

# 10 YEARS TO RESTORE

## CONSERVING AND RESTORING NATIVE WILDLIFE AND HABITATS IN AND OUT OF NATIONAL PARKS

There has never been a more urgent need to revive damaged ecosystems than now. Ecosystems support all life on earth and our livelihoods are intricately linked to ecosystems like our oceans, mangroves, forests and coral reefs. The Bahamian economy is dependent on nature and restoring ecosystems is essential to our food security and our health. Everyone has a role to play. In order for us to work towards a more sustainable future, we need to not only conserve but restore ecosystems.

The healthier our ecosystems are, the healthier the planet and its people. The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration aims to “prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems on every continent and in every ocean.”

The 2021–2030 timeline underlines the urgency of the task. The ambitious 10-year drive for restoration seeks to propel us to achieve the climate targets of the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals and other multilateral agreements.

Sometimes restoration doesn't mean planting trees or reintroducing wildlife species, it can also involve enhancing existing conditions to give species a boost in recovery. Restoration activities can include removing invasive species, improving water quality, or reducing human activities that cause coastal erosion. National parks are key to ecosystem restoration as they protect natural areas and wildlife and connect protected areas to people.

From the Flamingos in The Inagua National Park to the Rock Iguanas in the Andros West Side National Park, parks are home to a wide variety of native wildlife. Unfortunately, some of these critically important spaces have a legacy of degradation. Habitats and ecosystems have been disrupted by environmental and human impacts such as the years of illegal dumping and dredging that has scarred the mangrove habitats in what is now the Bonefish Pond National Park. These degraded and disrupted areas in parks need restoration.

The BNT is incorporating habitat restoration into park management in order to restore and



build resilience in habitats and wildlife populations in national parks. Using science-based conservation techniques and data from strategic monitoring, our efforts will ensure the health and vibrance of park environments and wildlife is sustained.

But areas outside of national parks are even in more severe need of restoration. Research conducted by The BNT, The Perry Institute for Marine Science, Bonefish & Tarpon Trust, and other partners recorded an alarming amount of degraded ecosystems in The Northern Bahamas after Hurricane Dorian. While many of these areas do not fall within the boundaries of national parks, nature is interconnected and supporting their restoration will be critical to achieving our restoration goals over the next decade.

**TOGETHER, WE CAN BECOME  
#GENERATIONRESTORATION  
PREVENTING, HALTING, AND REVERSING  
THE DEGRADATION OF ECOSYSTEMS IN  
THE BAHAMAS AND BEYOND.**