



THE BARBADOS MARINE TRUST

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TO PRESERVE, PROTECT AND ENHANCE OUR MARINE ENVIRONMENT

MONTHLY STATUS REPORT
December 2007 – January 2008

We at the Barbados Marine Trust (BMT) want to thank you for your interest in our activities and support of our projects. We wish you a successful 2008!

UNDP/Global Environment Facility - Small Grants Programme New Grant:

The Barbados Marine Trust (BMT) received the first installment of a new grant from the Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) administered by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to start the implementation of a new project in the Oistins Bay area entitled “Coral Reef Gardens: A Solution to Coral Depletion and Alternative Community Livelihoods in Oistins, Barbados.

This project is the start of a national initiative by the Trust – The 1,000 Reef Ball project, where 1,000 Reef Balls will be installed in the waters off Barbados. The project in Oistins itself will seek to:

- encourage coral reef and fish habitat restoration in the bay using Reef Balls,
- work with the fishing community to diversify their livelihoods,
- develop and test the WiSe (Wildlife Safe) Accreditation Scheme,
- expand the Environmental Education Stewardship Programme (which is already in Carlisle Bay) to the Oistins Bay area
- further increase public education and awareness about the importance of the marine environment

Oistins Baseline Study:

The Baseline Study for the project commenced in December 2007 as the first part of the Oistins Reef Ball Project. The aim of the study was to examine and determine the existing physical, ecological and social characteristics of the Oistins area.

This would allow the Trust to have an idea of what the area is like currently. Knowing what the current conditions are will help to guide how the project should be implemented, so that it is most beneficial to the project benefactors – the fisherfolk.

It would also allow the Trust to adequately measure the effectiveness of the project

(improving livelihoods, fish populations, etc.) over time, using this information as a starting point. The study included a questionnaire survey and an environmental/physical assessment of the Oistins Bay area.

For the questionnaire survey, volunteers from the Barbados Community College Environmental Science Program assisted the Trust in collecting data, and members from the Trust teamed up with personnel from CERMES at the Cave Hill Campus, UWI to conduct the environmental assessment.

The report on this study is currently being prepared to be submitted to the UNDP/GEF SGP.

Monthly Limes:

For the year 2008, the Trust will be hosting a series of Monthly Limes which will be held at the beginning of each month. These Limes will feature short, informative presentations on the marine environment and also on the work of the Barbados Marine Trust.

The Limes will be held at the grounds of the Trust at Underwater Barbados (opposite the Roman Catholic Church and next to the Old Fish Market). The First Lime will be held on February 01, 2008 and all are invited to come and be informed. Refreshments will be provided.

Meetings:

The BMT has met with key agencies such as the Barbados Hotel and Tourism Association (BHTA), the Environmental Protection Department (EPD), the Coastal Zone Management Unit (CZMU) and the Fisheries Division, to discuss the possibility of funding and developing future cooperation agreements and working relationships.

Donations:

The BMT wants to thank Chefette Restaurants Ltd. who signed a 3-year Covenant with the Barbados Marine Trust and will be donors of the Trust for the next three years.

We also want to thank Digicel (Barbados) Ltd. and the First Caribbean International Bank, for their ongoing support of and donations to the work of the Trust.

Contact us!

Please feel free to contact the Trust at 228-8071, or e-mail us at info@barbadosmarinetrust.com / bmtrust@sunbeach.net. You can also visit our website at www.barbadosmarinetrust.com.