

Gales Point Community Development Plan

Produced for the:
Gales Point Village Council
and
Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary
Management Committee

2008



Executive Summary

The Gales Point Community Development Plan has been produced at the request of the Gales Point Community and Wildlife Trust, to guide the community in their future development and in the protection of the natural resources on which they depend. It has been developed with extensive community participation, and recognizes the importance of good management of the natural resources. It investigates the strengths and weaknesses of the community, identifies threats and opportunities, and presents recommendations for the future.

This document highlights the requirements identified to move Gales Point towards a more positive future, and provides the people of Gales Point with a means of articulating their goals, and the steps they wish to take to create change to fulfil the common vision:

A safe, strong, healthy, unified community, maintaining its cultural traditions, with better education, improved access and communications and more job opportunities, and community participation in decision making and natural resource management.

Gales Point Community Workshop, October 2007

Community Profile

This section summarizes the history of the community, and information on the socio-economic context, land use and natural resources, presenting statistics gathered during a survey of 96% of the occupied houses. Gales Point Manatee, with a resident population of approximately 250, is located on a narrow peninsula that extends into Southern Lagoon. Historically the community subsisted on fishing, hunting and logging. In recent years, however, there has been a shift towards a dependence on tourism income, based on the culture, traditional drumming, opportunities for good fly fishing, and the presence of manatees. Despite a promising start, the community is currently in decline, with few employment opportunities and a net emigration of people to other parts of Belize or the United States, and there is recognition that the community's future is heavily dependent on the state of the natural resources.

Natural Resources

The Gales Point community has always been strongly tied to the natural resources, with a high dependency on subsistence fishing and hunting. More recently, there has been a shift to the establishment of a tourism base, but this, too, relies heavily on the health of the natural resources, with the West Indian manatee as the primary focus. Tourism potential also relies on continued access to the many caves, broadleaf forests, and to the relatively undisturbed waters of the creeks and rivers that drain into the lagoon system. This has led to a community desire to ensure the long-term protection of the area, putting in place the necessary infrastructure for sustainability, and developing and implementing conservation goals and actions that contribute to the long-term protection of the lagoon system and adjacent watershed, and to the national goals for biodiversity protection.

This section summarizes the results of the biodiversity assessment and outputs of community meetings, and highlights areas of concern – agricultural chemical contamination of freshwater sources, declining fish stocks, and unsustainable hunting, among them, presenting a series of

recommendations for community action that can be taken towards good stewardship of these resources.

Community Development Strategies

This section presents the results of a community workshop assessing the strengths and weaknesses of Gales Point, highlighting the traditional culture, community spirit, the natural resources and potential for tourism as internal strengths. Weaknesses include the lack of employment opportunities and the problems of access, though the overriding concern expressed by all community respondents is the lack of community unity, which affects all parts of society, and negatively impacts development potential.

The report identifies three major barriers to community development:

1. *Lack of Community Unity*

Gales Point has historically drawn visitors from all over Belize, attracted by the peace, tranquility, cultural vibrancy and unity of the Gales Point community. Over recent years, however, this unity has started to disintegrate, with the community fragmenting into factions that are unwilling to work together, with a breakdown of family structure, and increase in youth crime. This has affected all components of community life, reducing tourism visitation to Gales Point, employment opportunities and external investment interest in the community, and lobbying power for social development.

Opportunities exist for assistance, but will remain largely beyond the grasp of Gales Point until the community is able to close, or work around, the current divisions and cooperate towards a common goal. The Vision Statement shows that broad agreement exists on many major issues – and lays the foundation for collaboration within the community, towards a common goal.

2. *Community Development Constraints*

Gales Point considers itself as a forgotten community, isolated at the end of a bad road. The decreasing economy of the Gales Point area is reflected in the deteriorating condition of the houses, the migration of community members out of the community, poor accessibility, increasing crime, and perceived issues with social services – the education, health, utilities (water and electricity) and waste removal services.

3. *Natural Resource Management Constraints*

The natural resources of the Gales Point area are considered an integral part of the culture of the community. The near-pristine environments of lagoon (with its manatees and sport fish), of creeks, pine savanna and karst forests, with hidden caves with spiritual and archaeological significance, have provided the community with natural resources for support of their families. The uninterrupted scenic values, wildlife and cultural integrity of the community have drawn both Belizean and international tourists to the area. Whilst Southern Lagoon itself has been declared a Wildlife Sanctuary, there are increasing impacts from both local and external sources – seine (gill) net fishing, coastal development, water contamination, and lack of natural resource management among them.

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The report then identifies strategies and recommendations to overcome these barriers though:

1. Collaborative activities to build community unity
2. Integrating planning mechanisms to assist in implementation of ideas
3. Funding strategies to assist in location of financial support and sustainability mechanisms

Acknowledgments

Many thanks go especially to Gales Point Village Council, Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Community Management Committee, and Wildlife Trust (particularly Nicole Auil) as well as all the community members from Gales Point, for their participation in workshops, for taking part in interviews, and in the planning process throughout the project.

Thanks also go to PACT for providing the funding for the Community Development Plan under the Protected Areas Conservation Trust Small Grants Programme.

Special thanks to Adam Lloyd, as part of the Wildtracks Team, for developing the mapping, Rosemary Conn, for assisting with the compiling of results and analysis of the community survey data, Nat Wong and Maria Mak for their assistance in conducting the survey.



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February, 2008

GALES POINT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Background

Gales Point Manatee is a community with a resident population of approximately 250 located on a narrow peninsula that extends into Southern Lagoon. Historically the community subsisted on fishing, hunting and logging. However in recent years the closure of the logging camps in the area has led to a shift towards a dependence on tourism income, based on the culture, traditional drumming, opportunities for good fly fishing, and the presence of manatees.

As the primary stakeholders of the Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary, the members of the Gales Point community are closely tied to the natural resources, and have made significant input into a number of conservation initiatives over the years, recognising the importance of these resources to the community.

In the last ten years however people have moved away from Gales Point Manatee and there has been reduced tourism visitation, decreasing the financial and social viability of the community. It is generally recognized that without further economic development, whether through tourism or the establishment of small industry, this small community, with its rich culture, will not be able to develop the economic base necessary for its survival.

In order to reverse this trend the community-based Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Management Committee and the international organization Wildlife Trust recognized the need to create a Community Development Plan developed in close liaison with the Gales Point Village Council and Gales Point community as a whole.

The development plan provides a framework to assist the people of Gales Point towards achieving the Community Vision:

A safe, strong, healthy, unified community, maintaining its cultural traditions, with better education, improved access and communications and more job opportunities, and community participation in decision making and natural resource management.

Gales Point Community Workshop, October 2007

The Community Development Plan has been developed using the guiding principle of community participation, and recognizes the importance of good management of the natural resources. It investigates the strengths and weaknesses of the community, identifies threats and opportunities, and presents recommendations for the future.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose and Scope

This Community Development Plan was created for and with the participation of the Gales Point community to provide a blueprint for change, taking Gales Point forward from its present state of decline towards the vision created by participants for the future, through the identification of specific steps and strategic actions that can be implemented to achieve success.

Through a series of workshops, surveys and meetings, it has been possible to create a community vision of what the people of Gales Point want to see for their community in the future, and outline the ways in which the economy, environment and people will be changed through implementation of the plan.

The participatory process has also ensured that the majority of residents within the community have been able to take part in the development of common goals, and the strategic planning seeks to involve as many people and local organizations as possible in the process.

This document highlights the capacity available within the community, and the requirements identified to move Gales Point towards a more positive future. It provides the people of Gales Point with a means of articulating their goals, and the steps they wish to take to create change to fulfil the common vision. With this they can leverage support from identified partners – whether funding agencies or in-kind supporters.

The Plan identifies the strengths and weaknesses of the community, as well as critical threats, and investigates identified opportunities, resulting in a series of strategic recommendations and actions to provide Gales Point with a path towards the future.

The Gales Point Community Development Plan has been developed using the guiding principles of:

- community participation through a fully participatory process,
- promoting social and economic benefits for the community for all sectors of society
- recognition of the importance of the natural resources, and the need for good management using the most accurate scientific information available

The first section provides a profile on the Gales Point community, including areas such as socio-economic context, land use and natural resources.

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The second section identifies three major barriers to community development:

1. Lack of Community Unity
2. Community Development Constraints
3. Natural Resource Management Constraints

and identifies strategies and recommendations to overcome these barriers though:

4. Collaborative activities to build community unity
5. Integrating planning mechanisms to assist in implementation of ideas
6. Funding strategies to assist in location of financial support and sustainability mechanisms

Who should lead implementation of the Community Development Plan?

The Village Council should lead the process, but can, and should, delegate activities to other people, groups and committees within the community. At the end of the day, however, it is the Village Council's responsibility to ensure that the activities are completed. Leaders of each activity should be chosen for their interest and motivation towards the success of the activity – the implementation of the plan should be exclusive of politics, gender and race.

This Community Development Plan has been divided into the following sections:

- **The Community Vision**
- **Community Profile**
- **Management and Protection of Natural Resources**
- **Community Development Strategies**

2

The Community Vision



2. The Community Vision

During a series of community workshops held between December, 2006 and June 2007, community members generated a vision for the future of Gales Point. This vision was then confirmed and validated during the community survey covering 96% of the occupied households, conducted in October, 2007, with 100% of survey respondents agreeing with the Vision statement.

The Vision Statement

A safe, strong, healthy, unified community, maintaining its cultural traditions, with better education, improved access and communications and more job opportunities, and community participation in decision making and natural resource management.

Primary Objectives:

- To halt the current decline in the Gales Point community
- To rejuvenate and strengthen the community spirit that used to hold the community together
- To increase opportunities for housing, employment and education
- To improve access to health services
- To reduce crime within the community
- To increase community participation in decision making and natural resource management

3

Community Profile



3. Community Profile

3.1 Background

Gales Point is located in Stann Creek District, approximately 30 km south-south west of Belize City (the largest population centre in Belize, with a population estimated at 59,400), and 30km north of Dangriga (the district capital of Stann Creek, with a population estimated at 10,400 (CSO, 2004) Maps 1 and 2). It lies on a narrow peninsular that juts northwards into Southern Lagoon, with a resident population estimated at approximately 250 (Wildtracks, 2007).



Photograph 1: Gales Point Community

The people of Gales Point are thought to have originated from a combination of Maroon settlers (Hoare, 2002) and slave logging crews during the early days of the mahogany industry. The slave crews are thought to have mostly been brought to Belize in the early 1800's from the Eboe nation of Nigeria (Hoare, 2002); the Maroons were runaway slaves who had established independent and largely inaccessible communities – and were named after similar independent communities in Jamaica, which offered refuge to others escaping from slavery. Southern Lagoon and the surrounding area has been important since the days of these first settlers for small-scale milpa farming, hunting and fishing, and a source of natural resources and forest products.

Historically, following the slavery of the early logging days, employment for the community was in plantations, stretched along the riverbanks of Soldier Creek and Manatee River, and through the forested karst, with names that reflect the origins of the owners - such as Aberdeen Estate, Ben Lomond, and Cumberland Hall.

Before Gales Point itself was established, the fore-fathers of the community occupied the Government Landing community associated with employment in the plantations, and small holdings, on the banks of the Manatee River.

By 1950, following the move to Gales Point, the major industry in the area was once again logging, with the majority of men from Gales Point being employed cutting and milling pine and mahogany, which was then carried to Belize by barge and lighters. During this period, employment opportunities in the logging industry were good, and people abandoned the traditional plantations as a source of income. With the subsequent decline of the logging in the 1960's, and high unemployment in the area, seasonal work was located outside of the community – with many being seasonally employed on orange orchards in Florida during harvesting season. Over time, some workers settled, taking their wives and families with them, providing a foothold for the migration of young people from Gales Point seeking better education and employment opportunities. This has resulted in the establishment of strong ties with the United States, with a high percentage of the younger generation moving away from the traditional subsistence lifestyle in favour of a less taxing existence in the United States, leading to significant social change in the community over the last fifty years.

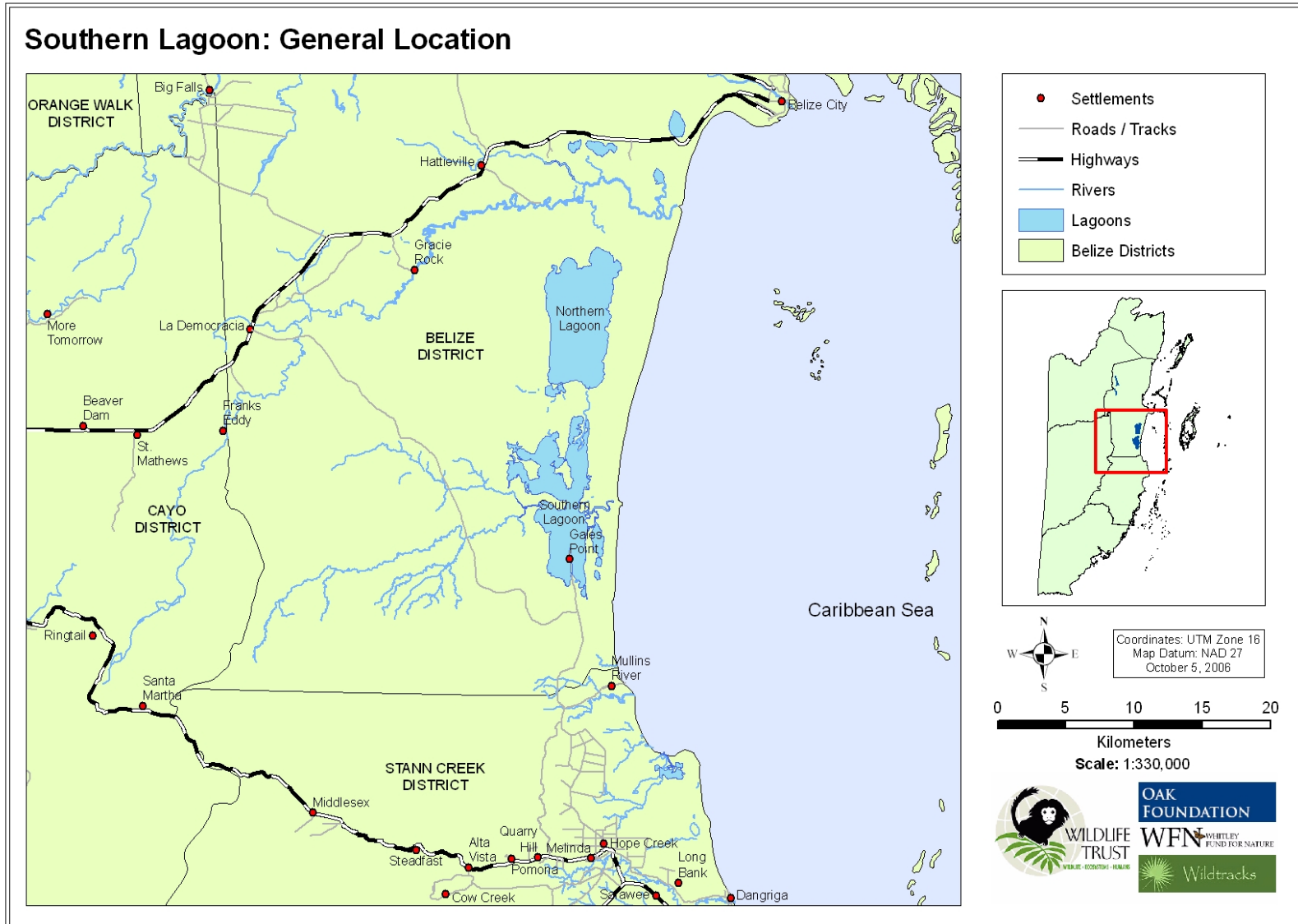
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This migration of family members to the United States has continued to this day, with over 71% of households interviewed having family working abroad, and having a high dependency on economic support from these extended community members, with 33 out of 49 households (over 67%) listing income from relatives in the USA as an important contribution to the household economy, even though these relatives are often not in high income generating jobs.

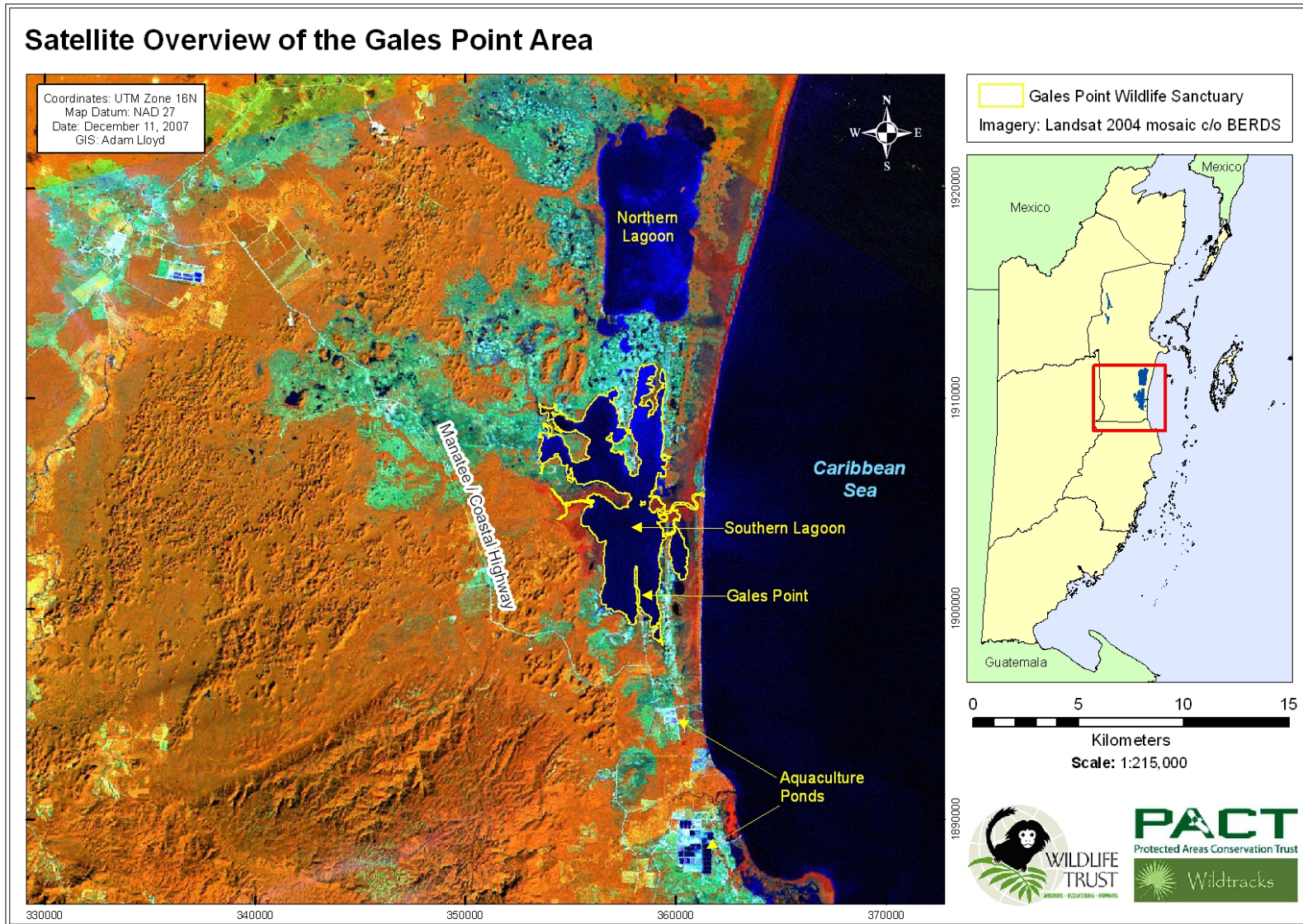


Photograph 2: Aerial View of Gales Point Community

Nicole Auil



Map 1: Location of Gales Point



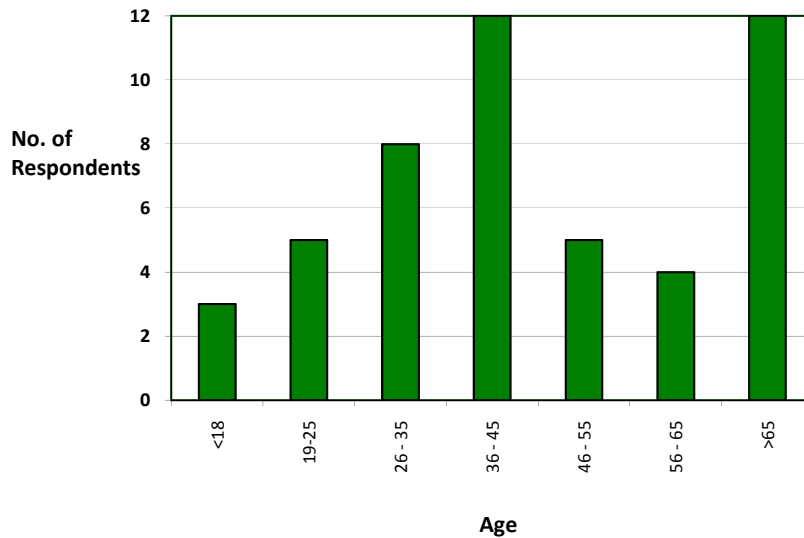
Map 2: Satellite Overview of the Gales Point Area

3.2 Socio-Economic Profile

The community profile has been developed through a survey of households and perceptions in Gales Point, conducted in October 2007 by Wildtracks, in collaboration with the Gales Point Village Council, the Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Community Management Committee and Wildlife Trust. The survey, conducted over a weekend to ensure maximum participation, identified 78 houses within the community, of which 51 were occupied, the remaining 27 being shuttered, with seasonal occupancy that swells the Gales Point population from an estimated 250 to 450. A further 18 were considered derelict. Of the 51 occupied houses, 49 households (96%), representing a minimum of 216 resident community members, participated in the October 2007 socio-economic survey to provide information for this Plan.

Demographic Statistics	
October, 2007	
Total number of occupied households	51
Total number of households interviewed	49
Average number of inhabitants per household	4.4
Minimum number of inhabitants per household	1
Maximum number of inhabitants per household	13
Average number of adults per household	2.3
Average number of children per household	2.1

The average number of people per household is 4.4, slightly lower than the national average of 4.6, though the range varied from 1 to a maximum of 13. The age range of the respondents (generally the head of the household) shows two peaks, the first between 36 and 45 years of age, and the second of over 65 years of age (Figure 1). This, combined with further discussions within the community, also reflects the migration of many adults between the ages of 45 and 65 to the larger towns (Dangriga and Belize City) or to the United States, either for better work opportunities or increased educational opportunities for their children.



**Figure 1: Gales Point Community Survey: Age of Respondents
October, 2007**

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In the last fifteen years, Gales Point has built on its cultural traditions and natural resources to create a small scale tourism base. The reliance on the natural resources of the area was highlighted when respondents were asked to list the most important factors - those of highest value to the maintenance of their household (Figure 2). Fishing, both for financial return and the ability to catch and / or eat freshly caught fish, is considered the factor of greatest importance to quality of life within the community, as indicated by 88% of the respondents, with tourism considered to be the second.

The recognition of the community's dependence on the natural resources, and the need for their active management if they are to be maintained, has resulted in the formation of the Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Community Management Committee, a community-based organization seeking co-management of the Southern Lagoon Wildlife Sanctuary, in partnership with the Forest Department.

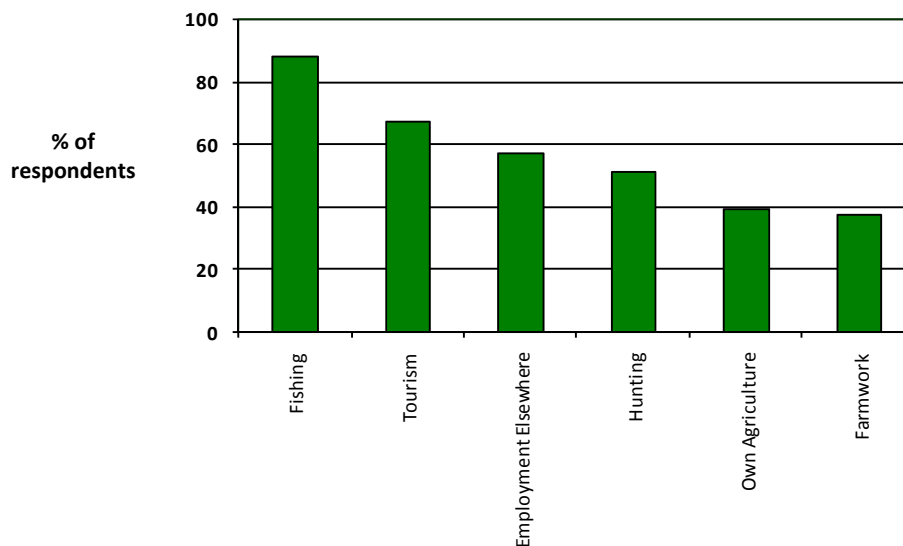


Figure 2: Factors considered important for the maintenance of households in Gales Point - October, 2007

Game meat is also a traditional resource, highly valued by the community members, ranking as the fourth most important factor for the maintenance of households within the community. The ownership of agricultural land and work in the agricultural sector, are considered among the least important activities, recognized by community members as a shift from the former, pre-1960's heavy reliance on agriculture, with only 31% of respondents currently owning farmland, where the traditional cassava, plantain, coco, corn and watermelon crops are grown. Of these respondents, several commented that whilst they owned farmland, they no longer farmed.

3.3 Housing

The residential area of Gales Point is strung out along the peninsula, with a single main road connecting houses and empty house lots (Photographs 5 - 8). Houses generally sit in their own lots, often with separate kitchen and outhouse structures. There is a high level of ownership, with 77% of respondents owning their own house, and 88% owning their own house lots. Many of those living in houses owned by extended family have their own house lots, whilst accumulating sufficient funds to construct their own houses.

Whilst concrete is considered nationally as the building material of choice in coastal areas, with the ever present threat of hurricanes, the majority of houses in Gales Point have wooden walls (80%), windows (76%) and floors (67%), with zinc roofing (96%) (Figures 3-5).

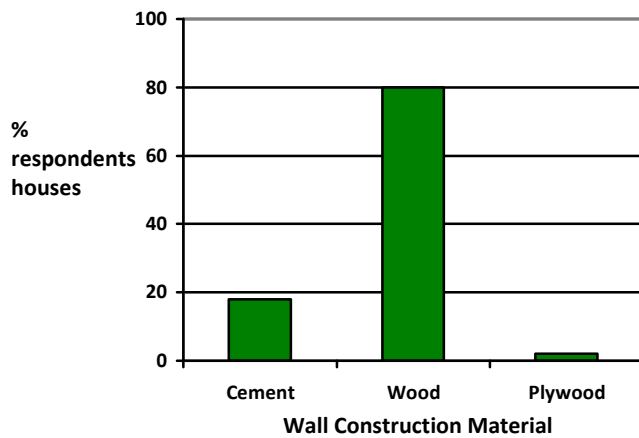


Figure 3: Gales Point Community Survey: Wall Material October, 2007



Photograph 3: Gales Point Community

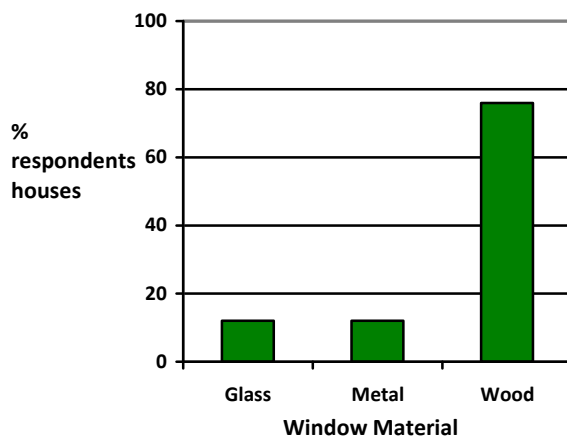


Figure 4: Gales Point Community Survey: Window Material October, 2007

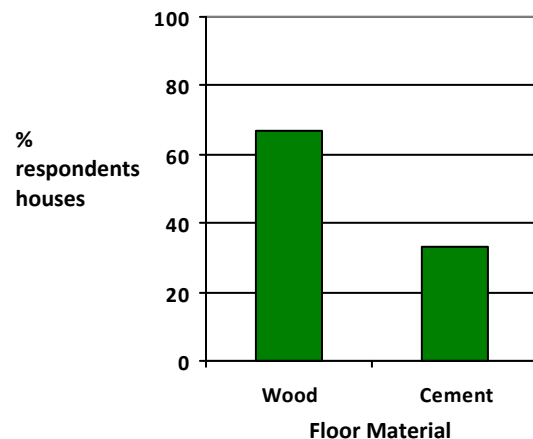
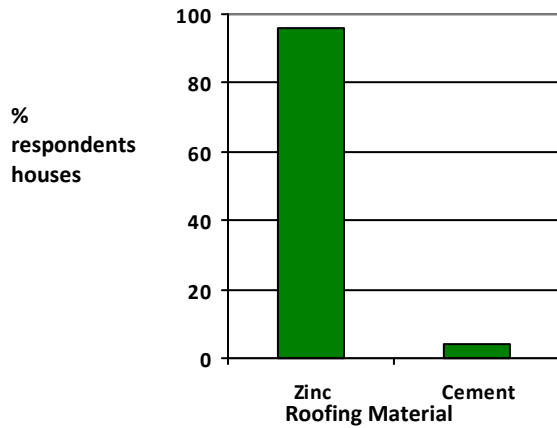


Figure 5: Gales Point Community Survey: Floor Material October, 2007



Very few houses are constructed of cement, and many are in need of repair, suggesting that finance within the community has been better in the past than is currently the case. A number of wooden houses have been abandoned, as families move out of the village. Of the concrete houses within the community, the majority have been shuttered, with indications that they are not a primary residence, but only used seasonally.

Figure 6:
Gales Point Community Survey: Roofing
Material October, 2007

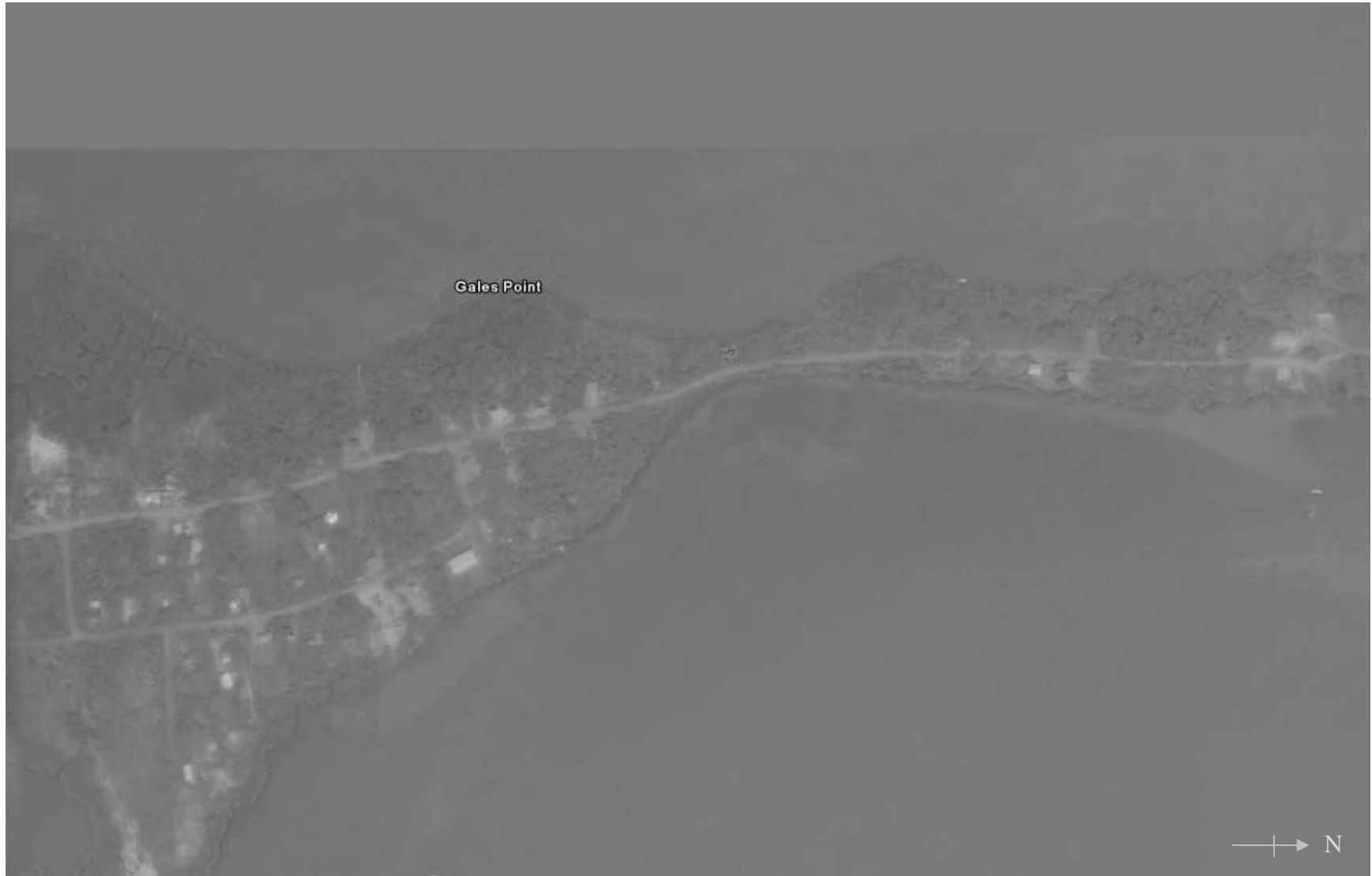


Photograph 4: Gales Point Community



Photograph 5: The Gales Point Peninsula

Adapted from Google Earth, 2007



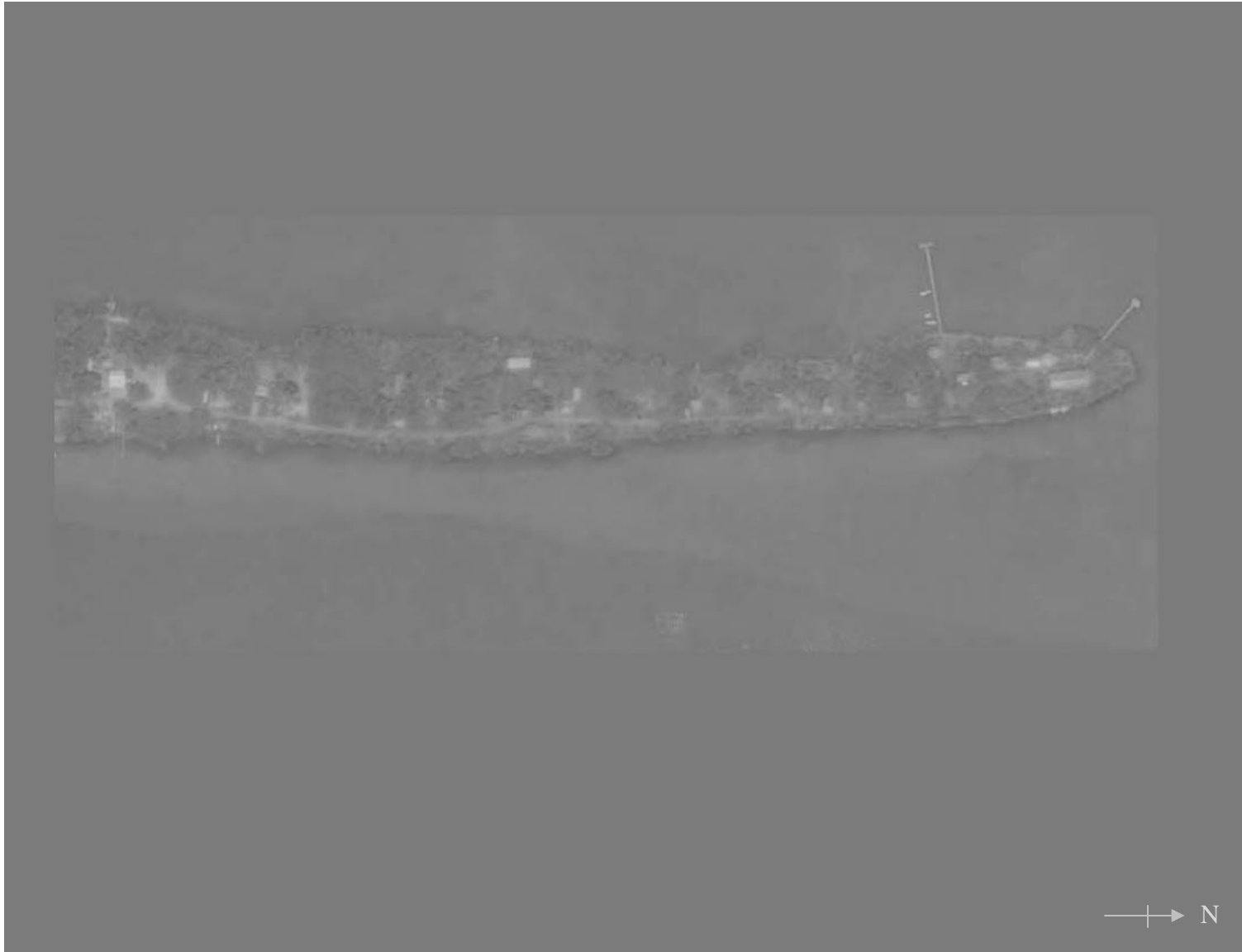
Photograph 6: The Gales Point Peninsula (a)

Adapted from Google Earth, 2007



Photograph 7: The Gales Point Peninsula (b)

Adapted from Google Earth, 2007



Photograph 8: The Gales Point Peninsula (c)

Adapted from Google Earth, 2007

3.4 Lifestyle Indicators

A series of Lifestyle Indicators were used to provide a baseline for relative standard of living, through ownership of a number of key and luxury items (Table 1).

The majority of households own a stove (90%), though a number of the elder respondents, reliant on limited state pensions, commented on the problems of obtaining and paying for butane.

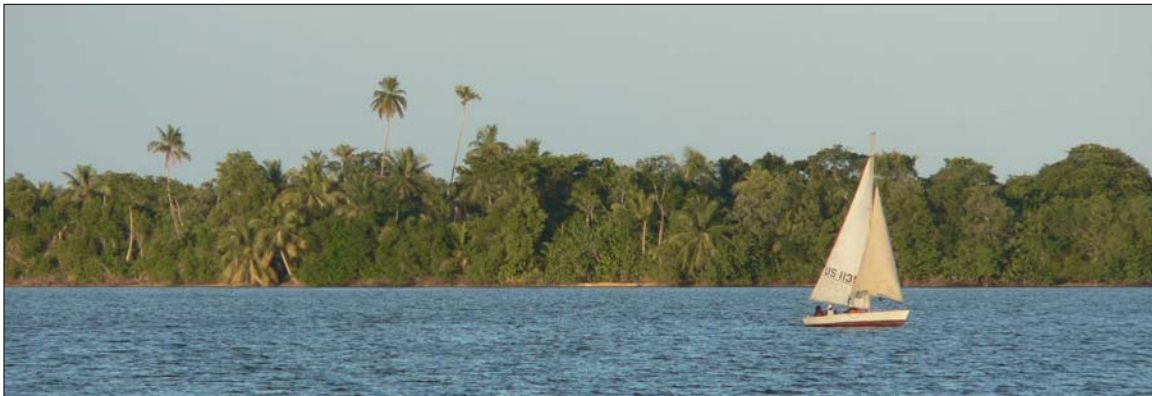
The majority of households also have a stereo system (73%), TV (71%), and refrigerator (71%). Many households have possessions given by family members in the USA – particularly luxury items such as TV, DVD players, and even the more basic items such as stoves and refrigerators.

Despite the isolated nature of the community, very few households have ownership of a vehicle (19%), with the majority of community members being reliant on the twice-weekly bus service to provide them with transport when travelling outside the community. This has effectively isolated the community, making access difficult not only for community members, but also for the tourism sector, a market considered important for reviving the economy of Gales Point. This lack of transport is also cause for concern among residents with respect to health care facilities, especially for the elderly.

Within the Gales Point area, transport is primarily by foot or bicycle, with 77% of households having a bicycle. Only 35% of households have a phone in their house, though the community has access to a community payphone. Even though Gales Point is heavily reliant on fishing, only 29% of households have outboard motors, the majority of people relying on non-mechanized sailboats and dories, reflecting the low level of mechanization that is associated with low finance availability. In total though, 58% of households have some form of boat access to the lagoon.

Lifestyle Indicators	
Possession	% of respondents
Stove	90%
House lot	88%
House	77%
Bicycle	77%
Stereo	73%
TV	71%
Refrigerator	71%
VCR/DVD player	60%
Washer	54%
Phone	35%
Farm	31%
Outboard	29%
Skiff	27%
Canoe (dory)	21%
Vehicle	19%
Sailboat	10%

**Table 1: Lifestyle Indicators
October, 2007**



3.5 Economic Profile

A common theme running through the responses to the survey questionnaire was the lack of employment opportunities within Gales Point, with 64% of respondents rating this as 'Poor' or 'Fair', and 0% rating this as 'Very Good' (Figure 7).

When assessing sources of income for the community, fishing was identified as the most common primary source of income for households (21%) in Gales Point, followed closely by income for relatives living abroad (Figure 8). There is a high dependency on funds sent by family members in the USA, this being identified as the second most common source of primary income within the community. 71% of households surveyed have family working abroad, the majority of these in the USA. A number of respondents commented that with the gradual breakdown of family structure over the last fifteen to twenty years, this link is starting to weaken, and there is already less assistance flowing into the community from this avenue than was previously the case.



Figure 7: Gales Point Community Survey: Rating of Employment Opportunities October, 2007

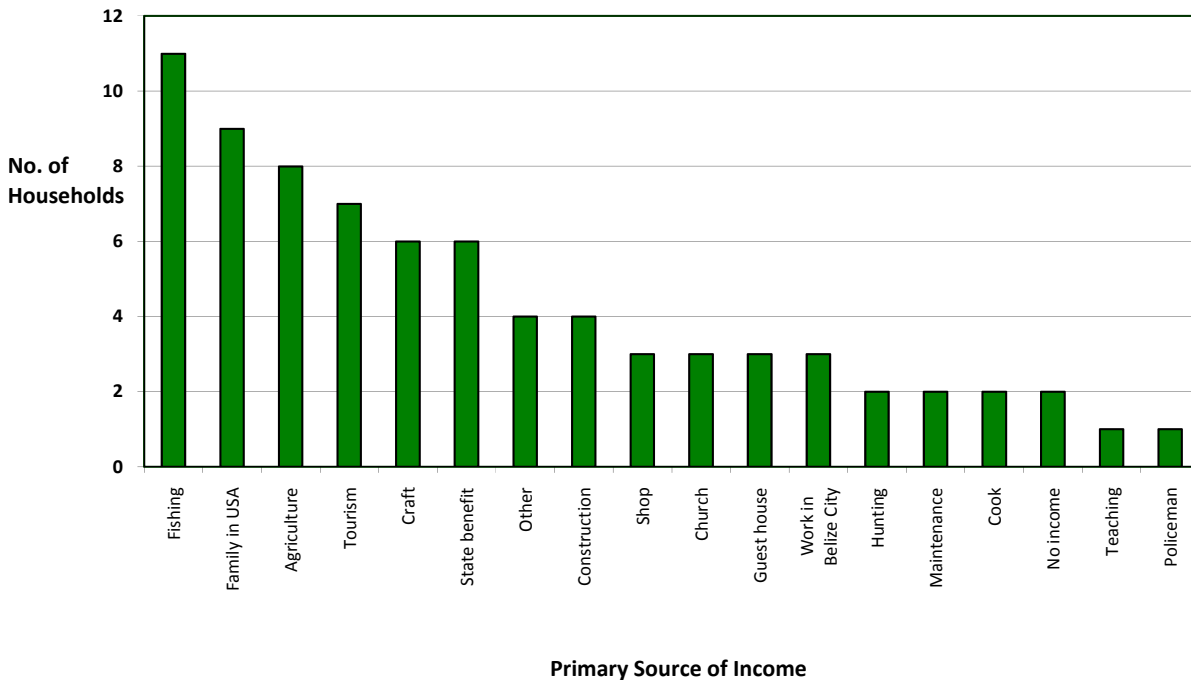


Figure 8: Gales Point Community Survey: Primary Income Source per Household October, 2007

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Also highlighted as income sources were agriculture, tourism-related activities, and work in population centers outside of the community (Dangriga, Belize City or the USA). Of those households surveyed, 24% relied on the contribution of women to the household income.

It is generally recognized that without further economic development, whether through tourism or the establishment of small industry, this small community, with its rich culture, will not be able to develop the economic base necessary for its survival. However, the people of Gales Point have been trying. In the last fifteen years or so, Gales Point built on its cultural traditions and natural resources to create a small scale tourism base. Unfortunately, despite a positive start, based on Bed and Breakfast facilities, several establishments had to close, as they were not viable on the level of tourism visitation to the community.

A number of employment opportunities have been identified within the area, associated with tourism, but it is generally agreed that there is insufficient employment to sustain the community, and that there is a need to encourage private investors to establish facilities in or adjacent to Gales Point, focused primarily on tourism and agricultural products.

With the influx of funds from the United States, there has also been a shift from the previous self-sufficiency of farming, fishing, and hunting with expectations of the younger generation being much higher than those of their parents. Job opportunities in adjacent farming operations are therefore taken by Central American immigrants, less reluctant to work for the lower pay. Coupled with increasing drug use, the high unemployment has led to problems of increasing crime within the community.

There is general agreement that improving tourism would provide more job opportunities – both employment and self-employment - within the community, with recognition that this would require better access, rejuvenation of the bed and breakfast establishments, and a more united community.

Building on the strengths, such as the reputation as drum makers, provides opportunities for training and employment of younger people willing to develop craft skills, if assistance can be located for international marketing.

3.6 Land Use Profile

Gales Point and the adjacent lands are situated in the Manatee Special Development Area, a combination of national and private lands recognized for their ecological sensitivity. The SDA was established in 1992 (SI 162 of 92) to rationalize land use planning following the construction of the Coastal Road, which has provided easier access to the area, with the associated increase in land use change. The Special Development Area (SDA) extends southwards from the Sibun River (north of Northern Lagoon), to just north of Mullins River, following the coast to the east and the Coastal Road to the west.

The Southern Lagoon area is characterized by two main geological features – the low to medium height karst hills formed from Cretaceous limestone rocks of the Campur formation (Miller, 1996), and those of the younger, low lying Pleistocene coastal plain (Annex 1: Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary and Adjacent Areas: Biodiversity Assessment, 2006).

The Sibun-Manatee karst region lies primarily in Manatee Forest Reserve, in the north west and west of the Southern Lagoon area. Much of the area to the north-west is tower karst -

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the hardest remnants of the original cretaceous limestone, rising out of a flat valley floor. To the west, the limestone terrain rises to the foothills of the Maya Mountains Massif. Characteristic of this geology are the numerous caves found throughout the area, such as Ben Lomond to the north, as well as sinkholes and underground streams.

The Pleistocene coastal plain is much flatter terrain, supporting acidic soils with pine and extensive short grass savanna. The largest natural features are the two large lagoons – Northern and Southern Lagoons, the latter declared as the Gales Point (West Indian Manatee) Wildlife Sanctuary by the Government of Belize in 1998 (SI 92 of 1998), and covers approximately 9,100 acres of brackish lagoons, creeks and mangroves, with rivers and creeks draining into the lagoon from the west. The lagoon system is connected to the Caribbean Sea through Bar River, a channel that cuts through the coastal bar of the east coast of Belize. The Gales Point community lies on a peninsula jutting into Southern Lagoon. (Annex 1: Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Biodiversity Assessment).

Using information on land features, land use and development, it is possible to build up an overall picture of the land development that has taken place in the past, and / or is taking place now, as well as providing information about land with development potential and the scale to which the development can take place, highlighting the most feasible areas to develop agriculture and tourism facilities.

A comprehensive assessment of land use and agricultural potential was conducted in 1992 as a baseline for zoning recommendations for the SDA plan, to try to ensure a balance between growing population requirements, and natural resource protection. As part of this, a series of general and specific objectives were developed, to guide land use within the area. A number of important issues were also investigated where environmental fragility needed to be considered. This was followed by a proposal for a multiple use land system for the area (Horwich and Lyon). Many of the recommendations to come out of these two initiatives are considered equally relevant today.

Agricultural Potential and constraints

Potential land use, agricultural values and land use limitations within the Gales Point area were mapped by King et. al. (1993), (Map 3; Table 2). The red soils lying above the majority of the Pleistocene limestone bedrock coastal plain are acidic, with a low nutrient content and extreme moisture regimes – being saturated in the wet season and with drought conditions in the dry season, and considered of limited agricultural value. Soils are also affected by repeated burning, usually started by hunters during the dry season to attract deer to the ash and new growth, which has resulted in maintaining the open character of this savanna, with limited regeneration of pine.

To the east of Southern Lagoon (including Gales Point peninsula itself) lie the old coastal ridges, which form small bars of more fertile soils, with possible land use for citrus and bananas (King et. al., 1989). The most fertile soils of the area lie further from the immediate coastal plain, in areas with alluvial and / or colluvial soils, along the middle reaches of the rivers and creeks that flow from the Maya Mountains, and in the valleys of the karstic hills. It is these areas that are being used for current agriculture (predominantly for citrus plantations) along the Coastal Road.

Gales Point Community Development Plan

Agricultural Value and Land Use Limitations (King et. al., 1994)			
Class	Limiting Factors	Current Land Use	Recommended Land Use
Class 1	Wetness, flooding	Citrus, milpa farming	Citrus, bananas, rice, vegetables
Class 2	Erosion, shallow soils, variability	None or limited	Protective forest, Milpa farming on lower slopes
Class 3	Erosion, shallow soils, variability, Nutrients	None or limited	Citrus, banana, rice, vegetables
Class 4	Wetness, salinity	None or limited residential	Coastal protection
Class 5	Nutrients, drainage, moisture	Hunting, limited	Pine

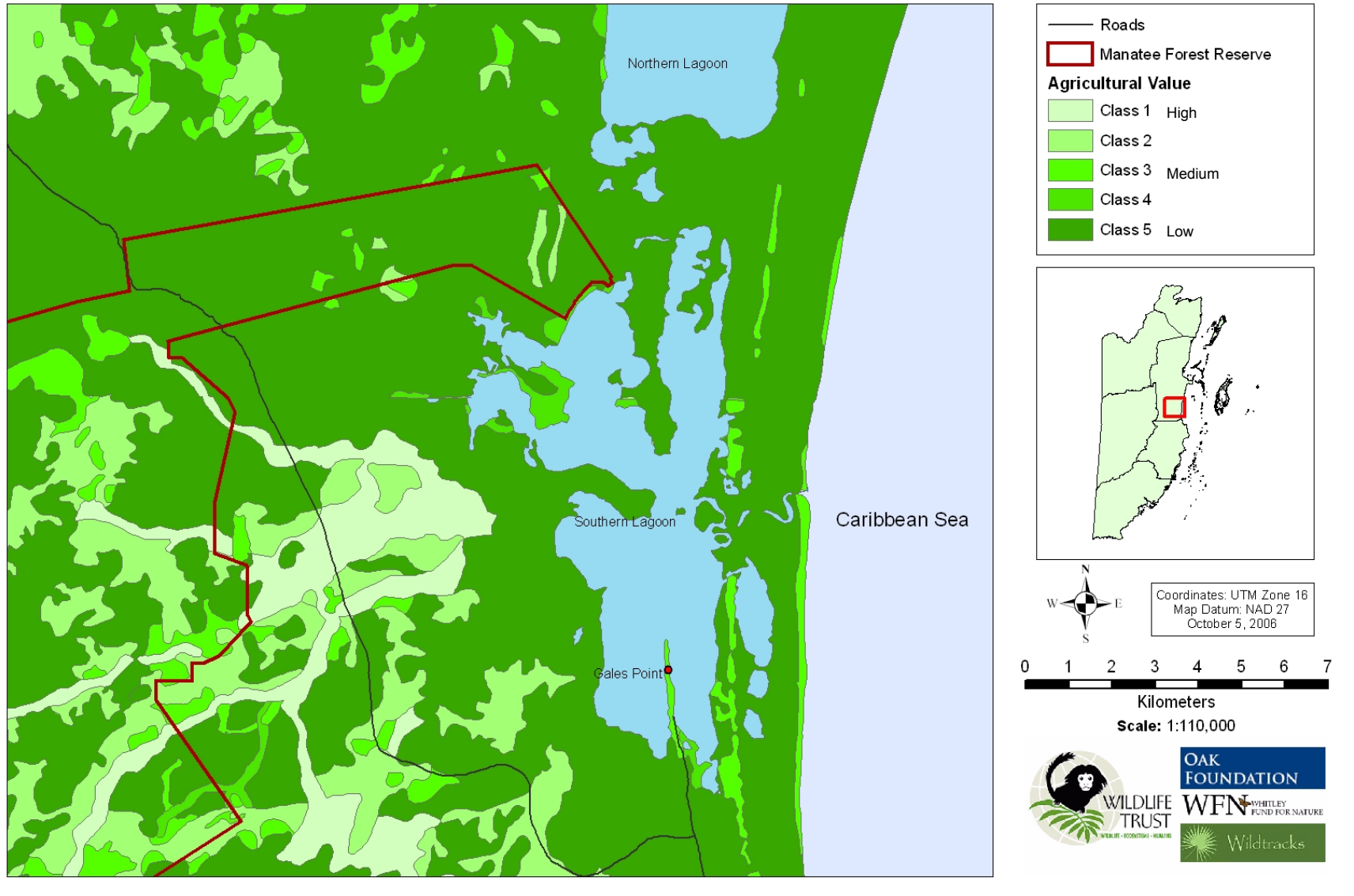
Table 2: Agricultural Value and Land Use Limitations



Photograph 9: Landscape of Gales Point (Class 5)

Wildtracks

Southern Lagoon: Agricultural Value



Map 3: Agricultural Land Values of the Gales Point Area (After King et. al. 1989)

Developed land and absolute constraints

Some land within the Gales Point area is under private ownership, already developed or designated as protected areas under the National Protected Areas System, with strict regulations that do not allow for development.

Private land:

Much of the good agricultural land and water edge property of high tourism value within the Gales Point area is privately owned, generally by landowners from other parts of Belize, or even other countries, who recognize the agricultural potential of the rich colluvial and alluvial soils, and the tourism potential of the karst slopes and lagoon-edge and coastal scenery. The majority of the shorelines of the lagoon system have been allocated by central Government without community consultation (K. Andrewin, pers. comm.), except in the north-west, where the Manatee Forest Reserve abuts the Wildlife Sanctuary. The same is true of the coastal land, despite the presence of the important nesting beach for the critically endangered hawksbill turtle.

Whilst there is the potential for employment opportunities associated with these private lands, with both agricultural and tourism-based developments being proposed, in reality, there has been little development, some lands being held for speculation, others stalling for financial reasons.

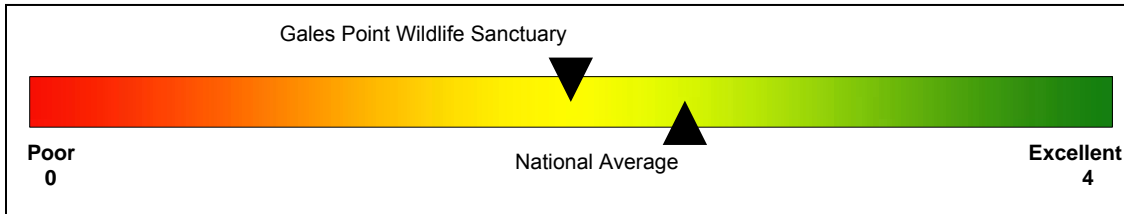
Protected Areas:

Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary: The focal point of the Gales Point area is Southern Lagoon, designated in 1998 as the Gales Point (West Indian Manatee) Wildlife Sanctuary (SI 92 of 1998), in recognition of its importance in the protection of the West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*). The Wildlife Sanctuary designation is for the protection of nationally significant species, biotic communities or physical features, and allows for research, tourism and education activities, and is one of five distinct categories of protected areas under the National Parks System Act of 1981, each of which is protected by restrictions strictly defined by law.

The Forest Department of the Government of Belize, in its efforts to increase public participation in protected area management, recognizes the Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Community Management Committee as a potential co-manager of the Wildlife Sanctuary. The GPWSCMC has demonstrated a commitment to the protection of the natural resources of the Wildlife Sanctuary (focused particularly on the manatee), having helped develop broad baseline data on the biodiversity, participated in various research initiatives, and successfully lobbied for the removal of gillnets from the majority of the lagoon system, and for protection of the turtle nesting beach. However there is recognition that management capacity needs to be built before the organization is in a position to take on co-management responsibility for the area.

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When assessed through input from both Forest Department and the Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Community Management Committee, the management effectiveness for Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary scores **2.01** out of a possible 4.00, averaged across the seven Indicator Categories. This is lower than the average of **2.51** for all protected areas within the system, reflecting the lack of active and ongoing site management.

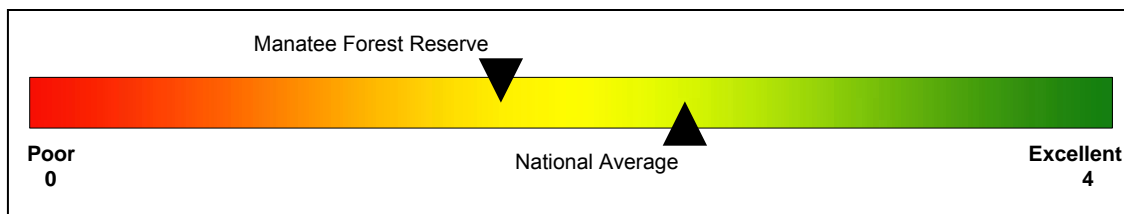


Critical weaknesses in management activities have been identified as surveillance and enforcement, lobbying against de-reservation of adjacent lands within the Manatee Forest Reserve, enforcement against inappropriate development along the lagoon, with illegal clearance of the 66' buffer zone vegetation.

Manatee Forest Reserve: Also within the Gales Point area of influence and interest is the Manatee Forest Reserve, which was established as the 58,000 acre Bocotora Forest Reserve in 1949. In 1959, (SI 21 of 1959), Bocotora was expanded to 113,338 acres, and the name changed to Manatee Forest Reserve. Since then, the Forest Reserve has experienced numerous excisions, reducing the official area to 103,908 acres – until 2005 when a further 13,000+ acres were formally de-reserved to give a total area of 90,425 acres (SI 66 of 2005).

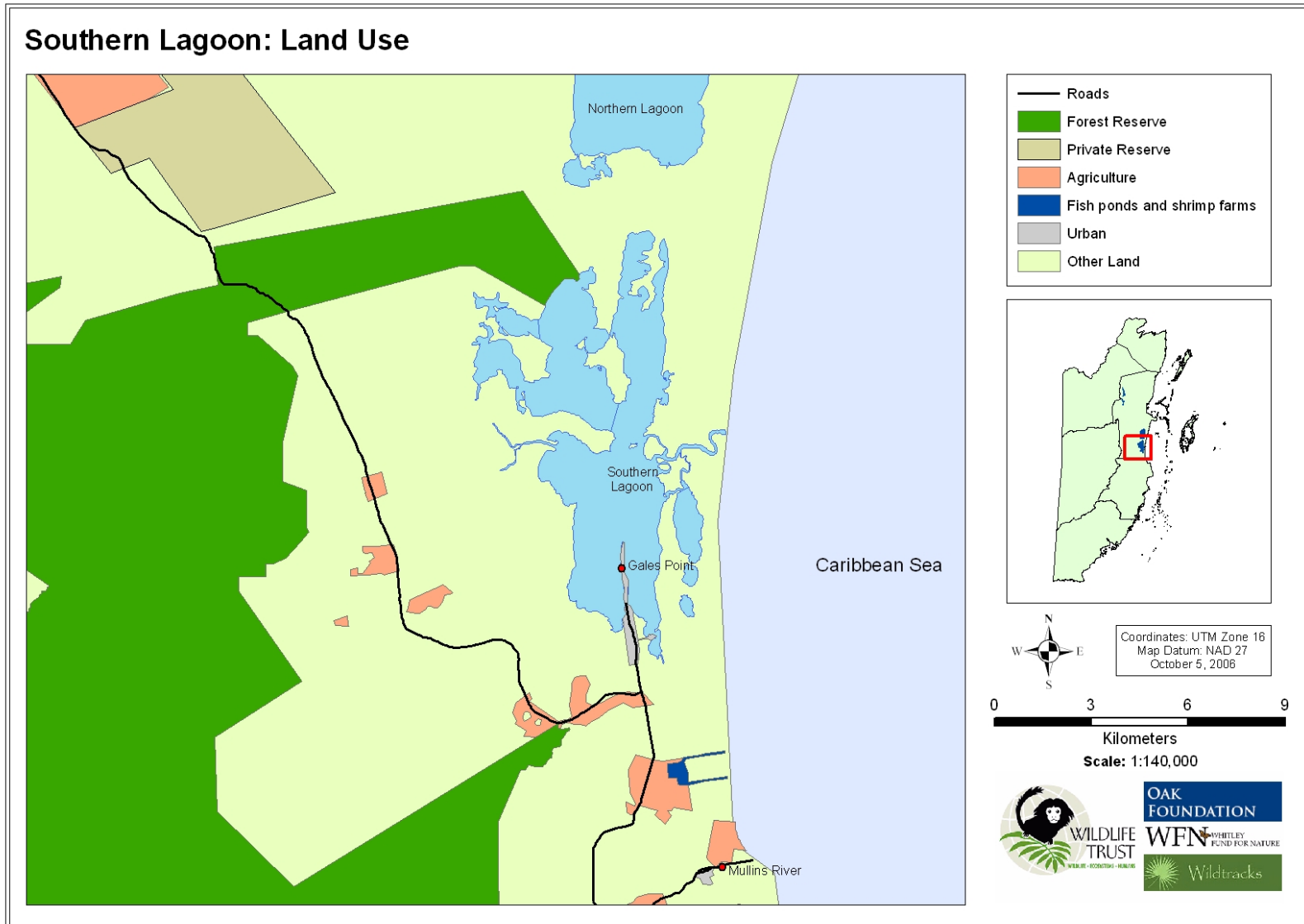
Manatee Forest Reserve was designated for the management of timber stocks for sustainable harvesting. It encompasses a variety of ecosystems, broadly categorized as short-grass savanna, pine savanna and broadleaf forest. The Forest Reserve was originally established for the regeneration of pine and hardwoods under the post-war Government forest regeneration plan (FD 1948), and later expanded to include further forest management areas, lands unsuitable for agriculture, and to provide watershed protection. However, it has suffered from dereservation and realignment in recent years, and the construction of the Coastal Road in 1990, all these reducing connectivity, and removing some of its functionality in the protection of water quality.

Management is directly under the Forest Department, though limited human and financial resources restrict management activities on the ground. In comparison with other protected areas within the National Protected Areas System, the management effectiveness for Manatee Forest Reserve scored a total average of **1.75** (out of a possible 4.00) when averaged across the seven Indicator Categories, significantly lower than the national average of **2.51**, as assessed in the 2006 baseline (Walker and Walker, 2006).

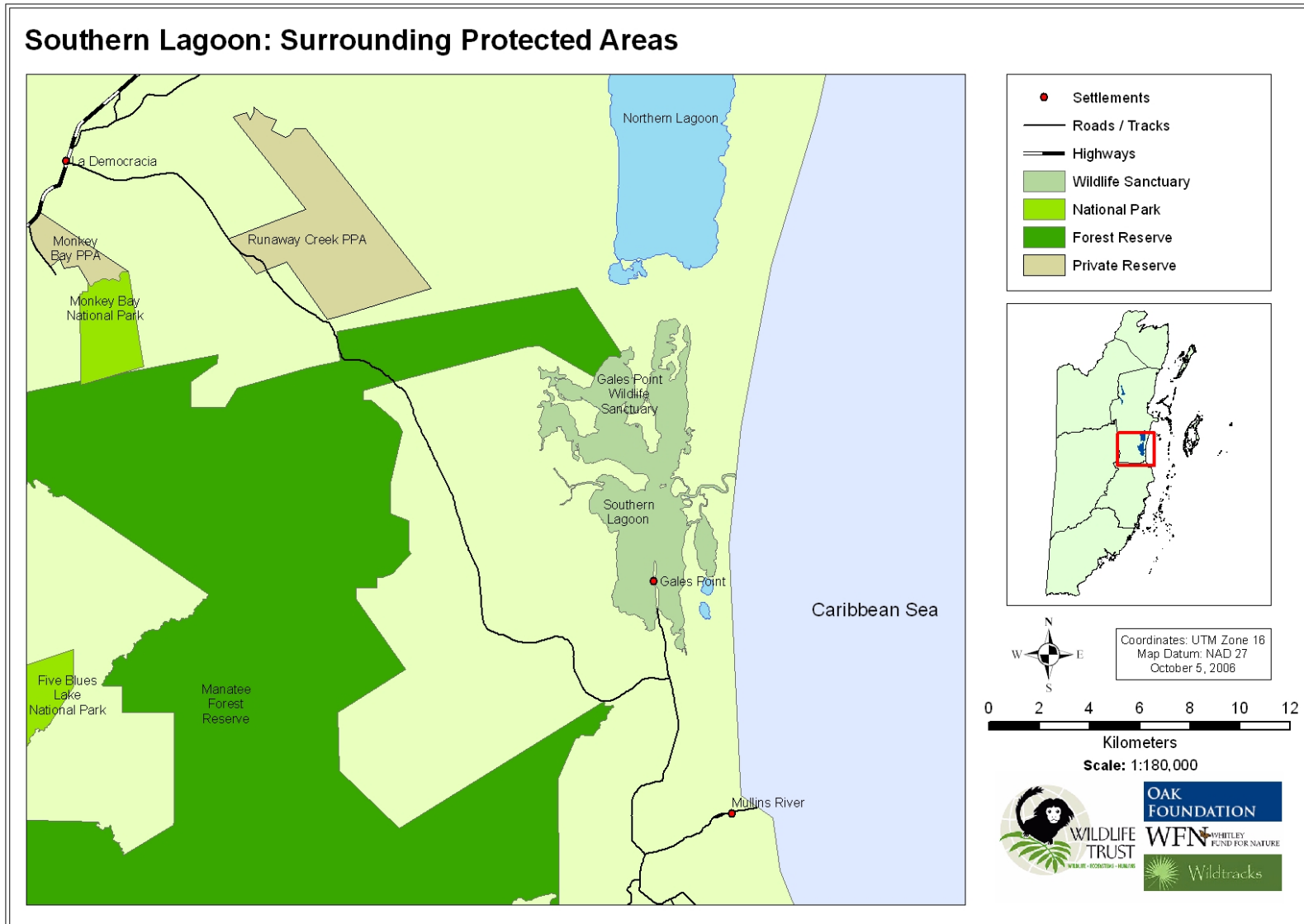


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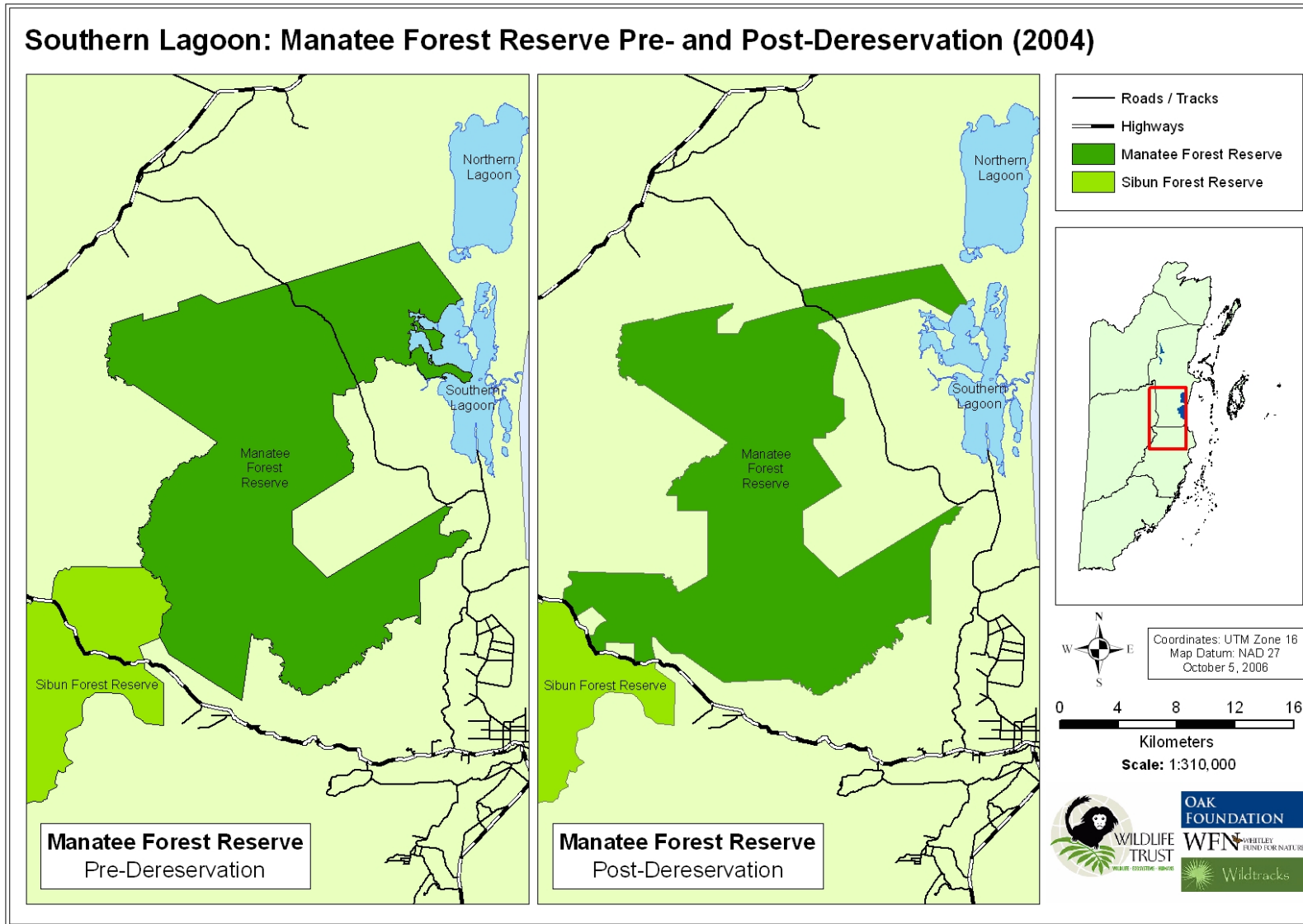
The natural resources (especially game species) of the eastern portion of Manatee Forest Reserve are heavily utilized by the Gales Point community and despite it being illegal, very heavy hunting is reported to have resulted in game species now being at very low densities, and white-lipped peccary reported to have been extirpated from the Manatee Forest Reserve area. The short-grass savanna is burnt annually – both by hunters and by farmers (from Freetown Sibun) for free-ranging cattle, reducing viability of the pine stocks, and of those species that are dependent on them.



Map 4: Land Use of the Gales Point Area



Map 5: Protected Areas of the Gales Point Area



Map 6: Pre- and Post Dereservation of Manatee Forest Reserve

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Despite these pressures, the structure of the broadleaf forest of Manatee Forest Reserve is still largely intact. Populations of most non-game faunal species remain, and there is considerable scope for enhancing the viability of the biodiversity of the reserve if active management presence can be increased significantly and strengthened.

Peccary Hills National Park: Whilst not immediately adjacent to the Gales Point area, this newly declared National Park does impact some of the traditional hunting areas around Freshwater Creek, and as such, Gales Point can be, and is, considered a stakeholder, and will be represented on the Local Advisory Committee of the proposed co-manager: Gracie Rock Reserve for Adventure, Culture and Eco-Tourism (GRACE).

Land of limited agricultural value

The coastal plain, a matrix of tropical broadleaf forest and short grass savanna, has very distinctive physical features – with tower karst limestone rising out of the flat coastal savanna, forming steep-sided hills, with cliffs and impressive cave structures. This matrix of ecosystems is considered of limited value for agriculture. The scenic value of this area, however, provides opportunities for tourism initiatives, particularly adjacent to the lagoon system and coast, in areas where there is no conflict with legislation. However there is a need to ensure that the integrity of the 66' buffer vegetation is maintained, particularly where sensitive systems (mangroves and littoral forest) are concerned (Map 3).

Developable land and partial constraints

These areas are not yet developed but have the potential for agricultural or tourism development, even though there may be some restrictions (regulations or policies) on the extent that they can be developed – such as the need to protect the water quality, with legislation restricting land clearance within 66 feet of the water ways and lagoon. Similarly, legislation exists to protect the turtle nests from disturbance by coastal development.

Developable land without constraints

These areas are not yet developed but have the potential for development, and are free of any ownership or limitations. Whilst Government land is still available, the limited financial resources available within the community result in most people squatting, rather than having full title to their farmland, being constrained by property survey costs.

The creation of the Coastal Road resulted in a number of land conflicts, with mapping of land bisected by the proposed route. Where no formal property title or occupation was evident, the lands considered as village farmlands were reallocated at Government level to non-residents, with farmers being given land towards the karst foothills of the Maya Mountains, further from the road, with poor access, resulting in a decrease in interest in farming. These local farmlands are seldom held as private property, some being under lease, and others farmed under the traditional system of squatting.

Availability of Land

National land is generally still considered to be available within the village and village farmlands, though the financial limitations of survey costs prevent many people from applying to own the land. Within the village itself, a village extension has been made available by the Government in the Pine Ridge area for the young families. It is hoped within the community that once the Government has surveyed the lots, those that have been abandoned will be made available to other residents able to make the commitment to complete the paperwork and use the land

88% of households own their own house lot (community survey, October, 2007). The main part of the village, running along the peninsula, is divided into house lots held by traditional Gales Point families, the majority with water frontage, to be passed from one generation to the next. A number have been sold, primarily to foreign retirees, and a number belong to absentee landowners – Gales Point residents now living elsewhere in Belize, or in the USA.

3.7 Services

Access

Accessibility to the Gales Point area is considered crucial to the development of the community, and one factor that is consistently cited as an area of concern by residents, being rated as 'Poor' by 71% of the respondents (Figure ...). Gales Point is located on a side road leading from the Coastal Road, an unpaved, little-used short-cut between the Western Highway and Dangriga.

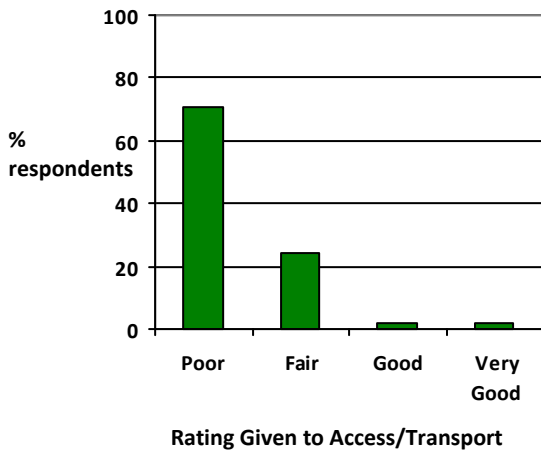


Figure 9:
Gales Point Community Survey: Access/Transport
October, 2007

With fewer than 20% of the households owning vehicles, the majority of Gales Point residents are dependent on the local bus service. The number of buses to Belize City (twice a week, on Monday and Friday) is considered insufficient, particularly if the community wishes to attract tourism and investment to the area. The majority of respondents (67%) considered that the provision of more buses would significantly improve access, and alleviate numerous associated problems, including access to medical facilities. Whilst recognizing that economically, it is not feasible for the bus company to provide a daily service from Belize City to Gales Point, it was felt that even extending the service to three times a week instead of the current two would be an improvement.

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There are also problems of reliability, with buses sometimes not arriving at all, flooding of the road being cited the major cause. Along with the infrequent bus service, the poor road condition is cited as an issue for reducing access to employment opportunities, and tourism potential, as well as being of concern in emergency situations. Many people (53%) considered improvement of the road critical for increasing access to the area, with the associated repair and strengthening of bridges and installation of culverts in strategic locations.

Access is also feasible by boat from Belize City via Burdon Canal, which was constructed in 1920, to provide an easier means of transporting logs and crops to the City. A number of residents suggested the re-establishment of a water taxi service. Whilst this route is not run as a regular service, particularly with the uncertainties of weather, it has much to offer in the way of interest as a ferry service for increasing tourism to Gales Point, as it passes through extensive mangrove sightings on the way.

Access to Gales Point	
Road	km
Dangriga	36
Belize City	80
Boat	
Belize City	40

Table 3:
Distance from Major Towns

Utilities: Electricity, Potable Water and Communications

Gales Point is linked to the National Grid, providing the majority of households with electricity, the principle constraint to access being limited finance. Electricity is not used for cooking - stoves are butane-fuelled, though many households use fire hearths and firewood because of the high cost of butane.

The village does now have a water storage tank, though supply has been intermittent, and water outages are frequent. This is currently being addressed, with financing from the Social Investment Fund for a system upgrade, Also of concern to a number of people is water quality, with significant agrochemical use in the drainage area.

Whilst the telephone network has not been installed throughout the village, community payphones are placed in strategic locations, and recently, mobile phone access has become available through Smart. However, only 35% of households have phone access in the house.

Health Facilities

Gales Point has a health clinic, and a qualified resident nurse, reflected by the rating of 'Good' given by most respondents to access to health care (community consultations, October, 2007). Primary concerns in this area are connected with the poor access to the hospitals and associated doctors in Dangriga and Belize City, with the limited bus service and schedule hindering access to treatment and medication. Any medical visit requiring an overnight stay results in the much greater costs involved in staying in town until the next bus, four days later, with many older people delaying

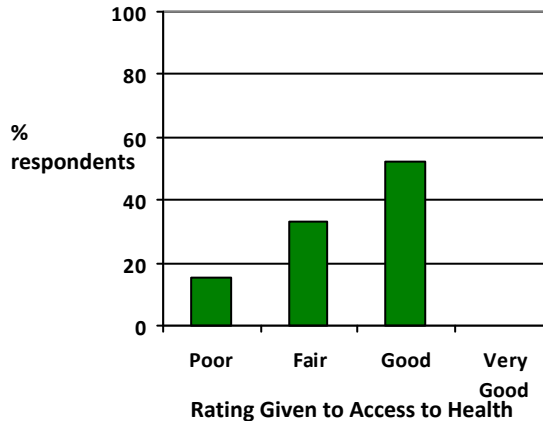


Figure 10:
Gales Point Community Survey: Access to Health
October, 2007

Gales Point Community Development Plan

seeking treatment, with potentially fatal implications. Concerns have also been voiced on the current absence of a midwife in the community, and the difficulty of access to trained medical attention for women in labour, which can also cause risky delays.

Additional medical assistance is provided by a partnership programme with doctors from the United States, who visit the community on an annual basis to provide health care.

Solid waste and sewage disposal is considered a cause for concern within the community, with the recognition of a need for a solid waste site, solid waste being traditionally dumped in the lagoon to the west of the Peninsula. A solid waste collection system was also recommended by several respondents

With the very porous limestone bedrock and the narrow width of the peninsula, the traditional outhouse system is thought to be leaching effluent into the adjacent lagoon, affecting water quality, with many respondents expressing a reluctance to continue swimming. A request has been submitted to BEST for provision of toilet facilities for those senior citizens in the village living without family support, and the Village Council would also like to see a general move from pit latrines to effective household septic systems.

4

Natural Resources



4. Natural Resources

4.1 Background

The Gales Point community has always been strongly tied to the natural resources, with a high dependency on fishing and hunting. More recently, there has been a shift to the establishment of a tourism base, but this, too, relies heavily on the health of the natural resources, with the West Indian manatee as the prime focus. Tourism potential also relies on continued access to the many caves, broadleaf forests, and to the relatively undisturbed waters of the creeks and rivers that drain into the lagoon system. This has led to a community desire to ensure the long-term protection of the area, putting in place the necessary infrastructure for sustainability, and developing and implementing conservation goals and actions that contribute to the long-term protection of the lagoon system and adjacent watershed, and to the national goals for biodiversity protection.

The Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Community Management Committee is therefore seeking a co-management agreement with the Forest Department to ensure the continued protection of the lagoon system for the benefit of the wildlife, the local community and future generations.

The Gales Point area encompasses both private and Government land, lying within the Manatee Special Development Area. The Biodiversity Assessment (Annex 1: Walker and Walker, 2006) provides baseline information on the biodiversity of the area, and identifies the areas of concern, with this information feeding into the Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Management Plan, serving as the basis for highlighting areas that are most suited for tourism or agricultural development, whilst minimizing impact on the natural resources.

Whilst the primary focus of the initial biodiversity assessment was the Southern Lagoon water body, first highlighted for its importance for manatees, the assessment has also included the surrounding terrestrial ecosystems and land use systems, as it is the status of the watershed that will have one of the greatest impacts on the health of the lagoon ecosystem.

From a conservation standpoint, the primary importance of the Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary within Belize's protected areas system lies in the protection of the West Indian Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), a species listed as 'vulnerable' (IUCN, 2006), and for which the Southern Lagoon was designated in 1998 as the Gales Point (West Indian Manatee) Wildlife Sanctuary (SI 92 of 1998). The Wildlife Sanctuary designation allows for research, tourism and education activities. The protected area, an estimated 9,097 acres, consists of the Southern Lagoon system (including Quashie Trap Lagoon, Bar River and Quashie Trap tributary, 2.286km up the Manatee River, 1.287km up Cornhouse Creek), and also includes the 66' shoreline along all the lagoons (except for the shoreline of Gales Point peninsula).

Whilst originally designated as a Wildlife Sanctuary as a tool towards the continued conservation of the West Indian manatee in Belize, Southern Lagoon also provides an important habitat for a variety of fish and bird species, including the critically endangered goliath grouper (*Epinephelus itajara*). The lower reaches of the rivers and creeks, also within the protected area, are also important habitat for the critically endangered, regionally endemic Central American river turtle (*Dermatemys mawii*).

Another focal point of conservation interest lies to the east, outside the Wildlife Sanctuary, on the sand bar facing the Caribbean Sea. Originally identified as one of the most important nesting beaches within the Western Caribbean, the ‘critically endangered’ hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) return here each year to nest, along with smaller numbers of loggerhead and green turtles.

The terrestrial ecosystems surrounding the Wildlife Sanctuary are a matrix of tropical broadleaf forest, short grass and pine savannah, fresh water creeks, swamp forest, littoral forest and mangrove, sheltering a representative array of Belize’s mammals, including jaguar, puma, paca, Baird’s tapir, white tailed deer, red brocket deer, Yucatan howler monkey and the Central American spider monkey.

Throughout the karstic areas, caves exist with impressive stalactites and stalagmites. Reports suggest that at one time, these caves held Maya pottery offerings, as found to the north in the Sibun watershed by the Xibun Archaeology Research Project, with studies in adjacent areas indicating a Maya presence during the Terminal Classic period, between AD700 and AD1000, over 1000 years ago (McAnany and Thomas, 2003). Unfortunately, extensive looting in the Southern Lagoon area has removed much of the evidence of ancient Maya use of the caves. The general Southern Lagoon area has been used traditionally by the community of Gales Point for subsistence fishing, with hunting and logging in the adjacent short grass savanna and forest, and is now the focus of limited tourism activities.

4.2 Areas of Concern

The Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary, whilst designated for its conservation value, has also been an important natural resource for the people of Gales Point from the time they settled in the area. Quamina Creek, feeding into the lagoon system from the south, has traditionally been the drinking water source, and the fish stocks are considered one of the most important food resources available to the community (community survey, October, 2007). During a recent survey within Southern Lagoon the general consensus among fishermen of Gales Point is that the fish resources have declined significantly over the last five to ten years, reducing effective income from this resource (Graham, 2007). As a consequence, there has been a shift to supplement income from fishing through a range of other part-time jobs.

Preferred Fish Species	% respondents
Snapper	55
Stone Bass	23
Jack	10
Barracuda	10
Snook	2

Preferred Game Species	% respondents
Paca (Gibnut)	69
Armadillo	19
White-tailed Deer	8
Collared Peccary	4

To establish an overview of the relative importance of natural resources of the area, respondents were also asked what game species they preferred. There is a strong preference for paca, frequently hunted within the riparian buffer vegetation of the rivers and creeks, not only within the Gales Point area, but also to the north along the tributaries that feed into Northern Lagoon. Community consultations show that game species have declined generally in the area, with some species becoming locally uncommon, and white lipped peccary (houia) disappearing altogether.

During a series of community and focal group meetings, community members highlighted the areas of biodiversity concern, summarized in Table 3, and integrated into the Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Management Plan.

Gales Point Community Development Plan

Table 4: Natural Resource Management: Areas of Concern		
Area of Concern	Impact	Recommendation
Impacts caused by improper (illegal) use of gillnets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Risk of manatee and hicatee deaths in unattended gillnets ▪ Reduction of fish populations within Southern Lagoon ▪ Reduction of fish species associated with sport fishing activities 	Collaborate with commercial, small-scale and sport fishermen to develop guidelines for sustainability of the fish resources (eg. mesh size, no-take zone, minimum fish size, restricted species, banning of nets across creeks), to present to FD / BFD to support continued traditional fishing within the Wildlife Sanctuary
		Monitoring and enforcement of local gillnet zoning, restricting netting to Western lagoon, under strict guidelines, once Sustainable Fisheries Plan has been approved
Unsustainable hunting pressure on game species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Decreased number of game species, and decreased abundance, with reduced viability (particularly great curassow, crested guan, collared peccary, paca, armadillo, white tailed deer, hicatee, Mexican giant musk turtle (freshwater loggerhead), green iguana) ▪ Reduction in game availability ▪ Reduction of key predators (eg. Jaguar) that rely on game species ▪ Reduction in wildlife as a tourism resource 	Work with the hunters to ensure that any hunting within the Gales Point area is legal and sustainable
		Investigate mechanisms for decreasing pressure on game species – eg. game farming, no-hunting areas
		Maintain critical forest ecosystems supporting game species populations – riparian and forest corridors
Clearance of vegetation along river and creek banks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Decreased connectivity along river banks – especially important for black howler monkeys, spider monkeys and paca ▪ Disruption of Morelet’s crocodile nesting sites ▪ Reduced populations of riparian specialists such as the agami heron (<i>Agami agami</i>) and muscovy duck (<i>Cairina moschata</i>) ▪ Reduced filtration of agricultural chemicals, increasing potential for contamination of water ▪ Increased risk of bank erosion, and increased sediment load, affecting sea grass beds - reducing fish populations and impacting the West Indian manatee 	Collaborate with landowners of creek and river-side properties for development of guidelines for maintaining 66’ vegetation, and signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between land owners, the GPVC and GPWSCMC (identify incentives, and use Bermudian Landing as a model)
		Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Community Management Committee to monitor river and creek banks within the Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary for clearance, and report any clearance to Village Council
Clearance of vegetation along river and creek banks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduced scenic values for tourism 	Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Community Management Committee to monitor and enforce 66’ for those creek and river banks within Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary

Gales Point Community Development Plan

Table 4: Natural Resource Management: Areas of Concern		
Area of Concern	Impact	Recommendation
Clearance of coastal strand vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Disruption of hawksbill turtle and American crocodile nesting sites, resulting in reduced nest success and poor population recruitment ▪ Probable primary cause of observed beach sinkage – impairing turtle nesting success, and tourism appeal 	Increase awareness among coastal landowners of the need to maintain coastal vegetation in key turtle nesting areas, and location of these areas
		Continue monitoring of turtle nesting areas, in collaboration with Fisheries Department
		Identify and protect American crocodile nesting sites within the area
Increased impacts of agro-chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduced water quality – particularly important in Quamina Creek, a source of freshwater when the village water system fails ▪ Increased fish kills, with reduced populations of local fish ▪ Incorporation of agro-chemicals into the food chain, with fish potentially becoming not suitable for human consumption ▪ Potential direct kills of amphibians from agro-chemical pollution, as well as potential feminizing of males by atrazine-based herbicides ▪ Potential associated impacts on coral reef offshore 	Collaborate with landowners with creek and river-side properties to develop guidelines and signing a Memorandum of Agreement for maintaining 66’ creek and river-side vegetation, with Village Council and Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Management Committee
		Raise awareness of farmers of the need to ensure that agrochemicals do not reach the water systems, either following application, or through washing of spray containers in water bodies
Increased impacts of boats in Southern Lagoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potential boat collisions with manatee and crocodiles, resulting in higher incidence of mortality of these species ▪ Disruption of sea grass beds and associated reduction in fish habitat ▪ Increased erosion of creek and river banks caused by increased incidence of swells from speeding boats ▪ Increased disturbance of waterbird nesting colonies on mangrove cayes, with the risk of nest desertion ▪ Disruption of peace and tranquility on which Gales Point is marketed 	Maintain no-wake signs established within Southern Lagoon and enforce no-wake regulations
		Increase awareness of reasons for no-wake and low noise zones among boat owners / boat captains within the area
		Collaborate with boat owners / boat captains / fishing guides using the area to develop a set of guidelines for minimizing boat impacts

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Area of Concern	Impact	Recommendation
Unregulated tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Disturbance of wildlife – particularly manatee, nesting birds, crocodiles and hicatee, resulting in reduced wildlife sightings ▪ Potential disturbance of turtle nesting beach, disrupting nesting behavior and resulting in poor nest success ▪ Reduction of sport fish viability through unregulated, non-catch-and-release fishing 	Collaborate with tour guides to develop guidelines to ensure sustainability of the wildlife as a tourism resource – eg. ensuring all tour guides are licensed, minimum group size, low noise zones, catch-and-release sport fishing, etc.
		Adopt guidelines as regulations for the protected area, monitor and enforce
Fragmentation of broadleaf forest through land clearance for agriculture and tourism development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Decreased biodiversity viability – fewer mammal species and lowered abundance (especially jaguar, puma, black howler monkey, spider monkey tapir, collared peccary)...all important for attracting natural resource-based tourism ▪ Reduced probability of white lipped peccary returning to area 	Identify and map essential broadleaf forest corridor areas within national lands, in collaboration with FD, Runaway Creek, GRACE (Gracie Rock) and the Lands Department (See Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Management Plan)
		Raise awareness in Gales Point of importance of maintaining forest corridors for wildlife, and benefits for tourism and hunting
		Lobby with GoB and Village Council for regulation of activities within the highlighted corridor areas to ensure retention of forest structure (legislation exists within SDA)
		Monitor activities within identified broadleaf forest corridors, to ensure compliance with local regulations
		Work with other local and national organizations towards maintaining connectivity between the Maya Mountains Massif and the Selva Maya forest block (Rio Bravo area)
		Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Community Management Committee to monitor and enforce 66' for those creek and river banks within Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary

Gales Point Community Development Plan

Table 4: Natural Resource Management: Areas of Concern		
Area of Concern	Impact	Recommendation
Increased frequency and severity of fires on the savanna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduced viability of pine, pine timber resources, and reduction in pine-associated species, including armadillo and white-tailed deer ▪ Reduced nesting viability of savanna specialist bird species – including the ‘endangered’ yellow-headed parrot (<i>Amazona oratrix</i>) and the jabiru (<i>Jabiru mycteria</i>) ▪ Increased air pollution ▪ Reduced scenic beauty for tourism 	Training in fire management for the Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Community Management Committee
		Increase awareness among hunters of the problems associated with the increasing frequency of fires, and seek support for a fire management programme
		Work with cattle-farmers from Freetown Sibun to deter deliberate setting of fires
		Collaboration with FD, Runaway Creek and GRACE towards an integrated fire management programme for the savanna
Increased risk of oil spills at bridge points on the Coastal Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Degradation of the Southern Lagoon system ▪ Reduced water quality – particularly important in Quamina Creek, a source of freshwater when the village water system fails ▪ Potential for large scale fish and bird kills, and migration of manatee out of Southern Lagoon ▪ Reduction in fish availability ▪ Impacts on the sea grass beds and coral reef offshore 	Work with Ministry of Works to ensure bridges have the capacity to withstand heavy vehicles, and have effective crash barriers
		Continue to ensure that the crude oil trucks are not permitted to use the Coastal Road
Unregulated tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Disturbance of wildlife – particularly manatee, nesting birds, crocodiles and hicatee, resulting in reduced wildlife sightings ▪ Potential disturbance of turtle nesting beach, disrupting nesting behavior and resulting in poor nest success ▪ Reduction of sport fish viability through unregulated, non-catch-and-release fishing 	Collaborate with tour guides to develop guidelines to ensure sustainability of the wildlife as a tourism resource – eg. ensuring all tour guides are licensed, minimum group size, low noise zones, catch-and-release sport fishing, etc.
		Adopt guidelines as regulations for the protected area, monitor and enforce

Community Development Strategies



5. Community Development Strategies

5.1 Community Assessment

A SWOT analysis was conducted to identify and assess the strengths and weaknesses of the community, and the opportunities and threats that exist, as perceived by workshop participants from Gales Point. Both internal factors (those that can be controlled to some extent by the community) and external factors (factors beyond the control of the community) were assessed, and the results - used to develop strategies and actions to enable the community to build on their strengths and address their weaknesses, and make optimal use of the opportunities available, whilst minimizing the threats to the community.

Strengths

Internal Factors: Strengths	
Traditional culture	Samba, creole food, drum making and playing, traditional hunting and fishing
Gales Point community	Friendly community; functional, organized women's group; used to have a tour guide association
Protection of natural resources	Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary, cooperation for protection of natural resources
Tourism resources: natural and scenic beauty; features of geological interest; established bed and breakfast facilities	Southern Lagoon, karst hills and caves, coast, tropical forest, rivers and creeks
Wildlife	Manatees, turtle nesting beach, monkeys
Tourism activities	Fly fishing, sailing, jungle tours, caves

Internal Factors: Weaknesses	
Few employment opportunities	Need more employment opportunities within Gales Point area Need more tourism marketing, signs, more visitors, more facilities Need qualified tour guides
Poor transportation	Need better roads, more frequent buses
Poor potable water system	Need a better potable water system
Poor health care	Need a better health care system
Lack of unity / community participation	Need mechanisms for greater unity Need better mechanisms for sharing information and communication, both within community and with outside
Political Interference	Need for community-wide cooperation
Insufficient agricultural land available for farmers	Need access to more good agricultural land
Poor agricultural practices	Pesticide application along creek-sides
Crime / petty theft	Need better enforcement, more pride in community

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External Factors: Opportunities	
Increasing tourism industry in Belize	Access to tourism (overnight tourists, and Belizean tourists); Access to tourists in Tourism Village, potential to access international tourists on the web
Interest from NGOs and other entities in working to assist the Gales Point community	Wildlife Trust Potential collaboration with other communities
Support from Government	Forest Department towards co-management of Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Fisheries assistance in reviving fishing cooperative; BTB - potential marketing for crafts
Tourism facilities in Gales Point	Guest houses, tour guides
Cooperative activities	Women's Group
Abundant local produce	Demand for agricultural products, potential for canning local produce
Public Health Programme	DoE water quality monitoring
Potential Government housing project	

External Factors: Threats	
Lack of political assistance	Need greater and unified lobbying power
Cheap labour from other countries	
Uncontrolled hunting and fishing from outside of the community	Need to assist control of the natural resource management of the area
Illegal Logging	Need to assist control of the natural resource management of the area Logging traffic degrades condition of Coastal Road
Lack of public transport	External tourism providers, poor public transport system
Pollution	From agriculture and coastal road
Dereservation of protected areas	Reduces tourism potential and access
Political system of Ministerial discretion	Land allocation, timber licenses, to people from outside Gales Point
Potential for Hurricanes	

5.2 Strategies for Action

Strategies for Action		
Strategy One: Rebuilding Community Unity in Gales Point		
	Action 1.1: Develop a Community Charter for Action	1.1.1; 1.1.2
	Action 1.2: Develop a 2-year Community Action Plan for rebuilding community spirit	1.2.1 – 1.2.5
Strategy Two: Provide Support for Community Groups		
	Action 2.1: Strengthen the Women’s Group and Women’s Group activities	2.1.1
	Action 2.2: Re-establish tour guide association within Gales Point	2.2.1 – 2.2.5
	Action 2.3: Establish a Gales Point Youth Group	2.3.1 – 2.3.4
	Action 2.4: Strengthen Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Community Management Committee	2.4.1 – 2.4.3
	Action 2.5: Strengthen networking and support mechanisms between the Gales Point Groups	2.5.1 – 2.5.4
	Action 2.6: Provide mechanisms to bridge the generation gap	2.6.1 – 2.6.3
Strategy Three: Community Activities		
	Action 3.1: Community Action Days to build community unity	3.1.1 – 3.1.2
	Action 3.2: Village clean up	3.2.1
	Action 3.3: Upgrade the Community Centre	3.3.1 – 3.3.4
	Action 3.4: Maintenance activities to assist the elderly	3.4.1 – 3.4.5
	Action 3.5: Turtle beach cleanup	3.4.1
Strategy Four: Increasing Economic Opportunities in Gales Point		
	Action 4.1: Increase tourism potential of Gales Point	4.1.1 – 4.1.9
	Action 4.2: Facilitate the development of an attractive environment for tourism	4.2.1 – 4.2.2
	Action 4.3: Advertise Gales Point on the strength of its culture and natural resources	4.4.1 – 4.4.2
	Action 4.4: Develop sport fishing activities	4.3.1 – 4.3.2
	Action 4.5: Hold an Annual Festival to celebrate Gales Point, the traditional food, dancing, drums and manatee – advertise throughout Belize and through BTB / BTIA	4.5.1 - 4.5.9
	Action 4.6: Encourage eco-friendly tourism development and investment in Gales Point	4.6.1 – 4.6.2
	Action 4.7: Investigate options for attracting small scale agricultural industry to the Gales Point area	4.7.1 – 4.7.2
	Action 4.8: Investigate alternative livelihood project options for those dependent on natural resources	4.8.1 – 4.8.3
	Action 4.9: Investigate livelihood projects for women and craftsmen to provide households with supplemental income	4.9.1 – 4.9.5
	Action 4.10: Encourage sustainable active farming through alternative livelihood investment	4.10.1 – 4.10.2
Strategy Five: Addressing Community Development Constraints		
	Action 5.1: Lobby for improved road maintenance	5.1.1 – 5.2

Gales Point Community Development Plan

Strategies for Action (continued)		
	Action 6.1: Gales Point to take on co-management role through the Gales point Wildlife Sanctuary Community Management Committee	6.1.1 – 6.1.3
	Action 6.2: Ensure that Gales Point community has input into management of Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary	6.2.1
	Action 6.3: Increase community involvement in protection of natural resources	6.3.1 – 6.3.6
	Action 6.4: Increase environmental and conservation awareness, particularly of Southern Lagoon, manatees, goliath grouper, hicatee and sea turtles within the Gales Point area	6.4.1
	Action 6.5: Establish volunteer programme	6.5.1 – 6.5.4

6. The Community Development Strategies

Gales Point Community Development Matrix

Introduction

The Villagers of Gales Point have witnessed a significant negative trend in community life in recent years, a trend which impacts their daily lives and threatens their livelihoods, economic and personal security. Whilst the older generation has retained its values and hopes for the betterment of the community, it is often hindered by a fractious and uncooperative younger generation. The root causes for the breakdown of community spirit, social responsibility and economy are complex, and may be traced back many years. There is however a broad recognition, within the community, of the need to reverse the current social trends in order to improve the current status of the community and to open opportunities to rejuvenate Gales Point and the lifestyle and outlook of its inhabitants. Whilst there is no magic wand to remedy the community ills, the broad desire to improve the situation is a positive step in the right direction: this community development plan aims to identify the barriers to be broached, and a suite of strategies and strategic actions to be implemented in order to make good use of the many opportunities available and tackle the threats to successful implementation.

Barriers to Community Development:

Whilst the root causes for the current depressed economy and social wellbeing of the Gales Point community are complex, they cumulatively result in three major barriers to positive development:

- **Lack of Community Unity**
- **Community Development Constraints**
- **Natural Resource Management Constraints**

This Development Plan seeks to:

- 1. Use collaborative activities to build community unity**
- 2. Integrate planning mechanisms to assist in implementation of ideas**
- 3. Provide suggested funding strategies to assist in location of financial support and sustainability mechanisms**

Who should lead implementation of the Community Development Plan?

The Village Council should lead the process, but can, and should, delegate activities to other people, groups and committees within the community. At the end of the day, however, it is the Village Council's responsibility to ensure that the activities are completed. Leaders of each activity should be chosen for their interest and motivation towards the success of the activity – the implementation of the plan should be exclusive of politics, gender and race.

Barrier One: Lack of Community Unity:

Gales Point has historically drawn visitors from all over Belize, attracted by the peace, tranquility, cultural vibrancy and unity of the Gales Point community. Over recent years, however, this unity has started to disintegrate, with the community fragmenting into factions that are unwilling to work together, with a breakdown of family structure, and increase in youth crime. This has affected all components of community life, reducing tourism visitation to Gales Point, employment opportunities and external investment interest in the community, and lobbying power for social development.

The social wounds caused by many of these divisions can only be addressed by the community itself: the community must strive to regain its pride and work together for the betterment of the whole community. Opportunities exist for assistance from outside the community, but these opportunities will remain largely beyond the grasp of the inhabitants of Gales Point until the community is able to close, or work around, the current divisions and cooperate towards a common goal. The Vision Statement developed by the Gales Point community, through broad participation in the development planning process, is testament to the fact that broad agreement exists on many major issues – and thereby lays the foundation for broad collaboration within the community, for the betterment of the community.

Causal factors:

- Increasing lack of respect between generations
- Increasing gang culture in youth sector
- Increasing crime, especially in youth sector
- Increased drug use within the community
- Political divisions
- Family divisions
- Lack of economic / employment opportunities
- Lack of community responsibility in working to solve causal factors

Barrier Two: Community Development Constraints:

Gales Point considers itself as a forgotten community, isolated at the end of a bad road. The decreasing economy of the Gales Point area is reflected in the deteriorating condition of the houses, the migration of community members out of the community, poor accessibility, increasing crime, and perceived issues with social services – the education, health, utilities (water and electricity) and waste removal services.

Causal factors:

- Lack of community unity, therefore reduced lobbying power
- Lack of community motivation, unwillingness to implement self-action, and attitudes of community dependency on external solutions
- Increasing crime reducing external investment interest and tourism visitation
- Political and family divisions
- Lack of economic / employment opportunities
- Limited awareness of national issues and integration, governance
- Migration of community members with higher education out of the community

Barrier Three: Natural Resource Management Issues:

Gales Point has historically been reliant on the natural resources of the Gales Point area, which are considered an integral part of the culture of the community. The near-pristine environments of lagoon (with its manatees and sport fish), of creeks, pine savanna and karst forests, with hidden caves with spiritual and archaeological significance, have provided the community with natural resources for support of their families. The uninterrupted scenic values, wildlife and cultural integrity of the community have drawn both Belizean and international tourists to the area. Whilst Southern Lagoon itself has been declared a Wildlife Sanctuary, there are increasing impacts from both local and external sources – seine (gill) net fishing, coastal development, water contamination, and lack of natural resource management among them.

Causal factors:

- Need for rejuvenation and capacity building of Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Community Management Committee
- Limited support of co-management group resulting from lack of community unity
- Decreasing tourism, reducing community motivation towards natural resource protection
- Reduced respect for natural resources
- Limited participatory mechanisms for involvement of community in natural resource management
- External factors reducing natural resources available – de-reservation of a portion of Manatee Forest Reserve, politically motivated designation of logging licenses and land parcels by Government
- Unsustainable use of natural resources (local and external)
- Commercial use of fish resources by a small number of families within the community

Strategy One: Regain Gales Point Community Unity				
Action	Activities	Resources	Responsible Party	Opportunities and Threats
1.1 Develop a Community Charter for Action	1.1.1 Draft a community charter for Gales Point, stressing willingness to unite to achieve community Vision, to be signed by Gales Point residents (include a copy of vision statement in charter)	Available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vision Statement ▪ Human resources Required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation folder to contain Community Charter ▪ Community willingness to collaborate 	Who should lead this process? Village Council? Women's Group? Needs to be someone respected and considered neutral	Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Builds on community agreement on Vision Statement ▪ Potential of assistance from Kriol Council ▪ Provides a participatory start to the Community Action Plan Threats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of community interest
	1.1.2 Take Charter to each individual household for signing			
	1.1.3 Display Community Vision Statement at Community Centre			
1.2 Develop a 2-year Community Action Plan for regaining community spirit	1.2.1 Designate someone to lead the planning process	Available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Human resources ▪ Community Centre for meeting ▪ Collaborative projects are outlined in this Development Plan Required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Facilitator (Kriol Council?) 	Is there someone within Gales Point who is familiar with planning matrices and can develop the strategy matrix?	Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collaborative projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Upgrade the community Centre ▪ Annual Festival ▪ Plan for Youth, incorporating Youth Code of Conduct ▪ Housing Project ▪ Tourism Development Plan ▪ Co-management of Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary (see later sections on these individual activities) ▪ Potential of assistance from Kriol Council - facilitator ▪ Potential for Peace Corps volunteer to support process? Threats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of community interest ▪ Lack of political will ▪ Lack of financial resources ▪ Limited technical capacity within community
	1.2.2 Hold a community planning meeting to formulate a Community Action Plan, to include activities drawn from this Development Plan, targeted at all sectors of society - the youth (eg. regular sports activities – sports club, sailing), women, the elderly and children			
	1.2.3 Present ideas as a planning matrix containing strategies, actions, activities, responsible people, and budget.			
	1.2.4 Seek funds for implementation of plan (see Funding Strategies)			
	1.2.5 Develop ideas for monthly 'Community Action Day' for volunteer activities (see 3.1.2)			

Strategy Two: Provide Support for Community Groups				
Action	Activities	Resources	Responsible Party	Opportunities and Threats
2.1 Strengthen the Women's Group and Women's Group activities	2.1.1 Strengthen the Women's Group and Women's Group activities through capacity building in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Business skills ▪ Crafts ▪ Marketing 	Available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Human resources – current Women's Group ▪ Potential Women's Group members ▪ Community Centre as meeting location Required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community willingness to collaborate ▪ Trainers ▪ Finance 	Women's Group	Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cultural values of community ▪ Could be the focal group for running the Annual Festival Threats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of community interest and motivation ▪ Lack of finance
2.2. Re-establish tour guide association within Gales Point	2.2.1 Identify tour guide to lead the process	Available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pool of trained tour guides ▪ Potential tour guides ▪ Community Centre as training location Required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tour guide trainer ▪ Commitment from potential tour guides ▪ Funding for National Tour Guide Training programme 	Tour guides	Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tour guides within Gales Point ▪ Funding potential and support through Wildlife Trust, GEF-SGP, PACT, and other funding agencies based on alternative livelihoods for Gales Point community as stakeholders of Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Threats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unrealistic expectations for immediate returns (tourism will take time to recover)
	2.2.2 Survey of Gales Point tour guides – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How many tour guides are there? ▪ How many are licensed? ▪ How many licensed tour guides are working as tour guides? ▪ Is there a need for more tour guides? ▪ How many people are interested in being tour guides? (8) Decision as to whether the Tourism Group should be re-established			
	2.2.3 Re-establish the Tourism Group			
	2.2.4 Meeting for tour guides to identify a series of activities to take the Tourism Group forward			

Strategy Two: Provide Support for Community Groups (continued)				
Action	Activities	Resources	Responsible Party	Opportunities and Threats
2.2. Re-establish tour guide association within Gales Point (continued)	2.2.5 Tourism Group should present ideas as a planning matrix containing strategies, actions, activities, responsible people, and budget.		Tour Guides	
2.3 Provide support for the Gales Point Youth Group	2.3.1 Identify two community volunteers willing to lead the starting of a Youth Group	Available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Human resources ▪ Youths requiring activities ▪ Community Centre as meeting location ▪ Community skills for football, basketball, drumming, sailing Required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identification of lead people with 'role model' qualities ▪ Commitment from youths ▪ Funding for activities (see Funding Strategies) 	Youth Group Drumming School	Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Experience / lessons learnt from other Youth Group initiatives (contact: Kenrick Williams, PACT) ▪ Governmental and non-governmental initiatives to support youth programmes (SIF/BEST?) Threats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of interest from youths
	2.3.2 Community youth meeting to discuss a 'Plan for Youths' – a series of activities – sports, sailing, community activities (clean up campaigns, house restoration for the elderly etc.), cultural and conservation activities			
	2.3.3 Present ideas as a planning matrix containing strategies, actions, activities, responsible people, and budget.			
	2.3.4 Youths to develop Youth Code of Conduct as part of 'Plan for Youths', with community service options for those who break the Code of Conduct, with Code of Conduct presented to rest of community			

Strategy Two: Provide Support for Community Groups (continued)				
Action	Activities	Resources	Responsible Party	Opportunities and Threats
2.4 Strengthen Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Community Management Committee	2.4.1 Hold a community meeting to discuss co-management of Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary, with re-elections for Management Committee Board	Available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Human resources ▪ Assistance from Wildlife Trust ▪ Assistance from Forest and Fisheries Departments Required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Active Board ▪ Commitment from community ▪ Funding for implementation of Management Plan activities (see Funding Strategies) 	Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Community Management Committee	Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Forest Department is seeking co-management agreement for the Wildlife Sanctuary with Gales Point ▪ People in community with knowledge of manatees, sea turtles and Wildlife Sanctuary ▪ Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Management Plan ▪ Funding potential through Wildlife Trust, GEF-SGP, PACT and other funding agencies associated with protected area management / manatees Threats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limited community participation within leadership activities ▪ Reduced support from Wildlife Trust
	2.4.2 New Board to develop an Annual Operational Plan of activities based on the Strategic Actions within the Management Plan			
	2.4.3 Use management plan and workplan to leverage funding for implementation of management plan activities			
2.5 Strengthen networking and support mechanisms between the Gales Point groups	2.5.1 Organize a community meeting every second month with attendance by all groups, with each group presenting their progress in implementing their respective plans	Available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Human resources ▪ Assistance from Wildlife Trust ▪ Assistance from Forest and Fisheries Departments ▪ Community Centre as meeting location 	Village Council Lead person for Community Action Plan	Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community did have past groups that can be revitalized and strengthened ▪ Small size of community makes networking easier
	2.5.2 Use the meeting as a forum for looking at how each group can assist the other groups with their activities			

Strategy Two: Provide Support for Community Groups (continued)				
Action	Activities	Resources	Responsible Party	Opportunities and Threats
2.5 Strengthen networking and support mechanisms between the Gales Point groups (continued)	2.5.3 Locate funding for office equipment to be accessed by groups – computer, printer, scanner	Required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commitment from community ▪ Leadership training ▪ Funding for leadership training 	Village Council Lead person for Community Action Plan	Threats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limited community participation within leadership activities ▪ Limited communication between community members
	2.5.4 Leadership training and capacity building			
2.6 Provide mechanisms to bridge the generation gap	2.6.1 Community project to capture local history and knowledge, led by youth	Available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Human resources ▪ Assistance from Wildlife Trust and Kriol Council ▪ Community Centre meeting facilities Required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commitment from community ▪ Materials to record local history and knowledge 		Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cultural traditions have united generations in the past ▪ Small size of community makes networking easier Threats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of respect between generations ▪ Limited communication between community members
	2.6.2 Forum for discussion between youths and elderly, facilitated by Kriol Council			
	2.6.3 Activities to recreate community spirit and unity – drumming, storytelling, with integration of elderly			

Strategy Three: Community Activities				
Action	Activities	Resources	Responsible Party	Opportunities and Threats
3.1 Community Action Days to build community unity	3.1.1 Allocate one day a month as a Community Action Day, focused on volunteer community activities, with broad participation	Available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Human resources ▪ Activities (as outlined below) Required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commitment from community 	Lead person for Community Action Plan Village Council	Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Many activities do not require any or little funding Threats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limited volunteer mentality within community ▪ Lack of community interest and unity
	3.1.2 Develop a timetable for Community Action Days (last Saturday of every month?)			
3.2 Village clean up	3.2.1 Community effort to clean up village once a quarter	Available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Human resources Required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commitment from community ▪ Garbage bags ▪ Transport of garbage to Dangriga dump 		Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seek donations of garbage bags from hotel / bed and breakfast establishments in Gales Point ▪ Seek assistance with taking garbage to dump from Manatee Lodge (pickup and fuel) ▪ Good youth activity – involve school as well
3.2 Upgrade the community centre	3.2.1 Assess activities and materials needed to upgrade the community centre	Available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Human resources Required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commitment from community ▪ Paint, brushes / rollers ▪ Other identified materials 	Village Council. SIF	Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potential to seek donation of materials for refurbishment of Community Centre from local businesses (Dangriga, Belize City) ▪ Funding potential through Wildlife Trust, GEF-SGP, PACT, SIF, based on Gales Point community and biodiversity of Southern Lagoon Wildlife Sanctuary
	3.2.2 Locate materials through donations or funding			
	3.2.3 Repair and re-paint community centre			
	3.2.4 Encourage use through provision of internet access			

Strategy Three: Community Activities				
Action	Activities	Resources	Responsible Party	Opportunities and Threats
3.3 Maintenance activities to assist the elderly	3.3.1 Identify houses / house lots in need of repair, with elderly occupant(s) lacking family support who would like assistance	Available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Human resources ▪ Machetes Required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintenance tools and materials 	SIF, BEST	Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potential to seek donation of maintenance tools and materials from mission and other organizations in Belize (eg. Rotary, SIF) ▪ Opportunity to incorporate youths / Youth Group ▪ Opportunity to increase communication between generations
	3.3.2 Develop maintenance tool list for community maintenance activities (rakes etc.)			
	3.3.3 For each house list materials required for maintenance activities			
	3.3.4 Ask local businesses (Dangriga / Belize City) for donations towards materials, and locate funding to cover balance			
	3.3.5 Implement maintenance activities as part of Community Action Day activities			
3.4 Turtle beach cleanup	3.4.1 Community effort to clean up turtle nesting beach once a year before nesting season (combine with beach barbecue)	Available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Human resources Required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commitment from community ▪ Garbage bags ▪ Boats and fuel for access ▪ Transport of garbage to Dangriga dump 	Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Community Management Committee	Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potential to seek donation of garbage bags from mission ▪ Funding potential as part of larger project through Wildlife Trust, GEF-SGP, PACT, based on Gales Point community and biodiversity of Southern Lagoon Wildlife Sanctuary ▪ Builds awareness within the Gales Point population of sea turtles and the need for conservation ▪ Good youth activity – involve school as well

Strategy Four: Increasing Economic Opportunities in Gales Point				
Action	Activities	Resources	Responsible Party	Opportunities and Threats
Tourism				
4.1 Increase tourism potential of Gales Point	4.1.1 Meeting for focal group discussion with current tour guides to discuss future collaboration and tourism opportunities, for integration into Tourism Development Plan	Available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Skilled tour guides ▪ Hotels / guest houses ▪ Restaurants ▪ Drum school ▪ Crafts Required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commitment from community ▪ Community leadership ▪ Tourism Development Plan ▪ Investment in equipment ▪ Marketing skills 	Tour Guides Local Tourism Industry	Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community Activity Days will provide better environment for tourism (Village Clean Up days, Upgrade of Community Centre etc.) ▪ Rich cultural heritage of Gales Point ▪ Unparalleled scenic beauty of Gales Point ▪ Southern lagoon is highlighted for its West Indian Manatee population ▪ Dance and music are integral parts of the Gales Point culture ▪ Interest from national and international organizations in providing support and/or finance (eg. Creole Council) ▪ Some rooms available at guest houses and Manatee Lodge Threats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure community works to prevent fighting and crime - promote a 'crime free' community ▪ Poor access ▪ Poor solid waste disposal ▪ Lack of community unity
	4.1.2 Re-establish and strengthen the Tourism Group			
	4.1.3 Meeting for tour guides to discuss potential tour itineraries within the Gales Point area, and ways of strengthening tours – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ formation of Tourism Group as an umbrella tour operator ▪ shared equipment ▪ further training (for guiding focused on manatees, birds, fly fishing, local culture) ▪ Mechanisms for increasing tour standards for tour quality and pricing – tour-specific training ▪ Strengthening of local and international marketing of tours 			
	4.1.4 Once tour group is re-established, provide training opportunity for community members wanting to become tour guides, if it is decided that there is sufficient market			

Strategy Four: Increasing Economic Opportunities in Gales Point				
Action	Activities	Resources	Responsible Party	Opportunities and Threats
Tourism (continued)				
4.1 Increase tourism potential of Gales Point (continued)	4.1.5 Tourism Group to develop a series of standard tour itineraries combining cave, forest and savanna scenery, ensuring 'best practices'			Threats (continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Degradation of natural resources (environmental pollution, agrochemical contamination of oil spills, sedimentation from land clearance etc.) ▪ Reduced wildlife populations through unsustainable hunting and fishing, and removal of river bank vegetation
	4.1.6 Investigate other activities – sailing, hiking, kayaking up Manatee River			
	4.1.7 Support drumming schools			
	4.1.8 Evaluate current status of accommodation available within Gales Point and activities required for upgrade			
	4.1.9 Promote the current bed and breakfast facilities within Gales Point in marketing exercises			
4.2 Facilitate the development of an attractive environment for tourism	4.2.1 Village clean-up (see 3.2)		Village Council	
	4.2.2 Community policing			
4.3 Advertise Gales Point on the strength of its culture and natural resources	4.3.1 Employment of consultant to advise on marketing of Gales Point as a tourism destination and identification of marketing opportunities, as part of Tourism Development Plan	Available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tour guides ▪ Active and potential tours Required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funds for hiring consultant 	Tourism Industry	Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Focus for potential Peace Corps position? ▪
	4.3.2 Advertise Gales Point cultural and natural resource tours and activities in Dangriga, Caye Caulker, at Marine Terminal and other key locations		Tourism Industry Tourism Group	Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BTIA and BTB support for tourism initiatives ▪ International support for grass roots tourism

Strategy Four: Increasing Economic Opportunities in Gales Point				
Action	Activities	Resources	Responsible Party	Opportunities and Threats
Tourism (continued)				
4.3 Advertise Gales Point on the strength of its culture and natural resources (continued)	4.3.3 Investigate possibility of two day / one night package starting in Belize City, and incorporating boat trip through Burdon Canal, manatees, Manatee River, drumming and other cultural activities (story telling?), widely advertised in Belize			Opportunities (continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cultural and natural resources
4.4 Develop sport fishing activities,	4.4.1 Ensure that there are adequate guidelines in place, established through participation and recommendations from fly fishing guides	Available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fly fishing guides Required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Someone to document guidelines ▪ Baseline study of fishing vs. sport fishing to determine level of sustainability and compatibility 	Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Community Management Committee Village Council Forest Department Belize Fisheries Department	Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Historical sport fishing market ▪ Local knowledge of fish and lagoon ▪ Infrastructure already exists ▪ Manatee Lodge Threats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Poor guiding practices – not catch-and-release ▪ Unsustainable local and external fishing practices
	4.4.2 Ensure that there is a balance between fishing for community needs and sport fishing			
4.5 Hold an Annual Festival to celebrate Gales Point, the traditional food, dancing, drums and manatee – advertise throughout Belize and through BTB / BTIA	4.5.1 Designate a Committee to be in charge of organizing the festival	Available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community Centre as focal area 	Village Council or appointed group (Tourism Group, Women’s Group?)	Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rich cultural heritage of Gales Point ▪ Unparalleled scenic beauty of Gales Point ▪ Southern lagoon is highlighted for its West Indian Manatee population ▪ Dance and music are integral parts of the Gales Point culture ▪ Interest from national and international organizations in providing support and/or finance (eg. Creole Council)
	4.5.2 Decide on a date			
	4.5.3 Develop a plan, a timeline, and a budget			

Strategy Four: Increasing Economic Opportunities in Gales Point				
Action	Activities	Resources	Responsible Party	Opportunities and Threats
Tourism (continued)				
4.5 Hold an Annual Festival to celebrate Gales Point, the traditional food, dancing, drums and manatee – advertise throughout Belize and through BTB / BTIA (continued)	4.5.4 Hold a community meeting for broad community participation and support. Develop Festival programme – activities, music, food, competitions (drumming competition? Sailing and dory competitions?), prizes, gift stalls...linked to the culture and manatees	Required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Leadership ▪ Operational Plan and budget ▪ Funding ▪ Marketing 	Village Council or appointed group (Tourism Group, Women’s Group?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some rooms available at guest houses and Manatee Lodge ▪ Provide boat access from Belize City, and bus from Dangriga, with return on same day ▪ Use radio and television to market the Festival to both Belizeans and non-Belizeans ▪ Encourage media coverage of the Festival ▪ Skilled craftsmen already creating gifts for sale within Gales Point ▪ Forms a basis for future marketing <p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure community works to prevent fighting and crime during the Festival – promote a ‘crime free’ event ▪ Schedule for dry season at Easter break to avoid rain and coincide with high tourism season
	4.5.5 Provide local school with a booth and engage through poster /display competition highlighting local culture and biodiversity			
	4.5.6 Invite conservation organizations to attend and use Festival to raise awareness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Community Management Committee ▪ Wildlife Trust ▪ Belize Audubon Society ▪ PACT ▪ Forest Department ▪ Belize Fisheries Department ▪ Etc. 			
	4.5.7 Approach local industries, hotels, PACT and other funding sources for identified funding needs			
	4.5.8 Advertise in the two months previous to the Festival using leaflets, posters, radio and television			

Strategy Four: Increasing Economic Opportunities in Gales Point				
Action	Activities	Resources	Responsible Party	Opportunities and Threats
Tourism (continued)				
4.5 Hold an Annual Festival to celebrate Gales Point, the traditional food, dancing, drums and manatee – advertise throughout Belize and through BTB / BTIA (continued)	4.5.9 Ensure sufficient police and active community support to maintain a safe atmosphere during the Festival	(continued)	Village Council or appointed group (Tourism Group, Women’s Group?)	(continued)
4.6 Encourage eco-friendly tourism development and investment in Gales Point	4.6.1 Provide an incentive to potential small hotel/guest house developers through preferential allocation of village land on lagoon front, good price and terms for purchase, tied into agreement for investment in small guest house development, to supplement medium level accommodation in Gales Point, and provide greater tourism resources within the Gales point peninsula, and community access to associated economic opportunities	<p>Available</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potential availability of village land <p>Required</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identification and location of appropriate investors ▪ Appropriate marketing of opportunities ▪ Legal agreement (legal costs) 		<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ideal location <p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shortage of suitable lands ▪ Gales Point reputation for crime ▪ Poor accessibility

Strategy Four: Increasing Economic Opportunities in Gales Point				
Action	Activities	Resources	Responsible Party	Opportunities and Threats
Non-Tourism Opportunities				
4.7 Investigate options for attracting small scale agricultural industry to the Gales Point area	4.7.1 Provide incentives to potential investors, tied into development (lease/sale of village land, for example, in return for employment opportunities or farming cooperative opportunities	Available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potential availability of agricultural land Required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identification and location of appropriate investors ▪ Appropriate marketing of opportunities ▪ Legal agreement (legal costs) ▪ Agreement to abide by 'best practices' to prevent contamination of water supplies, in collaboration with Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Community ▪ Management Committee 	Village Council Farming Group	Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Good agricultural soils ▪ Farming knowledge within Community ▪ Availability of water ▪ Support from Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Agriculture Threats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potential shortage of suitable lands ▪ Risk of land speculation
	4.7.2 Build in to incentives an agreement that bars investor from importing cheap Central American labour			
4.8 Investigate alternative livelihood project options for those dependent on natural resources	4.8.1 Investigate honey production as an alternative livelihood option for gillnet fishermen	Available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Human resources Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Feasibility study ▪ Training in alternative livelihood skills ▪ Capacity building for business management skills 	Village Council Fishermen and hunters	Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Abundant mangrove and forest sources for organic honey ▪ National and international market for honey ▪ National market for native fish species ▪ National market for game meat ▪ Aguacaliente Management Team – pilot Paca project ▪ Funding opportunities through PACT, international funding organizations ▪ NGO support for alternative livelihood projects ▪ Assistance from Fisheries Dept.
	4.8.2 Investigate fish farming with local native fish species as an alternative livelihood option for gillnet fishermen			
	4.8.3 Investigate paca production as an alternative option for hunters			

Strategy Four: Increasing Economic Opportunities in Gales Point				
Action	Activities	Resources	Responsible Party	Opportunities and Threats
Non-Tourism Opportunities				
4.9 Investigate livelihood projects for women and craftsmen to provide households with supplemental income	4.9.1 Identification of potentially viable cultural arts and crafts	Available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Human resources ▪ Skilled drum makers and other traditional craftsmen and women Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Feasibility study ▪ Access to natural resources for crafts ▪ Training in alternative livelihood skills ▪ Capacity building for business management ▪ Marketing skills and input 	GPWSCMC Village Council Women’s Group Drumming school	Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pilot projects in other communities ▪ Access to tourism market, including cruise ship passengers ▪ Drum making is already a viable craft within the village ▪ Pilot projects in other communities...eg. YCT woodworking project Threats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limited business management skills
	4.9.2 Training in production of identified cultural arts and crafts			
	4.9.3 Training in packaging and marketing of cultural arts and crafts			
	4.9.4 Marketing of arts and crafts in Belize (eg. at hotels and tourism village), and identification of international market			
	4.9.5 Support drum makers in location of international export market, and encourage youth apprenticeship programme for drum making and associated craft activities			
4.10 Encourage active faming through alternative livelihood investment	4.10.1 Investigate market potential for intensive farming of high price products (eg. habanero, organic eggs for high-end hotel market), with cooperative structure	Available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Human resources ▪ Agricultural land Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Production and market feasibility study for a variety of potential crops ▪ Technical training in organic and intensive production ▪ Irrigation ▪ Capacity building for business management ▪ Marketing skills and input 	Farming Group	Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Access to local markets of and high-end hotels of Stann Creek District and San Pedro ▪ Existing knowledge and skills of farmers ▪ Good agricultural soils and access to good water ▪ Seasonal glut of produce ▪ Assistance and advice from Ministry of Agriculture / NGOs Threats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limited business management skills ▪ Volatility of market ▪ Seasonality of production ▪ Potential high production costs
	4.10.2 Investigate potential for small-scale canning industry of local produce			

Strategy 5: Community Development Constraints				
Action	Activities	Resources	Responsible Party	Opportunities and Threats
5.1 Lobby for improved road maintenance, electricity for water system, and transportation for police and nurse	5.1.1 Submit letters requesting improved road maintenance, from each of the community action groups to Minister of Works and local Area Representative, showing community unity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Village Council ▪ Women’s Group ▪ Youth Group ▪ Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Community Management Committee ▪ Tourism Group Also from local partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Manatee Lodge ▪ Maroon Creole Drum School ▪ Other community industries Include copy of the Gales Point Community Development Plan	Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community unity and will ▪ Access to Area ▪ Representative and Minister of Public Works 	Village Council	Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Government will listen to a unified community ▪ Community Development Plan to provide framework for request Threats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of community unity ▪ National financial constraints
	5.1.2 Copy letters to Forest Department and Belize Fisheries Department, for their support			
	5.1.3 Resubmit letters, revisit local Area Representative each time road needs upgrading			

Strategy 5: Community Development Constraints				
Action	Activities	Resources	Responsible Party	Opportunities and Threats
5.2 Improved transport service – can a service be implemented for the same cost as the bus service	5.2.1 Market assessment of requirements for increased bus service	Available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minibus operators exist in Belize City and Dangriga Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Critical mass of passengers 	Village Council	Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential business opportunity for a minibus operator Potential to attract greater Tourism Threats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of financial viability
	5.2.2 Liaise with minibus operators re. possibilities of running a private charter service, based on results of market assessment			
Strategy 6: Protection of Natural Resources				
Action	Activities	Resources	Responsible Party	Opportunities and Threats
6.1 Gales Point to take on co-management role through the Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Community Management Committee	6.1.1 Strengthening of the Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Community Management Committee (see 2.4)	Available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Community Required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-management agreement signed with Forest Department Agreement and assistance from Belize Fisheries Department TOR for LAC 	Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Community Management Committee Forest Department	Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Community Management Committee has been identified as potential co-manager by Forest Department Support of Wildlife Trust Potential for financial support from PACT Potential for income from Access Fees through co-management agreement Threat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced level of support of Wildlife Trust Lack of broad community participation and support Limited resources
	6.1.2 Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Community Management Committee to liaise closely with Forest Department, to seek co-management			
	6.1.3 Implementation of activities under the Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Management Plan (see Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Management Plan)			
6.2 Ensure that Gales Point community has input into management of Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary	6.2.1 Establish Local Advisory Committee (LAC), to meet once a quarter with Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Community Management Committee to review progress and provide advice and input			

Strategy 6: Protection of Natural Resources				
Action	Activities	Resources	Responsible Party	Opportunities and Threats
6.3 Increased community involvement in protection of natural resources	6.3.1 Present quarterly activities to LAC for approval, and at community meeting (2.5.1), to inform, and for input and suggestions from the community		Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Community Management Committee Forest Department Fisheries Department	
	6.3.2 Present scheduled activities at community meeting (2.5.1), to inform, and for input and suggestions from the community			
	6.4.3 Establish a community patrol group for surveillance activities, building awareness and ownership of natural resources			
	6.4.4 Establish mechanism for community reporting of illegal activities threatening manatees – seine nets within lagoon system, speeding boats, tourists touching manatees, poor tour guide practices			<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unemployed people within the community looking for opportunities ▪ Local knowledge of the Wildlife Sanctuary and illegal activities occurring within the boundaries <p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of finance
	6.4.5 Liaison with Forest and Fisheries Departments re. traditional fishing within the Wildlife Sanctuary			<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community knowledge of fish resources both in and outside the lagoon system <p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wildlife Sanctuary designation does not allow for extraction ▪ Opposition from commercial gillnet fishermen
	6.4.6 Community meeting to develop guidelines for continued fishing within the Wildlife Sanctuary			

Strategy 6: Protection of Natural Resources				
Action	Activities	Resources	Responsible Party	Opportunities and Threats
6.4 Increase environmental and conservation awareness, particularly of Southern Lagoon manatees, and sea turtles within Gales Point area	6.4.1 Implement education and awareness activities detailed under the Management Plan		Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary Community Management Committee	Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support from Wildlife Trust
6.5 Establish volunteer programme	6.5.1 Investigate opportunities for volunteer groups to assist with protection of turtle nesting beach			Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Accommodation in bed and breakfast accommodation ▪ Volunteer skills – artistic, literary etc. Threats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Volunteer safety within Gales Point
	6.5.2 Establish a structure for the volunteer programme (length of time, daily/nightly schedule of activities)			
	6.5.3 Involve volunteers in other community activities as well – eg. youth group activities associated with turtle nesting beach			
	6.5.4 Volunteer assistance with implementation of sea turtle and manatee lessons provided by Wildlife Trust			

Funding and Sustainability Strategy		
<p>Guidelines:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Don't try to apply for funds for the whole Development Plan at one time. Apply for funding for discrete activities or groups of activities within the plan 2. For larger projects, allow at least eight months between applying for funding and receiving funds 3. Target funding agencies that match your funding needs, and ensure your proposals meet their funding requirements (eg. PACT is linked with Protected Areas, so proposal needs to tie into the Gales Point Wildlife Sanctuary 4. Use the internet to locate international funding agencies focused on conservation of manatees, fish, sustainable development 5. For each additional potential funding agency, complete the following information 		
Potential Funding Agencies	Area of Activity / Funding Priorities	Application Procedure
<p>PACT (Small Grants Programme)</p> <p>Maximum Grant: Bz\$60,000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protected Areas Management and Conservation <p>Activities that are eligible for funding include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) determining and demarcating the limits of protected areas b) completing further ecological assessments and scientific investigation in protected areas c) implementation and improvement of management plans for protected areas that provide for sustainable use of their resources d) monitoring and surveillance activities that ensure compliance to management plans that have been developed and being implemented in protected areas e) institutional strengthening for the management of protected areas through training of management and technical personnel f) protected area visitor use surveys g) environmental impact assessment/surveys on protected areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protected Areas Promotion and Development <p>Activities that are eligible for funding include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) visitor expenditure and opinion survey on protected areas b) establishment of visitor centers and other recreational facilities c) development of infrastructure for the provision of quality services in protected areas d) assistance in marketing activities that foster sustainability of protected areas (e.g. Brochures, maps, website, etc.). 	<p>Application form (Available from PACT office, or on-line)</p> <p>Need to attach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Two letters of recommendation (one must be from Forest Department (as the Government agency responsible for the Wildlife Sanctuary) ▪ Map of project location ▪ Certificate of Registration ▪ Articles of Association ▪ Commitment from co-financing donors <p>Timing: Calls for proposals are advertised through the Belize newspapers, and take place approximately 3 to 4 times a year.</p> <p>Co-financing: PACT will fund up to 75% of project costs, but requires 25% co-financing from elsewhere.</p>

Funding and Sustainability Strategy		
Potential Funding Agencies	Area of Activity / Funding Priorities	Application Procedure
<p>PACT /2 (Small Grants Programme)</p>	<p>▪ Environmental Education and Awareness</p> <p>Activities that are eligible for funding include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) conferences, workshops and environmental policy studies in Belize aimed at informing the public on the state of the environment, the importance of natural resources and generating public awareness on the need to protect and preserve the natural resources of Belize. b) television and radio programs aimed at generating public awareness on the need to protect and preserve the natural resources of Belize. c) posters, leaflets and newsletter aimed at generating public awareness on the need to protect and preserve the natural resources. d) other media that informs the public, businesses, schools on the importance on the environment and the need to protect and preserve it. <p>▪ Community Development around Protected Areas</p> <p>Activities that are eligible for funding include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) technical assistance to communities involved in the management of protected areas. b) support community driven projects which compliment the Trust's objectives and mission c) support community activities that enable sustainable development and use of natural resources in protected areas d) training programs for communities for skills in protected areas management. e) organizational development of non-governmental organizations involved in protected areas management and conservation via technical assistance f) minimal infrastructure and capital equipment for non-governmental organizations involved in protected areas management and conservation 	<p>Activities not eligible for funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Salaries for established staff of government of Belize agencies ▪ Salaries for permanent staff of non-government organizations ▪ Recurrent expenses of government of Belize agencies and Non Governmental Organizations ▪ Funding for private organizations, which are organized for profit.

Funding and Sustainability Strategy		
Potential Funding Agencies	Area of Activity / Funding Priorities	Application Procedure
<p>GEF-SGP Maximum grant: Bz\$80,000</p>	<p>Programme of most relevance:</p> <p>Biodiversity:</p> <p>2. Coastal, Marine, and Freshwater Ecosystems</p> <p>Projects concentrate on the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is the ecosystem or constituent species threatened or at risk? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goliath grouper (Critically Endangered) Hawksbill Turtle (Critically Endangered) Hicatee (Central American River Turtle)(Critically Endangered) Green Turtle (Endangered) West Indian Manatee (Vulnerable) Mangrove ecosystems ▪ Is it a "hot spot" (areas under threat that have exceptional concentrations of species unique to the area)? ▪ Is there a significant presence of endemic species? ▪ Is the site rich in species? ▪ Does it contain habitats that are important to migratory species? ▪ Does it fall under international treaties, laws, agreements or conventions, such as the Convention on International Trade in End <p>Other less relevant GEF SGP Programmes: Climate Change International Waters Persistent Organic Pollutants Land Degradation</p>	<p>Application is through the GEF-SGP office in Belmopan, and follows the following process:</p> <p>Step 1: The project proponent contacts the SGP National Coordinator (in the local UNDP country office or in the host NGO) to receive project application guidelines and forms.</p> <p>Step 2: With assistance from the National Coordinator and using the standard SGP format, the proponent prepares a brief project concept paper and submits this to the coordinator.</p> <p>Step 3: The national coordinator reviews and pre-screens the concept paper according to GEF criteria and criteria adopted by the NSC for activities in that country.</p> <p>Step 4: If the project is judged eligible, the project proponent prepares a project proposal; in some cases, this step may be supported by a planning grant.</p> <p>Step 5: Completed project proposals are submitted by the National Coordinator or the NSC.</p> <p>Step 6: The NSC reviews the proposal and either accepts it, rejects it, or returns it to the proposer with a request that further work be done on formulating and refining the project data.</p> <p>Step 7: Approved proposals enter the national SGP work programme. SGP grants are usually paid in three installments: an up-front payment to initiate the project; a mid-term payment upon receipt of a satisfactory progress report; and a final payment on receipt of a satisfactory project completion and final report.</p> <p>A Planning Grant is available of approximately Bz\$2,000 to assist in preparation of the full project proposal to cover costs such as hiring a proposal writer and holding community meetings</p>

Community Workshop One

December, 2006

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Shannon Welch
Winfield Slusher
Albert Myers
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Lawrence Young Jr.
Emmeth Young
Karen Strongback
Trenton Welch
Kevin Andrewin
Other Participants
Paul and Zoe Walker, Wildtracks
Nellie Catzim, Wildtracks
Nicole Auil, Wildlife Trust
Hannah StLuce, Forest Department
Dylan Gomez, Observer
Nell Hamilton, Observer



**Breakout groups
Community Workshop One
December 28th, 2007**

Gales Point Community Development Plan



Community Workshop Two

June, 2007



Community Meeting

February, 2008



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