

THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

PROJECT CONCEPT FORM

(Please refer to the GEF SGP Guidelines which will assist you in completing this form accurately or at least with minimal errors. If you do not have a copy, please contact the National Coordinator for St. Vincent and the Grenadines at telephone 1-784-523-8438 or email haydenkbb@unops.org).

COUNTRY: St. Vincent and the Grenadines

SUBMISSION DATE: March 4, 2014

Project Tentative Title: ***The Rose Hall Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods Project***

Name of Organization: Rose Hall Cultural and Development Organization

Mailing Address: Rose Hall P.O, Rose Hall

Street Address:
(If different from the Mailing address) NA

Telephone: Cell: 1 784 433 2827 Home: 1 784 458 2579 Work: 1 784 458 2255

Fax: NA

Email: selly007@hotmail.com

Principal Officer: (Name and Position) Selwyn Patterson; Chairman

Project Contact: (Name and position) Selwyn Patterson; Chairman

Approximate Funding Request: (local currency) \$134,217.00

(US\$) \$49,710.00



Temporary Address: Orange Hill, Sandy Bay P.O Tel: 784- 523 – 8438 Email: haydenkbb@unops.org Website: <http://sgp.undp.org>



Proposed Planning Period Starting Date: May 2, 2014

Proposed Planning Period Completion Date:

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT CONCEPT

(Please create the necessary spacing or use additional paper where necessary)

1.0 Briefly describe the environmental problem(s), issue(s), need or opportunity you wish to address.

Rose Hall is a small agrarian community located in the North-Western region of St. Vincent, some twenty-two miles from capital Kingstown. The population of approximately 1200 persons relies predominantly on agriculture as the primary economic activity. Farming, particularly vegetable production, while contributing to socio-economic development, has also had its adverse consequences. Increasingly over the years, there has been the use of excessive quantities of agrochemicals by small farmers to exploit the high-yielding potential of modern cultivars of vegetables. Conjoined with these inputs have been the use of poor soil cultivation practices which have contributed to the degradation of soil, resulting in loss in fertility, erosion and the siltation in surrounding rivers and streams. Although the consequential result of these activities have never been scientifically investigated, it is almost certain that there has been adverse impact on the surrounding flora and fauna. Inevitably, users of these streams, which are employed for recreational purposes and domestic use, in the villages of Rose Hall and the other villages to the west, such as Petit Bordel would have been impacted by such activities.

The community is in transition with many of the young seeking opportunities outside of primary agriculture. Unemployment in the village is high, particularly among the young. The rich flora and fauna of the surrounding environment provides an opportunity for investment in ecotourism. One such possibility exists in the Degro valley for the development of a recreational site for both local (residents) and tourists. There is a possibility for community engagement and participation in the development of the site which can provide an alternative means of livelihood for some locals while at the same time providing a model for small scale development which incorporates education and training to ensure sustainability. This project proposal is hinged on a community focused response that offers sustainable alternative use of the natural resource while incorporating training, education and knowledge sharing to minimize upstream poor farming practices which can impact the project's successful outcome and the environment as outlined above. The project will propose the following:

- I. The rehabilitation of 3000ft of the existing (motorable) access road to the site through grading and rehabilitation of the existing drainage systems;
- II. The rehabilitation of 500ft of existing footpath to allow for safe access through the site. The trail will be cleared, banks stabilized and landscaped and safety rails erected using natural and durable material;
- III. The de-silting of the natural pond known as Miss Mary to encourage a return to river-bathing at the site;
- IV. Training of a group of 15 persons to operate as tour guides. This training will utilize professional staff from the Ministry of Agriculture's Forestry Division to train persons about the local flora and fauna and their importance and the physical environs. The National Parks Authority will be used to provide training and guidance on the development of the site as a recreational area and to train the tour guides. The Ministry of agriculture through the government-appointed agro-tourism committee will be also be engaged to help in the promotion of the site;
- V. The construction of a Gazebo to complement existing bathroom facilities;
- VI. Community education: this component will allow for persons in the community to be educated about the importance of maintaining the existing biodiversity and their role in the process. This component will be delivered through formal and informal, indoor and outdoor activities organized by the organization with relevant public sector agencies and designed to effectively engage the community.
- VII. A tree planting programme to restore and enhance the natural beauty of the site thus encouraging its utilization by locals and visitors.

At the end of the project period (6 months), it is anticipated that the following results would be accomplished:

- I. Community stakeholders in the village of Rose Hall have enhanced their knowledge and appreciation of environmental issues and have given their collective support to the sustainable utilization of the Degro Recreation facility.



- II. The Degro Recreation facility has been commissioned and is being utilized for recreational purposes by the RHDCO.
- III. The Degro becomes a model for the development of sustainable livelihood initiatives in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
- IV. Land area under forest has increased and persons are using the increase forest cover in a sustainable manner.

2.0 Describe the primary reasons for the environmental problem (s), issue (s), need (s), or opportunity you have identified?

The principal reason for the adverse consequences being currently encountered by the communities is the lack of knowledge and training among farmers and other users of the value of natural resources of the community and the adverse impact of their actions on the environment. This deficiency results in improper attitudes and inadequate appreciation for the environment and the value of the indigenous flora and fauna. This in turn has resulted in a lack of a community response or approach to addressing the issue in concert with national authorities. When the above inadequacy is conjoined with increasing occurrence of adverse climatic phenomena – particularly storms – the resulting impact on the community and on the project site is particularly severe.

3.0 Describe the likely strategies you will use to address the problems you have identified?

These problems as identified above will be addressed through a community focused response to addressing the environmental problems led by this organization whose members all originate and live in the community. This will involve consultations with the community prior to, during and continuing after the life of the project to sensitize them on initiative being proposed and to get their active participation in the project during the implementation phase. The strategy entails an approach that seeks only to educate and training persons on addressing the current issues but also presents an opportunity to demonstrate how alternative income streams can be generated in the process by the utilization of the natural resources.

Beyond these consultations the organization will engage such public and private sector agencies, identified as competent authorities on various issues germane to the problems being addressed, to deliver education and knowledge enhancing packages to the members of the community leading to the changes in attitude which will in turn lead to changes in practices and greater appreciation for the environment. This opportunity for the building of relationships between public sector agencies and communities will also enhance opportunities for the success of future interventions in the community.

4.0 Description of organization:

4.1 Date established: Registered in 2008

4.2 Do you have a vision statement? (Yes[✓]) (No)

4.2.1 If yes, please state:

To be the leading rural community organization in the North Leeward area engaged in the active promotion of cultural, social and environmental issues.

4.3 Do you have a mission statement? (Yes[✓]) (No)

4.3.1 If yes, please state:

To promote the sustainable development of the Rose Hall community through effective implementation of activities designed highlight the rich cultural heritage of our community, accelerate our socio economic development and encourage the sustainable use of our natural resources.

4.4 What are the goals and/or objectives of your organization?

- I. Improve and develop our human resources through training and education;
- II. To improve infrastructure and public facilities within the Rose Hall community;
- III. To empower youths and to develop their sense of pride in our heritage soliciting their constant participation in festivals and other events that give them the opportunity to express their culture;
- To develop leadership attributes and etiquette of members of our organisation;
- To increase public awareness of our cultural heritage locally and in the Diaspora;
- To help improve the socio economic status of the community through sustainable means and
- To encourage and actively support the sustainable use of our natural resources.



4.5 How many members are in your organization?

Twenty-three active members.

4.6 List the positions and name the persons who are on the executive of your group?

(President); (Vice President); (PRO); (Secretary); (Floor Members) etc. Other

Chairman Selwyn Patterson, Vice: Rolo Samuel, Secretary: Corinthian Stapleton, Treasurer: Gilroy Williams, Pro: Walton Samuel

5.0 What is the estimated cost of the project? \$171,796.00 (Local currency) \$ 63,628.00 (US\$)

Certified Correct by:

Approved by:

Name (WILFRED SAMUEL)

NGO representative

Wilfred Samuel

Signature

04/03/14

Date

Name (SELWYN PATTERSON)

NGO representative

Selwyn Patterson

Signature

04/03/14

Date

March 3, 2014

Haydeen K. Billingy
National Coordinator
GEF SGP UNDP (St. Vincent and the Grenadines)

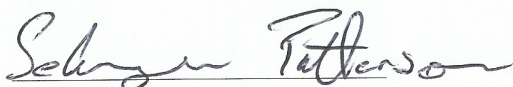
Dear Ms. Billingy

The Rose Hall Cultural and Development Organization presents its compliments to you and submits for the consideration of GEF/SGP the attached completed Project Concept Form for a project titled **The Rose Hall Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods Project**.

We look forward to your earliest and hopefully positive response to our proposal.

The RHCD takes this opportunity to express assurance of our highest regard.

Yours respectfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Selwin Patterson', written in a cursive style.

Selwin Patterson
Chairman
RHCD