

To Jane:

Chère Jane,

**La parole est sœur du vent
elle n'est arrêtée ni par l'espace
ni par le temps.
Quand elle semble perdre force
en fait elle a pris une autre forme
pour continuer son œuvre**

Chère Jane,

**Ta parole comme ton œuvre
ne seront pas perdues
Elles ne tomberont pas dans le désert
car, tu n'as pas été seule, tu n'es pas seule
Puissent tes cendres
Fertiliser nos îles et nos cœurs
Pour des lendemains à la hauteur
De ton sacrifice**

**Madeleine de Grandmaison
Vice President ECCEA
St Lucia
23 Septembre 2003**

Assassination of Jane Tipson – Project Director SP8/ECCEA Administrative Secretary

We reported with deep sadness and concern, that on the morning of 17th September 2003, that our Project Director and Administrative Secretary, Jane Tipson, was ambushed and murdered as she drove over the small bridge leading to her house returning from an animal rescue mission early in the morning. (Press articles etc. are on web site links). This tragedy happened a few hours after she had met and discussed the future with Lesley Sully, the Regional Project Coordinator, at their St Lucia Office. It had several consequences on the running of Jane's project and the production of the films for regional community based initiatives in the sub region, but it strengthened the resolve of the Coalition whose leaders in many cases have also been threatened at different times. Jane would be our first martyr.

Her death underlined the difficulties to be encountered when running a regional programme, which have far reaching impact on wildlife conservation and community stewardship. The ECCEA has though achieved many of their objectives despite this adversity. For several decades East Caribbean natural resources have been devastated by industry in general and the price paid by the region has reached heights far beyond those imagined.

Change of location to Head Office

Since her assassination and the closing down of the ECCEA office in St. Lucia, Jane's work has been taken over by different colleagues in Martinique, Dominica, Switzerland and England .

As a co-founder and Administrative Secretary of the ECCEA Jane's environment and development policies were aligned with those of the ECCEA, but they were also adapted to the St. Lucia situation and its tendency towards mass/all inclusive tourism.

Jane's job was to promote the conservation and rehabilitation of species and animal welfare, as well as alternative solutions to mass tourism where spin offs are often minimal in small island states. Her approach was well balanced, thoughtful and sincere, addressing the immediate needs of both local and Caribbean communities. She worked closely with government as well, drafted the Animal Protection Laws for St. Lucia which were pushed through Parliament shortly before her death. Three years before this and in collaboration with Janine Rambally-Compton of the St. Lucia Department of Fisheries, she co-authored and proposed Whale Watching Regulations – as per the International Whaling Commissions Scientific Committee's recommendations These regulations were the first to be officially adopted by an East Caribbean country.

With regard to the remaining project team, the lack of security, the malaise of St. Lucian society and a further nine murders in St. Lucia in November and December,

In Memory of Jane – a poem written for her, by Madeleine de Grandmaison, during her funeral ceremony on Pigeon Island in the Caribbean Sea

made it essential for the ECCEA Board to seek solutions that ensured security for the Project staff who relocated. The Project running was overseen by the Head Office and Regional Bureaus, with a webmaster at the office of a sister Conservation Coalition (ASMS) in Zurich Switzerland, and currently by a London volunteer.



Jane and Barbara Tipson's web master work was carried forward by.....



... Sigi Lueber President of the Swiss Coalition in Zurich and later Karl, in London.