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Project for developing the marine section of Cabrits National Park in Dominica led by a group of community organizations and funded by a CaMPAM-ECMMAN Grant

The leading organizations of this project, the Tan Tan Village Development Corporation, Portsmouth Fisheries Cooperative Society, Toucarie Beach Development Corporation, Portsmouth Association of Yacht Services, Cottage Village Council, Portsmouth Town Council, Dominica Air and Sea and Port Authority, Fisheries Division, Global Environment Facility are proud to announce the commencement of the Cabrits National Park Marine Section.

The Cabrits National Park was established in the mid 1980's with the purpose of preserving the cultural heritage and the ecological heritage of the terrestrial and marine environment. The last real effort at formalizing a framework for the management of the marine component of the park was attempted under the OECS OPAAL project in 2007. We are at an initial stage at increasing the awareness and understanding of at least 30% of the residents and neighboring communities bordering the marine section of the Cabrits National Park of its intrinsic value of the ecosystem service including Dominica's fisheries resources, shore line protection and stabilization, and recreational services for the social and economic stability of the adjoining communities. We aim to increase the capacity of stakeholders to utilize the marine section of the park and available resources in a sustainable manner through education and training through launching of project campaign. Some activities, in particular education and outreach, will be targeted at the youth, students, business operators and service providers within the area who benefit directly or indirectly from the marine section of the park and who can contribute positively in effective management and sustainability of the park. The on-site Marine Reserve staff is trained in pertinent areas ensuring efficiency and effectiveness of operations. At this present moment, we are working on these objectives: i) Establishment of a user fees system for water sport operations and all water craft in the park, use of moorings and other services/facilities developed; ii) Reduce the damage of anchoring and ghost fishing gear, deployment of fads to reduce reliance on extractive activities in the reserve and to collect revenue from a functional mooring system; iii) Reduce negative impact of current fishing practices of marine resources; iv) Provide support to stake holders for alternative livelihood options in at least two service areas and v) Requirement to meet desired quality and standard of equipment and service increasing understanding and valuing of the park and increasing participation of stake holders in sustainable activities and protection of the park's resources and system of services derived.

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For additional information contact Michael Savarin msavarin@hotmail.com.