

Thematic report on protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity

Please provide the following details on the origin of this report.

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Date of submission:	30 November 2006

Please provide summary information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on the types of stakeholders who have been actively involved in its preparation and on material which was used as a basis for the report.

Processes used were limited to consultations with selected experts due to pressures of time and financial resources to bring large numbers of stakeholders together.

Material consulted in preparation of the report include:

Jamaica's National Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity (NBSAP), 2003

NBSAP implementation report (Sacha-Renee Todd, June 2006)

Jamaica Eco-regional Planning (JERP) Summary Draft Report (The Nature Conservancy), 2006

Management Effectiveness and Capacity Development National Report (November 2006)

Protected areas or areas where special measures need to be taken to conserve biological diversity

System of protected areas

1. What is the relative priority afforded to development and implementation of a national system of protected areas in the context of other obligations arising from the Convention and COP Decisions?					
a) High	X	b) Medium		c) Low	
2. Is there a systematic planning process for development and implementation of a national system of protected areas?					
a) no					
b) in early stages of development					
c) in advanced stages of development					
d) yes, please provide copies of relevant documents describing the process					X
Please find attached an article by Miss Sacha-Renee Todd outlining the process for the development of the Protected Areas System Master Plan					
3. Is there an assessment of the extent to which the existing network of protected areas covers all areas that are identified as being important for the conservation of biological diversity?					
a) no					
b) an assessment is being planned for					
c) an assessment is being undertaken					X
d) yes, please provide copies of the assessments made					

Regulatory framework

4. Is there a policy framework and/or enabling legislation in place for the establishment and management of protected areas?					
a) no					
b) in early stages of development					
c) in advanced stages of development					
d) yes, please provide copies of relevant documents					X
4 (d): Protected Areas Policy (to be revised in 2007 after completion of Protected Areas System Master Plan (PASMP)), Natural Resources Conservation Authority Act and its regulations, Forest Act and regulations, Jamaica National Heritage Act and regulations, attached.					
5. Have guidelines, criteria and targets been adopted to support selection, establishment and management of protected areas?					
a) no					
b) in early stages of development					
c) in advanced stages of development					X
d) yes, please provide copies of guidelines, criteria and targets					

6. Does the management of protected areas involve the use of incentive measures, for instance, of entrance fees for park visitors, or of benefit-sharing arrangements with adjacent communities and other relevant stakeholders?	
a) no	
b) yes, incentive measures implemented for some protected areas (please provide some examples)	X
6(b) NRCA User Fess regulations provide entrance fees, fees for diving, etc. Forest Act provides for the remission of property tax for private land owners that have their land declared as a forest management area.	
c) yes, incentive measures implemented for all protected areas (please provide some examples)	

Management approach

7. Have the principal threats to protected areas and the biodiversity that they contain been assessed, so that programmes can be put in place to deal with the threats, their effects and to influence the key drivers?	
a) no	
b) an assessment is being planned for	
c) an assessment is in process	
d) yes, an assessment has been completed	X
e) programmes and policies to deal with threats are in place (please provide basic information on threats and actions taken)	
8. Are protected areas established and managed in the context of the wider region in which they are located, taking account of and contributing to other sectoral strategies?	
a) no	
b) yes, in some areas	X
c) yes, in all areas (please provide details)	
9. Do protected areas vary in their nature, meeting a range of different management objectives and/or being operated through differing management regimes?	
a) no, most areas are established for similar objectives and are under similar management regimes	
b) many areas have similar objectives/management regimes, but there are also some exceptions	X
c) yes, protected areas vary in nature (please provide details)	
10. Is there wide stakeholder involvement in the establishment and management of protected areas?	
a) no	
b) with some, but not all protected areas	X
10 (b) More so with management than establishment at this time	
c) yes, always (please provide details of experience)	

11. Do protected areas established and managed by non-government bodies, citizen groups, private sector and individuals exist in your country, and are they recognized in any formal manner?	
a) no, they do not exist	
b) yes, they exist, however are not formally recognized	
c) yes, they exist and are formally recognized (please provide further information)	X
11 (c) continued: NGOs managing PAs declared under the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA) Act are formally recognised and have a legal agreement, a Delegation Agreement, with the Natural Resources Conservation Authority (NRCA), which sets out the roles and responsibilities of both parties, boundaries of the area etc.	

Available resources

12. Are the human, institutional and financial resources available adequate for full implementation of the protected areas network, including for management of individual protected areas?	
a) no, they are severely limiting (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	X
12 (a) Information on needs and shortfalls is being assessed and collated under the process of developing the Protected Areas System Master Plan (PASMP), due for finalization in March 2007. Government resources have been severely limited and have even contracted over the last 5 years. NGOs that are managing PAs have garnered limited funds through writing projects and obtaining grant funds for specific activities. Operational and maintenance costs are not usually funded under projects and this has been problematic. Government entities managing PAs have had challenges in terms of low levels of capacity for management – financial, human and technical constraints.	
b) no, they are limiting (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	
c) Available resources are adequate (please provide basic information on needs and shortfalls)	
d) yes, good resources are available	
13. Has your country requested/received financial assistance from the Global Environment Facility or other international sources for establishment/management of protected areas?	
a) no	
b) funding has been requested, but not received	
c) funding is currently being requested	X
13 (c) continued: A PDF A for a Full Sized GEF Project is being written. This will cover aspects of establishment of individual PAs and implementation of aspects of the PASMP	
d) yes, funding has been received (please provide copies of appropriate documents)	

Assessment

14. Have constraints to implementation and management of an adequate system of protected areas been assessed, so that actions can be initiated to deal with these constraints?	
a) no	
b) yes, constraints have been assessed (please provide further information)	X
c) yes, actions to deal with constraints are in place (please provide further	

information)	
14 (b) A recently completed NATIONAL REPORT ON MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS ASSESSMENT AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR JAMAICA'S SYSTEM OF PROTECTED AREAS was completed after a national review exercise, using RAPPAM as the methodology to assess the PA system. The National report has within it a strategic directions action plan to deal with the constraints. Under the PASMP, the sustainable finance component (under development) is expected to provide avenues to finance the actions outlined.	
15. Is a programme in place or in development to regularly assess the effectiveness of protected areas management and to act on this information?	
a) no	
b) yes, a programme is under development (please provide further information)	X
A programme is being developed and will be included in the PASMP	
c) yes, a programme is in place (please provide further information)	

16. Has any assessment been made of the value of the material and non-material benefits and services that protected areas provide?	
a) no	
b) an assessment is planned	X
c) an assessment is in process	
d) yes, an assessment has been made (please provide further information)	

Regional and international cooperation

17. Is your country collaborating/communicating with neighbouring countries in the establishment and/or management of transboundary protected areas?	
a) no	N/A
b) yes (please provide details)	
18. Are key protected areas professionals in your country members of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, thereby helping to foster the sharing of information and experience?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
c) information is not available	
19. Has your country provided information on its protected areas to the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre in order to allow for a scientific assessment of the status of the world's protected areas?	
a) no	
b) yes	X
Information was provided some time ago, but it now needs updating.	
20. If your country has protected areas or other sites recognised or designated under an international convention or programme (including regional conventions and programmes), please provide copies of reports submitted to those programmes or summaries of them.	

The latest report to the Ramsar Convention from Jamaica is quite large. A summary is being sourced for submission as an appendix to this report.

21. Do you think that there are some activities on protected areas that your country has significant experience that will be of direct value to other Contracting Parties?

a) no

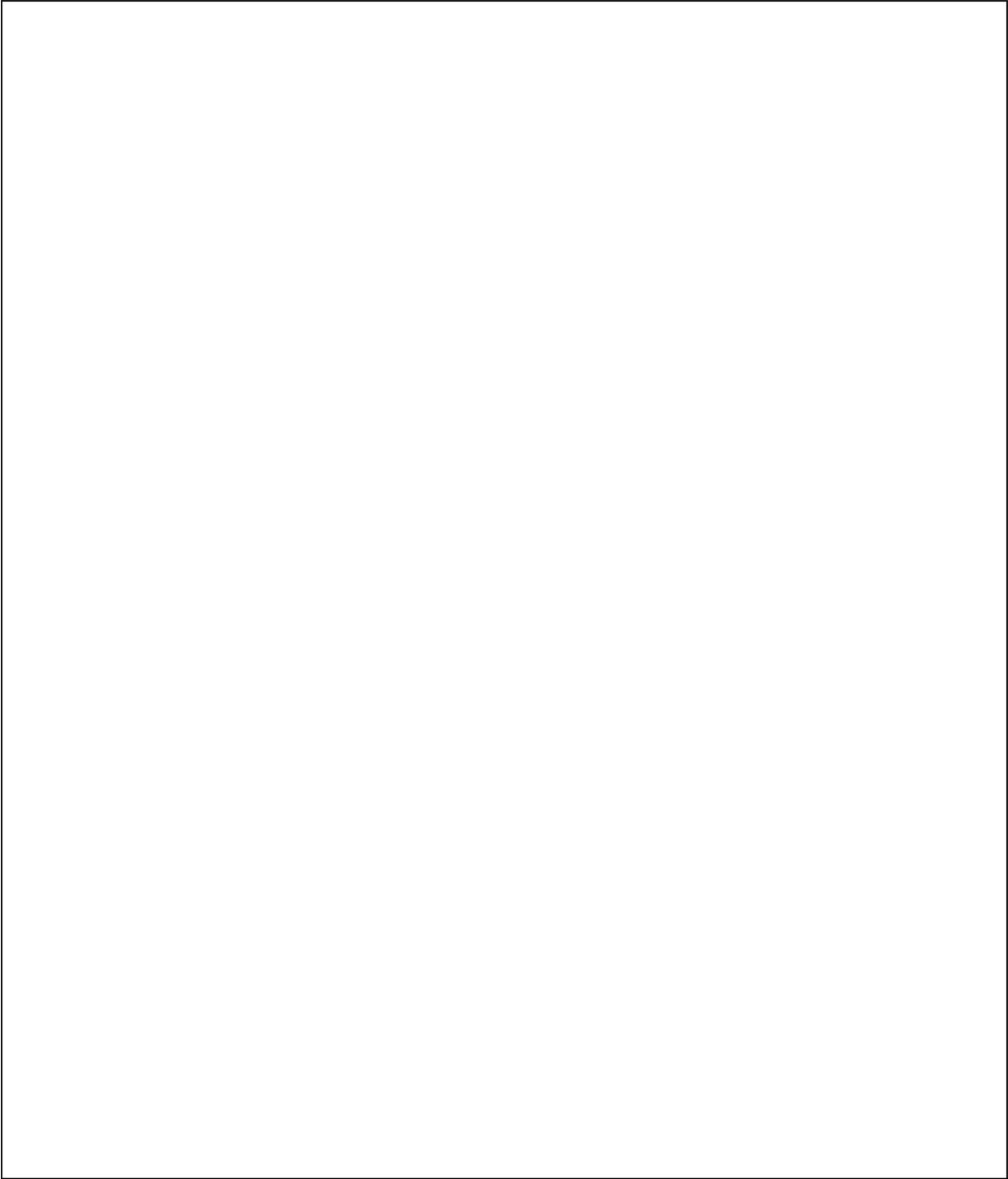
b) yes (please provide details)

X

Information on Jamaica's experience with co-management especially could be shared – some co-management activities were more successful than others.

Jamaica has also benefited from debt-for-nature swaps as a source of funds for PA management, and this experience of negotiating, obtaining and managing could also be shared.

Further comments



THE PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM MASTER PLAN PROJECT 2006

What is a Protected Area?

A protected area is an area of land or water that is managed for the protection and maintenance of its ecological systems, biological diversity and or specific natural, cultural and aesthetic resources (Jamaica Protected Areas Policy, 1997)

Protected areas therefore include areas declared by the following entities under their legislation: That is Forestry Department, Fisheries Division, NEPA, and Jamaica National Heritage Trust.

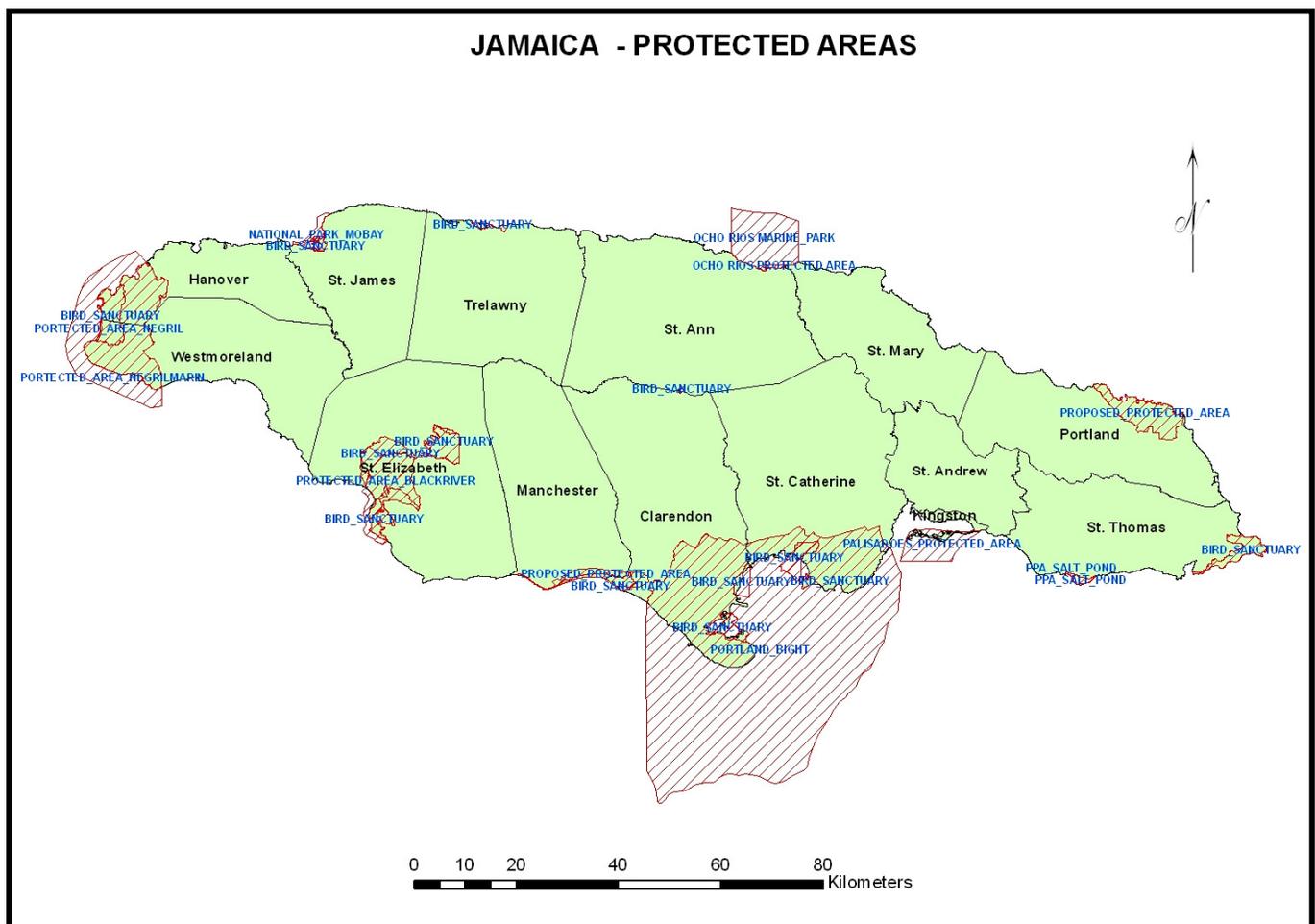


Figure 1: Distribution of Protected Areas throughout Jamaica

Protected Areas System Plan

The IUCN defines this as the primary national policy document for strengthening management and extending protected area coverage. The core idea of protected area system planning is that effective planning and management of protected areas requires a coordinated approach, both with respect to the various units within the system, and with other land uses and management activities.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at their seventh Conference of Parties in 2004, adopted a set of goals and objectives on protected areas, called the “Programme of Work on Protected Areas” (POW). The protected areas POW is divided into three phases which span 2004 to 2012.

The first phase of activities includes that all Parties (including Jamaica) complete a Protected Area Master Plan by December 2006.

This requires undertaking a gap analysis to assess where the nation’s current protected areas systems falls short of protecting all biodiversity.

Protected Areas: Timeline

- Protected Areas have been declared since the 1930s, under the Beach Control Act and Forestry Act.
- 1992. A Protected Areas System Plan (PASP) was done by the Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust. The plan was not formally adopted.
- 1997. Policy for Jamaica’s System of Protected Areas finalised as a White Paper. However there were later capacity challenges to implement policy and to manage Protected Areas.
- 2001. Caribbean Natural Resources Institute recommends preparation of a protected areas system plan.
- 2005. The EFJ funded a Protected Areas System Plan (PASP) project which partially completed a Plan. 3 components of the Master Plan were created: legal, culture and heritage and public education.
- 2006: Redevelopment of a Protected Areas System Master Plan.
Four additional components have been identified to finalise the Master Plan: Ecological Gap Analysis, Management Effectiveness Assessment, Capacity Development Planning and Sustainable Finance Planning (see Figure 2 below).



Figure 2: Four Pillars of Protected Areas System Master Plan (PASMP)

Redevelopment of a PASMP

- As a party to the CBD, Jamaica is obligated to complete a master plan in December 2006. However, based on consultations it has been recommended that March 2007, would be a more realistic timeframe within which to complete the plan. In order to meet this and other obligations under the CBD, a team of

representatives from the Government of Jamaica and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) participated in a Caribbean Protected Areas Workshop in Miami, Florida (June 20-22, 2006). The purpose of the workshop was to provide the participants with the information and tools necessary to implement the CBD's Programme of Work on Protected Areas. This information focused on ecological gap assessments, sustainable finance, management effectiveness and capacity development planning as well as the mechanisms to integrate these components into a plan for a national system of protected areas.

- The current activities for completing a system master plan are building on previous initiatives.
- The PASMP is being built through partnerships of a number of entities including the National Environment and Planning Agency, Ministry of Local Government and Environment, Forestry Department, Fisheries Division, Institute of Jamaica, Planning Institute of Jamaica, Jamaica National Heritage Trust, The Nature Conservancy, and others.

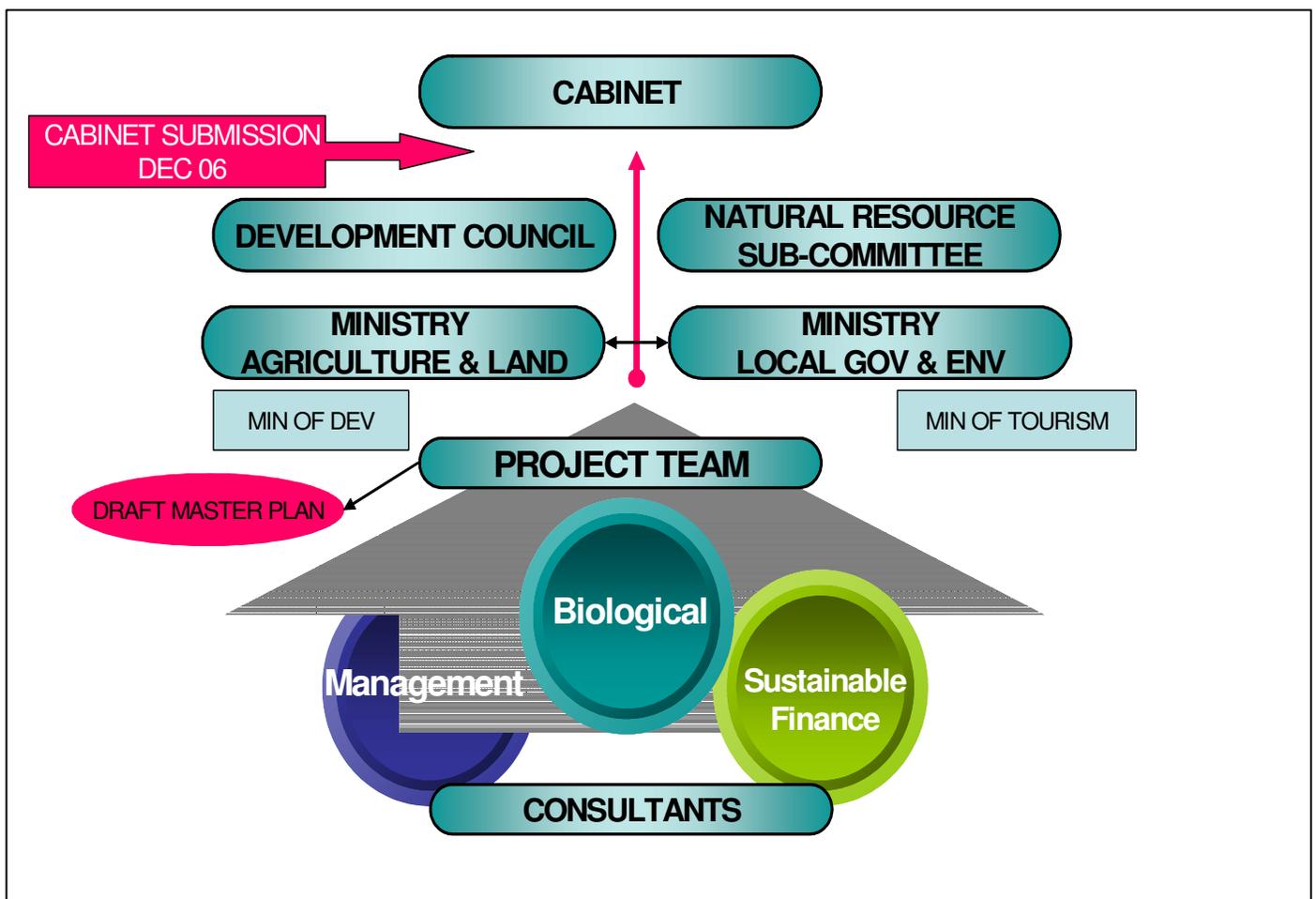


Figure 3: PASMP Process Flow

Process and approach

- Based on existing gaps and recommendations arising from the Caribbean Protected Areas Workshop the process proposed to complete Jamaica's protected areas master plan is outlined in Figure 3. The proposed process includes the formation of three working groups - Ecological Working Group, Capacity Development Working Group (which will also examine management effectiveness) and the Financial

Sustainability Working Group. Each working group consists of representatives from government agencies, non-governmental organizations and academia. Working groups will provide guidance to, and review the outputs of, consultants assigned to each group. Outputs of each working group will provide the majority of the necessary Plan elements.

- The working groups report to the Protected Areas Committee, which currently consists of a representative from the Ministry of Local Government and Environment and heads of government agencies responsible for Jamaica's protected areas, that is the Jamaica National Heritage Trust, Fisheries Division, Forestry Department and the National Environment and Planning Agency. A consultant will be assigned to the Committee to prepare the final master plan which will include all three working group components and those from the previous initiative: legal, cultural and heritage and public awareness.
- Public consultations will be held to review the draft protected areas master plan and submissions will be made to the Development Council and the Natural Resource Sub-Committee prior to a joint cabinet submission being prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture and Land as well as the Ministry of Local Government and Environment by March/April 2007.

Working Group Objectives

- *Ecological Working Group*
 1. To guide the finalisation and review of the Ecological Gap Assessments prepared by consultants to ensure that focal biodiversity are represented in protected areas
 2. To review the ecological, representation and management/capacity gaps identified by the consultants and make necessary recommendations

Deliverable: A report on the assessment of the extent of biodiversity representation by the protected area system, prioritisation of gaps and strategies to fill them.

- *Capacity Working Group*
 1. To review assessment of the strengths, challenges and weakness of the management of the existing PA system
 2. To review the capacity needs and strategies for attaining the capacity to support the desired PA system (minimum, medium and ideal scenarios) proposed by the consultant and make recommendations

Deliverable: an iterative and broadly owned Capacity Development Plan which will outline how to strengthen human and institutional capacity to effectively manage the PA system.

- *Finance Working Group*
 1. To develop cost estimates for protected area creation and management needs over 10 years (minimum, medium and ideal scenario)
 2. To identify existing funding sources and financial gap, and the supporting policy and legislative reforms where necessary

Deliverable: An iterative and broadly owned Sustainable Finance Plan which will attract sufficient and sustainable financial resources to effectively manage the protected areas system

Status of Master Plan Components

□ *Ecological Gap Assessment*

The marine and freshwater components of the ecological gap assessment have been completed and peer reviewed and the terrestrial component requires further analysis. A draft integrated summary report of all three components has been prepared.

□ *Management Effectiveness and Capacity Development*

A workshop was convened (September 20-22, 2006) to address the management effectiveness and capacity development needs of selected protected areas. The Nature Conservancy provided technical and financial support to complete this component. Dr. Jamie Ervin, Mr. Jason Spensley and Ms. Carmen María López facilitated a training session and also acted as co-facilitators during the Management Effectiveness Assessment and Capacity Development Planning Workshop. A consultant, Ms. Alicia Hayman, has been engaged to prepare the workshop and national reports for this component of the master plan. This national report will inform the development of the financial sustainability plan.

□ *Financial Sustainability*

A proposal has been prepared for the development of a financial sustainability plan for Jamaica's protected areas system which is currently under review.

Next Steps

Tables 1 and 2 outline the steps to be taken during phases I and II of the development of the Protected Areas System Master Plan.

Table 1: PASMP - Next Steps, Phase I

THEME/WORKING GROUP	NEXT STEPS
Ecological	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Finalize gap assessment2. Recommend categories of protected areas3. Recommend criteria and procedures for selection and prioritisation of additional protected areas
Capacity Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Convene Site Level Management Meeting2. Convene Strategic Directions Meeting3. Finalize Management Effectiveness and Capacity Development Workshop Report4. Prepare National Report
Financial Sustainability	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Hire Consultant2. Prepare Financial Sustainability Plan
Institutional Arrangements	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Convene workshop (review management and institutional arrangements)2. Prepare Institutional Arrangements Workshop Report
System Master Plan Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Hire Consultant2. Consultations with key stakeholders3. Prepare system master plan (integrating reports and

	plans prepared as part of the Protected Areas System Plan Project)
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Table 2: PASMP - Proposed Next Steps, Phase II

THEME/WORKING GROUP	NEXT STEPS
Legal Framework	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review system master plan components 2. Recommend amendments to legislation 3. Prepare enforcement plan
Public Information/Awareness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement ongoing campaign
Ecological	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preparation of guidelines for research and compilation of past research
Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define management standards and guidelines Prepare guidelines for management planning processes 2. Define content and form of individual management plans

General Targets

- Consultations with key stakeholders (at decision-making level) on the process and plans for finalisation of the PASMP.
- Finalisation of most PASMP components by December 2006 and Outline Plan presented to Cabinet
- National consultations on the draft plan and revisions based on inputs by stakeholders.
- Finalisation of plan by March 31, 2006 and resubmission to Cabinet.
- Implementation of PASMP in accordance with recommendations for action, responsible entities and specified timeframe.

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