

Kids with Cameras Carriacou Program Report

Kids with Cameras Carriacou brought together three groups for a total of 48 primary and secondary school children (age mainly 9 – 12), merging members of the 2011-2012 Eco Club, formed in the first year of the KIDO- Rufford project. This program trains junior photographers to promote wildlife and biodiversity conservation in Carriacou.

Kids with Cameras educated the participants in IT and photography with the aim to introduce them to possible further professional training in the fields of environment and media development (some of them have already expressed the desire to become photographers!).

KwC training is based on appreciation, exploration and meaningful portraying of the natural environment of Carriacou, as well as the awareness of existing environmental issues. This process eventually empowers our youths to become articulate community educators about important and urgent environmental topics, a needed role presently lacking on the island.

We organized weekly field trips around the island of Carriacou, visiting natural 'hot-spots', photographing wildlife, identifying flora and fauna and documenting issues that endanger the beauty and the biodiversity of the natural environment.

Three of the hot-spots are located within the proposed National Park of High North (High North trail and peak, 1000ft, Anse La Roche estate and beach and Petit Carenage Mangrove & Bird Sanctuary). Chapeau Carre` is the Southern peak of Carriacou and offshore Sandy Island is located within the recently established Marine Protected Area of Carriacou. The Botanical Gardens of Carriacou were also a stopover and the unusual visit to the sites of Tibeau and Dumfries awakened the kids to the severity of beach erosion and the unresolved problem of garbage disposal on the island.



KwC and two Kido volunteers from UK planting mangroves in Petit Carenage

KwC participated to the rescue from slaughter of four sea turtles caught in fishers' nets.

Three green turtles and one hawksbill were subsequently tagged, measured and released into the sea with the children cheering the events.



In the Computer Centre conference room KWC's photos are studied and discussed

Each KwC group participated to a field trip to plant red mangrove seedlings (propagules) in the Petit Carenage Mangrove restoration area, where thousands of red mangroves, planted by KIDO since 1994, are growing.

We held weekly sessions where KwC edited their photographs taken during the weekend field trips. The editing took place at the Multipurpose

Computer Centre in town, run by Mr. Davon Baker, photographer & IT Manager with the Ministry of Carriacou & Petite Martinique Affairs. Mr. Baker assisted KwC with photography technical classes.

We ran the first group of 16 KwC from October 2012 to March 2013 (utilizing the donation of digital cameras from the Australian Mission in Trinidad) and the second and third group of 32 KwC from April to December 2013.

Discovering the beauty of Carriacou and the role of its precious bio-diversity through the eyes of these young eco-photographers translated into a valuable educational experience, appreciated by their families and the rest of the island population. KwC learned to focus on tiny details of nature, generally taken for granted, and concurrently visualized the vast coastal marine landscapes enabled through physically demanding hikes to the hilltops of Carriacou.



KwC identify wildlife along the High North trail

KwC also covered traditional cultural events, such as the Carriacou Regatta. In fact three photos taken by three KwC (Kionez, Knisha and Rizel) were selected for publication in the regionally & internationally distributed Caribbean Compass Magazine in the September 2013 issue, with credits recognition, giving a boost of confidence to the entire KwC (article with photos attached).

The young students and their families expressed in several occasions their wish to continue the learning experience with KIDO. A few teens older than the targeted 9-12 age range began to accompany our groups, some are KwC extended family youths who even brought their own cameras. Some parents asked KIDO to join in the fieldtrips to special locations they had never yet visited! Foreign KIDO turtle monitoring volunteers also gladly contributed their assistance during KwC outdoor activities and IT training (see [Kids with Cameras Carriacou Facebook](#)).



KwC Kady Mills receives her certificate and 3 of her photos from Dr Marina Fastigi