

2008 Annual Report



St. Croix Environmental Association, Inc.

5032 Anchor Way, Suite 3
Christiansted, VI 00820

(340) 773-1989 phone (340) 773-7545 fax
www.stxenvironmental.org
info.atSEA@gmail.com

Established in 1986

ST.CROIX ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION

To Promote the Conservation of Environmental Resources ,Provide Education and Advocate for Environmentally Responsible Actions that Benefit St. Croix.



St. Croix Environmental Association, Inc. is:

- A nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization
- A chapter of the Virgin Islands Conservation Society (VICS)
- VICS is an affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation

SEA Vision

A community which makes environmentally responsible decisions that conserve St. Croix's natural resources.

SEA Mission

To promote the conservation of environmental resources, provide education, and advocate for environmentally responsible actions that benefit St. Croix

Conservation

SEA's conservation initiatives in 2008 continue to be centered principally on Southgate Coastal Reserve. Failure to receive a Coastal Zone Management (CZM) permit for proposed development of parking, access, education facilities, interpretive trail and other infrastructure continues to delay fulfillment of the conservation potential of the Reserve. We were, however, able to gain permission from CZM to undertake some conservation activities this year. Southgate Coastal Reserve conservation activities included:

- Removal of beach shanties and other beach debris
- Installation of informational signage
- Periodic beach clean-ups
- Removal of exotic invasive vegetation
- Planting and maintenance of native trees along entry drive
- Involvement of local and national youth programs
- Routine monitoring of bird population counts and nesting activity

- Saturation monitoring of sea turtle nesting and nest hatching success
- Periodic monitoring of water levels and water quality
- Propagation of native trees for upland reforestation effort with funding from VI Department of Agriculture Urban and Community Forestry Program
- Installation of protective fencing for forestry plantings



SEA staff continue to work with the Trust for Virgin Islands Lands and Department of Agriculture to promote conservation of Annaly Bay and other Maroon Ridge watersheds, using private and US Forest Service, Forest Legacy Program funding.

SEA staff contributed substantively toward proposed conservation of Castle Nugent and Great Pond watersheds through designation of the area as a National Heritage Park. The area was found to be of “national significance” and will be submitted to the US Congress for designation.

SEA staff held several discussions with Steinmann family representatives about management options for the Derick Otis Steinmann Conservation Area, immediately south of Rainbow Beach Club. Various options are under consideration.

Education

The SEA education program served nearly 4,000 St. Croix children and adults through classroom visits, summer camp programs, snorkel clinics, the annual Earthday EcoFair, Agricultural Fair and other events and activities:

	No. of teachers & other adults	No. of children
SEA Education/Outreach Projects		
Eco Fair 2008	297	1403
Public School Classroom Visits	45	1005
SEA Creatures Summer Program	50	737
Environmental Learning Laboratory		193
International Year of the Reef (IYOR) Snorkel Clinics		151
Ag Fair 2008		75
Estate Thomas Teacher Training Workshop	15	
Total Adults and Children served	407	3564

SEA staff and volunteers began programs this year to provide environmental science instruction to over 700 Boy Scouts and Pathfinders active on St. Croix. Zac Hunter, a SEA volunteer is currently teaching the Environmental Science Merit Badge to 40 scouts in Troop 227. Ty McRae is creating a program with the Pathfinders.

SEA is also training the trainers. SEA staff is preparing for a teacher training of wetland ecology in which over 60 St. Croix and St. Thomas teachers have enrolled.

SEA continued to work with partners to schedule and deliver member activities, including hikes and tours, environmental films and leather-back sea turtle nesting and hatchling watches.

Advocacy

While there may have been a time for lying down in front of bulldozers, today we have environmental laws and permit conditions to delay dozer treads while we fight to ensure that environmental impacts are assessed, avoided, minimized and mitigated prior to groundbreaking. One of SEA's primary roles is to take legally defensible positions on behalf of environmental protection. This year, such advocacy included:

- SEA submitted a letter to VI Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) re. Dept. of Public Works taking of trees on Springgut Road without a TPDES Permit.
- SEA wrote to the VI Department of Agriculture asking that their heavy equipment operators comply with the USVI general Territorial Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) permit when clearing land.
- A SEA letter re. a private citizen removing two mahogany trees in Peter's Rest generated legal action with recommendations of fines and compensatory mitigation by DPNR.
- Action on a proposed powerboat race in the height of sea turtle nesting season without a federal permit stopped the race.
- Continuing action by SEA, VICS and other parties continues to stall Golden Resorts at Great Pond.
- SEA commented to the US Department of Commerce on failure of the USVI Coastal Zone Management program to meet federal mandates.
- SEA advocated for enforcement of the gill and trammel net ban promulgated by Gov. Turnbull.

- SEA commented to the US Environmental Protection Agency on a HOVENSA request to modify its RCRA Class 2 and 3 permits for oil spill clean-up.
- An out-of-court settlement of litigation to which SEA was a party provided that within three years after the issuance of a TPDES Permit, the VI Waste Management Authority must provide zero discharge to the ocean of sewage treated at Anguilla Wastewater Treatment facility.
- SEA commented favorably on Salt River National Historic Park and Ecological Preserve, and Sandy Point National Wildlife Reserve Environmental Assessments.

Where law or policy does not exist, SEA must advocate and work for new law or policy that protects the environment: This year SEA staff:

- worked with staff of Sen. Liston Davis and Virgin Island Department of Agriculture on drafting a new VI Tree Protection Law;
- continued to review and support the Renewable Energy Act of 2008 (Bill 27-0195), legislation being drafted by Sen. Louis Patrick Hill;
- provided favorable comments and advice to the National Marine Fisheries Service on designation of critical habitat for staghorn and elkhorn corals (*Acropora spp.*); and
- advised DPNR staff on a permit process for the appropriation of groundwater that will move the USVI from a first-come-first-served policy to a sustainable policy involving purchase or barter of groundwater credits.

SEA's preference is to engage during the design phase of a project or an event, not at the eleventh hour. This year we saw examples of both:

- SEA engagement in preparation of The Palms at Pelican Cove Environmental Assessment Report to promote sea turtle-friendly design and construction;
- the proposed powerboat race in the height of turtle nesting season which was stopped at the last moment due to failure of the promoter to obtain a required federal permit; and
- SEA has tried to advise William & Punch on their development plans, but to date the developer has not fulfilled environmental assessment or mitigation requirements mandated under federal or territorial law.

SEA supports sound sustainable economic development.

- SEA was instrumental in forming the Virgin Islands Renewable Energy Organization (VIREO), an alliance with other NGOs and private businesses, to promote renewable energy in the Virgin Islands. VIREO is working on two projects: advocacy of widespread use of solar water heating (SWH) to reduce residential energy consumption; and publication of a position paper on use of renewable energy technologies, not coal combustion, to meet WAPA's need for an additional 20 MW of energy.
- SEA actively supported environmentally responsible development at The Palms at Pelican Cove.
- SEA recommended conditional approval of the Grapetree Hotel major CZM permit.

SEA believes that a clean, protected, well-managed natural environment is a legacy from past generations as important as cultural and historic heritage, and is an asset to the economic growth of the Virgin Islands and quality of life for future generations of Virgin Islanders.

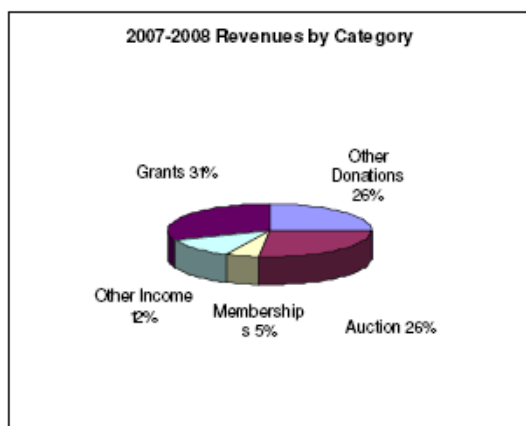
- This year SEA initiated a program to reduce consumption of throw-away plastic bags at Plaza Extra grocery stores. Ten thousand reusable grocery bags were sold at cost (\$1.49) by Plaza stores on St. Croix and St. Thomas. A second shipment of 10,000 bags is currently on order.
- SEA staff are in discussions with HOVENSA and Zenon Construction about industrial, construction and demolition waste reuse and recycling at significant scale.



It Takes Money

Sea Revenues

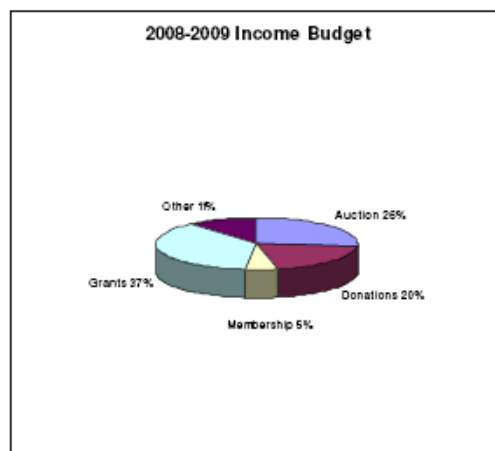
The chart below shows the major categories of SEA's revenues for 2007-08. These revenues totaled \$302,110 for the fiscal year. The largest category of revenues is grants. These are restricted to funding specific programs and include grants for Education, the Ecofair and the Southgate Coastal Reserve. The other revenues shown are the all-important local public support SEA received to supplement grant funding for programs and to fund membership services and general operations. This year we raised an additional \$29,000 from Plaza Extra for the SEA reusable shopping bags.



2007-2008 Revenue

Auction	77,311	0.26
Donations & Miscellaneous	79,072	0.26
Memberships	16,035	0.05
Interest & Sales	36,442	0.12
Grants	93,251	0.31
TTL	302,111	1.00

The 2008-2009 SEA board-approved budget projects revenue of \$343,000. The projected revenue increases will come principally from grants, program revenues and other miscellaneous sources.

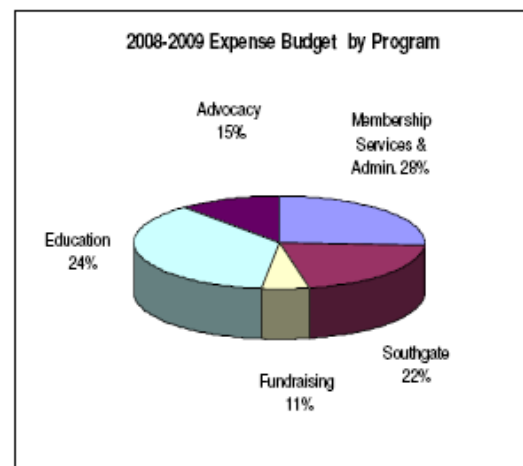
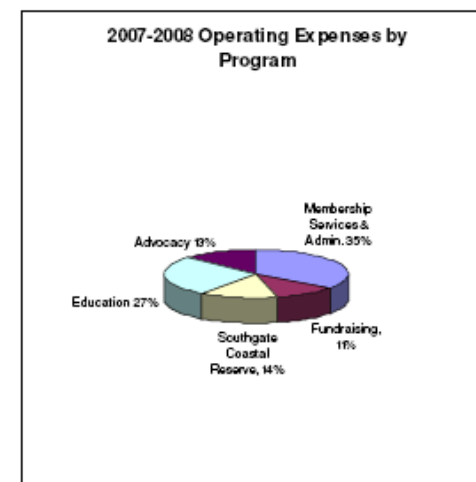


SEA's Operating Expenses

SEA's operating expenses for the 2007-08 year totaled \$290,015. The chart below shows the allocation of those operating expenses among SEA's major programs. SEA began to allocate a portion of overhead costs to programs in May of 2008 to more accurately represent costs. Direct fundraising costs, primarily the auction, were only about 8% of the total, the balance paid for the cost of producing and distributing SEA reusable shopping bags.

2007-2008 Expenses

General Operations	101,309	0.35
Fundraising	33,140	0.11
Southgate	39,527	0.14
Education	77,739	0.27
Advocacy	38,301	0.13
TTL	290,016	1.00



The 2008-2009 SEA board-approved budget projects expenses of \$343,000. The changes reflect anticipated increases in mission-related program costs and a reduction in administrative costs.

People Make it Happen

SEA is fortunate to have many dedicated people who are making the mission happen. Directors, staff, members, contractors, volunteers and partners are taking action on environmental fronts as diversified as land development, waste management, coral reef and wetland conservation, tree protection, environmental education, and global climate change. We are privileged to recognize and honor the 2008 SEA team:

SEA Board of Directors

Donald Diddams, Chairman

Eric Joyce, Vice-chair

Ariel Fromer, Treasurer

Jennifer Martin-Daley, Secretary

Michael Baron

Ken Haines

Roger Hoss

Jim Nealon

Nellie Rivera-O'Reilly

Ryan Smith

SEA Staff and Contractors

Paul Chakroff, Managing Director

Carol Cramer-Burke, Program Director

Vanessa Forbes, Environmental Educator

Myria Fernandez Alvarado, Office Manager

Carlene Mead, Bookkeeper

Holly Herold, Coordinator, 2008 SEA Creatures Ball
and 2009 SEAing Green Masquerade Ball

SEA Volunteers

SEA is fortunate to have many volunteers who support the organization in critical program and administrative functions, including help with mailings and other membership support, monitoring of sea turtle nesting, hikes and turtle walks, tree planting and other Southgate conservation.

Individuals, to numerous to name, provide hundreds of hours of service to the environment. We couldn't do it without you—you know who you are and so do we. Thank you!

SEA volunteers who guided SEA hikes and activities: **Don Bailey, John Farchette, Chuck Fournier, Veronica Gordon, Ken Haines, Toni Lance, Claudia Lombard, Rudy O'Reilly, Dee Osinski, Rick Starr, Marcia Taylor, Jennifer Valiulis, Lisa Yntema**

SEA Members

SEA has 451 members. We see the membership as the foundation of the organization and will be actively recruiting new memberships in 2009, with special emphasis on building our youth membership.

SEA Partners

International Year of the Reef (IYOR)

QUEST Boston

University of the Virgin Islands

US Fish and Wildlife Service

VI Department of Agriculture

VI DPNR Division of Coast Zone Management, East End Marine Park

VI Energy Office

Virgin Islands Network of Environmental Educators (VINE)

VI Renewable Energy Organization (VIREO)

VI Resource Conservation & Development Council

VI Waste Management Authority

West Indies Marine Animal Research and Conservation Service

Individual, Foundation and Government Sponsors

A very special anonymous donor
Edouard Foundation
Holland & Knight Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Watts Family Foundation
US Forest Service
VI Department of Agriculture
VI Waste Management Authority
Lisa Yntema & Gerry Groner
Masters Capital
James Simpson
Jan Hart
Virgin Island Wellness
Donald Weeden
James River Capital Corporation
Jim and Gail Nealon
John Harper
Helen Gjessing



Our Corporate Sponsors:

We wish to thank our sponsors for their generous support.

Hawksbill Sponsors:

HOVENSA
Marmarus Management Co., LLC
The Palms at Pelican Cove

Green Turtle Sponsors:

A Better Copy
JKC Communications
Marshall & Sterling
Plaza Extra
Tropico Management
William and Punch, LLC

Leatherback Sponsors:

The Buccaneer
Caribbean Printing & Marketing
Channel 8-WSVI-TV(ABC)
Cruzan Rum
Miller & Jacobs
Paradise 93.5FM
Seven Seas Water
Sonya Ltd-Corner Shop
Southgate Crossings
Sun Self-Storage
Sustainable Systems & Design, Inc. (SSDI)
Team San Martin-REMAX Real Estate