

U. S. NAVY SUPPORT FACILITY DIEGO GARCIA

FISCAL YEAR 2001 SUBMISSION

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION AWARD (SMALL INSTALLATION)



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INTRODUCTION

Facility Description and Mission. U.S. Navy Support Facility (NAVSUPPFAC) Diego Garcia is the host activity in one of the tiniest atolls in central Indian Ocean serving an important role in carrying out international, national and host country policy and objectives for peace and security worldwide. Diego Garcia serves a Navy Support Facility and Naval Communication Station, with expanded facilities to provide the finest logistical support to carrier task forces, contingency surge forces, and task-specific units forward deployed to the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf area of responsibilities for military training, exercise and operational missions. Among the biggest operational missions strategically supported by Diego Garcia were Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Desert Strike and now Operation Enduring Freedom.

Diego Garcia provides expanded moorings and anchorage area for the Near-Term Pre-positioned Force and Afloat Pre-positioning Force programs, the logistics arms of our nation's Rapid Deployment Force.

NAVSUPPFAC Diego Garcia also supports 30 separate shore units and detachments and performs the functions of a Naval Station such as: personnel berthing, personnel support (including medical and dental services), base security, and air and harbor operations control. The Public Works Department is responsible for managing over 1,200 facilities and in maintaining and operating all utilities on-island, namely: power and water production; transportation operation; wastewater and sewage treatment; pest control; and hazardous waste and solid waste handling and disposal. NAVSUPPFAC accomplishes all these diverse and multitude functions while meeting the environmental standards strictest and implementing new initiatives to make the natural resources management program on Diego Garcia even more effective.



Diego Garcia is a unique atoll ecosystem. As part of the Chagos Archipelago, situated far from continental land masses, Diego Garcia is of interest to naturalists and ecologists. The island located south of the equator in the central Indian Ocean, approximately 1,800 miles south of the southern tip of India. Within the Chagos Archipelago, Diego Garcia is the largest atoll of pristine environment rich in marine and natural resources.

General and Environmental Setting. The islands of Chagos Archipelago are owned and controlled by the U.K and is part of the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT). As part of the BIOT, the entire atoll of Diego Garcia, including its land area and territorial waters, is subject to applicable U.K. conservation regulations. Except for tightly regulated recreational use, the eastern half of the island is off-limits to base personnel, thus functioning as a "de facto" nature reserve. In general, U.K. environmental regulations have been successfully enforced, as well as the FGS and other applicable U.S. requirements on natural resources management. Developments on the island have strictly taken place according to the NAVSUPPFAC Diego Garcia master plan programs. As a result, much of the natural character of the atoll has been preserved.

The U.K. and the U.S. have a bilateral agreement making BIOT available for defense purposes of both nations. The Diego Garcia British Representative (BRITREP) is a Royal Navy Commander who exercises full governmental

and civilian authority on the island, the archipelago, and the Fish Reef Protection Zone. Local military and environmental /natural resources issues are resolved at the Commanding Officer and BRITREP level. More sensitive issues are referred to the semi-annual U.S.-U.K. Political Military Talks for resolution.

NAVSUPPFAC, as the designated Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Command Representative to Diego Garcia, serves as the Regional Coordinator responsible for regional coordination and environmental compliance of all U.S. military and civilian activities and U.K. military forces on Diego Garcia. As such, NAVSUPPFAC provides environmental oversight for approximately 6,270 acres of land and its territorial waters up to 12 nautical miles from the shore. Its average total population is 3,200 at peacetime. The normal population is comprised of about 1,750 U.S. and 50 U.K. military personnel, and 1,400 Filipino, U.S. and Mauritian civilian personnel.

There is no outside community on Diego Garcia. When the U.S.-U.K. bilateral agreement was signed in 1966 making the islands of BIOT available for joint military use, the island settlers (Mauritians) were re-settled in Mauritius. Today, through the Base Operating Support Contract, Diego Garcia provides jobs to over 200 Mauritians and 1,100 Filipino civilian workers in support to the economy of both Mauritius and the Philippines. All infrastructures on the island were funded by the U.S. with an annual total operating and maintenance budget of approximately 72 million dollars for all U.S. forces onboard Diego Garcia.

Existing Land Use and Developmental Constraints. Diego Garcia's land use is evidence of careful, missionoriented land planning that allows personnel responsible for a variety of potentially incompatible activities to co-exist safely and efficiently within a limited land area. The existing land use and development are concentrated on the western arm of the island, approximately 4,000 acres. Its eastern arm, including three islets at the mouth of the lagoon, is restricted for industrial development. Facilities and functions are planned and developed to avoid mutual interference. The scarcity of land and high volume of mission and community support facilities leave little room for facility or land use expansion beyond that deemed mission-essential. Developmental constraints are imposed by many ongoing activities that demand identifying and maintaining specified safety buffer areas, such as the ordnance storage areas, the communication sites and the airfield areas. Land use density was increased due to the construction of required berthing areas. Supply warehouses and POL storage were positioned to favor the Cantonment and reduce transportation requirements. Two small arms ranges were developed to the south of the atoll within a safe arc at some distance from the Cantonment for the required low-light surroundings. Close to the

Cantonment and on the lagoon, a marina and fleet support area have been developed for onisland and ships' crew outdoor recreation. A 9hole golf course and driving range are nearby. A rest and recreation area has also been developed on the lagoon close to the East Plantation.

Improved Grounds and Military Use.

1. Cantonment. All personnel berthing, command and support functions are located in this area sufficient to house the island population at peacetime. To support morale, Diego Garcia has a wide variety of recreation and support facilities, all within



walking distance from the berthing areas, such as: gymnasium, swimming pool, bowling alley, outdoor movie theater, chapel and religious education center, ship store, dining facilities, medical center bookstore, telephone company, clubs, banks and the post office.

2. Industrial Complex. There are two major potable water treatment plants and two major wastewater treatment plants: one of each systems are located north of the Cantonment, the others located at the airfield. Electrical generation comes from two sites: the industrial-site north power plant located immediately adjacent to the waterfront and the airfield operations, and the industrial site south that serves all facilities to the south including the weapons shop and warehouses. The north power plant supports the transportation department, equipment maintenance shops, storage facilities, the POL tank farm, the airfield and harbor operations, and the Cantonment area.

3. Airfield. Diego Garcia has a 12,000-foot by 200-foot wide runway and a parallel taxiway constructed to serve as a backup runway. The airfield has operations building, aircraft maintenance hangars for both Navy and Air Force support, passenger and cargo terminals, aircraft immediate maintenance vans, warehouses, and ground support equipment shops. Two side-by side helicopter pads are constructed near Harbor Operations, convenient for vertical replenishment missions to anchored shipping.



4. Classified/Restricted Areas. Diego Garcia supports sensitive communication antenna farms and satellite communication and tracking site. Both areas are remote for operational and safety reasons. A large ammunition storage area is located to the extreme south of the atoll. The remote location ensures that all occupied facilities are clear of the ammunition storage arc for safety reasons.

5. Training Areas and Ranges. Limited areas suitable for military field training exist for resident U.S. Navy, U.S. Air Force and Royal Marines. A small arms range and a rifle range have been established by the Navy and the Royal Marines to the east, with their respective surface danger zone over the ocean.

6. Outdoor Recreation Facilities. Softball and baseball fields, and basketball courts are situated near the residential quarters and by the Beach House and the Marina. The Marina located on the lagoon just south of the Cantonment has boats and equipment suitable for water skiing, windsurfing, sailing and kayaking. Fishing boats and guide services are available for expeditions on the lagoon and the open sea. A restored facility at the former East Point Plantation in the restricted area is maintained by military personnel through voluntary effort. It is made available to individuals and groups for daytime recreation and overnight stays.

7. Cemetery. The Point Marianne Cemetery is one of the three cemeteries located on Diego Garcia with origins during the plantation period. Neither cemetery is now used for internment.

8. Wetland Areas. Wetlands are not usually considered as developed lands. However, one of the two big wetlands on Diego Garcia located in Area A, are maintained by ground keepers and serve two key functions: as a freshwater lens replacement and wildlife habitat. The wetlands of area "B", near the Point Marianne Cemetery, are more pristine and noted for species of ferns, aquatic plants, fish, and eels. Small wetlands exist between both of the larger areas on both sides of the main road, DG-1. Picturesque wetlands are found at the entrance to the airfield passengers' terminal, and the nine-hole golf course.

Undeveloped Grounds. Undeveloped areas serve as buffers between various developed areas. Many will remain pristine, providing required safety distances for communications transmissions, aviation operations, and ordnance storage. There is no U.S. development on the east side of the island, and daily access for authorized

recreational activities is controlled for purposes of preserving the pristine nature and conserve the natural resources on this side of the island.

Unique Natural and Scenic Resources. The restricted areas on the eastern arm of the island, approximately 2,800 acres, serve as a "de facto" natural resource area. Its boundaries are denoted by signs, and controlled access is required primarily for safety and personnel accountability. Overnight stays are allowed for small groups (15 or less) at the recreation facilities at the east Point Plantation area.

Access to the three islets and their reefs at the lagoon entrance is completely restricted to protect that environment from deleterious effects caused by boaters, divers, campers, and fishermen. Areas within the lagoon are restricted from fishing and boating activities, protecting the marine life and coral communities. Turtle cove, a site populated by juvenile sea turtles, manta rays, and black-tipped sharks can be visited but is restricted for fishing, snorkeling and swimming.

1. Acreage. The total land area of Diego Garcia is approximately 10.5 square miles or 6,720 acres. The approximate areas of various coastal habitats are as follows:

Total Lagoon	33,350 acres
Fringing Seaward reef	8,710 acres
Reef Flats	5,088 acres

Geological Features. 2. Diego Garcia is a typical mid oceanic coral atoll with coralline bedrock composed of calcium carbonate. The coral reef on the outer perimeter of the island is a limestone material formed primarily by calcareous algae that is denser than the corals and sediments of the lagoon. The surface geology of the island is quite uniform, consisting either of bare rock with coral boulders, or calcium carbonate rock covered with 6 to 8 feet of calcareous sand. Several types of soils are found on Diego Garcia. Generally, the soil consists of coral or coral rock, coral sand, and some loam; coral covered with the surface sand loam provides a solid surface. On higher and older portion of the atoll, a dark brown, peat loam has formed to a depth of several inches. This soil is composed of decaying organic matter mixed with sand.

Lagoon sandflats	3,328 acres
Deep Lagoon Basin	30,016 acres
Total Coastline	100 miles



The lagoon and fringing seaward reef cover 65.72 square miles --- more than 6 times the total land area of Diego Garcia. The largest wetland on Diego Garcia, wetland "A", is a mixed-species marsh located in the well area in the northern portion west side of the island. It encompasses about 80 acres.

3. Registered Historical Landmarks. No historical features on the atoll are registered historical landmarks. However, a recent Phase I Archaeological Reconnaissance of approximately 2,000 acres of land, where the U.S. assets are established, identified 13 sites comprising 68 component features, and 15 isolated object dating from the 19th and 20th century plantation period. Evidence of a single WWII-era British gun emplacement remains at Eclipse Point. Remains of the Point Marianne Plantation Complex and Point Marianne Cemetery are considered to be of significant in terms of U.S. and British historic preservation standards. The other sites identified during the survey are potentially significant. Within the restricted area is the east Point Plantation --- an abandoned

coconut plantation village with areas that have recently been restored through volunteer efforts by the U.S. military personnel through the "adapt a building" (for rehabilitation and maintenance) program.

4. Botanical Assets. A total of 166 native and naturalized floral species were recorded on Diego Garcia during the Navy-conducted vegetation study in 1995. Of these were 36 native vascular plant species, none of which are endemic. These native plants are composed of 12 tree species, 5 shrub species, 7 dicot herbs, 3 grass and sedge species, 4 vines species and 5 fern species. There were also 130 weedy or naturalized introduced species. Ninety-two cultivated species of plants were also recorded. The vegetation area is made up of the following community types: managed vegetation, coconut woodland, *Premna* shrubland and *casuarinas* woodland. Remaining communities of native vegetation consist of littoral shrubland, littoral forest, and marsh wetlands. There are no recognized threatened or endangered plant species on Diego Garcia. While not classified as endangered or threatened, all plants on the atoll are afforded protection under British law, and a few of the wetland areas and remaining littoral forests represent especially sensitive communities that are routinely monitored and protected.

5. Fish and Wildlife. Wildlife on Diego Garcia includes both terrestrial and marine organisms. Terrestrial resources of interest include birds and land crabs, and the marine wildlife is diverse and abundant. The terrestrial fauna recorded during the bird and mammalian surveys conducted in 1995 include 4 species of introduced mammals and 48 species of birds, both indigenous and introduced.

There are 3 main species of land crabs: the cipaye or coconut crab (*Birgus latro*) is the largest and the rarest. Land crabs are currently found in forested areas of the atoll, especially the undeveloped east side of the island.

The marine biota on Chagos Archipelago is very diverse and includes over 190 species of coral, over 700 species of fish, threatened and endangered sea turtles, and a host of marine invertebrates and algae. The corals are most abundant at the Spur Reef and along the east side of the lagoon. The seagrass beds dominate the southern portion of the lagoon. The southern bays and barachois (mudflats) are important nursery grounds for sea turtles, where many juveniles are normally sighted as well as many species of fish. Sea turtle nesting is most common on the east and west ocean shorelines.

The endangered hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and the threatened greensea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) have both been seen in substantial numbers within the lagoon. Dolphins are sighted on the southern portion on the ocean side of the island, and it is highly probable that several endangered whale species occur in the area.



6. Scenic Resources. The main scenic resource on Diego Garcia is its peaceful, tranguil setting, surrounded by ocean. Panoramic views of the lagoon can be seen from boats or from the shoreline. Although the number of land-based scenic resources on Diego Garcia may seem limited, the natural and cultivated vegetation create surroundings in stark contrast to those commonly associated with more urban settings. From the developed Navy base, the views of the uninhabited eastern shoreline of the island provide a more pristine setting, akin to what the island may have looked like in the past. Some of the

wetland areas have scenic value, such as the manmade wetland adjacent to the airport's passenger terminal.

BACKGROUND

Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP). The NAVSUPPFAC Diego Garcia INRMP is one portion of an umbrella Framework Plan for Conservation (FPC) that includes all of the efforts taken jointly by the U.S. and U.K. hosts to enhance Diego Garcia's environment, preserve its vegetation, and ensure its ecological balance in the future. The FPC is consistent with the spirit of the U.S.-U.K. Bilateral Agreement that allows the conversion of the former limited naval communications facility to a U.S. Navy Support Facility.

The INRMP was developed and completed in April 1997. It has been prepared according to the guidance provided in the OPNAV Instruction 5090.1B, the Overseas Environmental Baseline Guidance Document and the Final Governing Standards. The purpose of the Plan is to provide decision-makers with a framework for ensuring that natural resources management is consistent with the U.K., BIOT and U.S. policies and objectives. The natural resources managed on Diego Garcia include vegetation, shorelines, fish, wildlife, water and natural areas.

The INRMP is designed for implementation over a ten-year time frame from April 1997. The Plan is reviewed on an



annual basis with a quarterly reviewed on an annual basis with a quarterly review of status of accomplishments by the Environmental and Natural Resources Management Board, and with major revisions anticipated during the fifth year review which is scheduled this FY2002.

Environmental Protection and Natural Management Resources Board. Another important component of the NAVSUPPFAC natural resources management the program is Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Management Board which comprises the NAVSUPPFAC Executive Officer as the chairperson, the BRITREP as the co-chairperson, the Public Works

Officer, Command Environmental Engineer, Natural Resource Specialist, Safety Officer, BOS contract Environmental Coordinator, all tenant Commands officers-in charge or commanding officers, and NAVSUPPFAC Department Heads. This Board meets on a quarterly basis to discuss general environmental concerns, assess the installation's environmental compliance and projects, provide active interaction between key players in the environmental program implementation and provide direction and goals for all island activities and programs that may potentially impact its natural resources and the environment.

Natural Resources Management Staffing. The keystone of natural resources management of NAVSUPPFAC Diego Garcia is located at Public Works Environmental Branch. The Branch was established in 1992 but proactively attained effective implementation of the Diego Garcia natural resources and environmental programs with the application of Total Quality Management and excellent communication with all levels of constituents, with the host country counterparts, and with off-island technical resources. The Environmental Branch's natural resource specialist, a highly-trained biologist, is the designated Natural and Cultural Resources Manager for Diego Garcia. The combination of his expertise, the environmental branch's teamwork, and the host country and Command support in implementing the INRMP have, in countless ways, preserved and maintained the natural wonder of Diego Garcia's pristine environment.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Objectives and Results. The primary objective of NAVSUPPFAC Diego Garcia is to meet or exceed the requirements for operational mission at all times while continually upholding our agreement with the host nation "to protect the flora and fauna of Diego Garcia" and maintaining general environmental compliance that is comparable to that in the U.S. and far exceeds the compliance requirements of the Overseas Environmental Guidance Document and FGS in all aspects. The specific objectives of the natural resources management program on Diego Garcia are:

- To provide a multi-use management program for fish, wildlife, and plants, including both consumptive and non-consumptive uses.
- To identify wetlands and sensitive or protected species on Navy facilities, and reduce conflicts between fulfilling the U.S. military mission and meeting the legal requirements for resource preservation;
- To improve land management practices in order to conserve soil and water, prevent water pollution, protect wetlands, and control noxious weeds and feral animals; and
- To identify opportunities for natural resource-based outdoor recreation consistent with the overriding constraints imposed by the military mission and the requirements for resource protection.

The NAVSUPPFAC Diego Garcia's strong natural resources management program demonstrates notable land, air and water management practices in supporting mission accomplishment. The program far exceeds the requirements of the U.S-U.K. Bilateral Agreement, the Final Governing Standards and OPNAV Instruction 5090.1B. It also gained superior confidence from the host country --- a paramount factor that keeps the solid relationship of U.S. and U.K. as partners operating on Diego Garcia.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS. Among the many accomplishments of the NAVSUPPFAC natural resources management program during the past three years, the following are most significant:

A. Land Management Improvements

Water Conservation. Water is the natural resource in greatest demand on Diego Garcia. The wetland near the Receiver Site is an 80 acre fern bog which serves as a recharge to the freshwater lens in the Cantonment area. The volume of available water is heavily dependent on rainwater and is more than adequate to meet current potable needs. However, the water delivery system on the atoll is presently at or near capacity especially at increased operational tempo.

• Implemented prudent water conservation measure to preserve the lens-restoring wetlands and water resources by continuous well monitoring for quality and quantity of potable water supply, identifying and prompt repair of leak source in the distribution system, by retrofitting water saving devices on all faucets and shower heads in personnel quarters and food preparation areas, etc. This effort reduced the total daily water consumption rate by 15 percent or 100,000 gallons per day despite the additional contingency personnel.

Shore Erosion Control

• Proactively cleared over 800 yards of shorelines with Hawaiian dodder, a parasitic plant that causes adverse damages to shoreline *scaevola*, in an effort to



Stabilized over 2 miles of shorelines with erosion control and shore protection projects by recycling/reusing over 500 tons of construction and demolition debris, planting *scaevola taccada* (a native shrub) and imposing strict guidelines (requires BRITREP's approval) for cutting or clearing vegetation near or along the shorelines of Diego Garcia.

restore the scaevola corridor that protects the shoreline against erosion.

Control Alien Weeds and Animal Species

• Implemented a strict procedure for importation of aggregates in an effort to prevent introduction of invasive plant species on Diego Garcia. Contracts are written to include procurement of sterilized soils and aggregates used for construction. Samples are sent in for a 2-week to 3-day observation before material shipment to Diego Garcia.

• Strict quarantine and inspection procedures are in place to include refusal to admit certain animals to the island, and isolating military dogs under quarantine for several months to prevent accidental introduction of pathogens, alien species, and other potentially harmful agents, such as brown-tree snakes to the island. Currently, there are no serious pathogens on the island, despite the presence of vectors, such as rats.

• Implemented increased awareness program for brown-tree snakes classroom education and advertisement through the local media center. Supply shipments and equipment occasionally come in to Diego Garcia from Guam where brown-tree snake is a serious problem.

• Successfully implementing an extensive exterior rodent control through the integrated pest management program in an effort to protect to protect human health and safety and protect the ground-nesting bird population.



Established and maintained a local nursery in FY2000 to propagate native trees and shrubs for landscaping purposes, a matter that was remarkably acknowledged by the U.K. conservationist during his recent visit of Diego Garcia.

B. Fish And Wildlife Management Initiatives

Control Existing Feral Animal and Rat Populations

Control of Invasive Species and Use of Native Plant Species for Landscaping

• Removed over 3,000 ironwood trees that posed potential damages to facilities and structures and replaced them with over 400 native tree species where landscaping is required.

• Effectively controlled the spread of *Mimosa invisa* and *Mimosa pudica* by mechanical means (weed torch) vice application herbicides in an effort to prevent groundwater contamination and for personnel safety. These two thorny invasive weed species were accidentally introduced to the island through importation of aggregates in the past years.

• Aggressively implementing a three-year feral animal eradication program with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, in an effort to save the decreasing population of ground-nesting birds on Diego Garcia. Increased sightings of these birds, (e.g. red-tail tropic birds, white-breasted water hens, etc.)on and in the vicinity of the island were reported after the first year of implementation of this program which is now on its third and final year.

• Also applied extensive exterior rodent control to protect the population of bird species on the island and protect the health and safety of the personnel. Rats are sighted to have climbed trees and bushes and snatched eggs from the birds nests.

• Exceeded the DOD measures of merit requirement for pest management by reducing the amount of pesticides used on the island by an average annual reduction rate of 78 percent in the past three years using FY 93 as baseline. This effort also ensured reduced potential contamination of the environment that may cause potential damage to the natural environment of island.

Protect Threatened and Endangered Sea Turtles

• Implemented an increased sea turtle awareness and education program. Declared November as the island's Sea Turtle Awareness month that focuses on personnel education and awareness of the behavioral activities and importance of protecting the two globally endangered and threatened sea turtle species that find safe haven in the waters of Diego Garcia: the hawksbill and green sea turtles. The highlight of this annual event includes a month-long trivia contest on the local internet which proved to be a fun and effective way of educating over 2,500 military and civilian personnel without the boring classroom sessions; and a turtle awareness fun run/walk sponsored by MWR that provided turtle awareness T-shirts and informative brochures to over 1,000 participants. On top of that is a 41-mile island-wide beach cleanup of over 800 military and volunteers that collect an annual average of 20 tons of non-biodegradable trash such as plastics, nets, etc. brought in by the ocean current and that pose risks and potential harm to nesting turtles.



The Turtle Cove. Strict measures are implemented to protect sea turtles and nests during egg-laying season by establishing seasonal off-limits in areas where nests occur, restrict lighting on turtle nesting beaches, etc. with the help of the BIOT authorities. Heavy fines are posted to personnel caught harassing sea turtles. The turtle nesting season on Diego Garcia starts in October

• Is actively promoting the Sea Turtle Conservation Project where a volunteer team of approximately 100 military and civilian personnel takes the lead in conducting sea turtle surveys along the 47-mile stretch of beaches to gather data for the sea turtle conservation research being conducted by Flora and Fauna International on the islands of Chagos Archipelago (specifically Diego Garcia) in an effort to save the sea turtles worldwide. Additionally, weather-resistant informative/interpretive signs were installed at the Turtle Cove to both educate and warn visiting personnel of the significance of the area and the BIOT laws, respectively; and eventually protect and preserve this sanctuary and nursery ground for turtles and for variety of fish species including sharks.

Implement Bird Aircraft Strike Hazard (BASH) Program

• Implemented a successful BASH program that not only meet the mission requirements for safety but also compromise the protection and preservation of cattle egrets, the primary BASH source on the island, by employing most practical mechanical methods(e.g., use gas cannons, bird scares, planned aircraft landing and departures) and limited shooting at designated and approved portion of the airfield. Additionally, biological methods were also employed such as: carefully planned grass mowing, relocation of rookery and taking out of birds eggs from the nests to control the bird population and reduce lethal control measures. All these efforts were with proper coordination with and approval of the U.K. hosts.

Controlled Access to "De Facto" Nature Reserve Areas

• Continuous strict implementation of controlled access to and "no-development" policy at the nature reserve located on the eastern arm of the island. All animal and marine species are protected and heavy fines are posted

to personnel caught collecting live shells and corals or harassing the coconut crabs, sea turtles and other animal species. No net or spear-gun fishing is also allowed on the island.

C. OUTDOOR RECREATION INITIATIVES

Fish Catch Monitoring Program

• Enforced an effective fish catch monitoring program and promote the "catch and release" initiatives for sharks, billfish and sailfish in exchange for a free fishing trip on MWR fishing boats to supplement the information gathered in marine biological surveys, expand the fishing program to include identification and education of approved fishing methods, identification of species caught, and estimates of take and impacts on resources.

• To protect the corals, implemented a strict policing of non-designated fishing areas on the lagoon and ocean side beaches, established 8 permanent mooring stations (6 in the lagoon and 2 in the ocean) for recreational crafts and instruct personnel in the proper means to moor and anchor to reduce random droppings of anchors that may have adverse effects on living corals.

Recreational Nature Fitness Trail

• Closed approximately 1-mile access road to vehicular traffic (without impact to mission) to minimize operational impact into the natural resources, established a nature recreational fitness trails for joggers and hikers and reduce annual maintenance cost by \$5K per year, and maintained an 8-mile off-road biking/jogging nature trails through volunteer efforts for increased awareness of the beauty of the nature on the island and reduced creation of new and unnecessary nature trails.

• Completed a 2-acre 9-hole golf course over an old closed landfill while



Installed identification labels to plant species along interpretive nature trails in an effort to educate personnel of the common and scientific names of the plants commonly seen on the island.

preserving and avoiding the development on a wetland area located on the site and implemented use of steel vice lead shot at the MWR skeet range.

D. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS PROGRAMS

 The personnel awareness and education is one of the best aspects for the effective implementation of the NAVSUPPFAC natural resources management program. From the designated natural resource manager to each personnel visiting or assigned to work on the island (regardless of ranks and rates), everybody is educated of the importance of protecting and conserving the environment of Diego Garcia. Environmental awareness and natural resources protection is implemented from day one of personnel arrival through a brief indoctrination done by BIOT Customs personnel at the arrival area and Command week-long island indoctrination for new personnel; during daily recreational, fitness and sporting activities via the interpretive trails; while beach combing, picnicking or fishing on a boat; during work hours; or even while watching the local TV stations where advertisements about sea turtles, recycling, restricted fishing methods and environmental protection are shown regularly. For Diego Garcia, there is no limit to educating personnel on natural resources and environmental protection because the outcome will surely be most beneficial to both the environment of Diego Garcia and the Commands ability to achieve or exceed its set goals in support to mission accomplishment.

REQUIRED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. NOMINEE'S POINTS OF CONTACT

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2. NOMINEE'S FINANCIAL POINT OF CONTACT

Name: Mr. Fred Dillon Mailing Address: Box 43 PSC 466 FPO AP 96595-0005 Phone: DSN 370-4401 Commercial Phone: 011-246-370-4401 Fax No.: DSN 370-3917/Commercial 011-246-370-3917 E-mail: DillonF@dg.navy.mil

3. SHORT DESCRIPTIVE PARAGRAPH

The Natural Resources Management Program on Diego Garcia achieved superior confidence from the host country and demonstrated outstanding land, air, and water management practices in supporting mission accomplishment. On Diego Garcia, the U.S. Navy continues to show exceptional leadership as one of the best environmental stewards in the world by superbly achieving its set goals in the field of natural resources management. Among many of its accomplishments during the period FY2000-2001 include effective implementation of the brown tree snakes awareness and feral animal eradication programs in an effort to save the abundant bird population on Diego Garcia and bring back the ground nesting bird population into normalcy; successful multi-use management program for fish, wildlife and plants, improved land management practices to conserve soil, water and protect wetlands, and successful reduction, if not total elimination, of conflicts between attaining goals for military mission and meeting requirements for resource protection.