

# Contributions of GEF-SGP to the Millennium Development Goals



## MDG's and the GEF-SGP in Trinidad & Tobago







Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were developed by the United Nations as objectives which work towards improving livelihoods worldwide. They uphold principles of poverty eradication, universal education, gender equality, improved health care, environmental sustainability and global partnership. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the global development network which advocates and implements MDGs<sup>1</sup>, and in Trinidad and Tobago many are achieved through the Global Environment Facility Small Grant Programme (GEF-SGP).

To date, the GEF-SGP has funded US \$1, 396, 174 worth of projects in Trinidad and Tobago with significant co-financing from various organisations. They total 74 and each falls in one or more focal areas outlined below (Table 1).



Workshop on composting in Tobago. Photo: GEF-SGP T&T

Table 1. Focal areas of GEF- SGP projects

	Biodiversity	43
	Multifocal Area	16
	International Waters	9
	Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	8
	Land Degradation	7
	Climate Change	2

Projects funded by the GEF-SGP especially work towards achieving Goal 7 "To ensure environmental sustainability", however this brochure will show how other MDG's are fulfilled to varying degrees.

## 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

- Increased food security through agro-forestry and organic farming initiatives:

⇒ Fruit and vegetable crops in the Caura Valley were grown using Integrated Pest Management and Ecological Crop Management techniques

⇒ Organic cocoa farming at the foothills of Tobago's Main Ridge

- Capacity building, through education and training programmes, replaces outdated and environmentally unsound practices:



Organic produce grown in the Caura Valley Photo: GEF-SGP T&T

⇒ Training of Speyside community members in biological inventory methods and PADI open water diving to sustainably use the coral reef for ecotourism

- Initiatives for sustainable development which protect endangered wildlife and ensure livelihoods of vulnerable groups through ecotourism.



⇒ Rural communities on the north-east coast conduct eco-tours for tourists to watch leatherback turtles nest (left).

Photo: Nature Seekers Inc.

## 2 Achieve universal primary education

- Projects in rural areas which incorporate literacy programmes improve livelihoods by equipping community members with a basic academic background:

⇒ Farmers in the Caura Valley were trained in basic, numeric and computer literacy which helped them to effectively liaise with experts in organic farming around the world

- Improved livelihoods results in increased income which parents can use to support their children's education. Additionally, parents would not be inclined to remove their children from school to work or collect resources such as fuel and water<sup>2</sup>.

The Kids' Corner of a project in Grand Riviere focusing on ecotourism. Photo: GEF-SGP T&T



- Inclusion of biodiversity in schools' curricula:

⇒ Incorporation of a Coral Reef Education Package in the Speyside High School CXC O' Level curriculum

## 3 Promote gender equality & empower women

In several projects women's groups and school-aged girls are involved in conservation activities and sustainable employment. They actively participate within their community and increase their income potential, while fostering valuable leadership and management skills.

⇒ Women from the Belle Garden community were selected to conduct field assessments, raise awareness and sustainably use wetland resources

⇒ The instrumental participation of the Caura Women's Group and URP Women's Group in the Caura Valley's organic farming project

⇒ Women from the Toco Foundation and St. David Handicraft Association worked towards establishing ecotourism in north eastern Trinidad



⇒ The incorporation of school-aged girls in the Green Wave Tree Planting Caravan reforestation project (above).

School girls planting trees with UNDP staff. Photo: GEF-SGP T&T

## 4 Reduce child mortality

Flooding is associated with decreased water quality and harmful bacteria. This can cause serious illnesses in children such as dysentery and cholera. Such water-borne diseases could be avoided by addressing pressing environmental problems such as deforestation and poor drainage systems.



Reafforestation plans during the Bon Air Re-leaf Project. Photo: GEF-SGP T&T

⇒ Efforts by the St. James Empowerment Foundation work towards alleviating flooding through reconstructing water-ways, bioengineering techniques and encouraging the community to adopt proper waste disposal practices.



Blocked drain in St. James. Photo: STJEF

## 5 Improve maternal health



Projects which aim to eliminate the use of harmful agrochemicals such as Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), through organic farming, contribute to Goal 5. POPs are applied to crops and persist in soil, on produce and throughout each stage of the food chain. Pregnant women who consume fruits, vegetables or meat containing traces of POPs are predisposed to the risk of miscarriage and fetal birth defects<sup>3</sup>.



The Caura Valley Farmers Association and Tobago Cocoa Farmers Association have adopted practices such as composting, Integrated Pest Management and Ecological Crop Management initiatives to increase yield as an alternative to POPs.

Composting in the Caura Valley. Photo: GEF-SGP T&T

## 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases



The incidence of flooding in urban settlements often result in stagnant pools of water which provide suitable breeding grounds for *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, vectors of dengue haemorrhagic fever<sup>4</sup>. Reforestation and the enhancement of water-ways by grantees in Bon Air, Courland and Cocorite decrease the incidence of flooding and the spread of this disease.

Regarding HIV/AIDS awareness and preventative measures, young people, a vulnerable age group, made presentations to their peers on this disease as part of the Tobago Youth Conference on Sustainable Development in 2002.

## 7 Ensure environmental sustainability



GEF-SGP projects place Goal 7 as their primary objective. They work towards:

### Recycling and decreasing pollution

⇒ Re-use of trash items in a Tyre Garden, located in the capital city of Port of Spain, to grow fruit and Christmas trees

### Elimination of POPs and poisonous substances consistently applied in the environment

⇒ Replacing the unsustainable practice of harvesting fresh water prawns (using alpha-cypermethrin) with aquaculture initiatives

### Biodiversity protection and awareness

⇒ Creation of ecotourism ventures which generate income and protect endangered species (pawi, leatherback turtle, blue and gold macaw)



Glass-bottom boat used for ecotours in Speyside. Photo: GEF-SGP T&T

⇒ Formation of the Eco-Park Marine Rangers who protect and oversee ecotourism operations of the coral reefs in Speyside

### Conservation of ecosystems

⇒ Video documentary on indigenous wildlife (red brocket deer and agouti) distributed throughout country to promote conservation and influence policy decision



⇒ Production of an Eco-Tour Guiding Manual by residents of Belle Garden to sustainably use nearby mangrove swamps

Eco-tours in the Belle Garden Wetland. Photo: GEF-SGP T&T

### Watershed protection

⇒ Examining issues of sustainable development, industry, mining activities, deforestation and the optimum carrying capacity of the Maracas Valley

⇒ Reforestation of denuded hills and riverbanks of the Courland Watershed Area, and its management regarding ecotourism, fire watch sentinels and inter-cropping of bananas & spices



Carenage Re-leaf Project where forest fire wardens were trained. Photo: GEF-SGP T&T

### Decreasing the amount of Green House Gases (GHGs) released in the environment

⇒ The use of solar panels to power water heaters in small hotels in Tobago and extra-curricular projects in high schools in Trinidad.



Solar panels at UWI where a site visit by a grantee (UNATT) was conducted to learn more about this energy source. Photo: GEF-SGP T&T

## References

1. UNDP. 2008. *What is the role of UNDP?* <http://www.undp.org/mdg/roles.shtml>
2. Ghanime, L. 2010. *Biodiversity, Development and Poverty Alleviation. Recognizing the Role of Biodiversity for Human Well-being.*
3. UNEP. 2010. *Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and Pesticides.* <http://www.cep.unep.org/publications-and-resources/marine-and-coastal-issues-links/persistent-organic-pollutants-pops-and-pesticides/>
4. WHO. 2009. *Dengue and dengue haemorrhagic fever.* <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs117/en/>

### Photo References on front cover:

Planting in Caura Valley: GEF-SGP T&T; Aerial view of Buccoo Reef: Buccoo Reef Trust; Leatherback turtle: Nature Seekers Inc.

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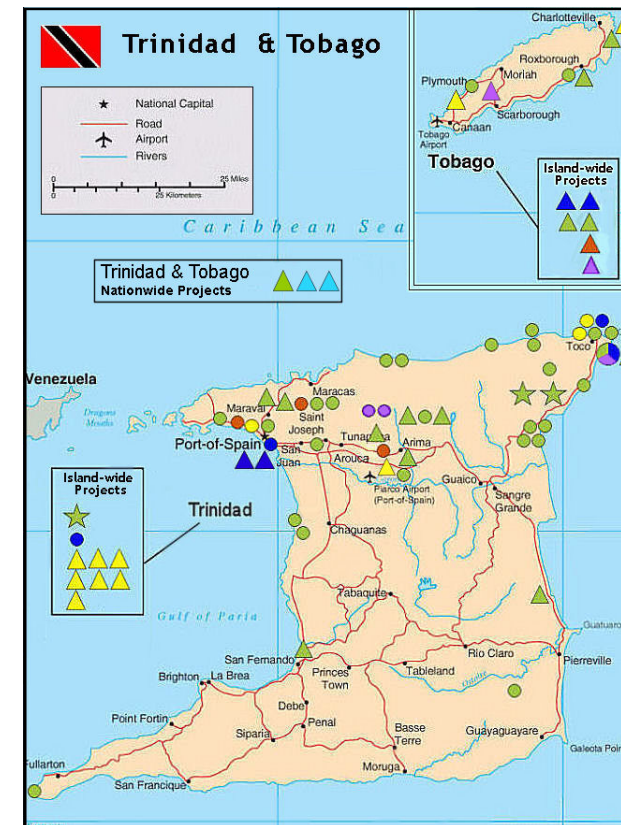
Website: <http://www.undp.org.tt/GEF-SGP/>

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## Map

### Distribution of GEF-SGP Funded Projects in Trinidad and Tobago 1995 - 2010



### KEY

Focal Area	Grantee Type
Biodiversity	Community Based Organisation
Climate Change	Non-Governmental Organisation
International Waters	Other (Trusts, Foundations)
Land Degradation	
Persistent Organic Pollutants	
Multifocal Area	

### In Trinidad:

- 49 projects at the community level
- 9 island-wide projects (left inset)

### In Tobago:

- 7 projects at the community level
- 6 island-wide projects (right inset)

### In Trinidad & Tobago

- 3 nationwide projects (centre inset)

### Map Reference:

<http://www.caribbeanislands.us/trinidad-map.htm>