

CONSERVATION TRAINING WEEK
KINGSTON, JAMAICA
March 13th- 17th, 2006

PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT SCENARIOS

SCENARIO A – Coastal Development within the Boundaries of a Protected Area

You are the park manager of a protected area which includes terrestrial and marine components. The terrestrial area comprises a large wetland, large and small farms, a resort town with hotels, guest houses, residences and small businesses and a large undeveloped bay called Refuge Bay. The marine area encompasses seagrass beds and near and offshore shore coral reefs. You have three park rangers who operate in the marine environment – you have no rangers on land. You have boats, but only one vehicle. Your staff are trained to monitor coral reefs, fishing practices and a range of recreational uses.

You are in the process of developing a zoning plan for the marine area and are hoping to get Refuge Bay declared as a fish replenishment zone and sanctuary. You are hoping to retain mangrove stands and other coastal vegetation, sea grass beds, prohibit all fishing and water sports in this area. Refuge Bay also has a turtle nesting beach and you believe development on this beach should be kept to a minimum.

One morning, you see a notice in the newspaper that there is to be a public hearing on the Environmental Impact Assessment for the Gargantuan Resort Hotel and Spa. You fear this hotel might be located in Refuge Bay. You sit at your desk thinking about what to do. The public meeting is only two weeks away.

Can you advise this park manager?

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SCENARIO B – Illegal Logging in a Protected Area in the Mountains

You are the park manager in a large terrestrial park in a mountain range. Within the park, there are a range of activities – small and coffee farming, some plantation forestry, hiking and small scale tourism. A buffer zone has been mapped around the park, but there is no legal protection for this area. Many parts of the protected area are inaccessible by vehicle. You have ten rangers on staff; six are women. They all ride motorcycles.

One day, Sheila, your best ranger comes to your office seeking your help. She tells you that a formerly undisturbed area of forest at the end of one of the few roads into the park has had several large trees removed. She has learned from small farmers in the buffer zone that a group of men from outside the parish have taken the trees and they plan to come back with a bulldozer. They plan to cut a road further into the forest and then drag the logs out. The small farmers say the men have chain saws and were seen shooting doves. They also set a fire and burned out an adjacent area.

Sheila also tells you the men are dangerous – the small farmers have told her to be very careful of them. You thank Sheila for bringing the matter to your attention and sit down to think about possible courses of action.

Can you advise the park manager?