

Report on Training of Trainers Follow Up Workshop For Antigua and Barbuda

Executing Agency: Fisheries Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands Housing and
the Environment

June 19, 2012



Introduction

Following the Training of Trainers in Ambergris Caye, Belize in (date) Antigua and Barbuda submitted a proposal for the completion of a workshop for key enforcement personnel and the judiciary on the regulatory environment surrounding Marine Protected Area management in Antigua and Barbuda. Among the key objectives to be met:

- To sensitise key enforcement and regulatory partners about the significance of and the need to protect marine and coastal systems.
- To increase the awareness of key enforcement and regulatory partners (target group outlined below) about the existing network of MPAs around Antigua and Barbuda and other critical areas, habitats and species, including their ecology, management objectives and state of management.
- To increase awareness among key enforcement and regulatory partners (target group) about the legislative environment governing MPAs and marine conservation in Antigua and Barbuda
- To identify gaps in awareness on key topics of marine conservation and enforcement.
- To create a forum for strengthening cooperation and collaboration between the aforementioned key agencies to improve enforcement of legislation governing MPA management in Antigua and Barbuda

Project Partners and Sponsors

The training of training programme and follow up grant and workshop were made possible through the kind support of the UNEP-Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP-CEP), the SPAW Regional Activity Centre, and CAMPAM, with funding provided by the Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Local implementation of the project was supported by the government of Antigua and Barbuda through the Fisheries Division who facilitated the workshop and provided the workshop space.

Training Activity

Following a series of delays Antigua and Barbuda held its follow up training workshop on Wednesday, April 11, 2012. The workshop was held at the Fisheries Division Conference Room and included participants from:

- the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Coast Guard,
- the Royal Police Force of Barbuda,
- the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions,
- the Development Control Authority,
- National Parks Authority,
- Environmental Awareness Group,
- the Fisheries Division Antigua,



- Fisheries Office Barbuda, and
- The Codrington Lagoon National Park (Barbuda).

Absent was a representative from the Attorney General’s Chambers who sent their regrets.

The workshop was held over one full day and included presentations from Training of Trainers participants, Tricia Lovell and Ogden Burton along with the National Parks Authority and the Environmental Awareness Group, a non-governmental organisation that undertakes a significant amount of research in the marine protected areas of Antigua. The agenda for the workshop is below:

1 Day Workshop on the Management and Legislative Environment of Marine Protected Areas in Antigua and Barbuda

*Wednesday, April 11, 2012
Fisheries Division Conference Room
Point Wharf*

Agenda

9:00 – 9:30	Welcome and Introductions	
9:30 – 10:00	Marine Issues in Antigua and Barbuda	Tricia Lovell
10:00 – 10:30	Governance of Protected Areas in Antigua and Barbuda	Philmore James
10:30 – 11:00	Break	
11:00 – 11:30	The National Parks System of Antigua and Barbuda	Nigel Badoe
11:30 – 12:00	OICP: Who We Are and What We Do	Natalya Lawrence
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch	
1:00 – 1:30	Issues in MPA Management in Barbuda	Ogden Burton
1:30 – 2:00	The Legislative Environment for MPA Management in Antigua and Barbuda	AG’s Office



Following a brief introduction of all participants and words of welcome by Tricia Lovell of the Fisheries Division and TOT graduate, the workshop got under way with an overview presentation by Ms. Lovell. This first presentation highlighted many of the issues, threats and challenges associated with the management and conservation of the marine and coastal environment in Antigua and Barbuda. This presentation introduced workshop participants to those critical marine habitats threatened by illegal use and conflicts. This presentation was then followed by an overview presentation on the governance of protected areas in Antigua and Barbuda by the Deputy Chief Fisheries Officer, Mr. Philmore James. Both of these presentations served as background to much of the rest of the day.

Two key partner agencies were invited to make presentations on their work in protected area management. The first was the Environmental Awareness Group. This is a non-governmental agency with which the government of Antigua and Barbuda has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with regards to the conservation of key ecological assets on the northeast offshore islands of Antigua. The offshore islands are within the largest and most recently declared MPA on Antigua and are home to the endemic and critically endangered Antigua Racer snake. This species was brought back from the brink of extinction largely through the efforts of the EAG along with the Forestry Unit of Antigua and several overseas partners including Fauna and Flora International, Black Hills State University and the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. The EAGs presentation focused on their conservation work on the offshore islands and also highlighted many of the issues and unsustainable practices encountered during the execution of their work. The second agency was the National Parks Authority, which is responsible for management of several national parks which also include marine areas. The Authority's presentation highlighted some of the upcoming efforts to be undertaken by that agency with regard to marine conservation and also highlighted many of their own challenges.

Mr. Ogden Burton, graduate of the Training of Trainers Session in Belize, delivered a presentation on the Codrington Lagoon National Parks focusing primarily on issues of user conflict. The final presentation of the day, which should have been delivered by the representative from the AGs office, was done by Ms. Lovell. It presented those areas of legislation that directly regulated activities in Marine Protected Areas.

The one day workshop was quite informal and interactive with the participants being very engaged and open for discussion.

How objectives were met

The training workshop was a success in that it brought together many of the key partner agencies responsible for enforcing the laws of Antigua and Barbuda in a forum for enhancing understanding and learning in the area of Marine Protected Area enforcement. The workshop presentations were specially designed and selected to give a step-by-step understanding of the issues at stake. The table below gives an overview of how the presentations related to the set objective.



Objective	Related Presentation(s)
To sensitise key enforcement and regulatory partners about the significance of and the need to protect marine and coastal systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Marine Issues in Antigua and Barbuda – OICP: Who We Are and What We Do
To increase the awareness of key enforcement and regulatory partners (target group outlined below) about the existing network of MPAs around Antigua and Barbuda and other critical areas, habitats and species, including their ecology, management objectives and state of management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Governance of Protected Areas in Antigua and Barbuda – The National Parks System of Antigua and Barbuda – Issues in MPA Management in Barbuda
To increase awareness among key enforcement and regulatory partners (target group) about the legislative environment governing MPAs and marine conservation in Antigua and Barbuda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Legislative Environment for MPA Management in Antigua and Barbuda
To identify gaps in awareness on key topics of marine conservation and enforcement.	All Presentations and open discussion
To create a forum for strengthening cooperation and collaboration between the aforementioned key agencies to improve enforcement of legislation governing MPA management in Antigua and Barbuda	All presentations and open discussion

The participants were engaged and interactive asking well thought out and intuitive questions. It is difficult to measure the immediate impact such training would have on the Marine Protected Area regime in Antigua and Barbuda. It is unlikely that a single training would result in measurable improvement; however it forms the basis for starting a dialogue with these key organisations and gain their support in the enforcement of MPA regulations.

Problems and setbacks

Due to transportation woes between Antigua and Barbuda, it proved extremely difficult to get all the participants from Barbuda over to Antigua to be a part of the workshop. The daily ferry was out of operation for several months and the flight service is very limited since a small 9 seat aircraft is used to take passengers between both islands. Unfortunately we were unable to secure seats on the aircraft for several of the participants therefore only two individuals who were already in Antigua could attend.



Next Steps

Given the problems encountered in having Barbudan participation at the workshop in Antigua there is consideration to stage a similar workshop in Barbuda now that the transportation woes have been solved, funding permitting.

Photos

