



Looking to the Future
of
Virgin Islands
National Park



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Gary Machlis
Visiting Chief Social Scientist
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I

Introduction

Virgin Islands National Park was established in 1956, and thus celebrates its 40th anniversary in 1996. As the park celebrates its past, it also looks to the future. Virgin Islands National Park will have its 50th anniversary in 2006. What will the park, and St. John, be like on that anniversary? What will the future hold for this special, unique and important national park? Whatever future occurs, the people of St. John will play a critical role. To give voice to the future vision of the community, the Virgin Islands National Park Futures Project was commissioned by the park staff. The project's purpose was to give members of the community an opportunity to describe their visions for the future of Virgin Islands National Park.

The project was conducted by the National Park Service Social Science Program. A series of informal public meetings were held during October 1996. The meetings were open to all interested individuals. The meetings were held at several locations on St. John—the Biosphere Reserve conference room, the Maho Bay Campground, Red Hook (on St. Thomas), the Lutheran Church and the Moravian Church. Over 50 members of the community participated.

At each meeting, a community host welcomed participants. The meetings were led by the National Park Service Visiting Chief Social Scientist, Dr. Gary Machlis. After a brief introduction and slide program about the park, participants were asked to answer a single yet important question:

“What should Virgin Islands National Park be like ten years from now, on its 50th anniversary?”

Hence, the participants were asked to describe *desired future conditions*. Desired future conditions are neither solutions to problems ("the park needs more signs") or predictions of the future ("more visitors are expected to arrive"). Instead, they are descriptions of what participants desire for the future. An example might be "the park has an active educational program for young people."

Participants were given a simple recording form, along with a list of assumptions prepared by the Virgin Islands National Park staff. The list of assumptions is in Appendix I. After a brief time to reflect and write down their desired future conditions, participants shared their ideas with the group. Some discussion ensued, but the purpose was to learn the diversity and range of ideas, rather than debate their merits. Participants then identified those desired future conditions which they felt were most important to the future of the park and the community of St. John. The results from each meeting are presented in Appendix II. A copy of the recording form is in Appendix III.

After all of the meetings were held, the results were analyzed by the staff of the National Park Service Social Science Program. A description of the desired future, drawn from those ideas that were most frequently offered by different individuals and at different meetings, was prepared. The description is organized around several general topics, such as park management, marine resources, or community involvement. The description that follows represents one vision of the future of Virgin Islands National Park.

II

Desired Future Conditions

Park Management

Park management are those actions taken by the individuals employed by the National Park Service in conducting Virgin Islands National Park affairs. Park managers are responsible to the National Park Service, the Department of the Interior, Congress, and the President. They are also responsible to the people of St. John, the Virgin Islands, and the United States. Matters of Virgin Islands National Park planning, operation, use, and maintenance are park management and are the responsibility of park managers.

- Virgin Islands National Park is now one of the top 10 parks in the United States National Park system. Virgin Islands National Park management has reached a balance between conservation and use that is agreeable to the National Park Service and locals alike. Virgin Islands National Park management continues to take the lead in resolving environmental and social issue conflicts associated with the park.
- The park staff strives for maximum protection of marine, land and cultural resources, while managing for present use. Guidelines are drawn from a dialogue with a Virgin Islands National Park Advisory Council. This council is made up of residents from St. John, St. Thomas, and St. Croix.

- Virgin Islands National Park has excelled at coordinating its activities with the local Virgin Island government, the local business community, and St. John residents. These working relationships have helped in establishing practical and innovative guidelines for protection of the park's natural and cultural resources.
- Virgin Islands National Park managers' priorities—protection of park resources and providing for enjoyment—leads them to participate fully in the legal and political processes necessary to maintain park boundaries and purposes.
- Virgin Islands National Park law enforcement officers and local Virgin Island law enforcement are consistent in their enforcement of park rules and regulations. This enforcement prevents degradation and destruction of park resources.
- Virgin Islands National Park has formed cooperative and communicative relationships with the local community of St. John. These relationships are helping to develop reasonable strategies for fostering the economic well-being of St. John as a whole, as well as for protecting Virgin Islands National Park and planning for its long-term development.
- Park user fees are collected from non-local visitors. These fees are returned to the park and used for Virgin Islands National Park maintenance and program development. Through non-local fees, cultural presentations, tours, and local cottage industries, the park is increasingly self-sustaining.

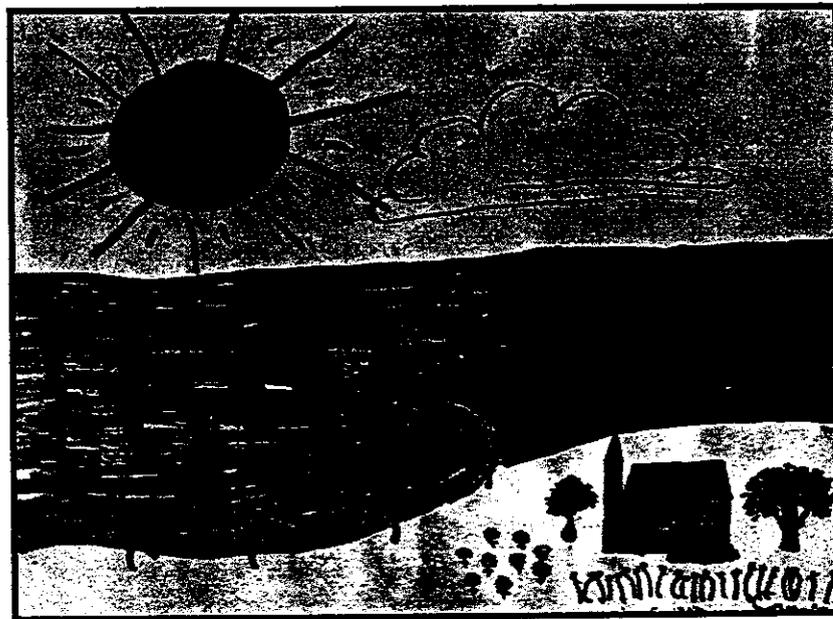
Hence, Virgin Islands National Park is an outstanding example of national park management.

Natural Resources (Marine)

The natural marine resources of Virgin Islands National Park include the water, plants and animals living within the park's waters.

- The park's marine environments, including the coral reefs, bays, and mangrove lagoons, are healthy and well cared for. These resources are in the same or better condition as when the park was established in 1956.
- Degradation of the marine environment by human activity has been controlled. Visitors and residents of St. John are enjoying the benefits of a healthy and beautiful marine environment.

Hence, the park's water and marine communities are thriving.



Carrie Conrad, Fourth Grade
Pine Peace School

Natural Resources (Terrestrial)

The natural terrestrial resources of Virgin Islands National Park include the land, trees, inland streams, flora and fauna within the park's boundaries:

- The terrestrial environment of the park supports many species of animals and plants.
- There is a land bank that has acquired ecologically-sensitive parcels of land. These lands assist in keeping the park's natural systems fully functioning.
- Virgin Islands National Park has established a continuing reforestation plan, restoring native trees to the island.

Hence, the terrestrial environment of Virgin Islands National Park and St. John is ecologically healthy and vigorous.

Historical and Cultural Resources

Historical and cultural resources of Virgin Islands National Park include the artifacts of the human settlement history of St. John, along with the artistic, religious, and cultural practices of the people of St. John, past and present. Cultural resources include the talent and knowledge of the current residents.

- The cultural and historic atmosphere of the park is rich. In a cultural center designed from an historical model, cultural programs are offered that are artistic, educational, and entertaining. Native crafts are displayed in the cultural exhibit and shared with park visitors as part of the cultural program. Presentations and classes are given regularly and available to residents and visitors to St. John.

A botanical garden, and perhaps an aquarium, are operated and popular with local residents and tourists.

- Historical buildings in the park have been restored and are open to the public. Guided tours are given.
- Virgin Islands National Park staff are educating citizens of St. John about visitors to the Virgin Islands National Park. Park staff are also educating visitors to Virgin Islands National Park about the citizens of St. John.
- Virgin Islands National Park staff, in cooperation with the St. John and the Virgin Island governments, have developed additional educational programs that demonstrate traditional and contemporary culture. Living history and cultural presentations are presented regularly throughout the Virgin Islands. These programs are conducted through the cooperation of several different organizations on St. John, including the National Park Service, local governments, St. John businesses and schools.
- Following tradition, feral donkeys roam the park freely.

Hence, the historical and cultural resources of St. John are appropriately preserved and generously presented through the facilities and programs of the Virgin Islands National Park.

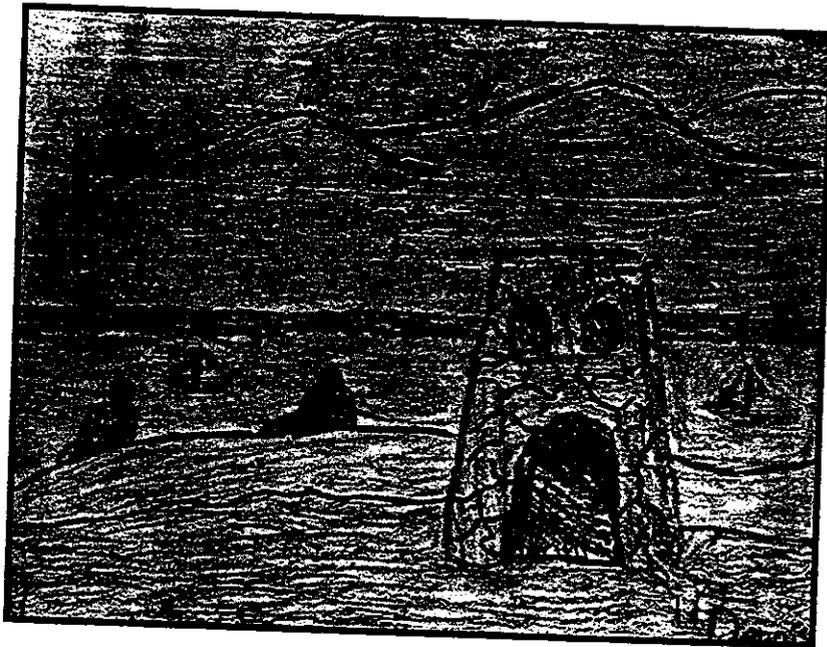
Infrastructure

The infrastructure of Virgin Islands National Park includes all man-made structures and systems in the park. Infrastructure includes buildings, waste treatment systems, utilities, and other facilities.

- A new visitor center in Cruz Bay is able to accommodate the many visitors to the park, as well as the community. In designing the new Cruz Bay Visitor Center and other new buildings, local knowledge and opinion has been considered. Completed buildings reflect local styles and culture.

- The park is completely open to the public. It is handicapped-accessible.
- The mooring system has been expanded to all sensitive marine areas and improved in the areas of heavy use.
- A successful recycling program involving all park employees and concessionaires is in place.
- Virgin Islands National Park infrastructure has become more efficient through the informed use of local and scientific knowledge and its human and renewable resources. It is a model of sustainable development.

Hence, the Virgin Islands National Park infrastructure has evolved to accommodate the many park visitors, and be sustainable.



*Dennis Powell, Jr., Third Grade
Julius E. Sprauve School*

Transportation

Transportation in Virgin Islands National Park consists of roads, trails, vehicles and foot travel, in and through the park.

- Travel through Virgin Islands National Park is easy and relaxing. The park's greatest transportation improvement is the addition of walking and bicycling trails along major roads. These trails relieve the roads of vehicle congestion. They are safe and well-maintained. The trails also provide a scenic and educational experience while enabling plants and wildlife to remain beautiful and undisturbed.
- Some of the old roads are used solely for pedestrian and bike trails.
- No new roads have been built since 1996, allowing animal habitat to be preserved. Available transportation funds are thus reserved for maintenance of existing roads.
- Virgin Islands National Park has opened a seaplane ramp and is allowing regular seaplane service for more flexible visitation schedules.

Hence, the transportation systems in the Virgin Islands National Park are effective and enjoyable. They enable people to move around St. John without placing undue stress on the natural environment.

Park Employees

Park employees include those individuals working directly for the US National Park Service in Virgin Islands National Park on St. John, and staff of the Biological Resources Division of the United States Geological Survey who work at the Biosphere Reserve. These people are responsible for managing and maintaining all aspects of Virgin Islands National Park.

Virgin Islands National Park is fully staffed with an adequate number of park employees at all times.

- The park staff are competent, well-paid professionals. Virgin Islands National Park rangers and staff are friendly and informative. They perform their duties in a respectful and neighborly way. Their professional expertise enables them to educate visitors about Virgin Islands National Park. They assist visitors in understanding and adjusting to the park's natural and cultural environment.
- Along with the other staff, park law enforcement officers view themselves mainly as teachers.
- The St. John government supports the park staff in its approach. Park rangers and staff are continually assisting visitors, based on expert education and knowledge about the park.

Hence, Virgin Islands National Park employees are fulfilling the park's mission and are well-known for their friendly yet professional manner.

Visitor Experience

The visitor experience at Virgin Islands National Park begins as a person enters the park and continues throughout their visit.

- The visitor experience at Virgin Islands National Park is excellent. Visitors receive expert attention. They see this expertise extended to the park's important resources and the local community's rich culture and heritage. People leave Virgin Islands National Park feeling as though they have had a well-rounded, exciting, and special experience.

- A key part of the visitor experience consists of visiting the newly expanded Cruz Bay Visitor Center. Within this facility, many kinds of historical and cultural programs are presented regularly.
- The park has included the local St. John community in creating the new Visitor Center, and developing its exhibits and programs. Individual St. John citizens as well as community organizations such as Friends of Virgin Islands National Park are involved with the park staff in providing services at this new visitor center.
- Virgin Islands National Park has engaged the local business community in offering quality merchandise and services, in utilizing local craftsmanship and labor, and in contributing a unique flavor to the park's overall visitor experience.
- St. John residents find their visitor experience enjoyable and easy. They use the new Visitor Center, beaches, trails and other features of the park frequently.

Hence, the visitor experience for both the tourist and local visitor at Virgin Islands National Park is exceptional.

Education

At Virgin Islands National Park, education includes both formal and informal kinds of learning. Education about Virgin Islands National Park takes place in the local schools, during a visit to the park, and in different ways.

- Virgin Islands National Park has an ongoing and varied environmental education program. The program serves many kinds of people—local citizens of all ages, tourists (including cruise ship visitors), government officials, school teachers, university students, scientists and others.

- New facilities that involve and enrich local culture are in operation on St. John. Research facilities and educational materials are open and available to the public. An environmental education center is operated jointly by the National Park Service and other St. John organizations. This center coordinates its activities closely with Virgin Islands National Park staff.
- There is a program to educate local residents about visitors. There is a similar program to educate visitors about local culture and people.
- Local children have the opportunity to participate in a program that pairs each one with a "mentor" or an adult helper, to learn about the park and contribute to its conservation.
- Because Virgin Islands National Park serves as an excellent educational facility, visitors and locals alike value their participation in keeping the park and its valuable resources a vital part of the local community and the Virgin Islands.

Hence, education is an important activity of Virgin Islands National Park and St. John community.

Recreational Opportunities

Recreational opportunities available in Virgin Islands National Park are those activities that people enjoy during their leisure time. Examples of these activities are hiking, biking, walking, swimming, picnicking and boating.

- Virgin Islands National Park's natural beauty and ideal recreational environment is enjoyed by people of all ages and interests. Activities are diverse, safe, and respectful of others.

- The Park has established a scenic trail system that is widely used for hiking, biking and jogging. The trail system is well-maintained.
- The trail system is part of a guided bike tour of the natural and cultural history of the park.
- Virgin Islands National Park beaches are enjoyed by people involved in a variety of activities. There are adequate life-guards to make swimming safe in many locations. Some of the beaches are designated for use by people to play with their dogs.
- Children have many opportunities to explore the park, from self-guided trails to school field trips.



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Hence, recreation in Virgin Islands National Park is diverse and well-organized. It is easy for everyone to enjoy themselves.

Tourism Industry

The tourism industry on St. John consists of the many international visitors, industry employees, officials, tour operators, hotels, cruise ships, restaurants and shops, and professional organizations. St. John and Virgin Islands National Park are important to the tourism industry in the Caribbean.

- St. John is an extremely popular place to visit for international tourists, US mainland residents and Virgin Island residents. Progress has been made by the St. John community and Virgin Islands National Park in equipping the island with the infrastructure it needs to properly accommodate tourists.
- Reasonable limitations have been placed on tourist activities in an effort to maintain St. John's quality of life. Island visitors, as well as island residents, continue to enjoy the beautiful island habitat.
- Virgin Islands National Park staff and the St. John business community have worked cooperatively with the tourism industry to allow residents of St. John use of the island's infrastructure without undue interference from tourists. Cruise ship passengers disembark at intervals and locations convenient to the island's services and residents.
- Virgin Islands National Park, in cooperation with the tourism industry, is working diligently to educate visitors about the impacts their activities have on sensitive marine and terrestrial life. Regulations responsive to resource protection are fairly enforced.

Hence, St. John and Virgin Islands National Park are working with the tourism industry to meet the needs of local citizens, park resources and the industry.

Local and Regional Economy

St. John businesses, its commerce, and the general exchange of goods, jobs, services and money on the island, all comprise the local economy. The Virgin Islands regional economy is made up of the flow of moneys, goods, jobs and services between St. John, St. Croix, St. Thomas and the rest of the world. Virgin Islands National Park has far-reaching effect on the local and regional economy.

- Virgin Islands National Park staff, local businesses and artisans are working together to sustain economic vitality on the island. Local people are employed by Virgin Islands National Park and others make a living offering related services. The local economy, along with the finances of the Virgin Islands National Park, is sound.
- The park is playing an active role in developing appropriate local industries that, in turn, support Virgin Islands National Park.
- The new visitor center offers many business opportunities, including a book sales area.
- The National Park Service, at the national, regional and local levels, understands that Virgin Islands National Park is a primary economic force on St. John. This understanding allows the National Park Service to make prudent and reasonable decisions regarding Virgin Islands National Park policy that impacts the local and regional economy.

- St. John's financial resources are secure and regional business is thriving.

Hence, the economy of St. John, and of the region are strong.

Community Involvement

Community involvement is the inclusion of St. John citizens in planning long-term goals for Virgin Islands National Park and in implementing park activities. Community involvement also refers to the inclusion of Virgin Islands National Park personnel in local activities as valuable members of the community.

- The park's efforts to build a relationship with the community have resulted in many educationally enriching programs, effective park management, and a strong sense of pride among all the residents of St. John.
- Park employees actively involve the community in park activities/management through special programs for youth, local adult residents, and others.
- The Cruz Bay Visitor Center and other buildings in the Virgin Islands National Park have been designed with local input and reflect local styles.
- The community shares with Virgin Islands National Park staff the responsibility of providing environmental education for locals and tourists alike.
- A Virgin Islands National Park Advisory Council has been formed and is providing a way to effectively involve the local community in park affairs. The Council includes residents of St. John, St. Thomas and St. Croix.

Hence, there is a keen sense of shared responsibility for Virgin Islands National Park among the community of St. John and park staff.

Partnerships

Partnerships at Virgin Islands National Park consist of collaborative efforts between the park and other organizations. These efforts can be formalized through contracts and written agreements. They may exist informally, through community meetings, the exchange of ideas or people, and organizational and personal relationships forged over time.

- The park has formally recognized its dominant role in the St. John community and is acting responsibly and considerately.
- There is vigorous coordination and cooperation between the National Park Service, closely-related federal agencies, and local organizations in achieving shared goals for the park. Concessionaires understand, share and support these goals. Such partnerships have improved the state of the park, as well as the community.
- Organizations related to Virgin Islands National Park, such as the Friends of Virgin Islands National Park, coordinate their activities with park staff. As one example of this coordination, a consistent message about park features, regulations, and opportunities is presented to the public.
- Virgin Islands National Park coordinates its activities with the St. John and Virgin Island territorial government.
- Virgin Islands National Park has initiated and successfully completed a leasing of park land for use by a new St. John High School.

- The original partnerships have expanded to include other groups on St. John, throughout the Virgin Islands, in the Caribbean region and in the country. These partnerships are models for other park-community alliances.

Hence, Virgin Islands National Park is a leader in forming effective partnerships with community residents and organizations.

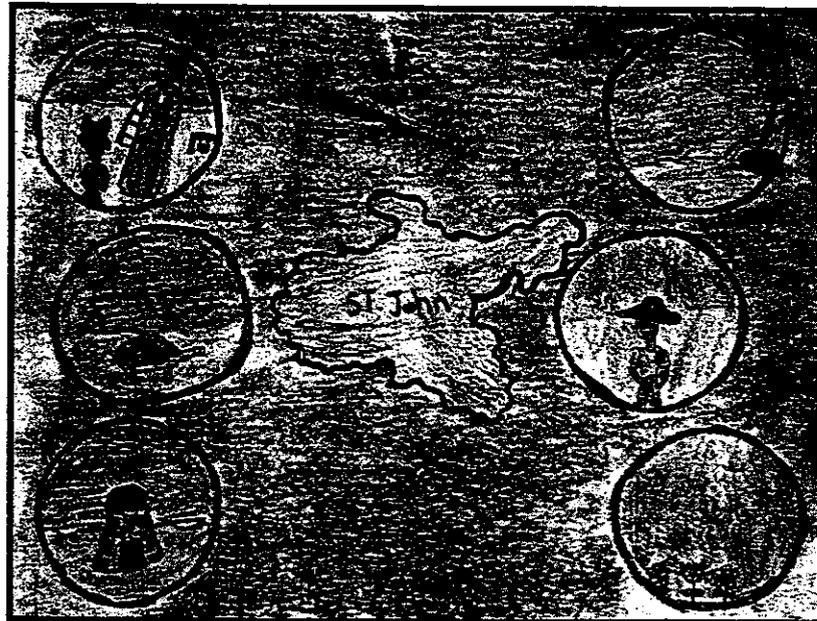
Biosphere Reserve

"Biosphere Reserve" denotes the official declaration by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of a natural site important for global study and protection. By protecting the plant and animal life in these areas, "living laboratories in the scientific service of humankind" are preserved for the future. Virgin Islands National Park Biosphere Reserve is a vibrant and unique Biosphere Reserve, and among the world's finest natural areas.

- Virgin Islands National Park Biosphere Reserve is providing a global model of ecological integrity and sustainability.
- Virgin Islands National Park Biosphere Reserve is a model of sustainable design and development. Virgin Islands National Park's marine and terrestrial environment is being positively affected as a result.
- The Biosphere Reserve research center is contributing many significant findings to the field of biological and environmental sciences.
- The Virgin Islands National Park Biosphere Reserve has been expanded to the Park waters on the south side of St. John.

- Virgin Islands National Park is persevering in its protection of all marine resources within the Biosphere Reserve. This effort is assisted by public education, consistent enforcement, and clearly marked boundaries of the areas under protection.
- There is an expanded research center and a marine study area within the Reserve which specializes in ecological processes and problems. It is a training center for the Caribbean, and the Biosphere Reserve is an international leader in training park managers and scientists.

Hence, the Virgin Islands National Park Biosphere Reserve remains one of the world's outstanding sites for international conservation research, and a model for other Biosphere Reserves.



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I

Appendices

Appendix I. National Park Service Assumptions about Virgin Islands National Park's Future

As part of this Virgin Islands National Park 40th anniversary event, Virgin Islands National Park staff were asked what assumptions they held for the park's future. Their assumptions are listed below.

1. Virgin Islands National Park will still be here, managed and operated as one of the more than 300 units within the national park system by the National Park Service.
2. The park will continue to be guided in its basic operations by the Management Policies under which all National Park Service units function.
3. The park will continue to protect its natural and cultural resources in such a way that will insure the unimpaired preservation of those resources for the use and enjoyment of future generations as well as for today's visitors.
4. Virgin Islands National Park will utilize public input to help guide management actions.
5. Federal funding of this and other National Park Service units will be unable to fully meet park requirements.
6. The park will increasingly rely on partnerships, the Friends of Virgin Islands National Park, and other benefactors to operate at the level of service expected by its customers.
7. It is improbable that the park will add tracts of land or water to its resource base.
8. Continued development and use of non-National Park Service waters and lands will increase the potential for negative effects on park resources.
9. The park will have upgraded its facilities in Cruz Bay, Red Hook and Trunk Bay.
10. Virgin Islands National Park will have increased its use of sustainable design technologies when developing its facilities.
11. The park will continue to function as a major research center for those wishing to conduct research in a relatively undisturbed tropical environment.

Appendix II. Results from the Community Meetings

Desired future conditions for Virgin Islands National Park were collected from the participants in each of the five community meetings. The ideas were gathered in two ways: 1) by soliciting public comments in each workshop group and recording them on a flip chart, and 2) by having each person make comments on an individual workshop sheet. After the group discussion, people were asked to "vote" for the desired future conditions they felt were *most* important. Each participant had five "votes" that they could distribute to various desired future conditions. The number of votes each desired future condition received appears in parentheses.

In most cases, the comments on the flip charts also appear on the individual workshop sheets. There are some comments on the individual sheets that do not appear on the flip charts. The desired future conditions are not listed in order of priority.

Session I. Biosphere Reserve Comments (Flip Charts)

1. Outreach programs designed by the park are involving the community and creating pride in place. (3)
2. The public understands why it is important not to further physically fragment the park.
3. The park is a model and training center for people interested in park management, particularly in Caribbean.
5. Buildings constructed in Virgin Islands National Park are designed with input from locals and reflect local styles. (2)
6. Park administration takes an aggressive legal position vis a vis local government when development that affects park boundaries is not in compliance with local laws.

7. Park use is restricted to a sustainable level. (2)
8. The Cruz Bay Visitor Center is designed with local input and integrated into the community. (1)
9. Cruise ship travelers efficiently arrive in Cruz Bay, and access the taxis without interfering with locals.
10. Organizations related to Virgin Islands National Park coordinate their activities; they jointly operate an environmental education center.
11. Engaging interpretive programs (e.g., theatrical performances) continue and performances are used for environmental education.
12. A mandatory mooring program is efficiently operating, funded (completely) by user fees. (4)
13. There is no commercial fishing in the park; trap fishing and lobstering is limited to sustainable level.
14. The park allows access of seaplanes, so that flexible itineraries by tourists are possible. (5)
15. The staff's mandate is to protect the land and cultural resources and second to manage their use.
16. Park management supports the staff so they can do their job professionally.
17. Concessioners share and support the same goals as Virgin Islands National Park. (1)
18. All tours abide by the same rules and regulations.
19. All significant historical structures are restored.
20. The park is fully staffed by competent, well-paid professionals. (3)
21. Virgin Islands children learn about the park and have opportunities to explore it. (2)
22. Local residents have free access to Virgin Islands National Park; off-island visitors pay a fee, the fee stays at the park. (2)

23. Virgin Islands National Park is more of a park than a recreational area; resources considered more than special interests. (3)
24. No further additional radio towers alter St. John's skyline.
25. Adequate number of lifeguards are at every public beach.
26. There are descriptive interpretive signs at all major overlooks.
27. There are a limited number of cruise ship passengers allowed to disembark on shore, so as to not overburden infrastructure.
28. The park's south side; particularly Reef Bay watershed, is the same as in 1996.
29. A St. John's aquarium is established and operating in cooperation with Virgin Islands National Park.
30. Law enforcement rangers see their job mainly as educators.
31. The local economy is closely linked to Virgin Islands National Park, local people are employed by Virgin Islands National Park, and others make living offering additional services.
32. The park's land and water are protected from damage even if the cause is external to the park. (1)
33. Park and community leadership are working successfully together with common goals. (3)
34. Virgin Islands National Park is the model of sustainable design and development.
35. Virgin Islands National Park is one of the top 10 parks in the US National Park System. (3)
36. The National Park Service will have a mentioning program to work with local youth.
37. There is a land bank or nature conservancy that can acquire sensitive parcels of land. (3)
38. A jogging/biking trail (12 feet wide) threads scenically through the park.

39. A bigger, better, and more user friendly Visitor Center is in place with multimedia exhibits. (2)
40. Terrestrial resources are highly valued, and feral grazing animals are eliminated. (1)
41. Ten years from now the Virgin Islands National Park will be like it was 10 years ago (visitors arrive by ferry boats and seaplanes).
42. There are walking and bicycling trails along major existing roads. (6)
43. There is a marine reserve that encompasses all park waters on St. John south side. (4)
44. Existing coral reefs, seagrass beds, and near shore marine communities are in the same or better condition as they were in 1956. (7)
45. Virgin Islands National Park aggressively protects marine resources through an integrated approach of public and staff education, consistent enforcement, and zonation. (1)

Session 1. Biosphere Reserve Individual Comments

1. Existing coral reefs, seagrass beds and near shore marine communities will be in the same or better condition than in 1956 at time of park's establishment, meaning active enforcement and attention of laws and initiatives to reduce erosion, stop anchoring on living habitats, reduce or guide development to minimize damage to marine environment.
2. Park service initiatives, programs and education will be geared equally toward the local community as it is to tourists. Likewise the local community will be involved and proud of National Park Service activities throughout the islands.
3. Virgin Islands National Park will be a "functioning" marine reserve; i.e., no fishing, no anchoring, no take, protected area to serve as example of marine habitats with minimal damage/effect due to human activities.
4. Virgin Islands National Park will be an example of sustainable design and tourism for rest of United States Virgin Islands, i.e. active recycling, building to suit environment, planting of native vegetation, water conservation, etc. Tools and methods will be employed.

5. A mandatory mooring buoy program is efficiently running funded by user fees. Funding is secured to operate a mooring.
6. Virgin Islands children learn in school about the park, and have opportunities to experience and explore its resources.
7. By outreach programs, the community is involved in learning about and promoting the park, taking pride in its presence here.
8. An audiovisual presentation is in place at the Visitor Center for visitors and residents—detailing history and resources.
9. Bigger and better, user-friendly Visitor Center, with installation of a multimedia show, using color slide and film, for visitors to see before using park facilities.
10. More lifeguards at beaches other than Trunk Bay.
11. More descriptive signs placed at overlook areas.
12. More outreach programs for island residents and school children.
13. Natural resources (marine) established moorings but with a reasonable relationship to appropriate use for each bay—beaches would have some limitation as to number of bodies dumped by cruise ships at any one time.
14. Natural resources (terrestrial). Park would take a stronger stand re: improper development along park boundaries—more trails open—no new paved roads—more identification and husbanding of trees and vegetation within park boundaries.
15. Historical/cultural resources. All significant historic structures, i.e. Americus Great House, are stabilized or restored. More guided tours for visitors re: island history—good, bad, and ugly.
16. Land bank for future purchase of key inholding in effect.
17. Park administration takes an aggressive legal position vis a vis local government when development take effects park boundaries is not in compliance with local laws.
18. There are a variety of programs for Virgin Islands children designed to interest and educate them (in a fun way) about their special universe.

19. An anonymous benefactor leaves 100 million dollars to Friends of the Park to be used for preservation, and critical acquisition and research.
20. Marine resources are far better protected than in the past, with anchoring totally preheated in park waters, speed boat speeds regulated, a marine reserve with no fishing in park waters.
21. Terrestrial resources are highly valued, with all feral grazing animals, especially goats, eliminated from park property. The park is funding several long-term studies of invertebrates, fungi, forest recovery, and other less glamorous but valuable areas.
22. Park management is actively involved with the Virgin Island schools to instill early knowledge of the unique natural and cultural history of St. John. This exposure begins in preschool and continues through high school.
23. While residents receive free "passes" for their vehicles, all cruise ship and day visitors and rental vehicles, pay a small charge for park use. Proceeds are used 50% for operations and research, 50% for acquisition of inholdings as they come on the market.
24. Numbers of cruise ship passengers are regulated; daily numbers are lower than in the mid '80s.
25. The public understands why it's important not to further fragment the park, i.e., roads in the park. New paved trails, etc. are not proposed.
26. Virgin Islands National Park is more of a national park and less of a recreational area than today. The resources which make it such a special place will be considered as more important than the special interests of people who want to use the resources for their own profit.
27. National Park Service will be a leader in the community—it will play a positive role—not a negative or neutral one.
28. Virgin Islands National Park will not have any more roads cutting through it than it does today (no roads across south shore).
29. Virgin Islands National Park will have a marine reserve within its boundaries and all commercial fishing will have stopped.

30. Virgin Islands National Park is a model and training center for people interested in park management, particularly park management in the Caribbean.
31. Virgin Islands National Park is one of the top 10 parks in the US National Park Service—buildings, employee morale...
32. To use St. John's old roads along the north shore for use as a pedestrian and bike trail called "The St. John Trail."
33. Access for marine and pleasure boats with moorings and dump stations.
34. Visitor Center to have better museum, visitor facilities, cruise ship access separate from interference with Cruz Bay.
35. Greater working and planning relationship between the community and the Virgin Island government and the National Park.
36. St. John's National Park Aquarium and Museum and School of Marine Studies.
37. Audubon Biosphere and Horticulture, National Park Friends, to arrange a center to educate in environmental awareness. Studies and training programs.
38. Ten years from now the national park will be like it was 10 years ago. Traditionally visitors came to swim, hike, sail and explore ruins, etc. Visitors arrived by ferry boat and seaplane. Seaplanes are an attraction by themselves, very photogenic.
39. Local economy will be closely linked to the Virgin Islands National Park. Local people will be employed by the Virgin Islands National Park, and many others will be able to make a living offering peripheral services.
40. Unique local attitudes continue to be part of the charm of St. John. They also continue to make life on St. John different than in the states. We have unique needs.
41. Seaplane services allow locals and visitors to tour St. Croix and San Juan, as day trips and even arrive and depart by seaplane. Because the Virgin Islands National Park has reinstated use of the Cruz Bay seaplane ramp for its intended purpose.

42. Concessions are awarded to concerned, civic-minded local people who are sensitive to the needs of residents and visitors alike, be a good citizen.
43. The St. John Park will remain green and pristine.
44. Students will learn more about research studies being conducted through the Biosphere Reserve.
45. Biosphere will host a worldwide conference of all biospheres around the world to assess their progress and formulate future goals (partially funded by United nations).
46. National Park Service will do more active recruiting of the local community for employment opportunities
47. Jr. Rangers program will become vital part of recreational/educational opportunities for St. Thomas/St. John youth.
48. Traditional use will always be extended (and promoted) to native Virgin Islands.
49. A concession will be developed promoting products created through traditional use of park resources.
50. Virgin Islands National Park/Friends of the Park will create an activities desk with a daily activity including, hikes, snorkel, learn-to-swim, cultural crafts class, turtle watches, lectures, live performances.
51. The Virgin Islands National Park will aggressively protect marine resources through an integrated approach of public and park staff education, consistent enforcement, user pattern regulation. This will demand public input in order to gain the support of boaters and other user groups.
52. Marine research will be prioritized and occasionally evaluated for its applicability for management...so not to waste resources and staff on studies that are useful only to academia.
53. Marine enforcement agents will see their job mainly as educators and thereby prevent the need for disciplinary action. They will be friendly and able and willing to be in the water.
54. "The park" is seen as a positive force in the wider St. John Community.

55. Land acquisition is a reality not just an office title...for the park to acquire sensitive areas and provide buffer zones.
56. There are permanent cultural exhibits and frequent cultural activities.
57. There is no commercial fishing in the park. Trap fishing and lobster hunting is limited to a sustainable level.
58. The Par Force Great House is restored and open to the public. It can be reached by hiking the Reef Bay trail, or by cushman-style cart for disabled access via the Lameshur trail.
59. The park has resisted pressures to open new roads or re-open old roads through Reef Bay to vehicular traffic. The sanctity of the wilderness heart of the park is preserved.
60. The donkey population has been kept in check—not exterminated, but kept at a very low level such that impact on plant diversity is insignificant.
61. Engaging interpretive programs such as the “Coral Reef Comedy” and “Pillsbury Sound - a Journey through time” have been continued and expanded. A jogging/hiking trail 12’ wide threads scenically through the park, along the North Shore from Cruz Bay Visitor Center to Coral Bay.
62. No additional radio antennas will alter St. John’s skyline.
63. The park is able to protect its land and waters from damage (over fishing, feral animals, silt runoff) even if the cause comes from outside park boundaries.
64. Appropriate fees are charged to off-island visitors and those operating businesses within the park.
65. The park is fully staffed by competent well-paid professionals whose mandate/goal is to protect the marine, land, and cultural resources first, and second manage their use.
66. Park use is restricted to a level that preserves the natural resources and the quality of the visitor’s experience.
67. Stronger park leadership with clearly defined goals and full integration with local community.

68. Resource protection—without goals it is difficult to protect the water, land and people resource (i.e., fewer and better roads, buoys for all boats).
69. Park facilities that we can be proud of, and are professionally maintained.
70. Better concessions management—especially on the water.
71. Stronger park personnel presence.
72. New visitors center is integrated into Cruz Bay Community.
73. In 2006, the Marine resources will be in at least as good condition as they were in 1996. The coral reefs and fish populations will be healthy.
74. Park management, particularly the superintendent, will be more responsive to the local community and more open to suggestions about how the park service and the community can work together to improve conditions on St. John.
75. There will be better and fairer enforcement of park rules and regulations, particularly as regards the protection of natural resources.
76. There will be marine reserve...will encompass all park waters on St. John's south side. No fishing or harvesting of any kind will be permitted in the reserve.
77. There will be no development whatsoever on the park's southside, particularly the Reef Bay watershed.
78. Keeping abreast of marine studies findings and natural resources so to be a part of park.
79. Tourism such as cruise ships encouraged and available information to encourage future visits. All tours abide by same rules and regulations.
80. More community assistance in helping park where funds aren't available in National Park Service, such as...pavilion or beautification and walking/bike trails.
81. More lifeguards and interpreters for visitors to help in protecting beaches and reefs.
82. Use local architects on designing structures for future buildings.

83. Encourage more local people to want to be a part of National Park Service; establish mentoring program.
84. The community of the Virgin Islands will interact with the National Park— it will be a mutual communication where both sides will be able to give positive input and it will be acted upon.
85. There will be bike and walking trails on all major roads (presently 1996 existing).
86. There will be a seaplane shuttle in operation; as we have no airport — this is the only viable means. It was in existence 10 years ago and should be again.
87. There will be limited numbers of cruise ship passengers allowed to disembark on the shores of St. John — so as not to overtax the infrastructure.
88. When the cruise ship passengers arrive, there will be a logical order to have them enter their taxis without interference to the general population.
89. The amphitheater is in use for positive programs nightly. Not necessarily put on by National Park staff.
90. There will be donkeys by the sides of the roads and allowed to roam openly.

Session 2. Maho Bay Campground Comments (Flip Charts)

1. The National Park Service strives for a reasonable balance between preservation and use. (2)
2. The National Park Service aggressively follows the objectives of the 1983 Master Plan.
3. Park employees are consistently polite in their duties. (2)
4. The number of staff at Virgin Islands National Park is kept at adequate and appropriate level.
5. The National Park Service formally recognizes its dominant role in the St. John community, and acts responsibly and considerately.
6. The National Park Service has had a successful recycling program and concessionaires are actively involved. (1)

7. Tourists disembarking at Cruz Bay do so efficiently and without interfering with local access.
8. The Friends' group enjoys helping and feels the park's budget is well spent.
9. The park does not charge individual user fees.
10. The park's marine pump station is accessible and works great. (2)
11. On a regular basis, the park participates in town meetings and learns and listens from the community.
12. Park rangers respect "live-aboard boaters" and their property. (2)
13. The park has more qualified and user-friendly guides.
14. The park hiking/biking/jogging trail has been in use for over 8 years. (4)
15. The park has full access for public use. (3)
16. People can play with their dogs on leash on designated beaches. (1)
17. The Friends (or like) group has grown to 200 unpaid, volunteer staff who do much of the work of providing the visitor experience and selected maintenance, freeing National Park Service budget for natural resource management.
18. Old roads are used for pedestrian bike trails. (7)
19. The seaplane ramp is in service. (3)
20. An abundance of feral donkeys roam the park as part of the heritage of the land. (2)
21. The park's artificial reef project is very successful.
22. National Park, facilities and services are well-maintained.
23. A school center for environmental studies operated by many groups in partnership is in existence. (1)
24. Visitors see seaplanes as an attraction in themselves. (1)

25. Park trails are walkable and maintained, either by National Park Service or other groups easily (minimum of aggravation).
26. The park has evolved without adverse taking of property values. (2)
27. The park law enforcement rangers are unarmed and friendly and polite. (4)
28. The park is efficiently managed, with the budget concentrated on maintaining infrastructure with a minimum of administration. (1)
29. The park's marine environment is healthy and well-protected. (2)
30. Having installed mooring buoys in heavy use areas, the coral reefs and grassy bottoms have flourished. (1)
31. The park is easily accessible by handicapped visitors. (1)
32. The park is maintained in a perfect manner.
33. The park has embraced local community and local economy to meet visitor experiences. (1)

Session 2. Maho Bay Campground Individual Comments

1. The park has full access for public use.
2. The park maintains the trails in a walkable condition or allows other to do so with a minimum of aggravation.
3. The park is run efficiently with concentration on maintenance of infrastructure and a minimum of administrative overhead.
4. The park's bathrooms are cleaned regularly.
5. The park has evolved without adverse taking of property values.
6. The park hiking/biking/jogging trail has been in active use for over 8 years.
7. The park's new policy of actively protecting our historic resources (especially our donkeys) has brought about a better relationship with the local community and enhanced our tourist economy.
8. The park's artificial reef project is very successful.

9. The park's new policy of several dog (pet) friendly beaches has proven a good idea.
10. The new St. John School on park loaned land has greatly improved life on St. John.
11. The park has successfully responded to year after year of budgetary disasters by embracing the local economy and local partnerships to meet its needs.
12. The park has overcome its fear of alliances.
13. The park has hosted concerts on its venues, i.e., Jimmy Buffet.
14. The park has ceded most of its people programs to friends in the community.
15. Ten years from now the seaplane ramp in the town of Cruz Bay will be back in service after laying idle for several years in the '90s.
16. The traditional uses of Virgin Islands National Park, swimming, snorkeling, hiking, exploring ruins, taking pictures, sailing, are still going strong.
17. Virgin Islands National Park is easily accessed by handicapped persons.
18. The hiking trails are a reality, not just lines on a map.
19. Park rangers haven't gone out to coral bay to untie yachts while their owners participate in the annual Thanksgiving Regatta since 1995.
20. Visitors and local people love to take the romantic, picturesque, convenient seaplane.
21. The park's marine environment is healthy and well-preserved.
22. The park enforcement officers are not armed by guns and they are friendly and polite. They could have billy clubs and mace (or something like that).
23. The National Park continues to be free to all who live in the US Virgin Islands.
24. Dump stations.

25. The park has bicycle trail and maintained hiking trails.
26. Guided tours by rangers for visitors.
27. Park is more user friendly for locals and visitors.
28. Recycling throughout the park and concessionaires.
29. The St. John Trail — using old roads along the North Shore — there will be a bicycle, walking and jogging trail with exercising.
30. A well-designed...of the park for the marine industry/pleasure crafts with mooring, dump stations, finger dinghy docks and a docking avenue for larger craft.
31. The St. John seaplane service is restored.
32. St. John's National Park visitors station is built, with planning with the VI government, which includes cruise ship tenders.
33. A Center for Environmental Studies incorporating the Audubon Society, the Biosphere, the marine industry; horticulturists, and other studies and create a school of environmental studies.
34. National Park rangers participate in town meetings, listen to residents, create a friend work-relationship.
35. The park has wonderful trails that need to be maintained.
36. The park has local community involvement that can be utilized.
37. The park has cultural heritage that would be a good thing to keep focused for visitors and residents alike.
38. More students need to have an opportunity to experience the historical and cultural aspects of the park.
39. With a collection of non-local user fees, the facilities at the park have been maintained at a high level.
40. Having installed mooring buoys in several heavy use bays, the coral reefs and grassy bottoms have flourished.
41. Purchasing small parcels.

42. There is an abundance of feral donkeys roaming around national park lands, as they are a heritage of these lands.
43. The park is maintained in a perfect manner, i.e. toilets function; dead trees which are a hindrance are removed, garbage is picked up daily, trails maintained, etc.
44. A seaplane is functioning once again out of Cruz Bay harbor; since it is our only possibility of air transportation.
45. Bicycle paths and jogging paths are maintained.
46. Rangers support staff, emergency medical services, and kept at levels which enable park to operate properly.
47. People will be able to play with my family dog (on leash) at one of the parks beaches which allow dogs.

Session 3. Red Hook, St. Thomas Comments (Flip Charts)

1. There is a clearly understood, coordinated development process for all National Park units in the Virgin Islands. (1)
2. The National Park Service clearly understands the dominant role of Virgin Islands National Park in the Virgin Island tourism and general economy and acts accordingly. (5)
3. The park has an expanded mooring system. (1)
4. Existing National Park Service lands are managed by the National Park Service. They are managed with coordination with Virgin Island government. (1)
5. There is more community involvement in park matters through a variety of activities, especially education and the community is more actively involved. (1)
6. The park coordinates and integrates its activities with the British Virgin Islands resource management agencies.
7. The park manages its waters in a more user-friendly way. (1)

8. The park remains relatively uncommercialized and at 1996 levels of commercialization. (1)
9. The park plays an active and positive role in developing alternative, appropriate industries that in turn support the park. (2)
10. The park is managing its utility needs through sustainable design and renewable resources.
11. The biosphere reserve is an accessible (to the public) part of Virgin Islands National Park.
12. The park retains its own fee revenues and sets its own fees. (6)
13. The cultural resources and sites are well-designed and developed for public education and learning (e.g., Annaberg).
14. The park has a variety of ecotourism opportunities that reduce pressure on high density beaches.
15. Rangers and staff are friendly and informative. They are less of a police force and geared toward providing a quality visitor experience. (4)
16. The various federal agencies operating in the park are well coordinated and integrated in their contacts with public.
17. There is consistent, regular enforcement of rules and regulations. (1)

Session 3. Red Hook, St. Thomas Individual Comments

1. Continued clean and healthy ecology.
2. Continued under management of national park systems.
3. Increased sense of working partnership with Virgin Island government - especially developing rapport and support services for Department of Natural Resources.
4. Active educational/environmental programs for all school children.
5. A "user friendly" approach to guidelines, i.e., away from "don't" and "forbidden" to educational positives.

6. Expanded working partnerships with local businesses—in addition to tourism—which are needed to support Virgin Island economy and which can provide financial and PR support for Park Service; especially this wish for 10 years from now: There is a policy system in place to encourage filmmaking (non-invasive) in the park which recognizes the benefits from the industry, understands and supports its needs and puts it on a equal footing with the tourism industry. Again, simply turning around the language to infer a “welcome” rather than a list of prohibitions is a help.
7. Engineered to allow the Virgin Islands to participate in the tourism industry to the maximum potential.
8. Expand cruise ship passenger visit capability such that Virgin Islands can continue its number one destination status.
9. Minimal or no degradation of quality as it exists today.
10. More park waters more user friendly to private boaters.
11. Activities of the National Park/the Biosphere Reserve and the US Geological Survey/Biological Resources Division are seamlessly coordinated. There is one point of coordination.
12. Scientific and technical data from monitoring and research projects are fully documented and accessible (over the internet), and make strategic sense.
13. Virgin Islands National Park/Biosphere Reserve/US Geological Survey/Biological Resources Division monitoring and research activities are closely coordinated with other agencies, including feds, Virgin Islands agencies and groups in the British Virgin Islands.
14. Short and long-term research needs of the park (and Biosphere Reserve & US Geological Survey/Biological Resources Division) are widely debated and available. A process for “non-approval” of projects exists.
15. The park has a clearly understood and coordinated development process for all of its resources in the US Virgin Islands, including especially Hassel Island.
16. Park operations should be coordinated with the British Virgin Islands, especially for short-term visits.

17. More community involvement through the establishment of workshops and training for all ages. These would cover ecological topics and issues.
18. Visitor experience: Rangers and staff are friendly and informative. They are less of a police force and geared towards providing the visitor with a pleasant educational experience.
19. Park is engaged in sustainable and renewable methods for its energy consumption needs.
20. Further historical documentation of Annaberg, Cinnamon Bay and other ruins.
21. No growth in commercial concessions.
22. Expansion of boat mooring system.
23. Community interface meetings at least once a year.
24. Consistent and regular enforcement of National Park Service rules/regulations

Session 4. Cruz Bay Comments (Flip Charts)

1. Traditional uses (similar to 1956) are allowed and practiced.
2. There is a medicinal garden established in the park. (1)
3. The park is a leader in establishing sound and creative cultural resource programs. (3)
4. There is an expanded research center, and allows visitors to research cultural history. (3)
5. There is an expanded visitor center with expanded book sales opportunity and opportunities for local businesses to be involved (and a cafeteria). (1)
6. The park takes a lead in developing strategies for conservation and solving ecological problems.
7. Virgin Islands National Park has opened a seaplane ramp and there is daily seaplane service. (4)

8. Areas of the park are landscaped in various ways to reflect different stages of island's growth and history.
9. Along the St. John trail, there are areas for horticultural gardens and youth are involved in program. (1)
10. The public affairs office of the park is teaching locals about non-local culture, and non-locals about local culture. (1)
11. Virgin Islands National Park is continuously reforesting native trees. (1)
12. The park has programs in place that adapt to new trends in visitors and tourism.
13. Virgin Islands National Park is a one-semester course at the University of Virgin Islands. (4)
14. Cruise ships travelers are not allowed to use fins.
15. The National Park Service cooperates with local government in making available land for a high school. (3)
16. A research center has been established, and includes all research that has been done and conducts new research. (1)
17. The park provides education for locals, old and young.
18. The park has an intensive, multidisciplinary environmental education program for elementary schools and include trained teachers.
19. Virgin Islands National Park has an annual visitor fee (\$8 per family or \$4 per day) and this money is used to fund Virgin Islands National Park improvements.
20. Virgin Islands National Park has a fee structure that is varied by the kind of visitor. (1)
21. The 1983 Master Plan has been put into practice.
22. A marine animal nursery is established, flourishes and provides for fish resources. (1)

23. There is an annual youth day where local youth in the Virgin Islands are involved in the park. (2)
24. Various governments on St. John cooperate in the management of recreation facilities.
25. The park has an environmental education program that includes (and is targeted at) high school students.
26. The top management positions at Virgin Islands National Park are at least 90% held by local residents.
27. There is a guided and/or self-guided bike tour in the park. (3)
28. There are clean, safe trails in the park. (3)
29. There are reasonable fees in place, and fees are used to sustain this park. (1)
30. There are more public, open forums about the park.
31. There is a permanent, state-of-the-art exhibit about local culture accessible to everyone.
32. There is an active program by the park for young people from St. John to learn about the park and park careers. (4)
33. The present natural/cultural resources are well-maintained and the architectural resources are restored.
34. The exploration of pre-Columbian geological digs continues.
35. Virgin Islands National Park remains managed by the National Park Service, but makes special opportunities for local recreational use.
36. The National Park Service develops a better marine recreation program, that includes moorings, dump stations, and ramp for boating and seaplanes.
37. The Council of Virgin Islands National Park made up of residents from all three islands has been established and is active in advisory capacity. (1)

Session 4. Cruz Bay Individual Comments

1. Present resources are well maintained and architectural landmarks are restored.
2. Education programs are expanded to bring the park into everyone's life i.e., guided hikes, ecological workshops, programs for school children.
3. Park is maintained as a National Park.
4. Park leads community in developing strategies for conservation and solving problems affecting the ecological health of the island.
5. The park will provide an area/beach for domestic animals to enjoy (e.g., a doggie beach).
6. A day fee/yearly pass for residents is charged to finance maintenance and expanded programs.
7. Bike trails.
8. Natural resources/marine community.
9. Natural resources—land community.
10. Traditional use.
11. Education for local attitudes—the community (old and young).
12. Visitor's experience.
13. Management listen more to public's questions and offer open forums (monthly, bimonthly) in way to assist citizens.
14. Parks and Recreation, Public Works and National Park cooperating management, maintenance and facility that are publicly used and schedules special events involving volunteer—to hike with groups to help the safety on trails.
15. Continual reforestation near...and estates (National Park)—native trees.

16. The National Park service affords a permanent exhibit displaying aspects of St. John's culture and history. This exhibit is state of the art fashioned after the life-size dioramas seen at the Museum of Natural History in New York.
17. The Park's expanded Visitor Center allows for the increased creation of products and services for sale for the purpose of generating revenues, including a cafeteria.
18. Reasonable entrance park fees are charged to all non-residents of the Virgin Islands. The fees will be attributable directly to the Virgin Islands National Park system.
19. The park provides a system of safe walking trails for guided and unguided walks.
20. The park has strategically placed a state of the art communications system availing the public and staff to emergency and non-emergency calls. A percentage of revenues generated from non-emergency calls will be turned back to the Virgin Islands National Park.
21. The Park is used by locals full-time residents, visitors who stay on the island for one week or more purchase an inexpensive pass for their stay. Day visitors pay the next rate in usage fees. Large tour operator working with cruise ships purchase the most expensive pass. Local St. John resident concessionaires are charged a very small nominal fee (less than currently collected).
22. The National Park remains operated by the federal government but makes special consideration to islanders i.e., one beach for dogs to run on, one area for local gatherings/parties, one area for fishing/conching, etc.
23. The park offers education to locals on less harmful ways to fish, etc., ...to satisfy needs yet be less damaging to natural resources.
24. The park has allowed areas of land to be landscaped as it may be have been prior to European settlement, like during sugar cane days to reflect different stages of the islands growth and history (e.g. a botanical garden).
25. Park employees do not carry guns.
26. To bolster the operating budget, the park charges admission — \$8/yr. or \$4/day. These charges pay for the many improvements in place today; the money will stay in the Virgin Islands.

27. A seaplane just took off in front of Lind Point with passengers for St. Croix. In about an hour it will land by Steven's Kay with passengers from St. Croix.
28. The exploration of pre-Columbian geological digs continue.
29. Youth internship for teen age St. Johnians.
30. Virgin Islands National Park has opened the seaplane ramp and now St. John has daily seaplane service from the ramp near the Visitors Center.
31. The Virgin Islands National Park has added more moorings and the reef damage is slowly reversing.
32. The Virgin Islands National Park's top management positions are held by local/Virgin Islands residents in at least 90 percent of cases.
33. There are educationally motivated programs geared toward the youth...i.e., training programs.
34. We have daily/weekly programs utilizing/showcasing historical cultural resources.
35. Marine animals nurseries are flourishing.
36. National Park Service public relations division has developed strategies to educate public in regard to cultural attitudes...local and continental.
37. The St. John trail: a bicycle, walking and jogging trail from Cruz Bay to Coral Bay using old roads.
38. National Park Service helps to create a better management of boating and boating industry with moorings, dump/pump outs and boating access ramps.
39. A center for Environmental Studies incorporating the efforts of the National Park Service, Horticulture, the Biosphere, Audubon Society, Friends of the Virgin Islands National Park, for the study and training in environmental understanding.
40. Better cooperation between the National Park Service, the Virgin Islands government and residents.

41. The new Visitor Center is built and is terrific.
42. Seaplane service is resumed. The National Park Service lets the seaplane use it's ramp.
43. Along the bike/pedestrian trail, areas are created where horticulturist preserve the virgin flora of St. John with St. John students.
44. An intern program set up for the high school aged children are able to learn and given the opportunity to pursue National Park Service careers.
45. Adequate communications throughout the park at all of their recreational facilities, i.e. public phones.
46. Must remain National Park and not become a territorial park as some advocate. I have seen and been involved with failed effort at Territorial Park. Rename this park the St. John National Park.
47. Infiltrate public and private and parochial schools (where there is interest) for teacher workshops on St. John, and for multidisciplinary use by students (especially elementary schools—along with one or two parents) of environmental study areas as classrooms without walls—e.g., Annaberg, Salt pond—Drunk Bay and Reef Bay Trail.
48. Ask University of Virgin Islands to include a program to train for park jobs (good ones) in cooperation with Virgin Islands National Park.
49. The Living History program is now, again, in 2006, alive with hoop basket making, farming (1900s subsistence farming), charcoal making and use of brick oven.
50. Set up a medicinal plant garden for Virgin Islanders and visitors to see. Set up at either Cinnamon Bay or by new park facilities (Shade and soil are of course necessary.).
51. At least once a week, St. John Park public relations person will have photos and stories about the St. John Park. Involve Sprauve School and Guy Benjamin Schools in this output.
52. Protect reefs by forbidding tourist use of fins which are unnecessary and really cause damage.
53. Charge cruise ship tours a visitation fee; no fee for residents.

54. Allow a small St. John Bay Rum operation (controlled collection at Bordeaux mountain); a demonstration small industry; and sell Bay Rum for park money.
55. A reasonable fee schedule for all visitors in order to make the park a self-sustaining profit center.
56. Visitor previews e.g. aboard cruise ships, at hotels etc. to show the wide array of park activities.
57. Programs to match population, and societal trends; ecotourism mobile, active, educable senior citizens, herbal medicine.
58. Tie-ins with schools, wider, more hospitable roles for students junior rangers, visitor assistance helps kids learn interpersonal skills and creates vested interest in parks and community from Annaberg to Dawes, to full research center for tracing through...heritage...Mormon genealogy records, ships manifestoes, etc.
59. Clearly-marked trails—clean of trees and other growth.
60. More historical/educational programs island history.
61. A research center has been established. It consists of copies of research that has been conducted in the park.
62. The Virgin Islands National Park has been incorporated into the social studies and science courses of the senior high schools of the Virgin Islands. This has been done with the cooperation of the park and the Board of Education.
63. The Virgin council of the Virgin Islands National Park made up of citizens of the three islands, has been established in an advisory capacity.
64. The Virgin Islands National Park is a one semester course at the University of the Virgin Islands.
65. Cemeteries within the Park be cleaned and made accessible.
66. Education: I feel the park has done a fair job in education, but has done poorly in the way of making their presence in school. More program Virgin Islands curriculum oriented can be developed in K - 12. This I feel will help to direct future National Park Service employees; biologists, etc.

67. Virgin Islands National Park Biosphere Reserve/National Park Service should do more to encourage the (blank). For instance, we consistently have natives complain how less and less visibility of certain kinds of animals are present, e.g., butterflies. Why not set up program to reintroduce such and later this too can be used as a visitor attraction and educational.
68. Presently the Park Service has sponsored culturally oriented programs, but definitely need to take a more leading example/role in developing more sound, devise Smithsonian type cultural programs.
69. Visitor Center is in need of updating to the '90s.
70. The island of St. John is presently transporting 1/2 of its students to attend high school in St. Thomas. They are now in need of land to build a high school. I feel and would like to see the National Park Service work with the Virgin Islands government, if possible, seeing this problem through - donation of land for building school.
71. Establish an environmental education center.
72. Non-locals paying beach and tours fare.
73. Promoting more cultural arts and crafts.
74. A guided and/or self-guided bicycle trail.
75. Programs of school students' involvement, participation, and being a part of the National Park Service.
76. Educating locals of the many uses of the park.
77. Supervised youth groups taking charge (for the day).
78. Sell park videos.

Session 5. Coral Bay Comments (Flip Charts)

1. The park staff has recognized that escorted groups have less negative impact than individuals being allowed free range, and escorted groups are encouraged.
2. Guided tours to historic sites are offered weekly and upon request, by groups of 10 or more.

3. The park provides for quality tours, charges an appropriate fee, and uses the fee to support the park. (3)
4. Sufficient moorings have been set, eliminating the need for anchoring in park waters.
5. Virgin Islands National Park in cooperation with schools, operates a marine science education program for elementary students.
6. The park has a coordinator who works with local business and government.
7. There is an expanded education program for Virgin Islands' government, local populations and especially children. (1)
8. There has been no further degradation of park natural resources since 1996 levels. (4)
9. Necessary revenue is being earned by park through guided trail walks.
10. The park has collaborated with local government and businesses and established a botanical garden.
11. There is cooperation between National Park Service and local government to protect mangroves and water quality.
12. All park trails are now well-maintained throughout the year. (1)
13. All educational materials at the park are available for use by public school teachers. (3)
14. The park will lease some land to locals for purpose of living, and to raise revenues for the park.
15. The biosphere reserve areas are clearly defined, and include marine areas for study. (2)
16. There are expanded partnerships to help the park, both at the community and off-island level. (1)
17. Virgin Islands National Park works with the Virgin Islands' government to monitor natural resource activities and development.

18. The continuous degradation of coral reefs, bays and mangrove lagoons by sedimentation was controlled in 1996.
19. No crime has occurred within the park due to collaboration between Virgin Islands National Park and local law enforcement.
20. Continuous degradation of forest lands by fragmentation is stopped in 1996.
21. Economic self-sufficiency for the park is supported by private events/ parties at appropriate sites, though a fee. (2)
22. There are several beaches where no mooring of boats is allowed nor dinghies allowed to come ashore.
23. Easy and fun access exists from St. John, St. Croix, Fajardo, and the British Virgin Islands by way of 17-passenger seaplane. (2)
24. Living history and/or cultural programs are scheduled at least twice a week. (3)
25. There are more lifeguards on the beaches.

Session 5. Coral Bay Individual Comments

1. Expansion of partnerships to help support the park. Both community & off island involvement.
2. Suggest the park have a local coordinator to work with the local business community and government.
3. We would like more guards on the beaches.
4. We would like more historical cultural resources.
5. Educational materials should be made available to schools.
6. More clearly define existing biosphere reserve areas and establish clearly marine areas with appropriate rules and regulation.

7. Relative to above condition, develop, in partnership with local school system(s), marine science studies, or educational level that would develop knowledge of and appreciation of Virgin Islands National Park. Note: To include preservation of all areas!
8. Actively develop quality tours and charge, use funds to support park.
9. Sedimentation issue!!
10. Train locals for jobs in National Park Service at all levels.
11. There is now a lifeguard at every beach of the park.
12. There are exceptionally equipped showers, bathrooms and changing facilities at major park beaches.
13. The staff park has recognized that escorted groups have less negative impact on the infrastructure than allowing individuals free range. And escorted groups are encouraged.
14. Easy and fun access to the park from San Juan, Fajado, St. Croix and the British Virgin Islands exists via 17-passenger seaplane.
15. Necessary revenue is being earned by the park through guided trail walks.
16. Economic self-sufficiency is now aided through allowing private group function days and nights, with parameters for parties, wedding, etc. through a fee.
17. No crime has occurred within the park, due to collaboration between Virgin Island Police Dept. and National Park rangers.
18. All park trails are now well maintained through the year.
19. Sufficient moorings have been set, eliminating the need for anchoring within park waters.
20. There will be annual open forums by the Virgin Islands National Park with the community inviting their input as now.
21. Since funds may be limited in the future a support group like friends of Virgin Islands National Park should be ongoing with a division for student support.

22. There will be tours for off-island visitors (tourists) and a goodwill fee should be charged - beaches should remain free.
23. Cultural and historic should be enhanced and native crafts encouraged.
24. Culture and educational tours and forums will be held each year three or four times monthly if needed to teach all residents wonders and richness and lack thereof ...the Virgin Islands natural resources.
25. Park will look into the leasing of some of its land in restricted areas for natives and other residents to be developed for living and to raise finances for the park.