

The Barbados Marine Trust's Undersea Heritage Museum

KNOWLEDGE BITES

Project Summary

The Barbados Marine Trust is proposing to create an underwater heritage museum to coincide with the 50th anniversary of Barbados' independence. Sculptures which depict the history of Barbados dating back to the country's early inhabitants, will be sculpted and placed on the sea bed in the Carlisle Bay area.

This project will serve as a biodiversity demonstration project, on the use of Fish Attraction Devices (FADs) that will impact the fishing and water sports communities and by extension, improve the quality and sustainability of under-water life surrounding Barbados.

Having the FADS in the form of a Fiftieth Independence Anniversary National Monument/Undersea Museum, will afford maximum publicity and protection for the sculptured FADS, while at the same time relieve pressure on natural reefs. Quite importantly, they will help to raise the profile of marine conservation in Barbados and regionally, as the stunning works of coral covered art will encourage and instigate environmental awareness, and will lead to the appreciation and conservation of the bio-diverse fragile underwater world.

It is expected that through this demonstration project, the use of FADs will be scaled up in Barbados and across the region to reinforce the need to preserve the under-water world for posterity and long term economic benefit. A spin-off effect from the project is likely to be a significant boost to eco-tourism on the island, as in the case in Mexico.

In addition to the environmental sustainability outcomes of the project, it will serve to increase fish stocks. The increased stock will also serve to increase income for fishermen and build greater capacity in communities given the opportunities that would be afforded to them to transport divers and snorkelers to the sculptures.

