



2021

# IMPACT REPORT

SAFEGUARDING THE NATURAL JEWELS OF THE  
BAHAMAS FOR NOW & TOMORROW

## MISSION

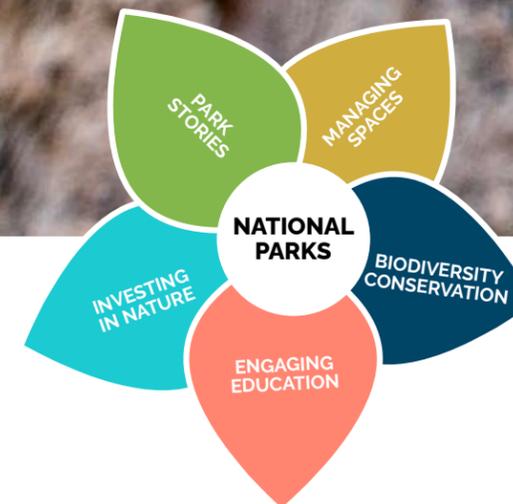
The Bahamas National Trust is a science-based organization dedicated to effectively managing national parks to conserve and protect Bahamian natural resources.

## VISION

A comprehensive network of effectively managed Bahamian national parks and protected areas that is recognized as a powerful force for global biodiversity conservation which is supported and enjoyed by the public.

## OUR FOCUS

National parks are at the core of our work. We accomplish this work through five interconnected pillars. Every day, we are **managing unique spaces** as a form of **biodiversity conservation**; fostering environmental stewardship by offering **engaging education**; encouraging philanthropists and the business community to become involved by **investing in nature**; then sharing the impact we create together by telling our **park stories**.



### MANAGING SPACES

We will continue to enhance our national parks by providing the necessary infrastructure to make them more accessible, employ best practices in park management, enforcement and maintenance.

### BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

We will continue to conserve the unique biodiversity found within, and beyond, the boundaries of our national parks by regularly monitoring and restoring these critical habitats and conducting and sharing research to influence policies, and national development plan.

### ENGAGING EDUCATION

We will continue to be a leader in youth environmental education, using national parks as outdoor classrooms to create environmental stewards and support the national school curriculum.

### INVESTING IN NATURE

We will encourage people to invest their resources in national parks, immerse our donors and members in our work, connect parks to people, and encourage business opportunities for local communities.

### PARK STORIES

We will share with the community the impact of what we accomplish, with the support of our partners, donors and volunteers. We will highlight our achievements and celebrate our conservation warriors, to inspire more people to join our cause.

# OUR NETWORK OF NATIONAL PARKS

## National Parks

- 1 Andros West Side National Park
- 2 Crab Replenishment Reserve
- 3 Blue Holes National Park
- 4 North Andros Marine Park
- 5 South Andros Marine Park
- 6 Rand Nature Centre
- 7 Peterson Cay National Park
- 8 Lucayan National Park
- 9 Walker's Cay National Park
- 10 Black Sound Cay National Reserve
- 11 Fowl Cays National Park
- 12 Pelican Cays Land & Sea Park
- 13 Tilo Cay National Reserve
- 14 Abaco National Park
- 15 Primeval Forest National Park
- 16 Harrold & Wilson Ponds National Park
- 17 Bonefish Pond National Park
- 18 The Retreat
- 19 Exuma Cays Land & Sea Park
- 20 Moriah Harbour Cay National Park
- 21 Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve
- 22 Conception Island National Park
- 23 Southern Great Lake National Park
- 24 Pigeon Creek and Snow Bay National Park
- 25 Graham's Harbour Iguana & Seabird National Park
- 26 West Coast Marine Park
- 27 Green's Bay National Park
- 28 Great Hope House
- 29 Marine Farm
- 30 Little Inagua National Park
- 31 Union Creek Reserve
- 32 Inagua National Park

## BNT Offices

- Marsh Harbour, Abaco
- Freeport, Grand Bahama
- Nassau, New Providence
- Warderick Wells, Exuma Cays
- Moriah Harbour Cay, Great Exuma
- Staniard Creek, Andros
- Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera
- Matthew Town, Inagua



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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Increasingly, as I reflect on the successes of our work, I reflect on the importance of our relationships. I often find myself in awe and deeply grateful for the amazing people who make up our vast community of Park Friends: members, donors, partners, volunteers, Council, and staff.

Despite waves of challenges associated with the ongoing global health crisis and world events shrouded in uncertainty, you helped the BNT to make an impact. Your support bridged a gap that allowed the vital work of conservation to continue.

In 2021, your partnership helped us raise enough funding that kept essential programming resourced, including: natural resource management of some of the most vibrant ecosystems in The Bahamas; scientific monitoring and protection of vulnerable species and habitats; and national reach through award-winning education for youth and adults. I acknowledge and thank the BNT staff for finding creative solutions to get this work done, despite limitations set before them.

Our mandate is to manage national parks that conserve and protect Bahamian natural resources. You make it possible for us to achieve this mission. As we prepare for this mandate to grow and strengthen in resolve through anticipated surges of opportunity and challenges still, I am confident in our enduring relationship.

The BNT has demonstrated its guardianship for the environment and continues to deliver programming that benefits people and nature. In the year ahead, we will be continuing to rely on your support and partnership to help us move toward a healthy natural world. I trust that you are a community that will rise to meet this need once again.

Warmest regards,

*Geoff Andrews*

**Geoff Andrews**  
President



# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2021 was a historic year for The Bahamas National Trust. We ushered in a new look to propel us into the next 60 years and beyond. Our brand evolution celebrates BNT's rich history and prepares us for the future. While we got an entirely new look, our focus remains the same: conserving and protecting The Bahamas.. Now and Tomorrow.

The launch of this new brand marks an exciting era for all of us. We want everyone to know this change, while significant, does not alter our values, our mission, or our goals. It is our hope that as we undertake this rebranding journey, we carry our auspicious history with us into a more vibrant future. I am incredibly proud of what we accomplished this year, and I am even more excited for the year 2022, which will bring new challenges, conservation wins, and opportunities for collaboration. My promise to you is we will continue to do all that we can to work towards a sustainable future where both people and nature thrive.

We are protecting and restoring nature — forests, mangroves, coral reefs, wetlands — to tackle the climate crisis. We are inspiring communities to join us in safeguarding our future and taking part in protecting their lands. We continue to lead and inspire the next generation of conservation warriors, who will take on the earth we leave behind. And all our work is guided by science and fueled by a network of incredible supporters.

National parks around The Bahamas are receiving advancements and major infrastructure upgrades as we aspire to build a world-class National Park System that preserves sensitive natural areas and provides people access to nature.

We're connecting local communities to their ecosystems and inspiring them to join us in restoring these habitats they depend so heavily on. We are also motivating them to help us preserve species in peril. This includes empowering community members in Abaco and Grand Bahama to assist with restoration efforts in response to the devastation Hurricane Dorian left behind and working with fishers on Grand Bahama to create a sustainable conch fishery that future generations will reap the benefits of.

We released the State of The Environment: Post Dorian Report, which included recommendations of how we can work together to restore nature to help people recover. Research from our scientists and partners show that human intervention is necessary to help revive the environment after this climate-charged storm wreaked havoc on communities and the environment. This propelled the country's largest-ever restoration effort of mangrove forests in The Northern Bahamas.

We continue to advocate for and support policies that encourage sustainability and conservation. In 2021, we contributed to the development of the National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan, reinforced our stance on an oil-free Bahamas, and continued to work with the government and partners to study and fight the deadly Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease.

In the year ahead, The BNT is setting its sights on protecting more natural areas and continuing to work with local communities to drive positive conservation impact.

The BNT is growing stronger every day. Because of our people — those who work here and those who show up and support our mission in so many ways. Thank you for your commitment to our mission of protecting nature for people and the planet. I cannot wait to see what 2022 holds for us.



**Eric Carey**  
*Executive Director*



**FOR THE PARKS.  
FOR THE COUNTRY.  
FOR THE FUTURE.**





## NEW LOOK



## NEW LOGO



## SAME FOCUS



# jewel like inspiration for the future of our national parks

After 60+ years of being at the forefront of conservation in The Bahamas, The BNT underwent a brand evolution in 2021. We got a new look, with a new logo, but kept the same focus.

That focus is Managing National Parks and Preserving Our Future. We are the stewards of The Bahamas' "national jewels" - our precious and unique environment and natural resources; and together with our robust network of conservation warriors, we are carving the path to a more environmentally sustainable Bahamas, for Now, and Tomorrow.

The development of our new brand was two years in the making, undertaken with prudence and care. Among many things, one of our goals was to make the BNT and the environmental field, in general, more accessible for younger generations, for they are the future of The Bahamas. We wanted to do this while remaining true to what has always been at the core of our identity: passion, dedication, commitment, protection, stewardship, conservation, and transparency.

Globally, environmental challenges continue to grow, the collapse of biodiversity, the climate crisis, and the pandemic have made that very clear. We want to make sure we are poised to be at the forefront of this movement to address these challenges and drive positive conservation actions. Our new logo, "The Natural Jewels" encapsulates the reflections of natural light as it permeates through our tropical land and seascapes,

revealing nature's awe-inspiring and jewel-like colour palette. The blue in our new brand represents our marine environment; the green, our terrestrial spaces, and the pink represents our biodiversity and is also a nod to our conservation success with the West Indian Flamingo and our ongoing work to save the iconic Queen Conch.

Since 1959, we have been at the forefront of progressive legislation to protect the environment. From the establishment of the first land and sea park in the world - the Exuma Cays Land & Sea Park - to bringing the West Indian Flamingo back from the brink of extinction. Our hope through this rebranding is to carry this auspicious history with us into a more vibrant future. We want to honour the past while engaging and inspiring more and more youth to become the environmental stewards of tomorrow.

The launch of this new brand marks a new and exciting era for the BNT. Now more than ever, our environment and national parks are providing solace and inspiration during the pandemic; attractions and recreational opportunities for Bahamians and visitors alike; habitats for key species; and economic opportunities for tour operators, fishers, and communities.

We invite all who love this country to join us in our revamped mission, to face our future climate challenges, sustain our National Park System and inspire our young people to commit to a lifetime love of The Bahamas. We are BNT.



# CLOSING THE GAP FOR CONSERVATION



LEON LEVY FOUNDATION

At the start of the year, The Leon Levy Foundation presented a two million dollar (\$2M) campaign challenge that set the tone for an enormous effort. A high benchmark was placed to raise enough money to meet our projected funding deficit due to the ongoing impact of the pandemic on fundraising and revenue generation.

The gift matching opportunity provided the BNT with confidence that our aspirational goal would be met. Thanks to you and the unwavering support of a community of givers, the campaign was won before the end of the year and our transformative target was realized, raising just enough funds to exceed the match!

Because of the Foundation's incredible leading gift, all unrestricted gifts in 2021 were matched up to one million dollars (\$1M). That means every dollar was guaranteed to be doubled and generosity twice as impactful towards offsetting annual operations that kept staff employed and programs ongoing.

We extend heartfelt appreciation for The Leon Levy Foundation's generosity and the personal advocacy and environmental stewardship of Shelby White. Her support offered credibility and donor confidence that went a long way towards winning the challenge grant.

**\$2,000,000**  
PROJECTED FUNDING DEFICIT IN 2021

**\$1,000,000**  
MATCH ACTIVATED FROM LEON LEVY FOUNDATION

**\$1,001,420**  
RAISED BY BNT PARK FRIENDS, LIKE YOU!



**"The crucial support of special BNT Park Friends allowed us to continue our work in fighting for the environment and protecting fragile natural resources. We are honoured that you chose to support national parks and the BNT in 2021. You closed the gap for conservation!"**

**- Anna Bancroft**  
Director of Development & Communication, BNT



# 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.**



# MANAGING UNIQUE SPACES

BRINGING PEOPLE TO PARKS | MAINTAINING SPECIAL PLACES | SAFEGUARDING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

# 10 YEARS OF A WORLD-CLASS BOTANIC GARDEN

LEON LEVY NATIVE PLANT PRESERVE



"Is it hard for me to believe the Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve is now 10 years old. It has been such a joy to see it develop, to know that we have created something that is not only useful in the community but is known internationally. This is absolutely beyond anything I ever dreamed of."

- Shelby White



## CELEBRATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEON LEVY NATIVE PLANT PRESERVE

The first and only national park on Eleuthera, The Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve spans 30 acres and serves as a showcase for traditional bush medicine; a facility for the propagation of indigenous plants and trees; and an educational centre focusing on the importance of native vegetation to the biodiversity of The Bahamas.

Founded by Shelby White in honour of her late husband, Leon Levy, the Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve is a living part of Bahamian history. It is the fulfillment of the vision of Shelby and Leon, who both loved the natural environment and way of life on Eleuthera. After Leon's passing in 2003, Shelby wanted to honour her husband and his interest in the preservation of the local bush medicine culture. As such, through funding from the Leon Levy Foundation, the Levy Preserve was created in 2011.

In 2021, this world-class botanic garden celebrated 10 years of being open to the public. To celebrate the 10th Anniversary, we held an Open House at the Preserve, released a series of promotional and celebratory stories, and had an in-person and virtual celebration on the date of the anniversary.

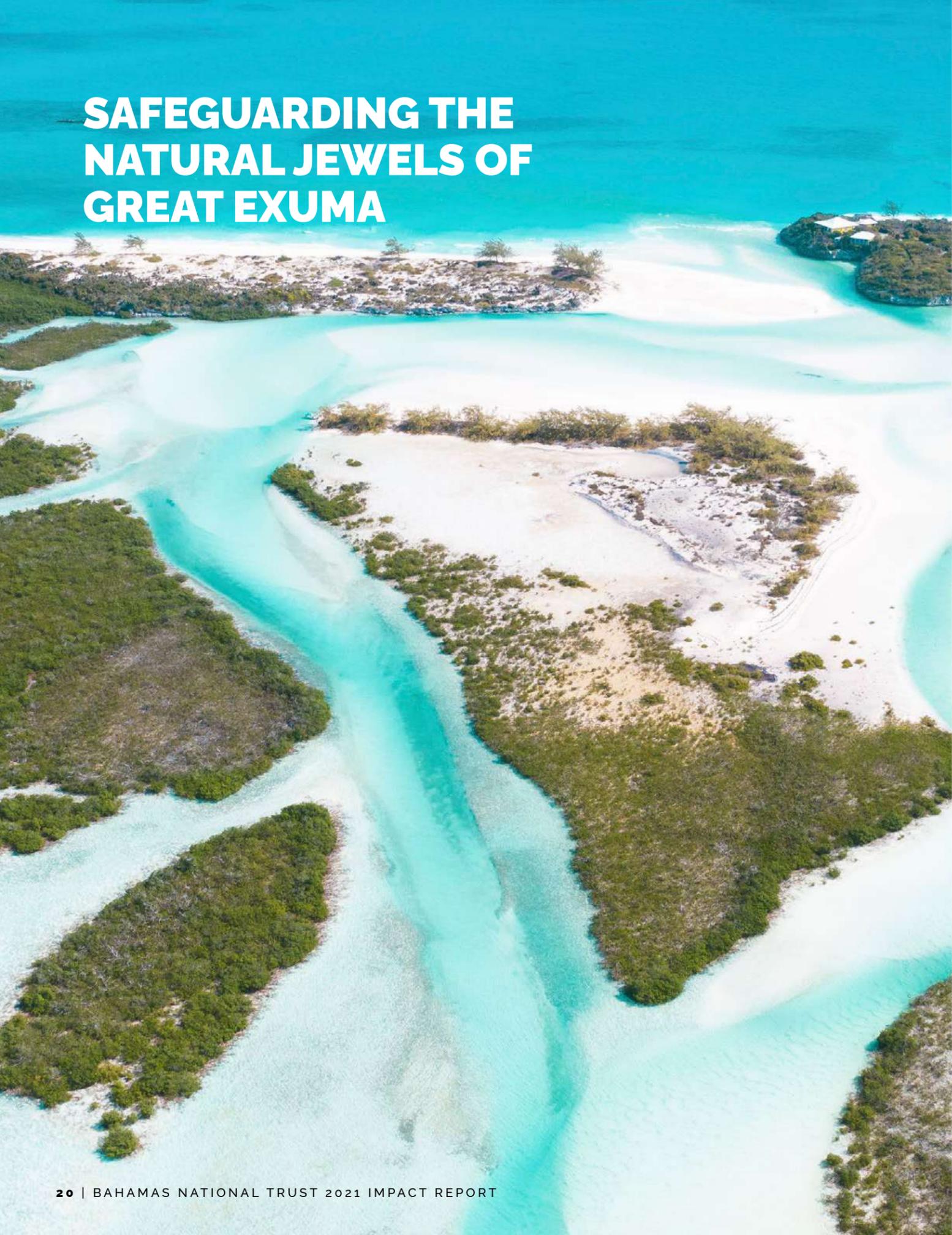
Since opening its gates to the public, thousands of visitors have explored the magnificent trails throughout the park that meander through the native coppice and wetlands. All while learning about the native fauna and flora of The Bahamas, medicinal plants, and Bahamian history and culture.

Ten years on, the Levy Preserve continues to make significant strides in conserving Bahamian flora and fauna, promoting opportunities for people to enjoy nature, and fostering the well-being of local communities on the island of Eleuthera. In 2019, the Levy Preserve became the first institution in The Bahamas to be designated as an accredited Botanic Garden by Botanic Gardens Conservation International. The BNT is extremely proud to be the caretakers of this space and to fulfill the vision of Shelby White.

Looking ahead, The Preserve's long-range plans include expanding its facilities to provide support for tertiary level research in both botany and plant taxonomy, mentorship programs, and developing partnerships with regional institutions to promote plant conservation.



# SAFEGUARDING THE NATURAL JEWELS OF GREAT EXUMA



## ADVANCEMENTS IN THE MORIAH HARBOUR CAY NATIONAL PARK

The Exuma chain of islands saw the dawn of national parks in The Bahamas. The first-ever Bahamian national park, The Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park, was established in 1958 in the northern Exuma Cays. Today this national park is the most visited national park in the country.

In 2002, a second national park for Exuma was declared: the 23,000 acre Moriah Harbour Cay National Park. After decades of petitioning by the local community of Great Exuma, the area was officially declared a national park by the Bahamian government. It wasn't easy getting this park created, and most of the legwork for this achievement was led by Basil and Jane Minns, local Exumians, and recipients of the BNT's Conservation Legend Awards in 2019. As longtime members of the BNT, Basil and Jane were already huge advocates for the environment and Bahamian national parks way before the creation of the MHCNP.

Protected within the boundaries of the park are miles of pristine beaches, intact sand dunes, mangrove creeks, seagrass beds, blue holes, and coral reefs. The park is widely used by locals and visitors for recreation and subsistence fishing. However, as with many natural areas around the country, there's been a sharp decline of resources, mainly fishery populations.

With special funding support from the Global Environment Fund (GEF) Small Grants Programme, Global Environment Facility & United Nations Environment Programme (GEF/UNEP), the National Fish and Wildlife Fund (NFWF) and private donors, the MHCNP has seen several major advancements. These include: the hiring of an Exuma Programme Coordinator and Deputy Park Warden, the securing of property for a park headquarters, the installation of demarcation buoys and acquisition of vehicles for park operations. Along with the personnel and upgrades, we also ramped up community engagement on the island.

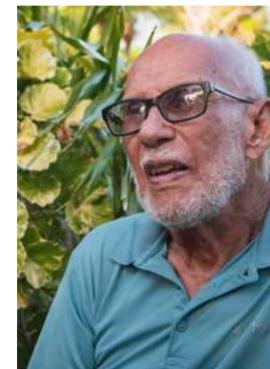
Community engagement and awareness is vital to the success of any national park. Ensuring locals understand the purpose of a park, its benefits to the community, its boundaries and regulations assures there is support for the park by the local community. We held several meetings with local stakeholders and hosted an Open House to present draft zoning maps and regulations to local community members. The feedback we received from these stakeholders is vital in helping us to create a management plan for the Moriah Harbour Cay National Park.



### DEDICATION CEREMONY

In May, we held a special ceremony on Lee Stocking Island in the park to dedicate a newly constructed educational pavilion to longtime supporter and the biggest advocate for the park, Basil Minns. This event was attended by Basil and family members, community members, and members of the BNT Family.

Looking ahead, we are acquiring a patrol vessel in the park and looking at the development of a mooring programme to protect the seabed in the park and generate revenue for park operations.



"We need the people of Exuma to realize we have a gem in The Bahamas. It's a beautiful island. It's got a lot that should be protected and preserved for future generations. And we have to let people know that it doesn't belong to us. It's a trust for future generations. And we, the generation that's here now, need to do our part to make sure we keep it in the best shape we can."

- Basil Minns

# COMBATING POLLUTION, PLANTING MANGROVES, AND SERVING BEER TO PROTECT PARADISE

## BNT PARTNERS WITH CORONA BEER FOR WORLD OCEANS DAY

Chances are when you think about climate action, you don't think about the role a cold beer can play. But, when you think about World Oceans Day, you might think about actions and things we can do to raise awareness about conserving our oceans. World Oceans Day is internationally recognized on June 8th as a day that raises awareness about the importance of our oceans and promotes how we can work together to preserve them.

The BNT was proud to collaborate with Corona Beer and Jimmy's Wines & Spirits to recognize World Oceans Day and promote positive conservation action by celebrating an entire week of ocean conservation. Corona Beer prides itself as an environmentally conscious brand and has launched several creative campaigns to raise awareness on plastic pollution. It was fitting that we would partner with Corona not only to celebrate World Oceans Day, but also to combat pollution.

Instead of conducting a traditional beach cleanup, we decided to have a mangrove cleanup at Bonefish Pond National Park. Because mangroves are paradise too, and #plasticdoesntbelonginparadise. Also, to take some positive action for our oceans, we wanted to have volunteers plant mangroves and learn about their importance to the ocean and our lives.

Mangroves and the ocean are closely connected. Coastal mangrove forests are essentially where the ocean meets the land. The health of one of these ecosystems affects the health and productivity of the other. Bonefish Pond National Park is one of the last remaining intact examples of this type of ecosystem on the island of New Providence.

The long roots of mangroves hold sediments in place, slow the movement of water, prevent erosion, and stabilize the coastline. To the same effect, they also hold things like fishing lines, nets, bottles, and other trash that end up in mangrove creeks. Ironically, this means when conducting a mangrove cleanup, you can find most of the trash lodged deep within the roots of red mangroves. So having cleanup groups only on land wasn't going to be sufficient. We rallied



## COMBINE TRASH CLEANUP, MANGROVE PLANTING, AND PREMIUM COLD BEER, AND YOU END UP WITH A DAY OF TRUE CONSERVATION IMPACT!



up a group of dedicated volunteers to kayak into the expansive mangrove system to target hard to reach trash.

During the cleanup, volunteers also had the chance to get their hands in the mud and plant red mangrove seedlings in an active restoration area. This area, scarred by illegal dumping in the past, has been the focus of mangrove restoration in the park. Planting mangroves is a great way to assist in the restoration of mangrove forests, especially those that have been damaged by events like hurricanes or development. It also helps to build the resilience of mangrove ecosystems against the effects of climate change.

At the end of this day, we removed over a ton of trash from the park and planted over 40 mangroves! Combine trash cleanup, mangrove planting, and premium cold beer, and you end up with a day of true conservation impact!

A special thank you to all of the members, corporate partners, donors and supporters of the BNT who participated in this cleanup initiative. You are helping us to preserve our environment for the future.

# CREATING AN URBAN GREEN SPACE FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES



hands-on involvement in the development of this green community space. There was also an honorary planting held in conjunction with the British High Commission of Nassau ahead of COP26, bringing ministers, diplomats, and corporate sponsors to stand together for impact before the 2021 international climate change conference.

Looming over the grounds of the fruit forest stands a large silk cotton tree - one of the largest and oldest in Nassau - which the Mactaggart Family wanted to ensure was preserved. The giant is now joined by baby avocado, soursop, mango, guava, and other native trees that the BNT, along with members of the community and volunteers, will continue to nurture and maintain.



As the national park service of The Bahamas, part of our mandate is to maintain unique spaces for the benefit of people and nature itself. One of our initiatives in 2021 saw the development of a fruit forest in the local community of Fox Hill on New Providence.

The "Fox Hill Fruit Forest" was developed on a plot of land donated by the Mactaggart Family and sits in the heart of Fox Hill. Its purpose: provide a green space for members of the community to enjoy, as well as access to native fruits as a means of nutrition for people, birds, bees, and other animals. Situated across the street from Sandilands Primary School, it will also provide an excellent venue for nature-based activities for students.

Recognizing that the simple action of planting a tree can make a difference in helping to fix our broken climate, Bahamas First, the Rotary Club of East Nassau, Terrain Design and Landscape, AML Foods, Lawnscaapes, Bahamas Waste, and Green Systems all came together for this event.

The official launch of this initiative was commemorated as a part of Earth Day 2021 activities, which saw dozens of trees planted in New Providence and Grand Bahama as part of a global movement to "restore the earth". Subsequent planting activities also took place on World Biodiversity Day and World Environment Day, providing many opportunities for volunteers to contribute with



**Every summer if you come to Fox Hill at about the end of July, you will find young men selling guineps. One day I stopped to buy a bag. The young man said, 'You don't have to pay, because our ancestors planted these trees so that we could have guineps, and this is a gift from me to you.' So what we're doing here today is in essence leaving a legacy by planting these trees. Let's make sure these trees survive into the next generation.**

**- The Hon. Fred Mitchell**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs & the Public Service, Member of Parliament for Fox Hill



# IMPROVING CAPACITY FOR ENFORCEMENT & SURVEILLANCE OF NATIONAL PARKS



## HIRING NEW PARK WARDENS IN 5 NATIONAL PARKS

Enforcement is critical to effective national park management. Our wardens play a crucial role in your parks. Well-trained and equipped enforcement teams protect the parks and their natural resources from illegal fishers, poachers, encroachers and even invasive species. Whether it's conducting boat patrols, foot patrols or responding to tips from the community, our park wardens are practically policemen and are on-duty night and day to protect the parks, its visitors, and its natural resources. When needed they also serve as educators, naturalists, and contribute to scientific research.

In 2021 we created 5 new warden positions at 5 national parks. These new wardens are receiving comprehensive training and will facilitate key management activities planned under the Global Environment Facility (GEF) 2020 Project, including enforcement & surveillance, species monitoring, new infrastructure, park maintenance, invasive species control and ecosystem restoration.

## BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE IN NATIONAL PARKS

Infrastructure is key to the operation and management of any national park. Infrastructure like boardwalks, bridges and viewing towers give park visitors access to these special spaces, improving the park visitor experience. Infrastructure like visitor centres, warden outposts and other buildings are key to the maintenance and management operations of a park. In 2021, several parks received upgrades to infrastructure and features supported by several projects:

### RAND NATURE CENTRE

Restoration of the Native & Tropical Tree Arboretum at Rand Nature Centre began in 2020, with approximately 700 plants and trees installed within sections of the arboretum, and pavers placed alongside the trail/pathway leading to the arboretum.

This work was supported by The Nature Conservancy and Naples Botanical Gardens, and a new Bahamas Protected Areas Fund (BPAF) grant will complete the arboretum restoration plans following Hurricane Dorian.

### LUCAYAN NATIONAL PARK

Lucayan National Park is still receiving repairs and upgrades after being heavily impacted by hurricane Dorian. The construction of the mangrove boardwalk has been completed through a Moore Bahamas grant and a new gift shop is being constructed and is near completion through funding from BIOPAMA. In the near future, we will also be conducting dune restoration activities and will begin the construction of a complete visitors centre.

**"Effective law enforcement is one of the most critical and foundational components for the long-term sustainability of any national park. One of our top priorities is to build capacity for enforcement by hiring new wardens and utilising innovative technology in our work. By supporting our law enforcement efforts, you are helping us with the most critical aspect of protecting the parks while providing security for both wildlife and people who visit these parks."**

**- Lakeshia Anderson-Rolle**  
Director of Parks, BNT



### BLUE HOLES NATIONAL PARK

Under a LARSI Grant, a mobile office was established to serve as a warden station, to be able to accommodate the collection of park entry fees, visitor info and to facilitate other operations in the park. The mobile office was outfitted with solar panels and a small wooden deck was built for better accessibility, and to give the office a more complete and welcoming look for visitors. A new off-road ATV/mule was also purchased to support park operations, for ease in accessing more remote areas of the park for surveillance and monitoring.



# KEEPING PARKS WILD AND NATIVE



“When Dorian made landfall in Abaco, a lot of large casuarina trees toppled over and were dragged into the ocean from storm surge and ocean currents drove them right into coral reefs, destroying them. On Sandy Cay, in the Pelican Cays Land and Sea Park, there’s a beautiful, healthy coral reef about 300 feet offshore and it would be devastating if a hurricane passed and these trees ended up on that reef. So it’s imperative that we remove these casurinas before another storm hits.”

- Lindy Knowles  
Senior Science Officer, BNT

## REMOVING INVASIVE SPECIES FROM NATIONAL PARKS

Invasive species cause harm to the environment, economy, human health and have serious impacts on native ecosystems. They disrupt ecological processes, threaten ecosystem integrity, degrade cultural resources, and potentially interfere with visitor experiences in national parks. Additionally, they heighten the effects of other threats like climate change and degradation from land development.

The BNT recognizes invasive species as a major factor contributing to ecosystem change. For example, feral cats, and wild hogs in several national parks wreak havoc on native wildlife populations and pose a great threat to endangered and endemic species.

It is the invasive plants perhaps that are the most abundant in some national parks, especially the Casuarina Tree aka Australian Pine. A tall tree growing to about 60 feet, the casuarina is found on almost all islands in The Bahamas. It grows virtually in all environment types and along coastlines, contributing



to severe coastal erosion. During Hurricane Dorian in 2019, many casuarina trees were uprooted along the coast and were washed away by storm surge and ended up damaging coral reefs.

In 2021 our science and park teams started to crack down on these destructive plants in several national parks. Three parks in particular, The Pelican Cays Land and Sea Park in the Abacos, Lucayan National Park in Grand Bahama and Bonefish Pond National Park in New Providence were supported by project funding.

Removing casuarina trees is no easy task. They are hardy plants that are very resilient. Their hardy barks and root systems make them hard to remove even when are still relatively young trees. Our teams use a combination of mechanical and chemical removal to eradicate casuarina trees from the parks.

We love to see native flora and fauna thriving in national parks, so ongoing efforts are being made by the BNT to ensure we can eradicate and prevent the spread of invasive species.



# BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

PROTECTING SPECIES IN PERIL | ENSURING FUNCTIONING HABITATS | SCIENCE THAT BENEFITS ALL AND THINKING GLOBALLY

# RACING EXTINCTION TO SAVE THE BAHAMA WARBLER



## BAHAMA WARBLER RESEARCH AND BANDING PROJECT

When Category 5 Hurricane Dorian made its slow march across Abaco and Grand Bahama, thousands of people were displaced and entire communities were destroyed. Many species were also dramatically impacted by the devastation Dorian left in its wake. One species, in particular, we feared the worst for, The Bahama Warbler. Once found on both islands, this endemic bird seemed to have been washed away with the 20-foot storm surge that invaded the island of Grand Bahama during Dorian.

The Bahama Warbler only lives in pine forests on these two islands. After saltwater intrusion and the waves and winds of hurricanes systematically obliterated the pine forests of both islands, the Bahama Warbler's numbers began to dwindle. After Dorian, the forestry department estimated that there were as few as 232 km<sup>2</sup> (2019) of healthy pine forests compared to the 400 km<sup>2</sup> documented by Global Forest Watch in 2014.

Along with The Bahama Nuthatch, a bird that hasn't been seen since 2018, the disappearance of The Bahama Warbler on Grand Bahama paints a terrifying picture of what lies ahead for many species in the face of a changing climate.

When the BNT and our partners conducted comprehensive surveys of birds and their habitats post-Dorian, our science teams didn't find a single Bahama Warbler on Grand Bahama. We had to act immediately to reverse the decline of this species. Our first move was to recommend the IUCN to recognize The Bahama Warbler as an endangered species. We were successful in our efforts when the IUCN reclassified the conservation status of The Bahama Warbler from 'vulnerable' to 'endangered'. This new status helps us to garner the support of international conservation organizations and foundations that are funding work to save endangered species worldwide.

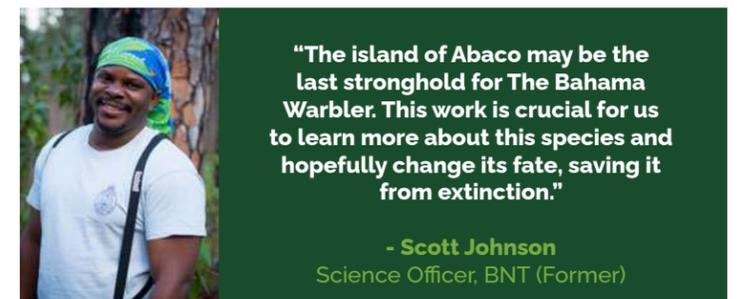
Our next step was to put boots on the ground in Abaco to launch a more targeted monitoring effort, including the first banding of these birds, to gather more information on the warblers. Banding these birds lets us track their movements, and learn about their longevity, mortality, population demographics, behaviour, and much more. We began our monitoring in The Abaco National Park in South Abaco. Because this portion of the island wasn't seriously affected by Dorian, this national park is almost serving as a 'refuge' for birds that lost their habitats in severely impacted areas. This banding effort is part of our larger avian monitoring and research program geared towards increasing our



understanding of resident and endemic Bahamian birds and how they are using our national parks. Learning more about the Bahama Warbler is the first step in saving this bird from extinction.

Simultaneously, we began training community members on both islands to be able to identify these birds as part of our Empowering Communities for Conservation Program. These participants will become ambassadors for their ecosystems and the conservation of species like the Bahama Warbler.

As we learn more about the Bahama Warbler, we can develop conservation strategies that leverage the protection in National Parks to help restore their populations and ensure their survival into the future. We hope that through our monitoring, management, education and outreach activities, and working with local and international partners we can race and beat the extinction of our precious Bahama Warbler.



# AN UNUSUAL HERO FOR BIRD CONSERVATION



## WORKING WITH LIVESTOCK FARMERS TO STUDY KIRTLAND'S WARBLERS

In many parts of the world, livestock cause great damage to fragile bird habitats. However, in some cases, with the right balance, farm animals can benefit threatened bird species. One relationship between livestock and birds that scientists are still learning more about is that of The Kirtland's Warbler and goats on its wintering ground in The Bahamas. Scientists for years have been researching the interesting relationship between these rare songbirds and these relentless browsers. We are learning that goats in managed farms can benefit Kirtland's Warblers and provide conservation benefits for the species.

In the early years of the Kirtland's project, there was a lot of ground-truthing going on to see where Kirtland's Warblers were found. Data from transmitter tags placed on some of the warblers showed that many of them spent a fair amount of time in and around farmlands. Naturally, we wanted to know why, and so scientists started to direct their attention towards conducting surveys on farmland.

It was discovered that there were higher concentrations of Kirtland's Warblers on goat farms than in other areas because the habitat was very suitable. Goats being the relentless browsers they are, preventing forest succession and keeping the forest in a fixed stage of growth by consuming the growing vegetation. Kirtland's prefer early successional forests, so this was a perfect match. Also, some research showed that goats avoid eating certain plants, and these plants just happen to be the primary food source plants for the Kirtland's Warbler: Black Torch, Sage and Snow Berry. This means these plants were growing in larger numbers and higher densities in areas that were browsed by goats. Essentially, goat farms meant more preferred habitat and food resources for the Kirtland's Warbler.

During research on the island of Eleuthera in 2021, our scientists started working more closely with Goat Farmers to conduct avian surveys on their properties and to quantify the value of farms to Kirtland's Warblers. The hope is to raise awareness amongst farmers about the Kirtland's Warbler and to foster public-private partnerships so we can expand the conservation network for these birds in The Bahamas.

Even though the Kirtland's Warbler was removed from the endangered species list in 2019, it is still a conservation reliant species, meaning we must continue working together to conserve this bird on its breeding and migratory grounds.

**"When I first learned about the birds, I said, 'It's nothing that I do,' but I was told that what I've been doing over the years, not even knowing it, helps the birds. I was just managing the land and food sources. But that helps the birds, which is very cool."**

**- Edrin Symonette**  
Local Farmer on Eleuthera to the American Bird Conservancy



# SAVING AN ICONIC SPECIES AND CREATING SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

## COMMUNITY-BASED CONCH MANAGEMENT PROJECT FOCUSES ON SAVING ENDANGERED QUEEN CONCH

Ask any Bahamian what symbol they think best represents Bahamian culture, and you're sure to hear "conch" more than a few times. Our beloved Queen Conch is a culinary delicacy in The Bahamas. It's used in a variety of native dishes and has been a staple in our diet for generations. Its beautiful colourful shell is used in local craft-making. And it represents the second most valuable marine export in The Bahamas, behind Spiny Lobster.

You can see why the plight of this iconic species would be devastating to The Bahamas. Conch populations are declining dangerously fast because of overfishing, particularly harvesting of juveniles, which undermines the sustainability of the conch fishery throughout The Bahamas.

We can't just stand by and let this special species that's such a monumental part of our Bahamian identity and economy disappear. The BNT launched the Conchervation Project in 2012 to save the conch from extinction. A project focused on education, outreach and policy. This project has since made significant strides in conch conservation.

In 2018, with funding from the Japan Special Fund for Poverty Reduction through the Inter-American Development Bank, we launched The Community-based Conch Management Project. The project is piloted in Grand Bahama and focuses on working with fishers from McClean's Town and Sweeting's Cay to ascertain the needs of their communities, teach sustainable conch fishing practices, and help develop alternative livelihoods for the benefit of the communities and the preservation of the conch species. This project has many components. We started with on-the-ground surveys, conducted with The Nature Conservancy (TNC); engaged consultants to train



**"The work of creating a 'conchcious' Bahamas will take more education of youth, more enforcement from our resource managers, and ultimately the participation of every Bahamian to see the value of our resources and work to protect them. We know this is possible through empowering people."**

- Jewel Thompson-Beneby  
Science Officer, BNT



Grand Bahama residents in conch ranching as a means of managing depletion; and arranged an exchange trip to Puerto Rico for project participants to learn about how Puerto Rico manages their conch fishery at a sustainable level and their newly developed conch hatchery.

The future of the Queen Conch is in our hands. Together with TNC, the Department of Marine Resources, community members, and other partners, the Community-based Conch Management Project may provide a turning point in the fate of this beloved species.

This project is not only about saving the conch - it's about saving Bahamian culture and the livelihoods so many people depend on. And doing it in a way that allows communities to be involved in the determination of their future.



**"Conch means so much to our country, it brings in a lot of revenue and puts so many of us (fishers) to work. So we are trying to preserve Conch as much as we can. So let's continue to do our best to protect conch and preserve them for the future."**

- Joseph Thomas  
Local Fisher, Grand Bahama



# COMING TOGETHER TO RESTORE MANGROVE FORESTS



to restore mangrove forests that were devastated by Dorian. During this super-charged storm, mangroves played exactly the role they were meant to, shielding low-lying communities from the full force of its wrath and taking the brunt of the damage. There are even stories of people who rode out the storm within the shelter of mangroves! Now it's our turn to protect them.

Supported by Re:Wild, our scientists, community conservationists, and partners have been going out in the field collecting mangrove propagules to grow in nurseries on both Abaco and Grand Bahama. When they are big enough to be planted in the wild, we rally groups of local volunteers from the community, arm them with shovels and buckets of mangroves, and head out into the field to outplant the young trees.

To date, we've held multiple mangrove plantings across Abaco and Grand Bahama and planted more than 17,000 red mangroves as part of the Northern Mangrove Restoration Project. The goal is to plant 100,000 mangroves over the next few years.

These mangrove plantings give these decimated areas a jumpstart to recovery. With each seedling planted, a little more hope is restored for these vital ecosystems. Much work still needs to be done, but together we can restore mangrove forests!



## WORKING WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND CONSERVATION PARTNERS TO RESTORE MANGROVES

Mangroves are the bridge between land and sea. Their dense root systems buffer the tides and waves during storms. They provide nurseries for many species of marine life that we in The Bahamas depend heavily on, for both our culture and our fisheries industry. They're the superheroes in the fight against climate change, absorbing massive amounts of carbon and preventing it from being released back into the atmosphere. The benefits of mangroves to mankind, especially to Bahamians, and nature itself cannot be overstated.

Once we understood the extent of the damage mangroves suffered during Hurricane Dorian, it was very clear that human intervention was necessary to help these mangroves recover. We needed a large, comprehensive and sustained restoration effort in order to have real impact. One bigger than any attempt before. Thus, the Northern Bahamas Mangrove Restoration Project was born.

In a collaboration between, the BNT, Bonefish & Tarpon Trust, Manggear, Friends of the Environment, and others, we've been working with local fishermen and community members



**"When it comes to conservation, if you don't have community buy-in, it won't work. That's why we focus on community involvement, local fishermen, lodges, and also young people. Getting all of them out here on the flats, letting them see the environment and get their hands dirty. Hopefully they get a better perspective and understanding and become more inspired and conservation minded."**

**- Justin Lewis**  
Bahamas Initiative Manager,  
Bonefish and Tarpon Trust



## BUILDING COASTAL RESILIENCE IN THE FACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE



### INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT (ICZM) PROJECT UTILISES TRADITIONAL AND NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO CREATE A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Climate change has quickly become one of the greatest looming threats to global economies and human wellbeing. Despite contributing minimally to the climate crisis, small island developing states like The Bahamas bear the brunt of its catastrophic consequences. Our low-lying and coastal geography leaves us particularly vulnerable to sea level rise and increasingly severe hurricanes. At no point in recent history was this more obvious than with the devastation Hurricane Dorian wreaked in September 2019.

To combat this vulnerable position, The Bahamas Ministry of Public Works Project Implementation Unit, with funding from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), contracted The BNT to implement parts of the Climate Resilient Coastal Management & Infrastructure Program.

Also known as the Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Project, this project aims to use traditional and nature-based solutions to build coastal resilience throughout The Bahamas. To begin, we will be targeting sites in Andros and East Grand Bahama, that are close to local communities and in need of restoration work. We will be focusing on "rewilding" terrestrial and coastal environments and offering several opportunities for community involvement.

As a leader in the conservation arena in The Bahamas, the BNT is committed to helping to build and maintain coastal resilience for a stronger country, communities, and economy, through stewarding the environment that protects us.

## RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT A DEADLY CORAL DISEASE

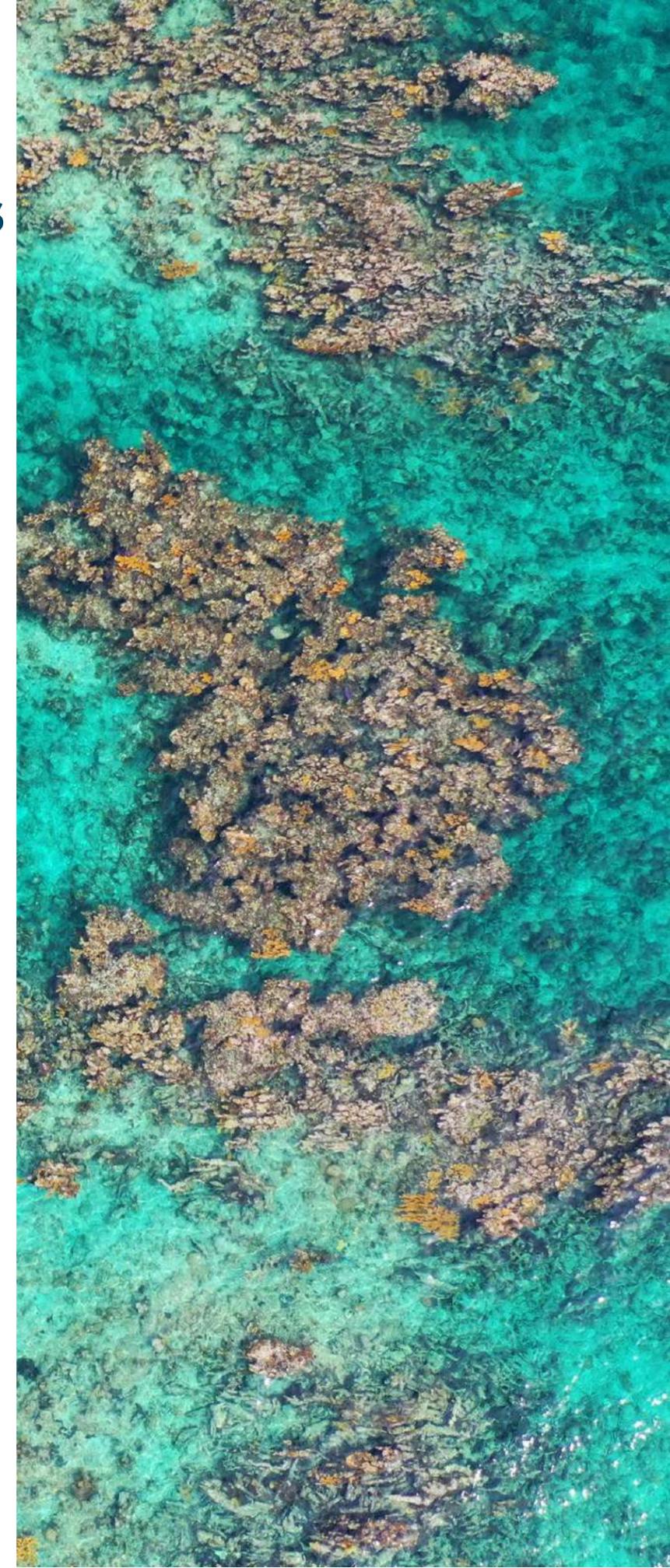
### RINGING THE ALARM ON STONY CORAL TISSUE LOSS DISEASE

Since the first observations of Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD) in The Bahamas in waters around Grand Bahama, the disease has been rampaging and spreading across coral reefs all around The Bahamas. Often referred to as 'Coral Covid', we are still learning more about this deadly disease and how we can stop it from wiping out our reefs. This disease poses a serious threat to Bahamian coral reefs and by extension our economy and our very way of life. The Government of The Bahamas quickly assembled a task force of government officials, scientists and NGOs to learn more about the disease and raise awareness of its presence in the country.

Even though there is no known cure, scientists have learned of ways how we can slow the spread of the disease, which can be transported through water currents, on dive gear and through ballast water released by ships. One way the everyday person can help is by rinsing their dive/water gear in a special solution after exiting the water. Also, we're encouraging people to report sightings of the disease to the relevant authorities.

While working with task force members to develop national-level strategies, our science team was out in the field doing assessments searching for the disease and meeting with task force members about next steps, we began producing and disseminating educational material to the public to raise awareness about SCTLD. This included creating posters, brochures and large magnet displays to be placed at marinas, dive shops and other areas around the country.

The more people are aware of this deadly disease, the better chance we have at it slowing its spread and strategizing solutions to support resilient coral reefs in the face of this unprecedented threat.





# AN IN-DEPTH LOOK OF HOW HURRICANE DORIAN IMPACTED THE ENVIRONMENT

## BNT AND PARTNERS RELEASE 2021 STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT: POST DORIAN REPORT

As part of our effort to ensure that science is easily accessible to all and properly disseminated, we produced and released our "State of The Environment: Post Dorian Report" near the end of 2021. The report chronicles in-depth assessments of Abaco and Grand Bahama's environmental state after being severely impacted by the catastrophic Category 5 Hurricane Dorian. It presents the results of scientific research by several contributors who collaborated to conduct assessments of the environment after the storm and also offers recommendations for the road to environmental recovery. The report was submitted to the Government of The Bahamas and released to the public several months after the second anniversary of Hurricane Dorian.



Detailed in the report are the impacts of the Equinor oil spill on the environment, as well as Hurricane Dorian's direct impact on forests, coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass communities, birds, and marine mammals. Key findings outlined in the report include:

- Concentrations of oil found in the Equinor oil spill site remain high enough to negatively impact birds and other exposed organisms
- Coral reefs closest to shore experienced damage from debris, especially invasive Casuarina trees that were uprooted by the storm and driven into reefs by tides and storm surge
- More than 73% (22,528 acres) of Grand Bahama's mangrove cover and 40% (21,678 acres) of Abaco's mangrove cover were damaged during the storm
- The destruction of 24% of pine forests on Abaco and 77% of pine forests on Grand Bahama
- The disappearance of The Bahama Warbler on Grand Bahama after the storm, driving to it be reclassified as an endangered species
- Changes in seagrass bed composition following Hurricane Dorian



Given the severe impacts detailed in the report and the anticipation of more major climate events to come, the BNT summarizes policy recommendations for environmental recovery and restoration into four main points:

- Restoration and monitoring will be pivotal in protecting coral reefs and other ecosystems from threats,
- The pine forests and mangroves of Abaco and Grand Bahama require rehabilitation, restoration and monitoring,
- The Importance of recognizing the value of ongoing long-term studies,
- The Bahamas' Petroleum related policies should be amended



**"These studies provide a critical baseline to assess the long-term impact of Hurricane Dorian and the success of recovery and restoration activities. It is imperative that everyone involved uses sound scientific data to inform the overall environmental recovery strategy and prioritize intervention and allocation of resources accordingly. This effort will span years and we have to be in it for the long haul."**

**- Falon Cartwright  
Director of Science and Policy, BNT**



In the context of a future with higher storm frequency, this situation is dire and demands swift and effective restorative actions to prepare for the next storm. Healthier ecosystems are more resilient and more likely to rebound following a disturbance, like a hurricane, and sustainably deliver the ecosystem services upon which our society depends. We hope this report can help decision-makers and others make choices that aid in the recovery of Abaco and Grand Bahama and prepare us for future natural disasters.



# ENGAGING EDUCATION

BUILDING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS | TOUCHING THE LIVES OF YOUTH | BUILDING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS

# EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES FOR CONSERVATION

“We’re really happy that we get to do this kind of work and create agents of change in these ecosystems. Our real goal is to empower communities and create motivation and capacity for conservation work on these islands. And this is just the first of many we plan to work on.”

- Bradley Watson  
Science Officer, BNT



## CREATING LOCAL CAPACITY FOR ON-THE-GROUND CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

Conservation and people are inseparable. Successful conservation of the environment is dependent on the idea of “nature and people” rather than “nature or people.” And effective conservation can only happen when local communities are involved in efforts to protect their natural resources.

Local people are the best stewards of their lands. They have the most knowledge about the areas and are always on the ground ready to assist. Since the creation of The BNT in 1959, we have been working closely with local communities to protect species and spaces in The Bahamas.

Through the launch of our Empowering Communities for Conservation Program, funded by Re:wild, we sought to build local capacity as well as economic opportunity among community members on several islands. The project primarily focused on Abaco, with community members who were impacted by Dorian and put participants through an ecology and ecotourism course. The ecology course ran for two weeks, which included virtual lectures where participants learnt about a variety of topics. These virtual sessions were bolstered by two weekends of terrestrial and marine exploration.



The course culminated with an in-the-field examination where participants tested the knowledge gained from their instructors and each other by leading a 15-minute interpretation tour of the pine forest. Each individual found their unique way to interpret the environment that surrounded them, incorporating biologically and socially relevant facts about the animals and plants around them. All participants successfully completed the course and received their certifications as Eco-tour guides.

The hope is that the successful program participants will be able to assist with conservation efforts to monitor and restore wildlife and ecosystems on their islands as well as create economic opportunities for themselves and their communities.



# AWAKENING KIDS' INNER CURIOSITY WITH THE ADVENTURES OF XUMA

## Adventures of Xuma

**"The next generation will inherit The Bahamas we leave behind, and we must educate and empower them to make positive choices that help to protect the future of our planet."**

**- Portia Sweeting**  
Director of Education, BNT



### ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION SERIES CONNECTS CURIOUS YOUNG MINDS WITH A PASSION FOR THEIR ENVIRONMENT

Are you ready for an adventure? Get ready to embark on an exciting eco-educational journey, following BNT's new friend Xuma the Explorer!

Kids around The Bahamas can now see themselves in the character of Xuma - a young Bahamian explorer who shares the wonders of the world, explores the beautiful and unique ecosystems and species of The Bahamas, and teaches them how to engage their curiosity.

Xuma was created by BNT's talented Education Team, and she's the star of the video series "The Adventures of Xuma," aimed at teaching children ages 5 to 12 about the environment.

While the idea of Xuma was birthed by our Education Team, this tiny explorer could not have come to life without the Sandals Foundation, who was instrumental in the funding and development of this ambitious project.

"The Adventures of Xuma" seeks to introduce kids to environmental education from an early age, in the hopes of helping to shape younger generations into the environmental stewards we need today. The series tackles important issues like climate change and pollution in a way that is understandable, relatable, and engaging for its young audience.

"The Adventures of Xuma" premiered on September 30th with a total of 12 episodes, featuring 12 different mini-adventures for youth to embark on! Exciting things are in store for "The Adventures of Xuma: Season 2." Audiences can look forward to more adventures, new friends to explore with, and more fun!

**GET READY FOR ADVENTURE!**



# DISCOVERY CLUB GOES VIRTUAL



## BNT ADAPTS INTERACTIVE ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING PROGRAM INTO NEW ONLINE MEDIUM



Discovery Club engages elementary-age children from around The Bahamas in outdoor activities and field trips that provide up close, personal, and fun learning experiences with their native environments. But with pandemic-related challenges, was it possible to still provide the experiences that teachers, parents, and Bahamian youth had come to love?

The answer is yes! It took some ingenuity and adaptation - tools every nature explorer should have in their belt - and in 2021, Discovery Club went virtual.

Unlike any year before, this time around the environmental extracurricular program operated in a completely virtual environment, using an online Learning Management System (LMS). This allowed for the adaptive, progressive, and more environmentally sustainable use of

electronic options as opposed to the paper resources previously utilised in the program. It also enabled us to effectively capture significant amounts of real-time data that can inform the future development of the program.

Although completely online, Discovery Club's innovative teaching techniques, interactive digital games, activities, and dedicated mentors created an exciting program for kids to enjoy. During a time when so much was taken away, we took pride in finding a solution to continue to provide this beneficial experience to the youth of The Bahamas.

Discovery Club continues to develop the next generation of environmental leaders and stewards, improving their understanding of our natural surroundings and national parks.



## BNT DELIVERS FIRST VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

### EDUCATORS RECEIVE RESOURCES AND TRAINING FOR NATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL SCIENCE CURRICULUM

In a first of its kind event for The Bahamas, the BNT hosted 440 attendees in a virtual Environmental Education Conference.

The goal was originally to engage at least 150 teachers in a face-to-face professional development workshop that would support the implementation of the new environmental strand of the national Primary School Science curriculum. However, with physical events at this scale not being possible and the need to adapt to a virtual medium, we were able to deliver the conference to attendees from across all islands of The Bahamas, as well as other places in the Caribbean such as Puerto Rico, and in the United States.

The feat was accomplished through the support of the Ministry of Education, the U.S. Embassy (Nassau), the U.S. State Department, the Guy Harvey Foundation, the Jane Goodall Foundation, and Project Lead the Way.

It was funded by the Sandals Foundation and The Bahamas Protected Area Fund (BPAF).

With 10 facilitators, 42 presenters, and 60 informative sessions, the conference, which was hosted utilising the Whova platform, addressed a diverse range of topics and included many teaching resources for environmental education. As a bonus, Keynote Speaker Dr. Bertram from Project the Lead the Way donated \$10,000 worth of books to be distributed to attendees!

Because of the quality of information delivered, the contributions from speakers and participants, the high-level of engagement from attendees, the support from partner organisations, and the level of national news coverage garnered, we can confidently define our breakthrough 2021 virtual Environmental Education Conference as a success!

# THE BNT IN THE MEDIA

## CONSERVATION CONVERSATION

Awareness is critical to conservation success. People only care about what they understand, so we use various mediums of communication to raise awareness and increase understanding of our work and conservation in The Bahamas. Storytelling and media are powerful tools in helping us to achieve this. We use digital, traditional, and social media to raise awareness about our work and to rally the community in joining our mission. We work with strategic communication partners, media houses, journalists, and creative parties to strengthen our reach.

### HERE ARE SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR COMMUNICATION EFFORTS IN 2021:

**1,711,111**

**FACEBOOK IMPRESSIONS IN 2021**

Impressions tell us how many times our content appeared on people's screens. Our posts in 2021 were seen over 1.5 million times on Facebook alone!

**50,000**

**FOLLOWERS ACROSS OUR SOCIAL MEDIA NETWORKS**

Thumbs up to all the people that follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter

**OVER 70+ HEADLINES & APPEARANCES**

**IN LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL PRINT, BROADCAST, & ONLINE NEWS ARTICLES AND PUBLICATIONS.**

Whether people were talking about our rebranding, our mangrove restoration projects, visiting Bahamian parks or our public advocacy statements on matters like oil drilling - we were in the media a lot in 2021!



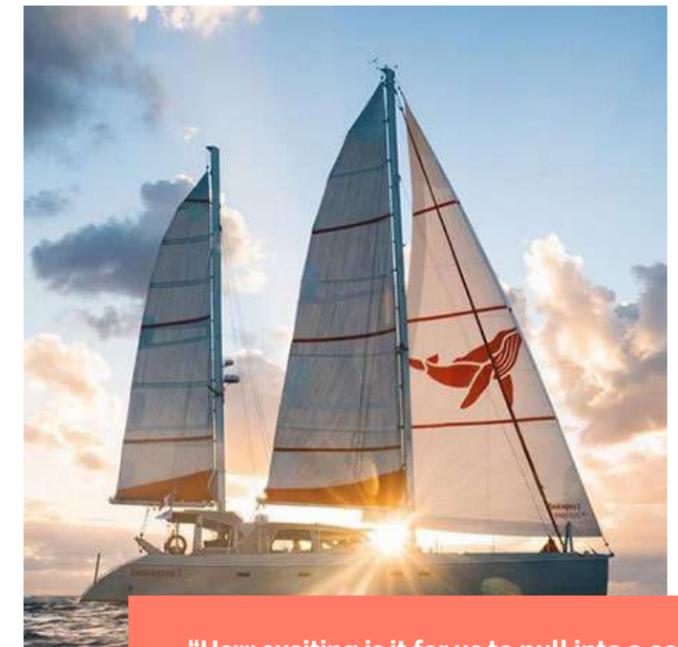
"There are rich, impactful conservation stories in The Bahamas, and incredible people to tell these stories. As storytellers, it is our duty to ensure we are capturing and conveying these stories in the best way to inspire others to care about and take action for our planet. We're giving a voice to the species, spaces and people whose stories would otherwise go unnoticed without someone dedicated to telling their story."

**Elijah Sands**  
Senior Communications Officer, BNT

### SETTING THE STAGE WITH SEA LEGACY

Every year we look forward to working with international influencers and conservation stars to spread the message of conservation. In 2021, we welcomed Legendary Conservation Storytellers Paul Nicklen and Cristina Mittermeier, Co-Founders of Sea Legacy. Paul, Mitty and other crew came down to The Bahamas aboard the Sea Legacy I, a 62-foot, custom-built catamaran sailboat. This trip was the boat's maiden voyage where they hoped to capture and tell the amazing conservation stories in The Bahamas.

They visited many of the islands, including several national parks. Some of our team members caught up with the Sea Legacy Team in Eleuthera where we captured stories of conservation together in the proposed national park sites of Half Sound and Sweeting's Pond.



"How exciting is it for us to pull into a country and instantly be aligned with an organization like the BNT; to be aligned in our values, where we want to celebrate a blue economy, the shark sanctuary, and the protection of its marine environment. The BNT has been an awesome partner, and we are super proud, honoured and privileged to be partnered with the BNT and the people of The Bahamas"

- Paul Nicklen and Cristina Mittermeier,  
Co-Founders, Sea Legacy





# INVESTING IN NATURE

OUR SUPPORTERS | OUR UNAUDITED FINANCIALS

# OUR DONORS

We are deeply grateful to our generous donors and funders for their strong support and generosity, which enables us to deliver on our vital mission. This is especially true during the pandemic, when BNT, along with so many organizations and individuals, faced unprecedented hardships. Whether it was making donations towards special campaigns like The Leon Levy Foundation Challenge Grant and Giving Tuesday, offering support through a grant or project, or in-kind contributions, the BNT was supported by an amazing network of individuals and organizations during 2021.

## INDIVIDUALS

Adalberto Weber  
 Alan Houp  
 Alberto Bosch  
 Alfred Brathwaite  
 Amanda & Eliza Lindroth  
 Amanda Graham  
 Amanda Pinder  
 Amy Wright  
 Andrew Symonette  
 Andy Fowler  
 Angelika Christie  
 Angelika Hillebrandt  
 Anna Bancroft  
 Anna Christie  
 Anna Riggs  
 Antonio Camejo  
 Ariel Ferree  
 Arki Busson  
 Arvind & Monica Gulati  
 Astrid Sylvia  
 Austin Gallagher  
 Bailey Smith  
 Barbara Jones  
 Basil Goulandris  
 Beat Schlagenhauf  
 Bernard & Cynthia Curry  
 Bernard Yan Sechaud  
 Beryl King  
 Bianca Wagner  
 Bill & Pam Michaelcheck  
 Bob & Jeanne Coughlin  
 Bobbie Hallig  
 Brendan & Marsha McCarthy  
 Brent & Robin Symonette  
 Brent Burrows II  
 Brian Durfy  
 Brian Moodie  
 Brickell Pinder  
 Bridgett Hogg  
 Bruce Williams  
 Candace Fields  
 Carl & Gigi Allen  
 Carl Treco  
 Carla Cole  
 Carlotta Willis  
 Carlton Farquharson

Carmel Churchill  
 Carmen Butler  
 Carol Denise Newbold  
 Carol Newbold  
 Carol Ponsolle  
 Catherine Booker  
 Catherine P. Knowles  
 Celeste Christie  
 Chantel A. Nesbitt  
 Charles H. Grieve II & Family  
 Charles Kiss  
 Charles Limroth  
 Charmaine Adderley  
 Charmaine Pinder  
 Chris & Erin Tomlinson  
 Christina Bourdeaux  
 Christopher & Lesley Spencer  
 Christopher Knowles  
 Cindy Knowles  
 Clifford Wolff  
 Colin Higgs  
 Craig & Kim Lines  
 Dana Delaney  
 Daniel & Alejandra Ghiragossian  
 Daniel Bliss  
 Daphne Haines  
 David & Beth Garbo  
 David & Elizabeth Goodfellow  
 David & Joan Smith  
 David & Kelly Knowles  
 David & Maria Warren  
 David Dean  
 David Ewert  
 David Laughlin  
 David Moss  
 David Schwedel  
 David Slatter  
 David Wallace & Joan Stowell Smith  
 Dawn Davies  
 Dawn Patton  
 Dean De Boer  
 Demonica Brown  
 Dennis Butcher  
 Diana Valerie Gray  
 Donald & Deborah Tomlinson  
 Dorothy Mammen  
 Douglas & Peggy Hudson  
 Dustin Hellberg

Dwight Bonamy  
 Edgar Seligman  
 Edward Baker  
 Edward Brendan Lynch  
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 Elizabeth Lim  
 Elizabeth Motta  
 Elma Campbell  
 Emmanuel Alexiou  
 Eric & Charlene Carey  
 Eric Kjellmark  
 Esther Peters  
 Ethan Freid  
 Fiona Moree  
 Frances Aberle  
 Frances Clarke  
 Frank Crothers  
 Geoff & Lynne Andrews  
 Geoffrey Treco  
 Geral Issacs  
 Gerald & Jennie Isaacs  
 Ghislaine Head  
 Gill Gibson-March  
 Glenn Beatty  
 Glenn Major  
 Godfrey & Sonia Kelly  
 Gordon Jeffries  
 Grace Forsythe  
 Gregoire Tremblay  
 Gregory Frokjer  
 Harold Waugh  
 Harry Bain  
 Heather & Christa Ince  
 Heidi Johnson  
 Henry Wu  
 Hilary Brich  
 Howland Jones  
 Hugh & Sandra Buckner  
 Hugh Pritchard  
 Ian Barry  
 Ian Bethell-Bennett  
 Ignacio de la Rocha  
 Imogene Walkine  
 India Hicks  
 James Roberts  
 James Williams

Jane Meyer  
 Janet Watts  
 Jason & Sarah Callender  
 Jason Lorandos  
 Jean Holm  
 Jennie Issacs  
 Jennifer Hew  
 Jennifer Wirtz  
 Jensen & Anne Farquharson  
 Jeremy P. Hatch  
 Joan & Joseph Farrell  
 Joan Knowles  
 Joanna Robertson  
 Joanne Aranha  
 John & Barbara Gehrig  
 John & Nancy Treco  
 John & Susan Robertson  
 John Cahill  
 John Drugach  
 John Gehrig  
 John Harcourt  
 John Lawrence  
 John Madsen  
 John Mylroie  
 John Zimmerman  
 Jon Marsa  
 Jonathan & Jennifer Bethel  
 Jonathan Vraspir  
 Joseph Marvin Cameron  
 Judith Papillion  
 June Collie  
 Karen Bjorndal  
 Karen Leming  
 Karen Williams  
 Karin Sanchez  
 Karla Cosgriff  
 Katerina Kovatcheva  
 Katha Kissman  
 Katherine Elza  
 Kayla Fox  
 Keith Douglass  
 Keith Tyler  
 Kevin & Carolyn Cartwright  
 Kevin Schea  
 Kim Culbersen  
 Kim Rody  
 Kim Thompson  
 Kiril Sokolof  
 Knijah Knowles  
 Kris Gape  
 Ladimir Weber  
 Larry & Colleen Lewis  
 Larry Selby  
 Laurence O'Halloran  
 Laverne Darville  
 Leandro and Patricia Vazquez  
 Leon Cherniak  
 Leonard Gordon  
 Lesley Davies-Baptista  
 Lesley Leason

Leslie Brace  
 Leslie Meshad  
 Lisa Lawlor  
 Lisa Sorenson  
 Livingston Marshall  
 Lola Boyd  
 Lori Cannon  
 Luca Venturini  
 Luciana Silvera  
 Lucius Fowler  
 Macgregor Robertson  
 Manny Alexiou  
 Mara Mactaggart  
 Marcia Musgrove  
 Marcus Laing  
 Margaret Butler  
 Margaret Smith  
 Maria Taylor  
 Maria Teresa Butler  
 Marilyn Modder & Dwaine Modder  
 Mario Portuondo  
 Mark & Susan Davies  
 Mark & Truitt Thompson  
 Mark Dowley  
 Marla Skopelja  
 Martha Levert  
 Martha Wohlford  
 Marvin Pinder  
 Mary-Ellen Delaney  
 Matthieu Hoopes  
 Maurice Lightbourne  
 Maya Wilson  
 Melissa Lockwood  
 Michael & Barbara Kowalski  
 Michael & Lisa Sorenson  
 Michael Freifeld  
 Michael Scafuto  
 Mik & Cathy Bancroft  
 Mitch Besser  
 Monika Zeidler  
 Morgan Wells  
 Moya Strachan  
 Mutlay Dogan  
 Nancy Kelly  
 Neil & Samantha Davis  
 Nicholas & Carolyn Wardle  
 Nicholas Cripps  
 Nicolette Gardiner  
 Nigel & Hilary Macleod  
 Oliver Marin  
 Olivia Orr  
 Pamela Reid & Jack Fell  
 Pat Lihou  
 Patience Harvey  
 Patricia Rodgers  
 Patrick Thompson  
 Paul Allen  
 Paul Harding  
 Paul Higgs  
 Paul Roberts

Paul Stinson  
 Paula Treco  
 Pavia Antonas  
 Peter & Irene Goudie  
 Peter Andrews  
 Peter Hulm  
 Phillip Cumming  
 Philip Von Gontard  
 Philipp Rebmann  
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 Ruth Thackray  
 Ryan & Catherine Williams  
 Ryan Geller  
 Ryan Smith  
 Sam & Thalia Campbell  
 Sandra Clarke  
 Sandra Grant  
 Sarah Davies  
 Sarah Lobosky  
 Scott DiSalvo  
 Sheldon Regular  
 Shona Louise Lawson  
 Sonia Kelly  
 Sten Wiberg  
 Stephen Cross  
 Stephen Melvin  
 Steven Brezinski  
 Steven Hoffer  
 Steven Storck  
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 Susan Jacobson  
 Susan Kimball  
 Susan Roberts  
 Susan Turnquest  
 Tania Nixon  
 Tanya Simmons  
 Tara Mabon  
 Tatiana Jancic-Turner  
 Terrance & Samantha Brown-Kelly  
 Tetiana Kinnen

# OUR DONORS

Thalia Campbell  
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 Tina Mola & Gary Neil  
 Tom & Christina Bourdeaux  
 Treven & DeAnn Darville  
 Trevor & Lewellen Burgzorg  
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 Uzlene Nesbitt  
 Wendy Hill  
 William & Ruth Ann Harnisch  
 William Barbour  
 William Douglass  
 William Mackin  
 Wilola Carroll  
 Yves Kirovac  
 Yves Lebuis

### COMPANIES:

Abaco Beach Club & Resort  
 Aliv  
 Allen Exploration  
 Amazon Smiles  
 AML Foods  
 Baha Mar  
 Bahamas Ferries  
 Bahamas First  
 Bahamas Local  
 Bahamas Waste  
 Bahamian Brewery & Beverage Co.  
 Beached Treasures  
 Blanco Bleach  
 Bristol Wines and Spirits  
 BTC  
 Caribbean Bottling Company  
 Caribbean Wines & Spirits  
 CBS Bahamas  
 CGT Contractors & Developers  
 Chief Executives Organization  
 Cole Insurance  
 Commonwealth Bank  
 d'Albenas Agency  
 Deleveaux Godet & Co  
 Ernst & Young  
 Family Guardian Insurance  
 FTX Digital Markets  
 Hood International  
 J.S. Johnson Insurance  
 Jimmy's Wines & Spirits  
 John Bull  
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 Rotaract Club of Southeast Nassau  
 Sandyport Development Company

Sev Consulting Group  
 Summit Insurance  
 The Nassau Garden Club  
 The Paint Place

### ORGANIZATIONS, FOUNDATIONS AND FUNDS:

American Bird Conservancy  
 Aqualia International Foundation  
 Azar Family Trust  
 Bahamas Protected Area Fund  
 Bessent Freeman Family Foundation  
 Birds Caribbean  
 Bloomberg Philanthropy Advisors  
 Bob & Jeanne Coughlin Fund  
 Bonefish Tarpon Trust  
 Global Environment Facility  
 Inter-American Development Bank  
 International Conservation Fund for Canada  
 Jon Marsa Trustee  
 Leon Levy Foundation  
 Lyford Cay Charitable Trust  
 Mactaggart Third Fund  
 Moore Bahamas Foundation  
 MPA Connect  
 National Audobon Society  
 National Fish & Wildlife Foundation  
 Neotropical Migratory Birds  
 Only One  
 Re:wild  
 Richard Schneider Trust  
 Sandals Foundation  
 South Bar Community  
 Stills Point Charitable Gift Fund  
 T&J Meyer Family Foundation  
 The Bacon Foundation  
 The Bahamas Government  
 The Biodiversity & Protected Areas Management Programme  
 The Blackburn Giving Fund  
 The Brown Foundation  
 The Nature Conservancy  
 The New York Community Trust  
 The Pew Charitable Trusts  
 United Nations Environment Programme  
 Windermere Island Foundation

### THE BAHAMAS GOVERNMENT:

Ministry of Agriculture, Marine Resources & Family Island Affairs  
 Ministry of Education, Technology & Vocational Training  
 Ministry of the Environment & Natural Resources  
 Ministry of Finance  
 Ministry of Public Works  
 Ministry of Tourism & Aviation  
 Ministry of Youth Sports & Culture



## YOUR BNT MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

### OUR MEMBERS

We are extremely grateful to our network of members who make annual contributions to support our work. Membership is one of the lifelines of the BNT and we are proud to have such a strong, passionate community of supporters along with us on this journey.

**LOSS OF INCOME DUE TO NON-RENEWALS: - \$70K**

Since the start of the global pandemic in 2020, non-renewing memberships fell by 2,800 people, which is a decrease of almost 70% and therefore resulted in revenue loss of more than \$70,000.

### MEMBERSHIP CARDS WENT DIGITAL

To offset costs associated with printing and decisively make an environmentally conscious movement, BNT Membership cards went digital in 2021. If you are still with us, we thank you for championing our cause as a BNT Member!



### 2021 BNT MEMBERSHIPS

**10**  
CORPORATE

**214**  
SUPPORT FLEET

**420**  
SPECIALITY

**440**  
LIFETIME

**486**  
SINGLE

**978**  
FAMILY

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR CONSERVATION



## VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT



**JOSHUA & MICHELLE ROBERTS**

Joshua and Michelle Roberts and their twin daughters have been in The Bahamas since spring of 2021. They each donate 20 hours per week to our Education Department to spearhead efforts to formalise the BNT's Citizen Science Program. The program will allow the BNT to engage locals in monitoring and data collection in national parks.

"The BNT and its mission matches our interests and passion, so it's been rewarding, exciting, fruitful, and fun to be a part of this team. We've been blessed to see beautiful parks, meet great people, and contribute in a meaningful way. All the places we were blessed to visit - The Retreat Garden, Bonefish Pond, Primeval Forest, the Levy Preserve, Sweeting's Pond, and West Side National Park - opened our eyes to how special The Bahamas truly is.

Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your wonderful team this past year, as it was an absolute pleasure, filled with very fond memories. Of course, we will continue to support and follow the wonderful work of the BNT. Keep your mission alive and keep the natural areas of the islands your most cherished resource."

- Joshua and Michelle Roberts

## OUR VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers are an incredible group of dedicated champions committed to preserving our environment and safeguarding our future. With 2.2 million acres of land and sea protected, we need your help as we work towards our mission of effectively managing national parks to conserve and protect Bahamian natural resources.

Throughout 2021, we welcomed over 1,000 volunteers in our parks, helping us with various initiatives from mangrove plantings, natural resource management, coastal cleanups, events and even operations and administration. We want to send out a huge thank you to all of our volunteers!



**THANKS FOR HELPING PRESERVE THE BAHAMAS FOR NOW & TOMORROW.**



## PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION

The BNT works with a network of individuals, companies, and organizations to protect our environment. Organizations and companies who partner with the BNT can reach consumers in an impactful way that demonstrates their shared responsibility in conservation while diminishing negative impacts on the environment. A huge thank you to all of our partners that are helping us in preserving the natural resources of The Bahamas for future generations.

### PARTNER HIGHLIGHT: RE:WILD

Over the past few years, Re:wild (formerly Global Wildlife Conservation), has been a valuable, close partner of The BNT. They are supporting many of our major projects and programs including mangrove restoration, the enforcement program, science and research and several other community and capacity building initiatives. The BNT Team is proud to work closely with this powerful, effective conservation partner to advance conservation in The Bahamas.



"Re:wild works to prevent extinctions and protect the most irreplaceable sites on earth. The Bahamas National Trust is the natural partner for us in The Bahamas as they manage parks in the most important sites for conservation in the country, securing populations of the nation's unique and precious wildlife."

- Barney Long  
Senior Director, Species Conservation, Re:wild



# UNAUDITED 2021 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

**\$6M**  
INCOME

**\$1.6M**  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
EXPENSES

**\$2.8M**  
PROGRAM  
EXPENSES

**\$1.5M**  
CAPITAL PROJECTS  
COMMENCING IN 2022

## INCOME

Government Grants	\$	1,500,000
Donations	\$	2,233,582
Park Fees	\$	1,032,836
Non-Profit Grants	\$	1,035,336
Memberships	\$	56,126
Special Events	\$	34,472
Dividends/Interest	\$	37,704
Retail Sales	\$	63,694
Other Income	\$	67,361
	<b>\$</b>	<b>6,061,111</b>

## ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Salaries & Benefits	\$	980,220
Fundraising	\$	53,118
Project Management	\$	222,197
Depreciation & Amortization	\$	379,310
	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,634,845</b>

## PROGRAM EXPENSES

Salaries & Benefits	\$	1,091,727
Programs	\$	1,024,897
Operational Expenses	\$	716,741
	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,833,365</b>

2021 UNAUDITED FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT  
REVIEWED BY HONOURARY TREASURER



# OUR PEOPLE

#WEAREBNT



# CONSERVATION WARRIORS

## STAFF TRANSITIONS



**Shelley Cant-Woodside**  
Former Director of Science & Policy

In 2021, we said farewell to our dear Shelley Cant-Woodside, former Director of Science and Policy. From helping to drive the campaign to protect sharks in The Bahamas, to pulling together the Bahamas National History Conference, to conducting critical research in parks, to creating strategies to protect at-risk species, the list of Shelley's invaluable contributions to The Bahamas goes on and on. Shelley dedicated 14 years of hard work, commitment, and passion have left a tremendous impact on the BNT and all the people she worked with during her time here. We're extremely grateful to Shelley and wish her the best for the future!



**Falon Cartwright**  
Director of Science & Policy

With Shelley Cant-Woodside's relocation with her family abroad, we welcomed Falon as our new Director of Science & Policy. Falon has worked in several previous roles at the BNT, but in this latest role, she leads our terrestrial and marine science teams to advance conservation initiatives in The Bahamas and create strategies to protect at-risk species and important natural spaces.

The work of the BNT would not be possible without passionate and dedicated conservation warriors. We're proud to have every staff member as part of our BNT Family and recognize their hard work and contributions towards helping to sustain the environment and create a better future for The Bahamas!

### SENIOR LEADERSHIP

Eric Carey Lakeshia Anderson-Rolle Anna Bancroft Shelley Cant-Woodside Falon Cartwright Portia Sweeting Katerlyann Thompson-Johnson	Executive Director Director of Parks Director of Development & Communication Director of Science & Policy* Director of Science & Policy Director of Education & Outreach Director Of Finance, Operations & HR
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### NEW PROVIDENCE

Lynn Gape Mioshe Bascom Princia Bethel Daphne Brooks Demonica Brown Trevor Burgzorg Leah Carr Jonisha Cartwright Chantal Curtis Ancilleno Davis, PhD Zaria Dean Giselle Deane Kristoff Francois John C. Fowler Shane Grant Monique Gibson Regina Hepburn Aaron John Janeczka Johnson Scott Johnson Kim Iturriaga Pachancia Knowles Kimberly Knowles Lindy Knowles Summer McCartney Robert McCoy Gloria Miller Juanita Munroe Tika Penn Brandon Pratt Anwar Rolle Gregory Rolle Elijah Sands Raquel Smith Alera Smith Abdul Strachan Tavano Sweeting Seanell Walkes-Cargill Bradley Watson	Special Projects Consultant Operations Manager Donor Relations Officer Bookkeeper Science Officer Finance Manager Communications Officer Education Officer NP Parks Manager and Parks Planner Senior Scientist and Policy Analyst Web Graphics Officer Science Officer Deputy Park Warden Project Manager Security Officer Office Receptionist Assistant Parks Planner Education Officer Grants Manager Science Officer* Office Custodian Science Officer Development Officer Senior Science Officer Human Resources Assistant Park Infrastructure Maintenance Officer Senior Education Officer Retreat Gift Shop Associate Discovery Club Coordinator Retreat Attendant Park Warden Security Guard Senior Communications Officer Membership Officer Office Assistant Security Guard Deputy Park Warden Human Resources Manager Science Officer*
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### ABACO

Marcus Davis  
David Knowles  
Arthur Williams

Park Warden  
Chief Park Warden  
Deputy Park Warden

### ANDROS

Leslie Brace  
Deion Burrows  
Shay Hudson  
Lehron Rolle  
Stephen Smith

Andros Programme Coordinator  
Education Officer  
Terrestrial Science Officer  
Deputy Park Warden  
Deputy Park Warden

### ELEUTHERA

Camilla Adair  
Hermene Exament  
Ethan Freid, PhD  
Brittany Ingraham  
Alvanna Johnson  
Heidi Johnson  
Omar McKlewhite  
Jenny Morris  
Jason Moxey  
Brian Smith  
Lakeisha Wallace

Deputy Preserve Manager  
Maintenance Supervisor  
Botanist  
Gift Shop and Membership Assistant\*  
Office Assistant\*  
Preserve Manager\*  
Preserve Attendant  
Assistant Botanist  
Preserve Attendant  
Preserve Attendant  
Education Officer

### EXUMA CAYS

Brent Burrows II  
Demarcian Dames  
Andre McCartney  
Cherry Elliott  
Peter Graham  
Preston McKenzie  
Bradley Rutherford

Park Manager  
Deputy Park Warden  
Deputy Park Warden  
Office Administrator  
Park Manager\*  
Maintenance Assistant  
Senior Park Warden

### GREAT EXUMA

Catherine Booker  
Bradley Charlton Jr.

Exuma Programme Coordinator  
Deputy Park Warden

### GRAND BAHAMA

Anne-Marie Carroll  
David Clare II  
David Cooper  
Bradley Pinder  
Jewel Thompson-Beneby  
Ellsworth Weir  
Lisa Wildgoose

Education Officer  
Deputy Park Warden  
Deputy Park Warden  
Deputy Park Warden  
Science Officer  
Grand Bahama Parks Manager  
Office Administrator

### INAGUA

Sydney Delancy Jr.  
Henry Nixon

Deputy Park Warden  
Senior Park Warden

\*Indicates that the individual is no longer serving the organization as of year-end 2021.

## STAFF HIGHLIGHTS



**Bradley Watson**  
Science Officer

Bradley was selected as a recipient of the 2021 Chevening Scholarship - from over 50,000 applicants! Because of this, he's now pursuing his Master's in Sustainable Development at the University of St. Andrew's in Scotland. At the BNT, he's been instrumental in post-Dorian studies, the development and implementation of our "Empowering Communities for Conservation" program, and research to help save the threatened Kirtland's Warbler and the endangered Bahama Warbler.



**Jonisha Cartwright**  
Education Officer

Jonisha was a top winner at the 2021 National Youth Awards, taking home the National Youth Award for the Environment and the Prime Minister's Cup! Along with other members of the Education Team, she was a key contributor in the development of "The Adventures of Xuma," as well as the BNT's live-action video series "Ecosystems of The Bahamas," which seeks to help people learn about the unique environment of our nation's archipelago.

# BNT COUNCIL

APRIL 2021 - APRIL 2022

## TRUST COUNCIL:

Geoffrey Andrews  
 Colin Higgs  
 Joanne Smith  
 Andy Fowler  
 Gavin Watchhorn  
 Felicity Arengo, PhD  
 Marvin Arrington  
 Glenn V. Bannister  
 Karen Bjorndal, PhD  
 Gregory Bethel  
 Kevin Cartwright  
 Hank Ferguson  
 Lenise Flowers  
 Robert Goldrich  
 Patrice Green  
 Christopher Hughes  
 Janet Johnson  
 Matthew Jeffery  
 Marcus Laing  
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 Barney Long  
 Dr. Livingston Marshall  
 Neil McKinney  
 Rochelle Newbold  
 Pamela Reid, PhD  
 Karin Sanchez  
 Gary Sands  
 Rodney Smith, PhD  
 Patrick Thomson  
 Simon Townend

President, Elected Member  
 Deputy President, Elected Member (April 2021 – September 2021)  
 Deputy President, Elected Member (October 2021 – April 2022)  
 Honorary Secretary, Elected Member  
 Honorary Treasurer, Appointed Member  
 American Museum of Natural History, Appointed Member  
 Elected Member  
 Elected Member  
 University of Florida, Appointed Member  
 Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources, Appointed Member  
 Elected Member  
 Elected Member  
 Elected Member  
 Leon Levy Foundation, Appointed Member  
 Ministry of Education, Appointed Member  
 US National Park Service, Appointed Member  
 Ministry of Tourism, Appointed Member  
 National Audubon Society, Appointed Member  
 Elected Member  
 Elected Member  
 Re:wild, Appointed Member  
 Governor-General's Representative, Appointed Member  
 Elected Member  
 Ministry of The Environment, Appointed Member  
 University of Miami, Appointed Member  
 Elected Member  
 Elected Member  
 University of The Bahamas, Appointed Member  
 Elected Member  
 Elected Member

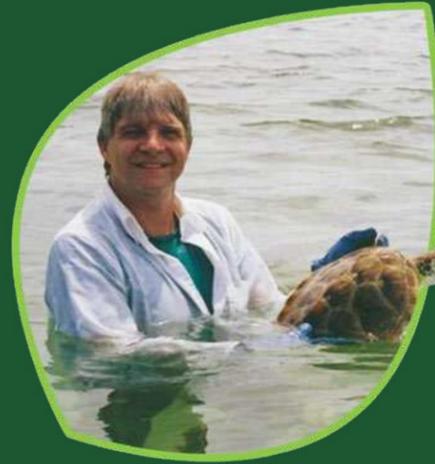
## SCIENTIFIC ADVISORS:

Dan Brumbaugh, PhD

American Museum of Natural History

## PAST PRESIDENTS:

Glen V. Bannister  
 John F. Bethell  
 Sandra Buckner  
 Lawrence Ginton  
 Lynn P. Holowesko  
 Janet Johnson  
 Colin Lightbourne  
 Pericles Maillis  
 Neil McKinney  
 Macgregor Robertson



## IN MEMORIAM

### Alan Bruce Bolten, PhD

The Bahamas National Trust, The Bahamas, and the international community lost an amazing friend and dedicated conservationist on March 21st, 2021. Dr. Alan Bolten was the Associate Director of the Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research as well as a long serving BNT Council Science Advisor.

Alan loved sea turtles and his love for them directed his work to not only identify the threats to sea turtles but to find the solutions to those threats. He and his wife, Dr. Karen Bjorndal, were almost an annual fixture on the island of Inagua. They conducted important research on Green Sea Turtles at Union Creek Reserve, which became the basis for conservation work to save this endangered species across the globe.

Dr. Alan Bolten will always be known and remembered for his many valued contributions to the BNT and The Bahamas. He leaves a great legacy of professional accomplishment and a network of passionate connections that will continue the work he loved.

# WAYS TO GIVE

Everything we achieved in 2021 was made possible by the generous support of our donors, members, and supporters who are the backbone of the BNT. As a non-profit organization, we count on donations to achieve our critical mission of protecting special species and spaces.

Depending on your preference or tax situation, there are several ways to give to the BNT - both in The Bahamas and through The Bahamas National Trust Fund Inc, a registered 501c3 charity in the United States. See below, for ways to make a contribution:

## BECOME A MEMBER

Membership is the lifeblood of the BNT. Our members who make annual contributions receive free access to all national parks and other special benefits. Contact us for more information about becoming a member or renewing your commitment.

## MAKE A ONE-TIME CONTRIBUTION

You can make a one-time gift to the BNT to support our work. Donations can be unrestricted or specific to a program or project. You can donate online, over the phone, with cash or cheque. You can also donate stocks, bonds, mutual funds or make a gift as a tribute. Get in touch to learn more about how to give.

## PLANNED GIVING

Designate the BNT as the recipient of an annual philanthropic gift. Your recurring support will go a long way towards sustaining future programs and operations of the Trust. Go a step further to build a conservation legacy by designating the BNT as a beneficiary in your will or trust. For more information about planned giving, contact us today!

## IN-KIND SUPPORT

Provide a gift or service in-kind to the BNT to help offset annual expenses or add value to a special campaign, project, or event. Gifts and services in-kind can also support the organization's revenue generation through re-sales such as silent auctions and raffles.

## CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP

BNT Corporate Partners provide vital operating support for our conservation efforts through philanthropic giving, event sponsorship, and cause marketing. Partnerships with the BNT help corporations gain brand exposure, consumer loyalty, and community engagement while aligning with an important cause.

## VOLUNTEER

Giving freely of your time and talents is welcomed! There are various ways to volunteer with the BNT, depending on your interests, skills, and expertise. When you volunteer with The BNT, you have the opportunity to work alongside a dedicated team of people committed to preserving our environment and safeguarding our future. Get in touch with us to learn how you can volunteer!

For information on how you can support The Bahamas National Trust please contact us by:



(242) 393-1317



supporttheparks@bnt.bs



www.bnt.bs/donate



BNT Headquarters  
East Bay Street  
Nassau, The Bahamas

This impact report can be found online at [www.bnt.bs](http://www.bnt.bs). A copy of the report may be obtained by writing.

bahamas  
now &  
tomorrow



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@bahamasnationaltrust  
**#exploreyourpark**  
www.bnt.bs