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Green Mountain National Park

Five Year Action Plan

April 2005 – April 2010



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Introduction

The National Protected Areas Ordinance (Ascension) was enacted in November 2003. Under the ordinance, areas can be designated as Sanctuaries, Nature Reserves or National Parks. After consultations with the Island Council and the people of Ascension, it was established the first designation should be that of Green Mountain as a National Park.

The Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP) provided funding for a year long project to develop and initiate the implementation of Ascension's first ever National Park Management Plan. This is the plan, it has changed somewhat from a management plan to an action plan, as this is more appropriate for the working environment of Ascension.

Green Mountain National Park was opened on the 25th and 26th June 2005. This five year plan outlines the outputs and activities for the National Park for the next five years. These are based on consultations with the Green Mountain Management Committee. A committee that was set up for the duration of the OTEP project composed of all stakeholders. All ideas from the committee have been incorporated in this plan.

Draft Outputs for Green Mountain Five Year Plan: March 2005 – March 2010

Objective	Outputs	Activities	Priority	Time Frame	
1.To conserve the natural flora and fauna species and habitats on Green Mountain	Endemic plant Centre	Construct Plant Centre	High	June 2005	
		Propagate endemic plants	High	Ongoing	
		Management and maintenance of Plant Centre	High	Ongoing	
	Control species introduction		Develop island wide programme on controlling the introduction of species	High	Mar 2006
			Approve species control programme	High	June 2006
			Implement species control programme	High	Ongoing
	Maintain natural vegetation		Define what natural is	Med	March 2006
			Map land cover		March 2006
			Decide what is to be maintained		March 2006
		Develop a system for maintaining		March 2006	
		Implement system for maintaining.		Ongoing	

	Land crabs (study + Public information)	Commission a study on Landcrabs Leaflets/information boards/Islander articles		March 2006 March 2007
	Protect endangered endemic species	Establish endemic plant nursery Fence wild endemic plant colonies to protect from grazing Public Awareness Clearing invasive species (which are out-competing endemic plants)	High	Ongoing (nb. High priority areas worked on up to March 2005 – identify and work on 2 new wild colonies each year)
	Protect old trees – and identify	Identify and label trees Include protection in law Education	Med	March 2007 March 2006 Ongoing
	Remove invasives	Define invasive Map areas of invasives Create programme to remove invasives Implement programme	Med	March 2006 March 2006 March 2007 March 2008
Comments:				

Objective	Outputs	Activities	Priority	Time Frame
2. To preserve and maintain the original man-made structures of Green Mountain.	Red Lion to be restored and used as a People/Vistors Centre/Coffee shop/Park Wardens house/Youth Hostel	Establish from AIG what is the plan for the Red Lion Attempt to get ownership of the Red Lion Survey the Red Lion Seek funding for Red Lion Renovation Implement renovation and advertise commercial use	High	June 2005 March 2006 March 2006 March 2007 March 2008
	National Parks Officer/Warden post established	Investigate possible change in funding (Works paths budget – Green Mountain warden) Self-funding	High	Appointment of Warden in March 2006
	Maintain the Dew Pond	Inspect the Dew pond path Renovate as determined by inspections 3 monthly maintenance of the Dew Pond	Low	Ongoing
	Maintain Monkey Rock Cemetery	Clear the weeds Renovate the graves	low	Ongoing (possibly volunteers – a school project)
	Maintain water catchments area	Clear the weeds Renovate the catchments as necessary	low	Ongoing

	Renovate and maintain the Cowsheds	Clean the building Plan the renovation Renovate	Medium	March 2007
	Maintain Caves, Bridges and tunnels	Undertake a Health and Safety assessment of all Caves, Bridges and tunnels Implement recommendation of Health and Safety assessment Include regular inspections.	High	December 2005
	Maintain mountain paths	Regular inspections Regular path clearing	High	Ongoing
Comments:				

Objective	Outputs	Activities	Priority	Time Frame
3. To develop tourism, recreational, educational and local use of Green Mountain.	Increase variety of recreational activities available on the Mountain.	Designate areas available for abseiling, and rock climbing. Warn that these areas are for experienced rock climbers only.	Low	March 2009
		Designate safe camping areas on Green Mountain	Med	March 2006
		Train and use tour guides for guided walks	High	July 2005
	Offer a variety of Educational activities	Develop Endemic plant centre and offer regular tours of the Centre	High	September 2005
		Prepare public information materials, including information boards and leaflets	High	September 2005
		Link with the school and offer guided trips for all ages to Green Mountain	High	September 2005
	Green Mountain is more accessible to people	Improved signage of pathways	High	September 2005
		Improved paths, more clearly defined, and better maintained (see also 2)	High	Ongoing

	Increased number of tourists visiting Green Mountain.	Promote guided tours of Green Mountain	High	September 2005
		Promote Green Mountain for Visitors – Leaflets at the airhead, information in the Conservation Centre.	High	September 2005
	Local population have a greater sense of ownership of Green Mountain.	Public consultations on ideas that the local population have for the use of Green Mountain Incorporation of these ideas into the next Management plan.	Med	August 2006
	History of the Mountain is preserved and promoted	Maintenance of historical buildings (see 2) Leaflet produced about the history of Green Mountain	As in 2 High	As in 2 September 2005

Comments:

Objective	Outputs	Activities	Priority	Time Frame	
4. To develop access to Green Mountain	Well-maintained roads	Regular maintenance of road	High	Ongoing	
	Adequate water system	Establish suitability of existing water system. Establish additional needs Plan to increase the supplies to meet the needs Implement the plan	High	March 2006	
			High	March 2007	
			High	March 2008	
	Adequate electricity system	Establish suitability of existing electricity system. Establish additional needs Plan to increase the supplies to meet the needs Implement the plan	High	March 2006	
			High	March 2007	
			High	March 2008	
	Adequate transport management plan	Assessment of the existing transport arrangements Develop a transport management plan Implement the transport management plan	Med	August 2006	
			Med	August 2007	
			Med	August 2008	
	Comments:				

Objective	Outputs	Activities	Priority	Time Frame
5. To develop farming on Green Mountain	Coffee plantation managed by farmers	Define the boundaries of the coffee plantation	Med	August 2006
		Divide the plantation into areas	Med	September 2006
		Advertise lease of each area	Med	October 2006
		Contract plantations out to farmers	Med	December 2006
	Banana plantation managed by farmers	Define the boundaries of the banana plantation	High	August 2006
		Divide the plantation into areas	High	September 2006
		Advertise lease of each area	High	October 2006
		Contract plantations out to farmers	High	December 2006
	Sheep farm in operation	Define the boundaries of the sheep pastureland.	Med	August 2006
		Divide the pastureland into areas	Med	September 2006
		Advertise the lease of each area	Med	October 2006
		Contract sheep farms out to farmers.	Med	December 2006
Arable farms in operation.	Define the boundaries of the arable land.	High	August 2006	
	Divide the arable land	High	September 2006	

		into areas Advertise the lease of each area Contract arable farms out to farmers.	High High	October 2006 December 2006
Comments:				

Objective	Outputs	Activities	Priority	Time Frame
6. To develop economic self sufficiency in a healthy, safe environment.	Complete risk assessment of Green Mountain activities.	Commission Risk Assessment of Green Mountain for all activities in operation. Implement results of risk Assessment.	High High	September 2005-08-25 Ongoing
	Financial self-sufficiency	Guided tours of Green Mountain	High	September 2005
		Farming of some of the areas designated in 5	Med	March 2010

Comments: