

# Draft of the 10-year Management Plan

North-East Tobago Man and the Biosphere Area

unesco Man and the Biosphere Programme

FOCUS: SWOT

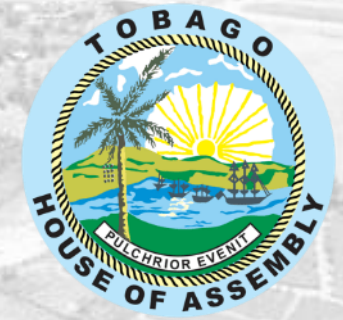
February 2024

# Draft 10-year Management Plan

Focus: SWOT

for the

**North-East Tobago Man and the Biosphere Area**



## SWOT

For this SWOT analysis, Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats relate to those factors that can be influenced through the MAB programme in NE Tobago. While Strengths and Weaknesses are internal factors, Threats and Opportunities are external factors. Those external factors that cannot be influenced are described in the PESTLE.

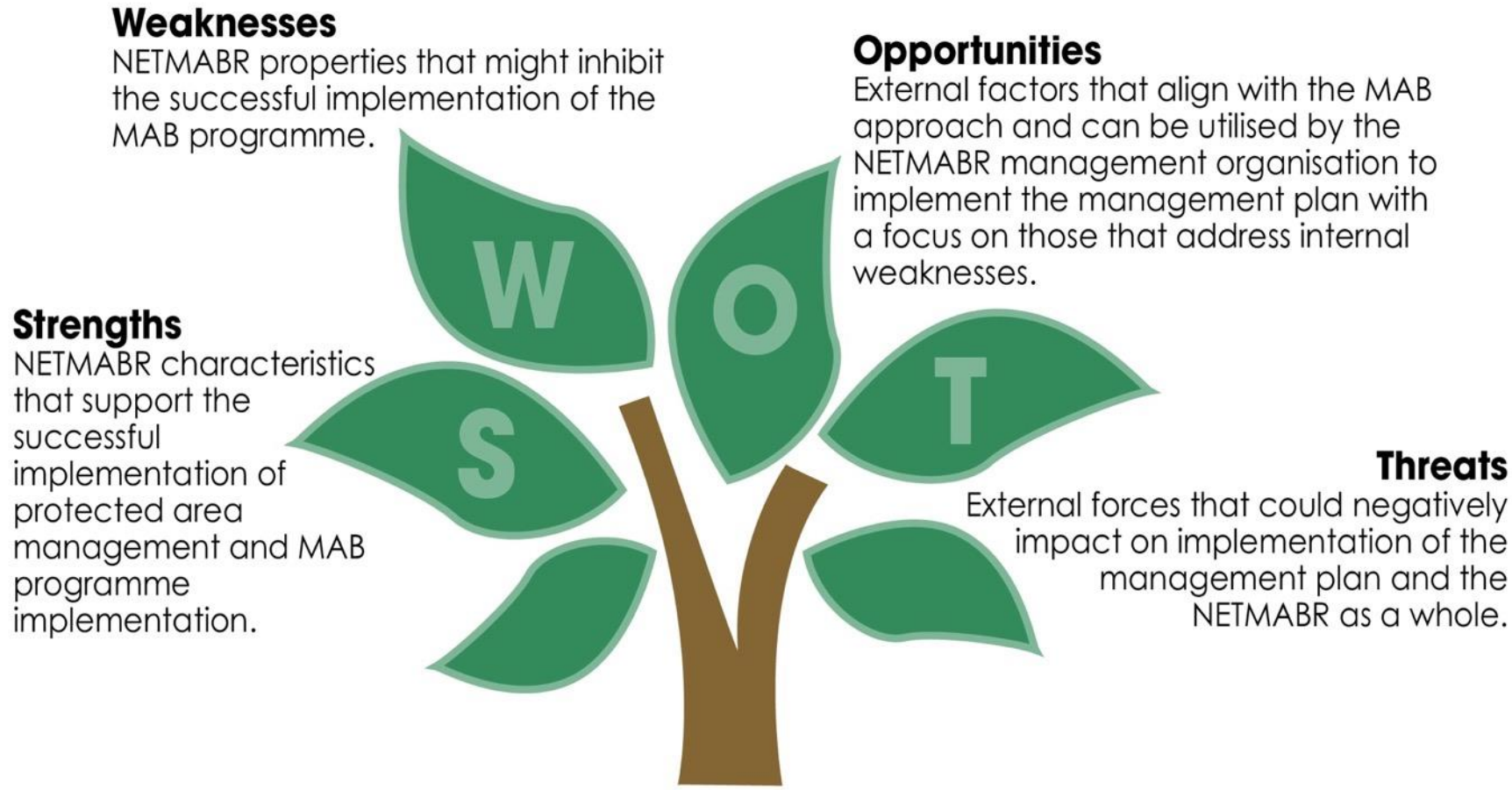



**Figure: SWOT Analysis for NE Tobago**



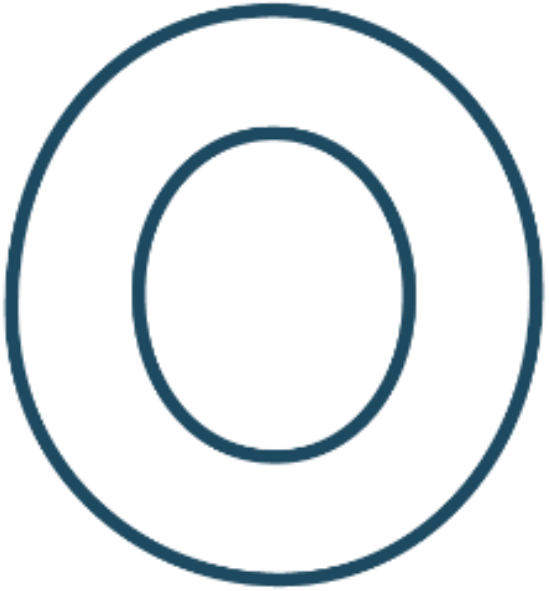
## STRENGTHS

- Outstanding, inter-connected and relatively intact ecosystems and biodiversity
- National and international recognition of critical habitats
- No large scale, industrial development plans
- No industrial pollution
- No commercial fishing
- High percentage of land unused and under forest cover
- Low population density
- Several strong CSOs
- Increasing collaboration between government and civil society
- Pool of committed leaders
- ENGOs supporting environmental education and conservation programmes
- National UNESCO MAB focal point placed in the Department of the Environment
- Rich cultural heritage
- Historical sites
- Gifted artists
- Inspiring landscape
- Six decades of environmental research
- Access to resources in Trinidad
- International travel access
- Existing international network of funders and researchers
- Access to primary and secondary education



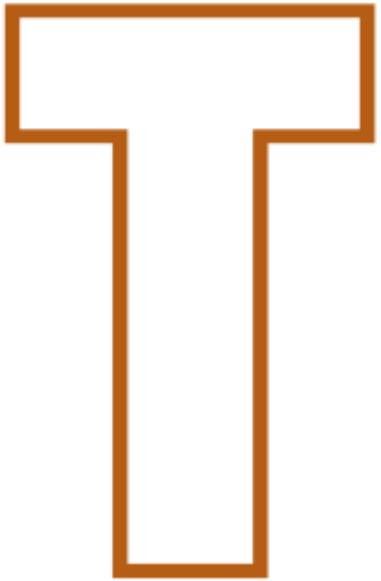
# WEAKNESSES

- THA major contributor to environmental degradation
- Low capacity of effective biodiversity and ecosystem management
- Brain drain
- Outdated agricultural and fishing practises
- Low level of entrepreneurship
- Limited educational opportunities
- Cultural alienation
- Political interference in administrative functions
- Insufficient laws, policies and enforcement
- Weak business associations / cooperatives
- Low civil courage
- Weak village councils
- Corruption widely accepted practise
- Inadequate up to date ecological information
- User conflict
- Minimal experience with income-generating opportunities in PAs
- Environmentally insensitive residential and commercial infrastructural development
- Over-exploitation of natural resources
- Liquid and solid waste pollution in populated areas
- Fly tipping
- Habitat depletion
- Wildfires
- Ecosystem fragmentation
- Over-exploitation of natural resources



# OPPORTUNITIES

- UNESCO MAB Designation
- Tobago's internal self-governance
- Current political good-will
- National and international interest in knowledge and technology exchange
- CSO/government partnerships
- NE Tobago Protected Area Management Trust
- Sustainable private land management & use
- Regionally unique combination of funding opportunities
- Sustainable green, blue, and purple economic development opportunities
- Implementation of the NPASP



# THREATS

- Environmentally insensitive residential and commercial infrastructural development
- Over-exploitation of natural resources
- Liquid and solid waste pollution in populated areas
- Climate change
- Oil spills
- Sargassum influx
- Unclear management roles and responsibilities
- Disempowerment natural resource and cultural management authorities
- Invasive alien species
- Unmanaged levels of tourism
- Introduction of new pests and diseases