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INTRODUCTION

Over the past few years, there has been an increase in the demand for the use of marine and coastal resources in the Soufriere region. These resources play a critical role in support of tourism, fishing, recreation and transportation. Because of their limited extension and their fragility, conflicts have occurred, which have been detrimental to all parties. Examples of such problems include the competing uses of Soufriere Bay for yacht anchoring, fishing and recreation, the intensity of activities at Anse Chastanet, and the negative impacts of certain fishing activities on the reefs in all areas.

The SMMA agreement developed through a process of consultation over a period of two years, involved all relevant parties and institutions, and was submitted to, and approved by the Cabinet of Ministers in March 1994 (see Cabinet Conclusion No 253 / 1994, contained in appendix I). This agreement forms an integral part of the present management plan.

As a follow-up activity aimed at facilitating implementation, a team of regional experts with practical experience in the field met over a three day period, September 21st - 23rd, to share their expertise and knowledge. The meeting was attended by all relevant implementing agencies, including the Soufriere Foundation, the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), the Department of Fisheries - Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry and Fisheries, and funding agencies viz. USAID/ENCORE and the French Mission for Technical and Cultural Cooperation (see appendix VIII for list of participants).

It is intended that the plan will be reviewed periodically and modified as necessary to meet the aims of the SMMA.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This Management Plan has been prepared through the collaborative effort of a number of agencies and knowledgeable resource persons. We are grateful for their contribution, especially CANARI who co-sponsored and co-ordinated the event in collaboration with the Soufriere Regional Development Foundation.

Special thanks are extended to Tom van’ t Hof, regional consultant / marine biologist, whose experience and knowledge guided the process. Our gratitude also extends to Tighe Geoghegan and Allan Smith of CANARI, Horace Walters, Chief Fisheries Officer, and his staff, Keith Nichols and Sarah George for their contribution.

Funding for publication of this document was made possible by a grant of the UNDP/GEF programme.
I - INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The legal authority for the SMMA is based primarily on the Fisheries Act No. 10 of 1984 which provides for the establishment of Fishing Priority Areas and Marine Reserves. However, other laws including the Parks and Beaches Commission Act No. 4 of 1983 also guide aspects of the management of the SMMA.

Although the Fisheries Act adequately controls unauthorised use of marine reserves, additional legislation will need to be enacted to control the use of moorings.

2. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

a) The ultimate authority is the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry and Fisheries. Day-to-day management responsibility is delegated to the Soufriere Foundation. Institutions retain their individual management responsibilities for areas under their jurisdiction.

b) An annual programme and budget will be submitted to the Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry and Fisheries, through the Permanent Secretary and to the Board of Directors of the Soufriere Foundation, by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the SMMA, for their approval.

c) All other responsibilities will be delegated to the TAC. The composition, functions and responsibilities of this committee are contained in the Terms of Reference in appendix II.

d) The management of the SMMA is implemented as a distinct programme of the Soufriere Foundation. In this regard, the Foundation will:
   → prepare and implement quarterly workplans and budgets
   → employ and supervise all staff
   → prepare written reports based on a schedule provided by the TAC.

e) The Technical Working Group (TWG) which has been established by the TAC is responsible for providing technical advice and guidance to the day-to-day implementation of activities (see Terms of Reference of the TWG in appendix III).

f) Staff of the SMMA shall report to the SMMA manager who in turn reports to the Executive Director of the Soufriere Foundation. The Executive Director is the primary channel of communication with the TAC.
II - FINANCE AND FUND-RAISING

1. BUDGET

A budget covering the period 1995-1997, based on the estimated operational and administrative costs, and projected numbers of divers and yacht visitations of the SMMA, has been prepared. On the revenue side, an increase of 5% of users per annum is anticipated. Based on these projections the budget is expected to be balanced by year two following an operating deficit for year one (see attached appendix IV). These projections do not take into consideration the installation cost of infrastructure.

2. SOURCES OF REVENUE

Diving and mooring fees will be the major sources of revenue. Other sources are listed below. The TAC has an objective of financial self-sufficiency for the SMMA by year four of operation. The proposed fee levels as contained below are based largely on prevailing fee levels for similar sites and services in the region. The fee levels are subject to review from time to time based on user response, regional trends and budgetary considerations.

a) Diving

Two kinds of fees should be established:

- An annual Marine Reserve Dive Fee at a recommended level of EC$ 27 (US$10).

- A daily Dive Pass Fee at a recommended level of EC$ 8 (US$ 3).

b) Yacht moorings

A graduated Coral Conservation Fee is recommended for use of the moorings. The amount of this fee will depend on the size of the boat and on the time spent on a mooring. The size classification will follow the classification established by the St. Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority - SLASPA - (see fee structure/size classification in appendix V):

- **class 1**: up to 40 feet.

- **class 2**: more than 40 up to 70 feet.

- **class 3**: more than 70 feet.
The amount of the fees will be as follows:

- class 1: EC$ 27 (US$ 10) for a stay up to 48 hours, to EC$ 40 (US$ 15) for a stay over 48 hours up to one-week.
- class 2: EC$ 40 (US$ 15) for a stay up to 48 hours, to EC$ 54 (US$ 20) for a stay over 48 hours up to one-week.
- class 3: EC$ 54 (US$ 20) for a stay up to 48 hours, to EC$ 67 (US$ 25) for a stay over 48 hours up to one-week.

c) Other sources

Grants will continue to be sought for capital improvements and special projects by both the Soufriere Foundation and the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Fisheries, through the various sources available to them.

A structure to solicit and receive private donations, particularly from users of the SMMA and the business sector, will be established.

Other mechanisms such as sale of souvenirs, guide books and videos will also be explored.

3. Revenue Management

A special account will be established for fees and other money received or collected. The TAC is responsible for the management of the account. Quarterly allocations will be made to the Soufriere Foundation in accordance with approved budget submissions.
III - IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT

1. STAFFING

The SMMA will be staffed by a team of persons comprising wardens, under the direction of a manager. The manager will report to the Executive Director of the Soufriere Foundation. The responsibilities and qualifications will be as follows:

**A. Position : Marine Area Manager**

1.1 Responsibilities

- To oversee and implement the development and management of the Soufriere Marine Management Area (SMMA) under the guidance of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
- To supervise the activities of the staff assigned to the Soufriere Marine Management Area
- To co-ordinate and report on the work of the Technical Working Group, comprising the Soufriere Foundation, the Department of Fisheries and CANARI
- To prepare reports on a monthly basis for consideration by the Technical Advisory Committee
- To be responsible for the establishment of all infrastructure related to the Soufriere Marine Management Area, and
- To co-ordinate and spearhead the sensitisation and public education activities of the SMMA.

1.2 Qualifications

- A Bachelors Degree in Natural Resource Management or Natural Science and 2 years working experience in the field of project management, and or resource management, or
- 5 years experience at a senior level in Park Protected Areas Management
- An ability to work with community groups will be essential.
B. Position : Rangers x 4

The rangers will report to the Manager of the Soufriere Marine Management Area. The responsibilities, qualifications and remuneration will be as follows:

1.1 Responsibilities:

- To carry out a programme of surveillance and ensure proper use of the marine resources and infrastructure within the Soufriere Marine Management Area.
- To assist in public education and sensitization programmes on better use of the natural resources.
- To provide assistance to visitors/tourists in the marine and near-shore areas of the Soufriere Marine Management Area.

1.2 Qualifications:

- Basic training and familiarity in the use of an out-board motor boat.
- Two years experience working in a marine environment.
- An ability to work with community groups.
- Certificate in scuba diving or a willingness to undertake training successfully.
- English and Mathematics at CXC basic proficiency level.

1.3 Remuneration:

Salary will be in the scale of EC$ 10,800 p.a. to EC$ 18,000 p.a.

The duty station for both positions is Soufriere.
2. INFRASTRUCTURE (BUOYS AND SIGNS)

a) Demarcation and mooring buoys

A plan for the installation of approximately 22 demarcation, and 42 mooring buoys has been developed. These buoys will be placed at key locations viz.,
- mooring buoys: Anse Chastanet, Soufriere Jetty, Malgretoute, and Jalousie/Beau Estate.
- demarcation buoys: Turtle reef, Grand Caille, Rachette Point, Petit Piton, and Gros Piton.

Two main systems, viz., the Halas, and Manta Ray systems, will be used (see appendix VI).

b) Demarcation signs

Approximately 25 on-site demarcation signs, plus 4-5 larger interpretation signs will be installed. The demarcation signs are meant to indicate areas of Marine Reserve and Fishing Priority Areas. Interpretation signs will be land-based and will facilitate understanding of the operations of the SMMA (see appendix VII).

3. REVENUE COLLECTION

a) Diving

Most of the fees will be collected by the dive operators who will pre-purchase permits for resale to divers. To accommodate local divers, permits will also be available at the Department of Fisheries and the Soufriere Foundation. It is intended to provide a one month supply of permits gratis to all commercial dive operators at the start of the programme to generate the revenue needed for the purchase of permits in the second month.

b) Yacht moorings

Yacht mooring permits should be available both through the Soufriere Foundation and directly from the wardens. The wardens will establish a system to ensure that all fees are collected in an efficient manner.
4. Monitoring

Monitoring is needed firstly to guide management decisions, and secondly to determine the effectiveness of management. Monitoring of the subjects listed below would provide the necessary information. Some monitoring activities are already underway within the SMMA but will need to be expanded. Others need to be started as soon as possible if the SMMA is to document the impact of implementing the management plan.

There are standard methods available for each of these subjects, but the intensity of each activity will be determined by the resources available to the various institutions who will participate. The manager of the SMMA will coordinate the acquisition of data from different sources with guidance from the TWG, and ensure that they are used for management.

a) Monitoring the use of resources

- Numbers and distribution of yachts and cruise ship arrivals,
- Level of use of dive sites,
- Fishing effort and landings for each fishing area.

b) Monitoring the effects of management

- Reef fish population structure within the SMMA,
- Coral cover and diversity within the SMMA,
- Economic returns from resource utilisation,
- socio-cultural changes within the resource user communities.

c) Monitoring environmental variables as indicators of potential impacts on the marine ecosystem

- Water temperature and salinity at selected stations,
- Sedimentation rates and water clarity at selected sites,
- Water quality, specifically the levels of inorganic and organic pollutants.
5. Public Awareness, including Education

A comprehensive programme of Public Education and Community Awareness will be organised to inform all relevant sectors of the existence and functioning of the SMMA. In this regard the following will be undertaken:
- Production of instructional videos,
- Production of brochures and flyers for distribution to resource user groups,
- Production of appropriate materials and,
- Community seminars, targeting fishermen, community leaders, resource users and policy makers.

6. Maintenance and Surveillance

A system for the maintenance and surveillance of the SMMA will be devised in response to needs and based on experience. Such a system will involve training for the personnel in this area.
IV - APPENDICES

Appendix I - CABINET CONCLUSION

Note from the editor:
This document is available only upon request (Hard Copy)

(Kai Wulf, March 21, 1998)
Appendix II - TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE TAC

Note from the editor:
This document is presently being reviewed.
The previous version is available only upon request (Hard Copy)

(Kai Wulf, March 21, 1998)
Appendix III - TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE TWG

The Technical Working Group (TWG) meets monthly or as necessary to provide technical advice.

Composition of the TWG:
- The Manager of the SMMA,
- Designated representative of CANARI,
- Designated representative of the Department of Fisheries,
- Other experts as required.

The terms of reference of the TWG are as follows:
- conduct a monthly review of the progress of the SMMA,
- co-ordinate the preparation of workplans and budget requests,
- make recommendations for periodic programme evaluation,
- provide technical expertise,
- develop guidelines and make recommendations on the expenditure of revenue from fee collection.

Note from the editor:
This document is presently being reviewed.
The current version is attached.

(Kai Wulf, March 21, 1998)
Appendix IV - DRAFT BUDGET

Note from the editor:
The most current version is available upon request.

(Kai Wulf, March 21, 1998)
**Appendix V - SLASPA FEE/BOAT SIZE CLASSIFICATION**

Saint Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority (Seaports Tariff) Regulations - Schedule 9

**Yacht Licences**: All chartered yachts shall pay licensing fees as per Yacht Licensing Act, N°5 of 1971 as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Yearly Licence</th>
<th>1 April 31 Dec</th>
<th>1 July 31 Dec</th>
<th>1 Oct 31 Dec</th>
<th>Occasional Licence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 40'</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$175</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41' - 70'</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$225</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>$75</td>
<td>$30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71' &amp; over</td>
<td>$400</td>
<td>$300</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$100</td>
<td>$40</td>
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Appendix VI - DEMARCATION AND MOORING BUOYS INSTALLATION

Note from the editor:
This document is available only upon request (Hard Copy)

(Kai Wulf, March 21, 1998)
Appendix VII - DEMARCATION SIGNS

Note from the editor:
This document is available only upon request (Hard Copy)

(Kai Wulf, March 21, 1998)
Appendix VIII - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS AT THE IMPLEMENTATION WORKSHOP, THE STILL 21st - 23rd September 1994

- Tom van’t Hof, Regional Consultant, Marine Biologist, Saba.
- Tighe Geoghegan, Director - Institutional Development, CANARI, U.S.V.I.
- Allan Smith, Marine biologist, CANARI.
- Horace Walters, Chief Fisheries Officer, G.O.S.L.
- Sarah George, Fisheries Officer, G.O.S.L.
- Keith Nichols, Fisheries Officer, G.O.S.L.
- Felix Finisterre, Executive Director, Soufriere Foundation.
- Jean-Thierry Winstel, French Cooperant, Soufriere Foundation.
- Nicolas Durand, French Cooperant, St.Vincent.
- Wilfrid Fousse, Regional Coordinator, French Mission.
- Crispin d'Auvergne, National Coordinator, USAID/ENCORE.
- Erkki Siirilä, WWF/ENCORE, observer.
- David Samuel, Research student, UWI.