WHAT IS TOBIMA

The Tobago Biosphere Management Alliance also called TOBIMA is a registered non-for-profit organisation and was established in March 2023 based on request of stakeholders in North-east Tobago and the Tobago House of Assembly.

TOBIMA implements the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme, improving conservation of our natural and cultural heritage, livelihoods and economies.

TOBIMA does this by using the 10-year Management Plan for the North-east Tobago Biosphere Reserve as a guideline, securing financing, building the capacity of stakeholders, and work trough community-based organisations.

TOBIMA was designed as participatory, transparent, and unbiased organisation that implements activities for and with all stakeholders. It consists of a stakeholder council, a professional board, and an implementing Management Unit.

The membership of TOBIMA consists of the THA, NGOs, and businesses operating in North-east Tobago. The membership nominates representatives to the stakeholder council, which determines overall development goals.

The Board, consisting of transparently recruited experts, determines the strategies to achieve these goals and is responsible for the overall governance of the TOBIMA.

The Programme Management Unit consists again of experts that are responsible to provide resources and capacity building to implement projects according to the strategies.

Projects are then implemented by collaborations of TOBIMA's partners: the THA, NGOs, and private businesses in collaboration.

Four Regional Advisory Committees will provide guidance to the Programme Management Unit to ensure that all projects are fairly distributed, unbiased, transparent, and according to the wishes of the North-east Tobago communities.

TOBIMA is governed by best international practises and rules that were developed in 2022 with assistance of the Inter-American Development Bank.

For further information see the chapter on Governance and Conflict Resolution in the Management Plan.

