



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019 - 2020

## GEF SGP Trinidad and Tobago

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**THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY  
SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME  
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME  
(GEF SGP UNDP)**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
January to December 2020  
(With additional information from June -December 2019)**

**Prepared by  
GEF SGP UNDP  
Trinidad and Tobago**

**December 2020**

**This document also serves as the Fourth Newsletter  
from the GEF SGP Trinidad and Tobago for 2020**

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# MESSAGES

## **Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme, Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten**

I am delighted to present the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) Annual Report for 2019-2020. The report provides a concise overview of the work of the grantees working within the GEF SGP. As is evident in this illustrative report, the GEF SGP is an important vehicle for the realization of national and international obligations related to biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, water, chemicals and waste, all of which are vital to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The GEF SGP and its participating grant making organizations are making vital contributions across many communities in Trinidad and Tobago and importantly, they are contributing to the empowerment of women, youth and persons with disabilities.

Notwithstanding the challenges posed by the COVID Pandemic, the GEF SGP and its grantees were able to successfully achieve their goals while also helping communities cope during the pandemic. Amongst other achievements, the GEF SGP supported over 1000 households to become more resilient through the provision of home gardens and capacity training. This helped families to meet their food security needs and helped young people to learn new life skills which will serve them and the country well into the future.

UNDP continues to be a proud partner of GEF SGP and we look forward to continuing our work together to serve communities across Trinidad and Tobago.

Randi Davis

Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme  
Trinidad and Tobago, Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten

## Chair, National Steering Committee, GEF SGP

2020 and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic will mark a pivotal time in history, as we were forced to identify new ways to manage our daily lives at the most basic level. Our resilience and creativity were tested, and it is this resilience and creativity that we applaud and celebrate as we look back on what was accomplished and highlighted in this annual report.

2019-2020 ended the 6th Operational Phase (OP6) of the GEF SGP, which primary objective was to provide “support for the creation of global environmental benefits and the safeguarding of the global environment through community and local solutions that complement and add value to national and global level action”.

Despite the pivot that was necessary by all involved due to the pandemic, GEF SGP was able to provide funding and technical support to a new cadre of identified civil society projects in Trinidad and Tobago while continuing to promote positive national change in the GEF SGP focal areas: biodiversity, climate change adaptation, land degradation, international waters, multifocal areas, chemical and waste, and capacity development, marking 25 years of continuous support to over 138 projects overall.

Identifying projects of high quality and sustainability that covers the breadth and depth of the operational phase is always the overarching goal of the programme, and while the selection was not overwhelmingly impacted, planning and primarily execution of projects was tested because of the unique conditions under which grantees, national coordinator and steering committee members had to engage. The commitment to the GEF SGP initiative by all involved is commendable, and it is that commitment which allowed the year to end on a high note.

*“The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step”* Lao Tzu, Ancient Chinese Poet and Philosopher

I extend an enthusiastic Congratulations to the Grantees, National Steering Committee, National Coordinator, and all stakeholders on a successful 2020. Well done!

Terry Ince  
Chair, National Steering Committee  
GEF SGP

# GEF SGP TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

GEF SGP has been in Trinidad and Tobago for the past 25 years, during which they have supported 138 projects and 92 NGOs.

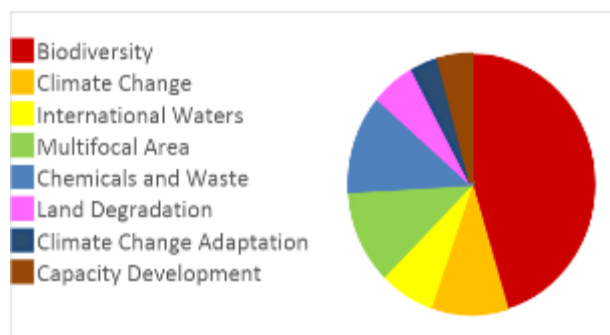
The GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP), implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is the main channel through which the Global Environment Facility or GEF provides grant funding to civil society organizations (CSOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

In tune with its tagline *Community Action, Global Impact*, the SGP provides financial and technical support to NGO/CBO/CSO projects that conserve and restore the environment while enhancing people's well-being and livelihoods at the community level. The SGP provides two kinds of grants: planning grants and full grants. Planning grants provide up to 5,000 USD and full grants up to 50,000 USD. Planning grants can be very helpful in preparing for a bigger project or for groups that do not have much experience in proposal development and project management.

This financial support is provided in phases of up to 4 years, referred to as Operational Phases (OP). The last year 2019-2020, represented the end of the OP6 phase which had the main objective of providing “support for the creation of global environmental benefits and the safeguarding of the global environment through community and local solutions that complement and add value to national and global level action”.

## GEF SGP 25 years

The GEF SGP Trinidad and Tobago began in 1995 and in the past 25 years, the Programme has supported 138 projects and supported capacity building in 92 non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Most of the projects over the past 25 years were in the Biodiversity Focal Area, however there were also a significant number in the area of Climate Change. Over the past 25 years, the programme has benefitted from 4.1million USD in grants, with grantees pledging in-kind co-financing at a ratio of 1:1.2.



**Figure 1: Projects within the different SGP focal areas from 1995-2020**

**Table 1: Summary of the GEF SGP funding provided 1995 -2020**

Basic Stats	Total Amounts	Average Amounts
Number of Projects	138	
Grants	4 110 988 USD	29 790 USD
Cash Co-financing	1 357 113 USD	9 834 USD
In-Kind Co-financing	3 565 123 USD	25 834 USD
Cash and In-kind Co-financing	4 922 236 USD	35 668 USD

## GEF SGP 2019-2020

**By December 2020, GEF SGP will have 10 active and 9 closed projects.**

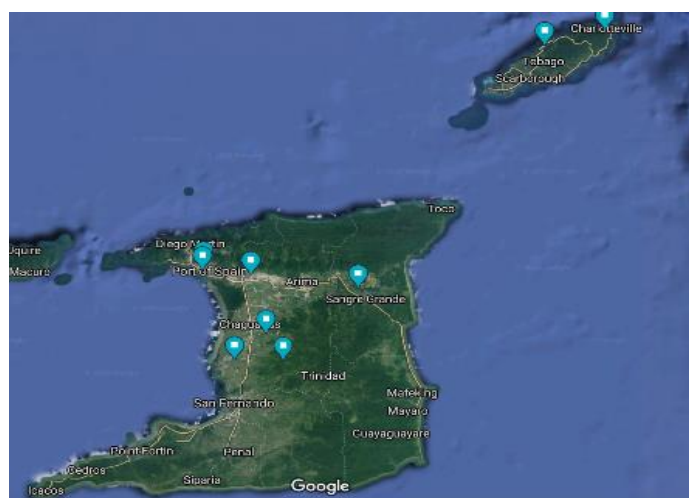
Under OP6, for the period 2019-2020, GEF SGP provided funding to 10 projects and successfully completed 9 projects. Table 2 summarizes the project statuses and the funding associated with each category. Over the past year, GEF SGP has supported 19 projects with total grant funding of 865,202 USD and cofunding of 1,215,816 USD. The ration of grant funding to total co-funding is 1:1.41, which is much higher than the 25-year average.

The distribution of the projects across Trinidad and Tobago is illustrated in Map 1. There is not a wide distribution of projects, despite the national call for concepts, because many NGOs lack the capacity to properly complete the concept form. In order to address this, the National Coordinator has been conducting personalized project development workshops (see page 30) with grassroots NGOs in order to raise their capacity to access the grant opportunities. Further, the Programme is working with COSTATT to provide important technical capacity in gender, social inclusion and sustainability, which are important consideration in the grant approval process. It is hoped that through these two (2) interventions that the number and distribution of grassroots NGOs accessing the grants will increase.

**Table 2. Project statuses and the associated funding**

<b>Projects Statuses</b>	<b>Number of Projects</b>	<b>Grant Amount</b>	<b>Co-financing in Cash</b>	<b>Co-financing in Kind</b>
Currently under execution	10	439 505	340 661	370 867
Satisfactorily Completed	9	425 515	92 898	411 390
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>865 020</b>	<b>433 559</b>	<b>782 257</b>

**Map 1. Location of completed projects 2019-2020**





# COMPLETED PROJECTS: RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

In total, GEF SGP projects have impacted 5,458 persons; rehabilitated 31 acres of land; diverted 1.985 tonnes of waste from landfills and replaced 20,535 disposable plastic items with eco-friendly alternatives.

Over the past 2 years, GEF SGP projects can be noted to have positive reach across both islands. Important achievements with the SGP focal areas are summarized in Table 3.

**Table 3. Noteworthy achievements within each focal area.**

Focal Area	Achievements
<b>Biodiversity</b>	<p>Rehabilitation of 31 areas of lands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2.5 hectares (6.2 acres) of quarried land (IAMovement and Trust for Sustainable Livelihood):</li> <li>- Rehabilitation of 25 acres of land addressing soil stabilization, reforestation and water conservation (SAMCAD)</li> </ul> <p>First shapefiles created for North East Tobago outlining major features and key environmental impacts (ERIC)</p> <p>Trinidad and Tobago country achieves the designation of “Man and the Biosphere” in North East Tobago (ERIC)</p> <p>Increased awareness of aquatic animal health; faster diagnostics of aquaculture diseases; improved treatment and disposal behaviours and increased production within the aquaculture sector (UWI ENHSAS)</p>
<b>Climate Change</b>	Construction of the country’s first community-run solar and water harvesting greenhouse (Habitat for Humanity)
<b>Chemical and Waste</b>	<p>In Trinidad, 5,333 persons participated in 22 beach clean-ups and diverted 1,985kg of recyclables from landfills (CNIRD).</p> <p>In Tobago, 20,535 plastic items (including Styrofoam) were replaced with eco-friendly alternatives and 278L of harsh detergents were substituted with ecofriendly substitutes (CDTA)</p>
<b>Capacity Development</b>	In total, within the 9 projects which closed within the past year, 1,540 persons benefitted from capacity building activities whilst 5,458 participated in project activities.
<b>Gender and Social Inclusion</b>	874 men and 666 women participated and benefitted from the capacity building and project activities; both men and women were offered equal access to opportunity in these projects.
<b>CSO-Government-Private Dialogue and Partnership</b>	All the featured projects included some level of partnership that they identified as important in the success of their project. Noteworthy examples are the NGO-Government-Private partnership built in the IWECO project (Trust for Sustainable Livelihoods and IAMovement) as well as the partnership within the Castara Tourism Development Association, Details of these are outlined on the individual NGO pages.

## SHIFT! Caribbean

SHIFT! Caribbean is an NGO based in Trinidad and Tobago dedicated to creating real, sustainable and just change in the Caribbean by building and equipping a community of leaders, with tools and techniques, to effectively design and implement projects that create real, lasting and just change for our country and the planet.

This GEF SGP project developed 45 youth leaders and entrepreneurs within children's homes and created 4 microenterprises, which offer more than 10 products for sale, many of which were made by the youths themselves. Products included fresh garden crops (seasoning and salad packs); home-made soaps and skin lotions, handbags and other fashion accessories and home furnishings (cushions, table runners).



### Achievement Dashboard

**Focal Area:** Capacity Development

**Location:** Four children's facilities: 2 located in Port of Spain (North and West Trinidad); 1 in Couva (Central Trinidad) and; 1 in Curepe (East Trinidad).

**Environment benefit:** Increased awareness of environmental issues in youth; development of youth microenterprises; development of environmentally friendly products; upcycling of waste into value-added projects.

**Social benefits:** 25 females, 20 boys benefitted from this project. Equal opportunities were provided to all. Skills building and training in entrepreneurship and leadership in youths; increased food security in homes.

**Contribution to National Targets:** SHIFT! Caribbean's project contributed to the success achievement of the following targets under the Policy of the Ministry of Youth Development and National Services:

1. Create an enabling environment which promotes and encourages youth participation in all aspects of sustainable development;
2. Foster a greater understanding of the needs of young people and provide guidelines for youth development;
3. Provide youth facilities throughout Trinidad and Tobago that will allow positive recreation and healthy lifestyles among the young, so as to give vulnerable youth a safe haven to socialize, while receiving coaching, counselling and acquiring information on civic responsibility (GORTT 2020).

**Contributes to SDGs:**



**Video links:** Ripple Effect Youth Programme Documentary: <https://youtu.be/WU-uLCpk7Dg>

TTT Live: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXt6f76GLKA> ; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZRxJLCu-1ww>

## IAMovement

IAMovement is a non-profit organization, founded in 2014, dedicated to effecting positive environmental and social change through activities and events to educate and empower others; raise awareness on key social, environmental and economic issues and create a platform for discussion and dialogue on important issues at a national level.

Their project aimed to train a group of 'community champions', from northeast Trinidad, on sustainable land management practices for the rehabilitation of abandoned quarry sites. An important deliverable was the development of a CSO-Government-Private partnership between IAMovement (NGO), Trust for Sustainable Livelihoods (NGO), Environmental Management Authority (Government), National Quarries (Government) and Carib Brewery (Private). IAMovement also established The Vetiver Network West Indies in order to bring together NGOs working with, and creating products from, vetiver across the Caribbean. This project was co-funded under the GEF Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWEco) project.



### Achievement Dashboard

**Focal Area:** Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWEco)

**Location:** Quarry is located in Turure and the community champions are from close by, in Turure and Valencia.

**Environment benefit:** Rehabilitated 2.5 hectares (6.2 acres) of quarried land by planting 20,000 vetiver plants and over 500 mixed forest trees. They also supported the channeling and spreading of approximately 100 tonnes of organic waste as mulch for topsoil regeneration, much of which would be otherwise headed to landfills.

**Social benefits:** Trained 27 female and 3 male community champions; creation of sustainable livelihood opportunities through vetiver handicraft.

**Contribution to National Targets:** Trinidad and Tobago's National Action Plan (NAP) 2006-2020 (GORTT 2012) is an integrated framework for mitigating the physical, biological and socio-economic impacts of land degradation. This project contributes to the realization of the following priority activities under the NAP:

1. Creating an enabling environment for participation by local groups and stakeholders;
2. Raising awareness to encourage behavioural change; and
3. Supporting existing projects and programmes which offer appropriate solutions to some aspects of land degradation and the involvement of local communities.

**Contributes to SDGs:**



**Video links:** <https://vimeo.com/333158650>

**Website links:** [www.tvnwi.org](http://www.tvnwi.org)

## Environmental Research Institute Charlotteville (ERIC)

The Environmental Research Institute Charlotteville, Tobago is an NGO dedicated to valuing and integrating diverse knowledge and experience to manifest a mutually beneficial relationship between the coastal communities and ecosystems of North East Tobago.

ERIC's project was developed to complement important natural resource management needs identified by the GEF-funded "Improved Forest and Protected Area Management (IFPAM)" project, which were: to complete a comprehensive stakeholder, resource use and ecosystem threats baseline mapping of the nearshore coastal area, and to demonstration livelihood benefits derived from conservation-related activities.



### Achievement Dashboard

**Focal Area:** Biodiversity

**Location:** North East Tobago

**Environment benefit:** Coral reef and forest survey data collected for 2017-2019; first shapefiles on ecosystem threats created for North East Tobago

**Social benefits:** 19 males and 7 females received training, capacity building and mentoring. Beneficiaries included 4 females, 2 males and 1 child. All benefitted from improved livelihoods during the period.

**Contribution to National Targets:** The data collected was used in the application for the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere designation, which was approved on October 28, 2020. Tobago's North-East region is now the largest MAB site in English-speaking Caribbean Small Island Developing States.

This project also contributes to the achievement of the following under the National Protected Areas Policy (GORTT 2011):

1. Collect baseline data and conduct continuous and periodic inventories of resources in protected areas (PA), using appropriate technology, including GIS, remote sensing, satellite imagery etc.;
2. Collect ecological data to guide a broad ecosystem approach to PA management, sustainable use and conservation;
3. Develop community-based programmes to benefit rural stakeholders in management and use of PAs.

**Contributes to SDGs:**



**Video links:** [Forest Check \(long\)](#); [Forest Check \(short\)](#); [Forest Check - Meet the tour guides](#); [Project Overview](#)

**Website:** <https://www.eric-tobago.org/index.html>

## Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development (CNIRD)

The Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development [CNIRD] is an independent, regional non- governmental organization founded in 1988, whose focus is promoting and advancing the process of rural transformation in the Caribbean, especially as regards youth and women.

The Marine Environment Education Programme in Trinidad & Tobago (MEEPTT) main goal focused on the reduction of marine debris pollution in Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) through education and direct involvement of diverse stakeholders. This was done by adopting a two-pronged approach through: (i) marine environment learning that increased the awareness among youth on the negative effects of pollution in our marine environment; and (ii) increasing collaborative relationships and dialogue between solid waste management companies (public and private), government agencies, conservation NGOs, and private sector groups that influence policies within the context of a national waste management strategy.



### Achievement Dashboard

**Focal Area:** Biodiversity

**Locations:** Multiple: 6 beach locations across the country and approximately schools across the island

**Environment benefit:** 22 beach clean-ups which collected 700kg glass, 1,285kg plastics and 426kg general trash. In total, 1,985kg of recyclables were diverted from landfills.

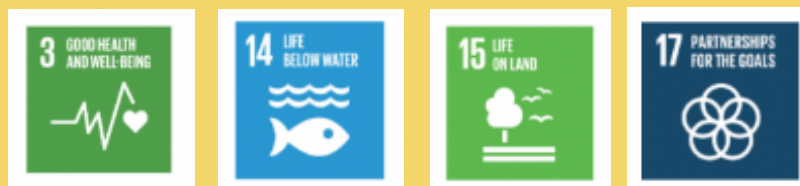
**Social benefits:** 1415 (800 female and 615 male) as well as 3918 adults benefitted from an increased awareness of the effects of marine pollution on the environment. This project also supported greater collaboration and partnership amongst schools, NGOs/CSOs, Government and corporate entities.

**Contribution to National Targets:** Under the National Recycling Policy (GORTT 2015), this project contributed to the achievement of the following:

1. Integrating educational programmes on waste management including waste recycling into primary and secondary school curricula;
2. Conducting continuous public awareness programmes and initiatives targeting key audiences utilizing a variety of methods and media (including the internet, film and radio);

Under the National Environmental Policy (GORTT 2018), this project also contributed to the Government's commitment to combating marine litter, inclusive of marine debris and micro-plastics, in accordance with the most current resolutions of the United Nations Environment Assembly.

**Contributes to SDGs:**



**Videos:** <https://www.facebook.com/490978107947862/videos/411470209738420/>  
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1V7\\_vAZ3y\\_5pL1hFfT22Uag8C6HQnR576/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1V7_vAZ3y_5pL1hFfT22Uag8C6HQnR576/view)



## Castara Tourism Development Association (CDTA)

Castara Tourism Development Association (CTDA) is an NGO committed to promoting and developing responsible tourism in Castara and its environs and to protect the ecology and environment of Castara, for locals and tourists alike, through demonstrative environmental projects involving the entire community.

Wanting to preserve the village and its environs and to reduce the marine pollution generated from its tourism trade, Castara Village in 2018 developed a community project to reduce their solid and liquid waste impacts on the environment. As a result, they created a line of eco-friendly cleaning products which are now available from their Sustainability Shop, which provides the village, and the rest of the island of Tobago, with ecofriendly products.



### Achievement Dashboard

**Focal Area:** Biodiversity

**Location:** Castara Village

**Environment benefit:** So far, CDTA has reported the following items were replaced with ecofriendly alternatives:

- ❖ 2,025 Styrofoam containers;
- ❖ 1,200 plastic cups;
- ❖ 6,900 utensils;
- ❖ 1,478 plastic (shopping) bags;
- ❖ 8,932 plastic garbage bags
- ❖ In total, the replacement of 20,535 plastic (including Styrofoam) items with more ecofriendly substitutes
- ❖ 278L of detergent (laundry, dishwashing and hand soap)

**Social benefits:** In February 2019, 15 guesthouse owners signed a pledge solidifying the commitment of their guesthouses, managers, staff and guests to engage in voluntary, environmentally-friendly practices to reduce pollution from Styrofoam, plastics, and harmful detergents in Castara. Also, 15 women and 9 men received training during this project.

**Contribution to National Targets:** This project directly contributed to the achievement of the following included in the National Integrated Water Resources Management Strategy (GORTT 2017):

1. Control of “non-point” sources of pollution from storm water, agricultural runoff, septic systems, and other sources;
2. Promote joint ownership, partnership and collective responsibility between Government and the people in the management of the nation’s water resources;

**Contributes to SDGs:**



## Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity Trinidad and Tobago is a non-profit organization committed to making decent shelter a matter of social conscience and national action in Trinidad and Tobago. Since 1997, this organization has provided training in financial management, technical and life skills, housing initiatives, and disaster risk reduction programmes. Habitat also works with families to protect the environment by building sanitation blocks for safe and sanitary waste disposal and through disaster risk reduction projects such as hillside stabilization and rainwater harvesting.



The project goal is to develop sustainable community resilience through partnership with The University of the West Indies and the Adopt a River programme and implementation of a climate smart agriculture on the community's communal garden land. This project aims to build the community capacity and establish a green greenhouse, equipped with solar and water harvesting.

### Achievement Dashboard

**Focal Area:** Biodiversity

**Location:** Cashew Gardens, Longdenville, Chaguanas.

**Potential Environment benefit:** Rainwater harvesting reduces flooding and water logging of soils; solar harvesting reduces carbon emission.

**Potential Social benefits:** Healthier crops for consumption, better working environment; continued employment for community members, especially the women who started the garden; improved water conservation and water supply during dry seasons; more efficient agriculture in terms of time and space.

**Contribution to National Targets:** This project has positively contributed to the realization under the National Environmental Policy (GORTT 2018):

1. Encourage partnerships at the national, regional and international scale to develop a sustainable food production system that:
  - a. Increases productivity and production;
  - b. Increases resilience to the impacts of climate change;
  - c. Maintains ecosystems; and
  - d. Improves the land and quality of soil.
2. Special emphasis will be given to programmes and projects that advance low-emissions development and enhance community resilience to natural disasters

**Contributes to SDGs:**



## UWI ENHSAS

For more than 70 years The University of the West Indies (The UWI) has provided service and leadership to the Caribbean region and wider world. In 2017, The UWI embarked on a project to strengthen the local aquatic animal health capacity in Trinidad and Tobago, through promoting and supporting the development of sustainable intensive and semi-intensive aquatic animal production systems, which will have the added advantage of reducing the current dependence on marine fishery stocks, thus supporting population rebound. An important aspect of the project was the emphasis on the critical interconnection between human health, aquatic animal health and environmental health ('One Health'), and the role that youths can play in influencing sustainable aquaculture production.



Important deliverables from this project included 4 capacity building; the enhancement of The UWI's diagnostic laboratory capacity and the provision of these services free of charge to food fish farmers and aquaculture enthusiasts. The project also created 5 informative videos on One Health videos which are now available online for public education.

### Achievement Dashboard

**Focal Area:** Biodiversity

**Location:** Food fish farmers and aquaculture enthusiasts across the country.

**Potential Environment benefit:** Reduction of microbacterial incidences in rivers and marine environment

**Potential Social benefits:** Increased awareness of aquatic animal health; faster diagnostics of aquaculture diseases and improved treatment and disposal behaviours and increased production within the aquaculture sector.

**Contribution to National Targets:** This project has positively contributed to the realization of the following under the National Environmental Policy (GORTT 2018):

1. To strengthen and promote nature conservation and in particular, conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems
2. To strengthen technical capacity and institutional processes to design, develop and effectively deliver an integrated package of critical support and services to facilitate implementation of the crop, fisheries and livestock-based development programmes that add value to stakeholders' efforts to improve their operations.

**Contributes to SDGs:**



**Videos:** ENHSAS- Proper Disposal of Wastewater - [https://youtu.be/\\_yAzmQPKIkQ](https://youtu.be/_yAzmQPKIkQ)  
 ENHSAS- Proper Disposal of Fish - <https://youtu.be/Ah77Lg63NZk>  
 ENHSAS- Invasive Species - <https://youtu.be/rZRNIXSlvZQ>  
 ENHSAS- Best Practices in Aquaculture - <https://youtu.be/6oWhutsZRZI>  
 ENHSAS- Antimicrobial Resistance - <https://youtu.be/aqi6h2fv-Mg>



## Santa Maria Development Company Limited (SAMCAD)

The Santa Maria Cocoa and Agricultural Development Company (SAMCAD) is an NGO whose main goal is to foster the sustainable development of the Santa Maria Cocoa estate and its environs, in the traditions of historic producers of fine-flavoured cocoa, while supporting the rich bio-diversity and micro-climate of the Gran Couva area. In 2016, they created a project to rehabilitate 40-60 acres of the Santa Maria cocoa estate, and create an ecologically friendly, economically viable business that will provide direct and indirect benefits to the local community.

Leaning on the vast experience of its team of professionals with experience in designing and execution of rural development, agro-industry, cocoa, forest and food plantations, the project has been able to rehabilitate 25 acres of land; reduce the hunting in the area and has set an example for biodiversity and eco-farming. Innovative conservation and biodiversity measures have also been introduced including the construction of ponds and the regulation of water flow in the main stream which allow year-round crop cultivation and support existing wildlife of deer, agouti, caimans, snakes, fish and birds during the dry seasons.



### Achievement Dashboard

**Focal Area:** Biodiversity

**Location:** Grand Couva, Central Trinidad

**Potential Environment benefit:** Planted approximately 2000 cocoa trees, 1500 banana and papaya plants, 420 fruit trees including citrus, coffee, guava, mango and tamarind. Rehabilitation of 25 acres of land addressing soil stabilization, reforestation and water conservation

**Potential Social benefits:** Development of agricultural crops and value-added products including but not limited to cocoa, coffee, sorrel and cassava.

**Contribution to National Targets:** This project has positively contributed to the realization under the National Environmental Policy (GORTT 2018):

1. To strengthen and promote nature conservation and in particular, conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems
2. To strengthen technical capacity and institutional processes to design, develop and effectively deliver an integrated package of critical support and services to facilitate implementation of the crop, fisheries and livestock-based development programmes that add value to stakeholders' efforts to improve their operations.

**Contributes to SDGs:**



## Trust for Sustainable Livelihood (SusTrust)

The mission of the Trust is to help people in the Caribbean better manage the natural resources on which their livelihoods depend by promoting sustainable management practices for natural resources at the community level.

SusTrust was a key partner in the CSO-Government-Private partnership with IAMovement (NGO), Environmental Management Authority (Government), National Quarries (Government) and Carib Brewery (Private). Their project was to train 20 persons in land restoration and to restore 1 hectare using mixed tree species, check dams and fire traces. This project was co-funded under the GEF Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWEco) project.



### Achievement Dashboard

**Focal Area:** Biodiversity

**Location:** Quarry is located in Turure and the community champions are from close by, in Turure and Valencia.

**Environment benefit:** Rehabilitated 2.5 hectares of quarried land; established 10 check dams completed; installed 100m of fire traces; built a nursery which established 7,200 trees.

**Social benefits:** Trained 27 female and 3 male community champions; creation of sustainable livelihood opportunities through vetiver handicraft.

**Contribution to National Targets:** Trinidad and Tobago's National Action Plan (NAP) 2006-2020 (GORTT 2012) is an integrated framework for mitigating the physical, biological and socio-economic impacts of land degradation. This project contributes to the realization of the following priority activities under the NAP:

1. Creating an enabling environment for participation by local groups and stakeholders;
2. Raising awareness to encourage behavioural change; and
3. Supporting existing projects and programmes which offer appropriate solutions to some aspects of land degradation and the involvement of local communities.

**Contributes to SDGs:**



# ONGOING PROJECTS: PROJECTED BENEFITS

## Brasso Seco Morne La Croix Farmers Association

The Brasso Seco Morne La Croix is an agricultural and apicultural community, which also produces honey under the brand Honey Seco. Currently, the group has approximately 300 hives which collectively produce 1200 gallons of honey per year, most of which are sold under their brand name.



The Brasso Seco/ Morne La Croix Farmers Association will expand their current honey production and develop new value-added products with the assistance of GEF SGP. Their project also aims to produce high-quality queens, improve hive management, and reduce the use of agricultural chemicals which negatively affect the bees. With the expansion of new apiaries, the group also hopes to increase employment opportunities in the community.

### Achievement Dashboard

**Focal Area:** Climate Smart Innovative Agro-Ecology

**Location:** Brasso Seco and Morne La Croix

**Potential Environment benefit:** 15 trained farmers in integrated agriculture, 15 persons trained in queen rearing, 15 farms using less chemicals; 1000 native forest trees planted in Brasso Seco and Morne La Croix; training of 4 farmers in proper hive management to decrease number of lost hives

**Potential Social benefits:** 15 farmers (at least 5 are women) trained for apiary tourism, 5 of 15 women trained in queen rearing, established apiary to conduct apicultural tours, training of 25 community members (at least 15 are women) in mead, beeswax and nucleus protection (to be sold)

#### Contribution to National Targets:

1. Contributes to the Government's commitment to increase honey production to over 200,000 liters (IDB 2018) and provision of training in new technologies (IADB 2018);
2. Contributed to the Government's commitment to supporting existing projects and programmes which offer appropriate solutions to some aspect of land degradation and the involvement of local communities (GORTT 2012).
3. Contributes to the sustainability of the agricultural sector by restoring, protecting and enhancing ecosystems that provide important supporting ecological services (e.g. soil conservation, pollination, sources of wild genetic stock) (GORTT 2011);
4. Contributes to restoring, protecting and enhancing watersheds to support the supply and quality of water (GORTT 2011).

#### Contributes to SDGs:



**Videos:** <https://youtu.be/1Vlcx82qJIo>

## Cashew Gardens Community Council

The Cashew Gardens Community Council (CGCC) is a community-based organization that has existed since 2001, which is responsible for piloting environmentally friendly, climate conscious projects in the central area. Their community boasts of the longest running, community-based plastic recycling programme in the country.



The objective of their project is to create a climate resilient and self-sustainable community through the development of the country's first community-based composting programme, which will produce compost to service the community's garden. The waste will be collected weekly and taken to the community composter for processing.

### Achievement Dashboard

**Focal Area:** Climate Change

**Location:** Cashew Gardens, Longdenville, Chaguanas.

**Potential Environment benefit:** 16 households in the community will reduce their carbon footprint via training in the composting initiative. This project will also contribute to the reduction of organic waste in our landfills which accounts for 10% of the total waste collected.

**Potential Social benefits:** Employment for 3 community persons in composting; compost created will be used in the community garden, which will provide the community with healthier, safer food.

#### Contribution to National Targets:

1. Contributes to the sustainability of the agricultural sector by restoring, protecting and enhancing ecosystems that provide important supporting ecological services (e.g. soil conservation, pollination, sources of wild genetic stock) (GORTT 2011);
2. Contributes to the Government's commitment under the Draft National Policy on Sustainable Community Development for Trinidad and Tobago (2018) to support employment-generating activities- including micro and small -sized businesses, skills training, improved local infrastructure, improved agricultural conditions and techniques, expanded and focus on natural resources conservation.
3. Contributes to the Government's commitment under the Draft Waste Recycling Policy (GORTT 2015) to manage waste in an integrated waste management system in accordance with a hierarchy that minimizes land-filling, with an increased focus on reduction of toxicity and volume of waste, through reuse, recycling and source-separated organic waste management.

#### Contributes to SDGs:



**Website:** <https://www.cashewamodelcommunity.org/cgcc-garden>

## Carbon Zero Institute of Trinidad and Tobago (CZITT)

The Carbon Zero Institute of Trinidad and Tobago is a non-profit organization dedicated to facilitating Trinidad and Tobago becoming a carbon neutral country and a leader in sustainable practices. Their mission is to positively contribute to changing this through research, engagement with stakeholders, advocacy, development of projects, support for initiatives which contribute to the overall objectives and recording of carbon offsets.



The youth climate change mitigation project intends to create awareness, advocacy and education through online modules, teaching students how to conduct a climate audit and develop, implement and report on energy efficiency plans which can decrease net carbon emissions, whilst popularizing carbon reducing technologies. The goal is for students to implement these plans in their schools and homes to offset carbon emissions and reduce energy wastage, and this process will be marketing and encouraged through online competitions where participants can also win carbon reducing technologies.

### Achievement Dashboard

**Focal Area:** Climate Change, Chemicals

**Location:** The entire country

**Potential Environment benefit:** At least 200 completed climate audits and energy efficiency plans submitted by participating students; 20 renewable energy technologies distributed to students; at least 1000 Moringa trees planted; popularization and increased use of carbon reducing technologies and carbon offsetting.

**Potential Social benefits:** Increased awareness and improved behavior with respect to climate change, carbon emissions and auditing; 8 completed competitions; 12 completed online climate modules

#### Contribution to National Targets:

1. Contributes to the Government's commitment (GORTT 2011) to integrate educational programmes on climate change impacts, mitigation and adaptation into primary and secondary school curricula;
2. Contributes to the Government's commitment (GORTT 2011) to conduct continuous public awareness programmes and initiatives targeting key audiences and utilizing a variety of methods and media (including the internet, film and radio);

#### Contributes to SDGs:



**Website:** <https://czitt-ed.org/>



## Flying Tree Environmental Management

Flying Tree is a non-government organization (NGO) dedicated to the reforestation and rehabilitation of endangered and sensitive ecosystems. They derived their name from their most popular method of tree planting: aerial tree-planting using paragliders.

Their project is aimed at directly reducing environmental polymer (plastics), through education and training on its impacts, consumption, collection and ability to be used as a raw material to create products and generate secondary incomes for the Kernahan and Roxborough Communities in Trinidad and Tobago. Infrastructure and equipment will also be installed there and some participants will be taught to be trainers, to sustain the communities' ability to create these products. This project will also serve as practical teaching on the closing of the industrial loop and sequestering plastic locally.



### Achievement Dashboard

**Focal Area:** Chemicals and Waste

**Location:** Kernahan (East coast Trinidad) and Roxborough (East coast Tobago)

**Potential Environment benefit:** Increased awareness and appreciation of polymers and improved consumption patterns within two communities; reduction of polymer waste in environment by improved disposal habits and polymer collection (facilitated through the installation of at least 8 collection bins for each community) and infrastructure installed to sustain the upcycling activities.

**Potential Social benefits:** 50 community participants trained in entrepreneurship and green enterprise; creation of 2 green enterprise in each community; 10 trainers that can teach on collection, monitoring and upcycling methods.

#### Contribution to National Targets:

Under the National Waste Recycling Policy (2015), this project:

1. Contributes to the Government's goal to treatment of waste as a resource; emphasis on reduction and recycling in order to promote resource conservation and environmental protection; generators taking responsibility for the waste they produce; greater involvement of the private sector in waste management; and the reinvigoration of recycling.
2. Contributes to the Government's commitment to encourage the reduction of waste production and its harmfulness, particularly through the development of clean technologies, techniques for the recovery or final disposal of dangerous waste substances, and the development and marketing of products designed to have minimal environmental impact by nature of their manufacture, use or final disposal;
3. Assists in the realization of the Government's goal to develop community-based programmes to encourage rural stakeholders' involvement in the waste recycling effort.

#### Contributes to SDGs:



#### Websites:

[https://www.tt.undp.org/content/trinidad\\_tobago/en/home/presscenter/articles/2013/EconomicBenefits.html](https://www.tt.undp.org/content/trinidad_tobago/en/home/presscenter/articles/2013/EconomicBenefits.html)

## Central Pathfinders Environmental Foundation

The Central Pathfinders Environmental Foundation (CPEF) has a mission of promoting ecological conservation through sustainable environmental and agricultural awareness and development.

The Urbanized Composting Unit (UCU) project addresses the problem of improper disposal of organic wastes, through the creation of an urbanized composting unit. According to the Waste Recycling Policy (2015), organic material accounts for 32% of waste at the Beetham Landfill. Organic material often produces more methane than carbon dioxide when decomposed under anaerobic conditions, thus contributing to the problem of climate change. The project contributes to the goal of proper waste disposal through the development of an affordable UCU prototype, along with beta testing and distribution to stakeholders, including youth and women who are integral parts of an urbanized household.



### Achievement Dashboard

**Focal Area:** Climate smart innovative agro-ecology, Climate Change

**Location:** Possible impacts across the entire country.

**Environment benefit:** 25 individuals trained in urbanized composting techniques as a means of waste reduction; 24 units of the CPEF UCU donated; at least 4 stakeholders having mature compost from their household organic waste by use of an UCU; production of personal fertilizer that is safe from contaminants.

**Potential Social benefits:** 25 individuals trained; provision of accessible and affordable means for household waste management planning/techniques; generation of revenue through the promotion and sale of a cost-effective and functional compost tumbler and compost material; 10 members trained in marketing and branding

#### Contribution to National Targets:

1. Contributes to the Government's commitment under the Draft National Policy on Sustainable Community Development for Trinidad and Tobago to support employment-generating activities- including micro and small -sized businesses, skills training, improved local infrastructure, improved agricultural conditions and techniques, expanded and focus on natural resources conservation.
2. Contributes to the Government's commitment under the Draft Waste Recycling Policy (GORTT 2015) to manage waste in an integrated waste management system in accordance with a hierarchy that minimizes land-filling, with an increased focus on reduction of toxicity and volume of waste, through reuse, recycling and source-separated organic waste management.

#### Contributes to SDGs:



**Website:** <https://centralpathfinders.wordpress.com/>

## Trinidad and Tobago Bridge Initiative (TTBI)

The Trinidad and Tobago Bridge Initiative (TTBI) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to enable the sustainable development of communities and interest groups across several sectors by connecting people to each other, resources and transformational opportunities. This mission is achieved through their flagship initiative NEW FIRE Festival (NFF) as well as social entrepreneurship initiatives which include upcycled furniture making and eco-event services.



Trinidad and Tobago's waste production are significant when compared to our population size and was identified as the second highest per capita producer of greenhouse emissions after Qatar. The NEW FIRE Environmental Empowerment Programme therefore aims to enable sustainable development through increased environmental awareness, skill building and community empowerment, and to provide opportunities to market said skills. This project hopes to equip participants with the skills needed for sustainable practices in their personal lives and become ambassadors of this lifestyle in their communities.

### Achievement Dashboard

**Focal Area:** Chemicals

**Location:** Arima, Freeport and Gonzales

**Potential Environment benefit:** 3 NEW FIRE Skill Building Workshops with 15-20 participants per workshop; development and sale of recycled products from the workshop

**Potential Social benefits:** Public Awareness and Education Campaign where 10 UNDP GEF SGP grantee organizations will be featured during the media campaign; 'Lessons Learned' document developed based on feedback from a minimum of 50 stakeholders, including TTBI collaborators who are community-based organizations and potential SGP grantees

#### Contribution to National Targets:

1. Contributes to the Government's commitment under the Draft National Policy on Sustainable Community Development for Trinidad and Tobago (2018) to support employment-generating activities- including micro and small -sized businesses, skills training, improved local infrastructure, improved agricultural conditions and techniques, expanded and focus on natural resources conservation;
2. Contributes to the Government's goal (GORTT 2015) to treatment of waste as a resource; emphasis on reduction and recycling in order to promote resource conservation and environmental protection; generators taking responsibility for the waste they produce; greater involvement of the private sector in waste management; and the reinvigoration of recycling.

#### Contributed to SDGs:





## The Sunbeam Foundation

The Sunbeam Foundation (SbF) is a service-based non-profit organization which collates the efforts of non-profit organizations, community-based organizations, state agencies, entrepreneurs and companies (public and private) in an attempt to guide communities toward activities that promote their holistic development and sustainable living with the earth.



The goal of the Food Production in Motion project is to introduce the concept of modular cluster gardening; facilitated by sustainable climate-smart agro-ecology in urban settings. Piloted to its full expression in Arima, this project was developed to counteract the challenge that current accessible produce was perceived to be laden with pesticide, and generally cultivated via “unhealthy” practices; an issue identified via surveying community members within the district. The objectives of Food Production in Motion involve disseminating knowledge and practical skill sets to grow produce via “healthier techniques” and facilitating production and monthly sale of this produce at discounted prices to the community.

### Achievement Dashboard

**Focal Area:** Climate Smart Innovative Agro-Ecology

**Location:** Arima

**Potential Environment benefit:** At least 300 members from the community with improved knowledge and practical skill sets to grow healthy/ “pesticide-free” produce, a max. of 12 individual agriculture systems based on at least one 1 individual component of the integrated zero-waste system constructed

**Potential Social benefits:** A max. of 4 integrated zero-waste agriculture systems to facilitate training of adults and youths and produce future sales, at least 300 students and 20 adults having utilised equipment in at least one of the established training sites via an 8-week training course geared towards greater understanding in the theoretical and practical techniques of producing “healthier” food, centralized monthly sales events to ensure that community members have access to cheaper sources of healthy/ “pesticide free” produce.

**Contribution to National Targets:**

1. Contributes to the sustainability of the agricultural sector by restoring, protecting and enhancing ecosystems that provide important supporting ecological services (e.g., soil conservation, pollination, sources of wild genetic stock) (GORTT 2011);
2. Contributes to the Government’s commitment under the Draft National Policy on Sustainable Community Development for Trinidad and Tobago (2018) to support employment-generating activities- including micro and small -sized businesses, skills training, improved local infrastructure, improved agricultural conditions and techniques, expanded and focus on natural resources conservation.

**Contributes to SDGs:**



## Volunteer Centre of Trinidad and Tobago

The Volunteer Center of Trinidad and Tobago (VCTT) is a registered NGO with a mission to Connect People, Fuel Hope & Collaborate for Change. This mission is pursued through a process of connecting volunteers to initiatives which support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). One of their strategic areas of support includes interventions which support SDG 2 - Zero Hunger. Their goal is to make volunteerism engaging and accessible in the hopes of creating an enabling environment for the growth and sustainability of the agricultural sector.



The Agri-Social Training & Reimagining Trinidad & Tobago project seeks to address the low opportunities for livelihood development and food security in East Port of Spain through expanding opportunities for *agri-preneurship* with home and community gardens/ food parks. This intervention also hopes to develop the economic capacity of communities through the production of value-added products from the community gardens. Products will be sold through weekend markets which will be set up in East Port of Spain on a monthly basis, as well as through direct trade to supermarkets.

### Achievement Dashboard

**Focal Area:** Climate Smart Innovative Agro-Ecology

**Location:** Eastern Port of Spain (POS)- Gonzales, Chinapoo, Sea Lots

**Potential Environment benefit:** 25 Home Gardens set up in targeted homes in East POS which contributes to 25% of their plate within a 6-month period; 25 households trained in home gardening and develop home gardens; 3 Community Gardens / Food Parks set up in three communities in East POS including Gonzales, Chinapoo and Basilion Street.

**Potential Social benefits:** 36 youth from three communities in East Port of Spain become farmers and receive a secondary income from the Community Gardens; 1 Weekend Market set up in Gonzales at the Robert Greenidge Playground; 36 farmers trained in *agri-preneurship* from three communities in East POS

#### Contribution to National Targets:

1. Contributes to the sustainability of the agricultural sector by restoring, protecting and enhancing ecosystems that provide important supporting ecological services (e.g., soil conservation, pollination, sources of wild genetic stock) (GORTT 2011);
2. Contributes to the Government's commitment under the Draft National Policy on Sustainable Community Development for Trinidad and Tobago (2018) to support employment-generating activities- including micro and small-sized businesses, skills training, improved local infrastructure, improved agricultural conditions and techniques, expanded and focus on natural resources conservation.

**Contributes to SDG:**



## The University of the West Indies - Division of Student Services and Development

The University of the West Indies' (UWI) mission is to advance learning, create knowledge and foster innovation for the positive transformation of the Caribbean and the wider world. The Division of Student Services and Development is committed to the provision of comprehensive programming and services that support and cater to the diverse and evolving needs of our students.



Persons with disabilities (PWDs) are on the margins of T&T's response to plastic pollution, many completed and ongoing interventions have either completely left out or treated these persons as passive rather than active agents of change. Additionally, T&T has limited livelihood opportunities for PWDs and the entry points for technical/vocational education and the job market are expensive and prohibitive. Therefore, the project goal is to leverage the abilities and skill set of PWDs to adopt technologies and support services for upcycling waste plastic into a range of affordable products and new and appropriate social entrepreneurship opportunities.

### Achievement Dashboard

**Focal Area:** Climate Change

**Location:**

**Potential Environment benefit:** 1 workshop on upcycling waste plastic for PWDs; 15 persons knowledgeable on the use and application of upcycling waste technologies; agreements, policy and livelihood strategies on plastic pollution and climate change are refined with concrete recommendations advanced by PWDs for their inclusion

**Potential Social benefits:** 50% progress in establishing a knowledge sharing and knowledge exchange forum; at least 25 PWDs access expert support for knowhow on upcycling waste plastic; at least 35 PWD stakeholders and beneficiaries support the implementation

**Contribution to National Targets:**

1. Contributes to the Government's commitment to encourage the reduction of waste production and its harmfulness, particularly through the development of clean technologies, techniques for the recovery or final disposal of dangerous waste substances, and the development and marketing of products designed to have minimal environmental impact by nature of their manufacture, use or final disposal;
2. Eliminate marginalization of, and discrimination against all persons with disabilities ensuring effective access to justice;
3. Empower persons with disabilities and their families to participate in discussions on the implementation of disability related initiatives;
4. Provide national direction for greater inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities in social, educational, cultural, economic and recreational aspects of society;

**Contributes to SDGs:**



## The College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (COSTATT)



The College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago's (COSTAATT) mission is to provide high-quality, affordable and accessible educational programmes and focus on building capacity within local communities, providing a wide range of opportunities for personal development, and in thus raising the standard of living for local communities.

The Sustainability, Gender and Social Inclusiveness Certificate for NGOs is designed to assess their weaknesses in projects, develop educational interventions to culminate in a certificate programme and provide participants with extended post-training support through specialized coaching and consultation. COSTATT will build local capacity amongst NGOs and CBOs who are interested in seeking funding from the GEF SGP, to infuse better practices of sustainability, gender and social equity in their operations and projects.

### Achievement Dashboard

**Focal Area:** Capacity Development

**Location:** Will benefit NGOs across the entire country

**Potential Environment benefit:** More sustainable projects and green enterprises to assist in conservation of the natural environment

**Potential Social benefits:** A series of 15-hour workshops delivered over 5 months to 24 NGOs/CBOs in order to reach a target audience of 100 individuals; increased awareness by 20% among 80% of participating individuals as evidenced through pre- and post- workshop evaluations, design and development of coaching/consultant framework; development of future GEF SGP proposals

#### Contribution to National Targets:

1. Supports the achievement of the goal of the DNPSCD which is to achieve sustainable communities through encouraging strong community bonds; inculcating a sense of community pride, creating opportunities for communities to work together to accomplish common goals towards sustainable community development; supporting and guiding community-based entrepreneurial projects, and providing support for the strengthening development of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and individuals;
2. Supports the Government's policy on Gender and Development to promote gender equity, equality, social justice and sustainable development in Trinidad and Tobago. It aims:
  - a. To improve the quality of life of men and women and boys and girls, at all levels of society through the promotion of gender equity and equality.
  - b. To reinforce the inextricable links between gender equality and sustainable development goals in national development.
  - c. To promote active and visible gender mainstreaming in all sectors and within civil society to ensure agency for gender equity and equality in all spheres of national life.

#### Contributes to SDGs:



# GEFSGP COVID RESPONSE

## Addressing food security and resilience

Trinidad and Tobago recorded its first case of COVID-19 on March 12, 2020 and by November 2020, there were over 6,000 confirmed cases. Like most countries, this pandemic exacerbated the social and economic vulnerability of many communities and resulted in thousands in need. GEF SGP and its grantees quickly sprang into action with assessments of COVID-19 impacts and appropriate responses to the needs identified by the community.

Over 600 seed kits for establishing home gardens, were delivered to community groups across the country by the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) as part of its effort to support communities during the Covid-19 pandemic, with seeds also being provided by The University of the West Indies seed bank. The initiative followed a survey of community organizations in which food and seedlings for growing food at home were identified as urgent needs.

The kits contained a variety of seed types including celery, pimento, beets, pakchoi, cabbage, cauliflower, ochro, melongene and cucumber. They were delivered to 12 communities across the country which included Arima, Brasso Seco, Grande Riviere, Siparia, La Savanne, Felicity, Moruga, Castara, Charlotteville and Port of Spain. Bottles of soap as well as washable, reusable masks were also distributed.

The University of the West Indies also supported this initiative by providing seed kits to 4 organizations that focus on the needs of persons with disabilities (PWDs), thereby providing support to this important and sometimes forgotten community. The response from the communities has been overwhelmingly positive. GEF SGP has received feedback from many of the communities which have diligently shared videos and pictures of their developing gardens and their produce.

GEF SGP also worked with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to expand this initial distribution into a nationwide, Grow-Garden initiative, with a special focus on vulnerable communities that have been disproportionately affected by the food security challenges brought on by COVID. This project provided 2000 food hampers and seed kits across five islands: Trinidad, Tobago, Aruba, Curacao and Sint Maarten.

The seed-kit project in Trinidad and Tobago targeted at-risk youth, single mothers and low-income households. The kits were accompanied with supporting videos on how to set up and maintain a home garden. These videos were done by AgriMan, the Caribbean region's only food security superhero, and were made available from the UNDP website ([www.undp.tt.org](http://www.undp.tt.org)).

The GEF SGP is also supporting the UNDP in their development of a mobile app, which will allow home gardeners to upload their videos on their gardens to share their successes as well as get advice on how to address diseases or improve production.





## Addressing online education

COVID-19 not only threatened the health of the people of this country but also widened the digital divide, especially in terms of education. Trinidad and Tobago is reported to have 77.3% of its population having accessibility to the internet. However, the education system of the country has limited digital support and as such, when COVID-19 hit and educational institutions were closed, the education of the children of the nation slowed almost to a halt.

In response to this, GEF SGP grantee, Restore a Sense of I Can (RSC), worked diligently to support digital education with the provision of refurbished computers to those in need. In 2017, Restore A Sense of I Can (RSC) received grant funding from GEF SGP to implement a project called “Reduction of Indiscriminate Dumping of E-Waste - R.I.D.E.

During COVID-19, RSC worked with 9 corporate partners, including Republic Bank Limited and Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Company (TTEC), to donate over 250 units to schools, civil society organizations, community-based organizations and individual families. Through their partnership, RSC collected old computers from these corporate partners, assessed the units and then rebuilt and/or refurbished the units for further longevity. Impressively, eighty (80) families received units, to support the education of children within these households.



In total to date, 445 units have been refurbished which means 445 less units in our landfills. Further, parts from old computers were used in the refurbishment and any parts that could not be used were taken by the Environmental Management Authority or Kaizen Environmental Services Ltd. for appropriate, environmentally safe processing.

The GEF SGP would like to acknowledge the work of the RSC in their COVID-19 response and congratulate them for sustainably furthering the work of their project.

# GEF SGP CAPACITY BUILDING

The GEF SGP provides capacity building for NGOs, under a number of headings, in order to support their pursuit of grants and successful implementation of projects. Areas of capacity building and training which has been provided are as follows:

- Proposal development;
- Report writing;
- Survey data collection;
- Presentation development and skills.



Most of the current NGOs benefitted from the proposal and report writing training which is provided by the National Coordinator (NC).

In 2020, two NGOs were fortunate to receive additional support from GEF SGP in presentation development and skills. This was done as a capacity building exercise to encourage these NGOs to participate in regional conferences, in order to highlight their work to others within their fields. The details of these NGO presentations are as follows:

- ❖ Flying Tree Environmental Management presented at the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) 29th Annual Conference and Exhibition which was held from the Oct 19-23rd 2020. Their presentation, and subsequent paper, is entitled “Industrial Symbiosis (IS) in Plastics: A Caribbean cluster-based case for a viable Caribbean Circular Economy”<sup>1</sup>.
- ❖ Brasso Seco Morne La Croix Farmers Group presented at the 10<sup>th</sup> Association of Beekeeping Organizations (ACBO) 10th Caribbean Beekeeping Congress (CBC 2020). Their presentation was entitled “Apiculture as a mechanism of realizing community sustainable livelihoods”<sup>2</sup>. Brasso Seco also benefitted from training in survey development, which allowed them to survey 16 beekeepers in Brasso Seco and environs. This data was included in their presentation, which received high commendations for the inclusion of statistics as well as the community efforts within this project.

GEFSGP will continue to provide capacity building and training to NGOs and will be expanding their topics of training in future to include conflict resolution, gender and social inclusion as well as leadership and entrepreneurship. It will be done to strengthen grass-root NGOs in their organizational management and development of sustainable, inclusive business models.

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1. Mahabir S., I. Jagassar, S. Millette, J. Andrade, G. Boodoo, A. Garcia, A. Parasram-Andrade and J. Andrade. Industrial Symbiosis (IS) in Plastics: A Caribbean cluster-based case for a viable Caribbean Circular Economy. Presented at (CWWA) 29th Annual Conference and Exhibition (Oct 19-23rd 2020). [https://www.tt.undp.org/content/trinidad\\_tobago/en/home/presscenter/articles/2013/EconomicBenefits.html](https://www.tt.undp.org/content/trinidad_tobago/en/home/presscenter/articles/2013/EconomicBenefits.html)
  2. Omardeen, J. and J. De Ramos. 2020. Apiculture as a mechanism of realizing community sustainable livelihoods. Presentation made at the 10<sup>th</sup> Association of Beekeeping Organizations (ACBO) 10th Caribbean Beekeeping Congress (CBC 2020). (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Vlcx82qJIo>)

# GEF SGP PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Over the past year, further to the UNDP Rapid Response Fund (RRF) COVID-19, the GEF SGP has assisted in the development of projects as well as concepts and proposals for funding outside of its core functions. These were:

## Regional Apiculture Project

GEF SGP received a strategic grant (\$150,000USD) to implement an innovation programme, with south-south cooperation, in the field of Apiculture in seven participating countries namely St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, Grenada, Samoa and Trinidad and Tobago. This initiative will see the development of a regional apiculture industry, with all participating countries benefiting from the competitive advantage on the international market, brought about by the collective effort of production of hives and hive products. This project should begin in 2021.

## Chemical Container Recycling Project

In 2020, GEF SGP facilitated the development of a NGO-CSO-Private partnership in support of the implementation of the country's first chemical container recycling pilot programme. The partnership includes GEF SGP, Flying Tree Environmental Management (FTEM) (NGO grantee), The University of the West Indies (UWI) (CSO grantee) and MAFAS Co. Ltd., a local company which provides agricultural products and services to farmers and others in the agricultural sector in Trinidad and throughout the Caribbean.

For the project pilot, MAFAS installed chemical container collection bins in an agricultural shop in a community in central Trinidad. Extension staff from MAFAS educated the farmers on the proper disposal of chemical containers using the triple rinse method. The bins are also labelled with the



proper methods of disposal of the plastic containers, including information on triple rinsing. The farmers were encouraged to dispose of their chemical containers when they visit the agricultural shop. The agricultural shop has agreed to inform MAFAS when the bins are filled.

Waste, non-recyclable chemical containers collected in MAFAS bin will be sorted. MAFAS has agreed to reuse some of their chemical containers and hence, they will recover these from the collection bins. All other containers will be sent to FTEM where they will be used to make concrete products. The UWI



will conduct pressure testing and leachability studies of the concrete products to ensure that there are no environmental or health risks from the products themselves.

In support of the proper implementation of this project, the GEF SGP assisted the team members in developing a proposal for funding (\$80,000USD) under the Basel Convention's Plastic Waste Partnership. The proposal is to set up two satellite processing facilities to process chemical containers into upcycled concrete products such as highway dividers.

## Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) project

The GEF SGP has worked in conjunction with the Ministry of Public Utilities and CAPNET to develop a concept to support community water projects in Trinidad and Tobago. The concept is entitled “Utilizing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in Rainwater Harvesting (RWH) in order to achieve Community Resilience and Disaster Preparedness in Trinidad and Tobago” and was recently approved by the Minister of Public Utilities. It has gone forth to Parliament for approval.

In support of this, GEF SGP has begun facilitating a Private-Government dialogue between the Ministry and the Caribbean Bottlers Limited, local representative for Coca Cola. Coca Cola is interested in funding a water replenishment project to benefit the rural community of Matelot. Discussions are ongoing and if approval is received from the Minister for this project, it should come to fruition in 2021, and GEF SGP will support in terms of the capacity building at the community level.

## Online Education Platform (OEP)

GEF SGP facilitated discussion between CZITT, a current grantee, the Ministry of Education in Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean Examination Council. A concept was drafted to develop the CZITT online educational platform as a key tool in achieving blended learning across the Caribbean region. If this is achieved, then CZITT's climate portal, which is GEF SGP funded, will become an integral feature since it supports climate education in the curriculum of a number of CXC subjects.



# LAUNCH OF OP7

GEF SGP will be releasing their call for proposals in 2021 under the newly launched Operational Phase 7 (OP7). The objective of the 7th Operational Phase of the Small Grants Programme is “*to promote and support community-based innovative, inclusive and impactful initiatives and foster multi-stakeholder partnerships at the local level to tackle global environmental issues in priority landscapes and seascapes*”.

In alignment with the overall GEF-7 programming, SGP will focus its efforts on targeted strategic initiatives that promote integrated approaches in addressing key global environmental issues. The strategic initiatives for Trinidad and Tobago, which guide the projects to be supported, are as follows:

1. **Community-based conservation of threatened ecosystems and species:** SGP grants under this strategic initiative will focus on both conservation and sustainable use: including management of protected areas and corridors, integrated river-basins, and large marine ecosystems with active involvement of communities (e.g. Indigenous and Communities Conserved Areas (ICCAs) and private protected areas) as well as mainstreaming biodiversity in key production sectors (e.g. agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and infrastructure).
2. **Sustainable agriculture and fisheries, and food security:** This strategic initiative will aim to test and promote community-based climate resilient agriculture, fisheries and food practices that improve productivity and increase ecological connectivity and deliver other benefits.
3. **Low-carbon energy access co-benefits:** Under this initiative, SGP will aim to demonstrate and scale up low carbon, viable and appropriate technologies and approaches that improve community energy access, in line with larger frameworks such as SDGs and NDCs.
4. **Local to global coalitions for chemicals and waste management:** SGP will aim to demonstrate, deploy and transfer innovative community-based tools and approaches to sound chemicals and waste management, especially in communities in the forefront of threats related to chemicals and waste, by supporting innovative, affordable and practical solutions to chemicals and waste management in joint effort with partners including with government agencies, research institutions, private sector and international agencies.
5. **Catalyzing sustainable urban solutions:** This strategic initiative will support the promotion of appropriate integrated community-oriented sustainable urban solutions in partnership with private sector and government. These could include solar and water harvesting as well as community gardens, in order to address climate change, water conservation and energy in urban spaces.

6. **CSO-Government-Private Sector Policy and Planning Dialogue Platforms:** The aim of this is to ensure that community voices and participation are promoted and enhanced in the global and national strategy development related to global environment and sustainable development issues. An important commitment for OP7 in Trinidad and Tobago is the development of partnerships in order to more effectively realize projects listed in the aforementioned strategies.
7. **Enhancing social inclusion:** This strategic initiative aims to ensure that social inclusion, particularly empowerment of women, indigenous peoples, youth and persons with disabilities, is further enhanced through both specific initiatives/projects that targets these populations as well as mainstreaming an inclusive approach through all SGP projects on environment and livelihood improvement.
8. **Knowledge Management:** The objectives of knowledge management in SGP are to: capture knowledge, leverage local expertise and give voice to civil society, identify new approaches and ways of learning, improve effectiveness, improve capacities of staff and grantees, promote and encourage innovation, address operational and programmatic challenges effectively, influence policy and scale up good practices.
9. **Results Management, Monitoring & Evaluation:** During the project period, SGP will enhance capacity and systems to ensure the newly developed M&E strategy is implemented at all levels, including project, country and global levels. Building on the recommendations of the 2015 Joint GEF-UNDP Evaluation, efforts have been made to improve SGP's M&E system, and design more streamlined and useful tools and activities that balance the need to measure and capacity of local CSOs and communities.

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