

STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES, AND THREATS

of the
North-east Tobago UNESCO
Man and the Biosphere Reserve
Management Plan

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- Outdated agricultural and fishing practises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

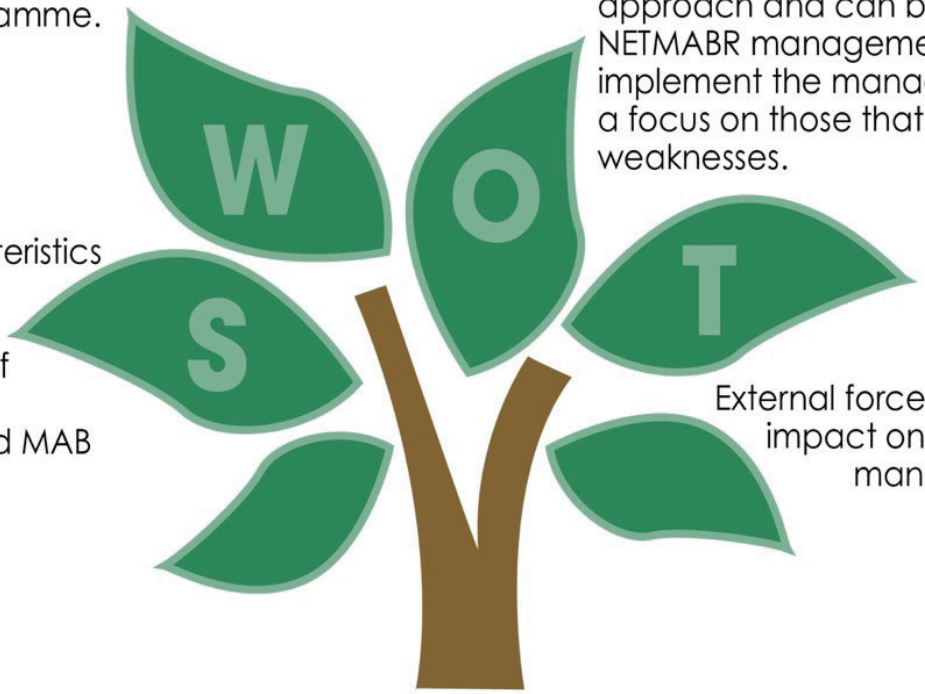
- UNESCO MAB Designation
- Tobago's internal self-governance
- Current political good-will
- National and international interest in knowledge and technology exchange
- CSO/government partnerships
- NE Tobago Protected Area Management Trust
- Sustainable private land management & use
- Regionally unique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

OPPORTUNITIES

- 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

Weaknesses
NETMABR properties that might inhibit the successful implementation of the MAB programme.

Opportunities
External factors that align with the MAB approach and can be utilised by the NETMABR management organisation to implement the management plan with a focus on those that address internal weaknesses.



Strengths
NETMABR characteristics that support the successful implementation of protected area management and MAB programme implementation.

Threats
External forces that could negatively impact on implementation of the management plan and the NETMABR as a whole.