



ANGUILLA NATIONAL TRUST

Preservation For Generations

Press Release

Anguilla Celebrates Earth Day 2007

Earth Day was first celebrated in 1970 by over 20 million people across the United States. It was founded by Gaylord Nelson and organised by Denis Hayes and it represented one of the largest grassroots efforts in US history. It has even been suggested that the celebration of this day over 35 years ago led to the strong and vibrant environmental movement that exists in that country today.

Earth Day, which falls on 22 April every year, has now taken on international importance – it is observed and celebrated by over 200 million people and over 5 000 environmental groups in over 180 countries. It represents a global understanding that a united stand supported by local initiatives to conserve the world's natural environment is not only needed, but that is possible.

The Anguilla National Trust, a proud supporter of Earth Day, recognises that environmental consciousness and appreciation should not just be promoted one day of the year. Rather, it should be an integral part of the way we live and act.

The theme for this year's Earth Day events was *A Call for Action on Climate Change*. As a small flat island, addressing and adapting to the impacts of climate change will be critical to Anguilla. To help raise awareness about climate change, the ANT has organised a series of events and activities that not only mark Earth Day, but also the commencement of the Caribbean Endemic Bird Festival (CEBF) which falls on the same day.

The ANT celebrated Earth Day with the ALHCS Environmental Club by taking Club members on a guided hike along the northeast shoreline of Anguilla. Another highlight of the Earth Day and CEBF programme in Anguilla is the public showing of Al Gore's Academy Award-winning documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth." The film will be prefaced by a brief introduction on climate change by Ms Gina Brooks-Hodge of the Anguilla Tourist Board. The event will begin at 6.30pm on 17 May at the Teachers Resource Centre.

For more information on Earth Day, Anguilla's environment, or the film, please contact the Anguilla National Trust at 497 5297.

About the Anguilla National Trust

The Anguilla National Trust was established in 1993 to act as custodian of Anguilla's heritage, preserving and promoting the island's natural environment and its archaeological, historical and cultural resources for present and future generations. It is in the business of ensuring the sustainability of Anguilla's heritage. The ANT is a dynamic people-centred organisation working in collaboration with public and private sector entities to manage Anguilla's natural social and cultural heritage.

P. O. BOX 1234 • THE VALLEY • ANGUILLA
TEL: 264-497-5297 • FAX: 264-497-5571 • axanat@anguillanet.com



Taking a well-deserved break half way through the hike.



Environmental Club Members making their way down a rocky ledge.



Shoal Bay marked the end of the hike and the perfect place to cool down.

Farah Mukhida, Protected Areas Manager

23 April 2007