



The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited

Media Release

NGC marks a milestone for its Reforestation Programme

21 March 2023

The International Day of Forests holds particular significance for The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (NGC) this year, as it marks the culmination of the company's successful 18-year Reforestation Programme. The reforestation sites that have been rehabilitated under the Programme were ceremoniously handed over to the stewardship of the Forestry Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries on Tuesday 21 March during an event hosted at the natural heritage site, San Fernando Hill.

NGC, in keeping with its "No Net Forest Loss" Policy, under the Cross Island Pipeline Project (CIPP), Beachfield Upstream Development (BUD) Project and Union Industrial Estate (UIE) Development Project, implemented a Reforestation Programme in August 2005. The first phase of the project involved the rehabilitation of 105 hectares in the south-eastern Forest Conservancies, while in the second phase, 210 hectares were reforested in the Morne L'Enfer Forest Reserve, for a total of 315 hectares.

The planted trees have actively contributed to national emissions reduction efforts and this contribution has been definitively measured through above ground and below ground carbon sequestration studies conducted in partnership with The University of the West Indies (The UWI), St. Augustine Campus. The quantitative data has shown that as at 2021 a total of 10,373 tons of carbon have been sequestered as a result of NGC's reforestation efforts.

Throughout the journey of the reforestation programme, NGC sought to deliver benefit beyond the environmental aspect, which has brought immense value in bolstering the ecosystems of the impacted reforested areas. The project has allowed NGC to support sustainability on a socioeconomic level through the development of human capacity. Through collaboration and consultation with the Forestry Division, community reforestation groups were introduced to the fundamentals of setting up plant nurseries, propagation of seedlings, bee-keeping and key business skills.

Even as the reforestation sites are now under the care and management of the Forestry Division, NGC is still seeking opportunities to deepen the impact and legacy of the Reforestation Programme by leveraging the versatility of forests to support sustainability. By using a more holistic approach, NGC is extending the project into a broader programme, called **'Beyond 315'**. The first phase of 'Beyond 315', was a five-day beekeeping workshop which introduced the members of the Rio Claro Reforestation Group to facets of setting up a functioning apiary unit. The next step is to plan and coordinate with the Apiary Unit and Forestry Division to identify lands

near Union Village, Rio Claro, to set up an apiary for the group to work with and potentially turn into a business.

At the event NGC Director, Dr. Donnie Boodlal emphasised that “NGC has embraced sustainability as the principal driver of our business. Our operations, processes, strategies and vision are aligned to the targets of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We have now introduced an extensive Green Agenda portfolio, which is largely concerned with climate action. We are intent on reducing the carbon footprint of our business and wider industry, through energy efficiency mechanisms; clean energy technologies; a heavy focus on methane mitigation; advocacy and public education programmes. Our reforestation project, has helped us advance our Green Agenda”.

For International Day of Forests, NGC reaffirms its commitment to deepening the value our natural environment can bring to the overall goals of sustainable development.

For more information:

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Photo 1:

NGC Director, Dr. Donnie Boodlal, symbolically hands over NGC's Reforestation Programme to Senator the Honourable, Avinash Singh, Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries.



Photo 2:

(L to R) Mr. Alister Narinesingh, Social Responsibility Officer II, NGC; Ms. Lisa Burkett, Senior Manager, Corporate Sustainability, NGC; Mr. Manohar Mahabir, Supervisor, NGC Reforestation Programme; Dr. Donnie Boodlal, Director, NGC; Dr. Lena Dempewolf, Biodiversity Specialist, Ministry of Planning and Development; Professor Emeritus, John Agard, The UWI; Mr. Myles Lewis, Head Corporate Social Responsibility, NGC; and Mr. Danny Dipchansingh, Conservator of Forests, Forestry Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries.



Photo 3:

Members of the Grant's Trace Reforestation Group pictured with Mr. Alistar Narinesingh, Social Responsibility Officer II, NGC (back row, 1st on the left); Dr. Donnie Boodlal, Director, NGC (back row, 4th from the left); Ms. Lisa Burkett, Senior Manager, Corporate Sustainability, NGC (first row, 3rd from the left); and Mr. Myles Lewis, Head, Corporate Social Responsibility, NGC (first row, 4th from the left)