



06/27/12

Grenadines Island Group: A candidate World Heritage Site



Highlights of supporting work of Sustainable Grenadines Inc. and the Grenadines 'Marine Resource and Space-Use Information System' (MarSIS)

Sustainable Grenadines Inc.

We are an environmental NGO that operates across the Grenadines of Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Our mission is to strengthening civil society's ability to participate in governance of the protection and development of resources. Many of SusGren's projects are complimentary to the designation of the Grenadines as a World Heritage Site. SusGren works with civil society to support activities that promote participation in sustainable management, with an emphasis on community capacity building projects.

SusGren's Transboundary projects include:

- Marine Zoning Project
- At the Waters Edge: Coastal Resilience in GRE and SVG
- Strengthening Reef Management in the Grenada Bank
- Reducing Marine Litter in the Grenadines
- Strengthening Fisherfolk Collaboration in the Grenadines

In 2010 SusGren launched a **Marine Zoning Project (MZP)**, that facilitates the development of a draft zoning design for the Grenadines; this is a regional transboundary initiative to promote sustainable development in the marine environment. The project involves using a participatory process to evaluate human activities and resource use in the marine environment to create a blueprint for future use. This project draws on the information available in MarSIS.

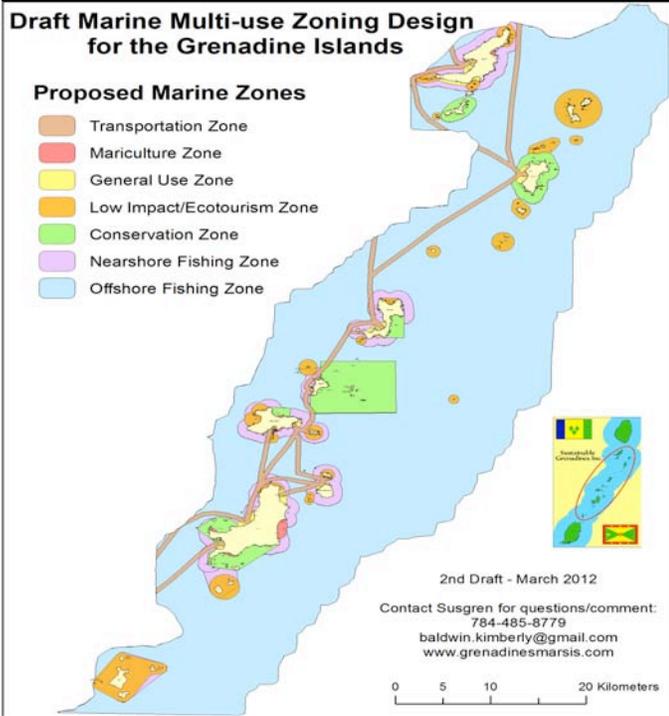
One major deliverable of the MZP is the development of the draft zoning plan (reverse), which took a collaborative approach to include input information from marine resource users and stakeholders across the Grenadines.

The Grenadines Marine Resource and Space-use Information System (MarSIS)

One project that SusGren has supported together with the University of West Indies is the Grenadines MarSIS, a Participatory Geographical Information System (PGIS) which forms part of 1 PhD and 6 MSc research projects. MarSIS has been developed as a decision-making tool to support transboundary marine resource management. By using GIS, existing scientific information has been merged with the local knowledge of marine resources to highlight areas important for conservation and livelihoods and provide a wider information base to allow for holistic and informed decision-making process between the countries of Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Data collection for MarSIS began in 2009, and has been continually updated since. From June 2011-2012 work was undertaken to build a database of important historical, cultural and ecological heritage sites through a series of participatory mapping exercises. This data has now been added to MarSIS.





The marine environment is very important to Grenadines communities. **In 2006 the number of marine based livelihoods included¹:**

- 111 day tour operators
- 39 dive shop employees
- 130 charter yacht employees
- 169 water taxi operators
- 65 ferry employees
- 45 ship employees
- 267 fisherfolk

Heritage features include²:

25 Historic Buildings	7 Windmills
4 Museums	8 Important bird areas
22 Ruins	10 Archaeological sites
43 View points	25 Burial grounds
73 Water sources	13 Colonial defenses
4 Whaling stations	27 Cultural sites
7 Windmills	43 Early agro-processing
25 Boat building sites	



- 300+ documented historical, cultural and ecological heritage sites
- Sites located on 27 islands

Marine Habitat¹

The Grenada Bank covers 2000 km² comprised of 48% coral reef, 20% seagrass & 2% mangrove/salt pond habitat.

- 13 identified representative reef ecosystems (ie. adjacent coral reef, mangrove, seagrass).
- 75 turtle nesting beaches
- 90 fish nursery grounds



Access to information:

MarSIS: Data collection for the MarSIS is complete and now is publicly accessible at: <http://grenadinesmarsis.com/>.

Sustainable Grenadines Inc: An e-library and annotated bibliography of reports and publications is available.

Marine Protected Areas ¹

Currently there are 2 MPAs covering about 4% of the Grenada Bank marine environment: Tobago Cays Marine Park and Sandy Island Oyster Bed MPA.