

# **Friends of Graeme Hall Inc.**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bridgetown, Barbados

June 27, 2007

## **Local Group Receives Formal Status for Graeme Hall Effort**

The Friends of Graeme Hall, Inc. announced Wednesday that they had been formally incorporated as a charitable, non-profit Non-Governmental Organization (NGO).

“Incorporating as an NGO allows us to source private and international funding for the Graeme Hall National Park initiative,” said FOGH director Andrew Alleyne. “We hope that we will have an opportunity to partner with the Government of Barbados by contributing local and international philanthropic sector support, which will help pay for capital costs associated with the Park.”

According to Mr. Alleyne, international funding agencies such as the United Nations, European Union and others are more likely to provide grants and other support if they see a robust partnership relationship between Government and an active NGO.

The proposed Graeme Hall National Park would permanently protect the last major green open space between Bridgetown and the Airport. The initiative outlines many civil engineering improvements as well as walking and bicycling trails, fishing platforms, exercise stations, family picnic areas, educational pavilions and tree planting, and support to improve existing Ministry of Agriculture facilities.

“We have a significant one-time opportunity for both Government and stakeholders to create the newest and finest National Park at Graeme Hall. The South Coast is already the most densely populated area of our nation, and we think the new Park is important to Barbados in the same way Central Park is to New York, or Hyde Park in London. Not only will the National Park provide an environmental buffer to prevent damage to the sensitive ecosystem at Graeme Hall, but it would help revitalize the South Coast with safe recreational opportunities for the people of Barbados for generations to come,” said Alleyne.

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More information can be found at [www.graemehallnationalpark.org](http://www.graemehallnationalpark.org)