



**THE NATIONAL GAS COMPANY
OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO LIMITED**



Community Report 2015

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Foreword

CREATING EXCEPTIONAL NATIONAL VALUE

"To create exceptional national value from natural gas and energy businesses" — the mission statement of The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (NGC) states in simple words, the mandate with which our owner, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GORTT), has entrusted us.

For 40 years, value creation has been at the core of NGC's business activities as a key developer of the local natural gas sector. Every step in our business has been geared towards creation of value for Trinidad and Tobago's citizens, and every year has been a profitable one for NGC, allowing us to contribute substantially to the Treasury.

National value is created primarily through the monetary contributions made to the GORTT. Profits are generated through our core business activities of purchasing, transporting and selling natural gas to industry, as well as through our investments and the work of our subsidiary companies.

However, to create *exceptional value*, NGC goes much further — directly into the heart of communities, both in Trinidad and in Tobago. We do this by following a clearly defined policy framework of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) that allows us to make direct contributions to the economic, social and environmental sustainability of our communities. The policy defines and guides NGC's CSR philosophy, the nature of our community involvement, the funding mechanisms and the volunteerism of our employees in a transparent manner.

In this report, you will find details on all aspects of how NGC brings its CSR to life, and how the Company's strategic approach to CSR makes the investment sustainable and exceptionally beneficial to the nation.



**Olave Maria Thorne,
President (Ag.), NGC**



Chapter 1: NGC's CSR Philosophy

TRANSLATING RESPONSIBILITY INTO INVESTMENT

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a model of corporate self-regulation that is a strategic part of NGC's business model and an expression of our Corporate Values. If we can successfully execute and communicate our CSR, our stakeholders and the national community as a whole stand to benefit.

Over the years, NGC's CSR has grown from being an ethical concept that guided our Community Relations, to being a strategic investment action. While the idea of responsibility was a philosophical approach, the notion of investment delineates a precise, strategic plan of action with an expectation of a worthwhile return.

Corporate Social Investment (CSI) is defined as any voluntary activity, in cash or in kind, beyond commercial and legal obligations, that contributes to the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the communities in which we operate.



This is exactly what NGC's investment into our communities envisages: the well-thought-out commitment of funds over a period of time into specific programmes that will maximise and enrich lives in our communities.

OUR CENTRAL THEMES

NGC's investment portfolio is built around three central themes – Sport, Civic Life, and Empowerment. In the pages that follow, we will introduce our activities in each of these areas.

NGC'S CSR PHILOSOPHY COMMITTS US TO:

- being a leader and innovator in the field of CSR
- creating shared value for our Company and our multiple stakeholders, with a focus on socioeconomic and human development
- exercising responsible stewardship of aspects of the national patrimony which we manage or which our operations impact
- supporting initiatives which preserve the national identity and heritage and culture
- adopting a stakeholder approach to all CSR activities
- ensuring transparency and equity in our CSR approach and in the execution of all CSR projects
- seeking to be sustainable in the way our daily operations are conducted and in the social interventions we develop, implement and support

EVALUATION

NGC applies strict evaluation criteria in the approval of applications for funding. These are based on priorities, needs, sustainability, impact, long-term relationships, communication, employee involvement and volunteerism, implementation and financial health. Before committing ourselves to a partnership with a community entity, we assess the impact of the project on our reputation and how much bearing it has on our policies and focus areas. As a general rule, funds are only extended to registered institutions, and never to individuals.

Other questions used to evaluate applications are:

- Does the project maximise use of local labour, services, goods and materials?
- Are the organisation's values aligned with those of NGC?
- Does the project have national impact across Trinidad and Tobago?
- Is the project part of a disaster relief framework?
- Is the project or organisation part of our fenceline community?
- Does the project have potential for a partnership, whereby NGC can assist to make it self-sustaining and independent from future support?



RELATIONSHIPS AND RECIPROCITY

An important characteristic of NGC's Community Relations portfolio is that we seek to build *relationships* with all our sponsored partners, rather than just make financial contributions. In the process of developing these relationships, we do regular assessments to ensure that both parties are doing their part to make the project work.

For projects into which we invest more than \$100,000, we have a special internal monitoring procedure, which starts with the agreement that defines NGC's relationship with the particular partner. Thereafter, we conduct

quarterly assessments, using reports from our partners that map the progress made with regard to the various deliverables. These allow us to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of each of our partnerships. Since most partnership projects span a three-year period or longer, the assessment allows both sides to make adjustments to maximise the value to a project's or organisation's ultimate beneficiaries.

For projects that are heavily reliant on contractual labour, for example the NGC Reforestation Programme, NGC undertakes phased audits to monitor progress of the initiative and to ensure that contractors deliver on what was agreed upon.



Chapter 2: Sport

DEVELOPING TEAMWORK AND SELF-DISCIPLINE

Sport is an indisputably attractive area for corporate investment: it builds healthy bodies, healthy characters and healthy attitudes. It is also a powerful tool for building a sense of community, and national pride. Nothing quite unites us as a people like the vicarious thrills of sporting victory and commiseration in defeat.

Trinidad and Tobago is a wellspring of sporting talent, but much like our hydrocarbon resources, this talent must be discovered, developed and

refined before it can generate its maximum value for individual and nation alike. For many years, NGC has recognised and serviced the need for corporate support in the area of Sport, with a view to ensuring that our young athletes are able to access opportunities for development in various key disciplines.

Through the sponsorships outlined herein, we are proud to partner in securing the future of Sport in Trinidad and Tobago.

High jumper at NGC/Sagicor NAAA Open Championships





Participants in NGC's Right on Track Programme



TRACK AND FIELD COMPETITIONS

When it comes to Sport, there is no bigger stage than the Olympic Games, and for Trinidad and Tobago, no other discipline has earned the country more Olympic glory and national pride than Track and Field. There is clearly a reservoir of local athletic ability to be tapped in this area, and NGC gives its support in that regard through several sponsorships.

NGC Right on Track

Developed over a decade ago with the guidance of Olympic Gold Medallist Hasely Crawford TC, the NGC Right On Track

Development Programme teaches skills in both Track and Field and Basketball to children at the primary and secondary school levels, via its roving Coaching Caravan. The science-based programme is a practical illustration of how mass participation in physical activity can be achieved through engagement in Track and Field and Basketball, and how the fundamental motor skills taught during the Caravan's well-structured sessions enable participants to make the best use of their talent and reach their fullest potential.

Through this initiative, NGC provides practical instruction to young persons, aged five to 18,



Participants in NGC's Right on Track Programme

from schools and communities across Trinidad and Tobago, as well as critical training for coaches to promote sustainability and build capacity in these sporting disciplines. On the surface, the outcomes of the programme include heightened interest and success in these sports at both the individual and national levels, and encouragement of exercise and improved health among participating youth. However, an arguably more important result of participation is the integration of cardinal sporting values like teamwork, fair play, dedication, respect and discipline into life beyond the field of play.

For a society writhing in the grip of criminality and intemperance, these virtues are of great importance to our rehabilitation.

Since its inception in 1999, the NGC Right On Track Development Programme has benefited more than 15,000 participants in 105 communities and eight institutions; it has trained 88 coaches and it has formed and/or restored seven athletic clubs. Its impact is attested by the many coaches who have seen results in the form of improved athletic ability, pride in achievement and character development.

NAAA

At the professional level, we partner with the National Association of Athletics Administrations (NAAA) to help build the discipline of and industry around Track and Field. In 2015, NGC's contribution to the NAAA totalled \$4 million. As per our agreement with the NAAA, that injection of capital was used to seek the improvement of governance and operational effectiveness of the organisation by supporting its development programmes for coaches, volunteers and elite high-performance athletes. NGC was also a proud sponsor of the NAAA Championship Month: an annual season of competition which sees our nation's top young athletes – juniors, juveniles and seniors – compete at the national level. These games have provided an indispensable platform for exposure and growth, as they have fielded athletes who have gone on to excel in national colours on international stages.

Primary School Games

Recognising the importance of nurturing sporting talent and encouraging aspirations from a tender age, NGC has for many years been supporting the Primary Schools Track and Field Games in the Moruga Zone and in the St. Patrick and Caroni Education Districts. The Caroni Education District Games are in fact the most long-standing recipient of NGC's sponsorship. These Games not only provide productive outlets for youthful energies and extra-curricular lessons in discipline and fair play, but critically, they expose the budding talent of these young citizens/athletes and introduce potential athletic stars.

ELITE ATHLETES WIN BIG AT THE PAN AM GAMES 2015

Eleven of Trinidad and Tobago's elite athletes won medals at the 2015 Pan Am Games: Gold for javelin thrower, Keshorn Walcott; shot-putter, Cleopatra Borel; and 400m relay runners, Renny Quow, Machel Cedenio, Emanuel Mayers and Jarrin Solomon. Silver went to 110m hurdler, Mikel Thomas and 400m sprinter, Machel Cedenio. Bronze was won by 100m relay runners, Rondel Sorrillo, Emmanuel Callender, Dan-Neil Telesford and Keston Bledman. NGC is proud to support these elite athletes via our partnership with the NAAA.

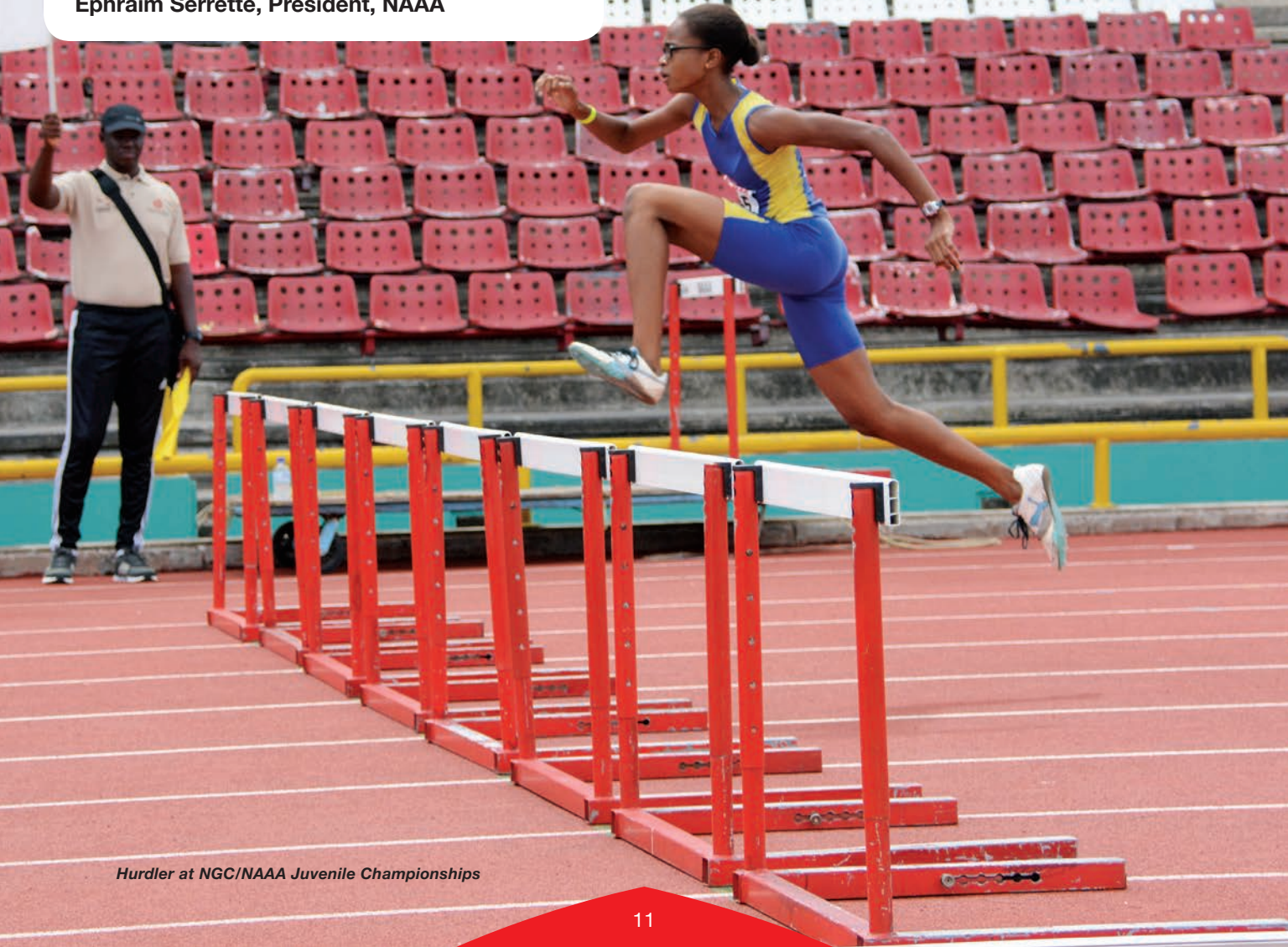


Victorious young athletes at the Caroni Education District Primary School Games

NGC was heartened by the resounding success of the 2015 editions of these Games, with more than 1,500 young athletes from 102 Primary Schools participating and excelling on the field.

"The National Association of Athletics Administrations of Trinidad and Tobago (NAAA) entered into an MoU with NGC for a three-year period commencing 2015. This has given the association the required support to realise its developmental programmes and projects as charted in its annual operational plan and by extension its 2012 – 2016 strategic plan. "

Ephraim Serrette, President, NAAA



Hurdler at NGC/NAAA Juvenile Championships

CRICKET

Over the years, Trinidad and Tobago has produced some legendary cricket players, world-renowned for their athleticism, artistry and entertainment value. As a team we are formidable, but we cannot rest on our laurels. This is *our* game to lose, and we need to continue investing in our local players to ensure we maintain that calibre of cricket.

NGC invests substantially in the sport through partnership with the Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board (TTCB). Our engagement with the TTCB helps facilitate the staging of and participation in professional competitions, and supports initiatives that target and develop our nation's cricketing youth.

Specifically, NGC supports the national Junior and Senior Male and Female cricket teams,

Trinidad and Tobago National Cricket Team





Children participating in TTCB's Grassroots Development Programme

the NGC T20 Cricket Festival, zonal cricket, women's cricket, and TTCB-run developmental initiatives such as the Grassroots Development Programme and the National Cricket Academy. For the year 2015, NGC's investment in the TTCB and its initiatives totalled \$4.5 million.

Besides developing talent, NGC has also sought to develop the industry around the sport. In 2015, NGC handed over a world-class digital scoreboard to the management of the Queen's Park Oval, which has helped lift the venue's international profile and enhance the spectator experience – both of which serve to increase sport tourism.

COMMUNITY CRICKET AND COMMUNITY FOOTBALL

In addition to giving support at the national level, NGC has partnered with various community organisations over the years to host cricket and football competitions in their areas. These events allow NGC to build relationships all over Trinidad and Tobago, and are important for nurturing rapport amongst participating villages.

They also create a platform for the exposure of young sporting talent.

On another important level, the various tournaments stimulate grassroots business—by providing opportunities for sale of related goods and services—and generate usage for grounds and community centres, some of which have been restored with NGC's assistance.

Match in play at the Queen's Park Oval beneath sponsored scoreboard

"NGC's support has made it possible for us to have continuance of the community programmes, which are now more widespread and consistent (year round). NGC provides funding while the TTCB provides the management for the programmes. Our contact with NGC's employees is mainly to ensure proper programme delivery and compliance and these interactions have been excellent."

Suruj Ragoonath, Chief Executive Officer, TTCB



Community teams face off in People Empowering People T20 cricket competition



"We provide them with accessories needed for sport, such as football boots, cricket bats. Beyond that, our support goes a long way to help fund prizes, trophies and medals, which are used to help bring communities together around sport."

Alistar Narinesingh, Community Relations Officer I, NGC



Chapter 3: Civic Life

ENRICHING COMMUNITIES



The late Pat Bishop, TC, Musical Director of the Lydians, conducting the choir

Civic life is concerned with the affairs of community and nation. As a corporate citizen, we, at NGC, take our civic duty very seriously, and we are heavily invested in building a better Trinidad and Tobago.

Strong nations are undergirded by more than just strong governance and economies. A shared national identity and solid compatriot bonds are equally important, and for that reason, NGC gives cultural and communal activity direct investment attention. This involves support of impactful arts and culture groups and initiatives,

as well as restoration and preservation of public spaces that accommodate communal pursuits.

Moreover, inasmuch as the land on which we live is the literal foundation of our country, preservation of our natural environment falls to us as a civic responsibility, and NGC has embarked on a reforestation project to do its part in that regard.

Taken together, the following investments underscore NGC's commitment to actively participate and seek improvements in the ambit of civic life.



One of the houses constructed by HFHTT for a Gasparillo family with NGC's assistance

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO (HFHTT)

Habitat for Humanity Trinidad and Tobago (HFHTT) began operations in 1997 with a vision to help secure decent and affordable housing for impoverished families across the country. Since its inception, HFHTT has worked with vulnerable households on housing solutions, training initiatives, and disaster risk-reduction programmes.

In recognition of the valuable work of HFHTT and their need for corporate support, NGC began partnering with the organisation in 2005. In 2015, the Company entered into a three-year sponsorship agreement with HFHTT, committing \$1 million each year to

"NGC has been one of HFHTT's most important corporate partners over the years. NGC staff has gone above and beyond their duty, volunteering to build and paint the homes, and purchasing gifts and furnishings for their Home Partner families. NGC truly gives back to communities in Trinidad and Tobago."

Habitat for Humanity Spokesperson

assist with construction of five homes per year. The partnership has allowed NGC staff to get involved with the work of the organisation, and many employees have actively participated in project builds over the years.

*Students performing
at NGC Sanfest on
Harris Promenade,
San Fernando*

"NGC Sanfest remains integral to the development of youth through the Arts in Trinidad and Tobago. The festival not only provides a space for the youth to hone their talents but also allows for those with talent to showcase their abilities to the nation."

**Fofi George,
Community Relations Officer II, NGC**

THE SAN FERNANDO JUNIOR ARTS FESTIVAL (NGC SANFEST)

Now in its 46th year, the NGC Sanfest seeks to empower young people through avenues of artistic expression. The festival pivots around visual, literary and performing arts, and is open to primary and secondary schools.

NGC Sanfest is a perfect springboard for young performers and an incubator for the future of the Arts in Trinidad and Tobago. Over the years, some of this country's best-known artistes and

role models first experienced the big stage and the demands of tough competition in the NGC Sanfest Junior Arts Festival.

In recognition of the need to preserve this monument of our cultural landscape, NGC not only gives its monetary support, but assists the organisers in attracting audiences through professional media campaigns and special audience prizes. Furthermore, NGC encourages its employees to get involved in the coordination of the festival, through the Company's volunteerism programme.

Students treat NGC Sanfest audience to folk rendition



*Dancer performs traditional
Indian dance at NGC Sanfest*



THE NGC BOCAS LIT FEST

The Bocas Lit Fest, which opened its doors for the first time to the Caribbean public in 2011, brings together writers and readers from Trinidad and Tobago and the wider Caribbean. It consists of a week of readings, performances, workshops, discussions, film screenings and other events and has four instalments throughout the year, including a Children's Bocas Lit Fest, San Fernando and Tobago editions. The festival has turned the page for many of our local and regional authors by aggressively marketing our Caribbean literature

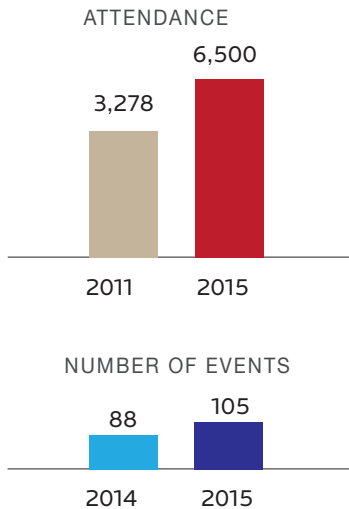
to both domestic and international audiences with great success.

NGC became title sponsor of the festival in 2012. Since then, NGC has not only supported through funding, but NGC's employees have given of their time to assist organisers in coordinating the various festival events. Our support of the Bocas Lit Fest stems from an appreciation of its diligence in service of literacy and Caribbean authorship and its stunning growth and achievements over the past few years.

Captive audience at NGC Bocas Lit Fest storytelling session



The festival has been growing its audience and impact with NGC's support



An avid fan receives an autographed copy of Baroness Susan Greenfield's book

"Without NGC allowing us to benefit from its community programmes' funding, the Bocas Lit Fest would have been unable to develop at the speed and to the level that it has done over the last five years. With NGC's support, we can now offer the Trinidad and Tobago public three annual festivals: one in the capital, one in Tobago and one in San Fernando, plus a children's festival with an annual publication of children's stories.

The Bocas Lit Fest is not interested in handouts. Rather, we prefer to work with our main funder to develop the project together. NGC has been a proactive partner, with the relevant employees

offering advice and being always available for consultation. NGC volunteers and members of senior staff are always present at Bocas events throughout the year. We feel fully supported by NGC, its CSR representatives and management team with whom we come into contact.

Many people have told us that we have changed their lives through our activities. It is very touching when a simple idea can have so much impact."

Marina Salandy-Brown, Founder and Director, NGC Bocas Lit Fest

NGC Steel Xplosion pannist

"A prime example of transformation through CSR can be seen in our sponsored groups' Capacity-Building Training. Our sponsored groups, as part of our agreement, are exposed to various workshops including Management, Financial Management, Marketing and, in the case of the steelbands, Intellectual Property and the Business of Music, intended to improve their proficiency and efficiencies. A marked difference is noticed in the level of professionalism displayed upon completion of the sessions by both groups with whom I have interacted."

Myles Lewis,
Community Relations Officer II, NGC



SPONSORSHIP OF STEELBANDS – PRESERVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY OF THE NATIONAL INSTRUMENT

NGC's focus on the national instrument is one of over two decades' standing. We believe that Trinidad and Tobago, as the creator of pan, needs to take an active interest in cultivating the industry around the instrument and its music, in order to ensure its sustainability. That is why NGC's support of our sponsored bands goes beyond infusions of capital – we are seeking to build the capacity and marketability of the bands we assist in an effort to secure the future of pan.

NGC currently sponsors three steelbands, namely NGC La Brea Nightingales, NGC Couva Joylanders and NGC Steel Xplosion and gives support to the Gonzales Sheikers.

NGC's sponsorship of the bands is structured to ensure sustainability. It includes a wealth generation fund to support commercial ventures that generate revenue for the band; capacity-building funds to provide training for the management of the band, with the aim of increasing their operational efficiency; and music literacy funds, to be used to train the band members in the reading of sheet music.



Young NGC Couva Joylanders pannist

Sponsorship of Tassa Bands

Tassa drumming is an artifact of our East Indian heritage and is a fixture at cultural events across Trinidad and Tobago.

While traditional tassa has maintained its paramouncy as the entertainment item of choice at many events, crossover and combination ensembles are creating a unique, indigenous sound that is becoming increasingly meaningful and popular.

In an effort to support both the preservation of traditional tassa and innovation in the art form, NGC sponsors the Show Stopperz Tassa Group, the Trinidad and Tobago Sweet Tassa Enterprises, as well as the crossover band Bao Simba Entertainers of Tobago. As with our sponsored steelbands, NGC gives financial support to the tassa bands, assists with wealth generation initiatives, and provides training to equip participants to run successful businesses and remain competitive in an aggressive industry.

Women of the NGC-sponsored Trinidad and Tobago Sweet Tassa Enterprises group



FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT

Strong communities are the building blocks of strong nations. Communal activity helps create a sense of belonging and fraternity, which ultimately

produces patriotic, civic-minded citizens. It also opens opportunities for healthy social interaction. Communal spaces where such activity can be accommodated therefore deserve care and investment.

Children play at the refurbished Leo Thompson Recreation Ground, Gasparillo





Two band members stand inside the newly refurbished Gonzales Sheikers Panyard

NGC has embarked on the renovation of several community facilities and recreational grounds that provide useful public spaces for education and training, the Arts, sport, community gatherings and social services. Many of those identified are in communities traditionally underserved by corporate Trinidad and Tobago and are also located in NGC's pipeline communities.

Some of the projects undertaken in the past two years include:

- Refurbishment of the Leo Thompson Recreation Ground, Gasparillo;
- Refurbishment of Dubisson Park, Ste. Madeleine;
- Refurbishment of Shell Recreation Ground, Rio Claro;
- Construction of pavilion at Lower Cumuto;
- Refurbishment of recreation grounds in Preysal and Exchange;
- Construction of pavilion at Gasparillo Park.

REFORESTATION PROGRAMME – NO NET LOSS

In recognition of the importance of sustainable development, NGC makes all business decisions with the sensitivity of the natural environment in mind, as when choosing minimally disruptive routes for pipelines or using Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) to avoid cutting across natural habitat surfaces. Additionally, guided by a no net loss principle, we have committed funds to a reforestation programme to replenish areas cleared during pipeline construction activities.



Our large-scale, tree-planting exercise was launched in 2005. For more than a decade, we have partnered with community groups and with the Forestry Division to put some 315 hectares of degraded forest lands back under leaf and bark. The programme involved the planting of 8,310 seedlings over 30 hectares during 2015. This brings the total area reforested since the programme began to 267 hectares.

The objective is to restore a dense, mixed-species tree canopy back to the southern watershed, which would serve as a habitat for wildlife, preserve soil and reduce the incidence of bush fires. Adjunct to these benefits, are the education of the rural community on how to take care of the youthful forest, and the generation of short-term employment for some in these communities. Trees planted include apamate, teak, cedar, mahogany and fruit trees and so far, the programme has been extremely successful.

The NGC Reforestation Programme is supported by the physical input of the respective communities and their deep knowledge of their own surroundings. Both men and women partner with the experienced foresters of the Forestry Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries and share their knowledge of the often highly uneven terrain so that planting activities can be executed safely and effectively.

Left: NGC employee participates in reforestation exercise

On page 31, a reforestation worker clears shrubbery





Chapter 4: Empowerment

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

Here in Trinidad and Tobago, our most precious resource does not lie in underground deposits, but in the potential of our people. As a country, our level of development will ultimately be a function of the value we can extract from our human capital.

That said, we can only maximise that value by empowering our people with knowledge, competencies and opportunities that enable

them to be and give of their best. Understanding that a solid academic foundation, proper socialisation and assimilation into society and community awareness are all critical in that regard, NGC has committed substantial support to causes in these areas.

The following section details some of our major investments aimed at empowerment.



Members of NGC Steel Xplosion participate in a Capacity-Building Exercise

POLICE YOUTH CLUBS

Circumstance predisposes many young people in our country to unsavoury lifestyles, and it is in our national interest to take pre-emptive action, where possible, to keep our youth on a positive path.

Police Youth Clubs (PYCs) were established by the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service in 1974 to fulfil that objective by providing young people

between the ages of five to 25 with avenues to access social and community work, sports, cultural activities, education and character development.

Impressed by the work and impact of these clubs, NGC chose to invest in the developmental work, capacity building and social activities of some of the PYCs. Currently, we sponsor the La Brea, Couva, Penal and Laventille Road PYCs, selected on the basis of their proximity

Police Youth Club members learn to swim



"The success of the Police Youth Clubs is testimony to the power of collaboration among the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS), Corporate T&T and community stakeholders. It continues to be an extremely rewarding relationship that benefits the youth within our communities and by extension, the nation."

Fofi George,
Community Relations Officer II, NGC



Youngsters enjoy a game of football at Police Youth Club Family Day

to major NGC installations, prior relationship with the Company, and the socioeconomic backgrounds of the communities.

In addition to supporting the PYCs' regular activities, we collaborate with our sponsored steelbands – the NGC Couva Joylanders and NGC La Brea Nightingales – to enhance the music literacy of the club members, and with the TTCB to hold cricket camps. We also facilitate personal development training in conflict resolution, communication and etiquette skills, and sponsor vacation camps and field trips that help children fill the long school breaks with

"When you work with youth clubs, you feel the gratitude and the appreciation that the young persons have. They come and say: "Sir, thanks to NGC, we are now learning so many things, we have grown. What NGC has been doing for us, we can't thank them enough."

**Alister Narinesingh,
Community Relations Officer I, NGC**

positive, useful activities.

In a bid to ensure these clubs remain sustainable, NGC has also sponsored capacity-building workshops for their leadership and executive teams. In 2015, members were trained in Fundamentals of Management Principles and Practices, Financial Management and Marketing.



Firefighting workshop under NGC's CAER Programme

COMMUNITY AWARENESS

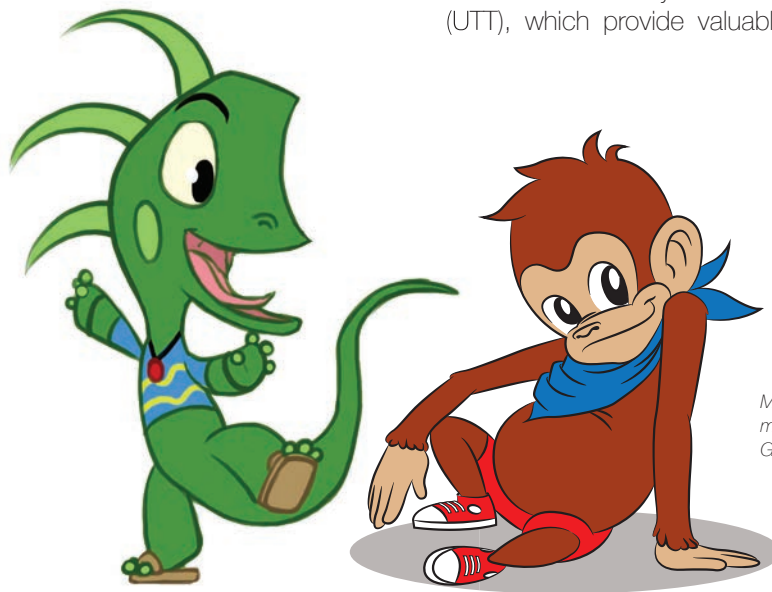
Public education is an important aspect of the energy business, and NGC has a role to play in increasing awareness among members of the national community about natural gas, its benefits and potential hazards.

Public consultation sessions are held regularly with community stakeholders to prepare for necessary construction work, speak about the risks and hazards associated with a project, its duration, contingency plans in case of an emergency and any other concerns that the community may have. The Company, however, spearheads sector-specific public education initiatives throughout the year.

Building Natural Gas Literacy

NGC helps students of all ages improve their understanding of the energy sector via several platforms. At the primary school level, NGC introduced two mascots, Monkey and Iguana, to aid educators in increasing knowledge about natural gas and its role in the country. Teachers were given a variety of tools such as posters, booklets, exercises and actual puppets of the mascots to help them build natural gas literacy on their own. To complement these resources, NGC hosts an award-winning Education Centre on its website, where both primary and secondary school students and teachers can access additional content, games and experiments.

For students at tertiary level institutions, NGC hosts free workshops annually in conjunction with the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), which provide valuable insights into the



*Monkey and Iguana,
mascots of NGC's Natural
Gas Literacy Programme*

Company's business and operations, and the energy sector as a whole. These workshops are heavily subscribed – 2015 alone saw more than 120 students participating across four workshop sessions in July and August. Presenters included NGC staff, UTT faculty and representatives from the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries.

School Visits

Throughout the year, NGC facilitates school visits at its headquarters, which allow primary, secondary and even tertiary level students to experience presentations on NGC's role, its business, its product and safety. NGC also arranges tours of the Point Lisas Industrial Estate for the visiting students. Students from 11 schools were hosted at NGC in 2015.

CAER

The Community Awareness and Emergency Response (CAER) programme was initiated in 2008 and focuses on communities close to NGC's critical gas infrastructure. CAER educates adults and schoolchildren in those communities about the risks of natural gas, mitigation measures and appropriate responses to an emergency. Activities under this programme include emergency response training for volunteers, the supply of emergency equipment and educational visits to schools.



Children engrossed at NIHERST/NGC National Science Centre

In 2015, after visiting and conducting safety assessments in 26 schools in proximity to NGC's pipelines, NGC helped improve the schools' emergency preparedness by supplying items such as high-visibility vests, First Aid kits, emergency lights, muster point signs, smoke detectors, exit signs, fire extinguishers, air horns and stop signs.



UWI/NGC Research Awardees

EDUCATION

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES (THE UWI)

For many years, education has been an axis of NGC's CSR programme, because we understand its centrality to human and national development. From a business standpoint, NGC is specifically supportive of research, innovation and entrepreneurship, as these are necessary to sustain business viability in an evolving sector.

To that end, NGC has actively engaged with The UWI since 1994, through our sponsorship of the Eric Williams Memorial Collection, support of the Institute of Engineering, grants for BSc students

in the Petroleum Geoscience Programme, contributions to the university's Graduate and Research Fund, as well as its Development and Endowment Fund and sponsorship of several Conferences on the Economy. In 2012, NGC strengthened its commitment to investing in research through its sponsorship of The UWI Research Awards, Research Forum, Research Expo and a Chair in Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Most recently, NGC has committed to donate \$1 million over a five-year period to the University's Trevor Boopsingh Energy Research Endowment, which was launched in 2015 to provide scholarships for students in the Petroleum Engineering Programme.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (NIHERST)

Established as a statutory body in 1984, NIHERST's mandate is to promote science, technology and higher education in Trinidad and Tobago, and thereby enhance the innovative, creative and entrepreneurial skills of the population. This mandate has implications for national development, and we therefore viewed NIHERST as deserving of corporate support.

Our contribution to the NIHERST/NGC National Science Centre, which promotes scientific awareness in a fun and engaging manner, is a major part of our CSR portfolio. NGC has sponsored the science centre since its inception in 1997 and continues to patronise all of its major activities, including the popular SciTechKnoFest.

SPECIAL SCHOOLS PROJECTS

In order to produce a cadre of professional, motivated, tertiary level students, primary and secondary schools must be properly outfitted to inculcate a culture of and passion for learning.

These schools always have special infrastructural and equipment needs, and NGC has set aside part of its CSR budget to help. Over the years, NGC has facilitated requests for funding to purchase furniture and office equipment, execute minor infrastructural repairs or implement agricultural projects. In



Pupils of Bethlehem Girls' R.C. School look on as an NGC employee hands over printer to school representative

2015, 21 schools received special assistance from NGC.

Though all schools are deserving candidates for support, NGC allots assistance based on our assessment of the scope of the project, the school population, the location of the schools in relation to NGC's pipeline network, access that the schools may have to corporate funding, the level of parent/teacher involvement or potential for engagement of NGC staff through employee volunteerism.

DEEDS OF COVENANT

Besides the sponsorship agreements and Memoranda of Understanding that carry a strong relational element and require much input from our sponsored partner, NGC also enters into three-year Deeds of Covenant with non-governmental organisations that cater to persons with special needs or provide other critical services to the community. These contractual arrangements do not require the recipients of CSR funds to reciprocate support to NGC.

The six institutions which will receive assistance for the period 2015 to 2017 are:

1. The Adult Literacy Tutors Association (ALTA), because of the pivotal role it plays in adult education;
2. The Dyslexia Association, because of its work in building public awareness of dyslexia and providing training for teachers and parents to assist dyslexic children, as well as training for dyslexic children themselves. Due to the number of schools requesting assistance for teacher training, NGC will work more closely with this organisation to secure teacher training for the interested schools in our fenceline communities;
3. Swaha Inc., because of its work with the children's home in Penal, another one of our fenceline communities;
4. Tobago Council for Handicapped Children, because of its mandate to provide education, treatment, training and rehabilitation for differently abled children in Tobago;
5. The Life Centre – a non-profit organisation that dispenses special education to persons with autism and other communication-related disorders;
6. The National Centre for Persons with Disabilities – a non-profit organisation involved in the development and integration into the wider community of persons with disabilities.

NGC is conscious of the need for this type of contractual arrangement in our society, and we view our investment in these NGOs that provide yeoman service to the most vulnerable in our country as a duty.



Chapter 5: Evolving our CSR Strategy

THE WAY FORWARD FOR INVESTMENT

"The field of Community Relations is continually evolving. Companies today not only consider the bottom line but understand that this bottom line is determined by the role they play in meeting the needs of society, taking into account future generations. Global consciousness of this responsibility now plays an increasing role in the decisions made by companies. Here at NGC, we too, are continually evolving as we strive to build stakeholder and shareholder value

and it is through this evolution that we, as a company, are presented with opportunities for improvement. It is our commitment to capitalise on these opportunities. Where I derive my greatest sense of fulfilment is knowing that I can play my role in fulfilling the Company's mission of being a valued player in the global energy business."

**Myles Lewis,
Community Relations Officer II, NGC**

On 22nd August 2015, NGC celebrated our 40th anniversary. This was a milestone event for all our stakeholders, especially our employees. Through the growth of the Company into a trusted brand with US\$6 billion worth of assets, NGC has proven itself innovative in its leadership, adaptable towards new market and societal conditions, and focused on our ultimate mission to create exceptional national value from natural gas and energy businesses.

In order to continue on our path of growth and achievement, we require the trust of our stakeholders: that of our customers, our employees, our business partners and, most importantly, the national community. Constant investment is necessary to earn this trust; investment in monetary terms, but also in terms of interest, care, time and commitment.

Evolving our CSR Strategy

In tandem with building a new strategic plan and pursuing new opportunities for our

business, NGC has also been mapping a new strategy to streamline how it delivers CSR over the next few years. As a state-owned company, NGC has a special responsibility to ensure that its investments are worthwhile, and ultimately deliver true value for citizens. A critical dimension of CSR is therefore measurement and evaluation.

In order to determine whether our investments, both committed and anticipated, are in fact fruitful, NGC is seeking to develop and implement tools that measure their Social Return on Investment (SROI). This academic approach to CSR will not only help improve our accountability as a state enterprise, but it will help us assess and better the effectiveness and reach of our support.

Updating our Thematic Framework

From 2012–2015, NGC has been working within government's seven interconnected pillars of sustainable development, a



Port of Spain Waterfront at sunset

framework that shaped national policy in the past legislative period, developed by the GORTT with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme. The United Nations' eight Millennium Development Goals focused ultimately on poverty eradication and were also considered when drawing up NGC's Community Investment Policy. At the UN Sustainable Development Summit on 25th

September 2015, when the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted, 17 new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were set out. These 17 SDGs are aimed at making development inclusive, sustainable and resilient, and they will guide our strategic approach to Community Relations going forward.



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