



In October, 2012, protected area managers and supporting partners from Puerto Rico, the US and British Virgin Islands attended a four-day Conservation Action Planning workshop hosted by The Nature Conservancy and Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources.



The following summary report contains the agenda, participant list, attendee feedback and testimonial, pictures and pre-workshop brief.

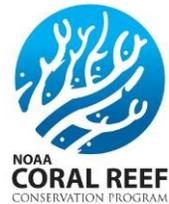


The CAP workshop was the first and to date only activity the Mona center has been used for.

CONSERVATION ACTION PLANNING TRAINING WORKSHOP

October 1-5, 2012

Isla de Mona, Puerto Rico



This training would not have been possible without generous support from and Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environment al Resources (DNER) and the hospitality and assistance from the Mona staff, Rangers, and pilots. NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program cooperative agreement with The Nature Conservancy, #NA09NOS4190173 through September 2013 funded the activity. The Nature Conservancy provided matching funds and DNER in-kind support.

**Conservation Planning Training Workshop
October 1-5, 2012
Isla de Mona, Puerto Rico**

Background and Objectives:

The Conservation Action Planning (CAP) tools and techniques that will be provided in this workshop are contemporary planning tools that incorporate community engagement techniques, consensus building exercises, sustainable finance approaches, sustainable tourism planning and multiuse/multi stakeholder considerations for designing and implementing effective protected area management.

Agenda

Monday October 1, 2012

- 9:00 Arrive Isla de Mona
- 2:00 Settle in
- 4:00 Welcome, Mona orientation, Objectives of meeting and Introductions
- 6:00 Dinner
- 7:00 Group Exercise

Tuesday Day 2, October 2, 2012

- 9:00 Expectations/Overview of Conservation Planning (James)
- 10:00 Making the Case
- 10:30 Making the Case Exercise (storytelling- group comes up with story, one reports back)
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Outcomes (goals)- targets, viability
- 2:00 Outcomes Exercise- follow with discussion- not presentation, stimulate discussion, what works, etc.
- 3:30 Break
- 3:50 Field Exercise-ID Targets- 2 groups – snorkel- identify targets, rapid assessment- not empirical, but quantitative, expert opinion (scale of confidence)
- 5:00 Adjourn
- 6:00 Dinner
- 7:00 Group Exercise? (Jeanne Brown)- (more storytelling- personal conservation story)/ presentation on what was seen, assessed, discussion

Wednesday Day 3, October 3, 2012

9:00	Review process so far, ask and address questions (reinforce what was covered so far)
9:30	Theory of Change Overview- threat ranking miradi
10:00	Overview of Situation analysis
11:00	Exercise: Break into groups and analyze the situation
12:30	Convene and discuss
12:45	Lunch
2:00	Tourism Strategy Tools (Eddie)
3:00	Strategies –presentation (<i>BEFORE</i> TOURISM?)
4:00	Break
4:20	Discussion of content so far
4:30	TOOLS Workshop- Miradi, etc. (James)
5:00	Adjourn
6:00	Dinner
7:00	Group Exercise

Thursday Day 4, October 4, 2012

9:00	Review process so far, ask and address questions (reinforce what was covered so far)
9:30	Strategy Development Exercise
11:30	Discussion on Strategies
12:00	Lunch
1:00	Strategy Effectiveness (monitoring)
1:30	Strategy Effectiveness-Exercise
2:30	Break
2:50	Work Planning, Capacity & Funding
3:20	Exercise
4:40	Wrap Up (survey were expectations met? Spend more time doing? Are there areas you feel you need more training on?)
5:00	Adjourn
6:00	Dinner
7:00	Group Exercise-how to make it participatory? Who are your stakeholders

Day 5, October 5, 2012

9:00	Depart Isla de Mona
1:00	Arrive San Juan

Participants

Conservation Planning Training Workshop October 1-5, Isla de Mona, Puerto Rico

First Name	Last Name	Position	Agency
Myrna	Aponte-Reyes	Biologa II	DNER
Ronald	Massicott	Programme Coordinator	NPT of BVI
Shruti	Arora	Intern	TNC
Sara	Aubery	Intern/Grad student	TNC/UVI
Collin	Daugherty	Conservation Planner USVI, PR	TNC
Antares	Ramos	PR Coral Management Liaison/Coastal Specialist	NOAA
Raimundo	Espinoza	Conservation Coordinator	TNC
Robert	Mayer	Associate Professor/Program Director	UPR
Idelfonso	Ruiz	Refuge Manager	
Anne Marie	Hoffman	STEER Coordinator	TNC
Kasia	Grasela	CAP Specialist	TNC
Eddy	Silva	Sustainable Tourism Lead	TNC
Lain	Leoniak	Conservation Coordinator BVI	TNC
Sandra	Ambrose	Lab Assistant	BVI-CFD
Aaron	Hutchins	Program Rep PR/USVI/BVI	TNC
James	Byrne	Marine Science Program Manager	TNC
Jeanne	Brown	VI Coastal Program Director	TNC

Conservation Action Planning Workshop Participant Feedback

What did you like about this workshop?

Location! (multiple responses)
The content, location, group dynamics, role playing, and networking
The workshop was dynamic, good to have practice.
The setting, practical aspect was good, being able to meet everyone
Everyone had an open mind, asking questions
The presentations in English was understood in Spanish
Laid-back atmosphere, opportunity to make connections. Loved it and I am really grateful to have been given the opportunity to attend.
The BVI site selection, Cane Garden Bay

What would you change about this workshop?

Having more time to explore the island, missed out of full CAP coach training.
More of a hands-on sustainable tourism section or full day, take strategies to the field.
Would bring a tent next time
Length of stay to 2 days
Spread workshop out over more days, less dense each day, shorter days.
½ day workshop with other ½ devoted to experiencing the places that we devote our careers to protect.
As a venue it is great but more services are needed for groups this size. Also, organized activities beyond workshop.
Better connections (internet), for at least 1 hour each night.
Having an inaugural event.
Having an extra flight- for options
DNER should be more organized and make things easier (or more structured) for visitors.
CAP workshop is dense enough, the incorporation of tourism is interesting but should be given its own week-long workshop because it is too light. Same with MARXAN.

Are you confident you would apply what you learned here?

Yes (multiple responses)
Definitely! My mind was spinning and thinking about my own projects
I am 70% confident that with practice with the methodology I could do CAP on my own.

What do you need to be able to apply CAP at home, at your site?

Presentations that I can borrow/steal
Retraining for myself and more in Puerto Rico
I think you did a great job. Would have you do the training again.
I would like to keep in touch and maybe be able to ask questions on Miradi. Will use it for a new ecological restoration project in Camuy, Puerto Rico
Another training on facilitation of CAP process. Invitation to participate in a real CAP process for training.
Consider Richard Margolious, FOS (BVI) for any future training.

Photos

**Conservation Planning Training Workshop
October 1-5, Isla de Mona, Puerto Rico**



BVI participants leading team on situation analysis for Cane Garden Bay, Tortola



Puerto Rico participants work through a preliminary CAP using Miradi for Cabo Rojo, SW Puerto Rico



Some participants brought tents



DNER planes landed on a grass airstrip



Island excursions involved a lighthouse, fishing villages, caves, and sharks.



James Byrne (left) presenting on CAP methods and Eddie Silva (right) presenting on Sustainable Tourism



Conservation Action Planning Participants, Isla de Mona, Puerto Rico, October 2012



18 de febrero del 2013

Raimundo Espinoza
The Nature Conservancy

Mr. Espinoza,

I want to thank you for inviting me to attend the conservation-planning workshop that was held in Mona, island, Puerto Rico during October of 2012. I am currently using the knowledge obtained in this workshop on the development of a conceptual model for an ecological restoration project that will be carried out as a cooperative agreement between the Center for Coastal Restoration and Conservation of the University of Puerto Rico at Aguadilla and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The project is for the ecological restoration of 100 acres of coastal land in Camuy, Puerto Rico.

I am using Miradi and have trained two members of my staff on its usage. My undergraduate research students are also learning about the Conservation Measures Partnership's Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation.

This training was definitely invaluable for our program in helping us improve the planning aspect of our projects.

The facilities in which the training took place were very good and the networking and input of the other attendees was invaluable for our project.

Robert J. Mayer Ph.D.
Director

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MONA ISLAND: Preparing for the TNC CAP Training



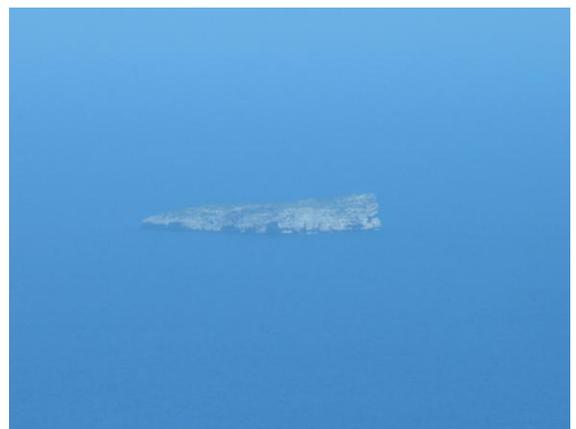
The Nature Conservancy
Conservando la naturaleza. Protegiendo la vida.



Mona Island: Background

Mona Island (Isla de la Mona) is the third-largest island of the archipelago of Puerto Rico, after the main island of Puerto Rico and Vieques. It is the largest of three islands (other 2: Monito Island and Desecheo Island) located in the Mona Passage, the strait between the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. It measures about 11 km by 7 km (7 miles by 4 miles), and lies 66 km (41 miles) west of Puerto Rico. The original name given to the island by the Taíno Indians is Amona, which means "what is in the middle", referring to the journey between the islands of Puerto Rico and Hispaniola.

Pics below - left: north coast Mona, right: Monito island



Mona Island: Background

During Prohibition the island had a history of smuggling, with its geographic location making it a prime location for rum runners to smuggle rum, bourbon, and other liquor. Today, this continues to be the case especially for a drop off point for illegal immigrants coming from Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

In 1942, at the height of World War II, a German submarine bombarded the southern coast of the island. This was one of the few incidents of that war in the Caribbean. From 1945 to 1955 Mona Island was leased to the U.S. Air Force as a military exercise area.

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Mona Island: Background

An FAA–certified airport that can handle small aircraft was built by the Puerto Rican government. This airport has no ICAO or IATA code. The United States Coast Guard is able to provide transportation with helicopter flights from Rafael Hernández Airport in Aguadilla, to help with medicines and first aid equipment; they also fly whenever an emergency requiring hospitalization occurs. Private and commercial planes require a special permit issued by the Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources to use the airport's facilities.

Pics Below – FAA certified airport; DNER airplane



Mona Island: Background

The most common form of transportation is by private yacht, though commercial excursions are available from Cabo Rojo for small groups of up to twelve people traveling together. Mona Island presently serves as a retreat (Sailing and camping) for Puerto Ricans and nature enthusiasts from all around the world, and has also become a popular destination for Puerto Rican Boy and Girl Scouts. The only campsites are at Playa de Pájaros and Playa Sardinera. In addition, Playa Uvero, Pájaros, Playa Mujeres and Playa Brava are important to visitors for recreational purposes.

The island is also home to many cave drawings that were left behind by the island's original inhabitants. Remains of the guano mining industry can also be seen.

The US census of 2000 reports six housing units, but a population of zero. The island is a ward (barrio) of the municipality of Mayagüez, together with Monito Island 5 km northwest (Isla de Mona e Islote Monito barrio).

Mona Island: Background

Due to the islands' unique topography, ecology and location, Mona, Desecheo and Monito have been nicknamed "The Galápagos Islands of the Caribbean" due to its high number of endemic plant and animal species (Mona Iguana, Mona Boa, Mona Coqui, Mona Gecko, Monito Gecko, are amongst the most well know).

On December 22, 1919 the island was declared an "Insular Forest of Puerto Rico", under the auspices of the U.S. Forest Law #22.

In July 1972 the Environmental Quality Board of Puerto Rico, because of growing interest in the development of the islands, made a full scientific assessment of Mona and Monita. A two-volume report with maps of natural and historic features was produced. It evaluated the climate, geology and mineral resources, soils, water resources, archaeology, vegetation, animals and insects, and pelagic life around the island. Shortly after studies were conducted to determine the feasibility of using Mona as a deepwater terminal for transferring oil from supertankers to smaller tankers which would continue to the mainland US; this plan was never implemented.

Mona Island: Background

The Island is currently a DNER natural reserve with an extensive marine protected area (no take-only allows for fishing on 2 designated beaches) and, though there are no native inhabitants, rangers, a biologist and a couple of workers from the island's Department of Natural and Environmental Resources reside on the island to manage visitors and take part in research projects.

Hunting is permitted in season in order to control (not eradicate) the population growth of non-indigenous species (goats and boars) because they can represent a threat to various endangered species. The hunting season usually commences in December and ends in April. Camping is allowed from May through November. Island Conservation has just entered a contract with the DNER to assess the feasibility of eradicating the cat population. A successful eradication of the rat population occurred on Monito Island.

Mona Island: CAUTION

Lastly, several special considerations need to be taken into account regarding group and personal safety.

- 4 well known poisonous/toxic plants (Indio desnudo, Manzanillo, Chicharron, Papayo). Interaction with these plants can lead to severe rashes and swelling, and if ingested (manzanillo) gastric ulcers.

- Due to its isolated location, and no available pharmacies it's recommended that you bring any prescriptions in a weather proof location. Also, while US Coast Guard, US Customs and Homeland Security do provide emergency evacuation this is limited to imminent danger situations. Currently, the first aid kit on Mona is lacking Epi-pens, if you might need one it is suggested you bring one with you and let us know.

Mona Island: CAUTION

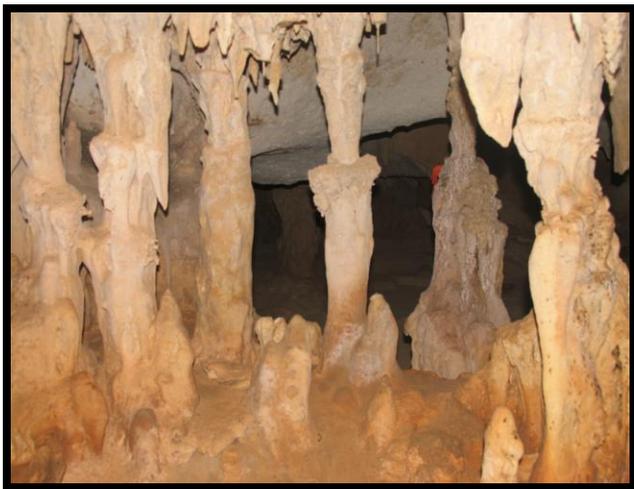
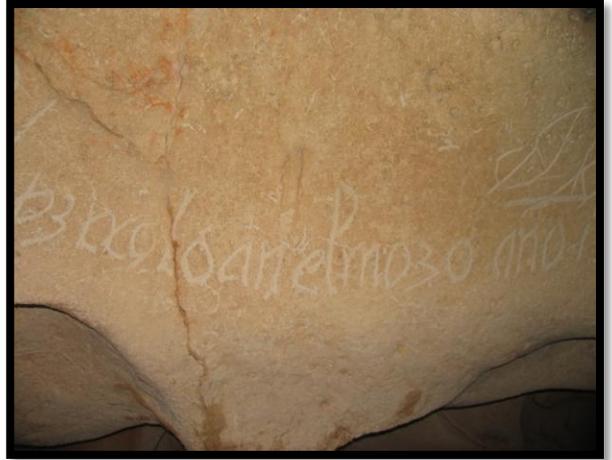
- As mentioned above, Mona and Monito Islands are used as a stop on smuggling routes. While the Island has not been witness to any violent acts associated to smuggling, precautions are still necessary. If during our stay we come across illegal immigrants on Island we need let the DNER rangers handle the situation until ICE arrives. Due to this fact, it is also important to have an ID on Island.
- Due to the dense vegetation and extreme environment several people that have strayed from the known hiking paths have been lost and many have passed due to severe dehydration. Do not stray or hike unless the path is clear.
- Lastly, as there no procedures to prevent the introduction of invasive species please do not bring any items that could lead to introducing a new species.

Land cover: Four types of land cover can be identified:

- Cactus (11.27 km²)
- Highland Forest (40.28 km²)
- Central Depression Forest (1.47 km²)
- Coastal Forest (3.77 km²)



Mona Island: Pictures



Mona Island: Pictures



Mona Island: Pictures

