Achievements through implementation of Management of Protected Areas to Support Sustainable Economics (MPASSE) Project

The Management of Protected Areas to Support Sustainable Economics (MPASSE) Project has concluded.

Preliminaries to the implementation of the MPASSE were the signing of the Financing Agreement between the European Commission and the Turks and Caicos Government in 2007, which was followed by authorization of the contract between the European Commission, Turks and Caicos Government and Turks & Caicos National Trust in January 2010.

The MPASSE was a trans-regional project conducted simultaneously between the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Implementation of the MPASSE encountered many challenges from the inception, all of which were documented. It was due to the many challenges faced by the three National Trusts beneficiaries that the European Commission accepted the justification to extend the duration of the project from its original completion date of December 2012 to December 2014.

Overall objective of the MPASSE was to fulfill international environmental agreements, and in so doing, support sustainable development in the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The expected results of the implementation hinged on five areas, namely: improved eco-tourism facilities, improved environmental awareness among citizenry, improved (continued next page)
World Wetlands Day
2015: Wetlands for Our Future

On January 31st, a clean-up drive was initiated at Wheeland in Blue Hills, Providenciales. It was a successful event participated in by school children, residents, civic group members, government officials, TCNT and DEMA staff, volunteers and many others.

Then, for the month of February, school presentations were conducted. The main objectives were to spread awareness about the importance of maintaining the ecological character of the wetlands and to plan ‘wise’ for its sustainable use, specifically, the Wheeland Pond and other TCI wetlands areas.

Achievements through implementation of Management of Protected Areas to Support Sustainable Economics (MPASSE) Project
(continuation)

conservation measures, implementation of conservation management plans and improved institutional capacity.

Turks & Caicos National Trust was able to score significant points in all five areas, although not to the desired tone, had support from both the interim administration and local government been more forthcoming.

Nevertheless, the National Trust is indeed grateful to the European Delegation in Jamaica and the European Commission for the opportunity to be able to accomplish what was achieved under the project. With support from international, regional and local partners, the organization will continue to build on the foundations laid under the MPASSE project to ensure the protection, promotion and wise, sustainable management of the cultural, historic and natural heritage of the Turks and Caicos Islands for present and future generations and the enjoyment of all.

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

As a result of the collaborative efforts to involve the residents of the Wheeland community in the preservation of the Wheeland Pond and Wetlands Area, several meetings have been conducted for the month of February.

Among those who supported this endeavor were Constituency leader for Wheeland/Blue Hills, Delroy Williams, Shadow Minister for Environment Goldray Ewing, Director of Environmental Health Department Kenrick Neely, Tourist Board Senior Marketing Officer Onieka Rigby, TCNT Council Chair Carl Simmons, Member Mark Parrish, Director Ethlyn Gibbs-Williams, TCNT staff, DEMA officers and community residents.

Subsequent meetings will take place to make concrete plans and establish action points regarding issues on garbage, sanitation, wildlife conservation, information dissemination and community involvement.
PROMOTING OUR LAND, OUR SEA, OUR PEOPLE

On March 5th, Public Awareness/Education Officer Winema Sanders promoted the TCNT newly revised-production school materials – Our Land, Our Sea, Our People modules. This promotional stint took place at the Science Fair held at Gustavus Lightbourne Sports Complex in Downtown, Providenciales.

Our Heritage Sites Colouring Book and Eco-Echoes were also featured at the exhibit.

EDUCATION WEEK 2015

In full support of Education Week 2015, the National Trust conducted educational tours with schoolchildren at our heritage sites namely, Cheshire Hall Plantation in Providenciales, Little Water Cay, Wade’s Green Plantation in North Caicos and Conch Bar Caves in Middle Caicos.

Several group of teachers also visited the sites.

This year’s Education Week: March 1st - 6th, under the theme “Unite for Quality Education: Better Education for a Better World”.

FIELD EXPLORATION AND RESEARCH

On February 26th, Enid Capron Primary School Grade 6 students explored the wetlands in Five Cays, together with Mr. Jonathan Sayao, TCNT Education Programme Manager. They learned the importance of mangroves, observed the wetlands, and identified the different types of mangrove species present. This field exploration was both fun and educational!

James Millet and Lyndon John of RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) conducted research at Little Water Cay on February 5-11, 2015. Their main purpose was to review the invasive species project activities in relation to LWC.

Thank you, James and Lyndon.

Thank you, RSPB.
TCNT STAFF TRAINING, February 7th, 2015

Growth Mindset Workshop

FACILITATOR:
Jonathan Sayao, PA/ Education Programme Manager

BACKGROUND TO THE WORKSHOP:
This training session was designed as part of the TCNT ongoing internal training programme. The objective being to set up a process that would:
- Introduce staff to a method of learning and personal growth, to interact with people as an ambassador for the Turks & Caicos National Trust
- Involve staff in the process of reflecting upon and understanding their development problems and finding solutions for the benefit of oneself and the productivity of the organization

WE NEED YOU

Meet new friends.
Network.
Develop new skills.
Sharpen old skills.

Do you like new experiences? Would you like to use your knowledge and skills to help protect a national treasure?

BE A VOLUNTEER

There are many ways to help.

You may wish to take part in the continued preservation, restoration, and maintenance of structures, grounds, artifacts and machinery. Others prefer providing tours. Still others assist in a variety of related activities including staffing or behind the scenes projects. There is really something for everyone at any level of skill or interest.

This is an invitation to all interested individuals who would like to make a difference and share their time and expertise.

Please call the Turks & Caicos National Trust at 941-5710 for more information.

“One has the power for greatness, not for fame, but for greatness, because greatness is determined by service.”
-Martin Luther King Jr.

One of the main learning points of the workshop was: If we really want to improve our work and the service to our communities, we can do so by adopting a new mindset -- for everyone -- that would include:

- Being humble enough to accept that there are things about ourselves and our practices that can improve
- Becoming part of professional teams that value constructive critique instead of criticism
- Treating setbacks as formative struggles within the learning process instead of summative failures
- Work as a team

The Team’s feedback about the workshop was positive and encouraging. Everyone participated with enthusiasm and had so many good inputs.

Staff Training Follow-up: The next training session is scheduled for May 21st, 2015.

Special thanks to Fortis TCI management, thru Ms. Talisha Simons for allowing us to use their conference/ training room. Fortis TCI is a Corporate Member of TCNT. We appreciate your support!

Junior Achievement

We are thankful to the following students of the Turks & Caicos Community College – Providenciales Campus for expressing their support at our forthcoming projects as Junior Achievers:

Melissa Theus
Giovanni Forbes
Talestra Dixon
Janice Handfield
Ashley Morris
Jermadia Walkin
Angulique Perreira
Samiguel Daley
Arnelle Carey

These students expressed willingness to volunteer at our sites, help with planned activities and assist with manpower needs.

We look forward to fruitful projects ahead.
Please support us!

Greening TCI Month
22 April to 22 May 2015

Celebrate Greening the TCI with the Department of Environment & Maritime Affairs (DEMA) and the Turks & Caicos National Trust (TCNT), and our partners from Earth Day 22 April to International Day for Biological Diversity, 22 May 2015!

EVENTS:
- TCNT Poetry Contest: 10—22 April
- DEMA Photography Competition: 22 April—22 May
- Dept of Youth Affairs, TCNT & DEMA Tree Planting, Five Cays Community Centre: 22 April
- Blue Water Divers, Grand Turk Beach Clean-up: 25 A
- TCNT & DEMA School Visits: 27 April—1 May
- TCNT Cheshire Hall Plantation Open Day: 15 May
  - 5 Minute Film Festival: Planet Earth (Edward C. Gartland Youth Centre)
  - DEMA & KEW Royal Botanic Gardens Caicos Pine Open Day for Schools: 22 May

For more information please contact:
Amy Avenant, at DEMA (338.4176 / avenant.amy@gmail.com)
OR
Winema Sanders, at the TCNT (941.5710 / tc.nattrust_pr@yahoo.com)
JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2015 MEMBERSHIPS:

JANUARY:
Albert Williams
Anthony Walkin
Robert Forbes
Asa Williams
Gordon Williams
Jonathan Jennings
Roderick Munnings
Sally Rocker

FEBRUARY:
Isabelle Brown (renewal)
Alain Wattiez (renewal)

Be a member... now!

Fill-up this form:

The Turks and Caicos National Trust continues to be an advocate in promoting the cultural and natural heritage of these beautiful by nature islands.

By signing up, you contribute to the continued protection of our heritage.

Thank You

To learn more about the Turks and Caicos National Trust, visit us at TOWN CENTRE MALL.
(Mon. – Fri. 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)
Call 941-9410/ 941-3536

Membership scale:

- Junior Member/ Student: $5
- Senior Citizen: $15
- Individual: $25
- Family: $35
- Donor: $100
- Sovereigns: $250
- Patrons: $1000
- Corporate: $2500
- Benefactors: $5000+

Box 540, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands

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Thank you for your support!