

Caribbean Conservation Association  
*One Caribbean, One Vision*



NATIONAL CONSERVATION  
COMMISSION

Folkestone Marine  
Reserve, St. James  
Barbados

Centre for Resource  
Management and  
Environmental Studies



University of the West  
Indies  
Barbados

Funded by



## Community-Based Coral Reef Monitoring And Management

### REPORT OF THE ADOPT-THE-RESERVE INITIATIVE MEETING



Discovery Bay Hotel  
October 2009

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Citation:

Blackman, K. and S. Almerigi. 2009. Adopt-the-reserve initiative meeting. Discovery Bay Hotel, St James, Barbados. October 28<sup>th</sup> 2009. Report No. 6 of the Community-based Coral Reef Monitoring and Management Project. 13pp.

*Front cover: Mr. Nicholls assisting the facilitator, Sharon Almerigi, with organising the key actions for Folkestone Marine Reserve.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Adopt-the-reserve initiative meeting was held at Discovery Bay Hotel on Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> 2009. Participants at the meeting encompassed various private sector agencies; hotels, dive operators and real estate, that are stakeholders of the Folkestone Marine Reserve.

### 1.1 Welcome and Opening Remarks

Mr. John Nicholls opened the meeting by welcoming all of the participants and informed them about the informational package and the agenda for the meeting. He introduced the participants to Mrs. Andree Griffith, Executive Director of Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA) and Mr. Keith Neblett, General Manager of National Conservation Commission (NCC).

Mrs. Griffith thanked everyone for attending the meeting and mentioned the project was developed by CCA, in collaboration with NCC, and was funded by UNDP/SGP/GEF. The project has obtained tremendous assistance from Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) at the University of the West Indies.

Mr. Nicholls introduced the facilitator, Ms Sharon Almerigi of People Dynamic Associates. She is a qualified trainer in Technology of Participation (ToP) methods and a Certified Professional Facilitator through the International Association of Facilitators of which she is the IAF representative for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Mr. Nicholls invited Mr. Neblett to give brief remarks (Figure 1.1) Mr. Neblett stated that he fully endorsed the initiative and referred to the Adopt-the-beach initiative which is currently a programme of NCC. He stated that the Adopt-the-reserve initiative is a good idea and the involvement of the private sector is even better. Everyone needs to be involved not only CCA, CERMES and NCC. He added that the initiative would be a good model for other marine protected areas.



**Figure 1.1: Mr. Keith Neblett providing brief remarks to participants**

### 1.2 Project introduction

Mr. Nicholls invited Ms. Katherine Blackman from CERMES to provide an overview of the Community-based Coral Reef Monitoring and Management (CCRMM) project of which the Adopt-the-reserve initiative is a part of (Figure 1.2). The aim of the CCRMM project is to strengthen the participation and capacity of stakeholders to improve management of coral reef biodiversity and related resources at Folkestone Marine Reserve. The objectives include improving information sharing, promoting youth advocacy, strengthening community and stakeholder management planning and monitoring of reefs and the mobilisation of financial resources for conservation.

She then highlighted six components of the project:

- Local coral reef network (e-group) for discussions
- People and Corals training and workbook distribution
- Junior Coral Reef Ambassador Programme (JCRA) which is established at Alexandra School and St. James Secondary School.
- Community Coral Reef Monitoring Regime (Reef Watchers) co-managed by HIGHTIDE Watersports
- Folkestone Summer Camp
- Partnership agreements (Adopt-the-reserve and buoyage infrastructure maintenance)

She emphasised that the participants were at the meeting to engage the private sector in the mobilisation of resources for the Folkestone Marine Reserve through adopting the reserve. She provided a brief introduction to the importance of coral reefs:

- Provide protection and shelter for marine biodiversity
- Protect beaches from erosion due to wave impact
- Generate sand for beaches
- As a source of food security-fish
- Important for tourism

She also highlighted that the reserve was important for many reasons: recreational use, protection of habitats, protection of marine life and education. The reserve is also beneficial to hoteliers and associated tourist-related agencies: zones to accommodate snorkelling and diving for visitors, frequent monitoring and surveillance and a good marketing product.



**Figure 1.2: Ms. Blackman providing an overview of the project**

She ended her presentation by suggesting some options for private sector involvement such as adhoc funding, donation of equipment for coral reef monitoring and water quality monitoring programmes, support educational programmes such as JCRA and the development of a “Friends of Folkestone” group.

### **1.3 Background about the Folkestone Marine Reserve**

Mr. Nicholls provided a background on Folkestone Marine Reserve. He differentiated the terms of a marine protected area and a marine reserve (Figure 1.3).

**Folkestone Marine Reserve is a type of marine protected area that strictly prevents the removal of marine organisms except for scientific purposes.**

Mr. Nicholls informed the participants about the development of the Folkestone Marine Reserve in 1981 and defined it as one of the oldest marine reserves in the Caribbean. The reserve is 2.1km<sup>2</sup> covering 11% of the west coast. Folkestone's marine biodiversity includes fringing reefs, patch reefs and offshore bank reefs. There are nesting hawksbill turtles and sightings of foraging green turtles. Mr. Nicholls highlighted that two set of hatchlings were found on the Folkestone Beach within a two week period and the Barbados Sea Turtle Project assisted with the release of the hatchlings.



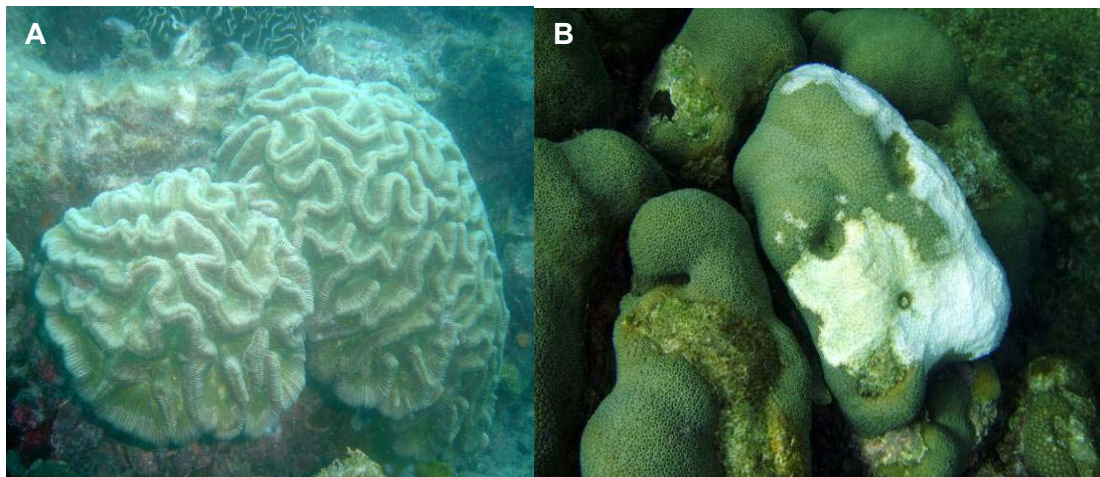
**Figure 1.3: Mr. Nicholls informing participants about the Folkestone Marine Reserve**

The Hometown Hole is another area of biodiversity lying adjacent to the reserve. He mentioned that it was the landing site of the first settlers to the island and that it is one of the last areas of mangroves on the island.

He highlighted the objectives of the Folkestone Marine Reserve as follows:

- To establish a sanctuary for marine life
- Provide economic growth in the community based on park activities
- Provide educational opportunities
- Provide for recreational use

In his presentation, the participants were given a glance of the types of biodiversity found within the marine reserve of Folkestone. He also highlighted signs of coral bleaching and used the opportunity to highlight the impacts of climate change on the marine environment (Figure 1.4).



**Figure 1.4: Reefs affected and unaffected by coral bleaching [A: unaffected; B: affected]**

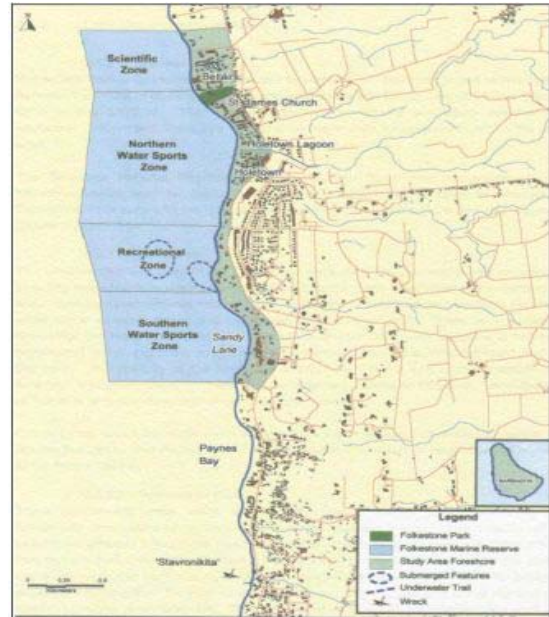
The participants were informed of the boundaries of the marine reserve, the types of zones (Figure 1.5) and associated speeding restrictions. He stated that unfortunately he has only one copy of research conducted about the reserve from the Bellairs Institute- a Doctoral Dissertation

by Michael Mascia from Duke University. He indicated that through the project, information on the studies that have been conducted related to Folkestone have been collected. He reiterated the importance of the marine reserves and that it benefits everyone from the local community, artisanal fishers, scientists, tourists and policy makers.

The participants were informed about some the laws of the reserve:

- You should NOT harvest, destroy or disturb any coral or fish or other marine life.
- You should NOT discharge any waste materials into the water.
- You should NOT damage any signs or buoys placed by the marine reserve administration.
- You should NOT operate speed boats, jet skis or sailboats except in the Water sports zones.

He also indicated that the manner in which jet skis were operated both by visitors, as well as locals, was occupying the attention of the International Transport Division which has raised these concerns with the law enforcement agencies-the Barbados Coast Guard, the Marine Police and the Royal Barbados Police Force and NCC in order to have a resolution of the matter.



**Figure 1.5: Zones within the Folkestone Marine Reserve**

He also mentioned that the feasibility study conducted by the AXYS Consultancy Group and concluded in 2000 had indicated that the use of the Recreational Zone particularly in the Vauxhall Reef area was very heavy with some approximately 160,000 persons annually using the area. Further, although the law did not prohibit the use of anchors within the reserve, that management had installed a number of moorings in the area as a means of persuading the vessel operators from anchoring in the area. This initiative has met with very satisfactory success.

Mr. Nicholls ended his presentation by highlighting ways in which persons can assist in protecting the marine environment and the marine reserve.

## 2 STAKEHOLDER CHALLENGES AND GOALS

The facilitator indicated that the meeting was a good way of putting their ideas together and creating synergy. She referred to Facebook (social networking site) and the importance of connecting with people. She highlighted that over the years there has been changes to the coastline of the west coast and invited each participant to say something about themselves and to highlight any changes that they have seen over the years along the west coast (Figure 2.1). The participants' responses included:



**Figure 2.1: Participants discussing changes in the west coast**

- Wider beaches
- Swamp with greater biodiversity
- Limited coastal development
- Shallower beaches

The facilitator asked the participants to assign themselves into groups of 2-3 persons and for five minutes to discuss their challenges with respect to the marine environment. Prior to the workshop, a brief interview was conducted with participants about critical issues and challenges of the Folkestone Marine Reserve. Below is the list of responses from the participants. The facilitator encouraged the participants to add to the list (Table 2.1).

**Table 2.1: Stakeholder challenges**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of clear boundaries</li> <li>• Illegal fishing</li> <li>• More patrols required and longer hours of operation</li> <li>• Lack of public education</li> <li>• Dying reefs</li> <li>• Lack of maintenance</li> <li>• Unregulated coastal development</li> <li>• Lack of marketing</li> <li>• Need for funding and additional human resources</li> <li>• Jet skis break the laws</li> <li>• Heavy rains draining into the sea, i.e. black water, contaminants</li> <li>• Use of horses on the beach</li> <li>• Beach chair vendors taking up space on the beach</li> <li>• Insufficient marine reserve land rangers</li> <li>• Jurisdictional issues between land and marine rangers</li> </ul>
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After outlining the challenges, the facilitator focused on the participants' hopes for the Folkestone Marine Reserve. In this conversation, participants made some commented on their hopes for the reserve.

- Mr. Seale (Sandy Lane Hotel) indicated that he had been reluctant to take the kids of the visitors to the Folkestone Marine Reserve Museum since he thought it did not offer much. Hearing of the Museum's displays, he stated that he will visit the museum later in the week to review the offerings.
- Mr. Brathwaite (NCC) indicated that landscaping at the Folkestone Park will be done and there has been a recommendation to fix the building.

- Mr Nicholls spoke about the fees of the reserve and mentioned the discussions about whether it was worthwhile to have the fees and if to raise the fees. He referred to the Axys report which stated that the building would be fixed but keeping the architectural history intact. He indicated that the Folkestone Park is the only public park on the west coast and it should be a showcase of the landscaping work of NCC.
- Mr. Willey (Elegant Hotels Group) indicated that outreach programmes: visiting hotels, meeting guests, cocktail reception should be done and the success stories of the reserve should be shared with the world.

Some of the hopes identified for the area are listed in Table 2.2.

**Table 2.2: Our Hopes For Folkestone Marine Reserve**

- Folkestone to be more inviting in appearance to tourists, including children
- FMR outreach programme to hotels that includes meeting with guests
- FMR Ambassadors give talks at hotels (share with staff and visitors)
- FMR Ambassadors within the hotel sector also
- Wider beaches in the FMR
- Collaboration between hotels and FMR Management and Operations
- A cleaner Holetown Hole
- Clearer demarcation of park boundaries to all stakeholders
- A clean watershed
- Breakwaters in place to protect the beaches
- Well placed jet ski loading ramps
- Operational guidelines for beach chair vendors

### 3 KEY ACTIONS FOR MAINTAINING FOLKESTONE MARINE RESERVE

Next the facilitator asked the participants to identify simple, yet effective actions that stakeholders can do to protect and enhance the marine reserve of Folkestone. Participants were allowed to brainstorm these ideas for action in their groups. She asked them to first provide their boldest idea, priority ideas and remaining ideas respectively. The actions were placed on a sticky wall and with assistance of the participants, organised into clusters of similar actions and the clusters named (Figure 3.1 and Table 3.1).



**Figure 3.1: Key actions noted by participants**



**Table 3.1: Focus Question: what are some simple yet effective actions that stakeholders can do to protect and enhance the marine reserve of Folkestone?\***

Funding	Public Awareness of the Reserve *	Community Outreach	Education *	Politics
<p>Funding of special projects by hotels **</p> <p>Offer financial assistance *</p> <p>Support advocacy programmes</p> <p>Donation by hotels of meeting space &amp; catering to the Reserve</p>	<p>Beach &amp; water signs **</p> <p>Demarcation of boundaries ***</p> <p>Reserve race (swim, kayak, etc.) **</p> <p>Folkestone Fun Day *</p> <p>News articles</p> <p>Talk shows</p>	<p>Adopt the reserve *</p> <p>Community Marine Reserve Managers *</p> <p>Self enforcement *</p> <p>Frequently scheduled beach cleanups involving the community *</p>	<p>Education (tourists, NCC rangers, general public) *</p> <p>Education programmes for users (hotels, fishers, schools) ****</p> <p>Communication education sharing with hotels *</p> <p>Educating lifeguards</p>	<p>Lobby to amend regulations via BTA/BHTA</p>

\*Denotes priority areas identified by group

## 4 OPTIONS FOR COLLABORATION

The facilitator, with the help of the participants, focused on the current reality of Folkestone Marine Reserve. They identified strengths, weaknesses, benefits and dangers of succeeding, thus producing some elements of a SWOT analysis. (Table 4.1)

**Table 4.1: Our Current Reality**

STRENGTHS	BENEFITS OF SUCCEEDING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have resources</li> <li>• Common interest</li> <li>• Marine knowledge</li> <li>• Experience</li> <li>• Understanding of tourism</li> <li>• We are the 'vehicle' that brings users to FMR</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A means to resources</li> <li>• Cleaner beaches</li> <li>• Greater community involvement</li> <li>• More youth ambassadors and involvement of children</li> <li>• Strength in numbers</li> <li>• To be a recognized body</li> <li>• Fewer rule breakers</li> <li>• Better structure of enforcement</li> <li>• Increased tourism receipts</li> </ul>
WEAKNESSES	DANGERS OF SUCCEEDING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No coordinated effort</li> <li>• Not aware of the marine reserve</li> <li>• Unaware of the problems/negative activities</li> <li>• Unaware of the impacts on the reserve</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased visitation (pressures) to the area</li> <li>• Administration</li> <li>• Enforcement more challenging</li> </ul>

### 4.1 Commitment

The facilitator asked the participants to identify the actions that they were willing to commit to using the dot priority system. Each participant was provided with three dots to indicate three activities that they saw as a priority (Figure 4.1 and Table 3.1).



**Figure 4.1: Participants identifying priority actions using the dot priority system**

## 5 NEXT STEPS

It was agreed that the group should meet on a quarterly basis. Ms. Almerigi queried the activities that they were willing to commit to between now and January 2010. The commitments are listed in Table 5.1. The participants were asked to organise themselves into a group and the proposed name 'Folkestone Marine Reserve Action Group' was developed. The Folkestone Marine Reserve Action Group will be led by Mr. John Nicholls assisted by Katherine Blackman.

**Table 5.1: Commitment of actions up to January 2010 of the Folkestone Marine Reserve Action Group**

<b>FOLKESTONE MARINE RESERVE ACTION GROUP</b>			
<b>Group Leaders:</b> John Nicholls, Katherine Blackman			
Members: (Sharon Almerigi, Cheryl Armstrong, Ryan Brathwaite, Russel Croney, Corey Haynes, Gavin Smith, Alfred Willey)			
<b>Activity</b>	<b>By when:</b>	<b>Led by:</b>	<b>Assisted by:</b>
Folkestone Fun Day (May 2010) Planning Committee – Consider action plan for the event	Jan. 10	John	Ryan
Folkestone Beach Signs & PR (talk show, press, etc.)	Christmas 2009	Led by: John	Bryan,
Funding for Special Projects – Provision of letter and information, contact stakeholders	Jan. 2010	Katie	John, Ryan, Bryan, Corrie, Alfred
Beach clean-up – underwater and shoreline. Gavin (High Tide) to supply one dive boat and to seek other boats. He will invite participation of the Barbados Marine Trust. Video process to be included (arrangements to be made by John Nicholls)	Early 2009	Gavin	Corrie, CERMES, SCPO, BMT
John to give lecture to Sunset Crest Neighbourhood Watch	Late Jan. 2010	Cheryl	Sharon

The facilitator concluded the meeting by asking the participants about the highpoints of the meeting. Most of them indicated that learning more about the Folkestone Marine Reserve was the highlight.

## 6 APPENDIX

### 6.1 List of participants/attendees

#	Name	Name of agency	Contact number email address
1.	Bryan Seale	Sandy Lane	bryanseale1@hotmail.com
2.	Alfred Willey	Colony Club/ Elegant Hotels Group	awilley@eleganthotels.com
3.	Keith Neblett	NCC	keithneblett@caribsurf.com
4.	Russell Croney	Sandpiper Hotel	rcronney@sandpiperbarbados.com
5.	Gavin Smith	HIGHTIDE Watersports	hightide@sunbeach.net
6.	Cheryl Armstrong	Sunset Crest Neighbour Watch	cheryl@armstrong.com.bb
7.	Corrie Haynes	Almond Beach Club	chaynes@almondresorts.com
8.	Ryan Brathwaite	NCC	rbrathwaite-ncc@caribsurf.com
9.	John Nicholls	Folkestone Park and Marine Reserve	folkestonemarine@yahoo.com
10.	Sharon Almerigi	People Dynamic Associates	salmerigi@caribsurf.com
11.	Andree Griffith	CCA	ccasecretariat@gmail.com
12.	Katherine Blackman	CERMES	katherine.blackman@cavehill.uwi.edu

## 6.2 Meeting agenda



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### Community-based Coral Reef Monitoring and Management

presents

## Adopt-the-reserve initiative

Discovery Bay Hotel  
Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2009

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### About the project

The Community-based Coral Reef Monitoring and Management project was developed by the Caribbean Conservation Association in collaboration with the National Conservation Commission and Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies to strengthen the participation and capacity of stakeholders to improve management of coral reef biodiversity and related resources at Folkestone Marine Reserve. The project is funded by GEF SGP.

### Purpose of meeting

To engage the private sector to assist in the mobilization of resources for conservation and management of the Folkestone Marine Reserve through the Adopt-the-Reserve initiative.

### Programme

9:00am - 9:30am	Introduction and background
9:30am - 10:00am	Stakeholder challenges and goals
10:00am - 10:15am	Break
10:15am - 11:00am	Key Actions
11:00am - 11:15am	Options for collaboration
11:15am - 12:15pm	Next steps

*Our project wishes to ensure that the private sector is involved in supporting the health and beauty of the Folkestone Marine Reserve as the marine environment is also valuable to the tourism industry. Improving the community's sense of ownership is key to protecting the marine environment." <><*

## 6.3 Adopt-the-reserve factsheet



### FOLKESTONE MARINE RESERVE ADOPT-THE-RESERVE INITIATIVE FACT SHEET

#### About the Folkestone Marine Reserve

- Established in 1981 and is currently the only legislated marine reserve on the island
- Area is ~2.2sq km and covers 11% of the west coast
- High marine biodiversity: fringing reefs, patch reefs and offshore bank reefs, nesting and foraging sea turtles, mangrove lagoon (locally known as Hometown Hole)
- Four zones designated for recreation, scientific research and watersports.

#### Importance of the marine reserve?

- To establish a sanctuary for marine life
- To provide economic growth in the community based on park activities
- To provide educational opportunities
- To provide recreational use

#### Importance of the reserve to the private sector

- Good marketing product
- Frequent monitoring and surveillance
- Zonation for recreational use

#### Importance of the adopting the reserve initiative

- To enhance, maintain and monitor the Folkestone Marine Reserve through supporting programmes, facilitating construction of appropriate infrastructure and provision of equipment.

*Prepared October 2009*

