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Summary:

Implementation of coral reef protection in hurricane stricken Grenada, using a partnership approach to develop an adaptive management plan and coral reef monitoring program at a designated MPA. To enhance management capacity of the Moliniere Marine Protected Area in Grenada by updating the existing management plan and developing a monitoring plan through the use of the 'How is your MPA Doing?' tool.

Methods:

Phase 1 – a. Establish/ strengthen partnerships with multiple groups and organizations. Involve stakeholders and partners in key steps toward MPA realization; b. assemble and train 12 people on the AGGRA methodology; c. 4 volunteers SCUBA certified; d. establishment of baseline benthic and fish population data at Moliniere MPA and a reference site (habitat area affected is 140 hectares);

Phase 2 – a. Review of existing MPA management plan; b. SMMA case study reviewed and lessons learned for the Moliniere MPA synthesized in report; c. presentation of 'How is your MPA Doing' monitoring methodology to an audience of at least 3 government officials responsible for MPA management in Grenada, 2 MPA Managers, 2 NGOs, 3 dive operators and other organizations;

Phase 3– a. Timeline and work plan for conducting evaluation developed; b. list of key indicators selected reviewed and prioritized; c. partnership involvement in evaluation defined

Phase 4 – a. First completed evaluation of Moliniere MPA. b. Updated MPA management and monitoring plan developed with stakeholder involvement and in collaboration with local, regional and international partners; c. five presentations of results to key stakeholders; d. article in local daily newspaper communicating project results.

Overall people engaged in project - Twelve volunteers for reef assessment team, 2 representatives from Fisheries Division, 1 MPA manager (Sandy Island MPA); 1 representative from the Solid Waste Management Authority, 2 people from The Nature Conservancy.

Funding will solidify the well established relationship between the Fisheries Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Lands and Fisheries and St. George's University and build relationships with many local organizations.

Project will produce a skilled, locally based reef survey team with a vested interest in coral reef health. Project will result in provision of individuals able to contribute over the long term to the improvement of knowledge and understanding of Grenada's reef environment.