



Proposal for ReefBall? Pilot Project

**Deployment of 40 Ultra Reef Balls for the
development of new fishing and diving sites.**

Barbados Marine Trust

“ To Conserve, Protect & Manage”

Project Proposal:

To deploy 40 Ultra Reef Balls (6' X 4') to create habitat for fish and other marine species and to develop a new fishing and diving site.

Project Outline

The Coastal areas of Barbados are critical to the well being and livelihood of Barbadians. The coastline provides much employment through fishing, transportation, tourism and recreation for the local population and visitors. Unfortunately, these marine ecosystems are no longer as healthy as they once were. The South coast of Barbados presents several barren areas where very little marine life exists.

In light of this, The Barbados Marine Trust (BMT) proposes a pilot project involving the deployment of approximately 40 Ultra Reef Balls, each measuring 6 feet by 4 feet. The Trust proposes that these structures be deployed between the shores of the Asta Beach Resort and the Coconut Court Beach Resort in clusters comprising of no more than 4 balls, with a minimum spacing of 10 metres between each cluster.

This area was chosen as a suitable location due the presence of a hard, flat shelf in a barren area which coincides with the benthic substrate zone that will be minimally impacted. Furthermore, the housing of The Barbados Marine Trust at the Coconut Court Beach Resort will allow the Trust to maximize its monitoring efforts with regards to this project.

It is worth mentioning here, that although Reef Ball structures have yet to be deployed in Barbados, varying types of artificial reef systems have been created, both deliberately and unknowingly. Underwater wrecks have been sunk to create artificial reefs for SCUBA use, including the Ellion in Carlisle bay, the Stavronikita near Batts Rock and the Palmir near Speightstown. These wrecks have become popular underwater sites due to the diversity and abundance of fish, hard and soft corals and other organisms.

The objectives and benefits of a Reef Ball deployment project include:

- ~~///~~ The conservation, rehabilitation and enhancement of the coastal area.
- ~~///~~ The creation of vital habitat for many coral reef and fish species.
- ~~///~~ Facilitation of monitoring and scientific research.
- ~~///~~ Educational opportunities and environmental awareness for students, the Barbadian public and visitors.

Grant Applicant

The Barbados Marine Trust is a Charitable Organization, founded in April 2000 with the mission to “Protect, maintain, enhance and renew the mangroves, coastline, foreshore, beaches, reefs and the coastal waters surrounding Barbados”. The Barbados Marine Trust is a member of the Caribbean Conservation Association, and serves on the board of the same organization. The Barbados Marine Trust is acting as the primary grant applicant and will directly oversee the construction and deployment of the structures to be used in this activity. Technical support and advice is being provided by a number of supporting organizations including the Coastal Zone Management Unit and the University of the West Indies.

Project objectives

The project has three main objectives.

- (1) To act as a pilot study to demonstrate the immediate and long term benefits of the use of these structures.
- (2) The creation of a new snorkel and dive site.
- (3) The development of a sustainable, managed fishing area.

Project Implementation

Following numerous discussions with the Coastal Zone Management Unit, government approval is being sought through the Town & Country Planning Department for the deployment of these structures. Please see the enclosed Assessment of the Proposed Reef Ball Project as prepared for the BMT by coastal engineers Smith Warner International.

The quarterly monitoring of the deployed structures will be executed by Ms. Diorys Perez of the Natural Resource Management Department of the University of the West Indies.

Please see enclosed One year Monitoring Proposal as prepared for the BMT by Ms. Perez.

Please note that this proposal was designed to monitor the deployed Reef Balls each month for one year. The BMT thereafter deemed it necessary to monitor on a quarterly, not monthly basis, thereby transforming the enclosed one-year monitoring proposal into a three-year proposal. The costing below includes the monitoring cost for 1 year.

Costs and Budget

Preconco Ltd. Developers of precast concrete structures have been asked to provide a quotation for the development of the structures “at cost”. Preconco Ltd. has agreed in writing to become the long-term producers of Reef Balls for the BMT, and offered to undertake this first project for a minimal fee of Bds \$ 20,782.80 VAT inclusive.

Item	Agency/Provider	Cost/Bds
ReefBall Construction	Preconco Ltd.	20,782.80
Monitoring Costs/Per Year	Diorys Perez	17,787.32
Total/Bds		38,570.12

The enclosed monitoring proposal contains an itemized costing.

Please note that the costing included in Ms. Perez’s proposal covers a three-year, not a one-year period.

Intended Beneficiaries

The execution of this pilot project will allow governmental regulatory agencies to see firsthand, the positive results to be had by the use of these structures. The execution of this pilot phase will immediately lead to the effective corrective management of the immediate area and nearby coastline. This will benefit the near-coastal marine environment, tourism operations along the coast, diver and dive shop operators, local residents and, in the long term, the local fishing industry.

Time Frame

The project will commence immediately upon the receipt of Town Planning approval and the funds required to cover production and initial monitoring costs.

Acknowledgements

All press releases, published information and verbal statements made by The Barbados Marine Trust will include acknowledgement of the funding support received from Swiss Re. Swiss Re will also be invited to all press conferences and local community meetings connected with the execution of this project.

Contact Information

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