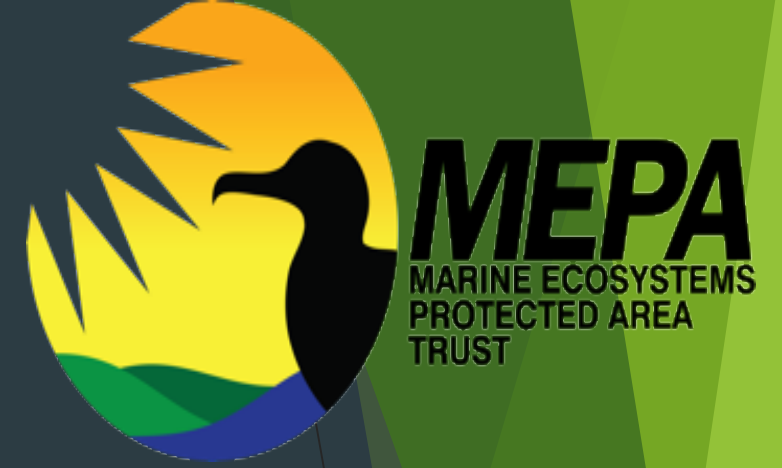


Biodiversity
is **OUR**
Business



Date: 22 March 2018

Presented at: Bahamas Natural History Conference

Overview of the MEPA Trust

- ▶ The Antigua and Barbuda MEPA Trust is one of eight National Conservation Trust Funds set up through out the region
- ▶ The MEPA Trust was duly registered on the 22nd May, 2015 under the Companies Act of Antigua and Barbuda 1995, as a NOT FOR PROFIT COMPANY.
- ▶ Aim: To provide a sustainable flow of funds which will enable the Trust to support the long term management and expansion of Antigua and Barbuda's areas of land and/or sea which are specifically dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity and natural resources
- ▶ The Trust is govern by a board of directors consisting of ten members
- ▶ Six Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and four Governmental
- ▶ Both non governmental and governmental members represents a wide cross section of civil society, private sector and government

MEPA Trust Relationship with the GoA&B



- ▶ The DOE is providing the matching financing/support to the MEPA Trust through its SIRF Fund.
- ▶ The MEPA Trust is in a two years outsourcing agreement with the DOE
- ▶ MEPA Trust Board is an interim NGO Board Member for the SIRF Fund Board. In the future, the MEPA Trust will be responsible for reviewing NGO applicants to sit on the SIRF Fund Board.

MEPA Trust Sustainable Financing Mechanism



- ▶ SIRF Fund Matching Financing- 15% of its funding will be allocated to the MEPA Trust. The SIRF Fund is a "Special Fund" in Antigua and it will catalyze internal and external funding sources to enable the country to meet its climate and sustainability goals.

Updates on the MEPA Trust

- ▶ The Trust signed the CBF Prefinancing Agreement on 23 September 2016 at the CBF-CCI Meeting
- ▶ MEPA Trust is now a member of the GEF-CSO Network on 23 September 2016.
- ▶ The Trust signed off on our first Project with CBD/JBF on the 23rd June 2016, valuing US\$229,449.70. It is called "Biodiversity is Our Business" an island wide Ecosystems Evaluation.
- ▶ The Trust has completed its grant making framework
- ▶ The Trust received and attended various training workshops to build the Board members' capacity and knowledge.
- ▶ The Trust has embarked on an initiative to have all NGO groups legally registered
- ▶ The Trust will be signing the CBF Partnership Agreement in June 2017 at the CBF CCI meeting.
- ▶ A Board member of the MEPA Trust is on the CBF Board.

Updates on the MEPA Trust

- ▶ MEPA Trust is a member of the Zero Waste Antigua Barbuda Group
- ▶ MEPA Trust is a Member of The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is the intergovernmental body which assesses the state of biodiversity and of the ecosystem services it provides to society, in response to requests from decision makers
- ▶ Key Player in Post Barbuda Hurricane Irma Relief Efforts
 - ▶ Waitt Institute/International Community Foundation, Barbuda Recovery Conservation Trust Fund - Barbuda Relief Efforts US\$253,000
 - ▶ ‘Art for Islands’ Initiative- US\$14,814.81
 - ▶ UNDP - Potential Partner to collaborate on Hurricane relief efforts, to build the Trust’s capacity. TBD

Updates on the MEPA Trust

- ▶ GEF Small Grants Program Planning Grant- Achieving Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Targets Through Local Action: Empowering Local Communities in Antigua and Barbuda to Aid in Conservation Action - US\$5000.00

Thank you!!!!

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Convention on
Biological Diversity

