

# Monthly Activities Report

April 2008



# BARBADOS MARINE TRUST

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*To Preserve and Protect Our Marine Environment!*

## **NON-STATE ACTORS PANEL - CONSULTATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS:**

In April the BMT was invited to attend a European Union sponsored Seminar for NSAs (Non State Actors) which includes NGOs and Charities et al. Members of NSAs from Dominica were also present.

The European Union hopes that non public sector entities (i.e. civil society) should have a strong more unified voice in the development of a country, and the Union asked the NSA Panel led by Rodney Grant to conduct the seminar which was very well attended by many NGOs. The Barbados Marine Trust supports this initiative. James Blades, Lorna Garner and Nicholas Fields from the Barbados Marine Trust listened to the several dynamic speakers on the importance of NGOs.

## **THE GEF SGP LOCAL GRANTEE NETWORK:**

Also in April, the Global Environment Facility – Small Grants Programme (GEF-SGP) under the Co-ordinator for Barbados and the OECS, Giles Romulus, established a Grantee Network designed to bring the grantees together in order to create more public awareness concerning our work currently emphasizing our environment, especially among youth. The Barbados Marine Trust is one such participant and is dealing with the Marine Environment issues of Barbados. The Network will be participating in a few events in June – more details on those events will come in next month’s report.

## **REPORTS:**

Reports are one of the necessary requirements for a charity and NGOs. In April, the BMT prepared reports for:

1. **SHELL Western Supply and Trading** was a major sponsor of the *Carlisle Bay Pilot Management Project* which featured the *Environmental Education Stewardship (EES) Programme*.

The report to SHELL on the EES Programme’s work over the past year was completed in April. In addition the BMT’s Diorys Pérez completed the Report on the ‘Outfalls in Carlisle Bay’ with graphs, data and descriptive text and gave it to Shell.

There are other reports to follow using all of the data collected by the EES Stewards in the Carlisle Bay Pilot Management Project.

In addition, the BMT has plans for the sustainability of this EES project on Carlisle Bay which involves a manned “EES Environmental Station” on the beach.

By being a major sponsor of the Carlisle Bay Project, SHELL is proving itself to be concerned with the marine environment of Barbados by helping to protect our reefs which protect our precious beaches.



*Above: The Barbados Marine Environmental Stewards during a boat patrol and monitoring exercise.*

2. **The GEF SGP** have been strong supporters of the projects for the marine environment on the South Coast of Barbados, and the Barbados Marine Trust has completed the 1<sup>st</sup> Phase and Report on its new project: REEF BALL GARDENS: A SOLUTION TO CORAL DEPLETION AND COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS IN OISTINS.

The first phase required conducting a BASELINE STUDY on the marine conditions for the sites of the new Reef Ball project in Oistins Bay. This was conducted by the BMT Director David Gill and the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) who volunteered their time and resources to conduct the exercise.

This Baseline Study also involved surveying the socio-economic conditions of the Oistins Bay community and its livelihoods. Judi Clarke and Nicholas Fields led this work with volunteer help from Barbados Community College students in conducting surveys. Judi then compiled all the data into a database from which she drew the Study's conclusions.

The Reef Ball Gardens in Oistins Project will be officially launched with the UNDP when the EES recruitment starts in Oistins and the first REEF BALLS are ready to be manufactured here in Barbados. The BMT members will be invited to this Opening Launch in the Oistins Bay Gardens.



Above: The Barbados Marine Trust in a meeting with the Oistins Fisherfolk Association about the Oistins Reef Ball Project (Photo by Shirley Young).

3. **The Tourism Development Corporation** provided the BMT with funding for the new colourful SIGNS “Welcome to Carlisle Bay”. These signs provide beach users with information on Coral Reefs, on the Marine Environment and also on Marine Violations.

The BMT plans an Opening Ceremony before the start of the Crop Over Season to which you members will be invited.

Right: One of the newly installed Carlisle Bay Beach Signs. There are seven (7) of these signs in all. (Photo by BMT)



4. **Chefette Restaurants Ltd.** has given the Barbados Marine Trust a covenant for 3 years totaling several thousands of dollars, which enables us to carry on our environmental work in the face of numerous challenges pressuring our fragile environment.

Chefette is setting an example for *corporate environmental responsibility* and we are sure that other corporate entities will join them in appreciating the value of a healthy marine environment with vibrant coral reefs and beautiful beaches.

**MONTHLY LIME:**

The third Monthly Lime of the Barbados Marine Trust came off on Friday, April 04, 2008; at Finally Michael's Beach Café - Underwater Barbados, Bay Street.

A presentation was delivered on 'Mitigation of Coastal Hazards in Small Island Developing States' by Dr. Lorna Inniss, Deputy Director of the Coastal Zone Management Unit - who also functions in other capacities on several national and regional committees specializing in coastal hazard and disaster management.

We learnt about the different types of coastal hazards – and those which commonly affect Caribbean states including storm surges and tsunamis. In particular, we also learnt about man's influence in making these hazards evolve into disasters – because a hazard does not always mean disaster.

However, factors such as accelerated beach erosion, improper/unstable coastal developments, and the removal/destruction of natural coastal barriers (coral reef, mangrove swamp and marsh ecosystems); can transform an event that would have only caused slight damage to one that causes extreme damage AND loss of life.

It is therefore important that we protect and preserve our remaining coastal resources, our lifelines in the event of a coastal hazard.

As with the previous Limes, we had a great turnout from our members and the public, and it was quite an informative and eye-opening session for those in attendance.

**MEMBERSHIP, SPONSORS AND DONORS:**

The Barbados Marine Trust membership drive has built up to 99 members and is still climbing. We need only one more to make it the magic 100! We hope you will ask a friend or associate to join the Marine Trust. It is worthwhile to protect our marine life for our own future and also our children's future.

Our Sponsors for our various BMT functions are also rising. We thank them individually for their support of our LIMES and our upcoming "Walks and Talks on the Bays of Barbados" focusing on the marine environment and geography of each Bay.

Over the last few weeks, many environmentally conscious individuals have made donations to the BMT to help marine life and to raise public awareness of its value. Many individuals contributed Cash, (much welcomed), are contributing in Time (volunteering), and are contributing In Kind (services).

All are very welcome. All are much needed.



*Above: Dr. Lorna Inniss during her presentation on Coastal Hazards at our April Monthly Lime. (Photo by BMT)*



*Above: Some of the crowd at our April Monthly Lime paying rapt attention to Dr. Inniss. (Photo by BMT)*