

Progress Report on Small Islands Voice Activities
in St.Kitts and Nevis

Prepared by: Antonio Maynard
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Introduction

After completing a previous contract in the first half of 2006, the National Commission for UNESCO signed another activity contract in the amount of **US\$19,450.00** in August 2006 after much delays, and this should run until July 2007.

Further, in May of 2006, the St. Kitts and Nevis Small Islands Voice National Coordinating Committee not only conceptualised a new set of activities and programme to run for the year 2006-07, but it is also important to note that we have restructured the Committee in order to accommodate a more varied programme, where we have put in place the Physical Environment Sub-Committee and have merged the Public Relation and the Display Board Sub-Committees. The three executing Sub-Committees are: the Physical Environment Sub-Committee, the Public Relations and Display Board Sub-Committee and the Education Sub-Committee.

The first set of activities of this contract was therefore implemented between the months of September and January. These are as follow:

Physical Environment Sub-Committee

In the pursuance of the work plan of the Physical Environmental Sub-Committee the UNESCO Small Islands Voice and the St. Kitts Sea Turtle Monitoring Network executed a Sea Turtle Poster Competition among all the schools in St. Kitts and Nevis. The 2006 Sea Turtle Poster Competition winners were subsequently awarded their prizes on Saturday, December 09, 2006 at Basseterre High School.

The 2006 Sea Turtle Poster Competition was launched in order to promote the protection and awareness of sea turtles on St. Kitts and Nevis. The Competition information was delivered to each primary, secondary and high school in the Federation early in September 2006.

The posters were created to raise the awareness of the protection of the sea turtles and to promote the Sea Turtle Monitoring Network's Hotline, a phone number to call if a concerned citizen sees sea turtles in distress or being harmed. The Hotline was launched in December 2006, while the posters will be displayed island wide.

14 schools participated in the competition and 190 entries were received from youths aged 5 to 16 years. Students were instructed to promote the theme: "Promoting Awareness of Sea Turtles in St. Kitts and Nevis.

Prior to launching the Poster Competition, the "back chat" students were treated with a very enlightening lecture on the protection of the sea turtles by Dr. Kimberly Stewart.

Also, we are presently finalizing the short documentary that is been produced on the importance of turtles on the environment, fish population, the repercussions of killing turtles for their shells, eggs and meat. The documentary is 50 percent completed, and more footage of the live turtles is been taken and will be edited accordingly.

Additionally, two murals are in the process of being painted in order to sensitise the public about Hurricane Preparedness, Small Islands Voice and the environment. One will be on a stationary structure like a rock and the other on a movable object like a jeep. Presently efforts are being coordinated to schedule a time to paint the mural. The jeep has already been secured.

The chairperson of the Physically Environmental Sub-Committee also had several interviews on the media in order to sensitise the public about the activities of his work plan and the turtle monitoring as it relates to the protection of the environment.

Public Relations and Display Board Sub-Committee

Display Board

The Display Board continues to be a very effective communication tool, where it is stationary at our head quarters and at different events around the country. During this period the board was placed at the following venues:

- in Oct 2006: Agricultural Exhibition
- in Nov 2006: Display at the St. Kitts Marriott Resort for Annie's Tours

Other public relations activity

Small Islands Voice in collaboration with Solid Waste Management Corporation (SWMC) also executed a **“Clean-Up” Carnival Troupe** 1st January 2007. The Clean Up troupe followed the annual Carnival parade throughout part of its procession in Basseterre, on January 1, 2007, cleaning and picking up trash strewn about throughout the day in order to encourage others to keep St. Kitts clean. The troupe was equipped with trash bags donated by a local supermarket and wheelbarrows were supplied by SWMC. The Carnival Clean-Up Troupe was very successful and well supported by the Peace Corps, St. Christopher Heritage Society and St. Kitts Sea Turtle Monitoring Network.

Also, calls were sent out to some of our artistes for them to conceptualise a new jingle that is needed to promote and continue to give the project a high profile in the Federation. This would be aired on both television and radio station shortly.

The SIV Global video entitled **“Sustainable living-the island way”** has been shown on ZIZ television during the month of November 2006. A copy was also circulated to the schools and the St. Christopher Heritage Society. It is going to be also shown at a meeting of the “back chat” students.

Education Sub-Committee

The “back chat” group meets every other Saturday while school is on, primarily to work on the newsletter and to post comments and articles on the SIV Internet Forum. It was decided that each school would be represented in some way and should prepare at least one item for the newsletter. The first newsletter should be out in the next few days.

On 28th October the “back chat” students went on a field trip to Nevis where they meet their counterpart students who facilitated the process by being the tour guides. They had some interesting discussions, including the production of an infomercial with the theme ‘Youth and Tourism’. An infomercial skit is been produced with the theme of ‘Ready to Meet the World’, with segments on environmental protection and youth behaviour.

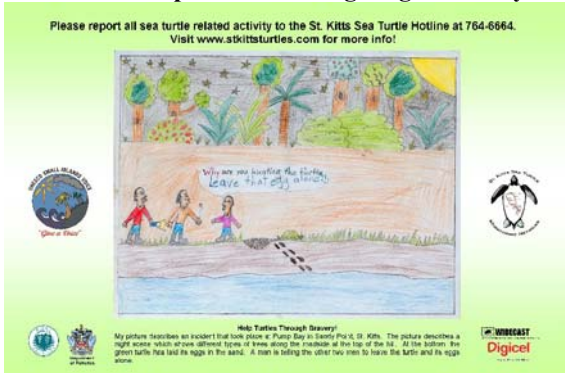
They also visited the Bath Springs and a haunted estate ruin. They were unable to visit ‘Under the Sea’ aquarium as it appeared to be closed. Ms. Shelma Brookes organised a radio interview and would be supplying a copy of it. There will be a return trip with the Nevis students visiting St. Kitts in next couple of weeks.

A radio interview took place on 29th September 2006 on Winn FM’s Breakfast with Toni. Gary Morian and two students discussed SIV activities for 18 minutes. A transcript and recording of the interview are available.

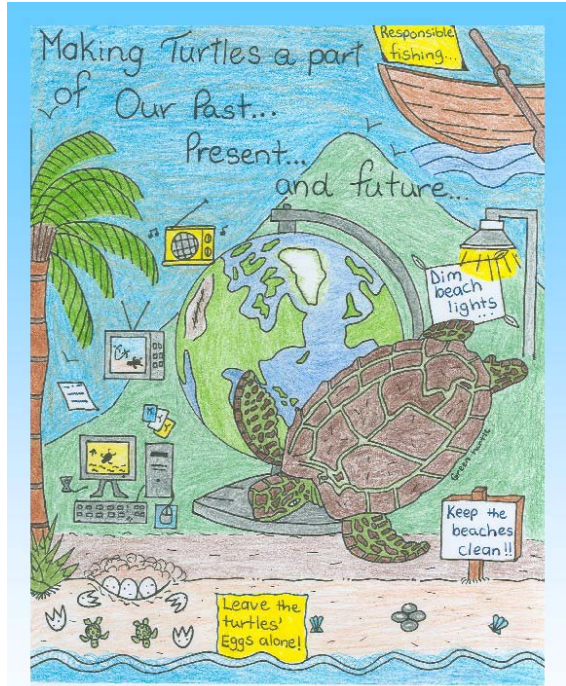


Poster Competition - Prize giving ceremony

Please report all sea turtle related activity to the St. Kitts Sea Turtle Hotline at 764-6664. Visit www.stkittsturtles.com for more info!



Poster Competition - Winning Poster



My picture shows how the general public both in St. Kitts, Nevis and elsewhere can be encouraged to protect our turtles. We can use the electronic media as well as notices on the beach. That way, when people come to the beach, they know what they must do to protect the turtles so that they may lay eggs successfully for a very long time in the future.

- Kris Litu'd, 15, Charlestown Secondary School, Nevis

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Poster Competition - Winning Poster



Poster Competition - Other Entry



Poster Competition - Other Entry



“Clean-Up” Carnival Troupe - Preparation



“Clean-Up” Carnival Troupe



“Clean-Up” Carnival Troupe



“Clean-Up” Carnival Troupe



“Clean-Up” Carnival Troupe



“Back chat” students



“Back chat” students