



CaMPAM
Network & Forum



UNEP



FINAL REPORT- 'GETTING TO KNOW YOUR MPA'



Final Report-‘Getting to know your MPA’

FINAL REPORT FOR THE CAMPAM TOT FOLLOW UP GRANT

Background

The Pelican Cays Land & Sea Park (PCLSP) was and still is threatened due to a lack of awareness among resource users, and lack of enforcement of park rules and regulations. This lack of awareness has resulted in the continued use of no-take zones, a problem which is compounded by a lack of enforcement. Therefore, there is a need for public education on the allowable activities, history of the park, why it was protected, the ecology of the park, benefits and reasons why MPA's are established; MPA's (Marine Protected Areas) are very important because they allow for healthy and sustainable replenishment of marine resources in the country. The Bahamas National Trust (BNT), through the ‘Getting to know your MPA’ project, intended to create awareness about the local and national Protected Area system; with Pelican Cays Land & Sea Park (PCLSP) being the local park, and the focus of the proposed training activity. Pelican Cays Land and Sea Park was established in 1972 and consists of 2,100 acres of land and sea that protects coral reef habitats, underwater caves and sea bird nesting area. It is located eight miles of north of Cherokee Sound, Great Abaco, this 2,100 acre land and sea area is a sister park to the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park. The protected area system has existed from 1959 and presently encompasses 27 national parks across seven islands. The system needs public support to be effectively managed. There was and still is a need for a more environmentally aware community. The project aimed to achieve this through information sharing and education of the local stakeholders and MPA enforcement personnel about the benefits of the parks generally, the allowable activities in PCLSP and development strategies for the park. A further aim of the project was to acquire and integrate stakeholder feedback (ideas and management suggestions) into the larger ‘Development of an Effective Management System of Marine Protected Areas in the Abacos’ project that includes the PCLSP.

Outcome

The CaMPAM TOT Training occurred from March 19th to March 20th 2012. The training was led by Lindy C. Knowles and Bianca Green; both representing the Bahamas National Trust and graduates of the CaMPAM Training of Trainers workshop held in Belize the prior year. This forum was held in completion of the ‘Getting to know your MPA’ project follow up grand funded under the CaMPAM partnership, the Italian Ministry, the Bahamas National Trust, the UNEP-CEP, SPAW RAC and the Bahamas Government. The forum aimed to increase awareness of stakeholders on allowable practices within the PCLSP, educate stakeholders on the history, ecology and benefits derived from effective PCLSP management, and educate local Abaconians and enforcement stakeholders (the law enforcement personnel on the island) on the history of the Protected Area system of the Bahamas and upcoming enforcement of its no take marine status. Through the forum, BNT representatives created and designed booklets on Marine Protected Areas, compiled the fisheries laws and legislation relevant within the Pelican Cays Land & Sea Park and gave the group fact sheets that about the park and its resources. The forum brought together representatives of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, The Royal Bahamas Police Force, the Bahamas Marine Mammal Research Organization, the Port Department, the Ministry of Tourism, The Bahamas Customs Department and the Bahamas Immigration Department together for this two day workshop. The first day of the forum was a background onto the MPA system of the Bahamas, its regional and international importance. Guest lecturers at the forum were David Knowles (BNT) and Lakeshia Anderson, the Director of Parks and the Parks Planner respectively.

A quiz was issued prior to the presentations by the forum leaders to determine how much about the Pelican Cays Land & Sea Park the stakeholders knew. The average score was 40%. After all presentations concluded and a question and answer session the test was reissued. The resulting score was 74%, nearly doubling the pre quiz results.

Student #	Score (out of 22)	Pre Score %	Post Score (out of 22)	Post Score %
1	9	41	20	91
2	5.5	25	14	64
3	12.5	57	16	73
4	11	50	19	86
5	9	41	17	77
6	5	23	17	77
7	6	27	8	36
8	13	59	21	95
9	7.5	34	15	68
Average		40		74

FIGURE 1 SHOWS THE RESULTS OF THE PRE AND POST QUIZ ISSUED BEFORE AND AFTER THE FORUM

The second day of the forum was a field trip to the Pelican Cays Land & Sea Park to expose the stakeholders to the actual park. The forum was visited by local media, stopping into the classroom on the first day and fully participating on the second day. News reports were broadcasted showing events of both days. The television station is a Christian network based in Abaco but seen across the Bahamas. Through the news reports locals reported seeing it on television when recognizing the trainers, indicating the media proved effective. Through the forum and the partnering mid-sized grant, the completion of a management plan for Pelican Cays Land & Sea Park would help to ensure that this park is managed effectively and therefore increase our goals of reaching the Caribbean Challenge 2020 goals. The forum was quite productive and it would not have happened without the support of key partner agencies; the CaMPAM Network and Forum, UNEP-CEP, Cooperazione Italiana, SPAW, the Bahamas National Trust, and stakeholders listed above.

Follow up Activities

During the forum and the field trip informal discussions occurred between the various agencies. There was discussion between BNT employees and enforcement agencies citing the need to make presentation to entire departments and organizations. spreading the word. There was an exchange of contact information between various enforcement agencies that would allow more effective patrolling. Presently there is minimal communication between enforcement agencies leading to replication of work and reducing efficiency. Agencies such as customs and Immigration requested flyers and brochures about the national parks to present to visitors to the island. The Ministry of tourism collected brochures for the national park to add to their collection, thus helping educate the population on the parks as well as the allowable activities. An email list was also created to begin forwarding information on the MPA's within the Abaco National Park system, to further increase awareness and remove some of the barriers of high turnover of staff seen in key enforcement positions and to facilitate communication between all agencies on the ground. The team inquired on the confirmed boundaries of the parks. Upon completion of the mid-sized grant these maps will be distributed to the stakeholders through the email list. It is worth noting that a few of the attendees to the forum heard about the UNEP CEP Mid-Sized Abaco MPA project and signed up to participate in the REEF Check Eco-Diver training. Three divers from the training became Eco-Divers and will be able to add to those able to conduct surveys in Abaco and the Bahamas.



FIGURE 2 SHOWS TRAINER BIANCA GREEN DISCUSSING THE IMPORTANCE OF CORAL REEFS IN MARINE ECOSYSTEMS.



FIGURE 3 SHOWS LINDY KNOWLES DISCUSSING PELICAN CAYS LAND AND SEA PARK TO THE GROUP



FIGURE 4 SHOWS THE STAKEHOLDERS IN ATTENDANCE AT THE CLASS SESSIONS OF THE 'GETTING TO KNOW YOUR MPA' FORUM



FIGURE 5 SHOWS A GROUP SHOT OF PARTICIPANTS REPRESENTING A NUMBER OF LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS FROM ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TO MEDIA AND TOURISM



FIGURE 6 SHOWS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT SNORKELING AT THE PELICAN CAYS LAND AND SEA PARK



FIGURE 7 SHOWS THE FORUM PARTICIPANTS AFTER THE VISIT TO THE PELICAN CAYS LAND & SEA PARK.

APPENDIX DOCUMENT SHOWING THE AGENDA

Fit one full page to window

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THE BAHAMAS NATIONAL TRUST FOR PLACES OF HISTORIC INTEREST AND NATURAL BEAUTY

PELICAN CAYS LAND & SEA PARK: GET TO KNOW YOUR MPA

Agenda

Date: Monday 19th March 2012 (Day 1)
Location: Ministry of Tourism Training Office, Marsh Harbor
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

1. Opening Prayer
2. Introductions and House-keeping
3. Who is the Bahamas National Trust?
4. What is a MPA?
 - a. Purpose of MPA's
 - b. Habitats and Resources within a MPA
 - c. Benefits of MPA's
5. Break
6. Local MPA- The Pelican Cays Land & Sea Park
7. Lunch- Movie Will be shown on importance of Marine Protection
8. Impending Change of Policy
9. Fisheries Legislation of the Bahamas
10. How can you help
11. Question/ Answer section
12. Vote of Thanks
13. End of Day

Date: Tuesday 20th March 2012 (Day 2)
Location: Crossing Dock, Marsh Harbour
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Purpose: Site Visit to the PCLSP

MANAGING NATIONAL PARKS, PRESERVING OUR FUTURE
Patron His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh

CAMPAM TOT FORUM TRAINING REPORT



FIGURE 8 SHOWS THE FOLDER CONTAINING MATERIALS USED IN THE TRAINING FORUM