

Bokan Botin Conservation Area 2016-2021 Action Plan



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Draft

Prepared by:

Tibon Family

**With technical assistance from MIMRA, CMAC and
Wayne Andrew (PIMPAC)**

Acknowledgements

Tibon family and landowners would like to thank our partners for their support, time and the hard work invested in contributing to this process. We would especially like to acknowledge the support of the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA), fellow participants from Enekalamur islet, and Wayne Andrews from the Pacific Islands Marine Protected Areas Community for facilitating the development of this management plan. The family sincerely acknowledges the use of the draft plan from Enekalamur as a model and template for the development of this management plan for Bokan Botin. Since these two sites are closely located and similar in size, habitat, and challenges, the family used much of the information presented in the Enekalamur draft plan and want to acknowledge the time and effort by the Madison family in putting it together and share their appreciation for allowing us to use much of the information in their plan to formulate this plan.

All photos within this document were provided by the Mr. Wayne Andrew, MIMRA and the Tibon Family and are used with their permission. For more information regarding Bokan Botin and the development of this plan, feel free to contact members of the Tibon Family or MIMRA.

1. Title of the Management Plan

- I. This Management Plan shall be referred to as the “Bokan Botin Conservation Area Plan”.

2. Designated areas and species for the Management Plan

- I. Area – Designated areas include both marine and terrestrial environments of Bokan Botin, Majuro Atoll.
- II. Species – Designated species in this plan include the marine and terrestrial flora and fauna of Bokan Botin, Majuro Atoll.

3. Background

Bokan Botin is a small island located on the northern side of Majuro Atoll in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Starting in early 2015, the landowners of Bokan Botin began to consider developing the island into a conservation area following the success story of the Madison Family from their Conservation efforts on Bikirin Island. Using lessons learned from the sister site at Bikirin and Enekalapur the Tibon Family will work with local and regional partners to address the urgent threats at Bokan Botin. This plan will work towards promoting sustenance, resilience and adaptation thin an environment threatened by human activity, biodiversity loss, global warming and other factors of climate change. Advances within this project will be shared throughout the Marshall Islands so other island communities can understand the benefits, and adopt such practices.

4. Summary

The Bokan Botin Management Plan is a five-year plan developed through the interest of its owners, the Tibon family. The intent of this plan is to address occurring threats towards the island's resources and overall environment. After initially meeting with the family, the MIMRA team began collecting information through baseline surveys. The information collected was used to form the basis of this plan. The planning team held a series of community meetings and afterwards, the Planning Team along with Tibon Family members attended a workshop hosted by PIMPAC on Management Planning. The workshop helped familiarize them with the process and held discussions to articulate and organize the community inputs that resulted in a vision statement, goals and objectives, a budget plan, management rules and zones, and the activities to be carried out over the five year period of this plan.

Throughout the five year period of this plan, the Tibon Family will work with MALGOV to develop and implement a conservation area ordinance and to establish a committee that will

develop partnerships, secure resources to address the urgent issues of overfishing, climate change impacts, pollution, and unregulated harvest of resources. This actions will help the family and the Government of the Marshal Islands achieve their common vision of pristine islands having abundance of resources to be enjoyed by the family and the people of the Marshal Islands.

5. Vision Statement

We the TIBON FAMILY envision Bokan botin Iset to be pristine, have abundant resources and biologically diverse. The land will be fruitful, resilient, and sustainable, benefiting the landowners and the people of the Republic of the Marshal Islands.

6. Goals

- I. Bokan Botin will have a healthy environment that is biologically diverse, consisting of healthy and balanced ecosystems
- II. Bokan Botin will have an abundance of both marine and terrestrial resources. It will be well managed by TIBON FAMILY
- III. TIBON FAMILY is fully aware of the threats of climate change and will therefore mitigate its causes and adapt to its effects.

These three goals have measurable objectives which will guide the activities under this plan

7. Stakeholder Analysis

Stakeholder	Interest in the area	Importance of their interest	Importance to the planning process	How will they be involved?
TIBON FAMILY/landowners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clan ownership of resources • need for sustainable livelihood 	High	Very Important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • planning team • monthly meetings
MIVA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beautification projects, tourism, & Awareness 	Medium	Important – lobby for financing and awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask for inputs in the process • Inform of management decisions

Neighboring Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational • Diving • Bird Watching 	Medium	Important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform of decisions • Enforcement and monitoring • Must understand MPA and terrestrial conservation measures
Fishermen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishing location • Marine resources (personal & commercial use) 	Medium	Low Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform of the rules for the MPA –
MIMRA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Conservation Area 	High	Medium Important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct marine assessments
Enforcement Agencies (MALGOV, MIMRA, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandated to enforce the rules • Raising awareness • Assisting in surveys and work with tourists • Promote Historical & Cultural heritage 	High	Medium Importance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need early input and assistance in the planning process

8. Prioritized Natural Resource Targets

- i. Coral Reefs
- ii. Coast Protecting Plants
- iii. Food Crops
- iv. Food fish (other edible marine resources)

9. Problems and Causes

Problem	Causes
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1. Coral degradation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overfishing • Destructive fishing • Erosion (coral sedimentation) • Recreational activities
2. Damage to coastal plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erosion • Sand and rock mining
3. Decline of food crops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overconsumption • Overharvesting (poaching)
4. Decline of fish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overfishing • Overconsumption • Destructive Fishing

Solutions	Short-term outcomes	Long-term outcomes
Regulations and ordinances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify needs for regulations/ordinances • Identify partner organizations • Protection of Conservation Area initiated • Work with MALGOV (enforcement & monitoring) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulatory framework in place with enforcement measures for protected areas • Strong partnership established with relevant agencies • Resource users understand and abide by rules and laws
Coastal management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop further decline of resources • Destructive activities identified • Determine baseline populations • Awareness programs conducted • Work with MIMRA (baseline surveys & capacity building) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Populations stabilized • Habitats restored • Monitoring program initiated • Trainings completed • The community and public change their behavior based on what they have learned
Coastal replanting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine baseline populations • Develop funding strategy • Conduct awareness programs • Work with MIVA • Complete trainings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable funding obtained • Monitoring program initiated • Trainings completed • Increase in tourism • The community and public change their behavior based on what they have learned

10. Threat Analysis

Threat	Solutions	Outcomes
Overfishing	Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulatory framework in place with enforcement measures for protected areas
Trespassing and poaching	Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of protected area and change in behavior • Habitat restoration • Regulatory framework in place with enforcement measure to ensure no-passage of trespassers
Climate Change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erosion • Sea level rise • Sea temperature rise • Coral bleaching • Strong winds 	Mitigation and Adaptation Coastal Management Replanting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built coastal barriers • Increased growth of reef grazing, herbivorous fish population to address bleaching • Specific plants grown for elemental defense and soil fertility planted
Invasive Species (Terrestrial & Marine)	Coastal management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge and change in behavior • Habitat Restoration

11. Resource Management Team

The members of the TIBON FAMILY agree that in order to properly manage and monitor Boka Botin, while also encouraging more family involvement, family members are to develop a resource management team and work in close partnership with local and regional partners to realize the family's vision. The family will work to set up a Management Committee that will secure funding to hire a Project Coordinator and Conservation Officers in partnership with MALGOV.

Enforcement	Awareness & Outreach	Monitoring	Partnerships	Training
<u>Team leader:</u> Coordinator	<u>Team leader:</u> Coordinator	<u>Team leader:</u> Coordinator	<u>Team leader:</u> Coordinator	<u>Team leader:</u> Coordinator
<u>Team members:</u> Conservation Officers MALGOV MIMRA	<u>Team members:</u> Conservation Officers MALGOV MIMRA CMAC	<u>Team members:</u> Conservation Officers MALGOV MIMRA	<u>Team members:</u> Conservation Officers MALGOV MIMRA	<u>Team members:</u> Conservation Officers MALGOV MIMRA

12. Objectives

Objective	Management actions	Who	Indicators
1. By early 2016, Bokan Botin will be enlisted as both a marine and terrestrial conservation area within the atoll of Majuro	1. Review and revise draft plan 2. Implement Conservation Area Plan	TIBON FAMILY MIMRA, HPO TIBON FAMILY, MALGOV	Number of meetings held Survey results Draft plan completed and enacted completed and enacted
2. By early 2016, Bokan Botin will be closed to the public for no less than 5 years as a full-no take Conservation zone, only accessible by members of TIBON FAMILY and its partners	1. Create signage 2. 6 month annual assessments	MALGOV, TIBON FAMILY, MIMRA	Implementation and enforcement of declaration Signage in full view of people passing by
3. By end of 2016 Bokan Botin community and stakeholders will have endorsed and implemented the coastal management plan to prevent erosion, poaching, coral destruction, and overfishing	1. Coastal survey 2. Meetings for endorsement and implementation	MALGOV, MIMRA, HPO TIBON FAMILY stakeholders	Survey results Number of meetings, completion and endorsement of plan
4. By end of 2016 Bokan Botin community will obtain a secure a funding method in order to maintain and manage the Bokan Botin conservation area	1. Funding received	GEF Small Grants TIBON FAMILY stakeholders	Approval of grant and receipt of funding

13. Budget

	Expenses	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	Average
Salaries	Monthly totals:	\$1,759	\$1,550	\$1,550	\$1,759	\$1,550	\$1,550	\$1,759	\$1,550	\$1,550	\$1,759	\$1,550	\$1,550	\$19,437	\$1,620
	Project Coordinator	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$9,600	\$800
	Conservation Officer	\$500	\$500	\$500				\$500	\$500	\$500				\$3,000	\$500
	Conservation Officer				\$500	\$500	\$500				\$500	\$500	\$500	\$3,000	\$500
	Conservation Asst.	\$250	\$250	\$250				\$250	\$250	\$250				\$1,500	\$250
	Conservation Asst.				\$250	\$250	\$250				\$250	\$250	\$250	\$1,500	\$250
	Fringe Benefits (13.5%)	\$209.25			\$209.25			\$209.25			\$209.25			\$837	\$0
Education and Awareness	Monthly totals:	\$175	\$25	\$25	\$225	\$25	\$300	\$350	\$200	\$25	\$225	\$25	\$25	\$1,625	\$135
	Print Materials	\$150					\$150							\$300	\$150
	Advertisements				\$200			\$200			\$200			\$600	\$200
	School/Comm Visits						\$150	\$150	\$200					\$500	\$167
	Supplies	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25				\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$225	\$25
Resource Monitoring Program	Monthly totals:	\$650	\$500	\$500	\$650	\$500	\$500	\$650	\$500	\$500	\$650	\$500	\$500	\$6,600	\$550
	Contract	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$6,000	\$500
	Supplies/Equipment	\$150			\$150			\$150			\$150			\$600	\$150
Enforcement Program	Monthly totals:	\$575	\$75	\$1,075	\$575	\$75	\$75	\$575	\$75	\$1,075	\$575	\$75	\$75	\$4,900	\$408
	Fuel/Oil	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$600	\$50
	Ranger Supplies	\$500			\$500			\$500			\$500			\$2,000	\$500
	Ranger Training			\$1,000						\$1,000				\$2,000	\$1,000
	Repairs	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$300	\$25
Other	Monthly totals:	\$680	\$0	\$0	\$680	\$0	\$0	\$680	\$0	\$0	\$680	\$0	\$1,500	\$4,220	\$352
	Contingency Fund	\$680			\$680			\$680			\$680			\$2,720	\$680
	Audit												\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500

Map of proposed Bokan Botin Conservation Area Zone:



This map is not to be used for navigational purposes.

Date: 9/3/2015

Proposed Rules and Regulations of Bokan Botin Conservation Area:

1. No take marine reserve (2015-2016)
~Lagoon & Oceanside (see map)
2. No visitors allowed w/out permission
3. Terrestrial resources cannot be harvested except for subsistence purposes
4. No anchorage on reef
5. Swimming is allowed, but pre-cautionary measures must be taken to avoid damage to reefs
~ No touching and stepping on corals
6. No littering allowed on land and water – take your trash home with you
7. Visitors must follow designated access/ entry point (see map)



Proposed designated access as entry and exit to Bokan Botin Islet.

14. TIBON FAMILY SWOT

	Internal	External
Positive	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Strengths:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource rich • Teamwork • Learning sites for students • Manageable 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Opportunities:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecotourism attraction • Grant opportunities • External network • Research opportunities • Symbiotic relationship with MALGOV • Great partnership with MIMRA • Lots of good lessons from sister sites like Bikirin and Enekalampur
Negative	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Weaknesses:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not enough involvement (family, care takers) • Inactive care takers • Transportation problem • Poor maintenance (solar panels, etc.) • Inability to follow laws • Trust Issues • Tending to care takers (financially) • Lack of Funding • Need strong support from Local Gov. 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Threats:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown of thorns • Erosion • Sea Level Rise • Rats • People (Trespassers, Poachers, Fishermen, snorkelers, divers etc.) • Pollution • Illegal practices • Inactive younger generations • Climate change (affecting plant and animals) • Poor monitoring