



Science Initiative for Environmental Conservation and Education

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REPORT TO CAPE COD BIRD CLUB ON THE ONLINE WASTE TO ART CONTEST

St. Vincent and the Grenadines & Grenada

INTRODUCTION

On 30th September 2020, the Science Initiative for Environmental Conservation and Education (SCIENCE), in collaboration with Environmental Protection in the Caribbean (EPIC), launched an Online Waste-to-Art competition. This art contest was held under a bigger project being implemented by EPIC in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada, entitled *Capacity Building for Grenadines Wildlife Reserves*. SCIENCE is this project's main partner organization in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The Online Waste-to-Art Contest took place throughout St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada, and targeted four (4) different age categories, Primary schools, Secondary schools, Tertiary schools, and adults (18 and above). It was held under the theme "Amazing Seabirds: Our Birds, Our Islands, Our Future". This contest was an opportunity for students and the general public to bring attention to the threat of marine litter to wildlife and showcase their creativity and knowledge about seabirds. At the same time, they contributed to a cleaner and healthier environment by removing plastics and other waste material from beaches and seabird habitats.

There is Science in Everything!!!

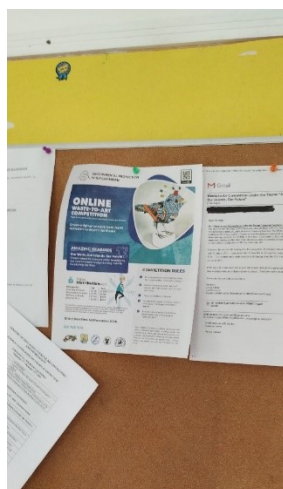
There were several challenges experienced during the period, particularly the in-country protocols and restrictions meant to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. Curfews, restrictions on social gatherings and movements within and between the two island states, and the closure of schools were part of these protocols. These affected the levels of in-person outreach that was done, particularly within educational institutions. It also affected the type of support that schools were able to provide to their students who wished to participate in the contest. On St. Vincent, for example, some schools that had committed to participate and had already started working with students no longer submitted art pieces to the contest because of the difficulties they experienced working with their students through distance. The low response for the initial deadline, along with a request from the Ministry of Education on St. Vincent and the Grenadines to extend the closure date, led to the extension of the contest deadline to 15th January 2021. The challenges described above also affected the distribution of prizes to the winners. Since schools were closed and gatherings restricted, special arrangements had to be made for delivery of cash and other prizes to winners.

PROMOTION OF THE COMPETITION

Several media were used to promote the competition. These included online promotions via telephone, Facebook, public service announcements on the radio stations, flyers (distribution of printed and soft copies), the Ministry of Education (St. Vincent and the Grenadines) Media Unit, and in-person promotions.



Lystra Culzac doing in-person promotion of the Waste-to-Art Contest at the Mustique Primary School (prior to school closure)



Waste-to-Art flyer on school notice board

RESULTS OF THE WASTE-TO-ART COMPETITION

On 22nd February 2021, EPIC and SCIENCE announced the winners of the Online Waste-to-Art Contest. There was a total of twenty-eight (28) entries, but only twenty-six (26) were judged. Two (2) were disqualified because they did not depict seabirds. Judging was done by a panel of environmentalists, media personnel and professional artists from both countries, and cash prizes awarded to the two top entries in each category. Each participant was also presented with a Certificate of Participation and a consolation prize (posters, bird cards, etc.).



Sample Certificates of Recognition and Winnings

First place in the Primary Schools category was awarded to Kyle Salhab and Zariel Thomas of Grenada, who used Styrofoam, wire, and newspaper to depict a seashore environment. Second place went to Allen Lowmans of St. Vincent, who displayed a Red-billed Tropicbird.



Kyle Salhab & Zahriel Thomas



Allen Lowmans showing off bike he bought with his winnings



Samples of winning artwork entered for Primary School category

Secondary school winners were Annique Patterson of St. Vincent (first place) with the piece “DND” (Do Not Disturb), which demonstrates the danger to seabirds of eating plastic, and Janessa Durham of St. Vincent (second place), which depicted a Least Tern.

There is Science in Everything!!!



Annique Patterson



Janessa Durham

In the Tertiary Schools category, Darell Lewis from Grenada received first prize for a portrayal of the endangered Black-capped Petrel followed by Hannah Francis and Nazara Cobb from Grenada who received second prize for their submission showing a Magnificent Frigatebird flying over a fishing boat.



Darell Lewis



Hannah Francis & Nazara Cobb

The Adult category for persons 18 years and older was won by the duo Rowena King-Dasouza and Sheldon Dasouza of St. Vincent for the piece entitled “Life Cycle of the Magnificent Frigate

Seabird”. Second place in this category was copped by Glenroy Gaymes of St. Vincent who portrayed the island of Battowia, which is a globally recognized important bird area for seabirds.



Rowena King-Dasouza

Glenroy Gaymes

The overall competition was made possible with funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Cape Cod Bird Club, and donors to Environmental Protection in the Caribbean (EPIC).

See link for further information on winners: <https://1drv.ms/u/s!AlSBirg4-4TChooLiftkcP1WbRLldQ?e=1Y1P0T>

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES

Due to schools being closed in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and COVID-19 protocols in both countries, individual arrangements had to be made for distribution of prizes to winners and other participants. These included taking prizes to homes, or leaving with school principals so they could arrange to deliver them to their respective students (for St. Vincent and the Grenadines), or making appointments with students to go to a designated office to collect (Grenada).



Art contest participants display prizes (consolation prize winner Anika Lowmans holds a seabird poster)

HOW THE CAPE COD BIRDING CLUB FUNDS WERE EXPENDED

Due again to challenges and restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, such a closure of borders, delayed shipping and reduced access to local, regional and international services, adjustments had to be made to how funds were expended (relative to the original budget). For example, the organizers of the contest no longer sought to print a poster abroad and have it shipped to the participating countries. Flyers were produced instead and were reproduced via various methods, including a local printing company and home printing. Schools and other organizations also volunteered to print additional copies for their own internal promotions. The funds intended to be used for shipping, and some intended for printing were therefore used as prize monies, as shown in the following table.

Item	Cost in USD
Poster Design	50.00
Poster Printing	65.00
Poster shipping to Grenadines	10.00
Art competition prizes	875.00
TOTAL	1,000.00

SUMMARY REMARKS

SCIENCE and EPIC are pleased with the overall outcome of the contest given the current circumstances. Based on interactions with schools and the general public, we recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic gravely impacted the participation outcome for the contest. It is the intension to make this activity an annual event. Greater participation is anticipated in the future.

SCIENCE SAYS THANKS

SCIENCE wishes to take this opportunity to extend sincerest and tremendous appreciation to the Cape Cod Birding Club for its contribution to this highly successful art contest. **We could not have achieved this without you!**

Report prepared by:



Lystra Culzac

Director