

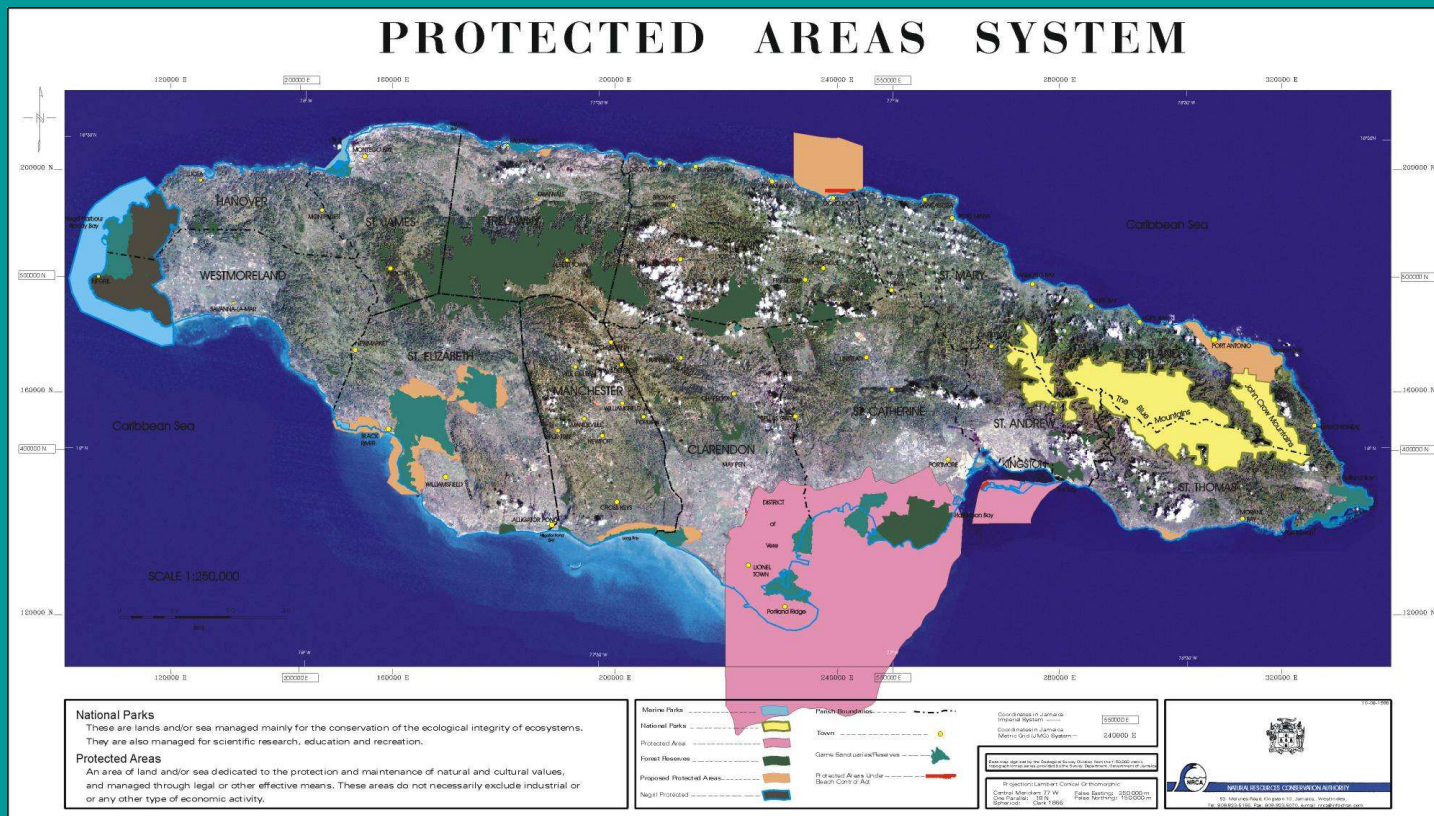
Protected Areas Management Experience in Jamaica – Brief Case Study

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What is a Protected Area?

- A Protected Area is an area of land or and or water that is managed for the protection and maintenance of its ecological systems, biodiversity, and or specific natural, cultural or aesthetic resources.



Who manages Protected Areas in Jamaica

- Four government agencies are responsible for Jamaica's protected areas:
- Forestry Department,
- Fisheries Division, Ministry of Agriculture
- Jamaica National Heritage Trust
- Natural Resources Conservation Authority/National Environment and Planning Agency.

Types of Protected Areas

- Jamaica's protected areas:
 - Terrestrial - cover approximately 2,000 sq km (just over 18%) of land
 - Marine - cover approximately 1,800 sq km (approximately 15%) of Jamaica's archipelagic waters

Types of Protected Areas Cont'd

- Fish sanctuaries
- Forest reserves
- Forest management areas
- Protected national heritage
- National Monuments
- National Parks
- Marine Parks
- Wetlands

Initial Situation

Government took the decision to declare PAs

- First PA declared in 1904;
- Nine declared under the NRCA Act (1991) –managed by the NRCA/NEPA and delegated entities (NGOs)
- Fish Sanctuaries declared under the Fishing Industry Act – managed by the Fisheries Division in collaboration with Fishermen Corporatives/NGOs
- Forest Reserves/Forest Management Areas – managed by the Forestry Department
- Heritage Sites/National Monuments – managed by the Jamaica National Heritage Trust

Lionfish



Current Situation

- Governance of PAs continue to be a partnership between the Government and the NGO community.
- In the NRCA Act it states that Authority has the power to designated responsibility for management of PAs to another entity.
- NRCA/Fisheries Division enters into agreements with these entities to manage Pas through MOUs;

Shortcomings

Policy and Legislation

- No clear policy/legal framework initially how these agreements should be structured
- Legal framework fragmented (14 pieces of legislation that govern PAs).

Institutional

- 4main government agencies whose primary objectives, management style and conservation approaches differ significantly
- Weak coordination/collaboration amongst key agencies and partners
- Lack of demonstration commitment on the part of government
- Inadequate conservation mechanisms e.g. incentives for private landowners in some cases
- Lack of routine evaluation of management effectiveness at the system/site level

Challenge/Motivation for Change

- The benefits to be derived from PAs are not being realized.
- Realization that these areas need to contribute much greater to the economy;
- Well- managed PAs can contribute greatly to the economy an to the sustainability of rural communities;
- Need for greater integration amongst all the players involved in PA management (led to the establishment of a Protected Area Committee to oversee the development of PA System Plan; however, they have no legal authority)

Next Steps

1. Finalization and implementation of the PSMP.
2. Provide effective leadership through an Executive /Statutory Agency with the authority, skills and financial mechanisms to effectively manage the PA system
3. Provide an enabling policy/legislation to facilitate good governance of the PA system
4. Implement effective ongoing /periodic monitoring and evaluation to measure the effectiveness of management of the PA system;
5. Establish a framework for integration/collaboration amongst the Agencies which have jurisdiction over Pas
6. Establish a framework /mechanism that will involve private land owners and other key stakeholders in the management of PAs

LESSONS LEARNT

1. First establish a framework for the management of PAs which will entail answers to these questions; WHAT; WHERE; WHEN; WHO; WHY and HOW
2. Need for demonstrated commitment by the government to the process
3. Need for the establishment an Executive /Statutory Agency with the authority, skills and financial mechanisms to provide effective leadership for the effective management of the PA system