

Enhancing the Management Effectiveness of Tobago Cays Marine Park Board

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Tobago Cays Marine Park
St. Vincent and the Grenadines
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Rationale

The Marine Park Board has been functioning since the Marine Parks Act (1997) was instituted; however, there has not been any formal training on board effectiveness specific to Marine Protected Area management.

Objective

- To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Tobago Cays Marine Park management board; thereby, improving adaptive capacity for better MPA governance.

Methodology

One Day Training Workshop for TCMP Board on enhancing board effectiveness facilitated by Ms. Zaidy Khan.

Topics from manual:

1. “Board of Directors Self-Evaluation”
2. “Responsibilities of a Board Member”
3. “What are the responsibilities of an individual board member.”

General Discussion on board procedures

Results

	Considerations	5 Very Good	4 Good	3 Okay	2 Fair	1 Poor
1	Board has full and shared understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a NGO board of directors		X			
2	Board members understand the organization's mission, goal, objectives and its products / programs			X		
3	Board has clear, relevant and realistic strategic plan for action with which to work	No Strategic Plan				
4	Structure of the organisation (board, officers, committees, executive and staff) is clear to directors		X			
5	Board attends to policy-related decisions which effectively guide the operational activities of staff		X			
6	Board receives regular reports on finances/budgets, products/program performance and other important matters	X				
7	Board helps to set fundraising goals and is actively involved in fundraising initiatives, including financial oversight					X

Results Continued

	Considerations	5 Very Good	4 Good	3 Okay	2 Fair	1 Poor
8	Board members effectively represent the organization to the community					X
	and others in the network of alliances				X	
9	Board meetings facilitate a productive focus of attention and progress on important organizational matters				X	
10	Board regularly monitors and evaluates progress toward strategic goals and product/ program performance	No Strategic Plan				
11	Board regularly evaluates and develops the chief executive on the basis of clearly written expectations and plans					X
12	Board has approved comprehensive personnel policies which include human resource development and building capacity	X				
13	Each member of the board feels involved and interested in the board's work including active participation in committees	X				

Results Continued

	Considerations	5 Very Good	4 Good	3 Okay	2 Fair	1 Poor
14	All of the skills, stakeholders and diversity necessary for the organization's mission are represented on the board		X			
15	Board members received orientation on recruitment/election and regular training and updates on their responsibilities					X
16	The board has an operations manual that is regularly consulted, reviewed and revised as standard procedure	No Operations Manual				
17	The board has a conflict of interest policy and a disclosure form that members are required to fill out and comply with	No Applicable				
18	The board regularly pays attention to the legal provisions governing it, including the articles of association and bylaws		X			
19	Meetings have written agendas, are conducted effectively with the quorum being regularly met, and minutes are kept	X				
20	The board has a process for handling urgent matters between meetings with the appropriate level of approval		X			

Considerations for the Next Year

(May, 2012 – May, 2013)

1. Formulation of a draft Strategic Plan focusing on livelihoods and fundraising.
2. Development of strategies to effectively have continuous communication with stakeholders.
3. Wider inclusion of stakeholders (including the newly formed fisher folk Association).

Issues of Concern

- Inconsistency in scheduling board meetings
- The board is divorced from the issues on the ground.
- The current management plan under utilized.
- Under representation of community and stakeholders interest on the board (e.g. Mayreau & Fishers)
- There is not enough ownership by board members
- Lack of a unified understanding of “what is an MPA?”

Way Forward

- The Chairman of the Board would be responsible for scheduling meetings.
- The board needs to have quarterly updates from technical staff (e.g. Marine Biologist).
- The board needs to focus on the TCMP Management Plan especially “Part 2: Goals and objectives”.
- Some Board Meetings would be conducted on Union Island (this would require proper coordination).
- Extension of the period of ranger presence in the MPA (i.e. a drive towards 24 hr presence)
- There needs to be representation from the community of Mayreau on the board.

Thank You!

