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Fishers and other stakeholders are invited by the CAMPAM-ECMMAN program (coordinated by UNEP-CEP and TNC with the Dominica Fisheries Division) to participate in the management of the Cabrits National Park in Dominica.

December 3rd, 2014. Last month, the Eastern Caribbean Program of The Nature Conservancy, as part of the [ECMMAN project](#) support to the Cabrits National Park marine managed area convened a series of community meetings to discuss with stakeholders of the Cabrits National Park marine managed area how to take advantage of the resources of the project “Developing an effective and sustainable community-based management regime for the Cabrits National Park in Dominica” provided by the [CaMPAM-ECMMAN Small Grants](#) (coordinated by the UNEP-CEP/SPAW-RAC) and the small grants to promote sustainable livelihoods that reduce pressure over the marine and coastal resources (coordinated by the OECS Secretariat, Social and Sustainable Development Division). Both components of the ECMMAN program aim at providing financial and technical assistance to continue the efforts supported by the [OPAAL project](#), more than 6 years ago.

The Fisheries Division assisted TNC in the organization and facilitation of two “town hall” meetings with residents on Portsmouth to discuss the project. Two meetings were held with the participation of ca. 20 fishermen each, and other interested parties. The project was explained, and videos were exhibited: “Massa God Fish Can Done “ and “Marine Protected Areas along the Meso American Reef” on the community participation of fishermen in the management of the Pedro Bank in Jamaica, and the Hol Chan Marine Reserve in Belize.



One of the most important objectives of the project is to engage the local fishers in the park management scheme. Mr. Andrew Magloire, Dominica Chief Fisheries Officer brilliantly facilitated both meetings and responded all questions posed by the participants (see photo). He emphasized that “this is the chance for the fishermen to manage sustainably their own resources in an area that will have a special management regime”. During the meetings it was apparent the lack of trust of the government capacity to establish and enforce regulations that can prevent the decline of coastal fisheries resources and

environmental quality. Destructive fishing practices such as pot and net fishing were discussed, and many fishermen agreed on the need to enlarge the size mesh and reduce the number of both types of fishing gears in Portsmouth Bay, replace pots with biodegradable materials to avoid ghost fishing and try other types of livelihoods such as ecotourism and oceanic fish (with FADs) and deep sea diamond-back squid, following the regulations and recommendations of the Fisheries Division. (photos: CaMPAM coordinator (left) tastes a delicious squid dish prepared by Gerant Guiste and Candy Stoute, Fisheries Liaison Officers (right))



The 18-month project will benefit from a CAMPAM-ECMMAN grant of \$US112,000, supported by The Nature Conservancy with funding from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) to build MPA capacity of marine managed areas in 6 island states members of the OECS. A second round of grants of equal amount will be awarded next year.

The organizations participating in the project are the Tantan Village Development Corporation (project manager), the Fisheries Division, the Portsmouth Fisheries Cooperative Society, the Toucari Beach Development Corporation, the Portsmouth Association of Yacht Services, the Cottage Village Council and others.