



BIANNUAL REPORT ON THE OECS PROTECTED AREAS AND ASSOCIATED LIVELIHOODS (OPAAL) PROJECT

July – December 2008



**OECS-ESDU
CASTRIES
SAINT LUCIA**

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I. Abbreviations and Acronyms

ANB	Antigua and Barbuda
CERMES	Center for Resource Management and Environmental Studies
DO	Development Objective
DOM	Commonwealth of Dominica
EPC	Environment Policy Committee
ESDU	Environment and Sustainable Development Unit
EU	European Union
FFEM	Fond Français de l'Environnement Mondial
FMR	Financial Monitoring Report
FY	Fiscal Year
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GND	Grenada
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
EA	Environmental Awareness
KAP	Knowledge, Attitude and Practices
LH	Livelihoods
LHA	Livelihoods Assessment
M & E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Management Plan
MS	Member States
MTR	Mid Term Review
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NICE	National Implementation Coordinating Entities
NPC	National Project Coordinator
NTAC	National Technical Advisory Committee
OAS	Organization of American States
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
PA	Protected Area
PAD	Project Appraisal Document
PLI	Policy, Legal, Institutional
PMS	Participating Member States
PSC	Project Steering Committee
SGD	St. George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SIE	Site Implementing Entities
SKN	St Kitts and Nevis
SLU	St Lucia
SP	Systems Plan for Protected Areas
SPF	Small Project Facility
SVG	St Vincent and the Grenadines
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TNA	Training Needs Assessment
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TOR	Terms of Reference
WB	World Bank

1.0 Background

The OECS Secretariat through its Environment and Sustainable Development Unit (ESDU), in partnership with Antigua and Barbuda, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the World Bank) acting as an Implementing Agency of the GEF; the Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM) of the Government of France; and the Organisation of American States (OAS), is implementing the OECS Protected Areas and Associated Sustainable Livelihoods (OPAAL) Project. The project commenced in December 2004 and is scheduled to come to an end in April 2010.

OPAAL seeks to address a number of OECS Member State priorities including:

- Harmonising institutional, policy, and legal frameworks relevant to Protected Areas (PAs) as a key component of biodiversity conservation;
- developing sustainable financing mechanisms to support PAs;
- promoting the collaborative management of PAs;
- establishing and enhancing PAs which contain globally significant biodiversity
- improving sustainable economic livelihoods for local communities; and
- increasing institutional capacity in the region to manage and conserve biodiversity in general and PAs in particular.

The objectives of the Project are to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity of global importance in the Participating Member States (PMS) by removing barriers to the effective management of protected areas (PAs) and increasing the involvement of civil society and the private sector in the planning, management and sustainable use of these areas. This is to be achieved by (i) strengthening national and regional capacities in the sound management of PAs; (ii) establishing or strengthening a number of demonstration PAs, (iii) providing economically sustainable opportunities for environmentally compatible livelihoods in buffer zones of project-supported PAs; and (iv) involving communities, civil society and the private sector in the participatory management of the PAs.

The project consists of four major components:

1. protected areas institutional framework;
2. protected areas management and associated and new livelihoods;
3. capacity building for biodiversity conservation, protected areas management and increasing environmental awareness; and,

4. project management, monitoring and evaluation, and information dissemination.

2.0 Cumulative Progress to Date

All six Participating Member States (PMSs) continue to operate the required administrative and financial systems for project implementation, however, manpower and other resource constraints continue to present challenges in terms of the rate of project implementation. All PMSs have also secured legally designated OPAAL demonstration sites (see Table 1). The total area of PAs designated within the six



1



2



3

Plates 1-3: OPAAL Demonstration Sites in Dominica, St Vincent & the Grenadines, and Grenada, respectively

has reached an estimated 24,693 hectares, which is 380% of that targeted by Project end. Management plans have been completed for sites in Antigua and Barbuda, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines and one is underway for the site in Saint Lucia, however endorsement of the Dominica site management plan is still pending.

OPAAL DEMONSTRATION SITE	<i>North East Marine Management Area (NEMMA)</i>	<i>Cabrits National Park (focus on the marine component)</i>	<i>Point Sable Environmental Protected Area</i>	<i>Tobago Cays Marine Park</i>	<i>Annandale and Grand Etang Forest Reserves</i>	<i>Central Forest Range</i>
COUNTRY	Antigua & Barbuda	Commonwealth of Dominica	Saint Lucia	St. Vincent & the Grenadines	Grenada	St Kitts & Nevis
DATE ESTABLISHED	2005	1986	2007	1997	Annandale: 2006; Grand Etang: 1906	2007
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY	Fisheries Division	Forestry & National Parks with the Fisheries Division.	St Lucia National Trust with Fisheries & Forestry Departments	Tobago Cays Marine Park Board	Forestry & Parks Department	Physical Planning & Environment Department

Table 1: OPAAL Demonstration Sites

The updating of national PA systems plans is in progress in Grenada, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. OECS Secretariat works in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in providing technical assistance for development of national PA systems in undertaking Ecological Gap Analysis and

Rapid Assessment of Protected Areas Management (RAPPAM) which has been undertaken in Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia and Antigua and Barbuda. Consultant firms have been selected to assist national agencies in PA systems plan preparation for Antigua and Barbuda and St Kitts and Nevis. This work will be commencing shortly.

Policy, legal and institutional reviews, environmental surveys, training needs assessments and livelihoods assessments have been completed for all PMSs. An OECS Protected Areas Policy and model Act has been developed and customisation has commenced as part of broader biodiversity/environmental legislative customisation in Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and in St Kitts and Nevis. Environmental and socio-economic baseline assessments have been done for Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines and are soon to commence for Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Lucia. Management plans have been developed for OPAAL sites in all Participating Member States except St Lucia, where preparation of the plan has commenced. Based on project design, such plans were pre-requisites for site level investments, however, this requirement has been removed following the Mid Term Review of OPAAL in order to speed up implementation of infrastructure and livelihoods subprojects at the site level.

The Project has supported sustainable resource use at the site level through the development of sustainable livelihoods sub-project proposals. A livelihoods subproject is underway in the OPAAL site in St Vincent and the Grenadines and a proposal has been finalised for the site in Commonwealth of Dominica. Proposals have been drafted for Antigua and Barbuda and are being drafted by St Kitts and Nevis, Grenada and Saint Lucia. Target beneficiaries in the various subprojects include fishers, vendors, crafts persons and tour guides.

The Project continued to enhance the capacity of the National Implementation Coordinating Entities (NICEs) and Site Implementing Entities (SIEs) through: (a) provision of equipment; and (b) training in a number of fields: project proposal writing, site level communications, PA systems planning, site-level monitoring, ecological gap analysis, financial management, procurement and work-plan development. Approximately 400 people have directly benefitted from training and capacity improvement activities under OPAAL, and this is 89% of the end of project target.

The OECS ESDU continues to work with a range of partners including TNC and Centre for Resource Management and Environment Studies (CERMES). At a country level Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), private sector and tour operators, among others, have shown great interest in actively supporting the livelihoods subprojects and management plans developed through OPAAL.

Despite progress made, the rate of implementation continues to lag behind the originally targeted projected outputs for this stage of project implementation. One of the contributing factors is the excessive optimism in establishing project targets and outputs included in the original project design and the limited human resources available to the project at the national and site level.

The Project Appraisal Document (PAD) for OPAAL had identified four specific achievements through which the Development Objective (DO) will be achieved. Progress towards these activities is summarized below:

Strengthening national and regional capacities in the sound management of PAs: this has been achieved to date through a number of studies that inform on the status of PA management, the policy, institutional and legal framework in place, the levels and nature of skill sets and expertise relevant to the management and development of PAs, and have also identified needs in addressing gaps and other issues relevant to effective PA management at the site, national and regional level. Further, OPAAL has provided training in specialised themes relevant to PA management, provided equipment in support of management, and partnered with other agencies (e.g. TNC) to provide specific technical assistance that will improve capacity. In addition, the project supported the establishment of an inter-agency National Technical Advisory Committee (NTAC) and a multi-stakeholder Site Implementing Entity (SIE) in each PMS in support of effective PA management.

Establishing or strengthening a number of demonstration PAs:

OPAAL is facilitating active management in six PAs, one in each country, comprising both marine and terrestrial areas totalling 24,693 ha. Project support has included the development of management plans that will guide current and future management of each site, the installation of infrastructural works in support of effective site management including interpretation centres, signage, trails and demarcation. Following the Mid Term Review, the project is to bring on board, where necessary, site coordinators to enhance the rate of site level implementation and active management.

Providing sustainable economic opportunities for environmentally compatible livelihoods in buffer zones of project-supported PAs:

Implementation of alternative livelihood activities has begun in one PA (the Tobago Cays Marine Park). Livelihood subprojects are being developed in all other PAs and implementation will start soon. The commencement of these livelihood subprojects was delayed due to the condition that required prior

endorsement of the site management plan by respective governments. This process was lengthy as the approach taken was participatory and allowed for board consultation and planning. The MTR removed this requirement and thus it is expected that start-up of livelihood subprojects will be accelerated.

Involving communities, civil society and private sector in the participatory management of these PAs:

Through establishment of the SIE, the involvement of community organisations, relevant Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), civil organisations, private sector (tour operators, dive operators, eco-tourism operators) and other individual stakeholders associated with the PA has become formalised. At national level, the NTAC includes representation of relevant NGOs and civil organizations.

Progress can be further inferred from the latest completion of the Result Monitoring Analysis table (Table 2) given below.

Table 2: Result Monitoring Analysis

Outcome Indicators	Baseline (Yr 0)	Actual as of October 31 st 2008	Comments
Outcome/Impact Indicators: GEF Operational Program			
Preservation of endemic and other key species (e.g. threatened hawksbill and leatherback turtles)	Endemic and threatened species impacted by overharvesting, illegal take, habitat degradation include: Antigua racer snake (<i>Alsophis antiguae</i>)-critically endangered; Hawksbill turtle (<i>Eretmochelys imbricate</i>)-endangered ¹ ; leatherback turtle (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>)-critically endangered; Bat Falcon (<i>Falco ruficularis</i>)-vulnerable locally; Nine-Banded Armadillo (<i>Dasypus novemcinctus</i>)-rare	Inventories/assessments available through national/ international initiatives. Status of key species will be done as part of site level M&E. Species identified within the OPAAL sites are: Antigua racer snake (<i>Alsophis antiguae</i>); Hawksbill turtle (<i>Eretmochelys imbricate</i>), leatherback turtle (<i>Dermochelys coriaces</i>), Ground lizard (<i>Ameiva griseolidi</i>); Watts' anole (<i>Anolis watti</i>); Antigua spotted anole (<i>Anolis leachi</i>); the Antigua dwarf gecko (<i>Sphaerodactylus elegantulus</i>) ³ ; Fantastic Gecko (<i>Sphaerodactylus fantasticus</i>)-rare ⁴ .	Existing M&E initiatives, reports and data to be obtained where available for each site through an M&E consultant and status using secondary data will be reported by May 2009.

¹ Source: OECS ESDU, Environmental and Socio-economic Studies for the OPAAL Demonstration Sites, North East Marine Management Area (NEMMA) Antigua Site Report, 2007

² Source: OECS ESDU, Annandale and Grand Etang Forest Reserves Management Plan, 2007

³ Source: OECS ESDU, Environmental and Socio-economic Studies for the OPAAL Demonstration Sites, North East Marine Management Area (NEMMA) Antigua Site Report, 2007)

Outcome Indicators	Baseline (Yr 0)	Actual as of October 31 st 2008	Comments
	locally ² .		
Reduction in damage to key ecosystems from harvesting and improper use (e.g. unsustainable coral, mangrove, rain/dry forest harvesting; improper anchoring);	At project preparation stage analysis indicated habitat loss to dry and humid tropical forests, freshwater systems, wetlands and tidal flats, sandy beaches, rocky coasts, mangroves, coral reefs and seagrass beds ⁵ .	Baseline assessments completed for ANB, DOM and SVG sites: key ecosystems and habitats threatened by overharvesting, improper or unsustainable use are: offshore islets, rocky cliffs, tropical forests, dry scrub, freshwater lake, sandy beaches, coral reefs, mangroves and sea grass beds.	Threat reduction/mitigation for key ecosystems will be undertaken through management plan implementation and other initiatives. Ecosystems that can benefit through enhanced management of OPAAL sites include: offshore islets, rocky cliffs, tropical forests, dry scrub, freshwater lake, coral reefs, mangroves and associated wetland, and sea grass beds.
Reduction of marine and terrestrial habitat conversion through increase in protected areas.	2 PA sites legally established but not effectively managed: total marine area of ~66 km ² (TCMP) and 421 ha/1,053.2 acres (Cabrits National Park-marine component).	4 additional sites legally established and 2 pre-existing sites moved towards active management; 24,693 ha marine and terrestrial space protected legally.	
Outcome/Impact Indicators: Global & Project Development Objectives:			
At least 6,500 total ha of land under improved management for conservation and protection in six protected areas developed with project resources.	All terrestrial OPAAL PAs established post project initiation.	2 terrestrial PAs and 4 MPAs moved towards active management; more than 7,000 ha of land (inland areas, offshore islets and coastal fringe) declared: management effectiveness improved from the	

⁴ Source: OECS ESDU, Environmental and Socio-economic Studies for the OPAAL Demonstration Sites, Cabrits National Parke (Marine Component) Site Report Dominica, 2007)

⁵ PAD

Outcome Indicators	Baseline (Yr 0)	Actual as of October 31 st 2008	Comments
		levels at baseline.	

At least 50% of land in three new non-project supported protected areas that are effectively managed.	No baseline data exists	Not available	Baseline will be generated thru /ecological Gap assessments and RAPPAM exercises in PMS with assistance from TNC.
Improved protection of the habitat of 11 regionally endemic species.	Regional endemics in areas affected by overharvesting, illegal take, habitat degradation.	Regional endemic benefiting from enhanced preservation through declaration and enhanced management of 6 sites declared under OPAAL: : Worm snake (<i>Typhlops monastus</i>), Antiguan Racer Snake (<i>Alsophis antiguae</i>), Watts' anole (<i>Anolis wattsi</i> , Spotted anole (<i>Anolis bimaculatus</i> subspecies <i>leachi</i>), Antiguan ground lizard (<i>Ameiva griswoldi</i>), St. Lucian Racer Snake (<i>Liophis ornatus</i>), Maria Islands ground lizard (<i>Cnemidophorus vanzoi</i>), St. Lucia pigmy gecko (<i>Sphaerodactylus micropleis</i>), Tree lizard (<i>Anolis luciae</i>), Fer-de-land snake (<i>Bothrops caribbaeus</i>).	

Outcome Indicators	Baseline (Yr 0)	Actual as of October 31 st 2008	Comments
Adequate quantities of the full range of skills necessary for effective protected area planning and management are readily available.	No baseline available	<p>Agencies responsible for PAs with extensive gaps in required skills; Training needs assessment found PA staff often inappropriately trained and insufficiently experienced in the range of functions for PA management; gaps include: knowledge of ecosystems and conservation; customer service; equipment care and maintenance; project monitoring and evaluation; environmental sustainability/management; business management; tour guiding; craft production; PA zoning; financial management and budgeting; communications; co-management. To date, project has trained 401 persons trained: 32 (systems planning); 24 ecological gap analysis; 42 (PA M&E); 87 (site M&E); 46 (financial management); 17 (workplan preparation); 85 (project proposal writing); 23 (capacity building) for livelihoods subproject; 53 (PA awareness & communications</p>	

Outcome Indicators	Baseline (Yr 0)	Actual as of October 31 st 2008	Comments
There are a number of able “champions” and “leaders” (civil society or private sector groups) effectively driving the protected areas agenda.	NGOs and civil society traditionally active in advancing PA agenda in the Caribbean region. No inventory of the number of groups or individuals was taken at project preparation stage.	Through the establishment of the SIE and NTAC, the Participatory Agreements formalized the participation of NGOs and civil society.	NGOs and civil society representatives on existing NTACs/SIEs include: <i>heritage society, fishermen cooperatives, tour guide companies; ecotourism providers; folk research center, community colleges/learning institutions</i>
Outcome Indicators	Baseline (Yr 0)	Actual as of October 31 st 2008	Comments
30% of population in areas surrounding the six project developed PAs adopt new livelihoods attributable to project efforts.	Not applicable	TCMP livelihoods subproject commenced; likely to directly benefit approximately 62 persons which is 2% of communities associated with the PA. Indirect benefits are expected to be greater	Tobago Cays are uninhabited, but surrounding island communities total 3,200 people (Espeut, 2006); unemployment in the Southern Grenadines is 13.2%. Economic viability assessment to be undertaken for livelihoods interventions and will clarify anticipated level of direct and indirect benefits.
Increased visitation to PMS national park systems (10% increase in numbers of visitors).		KAP survey (n= 1344 households; 145 departments) indicated that 40.1% of respondents had not visited a Protected Area within the previous two years (35.5% had visited 1-3 times; 13.5% visited 4-10 times and only 10.9% more than 10 times).	Data to be collected for sites which have data on visitation levels.

Output Indicators: from each Component:			
<u>Component 1</u>			
Outcome Indicators	Baseline (Yr 0)	Actual as of October 31st 2008	Comments
Draft models of harmonized institutional arrangements by the third year of the project (<i>50% of countries adopting institutional reforms</i>)	No harmonized institutional framework in place	Harmonized institutional framework in place.	Harmonized PA systems policy and model Act completed.
Customized institutional arrangements in at least 3 PMS by end of the project (<i>50% of countries adopting institutional reforms</i>).	Customisation based on completion of harmonized institutional framework	Customization of institutional arrangements about to commence	
At least 4 PA system plans adopted by PMS by fifth year of the project.	No systems plan in 2 PMS; outdated systems plans in 4 PMS none of which received official government endorsement	3 systems plans being updated (SVG, SLU and GND); 2 new Systems plans about to start	SPs scheduled to be completed: GND- July 2009 ANB & SKN- Dec 2009 SLU Sept 2009
At least two PA management supporting studies completed by third year of project.	Sustainable PA finance study targeted for completion; 2 other studies TBD.	Work advertised and a consultant firm is being selected to undertake study.	MTR agreed to have PA seminar instead of 2 additional studies.
<u>Component 2</u>			
Outcome Indicators	Baseline (Yr 0)	Actual as of October 31st 2008	Comments
At least 6 PAs gazetted and/or strengthened by end of project.	2 OPAAL Sites preexisting but not effectively managed	6 sites legally created and gazette and 5 management plans prepared to enable active management. 1 commenced.	24,693 ha within OPAAL sites (380% of EOP target)
6 management plans officially endorsed by the	None of the OPAAL sites	4 management plans endorsed at national level	

penultimate year of the project. ⁶	using a management plan		
Small infrastructural works in place in 6 PAs by the penultimate year of the project ⁷ .	Infrastructural needs undetermined	11 Infrastructural works identified for OPAAL support identified and some indicative costs estimated. TOR for infrastructural plan prepared; small works procurement commenced for TCMP	
6 site managers/ livelihoods coordinators in place by end of project ⁸ .	1 OPAAL site with full time manager (but not trained in PA management)	TOR finalized for PA site manager/coordinator and being customized by PMSs.	At least 3 will be in place by Dec 15 2008
2a(v) At least 7 PA managers trained in aspects of PA management by EOP ⁹	2a(v) Baseline information not available; training needs assessment identified the necessity for training in this thematic area	2a(v) MPA training to be provided through UNEP-CAR scheduled for March/April 2009; OPAAL PA specialist undertook short course in PA management and Communications Specialist attended International Seminar in PA Management.	
Sustainable livelihoods activities completed for all 6 PAs with at least 300 persons as direct beneficiaries and 1,000 indirect beneficiaries; with at least 30% of targeted local community benefiting from increased income ¹⁰	Beneficiaries to be identified in subproject proposals and indirect benefits quantified as part of economic evaluation of project initiatives. TCMP project is targeting about 50 direct beneficiaries.	1 livelihoods subproject commenced (TCMP- SVG); 2 drafts under review by PMS (ANB and GND); 1 draft 1 ready for evaluation by OECS (DOM).	
Number of beneficiaries trained in SPF procedure	Project partners and stakeholders untrained	75 persons from all PMSs trained in project proposal writing including SPF procedures (also see component 3 below)	

⁶ New indicator agreed upon at MTR

⁷ New indicator agreed upon at MTR

⁸ New indicator agreed upon at MTR

⁹ New indicator agreed upon at MTR

¹⁰ Revised indicator agreed upon at MTR

<u>Component 3</u>			
Outcome Indicators	Baseline (Yr 0)	Actual as of October 31st 2008	Comments
6 modules designed by end of first project year; 450 participants trained by end of project and working in PA management.	Not applicable	<p>TORs completed and mechanisms identified for 3 training activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. boat handling; 2. tour guiding and interpretation; 3. small business management. <p>Other training undertaken to date: 32 (systems planning); 24 ecological gap analysis; 42 (PA M&E); 79 (site M&E); 46 (financial management); 17 (workplan preparation); 85 (project proposal writing); 23 (capacity building) for livelihoods subproject; 53 (PA awareness & communications)</p>	
Sample surveys show 70% of the population aware of the importance of PAs.	Not available	KAP baseline survey shows that 58.1% of population regionally is somewhat aware and 18.1% very familiar of the importance of PAs.	Next assessment to be done at EOP
<u>Component 4</u>			
Outcome Indicators	Baseline (Yr 0)	Actual as of October 31st 2008	Comments
Key project personnel contracted by OECS-ESDU by end of second quarter of the first project year.	Project personnel to be contracted	Project personnel contracted within first 7 months of project; full time project coordinator and full time accounting consultant brought on board	
M&E System established	Project M&E system to be established	RMF updated at least biannually. Fully-fledged M & E system that includes biodiversity monitoring at the site level in design stage; Other reports: FMR reports; PMS quarterly reports; annual reports prepared.	
Number of hits to project webpage developed in first 6 months from project initiation (information regularly updated).	Baseline data not collected	OECS procedure did not allow an independent web page for the Project. Usage of on OPAAL link the OPAAL link on the OECS website averages 434 persons per month (data from project initiation not available). Usage for the months of March, April, June and July 2008 averaged 344 hits per	Reformatting of OECS website in early 2008 prevented usage counts prior to that period.

		month, with a range of 183 (March) to 564 (June).	
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This table will be next updated in March 2009.

3.0 Implementation of 2008-2009 Annual Work Plan by Project Component

3.1 Policy, Legal and Institutional Framework for PA Establishment and Management (Component 1)

Policy Legal and Institutional Framework Development

National customisation of the harmonised framework for PAs development and management (the OECS Policy on Protected Areas Systems and a Model Protected Areas Systems Act) has commenced in 3 PMSs through other OECS initiatives which are streamlining environmental and biodiversity legislation, of which PAs comprises a sub-set of these two broader frameworks. Other PMSs have been provided with draft Terms of Reference that is to be tailored to their national circumstance as they relate to provision of technical assistance in adapting or creating national policies and laws to better fit the model.

Protected Area Systems Plan Development

The work of TNC in providing national level technical assistance and training enabled ecological gap assessments, capacity assessments, and the preparation of a sustainable finance plan in Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The European Union-funded tourism development project in St. Vincent and the Grenadines is supporting the completion of the systems plan in this PMS. TNC has also provided technical assistance for national ecological gap assessments in Saint Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda and St. Kitts and Nevis. The gap assessments help national agencies to review existing and potential sites and clarify strategies and resource needs for inclusion within a national PA system.

A consultant has started to assist Grenada in preparing their systems plan. Firms have been selected to work with Antigua and Barbuda and St. Kitts and Nevis, where no previous systems plan existed. In Antigua and Barbuda an allied initiative coordinated by the Environment Department will bring additional information and outputs to feed into the national systems planning process.

Supporting Studies

OPAAL worked with TNC to design a Sustainable Financing Study for the OECS. A firm has been selected to undertake the work and arrangements are being finalised. The study will provide critical guidance to PMS on various options for financing individual PAs and PA systems.

3.2 Establishing and Strengthening PAs (Component 2)

Baseline Studies – The results of environmental and socio-economic site baseline studies and a training needs assessment were used previously to finalise the management plans for sites in Antigua and Barbuda, Commonwealth of Dominica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Firms are being selected to conduct environmental and socio-economic site assessments in Grenada and St. Kitts and Nevis collectively and in Saint Lucia, with some level of delay caused by procurement challenges.

The St. Kitts Central Forest Reserve management plan was finalised by the National Technical and Advisory Committee and then endorsed by the Department for Physical Planning and the Environment which is the agency responsible for the site. The management plan for Antigua and Barbuda's site (the North East Marine Management Area) was presented to the Cabinet of Ministers, finalised based on input and endorsed. The management plan for Grenada's site (Annandale and Grand Etang Forest Reserves) was approved by the Government of Grenada. All plans have also been reviewed by the World Bank and comments taken into consideration. A consultant has been assisting Saint Lucia in preparing a management plan for the Pointe Sable Environmental Protection Area. Dominica's plan (for the Cabrits National Park- marine component) is still awaiting endorsement by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

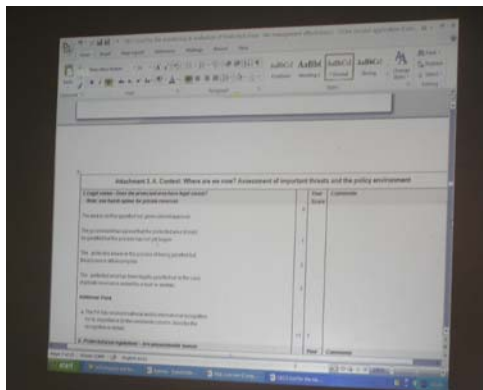
Management Plan Implementation

Based on a recommendation of the Mid Term Review for OPAAL, the project prepared to contract a site manager or livelihoods project coordinator at the site level where necessary. The aim is to provide full time personnel to expedite site level implementation. Saint Lucia has advertised their position and Grenada and St Kitts and Nevis are preparing to do so.

An expert is being sought to assist in developing infrastructure plans for each site, however, St. Vincent and the Grenadines is selecting a firm to undertake the expansion of the site management office to include an interpretation centre. The bidding document designed for this work has been shared with other PMS to assist in similar works at the site level.

Procurement of a firm to conduct a "Visitor Use, Preferences & Willingness to Pay" study for the Central Forest Reserve commenced.

Monitoring Management Effectiveness- Score Card Application



The OECS tool for monitoring protected areas management effectiveness was applied for a second time to all the OPAAL sites. National reports were prepared for Antigua, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the Commonwealth of Dominica. Additionally, a preliminary comparison of the results was prepared for these three sites. It was found that management effectiveness improved at all the sites (St Vincent's comparative report is given as Annex 1).

Plate 4: Management effectiveness scorecard presented in the Commonwealth of Dominica

Sustainable Livelihoods

In order to enhance national capacity of public, private sector and civil society to develop bankable small to medium size sustainable livelihood projects, the OECS Secretariat undertook project proposal training workshops for five PMS. The training also helps PMS to take advantage of the OECS Small Projects Facility. The livelihoods proposal for Antigua and Barbuda is in the final stages of preparation and the proposal from Dominica was evaluated and sent to the World Bank for input prior to finalisation. Up to US\$100,000.00 can be committed to each PMS to provide for materials, equipment and training in support of sustainable livelihoods.

Subsequent to the launch of the Tobago Cays Marine Park (TCMP) sustainable livelihoods subproject held earlier in 2008, implementation of the subproject commenced under the direction of the Board and



staff of the Tobago Cays Marine Park, with the OPAAL Site Implementation Entity (SIE) playing a supporting role. Technical assistance is to be garnered from national agencies such as Fisheries, Forestry, National Parks, Tourism, Education and Health and the Sustainable Grenadines Project/ CERMES. The SIE includes the Water Taxi Association, community environmental organisations, tour operators, the yachting sector,

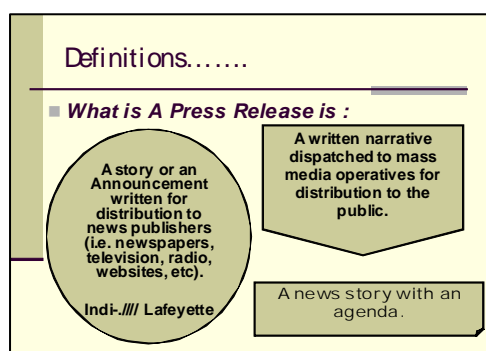
dive operators, Fisheries and fisher folk.

Plate 9: Fr. Andrew Roache - Chairperson of the TCMP addressing participants and the residents of Union Island at the launch

The capacity-building series of workshops was initiated in Union Island, South Grenadines with the members of the Tobago Cays Marine Park, site stakeholders and other relevant partners. The workshop

presentations and discussions surrounded the TCMP management plan, sustainable livelihood sub-project and the World Bank safeguard policies and procurement guides.

An Information Manual had been prepared on the Livelihoods Subproject to assist agencies in promoting and implementing the subproject. A capacity-building workshop assisted the TCMP and livelihoods partners to master technical elements of implementation including requirements of the project funders in safeguard policies and procurement. Action plans were produced for the key components of the sub-project.



Communications and Awareness at the Site Level

A manual on “Effective Communication Skills” was created which can be used by national agencies in undertaking communications and awareness activities at the site or national levels.

3.3 Capacity Building for Conservation Planning and Management (Component 3)

Training and Technical Assistance

Initial priorities identified for training are boat handling, tour guiding, small business management, literacy and numeracy and project proposal writing. Potential providers for small vessel handling have been identified and a consulting firm selected to undertake tour guiding and interpretation training in at least 4 PMS.



Plate 5: Representatives from Grenada and OECS Secretariat attending the Proposal Writing Workshop

Plate 6: Sarah George (OPAAL Coordinator) assisting trainees from Saint Lucia develop the logical framework matrix

Plate 7: Dean Jules (Forestry Department, Grenada) accepting certificate from David Popo

Plate 8: Workshop participants on field trip to Fond D’Or- a community based heritage site (Saint Lucia)

Two project staff took part in a Marine Protected Areas course and an International Seminar on Protected Area Management, respectively. A PA training course for site managers is also being sought.

Building Awareness on Ecology, Social and Economic Significance of Protected Areas

The Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) survey on environmental awareness was used at a regional workshop to develop a regional PA awareness strategy and six national action plans which are currently being finalised by a consultant with further input from each PMS.

A number of PA posters and memorabilia were developed for promotion of awareness on the critical roles of biodiversity and PAs and are being distributed through various meetings and other events (Annex 2).

4.0 Project Management, Monitoring & Evaluation and Communication (Component 4)

Project Management

Despite efforts by the OECS Secretariat and the PMSs to address challenges as they arise, the Project continued to face a number of issues including limited integration of OPAAL into the work programmes of national implementing agencies, inadequate skills and capacities, lengthy time frames in finalisation of management plans and some procurement challenges.

Grenada and the Commonwealth of Dominica completed their term on the Project Steering Committee and were replaced by Saint Lucia and Antigua and Barbuda for the July 2008- June 2009 project year.

Expenditure remains behind schedule, although expenditure of FFEM funds have picked up with the advent of site level work following management plan completion. Expenditure rates are expected to increase with the commencement of site infrastructure, implementation of awareness action plans, and the start up of additional sustainable livelihoods subprojects, among others, during the remainder of the fiscal year. Cumulative in-kind contributions to OPAAL by the OECS Secretariat and Member States and TNC as a key partner climbed to US\$3.39 Million as of December 2008, with St Vincent and the Grenadine's contribution increasing substantially following support at the site level where a mooring buoy system was installed, paid for by the government.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Regular M&E was achieved through quarterly Financial Management Reports and annual report and the financial audit. In terms of Project indicators, the Results Monitoring Framework was updated at regular supervision missions reported within the respective Aid Memoires and also in the annual report. Consultant services are being sought to assess national M&E capacities and needs and design system/plans to enable reporting at site and national levels in terms of tracking key indicators. OPAAL is collaborating with the Protecting the Eastern Caribbean Region's Biodiversity (PERB) Integrating Watershed and Coastal Areas Management (IWCAM) projects to ensure synergies in building national capacities and systems for M&E.



In further implementation of the project, the various recommendations of the Mid Term Review are being implemented to the extent feasible. These recommendations included:

- the project should be extended by an additional year;
- procurement training should be provided at national levels;
- to the extent possible, FFEM funds be should used at the national level to avoid the restrictive 30-day mechanism required for World Bank national accounts;
- a full-time site level coordinator is needed to enhance site level capacity and implementation;
- endorsement of management plans should no longer be a prerequisite for investments in the PA sites;
- infrastructure works and livelihoods subprojects should be given priority and start soon at all sites;
- training in PA Management should be carried out to create capacity at all levels;
- outreach campaigns led by the PMSs should be quickly implemented to help in information dissemination;
- certain benchmarks have been established as a basis for Project extension (see Table 3);
- the World Bank should seek to change the 30-day reporting requirement for national accounts to a 90-day quarterly requirement.

Table 3: Benchmarks for Proposed One Year Extension and Original Compliance Dates

Action Item	Compliance Date	Benchmark for Extension
Submission of revised version of the Operational Manual for Bank's no objection (according to MTR agreements; including an updated Result Framework taking in to account the original Result Framework)	Monday, June 30, 2008	yes
Site managers hired and working in at least 50% of PAs	December 15, 2008	yes
Five management plans either endorsed or in the government(s) pipeline for endorsement;	December 15, 2008	yes
Six protected areas gazetted	December 15, 2008	yes
Approved plan for infrastructure works and bidding documents prepared, approved for 50% of proposed infrastructure works identified for funding	December 15, 2008	yes
Signed contracts for two additional sustainable livelihood projects, and draft proposals for implementation of livelihood activities for at least two other sites	December 15, 2008	yes
A time-bound action plan acceptable to the Bank for completion of the project with an additional year;	December 15, 2008	yes
Contract a consultant for designing monitoring system	July 31, 2008	Yes
Completion of the updating of score cards for all countries	July 31, 2008	Yes

The OECS Secretariat and the project funders continue to work with PMS in implementing these recommendations.

Communications

The project and the vital role of PAs were promoted at the fourth Caribbean Environmental Forum (CEF) exhibition

5.0 Conclusion

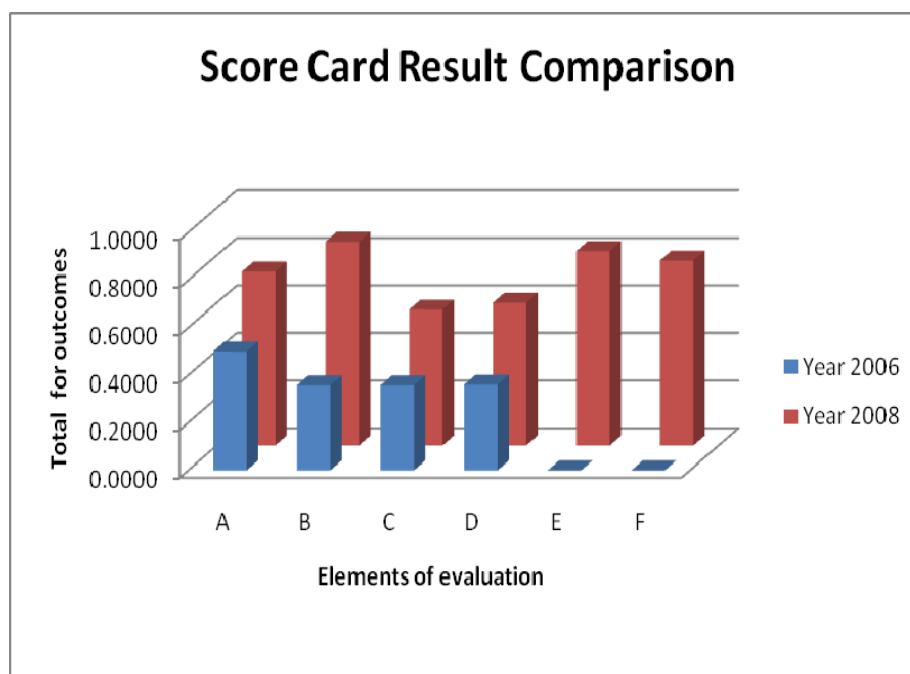
The OECS-ESDU and the six PMSs continue to work together on the implementation of OPAAL, giving particular focus to the priority areas identified out of the MTR process and the agreed benchmarks for consideration of the proposed one-year extension for the project. To mitigate constraints at the national level, the Project will see to the procurement of site coordinators and enhancing its partnership with key entities such as TNC.

6.0 Annexes

Annex 1 Comparative M&E Report for St. Vincent and the Grenadines OPAAL Site- Tobago Cays Marine Park.

The WWR-World Bank Alliance’s Scorecard to Assess Progress in Achieving Management Effectiveness Goals for Marine Protected Areas adapted for Protected Areas’ Systems of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States

St. Vincent Site Presentation of the Score Card (SC) Results



On 20th August 2008, at a workshop held at the Sustainable Grenadines Project conference room, the Score Card was completed by protected area, Tobago Cays Marine Park, staff and local stakeholders to validate the scoring.

The Score Card has many uses as an orientation tool to help managers of new protected areas scope out issues to be addressed in establishing an effective system of PAs, or as a tracking tool to provide managers with a sense of “where they are” along the management continuum. It also serves as a user-friendly reporting tool on PA system status based on information largely already collected without any additional field level research.

Element A –Context, which assessed the importance, threats and policy environment of the Tobago Cays Marine Park (TCMP), the comparison shows that there have been significant changes done in 2008 since the previous analysis. In actuality, there has been a 46.14% increase from 2006. TCMP has been legally gazetted since December 1997. It has been nationally and internationally recognized as one of the best diving and sailing waters in the Caribbean, and also has been featured in the world famous Walt Disney successful film Pirates of the Caribbean.

Currently mechanisms for controlling unsustainable human activities in the protected area exist but there are a few problems in effectively implementing them. For effective control there is need for a 24hr surveillance to improve effective management of the park. One area in particular is the turtle conservancy, poachers invade the park after-hours. However, TCMP has acceptable capacity and resources to enforce protected area legislation and regulations. The need for a 24hr surveillance boat is going to be met, as soon as an available contractor is sourced. In addition, the Mayreau community has been involved in monitoring the park, likewise the Union Island Environmental Attackers.

In Element B –Planning, which assessed the protected area's design and planning. This element of evaluation has more than tripled its position from the last analysis. There is an approved management plan which has been successful implementing some of its strategic works. The planning process has allowed adequate opportunity for key stakeholders to influence the management plan and also considered in the planning process is the socioeconomic impact decisions.

Element C –Input, which assessed the resources needed to carry out management, there was doubled input. In terms of programs of management-oriented survey and research work, there has been a considerable amount of research done through educational institutions. In carrying capacity studies conducted to determine sustainable use levels, only an environmental carrying capacity study which surveyed the number of people and/ or boats has been conducted.

Tobago Cays Marine Park has fifteen staff members, but the number of staff is below optimum level for critical management activities. Although there are not an adequate number of staffs, staff members are performing dual functions. A Marine Biologist is needed in the park and TCMP is working with OECS-ESDU to hire a Site Manager. Also, TCMP is working with the Fisheries Division to gain additional assistance.

The current budget for the protected area is acceptable, but could be further improved to fully achieve effective management. The budget is dependent on the capacity of TCMP to raise funds. TCMP is self-financed; it does not receive subventions from the government. Any government funding is for particular activities and not salaries.

Element D –Process, which assessed the way in which management is conducted. For education and awareness programs, there are planned programs but the programs must be more consistent and focus. Programs need to make linkages to sustainable development.

There are regularly planned communication programs that are used to build support for the PA amongst relevant stakeholders but implementations are limited as yet. Stakeholders directly

contribute to some management decision and even though management and stakeholders differ, there is still strong involvement of stakeholders in discussions. In communicating with other PA managers, the TCMP site was presented at the workshop in Dominica which was well received; information on the sites zoning plan and management plan was shared.

Staff training and skills are adequate, capacity of staff is being built but there is need for improvement. Adequate for what can be realistically expected but there is a need for training in intangible outputs.

As for site being equipped, most of equipment and facilities are adequate and maintained but there is need for improvements in areas such as the wash room facilities (in terms of location), the number of demarcation buoys (there needs to be more) and possibly more moorings (there are currently 32 installed but the carrying capacity study indicates that 70 may be permitted).

There is limited monitoring and evaluation, but no overall strategy and/or no regular production of results. The PA participates as a site in the Regional Environmental (monitoring) Programme of UWI CERMES; however, there is no regular and repeated programme.

There is an Emergency Response Capability in place to mitigate impacts from threats nationally, but tends not to be implemented at the site level (plan addresses storm treats and oil spills, and a harbour management plan is being developed).

Element E –Outputs, which assessed the implementation of management programs and actions; delivery of products and services and Element F –Outcomes, which assessed the outcome and the extent to which we achieved objectives are assessments based on progress since the last assessments.

TCMP has been successful at marketing the protected areas and offering viable services. New educational materials include TV ads, brochures on user fees & regulations, and monthly editorials are being produced. Sources of information are verbal feedback which indicates that there is no ongoing monitoring of visitors satisfaction although there is a questionnaire in place (which is to be reviewed by the TCMP board and the Ministry of Tourism prior use).

Management objective have been sufficiently addresses though objectives being met have been substantiated through enforcement activities, formal and informal monitoring, plus feedback from stakeholders.

Based on informal information and less complains, threats to the PA have stayed at approximately the same level. Enforcement notices are given for infractions but trends are not recorded. The Coast Guard is more available and have more equipment to reduce threats.

The livelihoods and standards of living in the community have stayed approximately the same. Economic analysis will be under taken as part of the sustainable livelihood sub-project. Current score is based on informal feedback and a rise in water taxi operators. Livelihoods and standards are impacted by external factors, example rising gas prices.

Environmental awareness has been improved significantly. Results are scored based on attendance on Turtle Watch programme and Clean Up (by Environmental Attackers and

Sustainable Grenadines Project) campaigns. TCMP summer program 2008 involved participation reporting and feedbacks were available as a means of monitoring the awareness.

For compliance of the PA regulation, sources of information are recorded on yacht break-ins. Some infractions occur at night and may not be recorded. Records pertaining to each regulation infractions are not all maintained but all relevant regulations are known by the TCMP management and are enforced equally.

Overall, the TCMP has excel in all elements of the evaluation but must work needs to be done in areas such as Inputs which focused on resources and Process which focused on efficiency appropriateness.

THE KEY BENEFITS OF PROTECTED AREAS?

They are used to:

-  conserve species & genetic diversity
-  maintain environmental services
-  protect specific natural & cultural features
-  sustain tourism & recreation
-  education
-  sustain use of natural resources
-  protect wilderness areas
-  maintain cultural & traditional assets
-  conduct scientific research



WHAT IS A PROTECTED AREA?

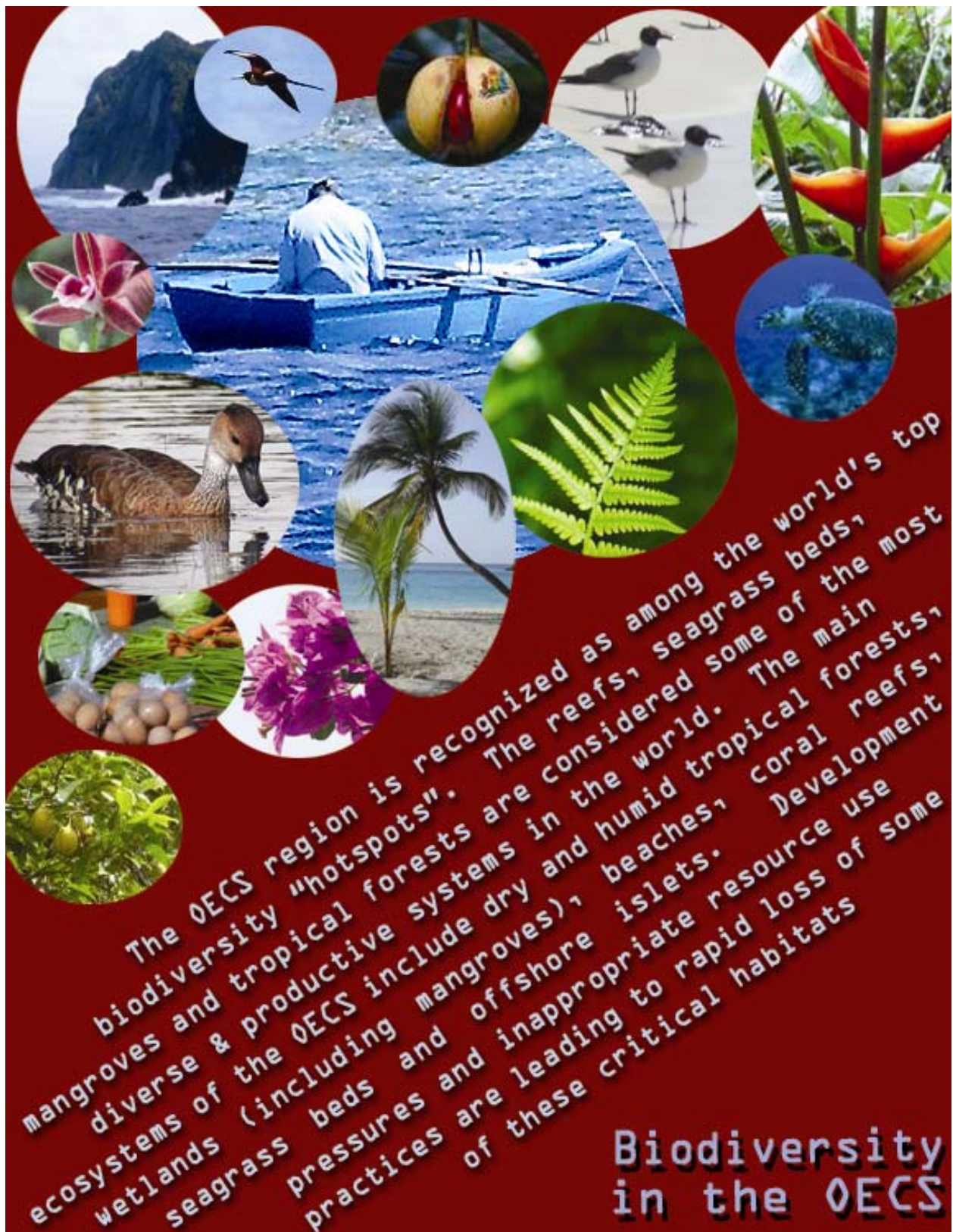
...an area of land and/or sea especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources, and managed through legal or other effective means

IUCN



...a geographically defined area which is designated or regulated and managed to achieve specific conservation objectives

CBD



The OECS region is recognized as among the world's top biodiversity "hotspots". The reefs, seagrass beds, mangroves and tropical forests are considered some of the most diverse & productive systems in the world. The main ecosystems of the OECS include dry and humid tropical forests, wetlands (including mangroves), beaches, coral reefs, seagrass beds and offshore islets. Development pressures and inappropriate resource use practices are leading to rapid loss of some of these critical habitats

Biodiversity in the OECS

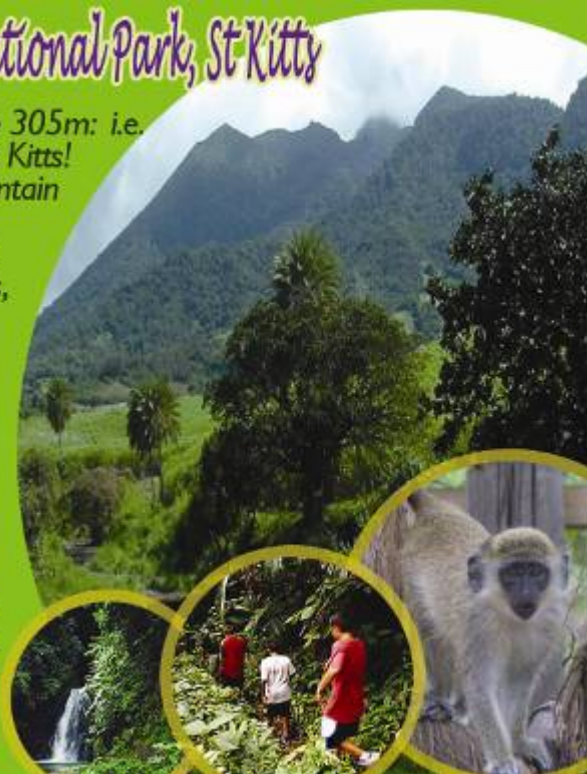
Livelihoods In and Around Protected Areas



Local communities are more likely to support Protected Areas if they can see that these areas provide them with both direct and indirect benefits

Central Forest Range National Park, St Kitts

The site includes all land above 305m: i.e. about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the landmass of St Kitts! It is made up of a rugged mountain cluster with 3 volcanic centers, peaking at 1,156m. There are many rivers, steep sided ghauts, rainforest, elfin woodland & palm brake. Over 920 plant species can be found, with 45 national or regional endemics. There are a variety of birds including the brown trembler, bridled quail dove, lesser antillean flycatcher, purple & green throated caribs, and the antillean crested hummingbird; also an abundance of monkeys. The site supports hiking, tours & bird watching & is a main source of water for the island.



Tobago Cays Marine Park, St. Vincent & the Grenadines

A string of green cays & associated coral reefs located in the southern Grenadines. Six islands that include 5 uninhabited cays and 14 beaches. The area supports hard & soft corals, dry forest & salt-tolerant vegetation, iguanas, red-necked pigeons, hawksbill turtles and over 80 fish species. The Tobago Cays are a major regional attraction for yachters, snorkelers & scuba divers. The area supports tours, beach vending & water services including water taxi and garbage services for sitting yachts.



Grand Etang & Annandale Forest Reserves, Grenada

Together they cover 20 km² & contain 4 of Grenada's highest mountains as well as the famous ancient crater basin with its Grand Etang lake. The areas contains, elfin rainforest, secondary tropical forest & lower montane rainforest with giant mahogany & gomier trees, various ferns, tropical flowers, orchids & other indigenous plants. Wildlife includes the piping frog, giant toad, tree boa constrictor, broad-winged hawk ("gree-gree"), blue ground dove, gray kingbird, nine-banded armadillo ("tattoo"), mona monkey & the burmese mongoose. The area is used for hiking, tours & forest education.



**Annex 3. Estimates for Cumulative Counterpart In-Kind Contribution (in US\$) to the
OECS Protected Areas and Associated Livelihoods (OPAAL) project
From Project Inception (Dec 2004) to December 2008**

Component	Antigua and Barbuda	Dominica	Grenada	St. Kitts & Nevis	St. Lucia	St Vincent & the Grenadines	OECS	TNC	TOTAL Contribution
Component 1: Policy, Legal and Institutional Framework for PAs	7,122	6,655	3,564	6,631	48,202	5,686	126,525	227,400	431,785
Component 2: PAs & Associated Livelihood Opportunities	18,610	4,927	31,735	25,829	75,244	444,835	135,942	228,800	965,922
Component 3: Capacity building for Conservation Planning & Management	5,577	1,198	4,482	11,175	23,326	19,777	114,392	285,200	465,127
Component 4: Project Management, Monitoring & Evaluation	33,616	61,924	88,664	40,537	18,7771	36,272	180,487	2,500	631,771
Subtotal	64,925	74,704	128,445	84,172	334,543	506,570	557,346	743,900	2,494,605
Note: N/A- not available. TNC- The Nature Conservancy. St Lucia's contribution includes proportion of salaries for both St Lucia National Trust officers and government officers involved in project management and implementation; work completed under OAS component included. St Vincent and the Grenadines' contribution includes current staff and operational cost of the Tobago Cays Marine Park- OPAAL demonstration site and proportion of salaries for government officers involved in project management and implementation and also includes the installation of mooring buoys using non-project funds.									