



Science Initiative for Environmental Conservation and Education

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Our Amazing Seabirds: Grenadines Waste to Art Competition

A funding proposal submitted to the Cape Cod Bird Club Conservation Fund

Overall Goal/Objective: State the ultimate goal of this initiative and why it is important.

Objective: This project works towards behavior change to reduce littering and the threat of plastics to seabirds and other wildlife through a waste-to-art competition.

Location: The Grenadines archipelago is a transboundary biodiversity hotspot located on the Grenada Bank, divided between the nations of Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG), covering 10 human-inhabited islands, and 89 remote islands and cays with no permanent habitation. The human population of the Grenadines is estimated at 16,000 individuals whose income depends primarily on tourism, fishing, and remittances. The total combined population of Grenada and SVG is approximately 215,000 individuals.

Background: The transboundary Grenadines hosts more than 54,000 pairs of breeding seabirds, with 3 globally important and 18 regionally important colonies. While 12 breeding seabird species are present, 7 of these are listed as Caribbean At-Risk Species. Though the transboundary Grenadines represents the most important area for breeding seabirds in the Lesser Antilles, it is also highly threatened, due primarily to illegal harvesting of seabirds, introduced mammals, and development/disturbance. Moreover, more than 120 species of resident and migratory birds use these islands for all or part of their lives, including restricted-range and regional endemics.

The unique concentration of Important Bird Areas (IBAs) makes it a vital conservation zone, crucial to rebuilding declining and decimated Caribbean populations. The Grenadines support the most extensive coral reef complex in the south-eastern Caribbean and seabirds play an essential role in reef and intertidal zone health through nutrient circulation. In addition, fisherfolk rely on seabirds to find fish, navigate, and understand weather, making them an essential part of maritime livelihoods.

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Seabirds however, have declined by approximately 70% worldwide in the past seventy years, with declines believed to be much higher in tropical areas. Seabirds are amongst the most threatened types of birds worldwide.

Specific Action: What is the specific activity or action being proposed? What is the anticipated outcome?

Community education and outreach is essential to changing perceptions of seabirds and behaviors such as littering, poaching, and habitat burning. If coronavirus restrictions are lifted, schools and community groups will conduct litter clean-ups, including on offshore islands. If restrictions do not allow gathering and travel, participants can collect household waste items. Participants will construct artwork from collected waste items which represent seabirds and threats they face under the theme *Amazing Seabirds: Our Birds, Our Islands, Our Future*. There will be three age categories for children and one for adults.

Submissions will be made digitally through photos and videos and shared with a panel of local judges, comprised of artists, media persons and environmental leaders.

Outreach methods will include printed posters, a dedicated web page, social media posts, at least two press releases, and an online class (live and archived for streaming) to introduce seabirds, threats they face, and inspirational ideas for art projects. Materials will acknowledge the contribution of the Cape Cod Bird Club, including the logo where feasible. If permitted, these topics will be conveyed during in-person outreach events at schools and community centers. We will communicate directly with school administrators, teachers and environmental and other organizations to recruit participants.

A panel of local judges will determine the winners for 1st and 2nd place. Select art pieces will be shared online in a gallery format. Cash prizes will be distributed in-person, if staff are located nearby, or through bank transfers or MoneyGram if necessary. Material prizes are not included due to the limited and unreliable shipping options available between Grenadine islands.

Budget: Present an itemized breakdown of how the funds requested would be used.

| ITEM | COST in USD |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Poster Design | \$ 50.00 |
| Poster printing | \$ 170.00 |
| Poster shipping from US | \$ 75.00 |
| Poster shipping Grenadines | \$ 125.00 |
| Art competition prizes | \$ 580.00 |
| | \$ 1,000.00 |

Matching funds or resources: What additional resources (human, financial or other) will this grant leverage? Be specific.

Matching funds derive from grants.

| ITEM | COST in USD |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Educator travel | \$ 400.00 |
| Educator bus/taxi | \$ 360.00 |
| Educator inter-island flight | \$ 256.00 |
| Educator immigration fees | \$ 700.00 |
| Art supplies for education | \$ 400.00 |
| Artist stipend | \$ 500.00 |
| Educator | \$ 3,760.00 |
| Educator lodging | \$ 1,000.00 |
| Educator per diem | \$ 900.00 |
| Poster Design | \$ - |
| Poster printing | \$ - |
| Poster shipping from US | \$ - |
| Poster shipping Grenadines | \$ - |
| Art competition prizes | \$ 380.00 |
| | \$ 8,656.00 |

Timetable: What is the anticipated schedule for implementing this project?

Materials will be prepared during August and September 2020. The event will be promoted from when school begins in September until the deadline for submission in November 2020.

| Activity | August | September | October | November |
|--|--------|-----------|---------|----------|
| Develop promotional and outreach materials | | | | |
| Promote contest | | | | |
| Conduct outreach | | | | |
| Winners selected | | | | |
| Final press release, prizes distributed | | | | |

Continuity: Is there a need for this project to continue upon expiration of the grant? If so, what is the potential for that continuity to occur?

This is a one-time event for this year and will not need to continue upon expiration of the grant. However, this is an event we would like to continue in future years dependent upon funding.

Implementing institution: Name and contact information of the conservation organization sponsoring this project that will manage the funds and submit a final report.

Science Initiative for Environmental Conservation and Education (SCIENCE)

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Project officer: Individual who will implement the project or serve to oversee it. Summarize her/his background in a few sentences.

Lystra Culzac, Founder and Managing Director, SCIENCE

- Conservation Biologist and Forestry Expert

Environmental Trainer, Educator and Interpreter, 1988 to present.

- Development and implementation of the Junior SCIENCEist, Junior Birders Outreach, and summer programmes of SCIENCE
- Trainer, Grenadines Seabird Monitoring Training Workshop, Union Island, 2016.
- Environmental Science Teacher at the Mustique Primary School (Part-time) 2001-ongoing; and Sugar Mill Academy 2017 - ongoing.
- Certified BirdsCaribbean BirdSleuth Curriculum Trainer. 2014.

Communications Expert

- Consultant for the Development and Implementation of a Communication Strategy and Plan for the South Coast Marine Protected Area in St. Vincent and the Grenadines; Caribbean Aqua-Terrestrial Solutions Project. 2014-2015.

Proposal submitted by: Lystra G. V. Culzac
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