



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON CAPACITY BUILDING FOR SUSTAINABLE OCEANS

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SESSION FOUR: BUILDING RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Photo credit: Nick Hall

At the Water's Edge – "AWE" Enhancing Coastal Resilience

Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines

1) What is the focus of this project?

At the Water's Edge (AWE) is being implemented on the eastern seashores of Grenada in the four coastal communities of the Grenville Bay Area (GBA): Telescope, Grenville, Soubise and Marquis. The project aims to work with these communities to increase their resilience to climate change; strengthening their capacity for adaptation by empowering them with the knowledge to effectively manage their marine and coastal ecosystems through the use of nature-based solutions.

2) Which organizations and other partners are involved?

AWE is being led by The Nature Conservancy, in collaboration with local partners the Grenada Red Cross Society (GRCS), the Grenada Fund for Conservation (GFC), the communities of Telescope, Grenville, Soubise and Marquis, and the Government of Grenada through various ministerial departments.

All partners provide unique traits to AWE, which enables the implementation of both the socio-economic and structural components of the project. The Nature Conservancy is a global nonprofit organization with 65 years of experience leading conservation efforts throughout the world. The Grenada Red Cross specializes in risk assessment and management, while the Grenada Fund for Conservation Inc.'s expertise is in mangrove restoration and community engagement, and the residents of the GBA are the stewards of the natural and cultural resources within the area and holders of valuable local knowledge.

3) What activities or tools have proven successful in building capacity?

Since its inception, AWE's team has been working, not only at the site level (within the project areas) but also at the national level, to build capacity through activities including:

- Training of 23 persons, both in Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, in the field of environmental conservation. They are now known as AWE Leaders.
- Training of community members in participatory 3D modelling (P3DM). This resulted in members creating a P3DM of the GBA, highlighting the natural and cultural resources of their communities.
- Training of community members and fisher-folk in disaster risk reduction and adaptation, through the use of nature-based solutions, with partners GRCS.
- Training local people in the community of Telescope to collect mangrove propagules, care for and

out-plant them at strategic locations to enhance shoreline protection, with partners GFC. The beneficiaries of this training are have are also engaged in restoration efforts outside the project area.

- GIS training to both private and public sector personnel, providing them with the 'know-how' to collect, spatialize and analyze data necessary for decision making. This led to the spatializing of Grenada's census data by the census department for the years 2001 and 2011.

Positive capacity-building outcomes include:

- The adaptation of the Red Cross' Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA) with nature-based elements, subsequently used to conduct a VCA within the GBA.
- The development of an online platform <http://maps.coastalresilience.org/gsvg/> for aggregated GIS project data – such as benthic habitats, sea level rise scenarios, and critical infrastructure – which can be utilized in decision making processes.
- The installation of pilot hybrid reef-engineered structures (30 meters, by fisher-folk from the GBA), with coral fragments attached to them, on the degraded northernmost reef within the Bay of Grenville, to ascertain the feasibility of such hybrids for reducing intense wave energy and currents reaching the shoreline and thus reducing the impacts of coastal erosion. The pilot is currently being monitored and has yielded positive results to date.

4) What challenges have been experienced, specifically related to maintaining a focus on capacity building and/or replicating the project in other areas?

One challenge faced by AWE has been to sustain community interest in the project even during periods of non-tangible activity implementation – i.e. mangrove out-planting and reef works.

Regarding replicating the project in other areas, since AWE funds are specifically allocated for the GBA and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the implementation of project activities in other areas of the island is not currently feasible due to funding constraints. Once successful, additional funding can be sought to replicate AWE throughout Grenada and in other small island states experiencing similar impacts due to climate change.

1. Continue on-going development of a Community Resilience Plan (CRP) for climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction, in collaboration with Grenada's national disaster management agency (NaDMA) and the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC).
2. Carry on monitoring the pilot reef-engineered structures, while working with the Government of Grenada to secure funding for the full build-out (300 meters) needed to provide protection to the Bay of Grenville.
3. Propagate and plant mangroves and coastal vegetation in strategic locations within the GBA.
4. Initiate a community based water quality monitoring and beach profiling program.
5. Conduct outreach activities and document lessons learnt.

<http://coastalresilience.org/project-areas/grenada-st-vincent-and-the-grenadines-introduction/>

<https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationByGeography/NorthAmerica/Caribbean/science/adaptation/Pages/awe.aspx>



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Map - Grenada & St. Vincent and the Grenadines



Coastal Erosion – Telescope



At the Water's Edge (AWE) Project



Coastal Resilience in Grenada
Saint Vincent & the Grenadines