**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Bridgetown, Barbados

THURSDAY, August 29, 2019

Email Contact: news@graemehall.com

Archives and Art: [www.graemehall.com/press](http://www.graemehall.com/press)

**Destruction of Protected Mangrove and Eco-tourist Site at Graeme Hall Nature Sanctuary**

[Bridgetown, BARBADOS] In June 2019, an extensive environmental laboratory study was completed to assess the impacts to the Graeme Hall Nature Sanctuary and surrounding protected mangrove/wetlands area by the neighbouring South Coast Sewage Treatment Plant (the “SCSP”).

Almost a year later, after the complete collapse of the SCSP, it has been confirmed that there are high levels of fecal matter and other pollutants contaminating the Sanctuary and surrounding area. The report recommends the restriction of public access to the lake due to serious health concerns, thereby making it impossible to operate the Sanctuary as an eco-tourist site.

Failures of the SCSP, operated by the Barbados Water Authority, have resulted in numerous discharges of raw sewage into the Sanctuary. The discharges have been occurring since 2005 and almost continuously since late 2017.

For over 10 years, the eco-tourist site and protected wetland has been treated as a conventional wastewater (facultative) lagoon by the South Coast Sewage Treatment Plant.

The Government of Barbados has exacerbated the problems by continuously failing to maintain and operate the sluice gate diligently and responsibly, and as a result, causing further damage to the health of the salt-tolerant mangroves and wildlife.

More information, including historical information regarding sewage contamination of the Sanctuary, a video about the recent results, and a document with a brief history of the Sanctuary with the recent lab results can be found on Graemehall’s Web site at [www.graemehall.com/press/](http://www.graemehall.com/press/).

# # #