

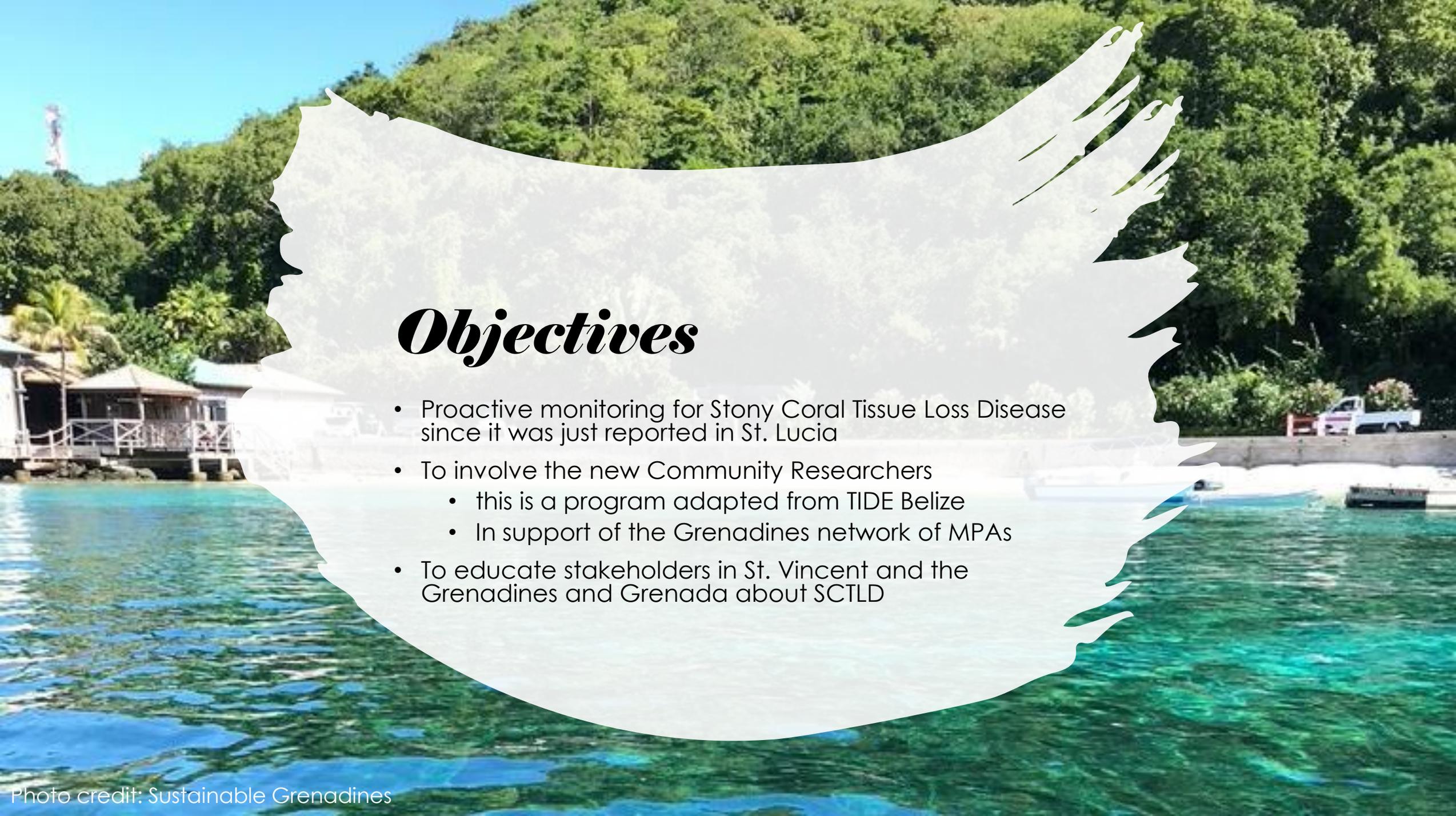
SCTLD Monitoring in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada.



SusGren
Sustainable Grenadines Inc.



A network for learning among Caribbean marine resource managers



Objectives

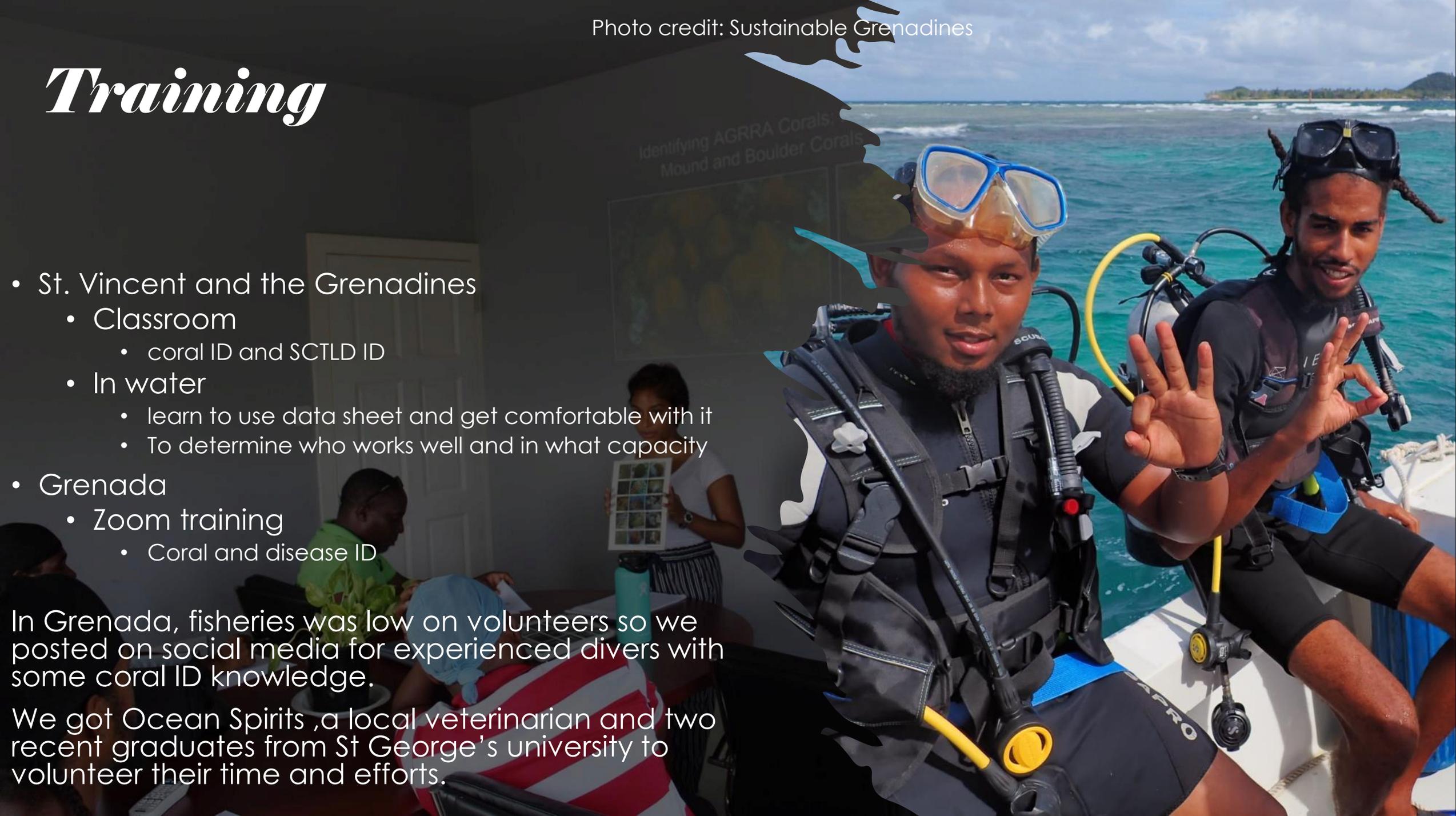
- Proactive monitoring for Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease since it was just reported in St. Lucia
- To involve the new Community Researchers
 - this is a program adapted from TIDE Belize
 - In support of the Grenadines network of MPAs
- To educate stakeholders in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada about SCTLD

Training

- St. Vincent and the Grenadines
 - Classroom
 - coral ID and SCTLD ID
 - In water
 - learn to use data sheet and get comfortable with it
 - To determine who works well and in what capacity
- Grenada
 - Zoom training
 - Coral and disease ID

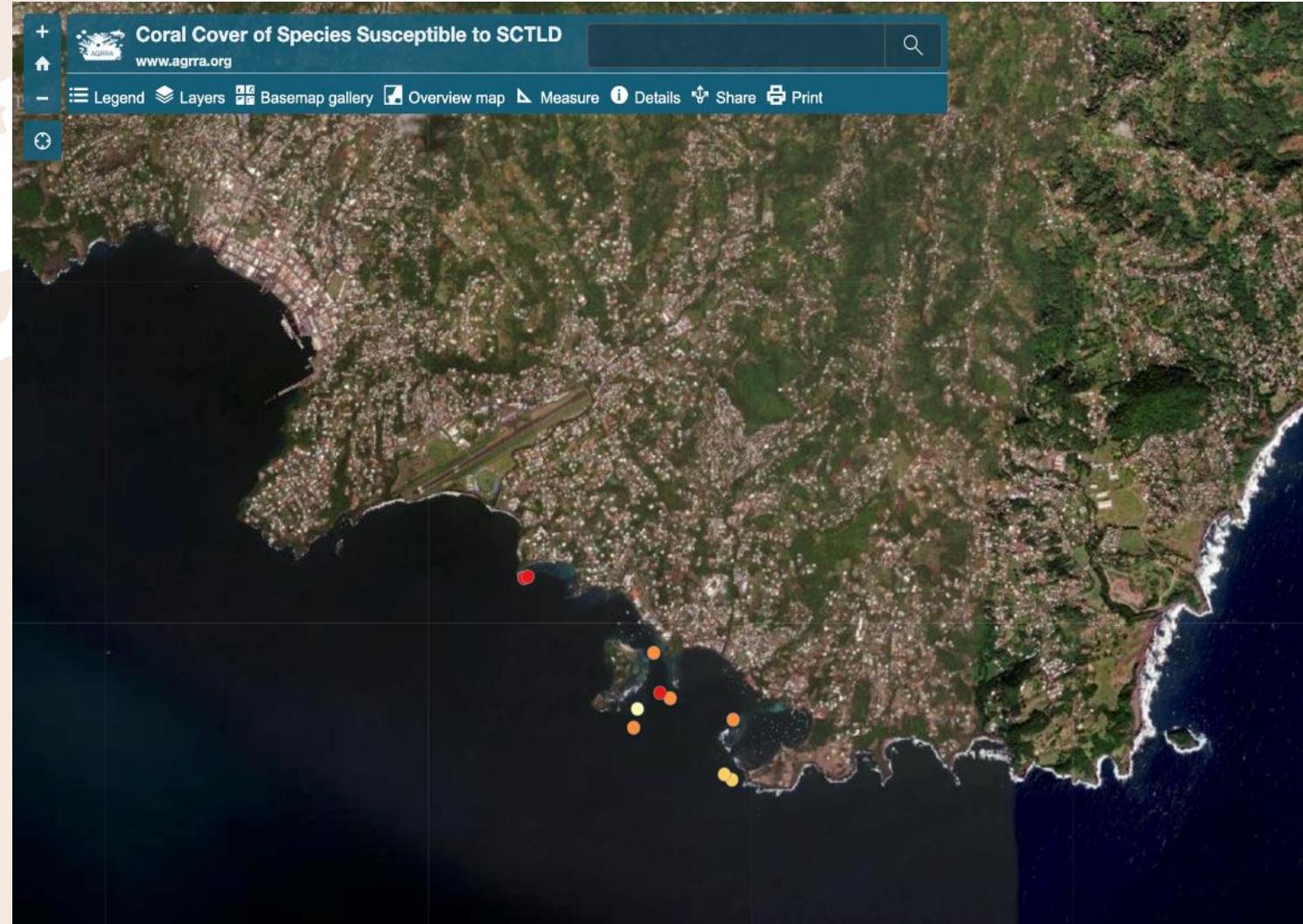
In Grenada, fisheries was low on volunteers so we posted on social media for experienced divers with some coral ID knowledge.

We got Ocean Spirits, a local veterinarian and two recent graduates from St George's university to volunteer their time and efforts.



Site Selection

- Survey site selection in St. Vincent mainland was driven by concern about the disease being associated with ports/cruise terminals
 - Therefore, we monitored the MPA close to the port in Kingstown
- Permanent monitoring sites were selected.
 - There are now two in each of six MPAs in the Grenadines and they're long-term sites for AGRRA monitoring every 3-5 years.
- Highly susceptible sites from AGRRA dashboard were selected.
- Along with any other sites the dive operators and rangers thought important!



South Coast Marine Conservation Area in St. Vincent, mainland

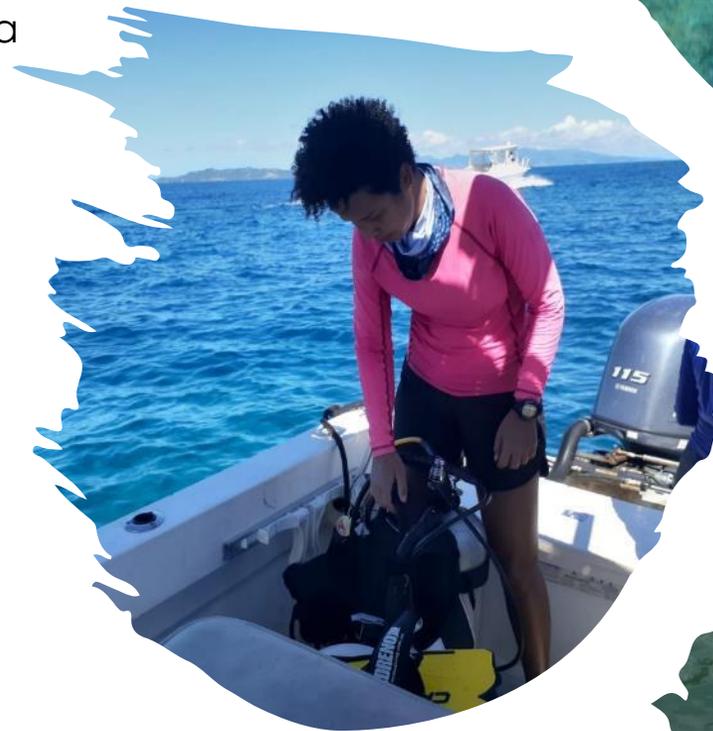
Data Sheet

- This is the data sheet used, it is a new one created by AGRRA.
- This was easier for the researchers and dive operators to use because of the common names.
- For some sites we used Single, Few, Many and Abundant due to double counting of corals.

SCTLD SURVEY by COMMON SPECIES NAMES (AND CODES)					
NAME:		DATE:		COMMENTS:	
SITE:		LATITUDE:		DEPTH RANGE:	SURVEY TIME (in mins):
SITE PROTECTED? Y (Yes) or N (No)		LONGITUDE:		HABITAT:	
GROUP or SPECIES		TALLY NUMBER OR CHOOSE AMONG S (SINGLE, 1); F (FEW, 2-10); M (MANY, 11-30), or A (ABUNDANT, 30+)			PHOTOS? Y (Yes) or N (No)
CODE	NAME	LIVE	DISEASED	RECENTLY DEAD	
PILLAR	PILLAR CORAL				
MAZE	ANY MAZE CORAL				
BRAIN	ANY BRAIN CORAL, or				
CNAT	Boulder Brain Coral				
DLAB	Grooved Brain Coral				
PCLI	Knobby Brain Coral				
PSTR	Symmetrical Brain Coral				
STAR	ANY STAR CORAL, or				
DSTO	Elliptical Star Coral				
MCAV	Great Star Coral				
OANN	Lobed Star Coral				
OFAV	Mountainous Star Coral				
OFRA	Boulder Star Coral				
SIDE	ANY STARLET CORAL				
AGAR	ANY LETTUCE CORAL				
OTHERS (describe):					

Field Work

- Collaborated with:
 - Dive operators in St. Vincent, Grenada and Union Island.
 - Tobago Cayes Marine Park rangers
 - The Fisheries Division in St. Vincent and Grenada
 - The Chief Environmental Officer in Mustique (private resort island).
- 2-4 divers per site
- 15–20minute dives
- Achieving fieldwork for monitoring requires multi-agency collaboration (NGO and government) and multi-sector support (public and private sector).
- This would not have been possible without the dive operators, fisheries , rangers and community researchers. They all played a very essential role in monitoring



Monitoring Effort

- **4** in person training sessions
- **4** in water training sessions
- **3** Zoom training sessions
- **20** stakeholders trained
- **30** surveys done on six islands
- About **30** hours of in water time



Photo credit: Olando Harvey

Lessons Learned

- If possible, formal AGRR training for Community Researchers.
- Assign a diver to specifically take pictures and record GPS.
- More training and more experience in the water is needed to avoid data discrepancies
 - Buoyancy was a bit of an issue which made some data illegible
 - We to figure out which pair we could send by themselves and which pair I would dive with
- Dive operators and local NGOs were very involved and helpful. They organized boat and gear logistics.
 - Serentiy Dive in St. Vincent
 - Eco-Dive In Grenada

Photo credit: Sustainable Grenadines



Findings

NO SCTLD PRESENTLY

Contact Information:

Adara Jaggernaut, Monitoring
Coordinator, Sustainable Grenadines
abjaggernaut@gmail.com

Photo credit: Olando Harvey