



# Old Providence McBean Lagoon

National Natural Park

## Management Plan



## **Old Providence Mc Bean Lagoon National Natural Park**

### **MANAGEMENT PLAN**



The Old Providence McBean Lagoon National Natural Park was declared a national natural park in 1995<sup>1</sup>. It is one of the Natural Protected Areas that belongs to the National Natural Parks Systems of Colombia– SPNN. The National Park is in the Department Archipelago of San Andrés, Old Providence and Santa Catalina, especially the North East section of the island of Old Providence, between Maracaibo Hill and Smith Bay and got about 1.615 Hectares, of which approximately 90 hectares belongs to the land area and 1.525 hectares to the marine area (Map 1).

<sup>1</sup> Resolution 1021 de 1995 and 013 de 1996

This protected area form part of the Seaflower Biosphere Reserve declared by the UNESCO in 2000 and now connected to the Seaflower Marine Protected Area, all as a whole management district, declared by was what the Ministry of environment, housing and territorial development in 2005.

It worth to remember that the reason why we have a national park, is because of the action of a group of people during 1994 and 1995, who feel that was a treat to the local interest and possible destructive effects to the environment and culture and so them stand up to the investors who wanted to come in and then asked the Ministry of Environment for a solution to the problem.

The National Park de ina the ethnic territory of the Raizal population, who always work the land and sea with love and without abusing of it and because of this, the laws of the park today, recognizes the Raizal territory and the respect to their traditional practices of uses that contribute to the conservation of the protected area.



**Map 1:** Location of Old Providence McBean Lagoon National Natural Park

### **What is a management plan?**

It is a plan that going to guide the activities what we going do in the park and is good for five years.

The management plan got 3 parts to it:

1. The diagnosis or the study of what is going on in the park.
2. The ordering and zoning part that got to do with how fi use it, the organization and rules of the area.
3. The strategic part with specific strategies, aims, activities for the park to get ahead and that will set up from year to year.



# 1. DIAGNOSIS COMPONENT

## Why them declare a National Natural Park in the island of Old Providence?

- To maintain the bush area of Iron Wood Hill, the Mc Bean mangruss, the seagrass, the corals and cays (Crab cay and Three Brothers cays) so everything won't be destroyed.
- To keep important places and species that can give something back to the fishing production, given importance to the conk, groupers, and wheelks.
- To protect birds that live in the island and the ones that come and go to make sure them survive (Shearwater, Man o'war).
- To protect places that got special values and importance to the island of Old Providence and Sta Catalina like the natural things, their beauty and the culture that can be used to enjoy and to big up the local identity.

## Which are de Values Objet of Conservation of the National Park<sup>2</sup>? They are eight (8):



1. Dry Forest



2. Cays



3. Mangrove



4. Sea-grass beds



5. Coral reef



6. Rock-fishes



7. Conch – *Strombus gigas*



8. Whelks – *Citrarium pica*

<sup>2</sup> Are ecosystems o species that are prioritized and are considered representatives of the biodiversity of the protected area and on which special management is carried out for.

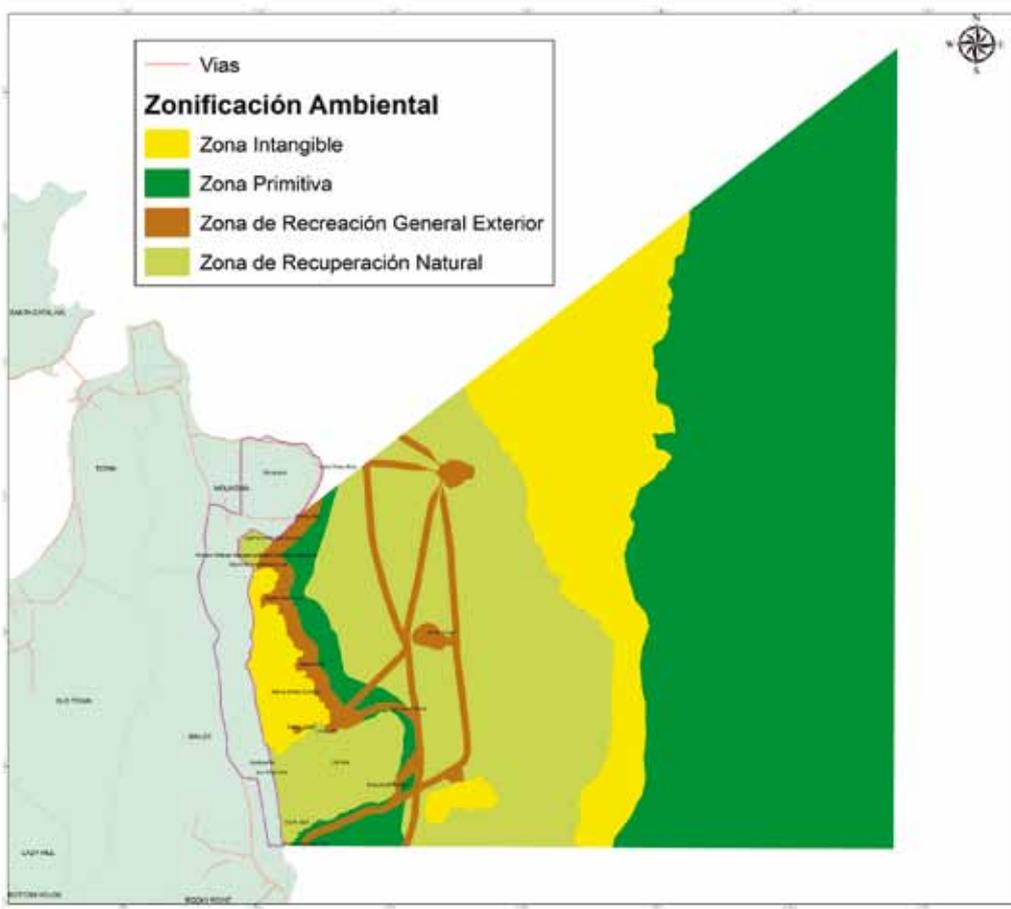


### What'd affect most the conservation of the Old Providence McBean Lagoon National Natural Park?

THREATS	DESCRIPTION
Abuse in the catching and using of organism that lives in the sea - unsustainable fishing	Fishing with harmful methods that are not allowed, catching of species young and others that in a danger, broking laws that caused the amount of these species fi get less and less and destroying a traditional activity that is a backup to the local economy.
Cow raising -all over the place	Cow raising all over the National Park in the area of  Iron Wood Hill and the zone near to it, as Mountain and Bailey d cause the lessening of bush area, affecting whe water coming from and the loss of dirt, that when it rain end up damaging the mangruss, sea grass and corals. Along with that, they take out stakes out of Iron Wood Hill to build and make fences for cow pens that also d affect the bush area.
Disorder tourism	The increase of tourism in the island call for more use of the parks ecotourist attractions (Crab Cay, Iron Wood Hill, McBean mangruss) and of the things that we can do ina the park (snorkelling, walking thru the bush, kayak, lanch tours), This big amount of visitors can bring damage to the corals, bush , and most of all the, mangruss them.

Houses and building construction in the influence zone	The main road and the Embrujo airport changed the natural flow of the water to the Mc Bean mangruss. Also, the houses them in the Boxon, Bailey and Rocky Point, can bring about damage to the park, thru water contamination,bad disposal of garbage and coastal line changes that have to be stopped.
Climate change consequences	Sea temperature increase, heavy dry weather, tropical storms among others is whe d affect the survival of a lot of species and ecosystems of the park, specially the corals whe de death out.
Hunting and taking out of animals from the sea and bush	The taking out of wheelks, iguanas, roccos, black crab without control d affect the conservation of these species.





**Map 2:** Zoning of the management of the Old Providence Mc Bean Lagoon National Natural

## 2. ORDERING COMPONENT

To manage good the National Park and to make sure that the ecosystems or things them whe ina it, keep in good condition, it is divided up in several zones that you can see in the map (Map 2):

The yellow on the map shows the No Touch Zones or the one whe you can't go in to and these is areas of the reef, three brothers cays, the surrounding marine area and big part of the Mc Bean mangruss.

The dark green show the primitive zones that is the area of sea grass and outside the reef until the coastal shelf.

The clear Green shows the zone to recover ina Iron Wood Hill, the lagoon (inside a the reef) and a piece of the de McBean Mangruss near to Mountain Softball stadium.

The brown correspond to the outside general area whe you can do activities ina, whe da Crab Cay and the surrounding marine area, the area to do kayaking close to the Mc Bean Mangruss, the White Shoal, the Iron Wood Hill, Mc Bean mangruss eco roads and the area whe the boat dem use.

**Wha is purpose of each one of d zones and wha is the rule them ina each one a them?**

TYPE OF ZONE	PURPOSE	REGULATIONS
No touch	To maintain the ecosystem in good state so d can help the fishing production and da area whe species, specially birds live.	Zone where you no fi go in and only people who work ina the National Park got access to it.  An exception to this rule is for the artisanal fishermen boats thru the channels of the reef and cat boast in the marine zone surrounding Three Brothers cay.



<p>Primitive or areas barely touched</p>	<p>Maintain in good condition the ecosystem and species and permitting da traditional uses of the ethnical group</p>	<p>The use and taking out of sea animals is allow only by the Raizal people only with nets in the sea grass area, diving and fishing with line in the area outside the reef while d follow the agreement mek between the park and the fishermen them.</p> <p>The uses of boats fi catch sea products are allowed for Raizal people.</p>
<p>Natural recovery</p>	<p>Get back the original condition of the ecosystems and species in the area</p>	<p>Fishing with line only by the Raizal group is allowed but respecting the agreements of use and management in the area of the reef lagoon (inside the reef) and whe the boat dem pass fi tek things out of the sea by the Raizal people.</p>

<p>General outside recreation area</p>	<p>Mek sure tourist can enjoy nature without causing damage to the conservation of ecosystems and species in the area.</p>	<p>These are the only areas of the park whe eco tourist activities of low impact is permitted and whe each one of them have a specific guide of how to do it. See annex 1, at the end of the booklet)</p>
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**Buffer zone**

Is the area around the park that was almost declared d same time as the Natural National Park. This area is managed by Coralina, the environmental corporation and is function is to carry down the negative impacts cause by the activities of the people on the National Park. Also all d water shed dem of McBean and Bailey must act to slow down the impact on the park area.



### 3. STRATEGIC COMPONENT

#### What is the most important thing we are going to do in the next five years in the National Park?

An agreement between the Raizal people and the park (fishermen, people from the tourist area) to use the natural things in a good way and to let them last longer based on policies of participation in the conservation of things and the rights of the Raizal people.

The joining of all the plans local and regional (management, ordering and development plans, POMIUAC<sup>3</sup>, POMCAS<sup>4</sup>) to get things to move and to make the Seaflower Biosphere Reserve and the Marine Protected Area work better.

Make ecotourism be for real in the National Park, so to develop tourism in the islands by constructing and setting up of tourism buildings, well qualify local people who offer tourist services, tourist promotion, good attention, information to visitors and put order and controls on the activities.

Conserve and recover Iron Wood Hill in the area owned by people by buying the lands and coming under agreement with land owners, given them options for raising cows outside the Protected Area without damaging and also make some recovery process.

Make control and management on exotic species in the park (Lion fish (*Pterois volitans*), Espinillo blanco (*Acacia farnesiana*) y Mango en Crab Cay).

3 Integrated Ordering Plan of the Coastal Environmental Units  
4 Ordering Plan for the Watersheds

Clear up the border lines of the National Park, to include the marine zone until the shelf, that because they left it out by a mistake and this is an important area for the conservation of species of commercial interest.

Recovery of corals in the National Park, by taking down the pressure and also do actions to bring back corals.

Strengthen scientific investigations and looking over of the ecosystems and key species that will help us get information for good management.

Put in the theme of climate change, in the planning of the park, that will help to make changes and reduce effects.

#### And how are we going to do all this?

STRATEGIC PURPOSES	MANAGEMENT GOALS
1) Slow down the pressure of use and occupancy on the valuable things that maintain the ecosystems services in the protected area	1.1) Better the conservation of the protected area by taking measures to recover valuable things of conservation in the park (VOC)
	1.2) Back up agreement processes with Raizal actors who all time and traditionally uses the resources of the park, so to reduce pressure on the things of values in the Protected Area.
	1.3) Reduce conflicts of use and dwelling in the park, in the area of Iron Wood Hill, by working on betterment of properties that carries to the conservation of the woodland.



<p>1) Slow down the pressure of use and occupancy on the valuable things that maintains the ecosystems services in the protected area</p>	<p>1.4) Regulate the uses that impact negatively on the valuable things of conservation by good planning, doing and evaluating actions to stop, watch, and control so to keep the ecological function of the park.</p>
	<p>1.5) Big up the ecotourism in the park, by doing activities in the ecotourism plan, ordering plan, promoting social values of nature, keep down pressure and bring forth economical and environmental opportunities for the community.</p>
	<p>1.6) Bring about bigger social value to the protected area through environmental education and ways of communicating that help to conserve and make known the protected area.</p>
	<p>1.7) Reduce negative effects of invasive species on the park's ecosystem, through the development of management actions and directed control especially on the Lion Fish (<i>Pterois volitans</i>) and Espinillo Blanco (<i>Acacia farnesiana</i>)</p>
	<p>1.8) Increase of the information on the state-pressure – response of the value object of conservation of the park, by putting through a monitoring program and one for management of projects of investigation, whose results will carry to actions of the management of the Protected Area.</p>

<p>1) Slow down the pressure of use and occupancy on the valuable things that maintains the ecosystems services in the protected area</p>	<p>1.9) strengthen technical and operational capacity of the park for a more effective management of the Protected Area.</p>
	<p>1.10) To guarantee or make sure of a suitable planning and carrying out of actions in accordance with the entity standardize system.</p>
<p>2) Reduce the vulnerability of the values object of conservation of the National Park affected by the pressures from the influence zones in the frame of processes of inter institutional articulation for the environmental ordering of the territory</p>	<p>2.1) Integrate the National Park management with the different instruments of planning of the territory in the Archipelago of SPSC, which point to the consolidation of the Seaflower Biosphere Reserve and guarantee complementary actions of conservations of the Protected Area.</p>
	<p>2.2) Make actions of tracing for prevention, control and slowing down of the impacts coming from the activities of the airline operations of the national airport "El Embrujo" of the island of Old Providence on the physical biotic and socio economic component.</p>



## ANNEX

### GENERAL OUTSIDE RECREATION ZONES

1. Iron Wood Hill area
2. Okay Hill área
3. McBean mangruss area
4. Kayaks corridor area
5. White Shoal area
6. Crab Cay and its surrounding marine area
7. Boat passing area

#### 1. General Outside Recreation Zone of the Area of Iron Wood Hill

Includes d ecological land track road that cross Iron Wood Hill. There is a bathing zone ina d area called El Planchón.

#### PERMITTED ACTIVITIES

- Guided walking
- Sea bathing in d Planchón area
- Construction and maintenance of basic infrastructure associated with d walking activities, according with what d established in d Protected Area – owners
- Services associated with ecotourism thru minutes of commitment, contracts and or agreements.

- Guiding services by local guides and experts.
- Photography and shooting or filming (according to procedures or protocol )
- Environmental education activities of other institutions with previous approval from the AP.
- Support the bringing back of ecological activities in coordination with AP.
- Fulfillment of the trail carrying capacity of 121 people /day, maximum 11 groups per day, of 11 people each one and separated from one another by two hours apart.

#### 2. General Outside Recreation Zone of Okay Hill

I got a ecological land trail whe start by d coastal edge or border of Iron Wood Hill (kayak´s doc) and end by d high part of Okay Hill. This trail is used only for people who do kayaking.

#### PERMITTED ACTIVITIES

- Guided walking or self-guiding
- Construction and maintenance of basic infrastructure associated with walking activities, according by the AP -land owners.
- Services associated with ecotourism by minutes of commitment, contracts and or agreements.
- Guidance by local guides and experts



- Photography and filming or shooting (according to protocol or procedures)
- Environmental education activities of other institutions with previous approval from the AP
- Fulfillment of the trail or track road carrying capacity of forty two (42) people /day, maximum six (6) groups of seven (7) and each one separated from one another by half an hour.

### **3. General Outside Recreation Zone of the Area of Mc Bean Mangruss**

It got a environmental ecological land interpretative track road of the McBean Mangruss whe begin by d edge of d secondary road that surrounds Maracaibo Hill and done by d coastal edge of the mangruss whe got a place or viewer zone and a doc.

#### **PERMITTED ACTIVITIES**

- Guided track road
- Construction and maintenance of basic infrastructure associated with walking activities, according by the AP.
- Services associated with ecotourism by minutes of commitment, contracts and or agreements.
- Guidance by local guides and experts
- Photography and filming or shooting (according to protocol or procedures).

- Environmental education activities of other institutions with previous approval from the AP.
- Fulfillment of the track road carrying capacity of eighty (80) people /day, maximum ten (10) groups of eight(8) and each one separated from one another by two hours.

### **4. General Outside Recreation Zone of the Area of Kayacs**

It includes the border area of the mangruss whe is used for kayak rides. This zone begins in Maracaibo, go in a the Oyster Creek Lagoon bordering Iron Wood Hill until Rocky Point. This wideness of this is one hundred (100) meters.

#### **PERMITTED ACTIVITIES**

- Guided canoeing rides or self-guided canoeing trips in kayacs.
- Guidance by local guides and experts
- Photography and filming or shooting (according to protocol or procedures
- Environmental education activities of other institutions with previous approval from the AP.
- Investigation and monitoring according to the AP priorities and following procedures and permissions established by d National Parks.
- Support to d active ecological restoration in coordination with d AP.

- Construction and maintenance of basic infrastructure associated with walking activities, according to the AP - land owners.
- Compliance of the trail's carrying capacity of forty two (42 ) people /day, maximum six (6 )groups of seven (7) people, each one separated from one another by a half an hour.

### **5. General Outside Recreation Zone of the Area Of White Shoal**

It goes in and ecological underwater or submarine trail of White Shoal, which is a close circuit that starts by existing buoys and goes to the outside of the existing coral formations, this trail is 582 meters long, low difficulty and about one hour(1) in duration.

#### **PERMITTED ACTIVITIES**

- Snorkeling around the coral ring accompanied by guides
- Independent diving around the coral ring.
- Mooring boats with engine or motor in designated buoys
- Environmental education activities of other institutions with previous approval from the AP
- Investigation and monitoring according to procedures of the AP.
- Installation of signboards and buoys.
- Guidance by local guides and experts



- Photography and filming (according established procedures)
- Services associated to ecotourism with use and management agreement
- Carrying capacity of twenty five (25 ) people /day, maximum five(5) groups of five (5 ) people, each one separated from one another by one hour.

### **6. General Outside Recreation Zone of the Area of Crab Cay and its Surrounding Marine Area**

This zone has two trails. The ecological land trail, dock – natural viewer and vice versa and the ecological submarine trail which begins around the dock and surrounds the entire cay.

#### **PERMITTED ACTIVITIES**

- Self-guided land trail or guided
- Snorkeling
- Sea bathing or swimming in the zone for buoys
- Mooring boats in established buoys
- Environmental education activities of other institutions with previous approval from the AP.
- Investigation and monitoring according to procedures of the AP.
- Active ecological restoration.

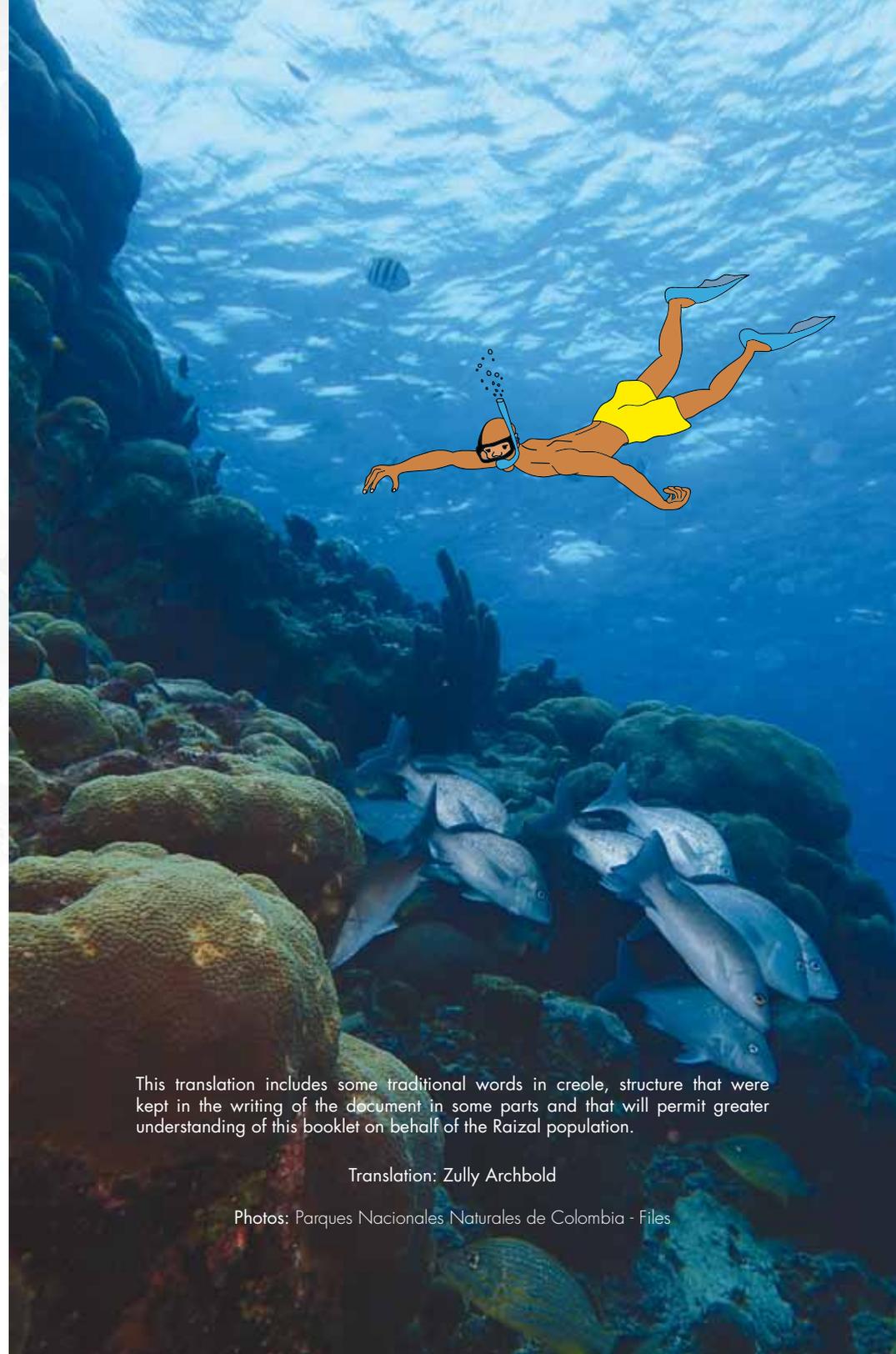
- Construction and maintenance of light infrastructure associated with ecotourism activities.
- Services that have to do with ecotourism with usage and management agreement
- Photography and filming (according established procedures)
- Season harvesting of mango and cocoplum
- Visiting hours: 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 pm.
- Carrying capacity of one hundred (100) people per day.

## **7. General Outside Recreation Zone of the Boat Corridor Area**

Exclusive zone for the passing or traffic of launches.

### **PERMITTED ACTIVITIES**

- Transit and docking of launches
- Environmental education activities of other institutions with previous approval from the AP
- Investigation and monitoring according to procedures of the AP
- Active ecological restoration.
- Services that have to do with ecotourism with usage and management agreement
- Photography and filming (according established procedures)



This translation includes some traditional words in creole, structure that were kept in the writing of the document in some parts and that will permit greater understanding of this booklet on behalf of the Raizal population.

Translation: Zully Archbold

Photos: Parques Nacionales Naturales de Colombia - Files

