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Sustainable Integrated Development &
Biodiversity Conservation
In the Grenadine Islands
(St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada)

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Sustainable Grenadines News

New Species of Lizard Found in Union Island



A new species lizard has been found in Union Island, the Grenadines. This small, beautiful lizard is a gecko of the genus *Sphaerodactylus*. Its status is still to be confirmed, described and named but it appears most certainly to be a new

endemic and like *Amazona guildingii*, belongs only to our country. This discovery was made on Union Island on May 9, 2005 during the visit of UWI botanist Dr Sean Carrington. Dr Carrington was being shown the unique dry-forest plants of Bequia,

Mayreau and Union Island and by local environmentalists Mark de Silva of the Mayreau Environmental and Development Organisation (MEDO) and Matthew Harvey of the Union Island Ecotourism Movement (UIEM).

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--|---|
| New Lizard Discovered in Union Island | 1 |
| The Nature Conservancy Institutional Self-Assessment | 1 |
| CERMES UWI Students Tour Grenadines | 2 |
| Grenadines Regatta Enhancement Workshop Meeting Update | 2 |
| Reef Check Implementation a Success | 2 |

Special Dates of Interest:

May 27: Green Schools Meeting, Carriacou, Grenada

June: Water-taxi Exchange Program

National Park Exchange Program

The Nature Conservancy Institutional Self-Assessment in Grenadines

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is an international NGO whose mission is to preserve plants, animals and natural communities by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. This organization provides training, technical assistance and financial resources to in-country conservation organizations.

In the Grenadines, TNC used its field-tested tool- 'An Institutional – Self-Assessment' to evaluate two major

local NGOs, the Mayreau Environmental Development Organization (MEDO) and the Carriacou Environmental Committee (CEC).

These organizations were evaluated under certain criteria reflecting a number of important issues such as; the organisation's effectiveness in achieving it's mission, identifying the organisation's priorities and its institutional strengthening; highlighting areas for learning and improvement.

This tool was developed to assist the organisations in determining their current level of development by self-reflecting and identifying their own strengths and weaknesses.

This tool is used for strengthening non-profit organizations and can be adapted to suite other NGOs in the Grenadines to evaluate their present status as well. Please contact us if your organization is interested in learning more.

Reef Check Training a Success!

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CERMES, UWI Coastal & Marine Resource Management MSc. students visit the Mayreau Environmental & Development Organisation (MEDO) in Mayreau and receive a lecture from Father Mark De-Silva.

CERMES students took a marine and coastal resource management fieldtrip from May 7-14 throughout the Grenadines. Assisted by the Sustainable Grenadines Project students visited the islands of Bequia, Union, Mayreau, Tobago Cays and Carriacou and met with several local NGO's to learn first-hand about conservation and biodiversity within the island chain as well as the issues and concerns facing environmental management and the preservation of sustainable livelihoods for local communities in the midst of the rapid increase in tourism and development within the Grenadines.

After spending 4 months in the Grenadines, The Sustainable Grenadines Project is happy to announce the completion of the Amadis Project's Caribbean leg. Thanks to a PADI Project AWARE grant, the volunteer marine conservation team assisted in the training of 5 new teams in Reef Check methodology and provided each new team with survey supplies needed for subsequent annual surveys. A total of 7 survey sites were set up in St. Vincent and the Grenadine islands of Bequia, Mustique, Union and the Tobago Cays from January to April 2005. Casper Smith, Project Manager of the Sustainable Grenadines Project was trained as the Reef Check NGO Country Coordinator and will be responsible for spearheading annual surveys in collaboration with the St. Vincent Fisheries Division. Reef Check is very pleased with the implementation of this project and has invited the Sustainable Grenadines Project to submit a proposal to the UNEP for supplementary funding to train additional interested groups in the remaining Grenadine Islands of Canouan, Mayreau, Carriacou and Petite Martinique – please notify us if your organisation is interested. A complete summary report of the Reef Check Implementation in the Grenadines is available on our Yahoo E-Group website.



Tobago Cays Marine Park rangers, Jason Alexander and Albert Hanson, conduct Reef Check fish surveys at the Horseshoe Reef survey site.

Grenadines Regatta Enhancement Workshop



Regatta Planning Committee focus group discussing Regatta activities in the Grenadines.

The Sustainable Grenadines Project organised a one day Grenadines Regatta Committee Planning Workshop on April 23rd in Union Island at the Clifton Beach Hotel.

This workshop looked at the scope for improving individual island regattas as well as the overall Grenadines regatta product by collaborating with the various committees and other important stakeholders. The workshop focused mainly on issues such as: the establishment of a Grenadines-wide regatta committee that will coordinate and develop standards for all regattas, shared

resources (such as websites, publications, promotion, training etc.), develop programmes to attract participants of all ages and increase skills in order to develop project concepts into proposals for funding.

Fourteen representatives from the various Grenadines Regatta Committees along with Tourism Boards and Ministry of Tourism representatives from both countries of St. Vincent and Grenada were present.

A full report on the workshop is available on request or can be downloaded from our Yahoo E-Group website: