

National Inventory of Wetlands and Updated Management Plan for Key Biodiversity Area (Long Pond)

Strategic Plan for Long Pond Conservation Area, St. Andrew, Barbados



Submitted by

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Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Background	1
2	Review of policies, plans and proposals with implications for Long Pond	1
2.1	National Sustainable Development Policy for Barbados	1
2.2	Barbados' Green Economy Scoping Study	2
2.3	Blue Economy Scoping Study and Action Plan	2
2.4	Blue Economy Action Plan/Roadmap	2
2.5	National Park Development Plan	2
2.6	Barbados National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2002 and 2020)	3
2.7	Physical Development Plan, Amended 2003	4
2.8	Draft Physical Development Plan (2017)	4
2.9	Tourism Master Plan 2014	6
2.10	Barbados Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan 2020	6
2.11	Barbados Coastal Conservation Programme, Demonstration Project 1998	9
2.12	Gully Ecosystems Management Study	11
2.13	The Land Conservancy Barbados Inc. Concept Paper 2022	11
2.14	Overall	11
3	Strategy for conservation and sustainable for the Long Pond Conservation Area	11
3.1	Objective of the strategy	11
3.2	Stages of development	12
3.3	Enabling conditions	13
3.4	Institutional arrangements	13
3.5	Land ownership	13
4	Conclusions	15
5	References	15

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands was created to promote the conservation of wetlands and their wise use and management. It encourages parties to establish nature reserves to reduce wetland loss and to promote research and management. Barbados has been a Party to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands since April 12, 2006, and the Graeme Hall Swamp has been designated as its first Ramsar site. Despite being a Party to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands since 2006, Barbados is only now able to finance the production of its Inventory of Wetlands.

While the Ramsar Convention defines wetlands to include nearshore coastal marine areas, Barbados' definition does not include these areas, which are covered by the Coastal Zone Management Plan. The Barbados National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan defines wetlands as areas where water is the primary factor controlling the environment and the associated plant and animal life. These ecosystems occur where the water table is at or near the surface of the land, or where the land is covered by shallow water. These ecosystems were the focus of this project.

Long Pond, on the northeast coast of Barbados, is one of the few remaining coastal wetlands of significance in the island. It is recognized for its outstanding natural beauty and is a valuable asset to the island's biodiversity. The sand dunes found in this area protect the coast from high energy wave activity which predominates in that area and are a unique habitat and seascape. The Long Pond area is being impacted by nearby development and by various abuses in its watershed and therefore needs protection. Despite their reduction in areal extent, the communities of species found in this area are 'authentic remnants' of those found in the area over 300 years ago. Additionally, several of these species are not found anywhere else on the island, making their conservation critically important not just for Barbados' wetland ecosystems but for its biodiversity in general.

Long Pond and its adjacent habitats need careful protection and planning if they are to be sustained as natural assets to this country. This wetland of significance, the water course which feeds it and the significant biodiversity which this wetland supports are important components of the natural capital of Barbados. The area has been proposed as a Natural Heritage Conservation Area in the Physical Development Plan (GoB 003). This report provides a strategy for conservation and sustainable use of Long Pond through the establishment of a Natural Heritage Conservation Area which will be referred to as the Long Pond Conservation Area (LPCA).

2 Review of policies, plans and proposals with implications for Long Pond

There are numerous national policies, plans and initiatives that are relevant to the establishment of the proposed Long Pond Conservation Area and associated amenities. A brief review of the key ones is provided here.

2.1 National Sustainable Development Policy for Barbados

This policy developed by the National Commission on Sustainable Development emphasizes three fundamental principles, Conservation of Resources, Equity, and Participation, *inter alia* that are relevant to the proposed approach to developing the LPCA (NCSD. 2004).

Subsequent sectoral policies and plans reinforce that these are guiding principles for all development in Barbados. An overarching goal of the current Barbados Sustainable Development Policy (BSDP) is “to ensure the optimization of the quality of life for every person by ensuring that economic growth and development does not occur to the detriment of our ecological capital”.

2.2 Barbados’ Green Economy Scoping Study

The Barbados’ Green Economy Scoping Study does not refer directly to Long Pond or Belleplaine but speaks generally about the need for enhanced ecotourism offerings including “providing opportunities for other visitor experiences in the National Park” (Moore et al. 2014). It also urges the Government of Barbados to “expedite the establishment of the Barbados National Park and System of Protected Areas because of its potential for tourism marketing gains and local economic development”.

2.3 Blue Economy Scoping Study and Action Plan

The Blue Economy Scoping Study and Action Plan does not refer directly to Long Pond but does refer to the need to engage local communities (UWI-UNDP, 2020a, b). Specifically, Action 1.7.2 is “Establish a process to identify and stimulate engagement of local communities and local industries in stewardship initiatives and cooperating to find environmental and sustainable development solutions.

2.4 Blue Economy Action Plan/Roadmap

Fully titled the “Blue Economy Action Plan/Road map: Implementation of an Integrated BE Policy Framework and Strategic Action Plan for Barbados”, this document does not refer specifically to the National Park or to Long Pond; but includes several general statements and approaches that are relevant to a Long Pond conservation strategy. There is an emphasis on ‘equitable & distributive socio-economic development’ and on ‘stewardship’ under the theme ‘sustainable resilient livelihoods & economic empowerment for coastal communities’ (see Table B therein).

Transformational strategy (TS) 5 - Foster Transparency and Inclusion – provides guidance for the way that community engagement should be approached. The approach to be pursued in the Long Pond conservation strategy should be fully consistent with TS5. Similarly, it should be consistent with TS6 - Encourage Blue Economy Participation Rates – which speaks to supporting small to medium scale enterprises (SMEs) involved in the BE, and the various mechanisms that should be developed. In that regard, there will be other GoB initiatives that could be supportive of developing microbusinesses at the LPCA.

2.5 National Park Development Plan

The National Park Development Plan (GoB, 1999) shows the Long Pond area as part of a larger Conservation Area, although this has not been formally declared (Figure 1). Note that this plan is referred to as the definitive National Park Plan by the Draft PDP 2017. The National Park Development Plan speaks to the development of partnerships “...aimed at attracting active or passive participation in the ongoing process of making the National Park or National Heritage Conservation Areas a success.” It states that “National Park Partnerships are valid anywhere within the boundaries of the National Park and within any National Heritage Conservation Area”. It further states that “... a special priority should be placed on development of partnership agreements within NHCAs...”. Thus, the proposed approach for development of the LPCA is consistent with and supported by the National Park Development Plan.

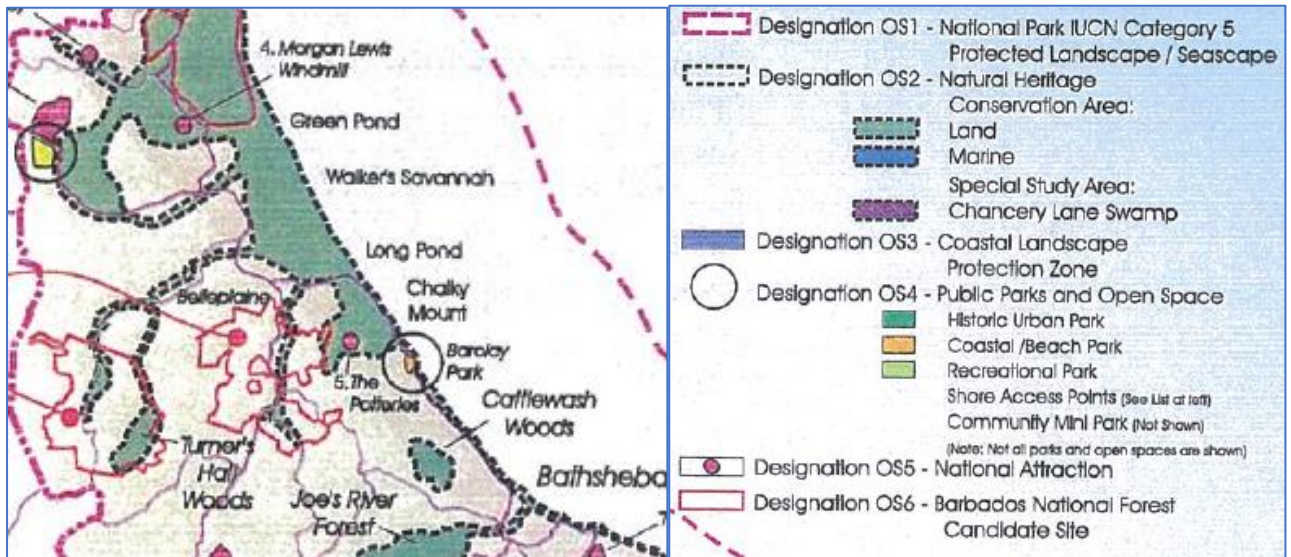


Figure 1. Designation of the Long Pond area as OS2 Conservation Area in the National Park Plan (GoB, 1999). Note that this plan is deferred to as the definitive park plan by the Draft PDP 2017.

2.6 Barbados National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2002 and 2020)

The Barbados National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) (GoB 2002) identifies four coastal wetlands as critical bird habitat – Graeme Hall Swamp, Green Pond, Long Pond and Chancery Lane Swamp. The NBSAP also identifies the dunes at Long Pond as a unique and important habitat. It states that “the island’s sand dunes are highly significant in terms of their support of various terrestrial plant communities and provide habitats and nesting grounds for various species of crabs and sea turtles among other species. These sand dunes also provide a relatively high aesthetic value to the coasts of Barbados.” It also points out that the two catchments (Bruce Vale River and Walkers River) that empty into Long Pond are important freshwater habitats. This suggests that a watershed approach will be needed.

The objectives of the NBSAP are:

1. To mobilize adequate financial resources for the management and conservation of Barbados’ biodiversity;
2. To develop the human resource base and strengthen institutional capacity for biodiversity conservation and management;
3. To conduct essential research to inform the development and implementation of management practices for the sustainable use of biodiversity;
4. To use the results of the Research Programme to develop appropriate management techniques and mechanisms to ensure sustainable consumptive use, and to preserve non-consumptive use values of biodiversity resources;
5. To revise, consolidate and formulate policy and legislation to achieve the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;
6. To promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable use through incentives;
7. To incorporate biodiversity conservation requirements into land use planning;
8. To establish effective in situ and ex situ biodiversity conservation measures;
9. To ensure equitable biodiversity access and benefit sharing;

10. To promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in various sectors (agriculture, health, fisheries, and tourism).

The proposed approach to the establishment of the LPCA is supportive of most of these objectives, especially 1, 2, 3, 8 and 9. The NBSAP update in 2020 does not refer specifically to Long Pond (GoB 2020)

2.7 Physical Development Plan, Amended 2003

The PDP Amended 2003 categorises Belleplaine as a National Park Village, recognising it as the largest of the three Park Villages - the others being Bathsheba and Boscobelle - and the proposed economic hub of the National Park. This plan is (expected to be) superseded by the Draft PDP 2017.

2.8 Draft Physical Development Plan (2017)

The Draft PDP 2017 (Chapter B-04, The Barbados System of Parks and Open Space) identifies Long Pond (and Green Pond) as OS2 Natural Heritage Conservation Areas. Chapter B-14 (Belleplaine) identifies Belleplaine as a 'Regional Centre' (Chapter 14). The Community Plan outlined in this chapter includes policies for Belleplaine related to sustainable development, natural heritage, tourism, mobility, and infrastructure. Its goals are shown in Table 1. It provides strategies to re-energize the Belleplaine community core as a nature-focused tourism centre at the heart of the National Park, achieving new economic diversity by increasing its amenity and attractiveness as a base from which to explore the surrounding culture- and nature-based attractions. These ideas have guided the proposed approach to developing the LPCA as a focal area for the National Park and as a base for microenterprises that support both the LCPA and the National Park.

The Draft PDP elaborates on the facilities needed for Belleplaine to become the National Park Regional Centre. These include a National Park Centre with a range of facilities (information centre, picnic area, washrooms, trail heads, food hub, etc.)(Figure 2). Long Pond is recognised as being an adjacent area of natural heritage value but no specific plans for the area are included. The proposed LPCA lies largely outside of the Belleplaine planning area. However, the report does show some trails in the area (Figure 2).

Table 1. The Goals and Objectives set out for the Belleplaine area (source: GoB. 2017. Draft PDP chapter 14).

Reinforce Belleplaine as the centre of the Barbados National Park.

- Construct a Visitor and Interpretative Centre for the National Park, along with associated programming and services.
- Expand the network of hiking trails and improve signage of trails and trail heads.

Revitalize the former civic hub at the heart of Belleplaine.

- Adaptively re-use the abandoned institutional buildings as locations for tourism accommodations and facilities, and community services and amenities.

Celebrate Belleplaine's location along the National Park Scenic Route.

- Use enhanced landscaping to mark the entry points to Belleplaine along the Ermy Bourne Highway.
- Provide wayfinding signage along the National Park Scenic Route denoting Belleplaine as the centre of the National Park.

Conserve the natural heritage of the area and encourage respectful visitor interaction.

- Use the proposed new Visitor Centre to educate visitors about National Park ecosystems and threatened species.
- Work with Walkers Reserve to showcase innovative ecological restoration practices.
- Establish strict development policies and trail management guidelines.

Improve mobility and connectivity between Belleplaine and the rest of the island.

- Establish a formalized bus transfer point with integrated amenities.

Embrace the principles of the green economy and nature tourism for economic regeneration.

- Encourage the development of small-scale tourism accommodation and facilities.
- Encourage area branding associated with nature and recreation.

Develop a local food hub in the Belleplaine community core.

- Establish a local farmer's market.
- Support local food vendors and restaurant proprietors in re-using vacant institutional properties.
- Support organic farming operations in the National Park.

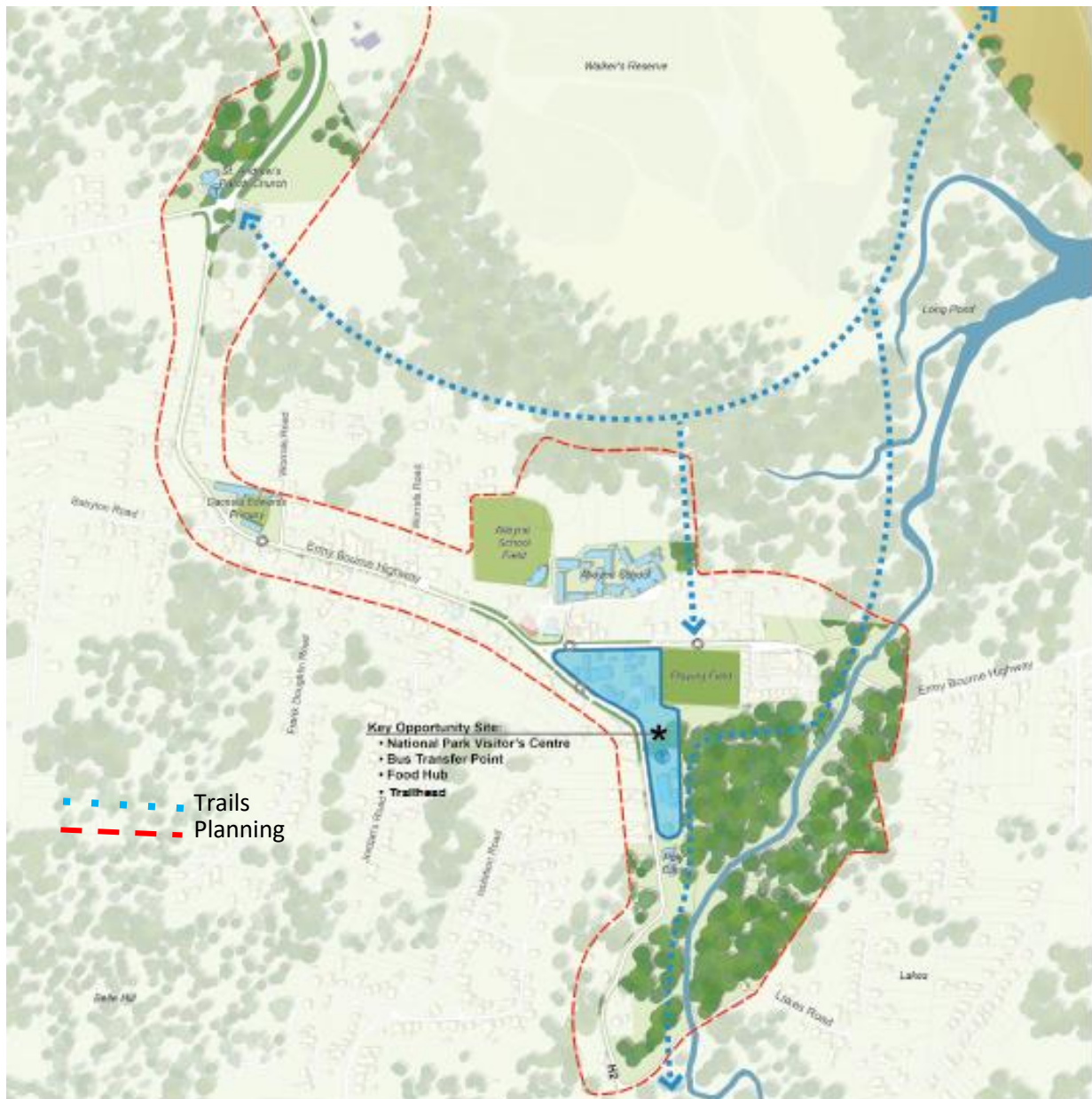


Figure 2: The Belleplaine area (Source: Draft PDP 2017)

2.9 Tourism Master Plan 2014

While the Tourism Master Plan (Environmental Planning Group, 2014) does not refer specifically to Long Pond or Belleplaine, it contains several references to the Barbados National Park. Its proposals for National Park development speak to the need to protect natural habitats, establish conservation areas, and promote stewardship. It notes that passing the draft Environmental Management Act with supporting regulations, along with strict enforcement regimes, is critical to achieving these objectives.

2.10 Barbados Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan 2020

The Barbados ICZMP speaks to the need for “a visionary, practical and focused management process that fosters self-regulation and shared responsibility for our special coastal heritage”. The plan is based on nine key principles. Several of these refer to the

need for public engagement, stewardship and partnership in the sustainable and equitable use of coastal resources. These principles and associated policies auger well for the proposed approach to the development of the Long Pond Conservation Area.

Long Pond lies within 'Sub-Area 3: Conset Point to The Choyce' of the Barbados Coastal Zone Management Plan (CZMU, 2020). The main issues and strategic objectives identified for this area are shown in Table 2.

The plan shows much of the proposed LPCA as being at risk from storm surge and flood inundation and the entire area as wetlands (Figures 3 and 4). This would suggest that proposals for infrastructural development in the area will be restricted to light uses consistent with those being proposed for the LPCA, further reinforcing the idea that the best use of the lands within the proposed LPCA would be for conservation and associated usage as outlined in the LPCA Concept.

For wetlands the CZMP criteria are:
 Connection area between wetland and coastal waters
 Areas defined as a wetland by the competent agency.

The principle of Island System Management (ISM), which recognizes the need for the collective and systematic management of terrestrial and coastal resources, is central to the delivery of this ICZM Policy Framework to ensure there is a formal policy connection created between land and sea. Nine key principles underpin the CZMP:

- Key Principle 1: Sustainable Development
- Key Principle 2: Ecosystem Based Management
- Key Principle 3: Use of sound science and best practice
- Key Principle 4: Public and Private Participation
- Key Principle 5: Islands Systems Management
- Key Principle 6: Access and benefit sharing
- Key Principle 7: Good Governance
- Key Principle 8: Environmental Liability
- Key Principle 9: Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

Table 2. Main issues and strategic objectives for Sub-Area 3 (Source: CZMU 2020)

Key issues	Strategic objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valuable sea and landscapes and natural resources in the National Park. • Presence of sargassum. • Potential for nature tourism and recreational activities. • Licensed sand extraction from dune area. • Potential storm surge risk considering projections of sea-level rise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve and enhance the character and quality of the landscape, natural and cultural features of the National Park. • Restore and enhance coastal ecosystems, including beaches, wetlands, gullies, and marine ecosystems through Ecosystem-based Adaptation interventions. • Support and enhance heritage tourism that benefits local communities, is economically viable, and is compatible with the environmental quality of the area.

- Enforce sufficient setback to allow for safety, to preserve the character of the coastal landscape, and to retain views to the sea.
- Provide opportunities for informal recreation and promote an understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park.

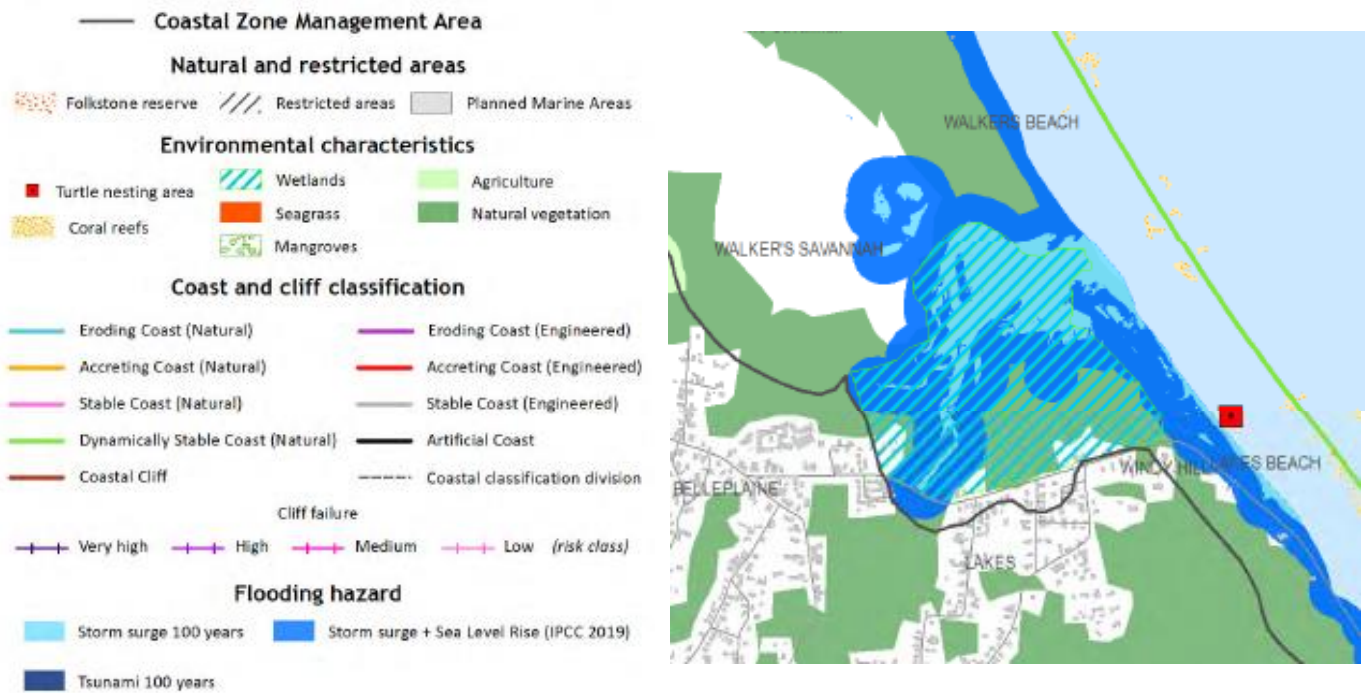


Figure 3. Land description for the Long Pond area according to the 2020 ICZM Plan

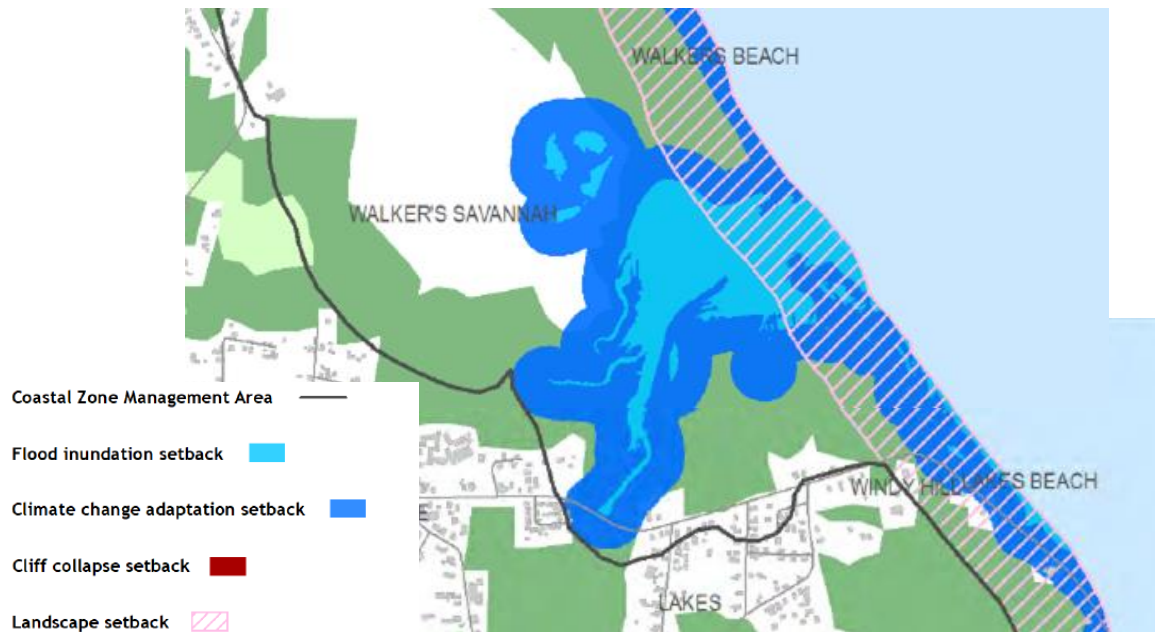


Figure 4. Setbacks for the Long Pond area according to the 2020 ICZM Plan

2.11 Barbados Coastal Conservation Programme, Demonstration Project 1998

The Long Pond watershed was one of the Government of Barbados Coastal Conservation Programme, Demonstration Projects undertaken by the Coastal Zone Management Unit (Almerigi *et al.* 1999)¹. The purpose of this project was to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to: improve their understanding of the relationships between their activities and coastal watershed resources; develop a community-based plan for establishment of a conservation area; and develop a watershed management plan.

The project compiled existing information on the physical, biological, social and economic characteristics of the watershed. It also gathered new information through ecological surveys. The focus of the biological surveys was the immediate area of Long Pond. Outputs of the project include a watershed management action plan and a field guide for recreational users of the Long Pond area (Alleyne *et al.* 1999a, 1999b). The St Andrew Independence Committee that was the major local group involved, initiated a process of establishing the Long Pond area as a conservation area (Appendix 1).

The approach proposed and embraced by stakeholders was of a self-sustaining, community comanaged, amenity/conservation area, with low-impact local and eco-tourism uses. The area to be included and its habitats are shown in Figure 3. Subsequent to the CZMU Project, a GIS analysis of the area provided spatial information needed for planning and development (Charlemagne *et al.*, 2006).

¹ Led by Dr. Yolanda Alleyne, Alleyne Planning Associates, as a subconsultant to People Dynamics Associates the overall consultants for the demonstration projects.

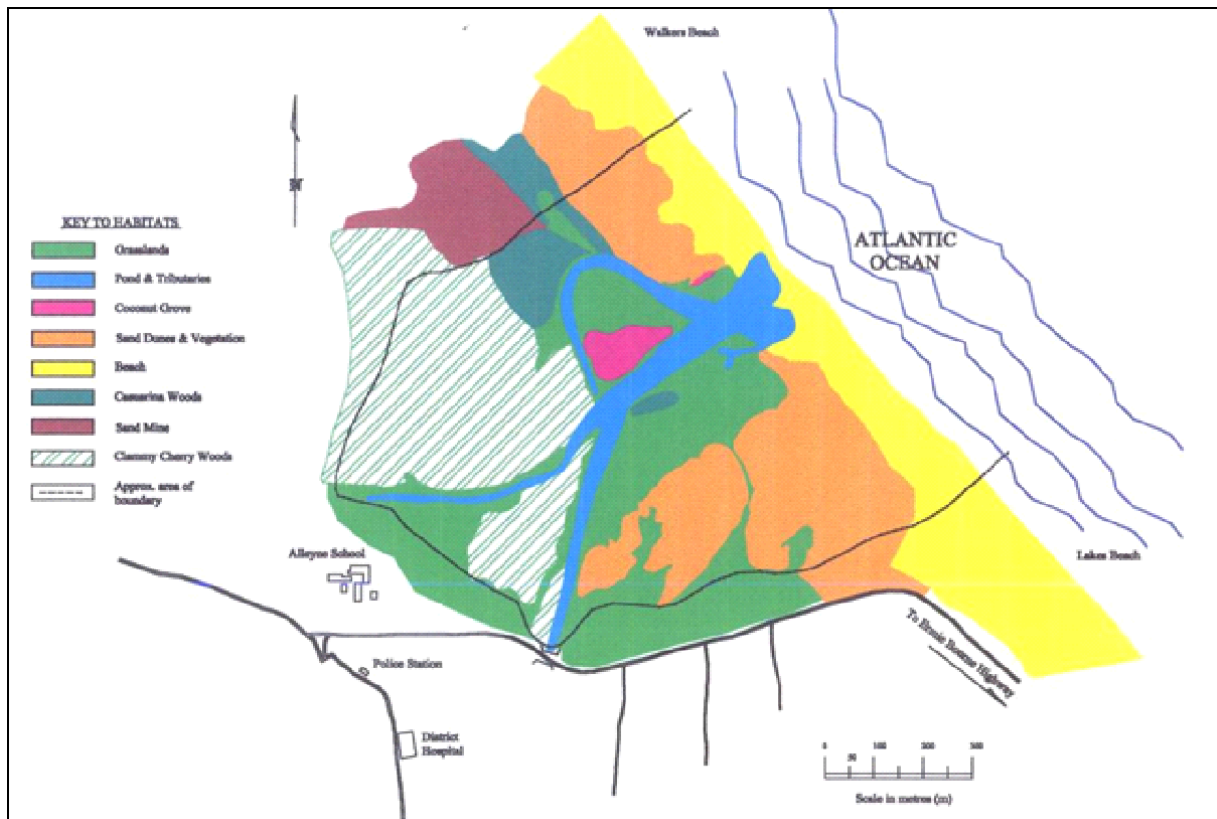


Figure 3. Habitat map of the proposed Long Pond Conservation Area based on aerial imagery from 2005.

The concept was put to the then Minister of Environment, Hon Elizabeth Thompson, who consulted with technical officers and the Town and Country Planning Department (TCDP) and agreed that they would be supportive of the initiative. They agreed in principle that the GoB owned lands along the foreshore could be included. They advised that the next step should be an outline planning proposal for TCDP.

A major challenge to proceeding with the plan was that the area is privately owned. There are about 22 owners of which three own about 74% of the approximately 40 ha (100 acres) that make up the proposed site. The value of the lands within the LPCA, as assessed in 2005 by the Land Tax Division, was about Bdos \$330,000. This would have been an underestimate of the market value of the land at the time, and this has undoubtedly increased. However, under current zoning there are limitations regarding what can be done to develop this land, and several of the smaller parcels fall within the pond. The approach that was agreed was to create, 'The Long Pond Conservation Trust', as a not-for-profit company, to start with the lands that were available from the GoB and to seek the funds needed to purchase the area². The project stalled at that stage in 2005 and has been on hold since.

² This would have required willingness to sell on the part of the owners, two of whom lived overseas. One was contacted and agreed to sell one of the two small lots she owns and to donate the other, provided that her father would be recognized on a plaque at the conservation centre. The other owner lives in Brooklyn and did not respond. The Barbados Mission to the UN had indicated willingness to help with engaging them.

2.12 Gully Ecosystems Management Study

The Gully Ecosystems Management Study (GEMS)(EPG, PDA, SEMS 2004) and Management Plan (GEMP))(EPG, PDA, SEMS 2005) do not address Long Pond specifically. However, they cover all gullies in Barbados including the watercourses of the Bruce Vale and Walkers Rivers which drain into Long Pond. Any plans for the LPCA must consider what is happening upstream in these two rivers. The GEMS addresses several aspects of Barbados' gullies: water, waste, land use, tourism/recreation, conservation and biodiversity. The GEMP recommends a watershed approach which has considerable implications for the establishment of LPCA.

2.13 The Land Conservancy Barbados Inc. Concept Paper 2022

The Land Conservancy (TLC) Barbados was registered in 2022 and has been actively pursuing the establishment of a Conservation Area at Long Pond. It has developed a Concept Paper and is in contact with community members. It held a meeting with the St. Andrews Parish Independence Committee in December 2022 in which it was determined that there is a common perspective on the area (Appendix 1). The aim of TLC is to pick up where the 1998 Barbados Coastal Conservation Programme, Demonstration Project left off.

TLC Barbados summarised their approach by noting that they would aim to "...establish a self-sustaining, community-based conservation area that will support local livelihoods and preserve the unique ecosystems of the area for future generations while contributing to the operationalization of the National Park." They promote a process that would seek to engage the Belleplaine and other adjacent communities in planning and developing the area as a Conservation Area.

TLC has formally approached the Natural Heritage Division, Ministry of Environment and Natural Beautification in 2022, requesting endorsement of its concept and recognition of TLC as the lead partner in establishing the LPCA.

2.14 Overall

The policies and plans reviewed above indicate a well-developed policy and regulatory framework for the development of Conservation Areas (Category OS2 in Barbados Open Space System). They show Long Pond as a potential Conservation Area (OS2), much of which is wetlands subject to various setbacks (ICZMP 2020). They support the idea of a partnership approach led by an NGO. They also emphasize the importance of participatory approaches that engage communities and seek to equitably distribute benefits to stakeholders. Considerations of Long Pond as a Conservation Area must align with plans for the National Park. Finally, they show that there have been efforts to establish a LPCA over the years and that there is renewed civil society interest in pursuing this objective.

3 Strategy for conservation and sustainable for the Long Pond Conservation Area

3.1 Objective of the strategy

The objective of this strategy is to provide a roadmap for the establishment of LPCA as a **self-sustaining, community-based conservation area that will support local livelihoods and preserve the unique ecosystems of the area for future generations while contributing to the operationalization of the National Park.** Light use consistent with biodiversity conservation is envisaged.

There appears to be significant agreement across all projects and plans that the Long Pond Area should be protected under the Open Space System of the Physical Development Plan. The most appropriate OS category appears to be OS2 – Conservational Area. This would still leave considerable latitude regarding the types of amenities and activities that could be located there. The national policies reviewed also support the idea of a participatory, civil society-based approach to establishing the LPCA.

3.2 Stages of development

The following strategic stages are proposed as being the most effective way to achieve the above objective. They build primarily on the Barbados Coastal Conservation Programme, Demonstration Project and TLC approaches to the establishment of a Long Pond Conservation Area. Many of them would run concurrently.

1. Pursue community awareness and engagement (including schools) to determine interest and potential partnerships (private and civil society).
2. Conduct baseline environmental assessment and establish independent conservation area steering committee comprised of key stakeholders, GoB technical members, civil society and community members. Establish key environmental and conservation objectives for the LPCA and Key Performance Indicators for evaluation. These environmental objectives will guide stakeholder engagement and development strategies.
3. Consider the boundaries, uses, facilities and livelihoods opportunities in community meetings and develop an outline planning proposal for the area for submission to the Planning Department.
4. Consider early investments (prior to formal establishment of the conservation area) in building awareness and setting the stage for subsequent establishment, e.g. signage regarding what is proposed as well as 'dos and don'ts' for the area, research, development of online resources, a school programme for stewardship of the area.
5. Develop detailed plans for each of the infrastructural components (e.g. interpretation centre, livelihoods centre, boardwalks) and submit to the Planning Department.
6. Seek funding for the above infrastructural components, either collectively or individually, according to opportunities.
7. Seek funding for acquisition of the necessary lands.
8. Develop a sustainable financing plan for the LPCA.
9. Develop and put in place institutional arrangements for the governance of the LPCA (see discussion below).
10. Proclaim and gazette the LPCA through the Ministry of Environment and National Beautification (MENB).
11. Develop a management plan for the area, including capacity development for partners, training of staff, etc.
12. Purchase lands or establish endowment agreements with land owners.
13. Seek livelihoods partners to make optimal use of the livelihoods area in the form of concessions for food and beverages, selling of appropriate items, and activities.
14. Seek funding support for livelihoods partners from governmental and non-governmental sources.
15. Build infrastructure.
16. Open the LPCA.

3.3 Enabling conditions

There are several enabling conditions that need to be in place to facilitate the process described above. These are primarily in the domain of Government departments and parastatal organisations.

- Implementation of the National Park Plan, in particular plans for the park centre in Belleplaine. Plans for the park centre and those for establishing LPCA must align in order to avoid duplication of effort and to position LPCA optimally within the National Park Plan.
- Repairing and, ideally, upgrading of the sewage treatment plant adjacent to the bridge over the Bruce Vale River in order to eliminate the current flow of sewage into the river and ultimately into Long Pond.
- Consideration by MENB and the Soil Conservation Division of a watershed approach to management of the Bruce Vale and Walkers River Watersheds. This would reduce the upstream impact from the watershed on the proposed LPCA. This could include the establishment of riparian buffers and other reforestation (e.g. Sabir and Mahon 2010).

3.4 Institutional arrangements

The options for institutional arrangements for development and ongoing governance of the LPCA are outlined and compared in Table 3.

3.5 Land ownership

Given various government designations, options for development and use of this land are limited other than for recreation or agriculture. There are about 22 owners of which three own about 74% of the approximately 100 acres that make up the proposed site. There are another 19 owners of small lots within the proposed area. Acquisition, long-term lease, or endowment of all the lands within the proposed area should be the long-term objective. However, it is possible to proceed with establishing the Conservation Area without securing all the land. The GoB owns a significant part of the foreshore and pond adjacent to the sea. Another land owner who has expressed willingness to sell owns three plots: two small ones (total 4 acres) in the area of the pond and a large one (25 acres) fronting on the Ernie Bourne Highway from the Bruce Vale River Bridge south. Walkers Reserve owns the third largest plot which encompasses a portion of the southern banks and north arm of the pond. It should be noted that Walkers Reserve, through support from WIRRED, conducts independent conservation activities within their portion of the proposed conservation area. They have indicated a desire to see the entire area become a conservation area and their willingness to collaborate.

Table 3. Overview and comparison of options for institutional arrangement for developing and managing the LPCA

Lead agency	Approach	Pros	Cons
Government of Barbados (GoB)	GoB undertakes the entire process, acquires the lands, engages <i>consultants</i> to carry out the stages outlined above and establishes a management body under the auspices of the MENB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centralised management and control. • Access to UN and similar resources more easily accessed by countries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires ongoing site level management by GoB. • Limited access to NGO donor funding more easily accessed by NGOs • GoB resources limited and technical staff fully committed
Private sector	The GoB seeks private sector tenders for the development and management of the LPCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centralised management and control. • Financial and administrative efficiency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited options for profit making. • Need for profit may be inconsistent with conservation objectives and community livelihoods. • Requires close monitoring • Limited or no access to donor funding
NGO	The GoB delegates responsibility for the development and management of the LPCA to a National NGO (e.g. BNT, WIRRED, TLC, FCT).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engenders national level awareness and engagement. • Access to donor funding resources. • Access to considerable volunteer capacity for implementation and oversight. • Several NGOs exist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires GoB oversight
CBO	The GoB delegates responsibility for the development and management of the LPCA to a community based organisation (CBO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engenders community engagement and buy in. • Increases likelihood that benefits will flow to the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One may not exist and would have to be established • If existing, may require considerable capacity building and support to take on the role.

4 Conclusions

Long pond is a significant biodiversity asset for Barbados that should be conserved with light use in a manner that is consistent with designation as an OS2 Conservation Area. It has the potential to become an ecotourism site for locals and visitors, and thence to support some livelihoods. Any proposed development and use must consider the key environmental and conservation objectives for the area to ensure a balanced approach to its development and to safeguard the natural capital of the area. To the extent that it can be combined with or at least connected to the proposed National Park Centre in Belleplaine there can be synergies that will benefit both initiatives. The Long Pond Conservation Area would be a good site at which to initiate and test civil society engagement, as was conceived in the 1998 Coastal Conservation Project and as supported by many national policies. This approach would favour the institutional option in which the GoB delegates responsibility for the development and management of the LPCA to a National NGO (e.g. BNT, WIRRED, TLC, FCT).

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