

Darwin Initiative Assessment of the Coastal Biodiversity of Anegada, BVI

Biodiversity Action Plan Workshop Report 15th-16th September 2005

Prologue:

There follows a brief report on the Darwin Initiative Biodiversity Action Plan meeting that was held in the Anegada Community Centre, Anegada, BVI in order that the details of the workshop can be disseminated through the Darwin Anegada e-mail dissemination network.

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Summary of events

The Darwin Initiative biodiversity action plan meeting took place on the 15th-16th September 2005 in the Anegada Community Centre, Anegada, BVI. Representatives from all of the project partners were in attendance as well as some additional members of the Anegada community. After a very intensive 2 days a detailed list of the problems facing Anegadas biodiversity and a list of objectives on how to address these problems was formulated. An overview of the events can be found in Appendix I.

Workshop Participants

The following is a list of the participants who attend the Biodiversity Action Plan Workshop and the organisations that they represented.

Joseph Smith Abbott **JSA** (NPT)
Colin Clubbe **CC** (Kew)
Sue Cotton **SC** (GO)
Vanessa Faulkner **VF** (Anegada)
Brendan Godley **BG** (MTRG)
Shannon Gore **SG** (CFD)

Sarah Sanders **SS** (RSPB)
Bernard Green Skeltern **BGS** (GIS)
Rondell Smith **RS** (Anegada / NPT)
Rosemary Delaney Smith **RDS** (NPT)
Raymond Walker **RW** (NPT)
Damon Wheatley **DW** (Anegada)

Esther Georges **EG** (NPT)
Andy McGowan **AMcG** (MTRG)
Arlington Pickering **AP** (CFD)

Jim White **JW** (Anegada)
Nancy Woodfield **NW** (NPT)

Anegada: Member of the Anegada community

CFD: BVI Conservation and Fisheries Department

GIS: Government Information Services

GO: Governors Office

Kew: Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

MTRG: Marine Turtle Research Group, University of Exeter in Cornwall

NPT: BVI National Parks Trust

Expectations of Workshop

At the very outset of the workshop participants were asked to express their hopes and fears for the workshop. There follows a list of those expectations:

Hopes

- Successfully safeguarding the environment
- Acceptance
- Plan that will be used
- Integrated approach to biodiversity conservation leading to designated protected areas
- Everyone works hard to produce a plan that has all the partners buy in
- I hope that many Anegadans will participate in the day workshops and also attend the community meeting on Thursday night
- I hope to help the island and people
- I hope to see the local community become involved with helping to create an action plan and see it through
- A plan that is beneficial to the people of Anegada and the plants and animals
- Anegada Biodiversity Action Plan benefiting Anegadans
- I hope that the work from the past few years of the project is brought together to show what has been achieved and use this new information for public awareness and education so that the BAP plan is actually a joint effort of all departments that is implemented
- Targeted actions and a timescale
- Community Plan
- A positive beginning with more community involvement
- Hope to benefit the people and the country
- Hope

Fears

- Inaction
- Nothing happens
- Another dust gatherer
- A wonderful plan is produced and not implemented and all the hardwork is left on a shelf

- I fear that the actions agreed upon won't happen because people are too busy or don't care enough
- That it will be just another workshop – filed away and used as reference material
- A plan is produced that just remains on the shelf and does not have support to be taken forward
- Unknown
- I fear a plan will be produced but will not be carried out and enforced
- I have no fear about the workshop
- Fear that people might not accept
- No actions
- Wait and see
- Failure to unite
- Failure to get community involved
- Exploitation of the environment and over exposure

Why Anegada's biodiversity is so special

As part of the workshop it was required that we put the biodiversity of Anegada into some perspective at a global, regional and local level and provided an assessment of its current condition. Table 1 shows a list of the reasons why Anegadas biodiversity is special at all three levels and an assessment of its present condition.

Table 1. The importance and condition of Anegadas biodiversity at a global, regional and local level.

Level of Importance	Species/Habitat	Good State	Mixed State	Poor State	Don't Know
Global	Puerto Rican Bank (1 landmass 14,000 years ago) Endemic Bird Area (2 Restricted Range Hummingbirds)	√			
	Piping Plover (Near Threatened) Use Anegada on migration	√			
	Western Ponds RAMSAR site; Eastern ponds proposed RAMSAR site		√		
	Nesting/ feeding site for Hawksbill (Critically Endangered) and Green turtles (Endangered) (Hawksbill have fastest growth rates recorded)			√	
	Endemic Anegada Rock Iguana (Critically endangered). Less than 200 individuals in the wild. 96 reared in Headstart facility –			√	

	2 x 24 releases so far.				
	2 endemic reptile subspecies (1 lizard, 1 snake)				√
	3 rd (?) largest continuous coral reef in the world		√		√
	2 x Endemic Butterflies				√
	16 threatened plant species (5 Critically endangered, 3 Endangered & 8 Vulnerable)				
	11 Puerto Rican Bank endemics (e.g. Bulldog, Prickly Web, Black sage)		√		
	3 Anegadan Endemics (Wirewist, Pokemeboy, Senna polyphylla all Critically endangered)		√		
	Undisturbed Sand Dune Systems	√			
	Limestone Cays – with good quality dry woodland	√			
	Part of Caribbean Biodiversity Hotspot (Conservation International)				
Regional	Important migration stop-over for waders (esp. in Autumn)		√		
	Important for breeding seabirds in Caribbean. (Gull-billed terns still breeding and not extinct as reported)				√
	No 1 island for nesting/ feeding Hawksbill and Green Turtles in BVI			√	
	2 nd largest coral reef in Caribbean		√		√
	Mangroves are important fish spawning grounds		√		
	Seagrass beds				
	Restricted range plants and Caribbean Endemics				
Local	100 Bird Species, 31 breeding				
	Very important mangrove (area & length) – storm protection and fish spawning grounds		√		
	Salt flats (traditionally for salt extraction)				
	Freshwater ponds				
	332 plants: 288				

	native/indigenous & 44 introduced (3 serious invasives – Madagascar Rubber Vine, Scaevola, Casaurina)				
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Problem Tree and Objective Tree

The workshop focused on the creation of a problem tree, which represent all the problems facing Anegadas biodiversity and an objective tree, which represents the answers to dealing with the problems facing Anegadas biodiversity. The problem and objectives trees can be found in the attached pdf files.

Prioritisation of Draft Objectives

From the objectives tree participants were allocated 5? votes and asked to vote on what objectives they regarded as the highest priority. Table 2 shows the outcome of these votes.

Table 2 The objectives that were deemed to have the highest priority in the creation of a biodiversity action plan for Anegada, BVI

Card No.	Draft Objective	Votes
97	Decision making takes into consideration biodiversity needs in Anegada	13
90	A Protected Area network is established that has sufficient representation of key habitats & species	12
69	Biodiversity conservation has high ownership and commitment from local persons	11
38	A healthy population of endemic plants is maintained	9
39	Habitat (nesting/feeding areas) for the iguana and turtles is secured	9
81	Land rights issues resolved so there is no constraint to natural resource management	8
32	Awareness and understanding about the destruction/misuse of natural resources on Anegada is increased	7
77	Natural resources are sustainably managed	7
21, 26 & 25	Land is zoned for appropriate uses, ensuring that critical habitats are protected	6
11	Impacts of global climate change are monitored and areas of resiliency (e.g. adaptability to coral reef bleaching) are identified	4
92 & 93	Populations of iguanas, birds and other species threatened by predation are increased	2
71, 72 & 73	Decisions relating to natural resource management on Anegada are taken in collaboration with the community	1

Workshop participants interest in objectives

From the objectives tree participants were asked to express their interest in making a commitment to achieve particular objectives. Table 3 shows the expression of interest from the participants and organisations.

Table 3 A list of the main objectives that participants expressed an interest in achieving.

Draft Objective	Participant interest
1. Decision making takes into consideration biodiversity needs in Anegada	NPT (JSA, RS, EG) Anegada Community, CFD
2. A Protected Area network is established that has sufficient representation of key habitats & species	MTRG, Kew, CFD, NPT (RW, NW, JSA, EG), RSPB
3. Biodiversity conservation has high ownership and commitment from local persons	NPT, MTRG
4. A healthy population of endemic plants is maintained	VF, RS, NPT (EG, RW), Kew,
5. Habitat (nesting/feeding areas) for the iguana and turtles is secured	MTRG, CFD, Anegada Community, NPT (RS, DW)
5. Land rights issues resolved so there is no constraint to natural resource management	NPT, GO
6. Awareness and understanding about the destruction/misuse of natural resources on Anegada is increased	CFD, NPT (RDS, NW,), RBG Kew, GO,
7. Natural resources are managed in a sustainable manner	NPT (EG)
8. Populations of iguanas, birds and other species threatened are increased	MTRG, NPT (RW), RSPB
9. Land is zoned for appropriate uses, ensuring that critical habitats are protected	NPT (JSA, NW, EG)
10. Impacts of global climate change are monitored and areas of resiliency (e.g. adaptability to coral reef bleaching) are identified	NPT (JSA, NW)

Stakeholders needed but not in attendance

With any biodiversity action plan there are obviously many stakeholders that are needed in order to deliver the plan in full. Table 4 shows a list of the other Stakeholders that are required to deliver the biodiversity action plan for Anegada but who did not participate in the workshop.

Table 4 A list of the stakeholders needed to deliver the biodiversity action plan for Anegada but who did not attend the workshop.

Stakeholder Group	Stakeholder	Interest
Local		
Anegada	Local teachers	Raising awareness

Community		
	Public Works Department	Road maintenance (?)
	Administrator	Integrating biodiversity into local development plan
	Fisheries Co-operative	Fisheries management
	District Representative/magistrate	
	Environmental Health	Waste management; rat control
National		
Government	Ministry of Natural Resources	Integration of Biodiversity into Government Policy/Environmental Legislation
	Town & Country Planning	Land ownership
	Department of Education & Culture	Raising awareness
	Department of Agriculture	Invasives, land management
	Survey Department	Land ownership
	Land registry	Land ownership
	Tourist Board	Tourism development
	Veterinary Department	Livestock management
	Fisheries Advisory Committee	Fisheries management
	Media	Raising awareness
	Customs	Control of invasives
Commercial	Landscaping Companies	Introduction of invasives
	Hotel & Commerce Association	Tourism
Schools	HLS Community College	Educating people
Regional		
International		
	Iguana Specialist Group (IUCN)	Iguana species recovery advice
	Anegadians Overseas	
	Invasive Species Specialist Group (IUCN)	Invasives advice
	Foreign and Commonwealth Office	Funding
	UKOTCF	Conservation advice/ Advocacy in UK

Appendix I
Timetable of events Biodiversity Action Plan Meeting
15th – 16th September 05

15th September 2005

Time	Session	Notes	Lead
09:00	Coffee/Tea		
09:30	Opening		JSA
	Icebreaker	Importance of teamwork	MD
	Introductions	Structure of workshop	MD
	Expectations	What do participants hope to achieve? What do they fear will happen?	MD
	Setting the scene	Presentations to update on work carried out during project and key findings. • Plants (Colin) • Birds/ Turtles (Andy) • NPT (Joseph)	CC AMcG JSA
		Summarise Anegada's biodiversity importance	MD
	Local Biodiversity Action Plans	Background	MD
	Problem Tree	Brief explanation of problem tree analysis. Agree on main problem the biodiversity action plan has to address.	MD
12:30	Lunch		
14:00	Problem Tree (continue)	Map out problems/causes.	MD
Evening	Public Meeting	Slide show to inform local community of project findings. Brainstorming session to capture the participants' values (ecological, recreational, aesthetic, cultural, economic etc.)	CC AMcG MD

16 September 2005

Time	Session	Notes	Lead
09:30	Icebreaker		MD
	Recap of Day 1	To bring new participants up to speed	MD
	Biodiversity Importance	Ranking according to global, regional, local and assessing condition	MD
	Objective Setting	Reversing problem statements	MD
12:30	Lunch		
13.15-17.00	Defining BAP Objectives	Prioritising. Working out what can be realistically achieved with the BAP	MD
	Taking forward the BAP	Identifying participants' interests and potential contributions.	MD