

Grenadine Bank



The Caribbean Marine Biodiversity Program is a five-year project (2014-2019), funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development and The Nature Conservancy, that aims to achieve sustained biodiversity conservation, maintain and restore critical ecosystems and realize tangible improvements in human and community wellbeing. Operating in five target countries—Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica and St. Vincent & the Grenadines—the Program focuses on creating and effectively managing marine conserved areas and establishing and promoting sustainable fisheries. By addressing direct and indirect threats to coastal and marine biodiversity, the Caribbean Marine Biodiversity Program works to ensure a sustainable future where nature and people can thrive.

Caribbean Marine Biodiversity Program in Grenada and St. Vincent & the Grenadines

The Grenadine Bank seascape comprises an archipelago with over 30 islands and cays shared by the nations of Grenada and St. Vincent & the Grenadines, and supports the most extensive coral reefs and related marine habitats in the southeastern Caribbean. Approximately 10,000 people call these islands home, and at least 30% of the population lives in poverty. These coastal communities rely heavily on the health of the surrounding marine ecosystems for their livelihoods, income and food. But the marine and coastal biodiversity in this seascape faces a myriad of threats, including loss of habitat from unsustainable development, overfishing, land and marine sources of pollution, climate change and invasive species.

The Caribbean Marine Biodiversity Program supports two core marine conserved areas in the Grenadine Bank—the Tobago Cays Marine Park in St. Vincent & the Grenadines and Sandy Island/Oyster Bed Marine Protected Area in Grenada. The Conservancy and Sustainable Grenadines (SusGren), along with collaborating partners, are actively working to provide the tools needed for effective management of these areas, in order to protect marine habitat, promote sustainable fisheries and support alternative tourism-based livelihoods.

PROGRAM GOALS ACROSS FIVE TARGET COUNTRIES

- Establish effective, functional marine conserved areas and sustainable fisheries
- Protect and successfully manage at least 3.9 million hectares of nearshore coastal and marine habitat
- Establish reliable funding for marine and coastal conservation through the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund—an endowment fund providing long-term financial support for conserved area management today and into the future
- Demonstrate sustainable fishing practices and alternate livelihoods to benefit hundreds of fishers and community members
- Establish relationships with key private sector companies that promote ecotourism in support of marine conservation efforts



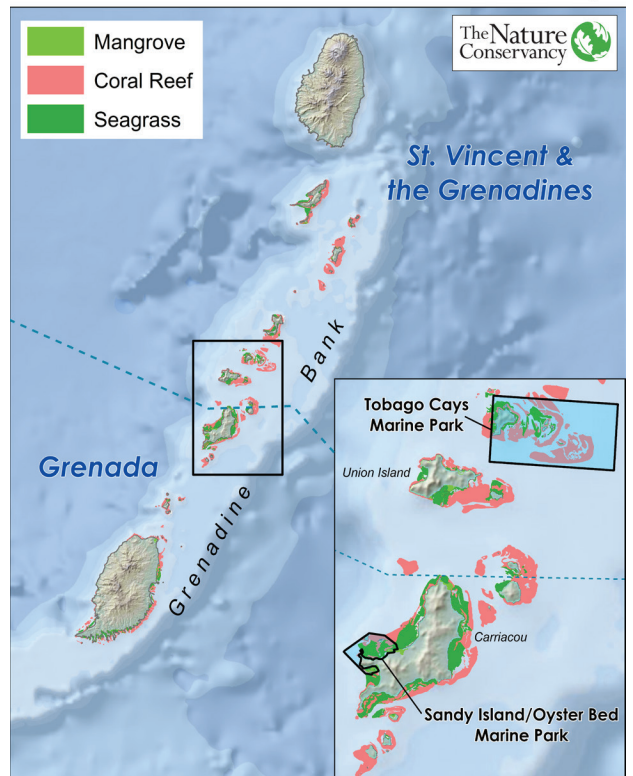
PROGRAM GOALS IN THE GRENADINE BANK

- Support the commitment made by Grenada and St. Vincent & the Grenadines to protect at least 20% of their marine and coastal areas by 2020 as part of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative—a collaborative effort in the Caribbean to achieve unprecedented, lasting conservation goals throughout the region
- Help establish sustainable funding to support marine conserved areas through the National Conservation Trust Funds of Grenada and St. Vincent & the Grenadines, which awards grants each year for on-the-ground conservation projects
- Promote sustainable fishing as well as ecotourism and tourism-related alternative livelihood options
- Support national fisheries policy planning and action
- Design and promote sustainable fisheries demonstrations
- Help strengthen fisher associations, empowering them to support sustainable fisheries and marine conserved areas
- Update and strengthen management plans for the two core marine conserved areas and support priority activities within these plans, such as monitoring coral reef and fisheries health, reducing anchor damage to marine habitat by installing yacht moorings, enforcing regulations and conducting community outreach
- Promote increases in fees collected at the two core marine conserved areas, to generate additional resources for effective management
- Provide financial support for management staff working at Sandy Island/Oyster Bed Marine Protected Area
- Train marine management staff across the seascape, to help build their core skills
- Support the Junior Rangers Program in St. Vincent & the Grenadines, to engage young community members in local conservation and marine monitoring activities

PARTNERS

- Sustainable Grenadines, Inc. (SusGren)
- Governments of Grenada and St. Vincent & the Grenadines
- Local community groups and fisher associations

Marine Conserved Areas - Grenadine Bank Seascape



FRONT PAGE LEFT TO RIGHT Remnants of a damaged sea wall and uprooted mangroves along a Grenadian coast, evidence of sea level rise © Marjo Aho; A healthy coral colony at the Sandy Island/Oyster Bed Marine Protected Area © Marjo Aho **THIS PAGE LEFT TO RIGHT** Sandy Island/Oyster Bed Marine Protected Area © Marjo Aho; Farmed sea moss provides a sustainable alternative livelihood option for communities in the Grenadine Bank © Tracy Ko; A fisherman casts his net in St. Vincent & the Grenadines © Marjo Aho **MAP** Marine conserved areas supported by the Caribbean Marine Biodiversity Program in the Grenadine Bank seascape



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