

PRESS RELEASE

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITY (GEF)
SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME (SGP)
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



Introduction: The Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) is currently being introduced in Saint Lucia. The programme is widely known as the “People’s GEF” because it works with Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to address global environmental problems at the community level.

The SGP exists to conserve and restore the natural environment while enhancing people’s livelihoods. It is rooted in the belief that global environmental problems can best be addressed by people working together in a process which guarantees direct community benefits and ownership. It operates on the premise that people will protect the environment when they:

- are organised and develop the capacity to take action;
- have some measure of control or access to natural resources;
- have access to information and knowledge; and
- believe that their livelihoods are directly related to long term resource management”.

The Vision: SGP’s global vision is to become:

the most effective mechanism for the empowerment of civil society especially local communities, vulnerable groups and Indigenous Peoples for environment and sustainable development at the national and global levels.

The SGP aims to channel support from a wide range of funding sources to promote innovations, local knowledge sharing, capacity building and policy change to conserve environmental quality, alleviate poverty and empower communities.

The principal objectives of SGP are to:

- develop community-level strategies and implement technologies that could reduce threats to the global environment;
- gather lessons from community-level experience and initiate the sharing of successful community-level strategies and innovations among CBOs and NGOs, host governments, development aid agencies, GEF and others working on a regional or global scale;

- build partnerships and networks of stakeholders to support and strengthen community, NGO and national capacities to address global environment problems and promote sustainable development; and
- ensure that conservation and sustainable development strategies and projects that protect the global environment are understood and practiced by communities and other key stakeholders.

THE PRIMARY FOCUS

All GEF SGP programmes and projects must address global environmental problems through action at the community level and must be sustainable and contribute to learning. Global environmental problems are those addressed by the five GEF Focal Areas of:

- **Biodiversity Conservation** (species and habitat protection and sustainable use)
 - E.g. protected areas; sustainable fisheries; aquaculture and mariculture; ecotourism etc.
- **Climate Change** (reducing green-house gases)
 - E.g. renewable energy (solar, wind, water, wave, biogas, geothermal etc); Biofuels etc.
- **International Waters** (environmental issues in shared bodies of water e.g. the Caribbean Sea) E.g. Sustainable fishing; alternatives to excessive overfishing; introduction of fishing nets with smaller mesh sizes; small scale projects for reducing pollutants; integrated management of resources including coral reefs, mangroves and sea grass beds etc.
- **Land Degradation** (prevention and reversal in soil loss and fertility).
 - E.g. organic farming; soil conservation measures; hydroponics; aquaculture and agroponics; biofertilisers etc.
- **Persistent Organic Pollutants** (eradication of toxic pollutants used in agriculture and industry such as DDT, Deldrin and other pesticides and agro chemicals that persist and bio-accumulate in nature).
 - E.g. Biofertilisers, Biological control of major pests; Integrated control of pests.

The Litmus Test

All GEF SGP programmes and projects should be tested by asking the following questions:

- Are we creating environmental conservation and preservation impacts?
- Are we helping to reduce poverty?
- Are we building community capacity and empowering communities to take action?

The Sustainability Test

All projects approved must be subjected to the sustainability test by asking the following questions:

- Is there project ownership and what must be done to achieve it?
- What is the capacity of the Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and the Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and what can be done to build and improve their capacity?
- Is there adequate participation and is the project adhering to the GEF SGP principles?
- Are partnerships being created and if not what must be done to build partnerships?
- Is a business approach required and what must be done to nurture such an approach to ensure that sustainable livelihoods are created?
- Does the policy and enabling environments need improving and if so what must be done?

Project Focus: All projects submitted to the GEF SGP must fit within one of five focal areas listed above. You are also invited to visit the GEF SGP webpage at <http://sgp.undp.org> for detailed descriptions of the five GEF Focal Areas. Projects should also, as far as possible focus on poverty alleviation through sustainable livelihoods and capacity building for empowerment of civil society.

Funding Levels: The GEF SGP offers funding at two levels as follows:

- *Planning Grants:* Planning Grants are meant to help applicants initiate a participatory planning process, undertake research, assess their capacity and/or hire consultants to help them define a project and prepare a proposal to access a Full Grant. These grants are up to a maximum of US\$5,000 but most awards usually average US\$2,000.
- *Full Grants:* These grants are given for project implementation and can be for a maximum of US\$50,000. Most awards however do not exceed US\$30,000 per project.

The Saint Lucia National Trust represents the GEF SGP in Saint Lucia. In an effort to enable local non-governmental organisations to access SGP grants, the Trust will be conducting a series of training workshops in November 2006 to:

- Introduce NGOs and CBOs to the GEF Small Grants Programme;
- Explain the areas in which SGP funds can be invested and the types of projects that can receive funding; and
- Train NGOs to prepare project proposals;

To this end, the Trust invites all NGOs and CBOs interested in accessing grants from the SGP to register for the training workshops now by calling its office at Tel: 452 5005 and provide their Mail, Telephone, Fax and email contact information.

Saint Lucia National Trust