



IN THIS ISSUE

- About the Ridge to Reef project & team 01
- Education programs 02
- Coral Restoration Program 03
- Business & infrastructure development 04
- Other activities 05
- Activity page/ Contact us 06

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THE RIDGE TO REEF PROJECT

The Ridge to Reef Project is a Global Environmental Fund (GEF) and a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) funded project. Its main focus is on enhancing biodiversity, sustaining ecosystems and regenerating landscapes to ensure that Grenada fosters a social, economic and political environment that promotes local initiatives and community based projects. These projects prompt people to undertake real action and facilitates proactiveness and engagement from all possible stakeholders.

The project was launched on April 14th, 2016. Since then, it has been taking great strides under the management of Project Officer, Mr. Joseph Noel, and Project Administrative/Finance Assistant Mrs. Nicole Welsh.

Outputs of the project include building

capacity in the areas of natural resource management, climate change, and low carbon emission. These outputs are being achieved through the project implementers, mainly the Fisheries Division and Forestry & National Parks Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry and Fisheries.

Several consultants and contractors were also employed to help implement the project. This demonstrates the project's achievement of one of its main outcomes: providing livelihood opportunities and jobs.

Other major undertakings with the project so far include investment in education and awareness initiatives, constructing and rebuilding of key resource areas, and coral restoration initiatives.



JOSEPH NOEL
Project Officer



NICOLE WELSH
Project
Administrative/Finance
Assistant

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MEET THE RIDGE TO REEF CONSULTANTS



DAMARLIE ANTOINE
Terrestrial Education
Consultant
Forestry Department



CHRISTABELLE ANDREWS
Marine Education
Consultant
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RUEL EDWARDS
Business Development
Consultant
Independent



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Baseline Study Consultant
Independent



DIANNE ROBERTS
Grazing Impact Study
Consultant
Roberts Caribbean Ltd.

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RIDGE TO REEF EDUCATION INITIATIVES

The Ridge to Reef Project is making it a priority to engage in educational discourse with children and community groups. One of the approaches taken to disseminate information to children was a series of educational tours during the first quarter of the year 2016. Students from the St. Andrews Anglican Senior School, McDonald College, Happy Hill Secondary School, St. George's Methodist School, and Constantine Methodist School were taken to the Grand Etang Lookout to view the Beausejour watershed, where they were able to identify the Grand Etang Lake. Subsequently, they were taken to the farm of Mr. Evans Gooding, a Reef Guardian Farmer in New Hampshire, St. George's. They then visited the Moliniere-Beausejour Marine Protected Area on a glass bottom boat, to view and understand how upland activities affect coral reefs. Overall, students were able to gain an understanding of the Ridge to Reef concept.

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RIDGE TO REEF SUMMER CAMPS



Forestry & National Parks Department

The Forestry and National Parks Department facilitated an inaugural Summer Program from July 11th – 22nd, 2016, with forty-five students at the Willis Community Centre. The students in the program were from Annandale, Willis, and New Hampshire; and were within the age range of 7 – 15 years.

During the program, participants benefited from knowledge shared on Climate Change, the importance of Forests, and Environmental Protection. Presentations were delivered by staff from various departments of the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry, Fisheries and Environment including Mrs. Aria St. Louis, Mr. Andre Witzeg, and Ms. Martina Duncan.

The program was named: **FOREST CHAMPIONS** and themed **Forests-Sustaining livelihoods; promoting creativity**. An important aspect of the program was therefore teaching the participants how beneficial forests are. To achieve that, they were taught to make craft using forest non-timber products. Another key aspect of the program was an educational field trip, through which the students were able to identify watersheds and mangroves.



Fisheries Division

The Fisheries Division hosted its 3rd annual Marine Protected Area (MPA) Summer camp from July 11th-15th, 2016. Twenty-nine students between the ages of 9 - 13 participated in the camp. These students were from communities surrounding established MPAs - Woburn-Clarks Court Bay MPA and Moliniere-Beausejour MPA, as well as the proposed Grand Anse and Gouyave MPAs.

This year's coordinator of the summer camp program, Ms. Roxanne Graham, stated that "the program aims to instil in children living within MPAs, a sense of appreciation for the area and to learn good practices for conservation of the marine environment." It is the intention that through the children, homes and ultimately the communities would be more aware of the functions and importance of MPAs and coastal ecosystems.

The program featured visits to Woburn mangroves, Reef Guardian farms in the Beausejour watershed that illustrate good agricultural practices, Ocean Spirits at Bathway beach and Moliniere-Beausejour MPA via a glass bottom boat. Mrs. Marilyn Austin Cadore, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, responsible for Fisheries & Forestry at that time, expressed her satisfaction with the program's growth over the past three years.

RIDGE TO REEF CORAL RESTORATION PROGRAM

The Coral Restoration Program (CRP) is a collaborative initiative between the GEF/UNDP Ridge to Reef Project and the Grenada Fisheries Division and consists of the establishment of several coral nurseries within Marine Protected Areas throughout Grenada.

The CRP is a community-based initiative that would focus on growing corals in a controlled environment, then ultimately utilizing these corals to restore degraded reefs across the country. The CRP would utilize a combination of conventional coral nursery structures and emerging technologies such as Biorock®.

Biorock® artificial reef structures utilize a supply of low voltage current to facilitate the deposition of calcium carbonate (i.e. building block of coral reefs) onto a steel substructure which could then be populated with corals.

In order to develop the local capacity to establish Biorock® structures, Mr. Orlando Harvey, National Marine Protected Area Biologist within the Fisheries Division, travelled to Indonesia on July 20th to participate in a Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) Specialty Course on the “Introduction to the Biorock® Process”. The certification course provides participants with a comprehensive introduction to Biorock technology including practical training in the construction, deployment, maintenance, troubleshooting and planting of corals on the artificial reef structures.

On August 31st, Mr. Harvey also successfully completed his PADI Open Water Scuba Instructor (OWSI) Exams following an intensive two-week long Instructor Development Course at Defer Diving in Carriacou. The OWSI certification is an invaluable asset to the CRP for two main reasons. Firstly, it would allow community volunteers to be trained at drastically reduced cost given that all the scuba certification of volunteers would be conducted by the Fisheries Division. Secondly, it would allow more flexibility in the scheduling and training of volunteers by the Fisheries Division toward certification.

The GEF/UNDP Ridge to Reef Project provided support to Mr. Harvey to facilitate his participation in both training initiatives. The Ridge to Reef Coral Restoration Program is scheduled for a formal launch later in the year with the establishment of a coral nursery within the proposed Grand Anse Marine Protected Area. The Fisheries Division will be restoring the critically endangered Elkhorn Coral (*Acropora Palmata*).

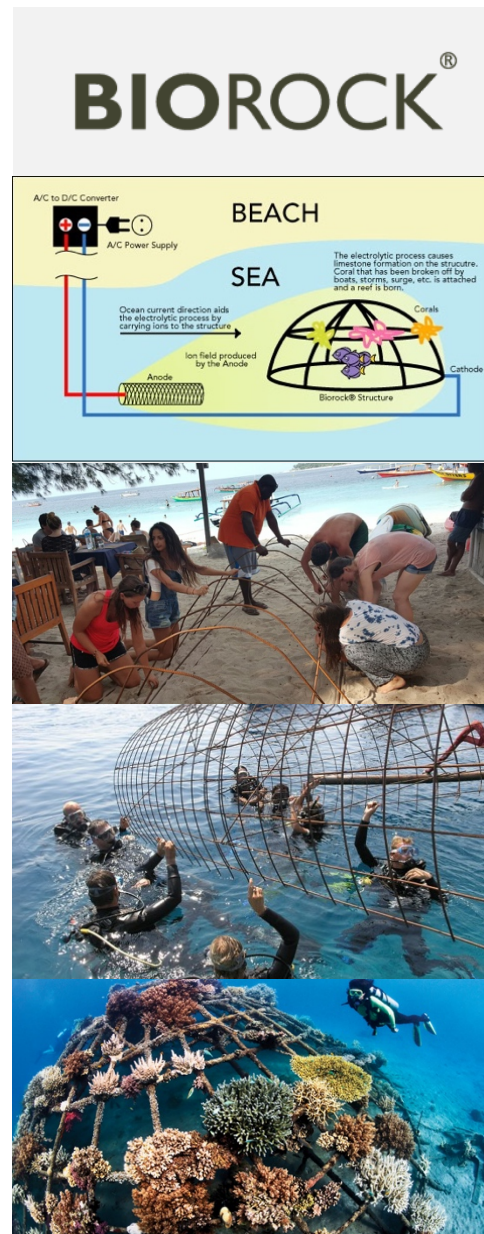
CORAL RESTORATION PROGRAM COORDINATORS



DENZEL ADAMS
Coral Nursery
Coordinator
Fisheries Division



OLANDO HARVEY
National Marine Protected
Area Biologist
Fisheries Division



deposition of calcium carbonate (i.e. building block of coral reefs) onto steel substructure

RIDGE TO REEF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT



Rebuilding Morne Gazo Visitor Centre

The Ridge to Reef Project is spending a total of **XC\$273,182.00** towards the construction of the Morne Gazo Visitor and Interpretation site.

Morne Gazo, once one of Grenada's top eco-tourism sites in St. David, provides a unique opportunity for locals and tourists to enjoy and tour an undisturbed rainforest and ecosystem with walking trails and a panoramic view of the South-Eastern Atlantic Ocean of Grenada.

The Visitation and Interpretation Centre was however destroyed during the passage of hurricane Ivan in 2004, and has been out of operations since.

The rebuilding process commenced with the demolishing of the old structure in July, 2016. Construction of the new building has also begun, and a sign has been erected.

Mr. Joseph Noel (Project Officer of the GEF/UNDP Ridge to Reef Project) emphasized the importance of rebuilding the Visitation Centre as it presents a great opportunity for both locals and tourists to appreciate and benefit from this nature reserve.

He mentioned the opportunity for local artisans to have their product exposed and traded at the Centre in support of sustainable livelihoods.

The Forestry Department, Ministry of Tourism, and the GEF/UNDP Ridge to Reef Project are looking forward to reestablishing the building within the coming year to optimize the many eco-tourism and financial benefits that can be derived from the site.

Construction of a Fisheries Division SCUBA storage and shower unit



RIDGE TO REEF BUSINESS PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

During the months of June and July 2016, business consultant Mr. Ruel Edwards facilitated two workshops on business planning and development with a total of thirty-two individuals seeking to develop their businesses or business idea. The participants included persons from the communities of Happy Hill, Beausejour, Grenville Vale Estate, Annandale, New Hampshire, Willis, and Vendome, all communities within the project's intervention areas.

They were introduced to some of the important factors that need to be considered when developing a business plan, as well as some critical procedures to follow when implementing their business idea.

During the training, Mr. Edwards also highlighted that a key component of the training is to encourage participants to create more eco-friendly businesses.

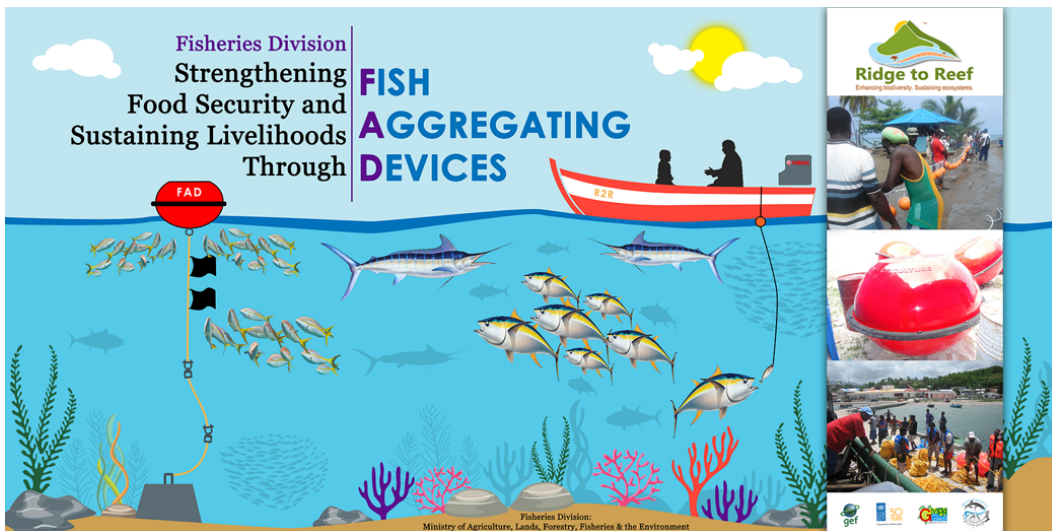
In the coming weeks, the participants will receive one on one mentoring with Mr. Edwards as they continue to learn and benefit from this Ridge to Reef approach to Sustainable Development: *Business Planning and Development Training*.



RIDGE TO REEF AT MANGO FESTIVAL



On Friday, 29th July, 2016, the GEF/UNDP Ridge to Reef Project participated in the Marketing and National Importing Board’s annual event: ‘Mango Festival’, which was held at the National Cricket Stadium. There were two Ridge to Reef standing banners at the event; one at the entrance of the event gaining optimum visibility. Persons were engaged in an educational game called “Forest Trail” and learned about the Ridge to Reef Project through discussions. Bags and pencil cases were given as tokens to persons who won the educational game.



Fishers are soon to benefit from a **FISH AGGREGATING DEVICE (FAD) PROGRAM** funded by the GEF/UNDP Ridge to Reef Project.

Look out for full details in the 2nd Issue of The R2R Newsletter.

RIDGE TO REEF ACTIVITY PAGE

Find the following words associated with the Ridge to Reef Project in the puzzle below

L D A K H F E V D W W Y Z B P C D V Q E
 I E W C Q S I S T N S Z A W O C V J C D
 V H A O L J A S U M A C Z R E E F O A W
 E S R R B B F E H S L L A Z L U S U B F
 L R E O X I R N R E T L T I B Y X A Q E
 I E N I U A Z R I A R A E E S M W X E V
 H T E B G V N N U E D I I T W N B L Y Y
 O A S M E T S Y S O C E E N I R A M T G
 O W S A F U K T X J J M T S A D J I X N
 D O C P L R O U I U D E E C N B S C S I
 S G K O S R G O C K H N S A E R L H Q R
 A F L S A O P N U M V N N U E T S E E O
 L Y R T S E R O F I X N L V A Y O G A T
 O U I P R E S E R V A T I O N E D R L I
 G O N L Q S M O E H C D E U X I B I P N
 N Q H D C Z N K C J O Z W E R Y M F C O
 P M L X P M C K U I H A P P Y H I L L M
 V P G M E J M L B M O I V U R F S Q Y O
 G L H N E R U T L U C I R G A R F D V I
 R T T L J O M B M Z Q V P T T I C S S B

1. Agriculture
2. Annandale
3. Awareness
4. Beausejour
5. Biodiversity
6. Biomonitoring
7. Biorock
8. Coral Restoration
9. Ecosystem
10. Environment
11. Fisheries
12. Forestry
13. GEF
14. Happy Hill
15. Livelihoods
16. Marine Ecosystem
17. Preservation
18. Protected Areas
19. Reef
20. Ridge
21. Sustainable
22. UNDP
23. Watershed
24. Wetland

Unscramble the words below to learn about Marine Protected Areas

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nsveatocnori	c <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> r <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> i <input type="text"/>	vaesgomrn	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> n <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> v <input type="text"/>
rolac efers	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	nemari	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
ginivd	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	yeurnrs	<input type="text"/> u <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> y
seytsomecs	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> o <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> s <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> s	shartpofir	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> r r <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> s
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RIDGE TO REEF CONTACT US

For more information on any of the Ridge to Reef projects, visit our office on the lower floor of the Pest Management Unit, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry and Fisheries, Botanical Gardens, St. George’s. Or give us a call: **(473) 435-0206 / (473) 435-0208**

