

CARIBBEAN NETWORK FOR URBAN AND LAND MANAGEMENT

Understanding and Improving Walkable Caribbean Urban Heritage: Paramaribo, Bridgetown,
St. George's, and East Port of Spain

Progress Report

11/1/2013

Date (Month/Year)	November 2013
Name of Lead researchers	Dr. Mohammed, Gregory Scruggs and Jeffrey Soule
Project Title	“Understanding and Improving Walkable Caribbean Urban Heritage: Paramaribo, Bridgetown, St. George’s, and East Port of Spain”
Execution Time	12months
Execution Time relapsed	7months

Executed Activities

Name of Component/ Activity: 1.1 Data Gathering
1.1.1 Desktop Review
<p>Objective: To better understand how existing and potential Caribbean urban UNESCO World Heritage sites respond to the standards of the Valletta principles and Historic Urban Landscapes (HUL) guidelines in their legislative and institutional frameworks as well as their practical implementation of such policies for the purposes of sustainable transport solutions, promoting pedestrian accessibility, discouraging car use, and stimulating economic development</p>
<p>Description: Desktop review of existing literature, current preservation policies and practices, conservation and management plans, education and skills training in urban heritage and culture, and history of each locality as it relates to Valletta Principles and HUL guidelines</p>
<p>Result/Output: An assessment of historic sites, existing literature, current preservation policies and practices, conservation and management plans, and history of four historic Caribbean cities as they relate to Valletta Principles and HUL guidelines has been successfully conducted. Relevant documents have been uploaded to a Dropbox account for ease of access and viewing by various partners. Documents were organized into folders (plans, maps, images, references, legislation) to aid with the assembling of an inventory. This was completed on time despite some setbacks encountered with accessing some documents.</p>
1.1.2. Site Visits (Paramaribo, Barbados, St. George’s and East Port of Spain)

Description: Site visits to Paramaribo, St. George's, and East Port of Spain, Bridgetown for interviews, photo documentation and visual analysis of preservation standards.

Result/Output: Site Visits Overview

Port of Spain, Trinidad (March 11-15, 2013)

- Dr. Victoria Jerome-Philips, Urban Development Corporation of Trinidad & Tobago
- East Port of Spain Council of Communities
- Dr. Deborah Thomas-Austin, Managing Director, East Port of Spain Development Company
- Rudylynn Roberts, President, Citizens for Conservation
- Vel Lewis, Director, National Trust of Trinidad & Tobago
- Michelle Cross Fenty, Country Representative, Inter-American Development Bank
- Gabriel Nagy, Fiscal and Municipal Development Specialist, Inter-American Development Bank
- Stara Ramlogan, Assistant Director, Town and Country Planning Division, Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development
- Joanne Deoraj, Assistant Director, Socio-Economic Policy Planning Division, Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development
- Mayor Louis Lee Sing, Port of Spain City Corporation

Paramaribo, Suriname (March 25-29, 2013)

- Stanley Sideol, Permanent Secretary, Department of Culture, Ministry of Education and Community Development
- Stephan Fokké, Director, Suriname Built Heritage Foundation
- Ton Smit, Director, Stichting Stadsherstel Paramaribo
- Floor Nuiten, First Secretary, Dutch Embassy
- Anuradha Kamtasing, Secretary-General, Suriname National Commission for UNESCO, Ministry of Education and Community Development
- H.M. Bean, Regional Planner, Department of Spatial and Environmental Planning, National Planning Office / Stichting Planbureau Suriname
- Rabin Parmessar, Minister of Public Works

Bridgetown, Barbados (May 6-10, 2013 and June 24-26, 2013)

- Henry Fraser, President Emeritus, Barbados National Trust
- Karl Watson, President, Barbados National Trust
- Andrea Wells, Chief Cultural Officer, National Cultural Foundation
- Paul Altman, Managing Director, Altman Real Estate
- Richard Gill, Town Planning and Development Consultant
- Sheron Johnson, Director of Cultural Policy and Research, Ministry of Family, Culture, Sports and Youth
- Gail Henry, Sustainable Tourism Product Specialist, Caribbean Tourism Organization
- Alissandra Cummins, Director, Barbados Museum and Historical Society
- Kevin Farmer, Deputy Director, Barbados Museum and Historical Society
- Mark Cummins, Chief Town Planner and Chair of World Heritage Committee

- Sharon Christie, Barbados Chamber of Commerce, The Revitalize Bridgetown Initiative

St. George's, Grenada (June 26-28, 2013)

- Michael Jessamy, Heritage Conservation Specialist, Ministry of Tourism
- Nyasha Regis, Physical Planner, Physical Planning Unit
- Christian Glasgow, Council of Churches
- Nyalla Frederick, Physical Planner, Physical Planning Unit
- Tim Byam, Willie Reddit Foundation
- Davidson Nedd, Inter-Agency Group
- Roger Byer, Tricentennial Commission, National Trust of Grenada
- Aden Forteau, Forestry Department
- Fabian Purcell, Head, Physical Planning Unit
- Carlyle Glean, Jr., Grenada Institute of Professional Engineers

1.1.3. Detailed assessment of East Port of Spain

Description: Detailed assessment of East Port of Spain as it relates to the criteria necessary for achieving UNESCO Heritage status.

Result/Output: For this section, some of the work reported on for East Port of Spain was taken from an associated Research and Development Impact Fund (RDIFUND) project “*Leveraging Built and Cultural Heritage for Economic Development in East Port of Spain*” The work was referenced here as its relevance is synergistic with this project. Particularly, the introduction and bibliographic material was based on a historical framework of Port of Spain and East Port of Spain that was recently submitted to the Caribbean Network for Urban and Land Management by Professor Bridget Brereton of the University of the West Indies.

Additionally, after conducting research in the East Port of Spain area it was decided amongst the lead researchers that this city has a greater potential to be recommended as a UNESCO heritage site based on its cultural assets rather than its built heritage. Also, the focus was shifted to include both Port of Spain and East Port of Spain, although the contract specified only East Port of Spain.

For more information see narrative report under Port of Spain.

Name of Component/ Activity: 1.2 Policy Dissemination

1.2.1. Creation of technical and policy papers and academic papers

Description: Creation of technical and policy papers and academic papers for presentation at workshop, CARICOM Council of Economic Trade and Development (COTED) and in academic journals.

Result/Output: Preliminary findings and research were presented at the CUF 2013 in March in

Port of Spain, Trinidad. However, this work is still in progress and discussions are expected to continue to finalize a way forward. It is also expected that finalized products will be presented at the CUF 2014 in Barbados.

1.2.2. Presentation of Papers at policy forums

Description: Hosting of workshop session on built and cultural heritage as it relates to economic development to obtain stakeholder feedback as part of Caribbean Urban Forum 3.

Result/Output: (SEE 1.2.3 below)

1.2.3 Hosting of workshop at CUF 2013

Description: Hosting of workshop session on built and cultural heritage as it relates to economic development to obtain stakeholder feedback as part of Caribbean Urban Forum 3.

Result/Output:

At the CUF 2013, a presentation was made by Jeffrey Soule, regarding Modernity, Heritage and City Planning. The presentation can be viewed on the Caribbean Network for Urban and Land Management (blueSpace) website at the following link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/sx0y4p86lh93sbm/CUF%202013%20Presentation%20-%20Modernity%2C%20Heritage%20and%20City%20Planning%2C%20Jeffrey%20Soule.pdf>

In addition to this, a panel on Heritage and Culture in the Revitalization of Inner-City Neighborhoods: Leveraging Built and Cultural Heritage for Economic Development in East Port of Spain was organized at the Caribbean Urban Forum 2013.

The panel's participation was as follows:

- **“Evolution of Settlement structure and planning In East Port of Spain”** - Dr. Asad Mohammed (UWI)
- **“Historical Framework of East Port of Spain”**- Professor Bridget Brereton (Emeritus,

UWI)

- **“Methodology for retrospective mapping”**- Dr. Bheshem Ramlal (UWI)
- **Community Perspectives**- Wayne Jordon (east Port of Spain Council of Community Organizations)
- **Chairperson** : Dr. Perry Polar

A wide variety of stakeholders such as urban professionals, academia and policymakers attended, thereby increasing the knowledge of the historic built and cultural heritage within East Port of Spain.

Also in collaboration with the Citizens for Conservation efforts an initiative entitled *The “Freetown” Belmont Community Cultural Heritage Conservation and Tourism Project* was embarked upon to sensitize and strengthen local capacity and support for historic preservation of the East Port of Spain community of Belmont. Collaborative efforts allowed project members to participate, contribute and provide maps of the Belmont area. As a result of this process, a methodology for data collection for the built heritage aspect has been finalized and will be replicated in other communities of EPOS.

Project members participated and contributed in in the following aspects of that project (Appendix 1):

- “Cultural Heritage Conservation / Tangible/ Intangible Heritage Conservation” 14/09/2013;
- “Current proposals for Belmont community development within the context of national and local area development” 21/09/2013;
- “Introduction to community Cultural heritage conservation and tourism planning - Mapping community heritage sites” 28/09/2013;
- “Practical mapping and review confirmation and documentation of the community cultural sites” 05/10/13 ;
- “Developing a strategic action plan and working group/steering committee for a Belmont local area community cultural heritage tourism pilot programme and projects” 12/10/13

Additionally, the information accumulated here will also be presented at the CUF 2014 on May

14th -16th, Barbados.

A presentation was also made by Dr. Mohammed at an OAS seminar in Antigua Guatemala, May, 2013.

1.2.4. Dissemination on website

Description: Dissemination of information via the CNULM (blueSpace) website:

www.bluespacecaribbean.com

Result/Output: Posts can be viewed on the following links:

<http://bluespacecaribbean.com/projects-main/oas-cnulm/>

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/sx0y4p86lh93sbm/CUF%202013%20Presentation%20-%20Modernity%2C%20Heritage%20and%20City%20Planning%2C%20Jeffrey%20Soule.pdf>

Name of Component/ Activity: 1.3 Project Management

1.3.1 Assignment project management

Description: Narrative and financial reporting

Result/Output:

Contracts and TOR's were established and signed for Jeffery Soule, Gregory Scruggs.

Additionally, Carla Taylor and Kwesi Atiba were hired October 2013, as community liaisons to facilitate research activities as well as the sensitization of the communities in East Port of Spain to the project's activities. Co-financing for the hiring of the community liaisons was not forthcoming and required expenditure from this project.

Christian Jattan was also paid equivalent of a three month salary to provide technical assistance

related to the dissemination of information from the project to a wider regional audience.

Way forward

Our next steps to achieve project completion will be focused on policy dissemination activities and final reporting.