



**MINISTRY OF TOURISM, CIVIL AVIATION,
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE.**

2nd Floor, NIS Building, Upper Bay Street, Kingstown
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Tel: 784-457-1502 || Email: tourism@gov.vc

**SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS MANAGEMENT
STRENGTHENING PROJECT (GEF-7) TRAINING WORKSHOP ON ENHANCING COMMUNITY AND
NATIONAL AGENCY ROLES IN SEA TURTLE PROTECTION AND ENFORCEMENT**

KINGSTOWN, SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, AUGUST 19, 2024 — On August 28, 2024, the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Strengthening Project (CMEMS/GEF-7), will host a training workshop for Law Enforcement Officers and other relevant stakeholders. The workshop will, among other things, seek to educate participants about the ecological, cultural, and economic importance of sea turtles, enhance compliance and the enforcement of conservation laws and foster cross-agency collaboration to promote an effective and cohesive approach to sea turtle protection.

The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is implementing a World Bank supported Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Management Project. The project is being funded by a US\$3.65 million GEF grant, over a five-year period from April 2022 - 2027. The project's executing agency is the World Bank Group and it is implemented locally by the Sustainable Development Unit - Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development and Culture.

The project development objective of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Strengthening project is to strengthen the management of coastal and marine ecosystems of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Some of the challenges to be addressed by the project include anthropogenic pressures, institutional fragmentation, policy and regulatory inadequacies, and lack of adaptive capacity through data-driven solutions.

Several pilot site interventions have been identified and will introduce a number of programmes and activities including:

1. Biodiversity monitoring and awareness programmes
2. Nature-based tourism activities
3. Alternative livelihood support
4. Reduction of marine pollution

The project is comprised of three main components to address these challenges:

- Component 1: Institutionalizing Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Management.
- Component 2: Piloting participatory planning and nature-based solutions in selected sites.
- Component 3: Managing knowledge and data management, and mainstreaming gender.

This will be the first of similar workshops to be held with various stakeholders identified under the GEF-7 project.

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