“Mare Nostrum Caribbean”
(“Our Caribbean Sea”)
Programs and Partnerships

Citizen Science

Outreach/Education/Citizen Science

Virgin Islands Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research
epscor.uvi.edu

Mare Nostrum Caribbean
Our Caribbean Sea
- 2014 to 2019 -
Stewardship Through Strategic Research and Workforce Development

Virgin Islands Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research
Some Thoughts on How to Sustain a Successful Program

Mark R. Boardman

"In the end
We will conserve only what we love;
We will love only what we understand;
and
We will understand only what we are taught."
(Baba Dioum, 1968.)
REEF
Cayman Islands Government
Resorts - Dive Operators

Grouper spawning, fisheries, legal issues, tourism

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead (1901-1978)
Lois Gibbs

From housewife and mother of children to the mother of Superfund

A hero and an example of Citizen Science
Lois Gibbs

From housewife and mother of children to the mother of Superfund

BUT she did not do it alone

- “it takes a village”
Citizen Science has greater impact if it is done as a group (part of a sustainable program)

strength in numbers
strength in focus

strength in
Programs and Partnerships
What does it take for a citizen science program to be successful and sustainable?

Pertinent and Practical “P” words for Sustainability
Philosophy

Vision: emotional, passionate
Mission: strategy (with discreet goals)
Philosophy

Vision: emotional, passionate
Mission: strategy (with discreet goals)

Keep them separate
Write them down
KISS
Protocols (methods) must meet the needs of the strategy must meet the abilities of the citizens must meet the tests of science
Protocols (methods) must meet the needs of the strategy, must meet the abilities of the citizens, must meet the tests of science.

Keep them separate
Write them down
KISS
Adjust as needed: methods to meet strategy and/or strategy to meet methods

Vision
↓
Strategy
↓
Methods

Citizen Science

Outreach/Education/Citizen Science
Adjust as needed:
methods to meet strategy
and/or
strategy to meet methods

Vision
↓
Strategy
↓
Methods

review board / advisory board

Citizen Science

Outreach/Education/Citizen Science
Place
(home, office)

phone, address
website

Citizen Science

Outreach/Education/Citizen Science
Place
(home, office)

phone, address
website

keep them as constant as possible
Processing Data
(often a lot of drudgery)
computer and computer geek
backup (backup again)
accessibility
Processing Data
(often a lot of drudgery)
computer and computer geek
backup (backup again)
accessibility

Citizen Science

consistency
transferable
exchangeable

Outreach/Education/Citizen Science
Partnerships

other citizen groups - stay informed
private businesses - they are stakeholders, too
government agencies - another stakeholder
Partnerships

other citizen groups - stay informed
private businesses - they are stakeholders, too
government agencies - another stakeholder

1. make a difference
2. not an us vs. they; a “we together”
3. “a many legged stool”
Publicity

keep volunteers and partners informed
keep the public informed
keep all stakeholders informed
politicians, news media, donors, . . .
Publicity

1. timeliness
   - keep volunteers and partners informed
   - keep the public informed
   - keep all stakeholders informed
   - politicians, news media, donors, . . .

2. perfection is the enemy of the possible
Publicity

keep volunteers and partners informed
keep the public informed
keep all stakeholders informed
politicians, news media, donors, . . .

1. timeliness
2. perfection is the enemy of the possible
Phunding (funding)

computers, copying, phone, website
money needs a bank account, EIN, IRS, donors need a 501(c)3 (tax deductions)
Phunding (funding)

computers, copying, phone, website money needs a bank account, EIN, IRS, donors need a 501(c)3 (tax deductions)

Citizen Science

Grants

Outreach/Education/Citizen Science
People

match talents and passions with duties

tech-savvy with computers

writers and extraverts to publicity

strong, healthy people to do the legwork

Citizen Science

Outreach/Education/Citizen Science
People

match talents and passions with duties
tech-savvy with computers
writers and extraverts to publicity
strong, healthy people to do the legwork

acknowledge all contributions

Citizen Science

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Program
(hierarchy; a structure)

oversight committee (internal; inclusive)
staff (volunteers and/or paid)
advisory (external); consultants (external)
Program
(hierarchy; a structure)

oversight committee (internal; inclusive)

staff (volunteers and/or paid)

advisory (external); consultants (external)

personality-driven
to
board-driven
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Philosophy (vision and strategy)
Protocols
Place
Process data
Partnerships
Publicity
Phunding (funding)
People
Program (not personality)

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