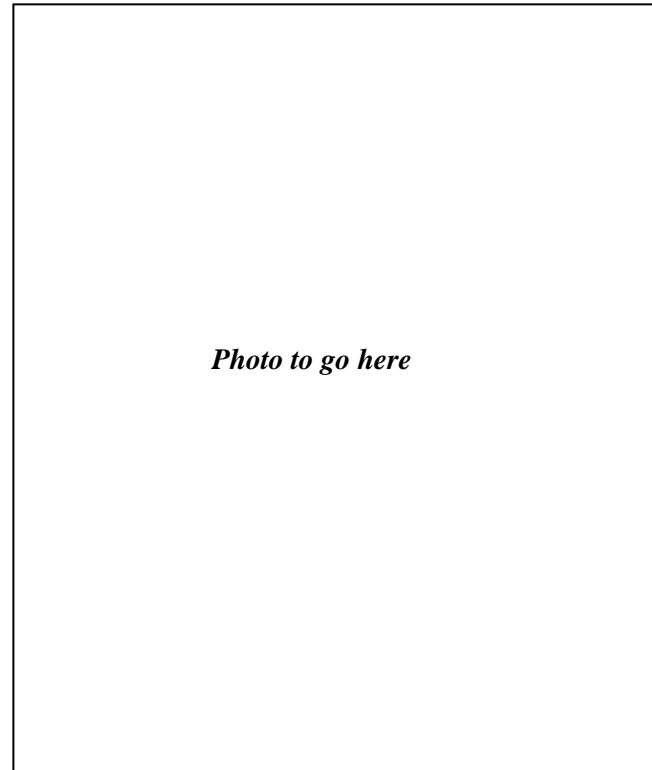


Centre Hills National Park

Five Year Management Plan 2007-2012



CHP
logo

MALHE
logo

Darwin
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Introduction

The Centre Hills National Park officially came into creation in XX through the XX (New Environmental Legislation of 2007). The area, which includes XX acres of forest, is of critical ecological concern as it is home to most of Montserrat's endangered wildlife and habitats. It also provides numerous socioeconomic benefits to the island's residents. Sustainable use and management of the Centre Hills aims to consider the needs and interests of both people and wildlife.

Extensive studies have been carried out which have investigated the wide range of Centre Hills' interests and values. The findings of these studies are compiled in several reports that have contributed significantly to the development of this plan. Contained in these reports are detailed descriptions of the natural and social resources of and affecting the Centre Hills, including geology, hydrology, soils, climate, ecosystem components and processes, biodiversity and threatened species, politics, infrastructure, legal issues, socioeconomics, and existing/future land use.

This management plan spells out the specific use and management activities within the Centre Hills National Park for a five-year period beginning in 2007 (after which time a new management plan will be prepared).

Vision statement

A 20-year vision for the Centre Hills was articulated at a planning workshop in September 2006, and revised through a process of community consultation in subsequent months. The vision is as follows:

“The Centre Hills National Park is the heart of the green island of Montserrat – a biologically rich and diverse forest supporting unique plants and animals – secure for enjoyment, education and study. The government and people of Montserrat share ownership and management of these valuable resources to support sustainable populations of species, environmental services, and local livelihoods for the benefit of present and future generations.”

The Plan

Management objectives:

- Centre Hills include healthy populations of native species and habitats, deliver optimal ecological services, are minimally impacted by invasive species and external factors, and are managed in a way that considers comprehensive research findings
- All extraction from the Centre Hills is sustainable and non-detrimental to the health of the ecosystem
- Peoples' awareness, understanding and enjoyment of the Centre Hills is enhanced without compromising ecological, social, and cultural integrity of the area
- A well funded and effective legislative and institutional structure is in place to support sustainable management of the Centre Hills
- Others? Public participation? Capacity building?

Here's another suggestion to hit the targets?? (adapted from another similar project)

- Monitor biodiversity and undertake conservation activities where appropriate
- Promote protection and effective management of the Centre Hills

- Increase conservation management skills among the local workforce
- Promote sustainable livelihoods of and participatory resource management by area users and owners
- Raise awareness and appreciation of Centre Hills biodiversity and reduction of threats to its fragile environment
- Enable an effective legislative and institutional structure to support sustainable management of the Centre Hills

Activity categories:

EU = Extractive Use

RC = Research and Conservation

TR = Tourism and Recreation

OE = Outreach and Education

AD = Administration (legal, finance, etc.)

CB = Capacity Building

#	Action	Outputs	Priority	Timeframe	Cost	Lead responsibility	Others to involve
EU 1	Assess and address needs of farmers	Farmer Needs Assessment Report		Annually		DOA/Extension	CARDI, Farmers Assn
EU 2	Promote sustainable agriculture	Sustainable Farming Management Plan		3 months		DOA	Farmers Assn
EU 3	Maintain regular communications with farmers	Regular meetings (calendar to be produced annually)		Monthly		DOA/Extension	Farmers Assn
EU 4	Maintain regular communications with livestock tenders	Regular meetings (calendar to be produced annually)		Monthly		DOA/Livestock	Livestock Assn
EU 5	Improve existing farm lots	Improved roads, irrigation systems, top soil, fencing, etc.		6 months, annually	\$100K	DOA/Extension, PWD	Farmers Assn
EU 6	Identify land for approved types of organic farming within the CHNP	Designation of areas for approved types of farming		6 months		DOE, DOA	Farmers Assn, landowners
EU 7	Identify and secure additional land for farming outside of the CHNP	Expanded allocations of farmlands		6 months	\$100K	DOA	Farmers Assn, landowners
EU 8	Identify and secure additional fenced land for livestock tending	Expanded allocations of fenced grazing land		6 months	\$50K	DOA	Livestock Assn. landowners
EU 9	Improve livestock fodder quality and quantity	Fodder banks		6 months	\$10K	DOA/Livestock	Livestock Assn, Nursery
EU 10	Demonstrate agricultural best-practices	Farming demonstration sites		12 months	\$100K	DOA/Extension	Farmers Assn, Nursery
EU 11	Monitor and regulate activity around the perimeter of the CHNP	Develop a CHNP Buffer Zone Management Plan		1 year		DOE	DOA, MNT, Kew, RSPB, DWCT

#	Action	Outputs	Priority	Timeframe	Cost	Lead responsibility	Others to involve
RC 1	Ensure that unsustainable harvest of wildlife is not taking place until further research can advise catch regulations	Moratorium on hunting (legal document)		3 months		DOE	
RC 2	Monitor and assess status of biodiversity, including extractive use (within and outside of the CHNP)	Biodiversity Monitoring Protocol		6 months		DOE	MNT, Kew, RSPB, DWCT
RC 3	Maintain regularly updated database of biodiversity and other research findings	Database Curator appointment		3 months		DOE	Statistics Department, GIS
RC 4	Create a place where lab work can be carried out, sensitive materials stored	Research Facility created		2 years		MALHE	PWD, Env Health, MCC (science)
RC 5	Monitor and reduce threats of invasive species and diseases	Invasive Species and Biosecurity Action Strategy		1 year		DOE	DOA, MNT, Environmental Health, Kew, RSPB, DWCT
RC 6	Develop species-specific management plans	Species Action Plans		1 year		DOE	MNT, Kew, RSPB, DWCT, hunters, tour guides
RC 7	Regulate externally-driven research to protect intellectual property rights and to regulate exportation of biodiversity products	Research Protocol; Freedom of Information Act		6 months		DOE	DOA, MNT, Kew, RSPB, DWCT
RC 8	Evaluate impacts of climate change on forests	Climate Change Report		2 years		DOE	DMCA, DOA, ?
RC 9	Evaluate socioeconomic status of Centre Hills	Economic Valuation Study and reports		Immediate		DOE	MNT, MTB, CHMC, Development Unit, DMCA, MUL
RC 10	Monitor knowledge, perceptions, and behaviour of the general public with regard to the natural environment and Centre Hills	General Public Survey, report of survey results		2 years, 5 years	\$20K	MNT	DOE, MTB, Statistics Department, Dev Unit

#	Action	Outputs	Priority	Timeframe	Cost	Lead responsibility	Others to involve
RC 11	Evaluate hydrogeological conditions within the Centre Hills	Hydrogeological study and reports		2 years		MUL, DOE	DOA, DMCA, MVO
RC 12	Protect hydrogeological interests within the Centre Hills	Soil and Water Conservation Strategy		6 months		MUL, DOE	DOA, DMCA, MVO
RC 13	Create a central source for environmental information	Environmental Library		3 months		DOE	DOA, MNT, MUL, RSPB, Kew, DWCT
TR 1	Create and implement trail maintenance programme	Trail clearing equipment, 9 regularly maintained trails		Quarterly	\$100K per year	DOE	MTB, MNT, tour guides
TR 2	Improve amenities at entry points to CHNP	Kiosks, signage, garbage bins, parking areas		3 months	\$20K	MTB	Land owners, MNT, Environmental Health, PWD, tour guides
TR 3	Develop sustainable services and amenities in harmony with the Nature Tourism Strategy (to be developed)	Potentially include campsites, exercise equipment, biking trails, etc.)		3 years			
TR 4	Create an educational and recreational centre for visitors to the Centre Hills	Visitor Centre		2 years		TBD	MTB, MNT, Hospitality Assn, Taxi & Tours Assn, tour guides
TR 5	Promote CHNP internationally as a unique nature tourism destination	Marketing materials, brochures, website, etc.		Ongoing		MTB	MTB, MNT, Hospitality Assn, Taxi & Tours Assn, tour guides, media outlets, artists
TR 6	Monitor knowledge, perceptions, and behaviour of tourists with regard to the Centre Hills	Tourism Exit Survey, report of results		Ongoing	\$500 per year	MTB	Statistics Department, Dev Unit
TR 7	Ensure that tour guides are knowledgeable about biodiversity, conservation, and public safety	Training materials, XX trained tour guides		Annually		MBT	MTB, MNT, Hospitality Assn, Taxi & Tours Assn, tour guides
EO 1	Respond to inquiries in a timely and informed manner	Public Relations Officer appointment		3 months		Minister, PS	DOE, DOA

#	Action	Outputs	Priority	Timeframe	Cost	Lead responsibility	Others to involve
EO 2	Provide outdoor learning opportunities for school children at all levels	Field trip programme involving XX students per year		Annually		DOE	Schools, MNT, tour guides
EO 3	Provide classroom learning opportunities for school children at all levels	Classroom visitation programme involving XX students per year		Annually		DOE	Schools, MNT
EO 4	Create teacher professional development opportunities	Training and development programme involving XX teachers per year		Annually		DOE	Schools, MNT
EO 5	Develop environmental educational materials for students	Primary school pack, secondary school pack, MCC pack		12 months		DOE	Schools, MNT, MWA, DMCA
EO 6	Create and implement general public awareness campaign	XX newspaper articles, XX radio programmes, XX media programmes		Ongoing		DOE	MNT, MTB, media outlets
EO 7	Engage the general public in learning about the Centre Hills	Centre Hills Week of Activities		Annually		MNT	DOE, MTB, schools
EO 8	Maintain electronic media about the Centre Hills	Centre Hills website		Monthly		TBD	DOE, MTB, MNT
AD 1	Encourage (?develop?) small grants scheme for environmental projects/businesses	Small grants scheme, training opportunities				TBD	DOE, Dev Unit, NDF, DFID, funders
AD 2	Regulate and promote the development of related activities and businesses	Nature Tourism Strategy		3 months		MTB	MNT, Hospitality Assn, Taxi & Tours Assn, tour guides
AD 3	Monitor persons and businesses from the private sector that have an interest in the Centre Hills	Registry of private sector interests		3 months		MTB	MNT, Hospitality Assn, Taxi & Tours Assn, tour guides
AD 4	Create a separate repository for environmental funding	Environment Fund		1 month		DOE	MNT, MTB, DFID, potential funders
AD 5	Create a sustainable financing arrangements for	CHNP Fiscal Strategy		1 year		DOE	

#	Action	Outputs	Priority	Timeframe	Cost	Lead responsibility	Others to involve
	CHNP management						
AD 6	Identify sources of funding for projects and prepare proposals	Project proposals; Fundraising Strategy		Ongoing		DOA, DOE	Dev. Unit, Governors Office, NDF, DFID
AD 7	Establish secretariat for the CHMC	Office space, equipment, transportation, etc.		1 year		DOE	CHMC
AD 8	Formalise existence and advisory capacity of the CHMC	Exco Memo		3 months		DOE	CHMC
AD 9	Mandate and practice public participation in decision-making and training	Participation Strategy for Environmental Management		6 months		DOE	CHMC
AD 10	Strengthen civil society involvement in decision-making	Training workshop on organisational development for CBOs		1 year		MNT	CHMC
CB 1	Ensure that there is enough staff to carry out the activities of this management plan	New positions created/existing positions filled		Immediately and ongoing		Minister, PS	DOA, DOE, Administration
CB 2	Assess training and capacity-building needs to enable all aspects of effective environmental management, including (but not limited to): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Biodiversity and conservation – Socioeconomic assessment – Sustainable agriculture – Nature tourism – Tour guiding – Environmental education – Marketing – Project management 	Capacity and Training Needs Assessment; workshops; certificate programmes; university courses; XX persons trained		3 months and ongoing		DOE	DOA, MNT, MTB, MCC, UWISCS, CANARI, other training providers

#	Action	Outputs	Priority	Timeframe	Cost	Lead responsibility	Others to involve
	and development – Organisational development for CBOs and NGOs						
CB 3	Promote better and more equitable remuneration for environmental professionals	Information Paper on competitive pay ??		3 months		MALHE	
CB 4	Promote environmental careers to fill labour needs locally	Student internship programme, participation at “career days”		1 year		DOE	MNT, DOA, Dept. of Education, MCC, UWISCS

Administration – THESE POINTS NEED TO BE FLESHED OUT IN GREATER DETAIL

- Regulation and enforcement – summary of the new environmental law (and any related “enabling legislation”), agreements with land owners, zoning, etc.
- Institutional arrangements – statement about the CHMC and/or any other body governing management of CH, including expert teams, community and other groups, individuals, etc.
- Facilities, vehicles, equipment – maintenance, insurance, storage, etc. Who is responsible, how are these things funded, etc.
- Partnerships and financing – Environment Fund, overseas fundraising, etc. Who will be responsible, what are target funders, who will manage the Environment Fund, etc.
- Monitoring and evaluation – who will do it, when will it be done, how will it be done, in what form will it be presented, how will any problems be addressed

About the Centre Hills Project

Local and overseas partners joined together in 2005 to launch the three-year Centre Hills Project (CHP). The primary goal of the CHP is to enable the people of Montserrat to effectively manage the Centre Hills and associated resources. Project partners include the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Housing, and Environment; Montserrat National Trust; Montserrat Tourist Board; Royal Society for the Protection of Birds; Royal Botanic Gardens – Kew; and the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. Significant support has also been provided by the government’s GIS Centre, Legal Department, Governor’s Office, Caribbean Natural Resources Institute, and numerous private citizen stakeholders. Major funding for the project is provided by the UK government via the Darwin Initiative and the Overseas Territories Environment Programme. Additional funding and in-kind support is provided by project partners

References

- Centre Hills Biodiversity Assessment Report
- Centre Hills Socioeconomic Assessment Report

- Legislative Review Report
- CHP Participation Strategy
- Report from CHP September Planning Workshop
- New environmental legislation
- Montserrat Oriole Species Action Plan
- National Environmental Management Strategy
- Environment Charter
- Sustainable Development Plan?
- Maps (may or may not be included in one of the reports but updated versions (e.g., land ownership) should appear separately)
- Others?