

Categories: Energy and Environment

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Date: Jun 29, 2007

Title: **Caribbean Youths Tackling Climate Change Challenges**



Participants from across the region during an icebreaker session

UNDP Barbados and the OECS Country Office supports seven Eastern Caribbean Countries in preparing their Second National Communications to the UNFCCC. Using funds from the GEF Enabling Activities and the GEF SGP, this CO is helping member countries to mainstream environment into development. Here the Climate Change component is being integrated into youth development.

With the support of GEF-UNDP-SGP, the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN) has initiated an activity that will contribute towards assisting nations of the Caribbean to address the impacts of climate change.

The CYEN is aware of the importance for Caribbean states to achieve sustainable development and that the youth of the region have a critical role to play in this process as future leaders and decision makers.

With this in mind the CYEN embarked on the Caribbean Youth Climate Change Project. The objective of the project is to make the youth sector of the Caribbean aware of the impacts that climate change could have on the national development of Caribbean states.



Participants on tour of the hydroelectric generating plant



Stanley Harris, VINLEC representative lectures on energy auditing

General activities of the project cover sixteen territories of the Caribbean, inclusive of the Haiti and the Dominican Republic. These comprise (1) participative awareness activities, the flagship of which is the poster competition and (2) training of youth leaders in electrical energy auditing and small business management.

Pilot project activities are being conducted in Barbados, Grenada and St. Lucia and include (1) national youth consultations on climate change, (2) illustrative research projects that retrofit houses in disadvantaged communities with energy saving lighting to show that domestic electrical consumption can be significantly decreased and by extension a decrease in carbon credits can be achieved, (3) the development of three small youth-led energy auditing business in the pilot territories and (4) advocacy activities.



Participants in one of the tutorial sessions