



GEOFFREY MARC RAMSEY

Founding Partner, EPG Caribbean, Barbados

Past Chair, National Heritage Task Force, Barbados

Following formal academic studies in Canada, and an early career with various Government ministries, Geoffrey Ramsey became a founding partner of Environmental Planning Group Inc., and senior partner at EPG Caribbean, Barbados-based consultancy firms providing professional services in project management, urban design, site planning, heritage restoration and tourism development planning. He is a graduate of Ryerson University, and holds an M.Sc. degree from the University of Wales, U.K. in Sustainable Tourism and Management of Protected Areas. His professional engagements have included projects in the USA, UK and the Caribbean region including Barbados, Grenada, Mustique, St. Kitts, Dominica, St. Lucia and the British Virgin Islands.

Geoffrey is currently engaged with 'Patrimonio Vivo', the Living Heritage 2020 program for the Caribbean and Latin America under the aegis of the Inter-American Development Bank where studies of historic Speightstown are currently underway. He was a member of the consulting team for the updating of the Physical Development Plan for the Government of Barbados lead by Urban Strategies Inc., Canada. This Amendment Plan was the recipient in 2018 of a Canadian National Planning Award of Excellence in the International Development category. He was engaged by the Ministry of Tourism in 2012 as a member of the international Consortium which prepared the Barbados Tourism Master Plan based on Green Economy principles, with a focus on cultural heritage and attractions, niche markets, the visitor economy and the environment.

He is a board member of the Barbados Synagogue Historic District 1654 Management Company. Planning and design consultancy services contributed to the redevelopment of this prime historic city block within the UNESCO World Heritage site in Bridgetown. Restoration work occurred over three decades and was completed in 2017 through a private/public sector partnership.

With respect to tourism development, Geoffrey provided project management services to an international Consortium from 1998-2012 for the Harrison's Cave phased Redevelopment Project, which incorporated major expansion and institutional restructuring to enhance the tourism property as a key destination. He also provided inputs to the Tourism Development Program and Environmental Management and Land Use Planning for Sustainable Development from 1998-2000, which encompassed the preparation of the earlier National Physical Development Plan for Barbados.

Consultancy services were also provided to a local and regional team of consultants from 2001-2005 during the preparation of the Gully Ecosystem Management Study for the Government of Barbados. This commission incorporated comprehensive national assessment of the island's gully network, and included a review of current legislation, land use, biodiversity, storm water management and waste management.

Prior to this, his consultancy services were also retained for the Bridgetown Urban Rehabilitation Study, Grantley Adams International Airport Expansion, Bridgetown Port Expansion Project, and the Carlisle Bay Redevelopment projects. In addition, Geoffrey was also engaged with the Barbados National Transport Plan, a rationalization study of current and future national transport needs in association with Travers Morgan Limited, UK for the Ministry of Transport and Works. Other key projects were the assessment of the tourism potential in the Wingfield Watershed Area of St. Kitts and Nevis for the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, and also collaboration on the preparation of the National Tourism Development Strategy for the British Virgin Islands from 1996 to 2005.

In 2017, Geoffrey was invited to participate in the 12th Montreal Round Table 'Balancing Tourism and Heritage Conservation: A World Heritage Context' with Antigua, Barbados and St. Kitts having shared military and naval history as the case studies.

He is a member of the Caribbean Heritage Network, and former Chair of the Barbados National Heritage Task Force and the Preservation (Barbados) Foundation Trust. He is a life member of the Barbados National Trust and the Barbados Museum & Historical Society, Past Chairman and Trustee of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Program, and also the Peter Moores (Barbados) Trust, a philanthropic organization aimed at supporting local charities. He is a member of the Royal Commonwealth Society and the Barbados Arts Council. He is a contributing author to 'Barbados Fifty Years of Independence' a 2016 publication by Sir Trevor Carmichael.