

The Regional Training Workshop on Methodologies for Coastal Inventories & Information Management

Appendix XIV

COUNTRY : **Dominica**

PRESENTER : **Reviere Sabastien**

SUBJECT : **The Status Of Dominica's Coastal Resources Inventory**

With the passage of time, the name Dominica has become synonymous with the term Nature Island which by extension depicts the extent of the unspoiled natural resources there in. The unique geological form upon which the island has been structured and the environments, which have evolved through the passage of time and weathering, have been pivotal thus far in guiding the course of Dominica's history.

Notwithstanding the tremendous beauty, which captivates the hearts of all Dominicans and visitors alike, Dominica like many other small island states is faced with an ever-increasing problem of maintaining the integrity of its limited natural resources. The battle of effectively partitioning the limited resources to cater for the ever-increasing multitude of varied users continues to pose major managerial problems to our small islands. More than is the case in most Caribbean islands, the coastal resources of Dominica constitute all of the living and non-living entities contained within the two hundred and ninety eight square miles of land and its adjoining EEZ of which a very small percentage of the available resource data has been compiled and analysed .

At present, some effort is being made to incorporate the available data into GIS so as to generate a national resource inventory which would enhance the newly initiated corporate planning process.

To date, a substantial amount of data on the resources of Dominica can be located at various Government institutions and Non Governmental Organisations as indicated by the following:

INVENRORIES OF GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS

Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment, Forestry Division.

- Beach profiles
- Biology and ecology of water shed
- Forest trails

- Listing of bird species and distribution
- River monitoring (current velocity, species presence, water quality, etc)
- Wild life distribution and conservation
- National parks and the common species of plants and their distribution
- Maps of forest reserves and national parks

Lands & Surveys Division,

- Aerial photographs
- State lands

Agriculture division

- Agricultural cultivations (% aerial coverage)
- Agro-chemical (by type and quantity used annually)
- Crop diversity
- Life stock
- Food imports/exports
- Soils Map

Fisheries Division

- **Fisheries** statistics (annual landings, fishing fleet, infrastructure, etc)
- Map of marine reserve with semi detailed hydrographics
- Location of vulnerable cost line
- Coastal water quality
- Types of fishery and corresponding seasonality
- Conservation of resources
- Marine related **research (whale research, commercial fish species biology, crab research)**

OTHER INVENTORIES OUTSIDE THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

PROJECTS

- Solid waste management
- OECS-NRMU Coastal Resource Management Project (ENCORE)
- Water and Sewage project
- OECS/UNDP sponsored **GIS Project**

CONCLUSIONS

There lies an ever-increasing need to tailor the information available on the resources of Dominica into an integrated format that would stimulate greater corporate planning initiatives. Because present development trends demand more effective use of the limited resources, there is a greater need to improve the resolution of all existing data and to update what already exists. The GIS Unit is well placed for this role. A comprehensive database already exist (physical, social, infrastructural etc.) however fisheries data in lacking. Assistance is therefore needed to build up this inventory, which will inform policy makers

on matters that will impact critically on the limited coastal resources.