



A multifaceted approach to strengthening management of the NEMMA

ECMMAN-CaMPAM small grants project, Antigua and Barbuda - 2015 Project Update

The ECMMAN project as a whole has facilitated much collaboration among government agencies and civil society individuals and organizations in Antigua and Barbuda. We have come together in an overall goal to build awareness of the critical roles of our marine and coastal environment and strengthen the management of the resources found within these ecosystems. From school presentations to creating a music video and short video posts from an array of people dependent on the marine environment, our message was sure to be heard in all corners of this twin island state.

In 2015, over 150 students were taken out to the project’s focus site, the North East Marine Management Area (NEMMA). These floating classrooms provided the opportunity for an intimate learning experience, where they gained knowledge of our local wildlife and habitats and the variety of benefits they provide to human beings.



Staff of EAG, the Fisheries Division, the Department of the Environment and music performer (Devin Odum) ready for a presentation at Parham Primary School



Students taken out for a fun and educational experience in the marine reserve

Developments were also made in 2015 in establishing a small office for NEMMA management in the community of Parham. This physical space within the central area of the marine reserve will further enable interaction among groups using and managing the area’s resources. The office is expected to be fully up and running in early 2016. Not only is physical infrastructure

being established, but also under this project, personnel have been trained in both marine protected area management and coral reef and socio-economic surveying.

Although some 2015 project activities had a slow start, e.g. developing a NEMMA website and mooring maintenance, they are well on their way to completion for early 2016. These will complement the newly planned activities under additional funding provided through the ECMMAN project. These will include marine and coastal habitat mapping and surveys and stakeholder meetings for a highly collaborative review of the existing management plan. As NEMMA management is strengthened under this project so too are interagency relationships, all striving for sustainability of our resources and increasing mitigation and adaptation to impacts of climate change.

Components of the ECMMAN project are being implemented by several civil society organizations with support and technical assistance from Government agencies including the Fisheries Division and the Department of the Environment. For updates on the ECMMAN-CaMPAM component visit the [EAG's website](#). Further updates can be found on the [ECMMAN public awareness facebook site](#), maintained by the Department of the Environment.