

## REPORT OF THE WORKSHOP “USING PARTICIPATORY NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AS A TOOL FOR CONSERVATION”

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THE SOCIETY for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds (SCSCB) invited the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) to facilitate two workshops on “Using Participatory Natural Resource Management as a Tool for Conservation.” The workshop objectives were that by the end of the one-day workshop, participants would be able to:

1. Define various types of participatory natural resource management (PNRM);
2. Define key concepts in PNRM – stakeholder, institution, natural resource management, livelihoods;
3. Discuss the value of using participatory processes in natural resource management;
4. Identify examples of PNRM in the Caribbean;
5. Identify some key tools in PNRM—for example, stakeholder identification and analysis, capacity analysis and capacity building, stakeholder mobilisation, and conflict management;
6. Develop preliminary strategies and key action points for application of PNRM to a case study.

### SUMMARY OF WORKSHOPS

The two one-day workshops were structured to cover similar core topics but there was considerable adaptation of the sessions to address the primary interests of participants. The workshops were highly interactive and used plenary discussion, role play, small group work, and individual reflection. Key definitions and tools in PNRM, illustrated with selected case studies from the Caribbean region and examples, were explored from participants’ experience. Concepts discussed included who is a stakeholder, what is participation, types of participation, and why a participatory approach to natural resource management is important in the Caribbean context. In this regard, participants felt that participation was deeper than consultation and included getting people involved and a shift in power, negotiation towards developing consensus, and joint decision-making. They felt that the process was important and should include people, emphasize communication, and encourage openness to different ideas and adaptation. Participants also noted that

the following additional concepts needed analysis and development of common understanding: conservation, capacity, benefits, empowerment, implementation, interest, awareness, education, governance, sustainability, science-based, community, grassroots, poor, ecological, and socio-economic development. The use of stakeholder identification and analysis was examined as being a critical tool for engaging in PNRM. The first workshop included small group work in the afternoon to apply stakeholder identification and analysis to three case studies selected by participants.

The first case study analysed the issue of tourism and other activities having a negative impact on seabirds in Barbuda and identified key stakeholders involved (Fig. 1). An analysis of conflicts between stakeholders involved in management of the Centre Hills in Montserrat was another interesting case study, which identified core problems due to inadequate consultation with key stakeholders. Conflict management strategies put forward included: recog-

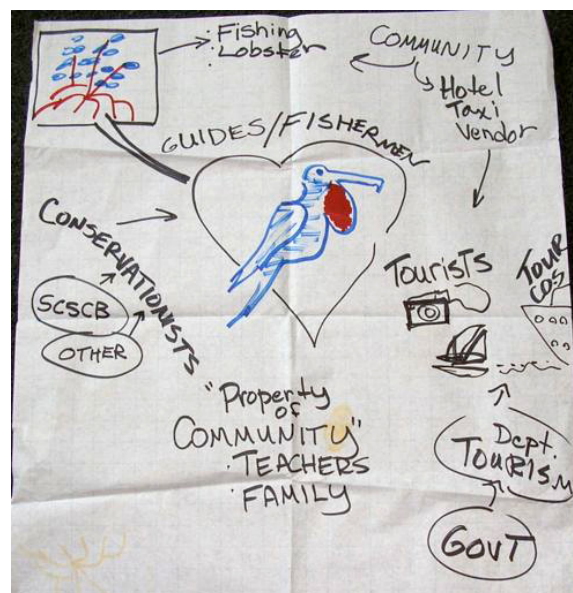


Fig. 1. Diagram illustrating key stakeholders for management of seabirds in Barbuda.

nition that there should be trust, that stakeholders can play a role in decision making, that people should be allowed to develop their own ideas, that assistance (technical and financial) with implementation should be provided, and that consultation with people is needed before management plans are developed and promoted. The third case study examined conflicts around illegal harvesting of crabs from the protected area managed by the Conservation Trust in Puerto Rico at one of the sites visited for the conference field trip. Participants identified key stakeholders and recommended some steps to address the conflict. This included getting a better understanding of the problem, using a community member to build trust and engage the fishermen, holding community meetings and doing a survey to get the community's perspective on the issue and suggestions for how it could be addressed, and jointly exploring alternatives (including other appropriate areas and considering sustainable harvesting, which would require a change in the laws). Participants discussed the application and potential application of PNRM in their work, and in particular they analysed the role of facilitators of PNRM processes, and discussed what capacities they felt facilitators should have. Capacities were recognized to include world view or culture, skills and knowledge, material and financial resources, and relationships and linkages. In the second workshop, participants reflected on and shared personal strengths and areas they wanted to work on to build their capacity to act as facilitators of PNRM.

There was a very positive response to the workshops from those who attended, who felt that PNRM was a useful approach to address some of the critical issues for conservation of birds and their habitats as well as wider natural resource management.

#### KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

The positive response to the workshop and areas of interest expressed by participants suggest the following potential areas for continued focus by the SCSCB:

1. Continue to expose SCSCB members and partners to PNRM to help to build understanding and appreciation of the value of this approach, in particular how it can build consensus and buy-in and help to manage conflicts. This can include, for example, continuing to feature relevant PNRM cases in the SCSCB conference and publications.

2. Build the capacity of SCSCB members and partners in PNRM tools and methods. This can, for example, include running workshops within the SCSCB conference, running separate training workshops, or promoting or seeking sponsorship for SCSCB members to participate in other capacity building initiatives.

3. Analyse, document, and share examples of PNRM approaches used in conservation of birds and their habitats in the Caribbean. This can, for example, include publishing case studies and promoting field visits as part of the SCSCB conference. There was a significant set of participants who were interested in management issues and approaches so that continuing to include sessions in SCSCB conferences dealing with this is extremely valid.

One major challenge faced was that the PNRM workshops were scheduled to conflict with other sessions also focusing on management issues and approaches. This resulted in some participants missing one of the sessions or coming in late or leaving early, which was disruptive and meant that the second workshop had to be adapted because case study work could not be done in the afternoon due to a significant change in participants. This scheduling challenge may be partly alleviated if concurrent sessions focus on more widely different interests of participants (e.g., pure research versus management). A SCSCB focus on the use of PNRM as a management approach for conservation of birds and their habitats in the Caribbean could be implemented in partnership with SCSCB members with valuable experience in this area (e.g., Grupo Jara-gua, Department of Environment in Montserrat, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) and other organisations working on building capacity for PNRM in the Caribbean (e.g., CANARI).