed a draft results matrix for each priority thematic and/or geographic focus; and
- (v) identified the target population or groups, strategy and activities for a knowledge Management and resource management plan for the CPS.

1.0	Welcome and Introductions	9:00am – 9:05am	Mrs. Merlene Glynn Chairperson of Workshop (Member of the NSC)
2.0	Presentation and Review of Workshop Objectives and Outcome	9:05am – 9:10am	Hayden K. Billingsy, NC, GEF SGP UNDP
3.0	Introduction to the GEF SGP ("Bridging the Financing Gap")	9:10am – 9:30am	NC, GEF SGP UNDP

4.0 Presentations and Discussions on Priorities for St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the GEF Focal Areas:

- Identification of Priorities by Participants 9:30am – 9:45am NC, GEF SGP UNDP

Identification of Priorities by Experts (5 minutes of presentation & 2 minutes of clarification)

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| • Biodiversity Conservation Priorities for SVG | Yasa Belmar |
| • Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation | Silas Durrant |
| • Land Degradation | Reynold Murry |
| • Forestry, Soil and Water Conservation | FitzGerald Providence |
| • Sustainable Agriculture/ Agroprocessing | Michael Dalton |
| • Marine Conservation | Jennifer Howard |
| • Capacity Development Issues among CSOs | Roger Young |
| • Nature and Heritage Tourism | Andrew Wilson |

REFRESHMENTS

(10:50am -11:15am)

5.0 Identification of GEF SGP Priority Areas of Focus for SVG during OP-5 11:15am
– 11:45pm NC, GEF SGP UNDP

6.0 Group Work – Development of Results Matrices (Each group will have a pre-selected facilitator and resource persons. Most participants will have an opportunity to select the group they wish to work with)

- Introduction to working groups and Outputs expected from each group 11:45am-11:50am
- Group Work 11:50am – 1:00pm

LUNCH

1:00pm -1:45pm

7.0 Groups Present and Discussions 1:45pm – 2:15pm Yasa Belmar

8.0 Group Work: Identification of Candice Ramessar
targets, strategies and
recommendations for Knowledge
Management and Resource
Mobilisation: 2:30pm – 3:30pm

9.0 Groups Present and Discussions 3:30pm – 3:50pm Candice Ramessar

10.0 Identification of GEF SGP Community Based Adaptation priorities; Results Framework: Outcomes, Indicator and
Activities. GEF SGP CBA (SVG) 2:15pm – 2:45pm NC, GEF SGP UNDP

11.0 Follow-up & Short Evaluation

3:50pm – 4:00pm

Hayden Billingy

END OF WORKSHOP

(4:00pm)

Appendix 2.

List of CPS Workshop Participants

NAME	INSTITUTION	EMAIL
Michael Dalton	IICA	icca@vincysurf.com
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