

APPENDIX E

Tree Boa Protection Plan

Introduction

Jack Rock B-AC LLC purchased property within Estate Nazareth with the intention of developing a World Class Marina with an upland mixed use commercial development. Consolidated parcel 9B-A comprises a total of 5.556 acres. The entire area is zoned W-1-Waterfront Pleasure. The Proposed Development is permitted by the Virgin Islands Code as a matter of right. The project site contains a peninsula that forms the southern entrance to Red Hook Bay. That peninsula is a rocky abutment that extends to the National Park Service property on the East side and abuts the Vessup Beach area to the south.

The property lies within the range of the Virgin Islands tree boa (*Chilabothrus granti*, formerly *Epicrates monensis granti*) and the tree boa is known to occur in the immediate area. Much of the main marina site is cleared and offers little in the way of habitat for these species. Habitat with good interdigitation exists in the overgrown western portions of the property and in some of the areas of denser vegetation near the beach. All areas slated for development will follow Tree Boa protocols and will be hand cleared



before any machine work ensues.



Proposed Minimization Methods

1. Prior to the start of the clearing activities DFW will conduct a VI Tree Boa training session for all individuals who will be involved with hand clearing of the project area. This will involve training on tree boa identification and what to do if a tree boa is encountered. This must be done before any site work is begun.

2. Prior to any construction activity, including removal of vegetation and earth movements, the boundaries of the project area and areas to be excluded and protected should be clearly marked in the project plan and in the field in order to avoid further habitat degradation into forested and conservation areas.
3. Photographs of the VI Boa will be prominently displayed at the site. A monitor will be designated who has been trained regarding the tree boa who can assist in helping protect the tree boa if they are encountered during hand clearing.
4. Hand clearing will commence from northeast to southwest allowing boas an opportunity to move towards the forested areas to the east and south. Vegetation should first be cut about one meter (36") above the ground, prior to the use of heavy machinery for land clearing. Once land is cleared by hand, this will allow boas present on site to potentially move away on their own to adjacent available habitat.
5. Any stone walls or naturally occurring rock piles must be carefully dismantled by hand as these are refuges for the snake. This will allow any boas present to vacate the site without injury.
6. If a VI boa is found within any of the working or construction areas, activities should stop at the area where the VI boa is found and information recorded as to size, where it was found and if possible, include a photo of the animal (dead or alive) and its behavior .
7. Boas should be safely captured and relocated to a predetermined suitable habitat Potential boa relocation sites should be predetermined before the project starts and sites shared with the VIDFW for review.
8. Relocation of boas should be done by trained and designated personnel, and shall not harm or injure the captured boa. Activities at other work sites, where no boas have been found after surveying the area, may continue.
9. If boas are injured DFW or the monitor will be contacted immediately so that someone can retrieve the injured boa to get it to someone who can help it. No activity will occur in that area until VIDFW is contacted and what steps should be taken are discussed. Based on how the boa was injured protocol might to able to be adapted to minimize future injuries.
10. If a tree boa is killed the carcass is to be carefully collected by the monitor and put on ice and taken to DFW so that it can be frozen, and its DNA used to provide information regarding the boa.
11. When a brush or debris pile is encountered it will be taken apart by hand if at all possible to allow the boa to safely move away.
12. Another site visit will be performed by DFW to confirm that hand clearing has been complete, and waiting period starts after inspection.
8. The site is to be left undisturbed for 14 days prior to the use of heavy machinery. However manual work may continue to be performed during this time and any vegetation may be moved by hand.
13. Measures should be taken to avoid and minimize VI boa casualties by heavy machinery or motor vehicles being used on site. Any heavy machinery left on site (in staging) or

near potential VI boa habitat (within 50 meters of potential boa habitat), needs to be thoroughly inspected each morning before work starts to ensure that no boas have sheltered within engine compartments or other areas of the equipment. If VI boas are found within vehicles or equipment, boas need to be safely captured and relocated accordingly.

By implementing these measures impact to the tree boas can be minimized.