
**IMPLEMENTING THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
PROGRAMME OF WORK ON PROTECTED AREAS IN THE CARIBBEAN**

Venue: Crowne Plaza Miami Airport Hotel; Miami, Florida (USA)
Dates: June 20-22, 2006



Bahamas – Integration of Master Planning Process

Comprehensive system wide assessment of PA Management Effectiveness?

1. What has been done?
 - a. Ecological Gap Assessment is about 50% complete – deficiency is that there has not been enough local stakeholder engagement to this point.
 - i. Bahamas Eco-Regional Assessment
 - ii. TNC - Internship project for habitat classification of major habitat types in The Bahamas for all islands
 - b. Financial Assessment:
 - i. Department of Marine Resources has included funding in their budget for marine reserve management
 - ii. Costing for Protected Areas Programme of Work (POW) under the CBD has been 75% completed
 - iii. Funding from TNC for marine reserve implementation
 - c. Capacity
 - i. BEST - NCSA Project – National Capacity Self Assessment to a limited extent
 - ii. BNT Institutional Assessment specific to this organization and not others involved in protected areas management
 - d. Management effectiveness
 - i. BNT – Institutional Assessment to a limited extent
2. What are the plans
 - a. Ecological Gap Assessment – Complete by Dec 2006
 - i. Forums where key stakeholders can engage in discussion
 - ii. Community meetings to bring local stakeholders into the process
 - iii. National Workshop – October
 - b. Financial
 - i. Costing for PA POW (CBD) – complete Gap analysis by Dec 06 and Finance plan by Feb 08
 - ii. To hire conservation finance specialist
 - c. Capacity
 - i. In-depth assessment of capacity for entire PA system – examine human, financial and equipment resources at BNT, DMR and other agencies that would be involved and what the needs are for the system to be effective
 - ii. Would require obtaining funding for this exercise. Once funding is found, a timeline could be set for completion
 - d. Management effectiveness
 - i. In-depth assessment required. Decide on a methodology to use.

- ii. Would require obtaining funding for this exercise. Once funding is found, a timeline could be set for completion
- iii. Explore with partners, such as IUCN, which methodology could be used and possibly assist in completion of the assessment

3. Specific barriers and how will these be overcome

- a. Ecological gap assessment
 - i. Data acquisition – access to key data sets [Geospatial Advisory Committee to improve access]
 - ii. Data quality issues [Geospatial Advisory Committee to set standards for quality]
 - iii. Obsolete data sets – utilize COB to update
 - iv. Integration of data from various agencies [Geospatial Advisory Committee]
 - v. Trained analysts at key agencies to deal with the data [identifying and funding training opportunities to build national capacity in this area]
 - vi. Human and financial resources [review BNT GIS needs assessment]
- b. Capacity assessment
 - i. Institutional fragmentation [development of Department of Environmental Planning and Protection; a steering committee for collaboration and information exchange as well as Ministerial-level committee. More integration of public and private sector interests]
 - ii. Territorialism [clear delineation of responsibilities and areas of collaboration; a steering committee for collaboration and information exchange as well as Ministerial-level committee]
 - iii. Human and financial resources
 - iv. Availability of data [development of standardized method to catalogue information and regularly update it]
- c. Financial assessment
 - i. Human/technical capacity within country to complete the assessment; this translates into delays in completing the process [hire individual with basic background needed and compliment this with consultancy for expertise to train and build capacity within country.]
 - ii. Capacity within other agencies to provide information [Get senior management/Minister to identify liaison individuals in each key agency to work with conservation finance specialist]
 - iii. Political will at senior decision-making level [Awareness and consistent and persistent engagement]
 - iv. Mechanism to fund PA system; current mechanism does not enable this to be done effectively [three potential alternatives – protected areas fund, grant funding and user fees associated with protected areas]
- d. Management effectiveness
 - i. Human and financial resources [partnerships with organizations that have expertise in this area and can assist with completing the assessment]
 - ii. Low level of awareness and engagement of local stakeholders at PA sites [build awareness, encourage participation in the assessment and planning processes and consist engagement]

4. Integrating the pillars of protected area system master planning

Through establishment of a National Forum for Protected Areas that would oversee the assessment and planning processes associated with each pillar. Forum would involve NISP signatories, other conservation NGOs and relevant Government agencies (e.g. Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Financial Services and Investments, Water and Sewerage Corporation, and Ministry of Works). With the barrier of human and financial resources, there is also the issue of the unattractiveness of salaries within the public and NGO sectors which make it difficult to acquire and retain expertise.

Table – Integrating the Master Planning Processes in the Bahamas

Type of Assessment	What has been done	What is planned	Barriers	Ways to overcome barriers
Ecological Gap	<p>Ecological Gap Assessment is about 50% complete – deficiency is that there has not been enough local stakeholder engagement to this point.</p> <p>Bahamas Eco-Regional Assessment</p> <p>TNC - Internship project for habitat classification of major habitat types in The Bahamas for all islands</p>	<p>Complete by Dec 2006</p> <p>Forums where key stakeholders can engage in discussion</p> <p>Community meetings to bring local stakeholders into the process</p> <p>National Workshop – October</p>	<p>Data acquisition – access to key data sets</p> <p>Data quality issues</p> <p>Obsolete data sets</p> <p>Integration of data from various agencies</p> <p>Trained analysts at key agencies to deal with the data</p> <p>Human and financial resources</p>	<p>Geospatial Advisory Committee to improve access</p> <p>Geospatial Advisory Committee to set standards for quality</p> <p>Utilize COB to update data sets</p> <p>Geospatial Advisory Committee</p> <p>Identifying and funding training opportunities to build national capacity in this area</p> <p>Review BNT GIS needs assessment</p>
Financial	<p>Department of Marine Resources has included funding in their budget for marine reserve management</p> <p>Costing for Protected Areas Programme of Work (POW) under the CBD has been 75% completed</p> <p>Funding from TNC for marine reserve implementation</p>	<p>Costing for PA POW (CBD) – complete Gap analysis by Dec 06 and Finance plan by Feb 08</p> <p>To hire conservation finance specialist</p>	<p>Human/technical capacity within country to complete the assessment; this translates into delays in completing the process</p> <p>Capacity within other agencies to provide information</p> <p>Political will at senior decision-making level</p> <p>Mechanism to fund PA system; current mechanism does not enable this to be done effectively</p>	<p>Hire individual with basic background needed and compliment this with consultancy for expertise to train and build capacity within country.</p> <p>Get senior management/Minister to identify liaison individuals in each key agency to work with conservation finance specialist</p> <p>Awareness and consistent and persistent engagement</p> <p>Three potential alternatives – protected areas fund, grant funding and user fees associated with protected areas</p>

Capacity	BEST - NCSA Project – National Capacity Self Assessment to a limited extent BNT Institutional Assessment specific to this organization and not others involved in protected areas management	In-depth assessment of capacity for entire PA system – examine human, financial and equipment resources at BNT, DMR and other agencies that would be involved and what the needs are for the system to be effective Would require obtaining funding for this exercise. Once funding is found, a timeline could be set for completion	Institutional fragmentation Territorialism Human and financial resources Availability of data	Development of Department of Environmental Planning and Protection; a steering committee for collaboration and information exchange as well as Ministerial-level committee. More integration of public and private sector interests Clear delineation of responsibilities and areas of collaboration; a steering committee for collaboration and information exchange as well as Ministerial-level committee Development of standardized method to catalogue information and regularly update it
Management effectiveness	BNT – Institutional Assessment to a limited extent	In-depth assessment required. Decide on a methodology to use. Would require obtaining funding for this exercise. Once funding is found, a timeline could be set for completion Explore with partners, such as IUCN, which methodology could be used and possibly assist in completion of the assessment	Human and financial resources Low level of awareness and engagement of local stakeholders at PA sites	Partnerships with organizations that have expertise in this area and can assist with completing the assessment Build awareness, encourage participation in the assessment and planning processes and consist engagement

Integrating the pillars of protected area system master planning:

This will be achieved through the establishment of a National Forum for Protected Areas that would oversee the assessment and planning processes associated with each pillar. The Forum would involve NISP signatories, other conservation NGOs and relevant Government agencies (e.g. Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Financial Services and Investments, Water and Sewerage Corporation, and Ministry of Works)

It is important to note that with all references to the barrier of human and financial resources, there is also the issue of the unattractiveness of salaries within the public and an NGO sector which makes it difficult to acquire and retain expertise.