



BAHAMAS NATIONAL TRUST
2019 Impact Report



BAHAMAS NATIONAL COUNCIL

APRIL 2019 – APRIL 2020

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	Wildlife Conservation Society, rep to be appointed
	Smithsonian, rep to be appointed

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORS

Dan Brumbaugh, PhD	American Museum of Natural History
Alan Bolten, PhD	University of FloridaA65

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John F. Bethell
Sandra Buckner
Lynn P. Holowesko
Colin Lightbourne
Pericles Maillis
Neil McKinney
Macgregor Robertson

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear BNT Members,

2019 has certainly been a memorable year for the Bahamas National Trust. As I reflect on the events of the year it is with feelings of pride, sadness and gratitude.

I have been very proud to represent the BNT during its 60th Anniversary year. The BNT is a great organization which has helped to create a remarkable national park system safeguarding so much of our nation's natural heritage. The BNT staff members continue to work hard writing grant proposals to provide assistance for park infrastructure improvements, training for wardens, and support for education and park interpretations. They also work with the Government of The Bahamas to ensure that we meet our obligations to protect the country's biodiversity by expanding our protected area system and implementing environmental legislation that protects species and the ecosystems that sustain them. We are grateful and proud of all of the staff and their service and commitment to the BNT.

Of course, there is much sadness at the impact of Hurricane Dorian, which ravaged the islands of Grand Bahama and Abaco. The human suffering and loss of life affected everyone in the nation. No storm has affected our country in this way before, and it further opens our eyes to the effects of climate change. The BNT, working with the Ministry of Works, will be implementing strategies through the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project (ICZM) to strengthen natural systems in Andros and Grand Bahama. In many cases, the national parks which protect coastal zones are our first defence against predicted increasingly stronger hurricanes. The BNT will be working with the Government, environmental NGO's and communities to develop strategies for dealing with our changing climate.

I also want to express my immense gratitude to the many donors who have supported our work this year. Some responded immediately after Dorian, offering financial support to the organization, knowing that philanthropic efforts would be targeted at Hurricane Relief. I greatly appreciate our loyal event sponsors and volunteers, as well as the BNT staff, who supported our annual fundraisers: the Cuban Pig Roast, Wine and Art, Christmas Jollification and Festival Noel, making them some of the most successful in years. I particularly enjoyed attending Festival Noel and seeing the great community spirit in Grand Bahama despite the ravages of Hurricane Dorian.

The BNT is especially grateful to the Minister of the Environment for supporting the 2019 amendment to the BNT Act, which strengthens our organizational governance and provides enabling legislation for stronger enforcement of our by laws in our national parks. I am also grateful to our members for their continuing support of the BNT and its work by maintaining their membership and attending our events. Our membership is our strength and our voice in the public sector and we appreciate you, and it has been an honour to serve as your President.



Geoffrey Andrews



OUR CONSERVATION SUCCESSES

Historic Milestones 1958 to 1994



1958

The Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park was created it became the first Land and Sea Park in the world

1965

Conception Island National Park established

1965

The Inagua National Park was created changing the fate of the flamingo forever



1968

Peterson Cay, Grand Bahama added to the National Park system

1978

Jack Hayward announces \$1 Million Challenge Grant to kick off the Heritage Fund Campaign

1975

The Retreat Garden acquired



1986

The ECLSP was declared a No Take Zone becoming one of the first no take marine reserves in the wider Caribbean



1990

The BNT initiated the Adelaide Wetlands Restoration Project capturing the imagination of the Bahamians and inspiring other wetland restoration projects throughout the wider Caribbean.

1959

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1994

1959

The BNT was established as the national park managers of The Bahamas with the passing of the Bahamas National Trust Act



1972

Pelican Cays Land and Sea Park established in Abaco



1985

The BNT moves their headquarters to the Retreat Garden

1987

The Gold Rock Creek Bridge was opened in the Lucayan National Park on Grand Bahama. Today this bridge welcomes thousands of guests to the Lucayan National Park, one of the most popular sites on the island.



1993

The Trust's Historic Preservation Committee compiled a comprehensive database of historic buildings and sites, and cooperated with the Department of Archives' museum section to produce the Bahamas National Historic Register.

OUR CONSERVATION SUCCESSES

Historic Milestones 1994 to 2009



1994

The Abaco National Park was created to protect the Bahama Parrot in 20,500 acres of pine forest

1996

BNT organizes a multi-disciplinary natural history survey and protected area feasibility study of the Cay Sal Bank. The trip was supported by US Parks Service

1997

The Inagua National Park was designated a RAMSAR Wetland of International Importance. The first and only site in the country to earn this honour



2002

The national park system doubled in size from 315,000 to over 700,000 acres



2003

The BNT and The Nature Conservancy implemented the Parks Partnership Project. A momentous project for national park management in The Bahamas

2007

Government increases aid to \$1 million leading to rapid expansion of BNT.

Harrold and Wilson Ponds National Park board walk opened

2009

The first Eco Camp was held on Andros Island. As of 2019, Eco Camp has changed the lives of hundreds of Bahamian Youth from every Bahamian



1994

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1994

In November the First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity convened in Nassau with over 700 delegates and 500 representatives from non-governmental organizations. Prior to the meeting a 2-day Biodiversity Forum was by the IUCN and hosted locally by the Bahamas National Trust

1995

The Discovery Club was chartered and today is the most widespread youth programme in the country



2001

The Kirtland's Warbler Training and Research Project with the goal of to provide field experience and training to Bahamian biologists, while examining the winter habitat requirements of Bahamian birds



2007

BNT and the Bahamas Bio-complexity Project launched *Treasures in the Sea: Our Bahamian Resources. An Educator's Guide to Teaching Marine Resources*

2008

At the meeting, the Global Island Partnership, sponsored by the Bahamas with the support of leaders from across the Caribbean, launched the Caribbean Challenge—a historic commitment to protect 10 per cent of the region's land and sea resources by 2010 and 2012 respectively.

OUR CONSERVATION SUCCESSES

Historic Milestones 2011 to 2019

2011



2011

The Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve was opened on Eleuthera. A partnership between the Leon Levy Foundation and the BNT

2012

Bahama Parrot surveys conducted by Dr. Frank Riviera and Caroline Stahala, the first in 10 years, found the population doubled from 2,000 to 4,000 as a result of the Predator Control Programme for feral cats in the park



2013

The Conchservaion Campaign was launched, starting of the race to save this iconic species

2014

BNT in partnership with National Audubon and the Inter-American Development Bank began the implementation of a 3 year programme to train people on Inagua and Andros to be Birding Tour Guides

2015

New Snake Species the Silver Boa discovered in the Conception Island National Park



2018

The Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park wins a Blue Parks Award Meeting the highest science-based standards of marine park management

2011

BNT advocates for the protection of Sharks in The Bahamas and the country became a Shark Sanctuary



2013

The first Bahamas Natural History Conference was held. The biggest science conference in the country



2015

Five areas on San Salvador: Graham's Harbour, West Coast Marine Park, Pigeon Creek and Snow Bay, Southern Great Lakes and Green's Bay are added to the National Park System.



2017

Ministry of Education recognizes Discovery Club for its positive impact on primary and secondary students awarding the innovative programme first place in the Ministry of Education's National Good Practice Awards



2019

The BNT celebrates 60 years of national park management 60 years of Conservation

BAHAMAS NATIONAL TRUST 60TH ANNIVERSARY
WE TURNED 60!



60
YEARS OF
CONSERVATION
SUCCESS

2019 was a milestone year for the BNT. On July 13th, we turned 60! However, we were celebrating all year long.

The sixty years of conservation success that we've achieved does not belong to us. It belongs to the members, donors, and partners who have supported us over the last six decades. It is also an accomplishment for the Bahamian people.

The highlight of our yearlong celebrations was our cake and champagne anniversary event on July 12th. BNT Members, many of our partners, government representatives, and other dignitaries, attended the event. We were honoured that The Most Hon. Dr. Hubert A. Minnis, Prime Minister of The Bahamas, attended and brought warm remarks, congratulating us on our dedication and pledging his government's continued support of the national park system. Minister of the Environment, the Hon. Ramould Ferriera echoed The Prime Ministers' congratulatory sentiments and also pledged his Ministry's support of the new proposed protected areas. The finalization these new areas means that The Bahamas will have successfully met its Caribbean Challenge Pledge.

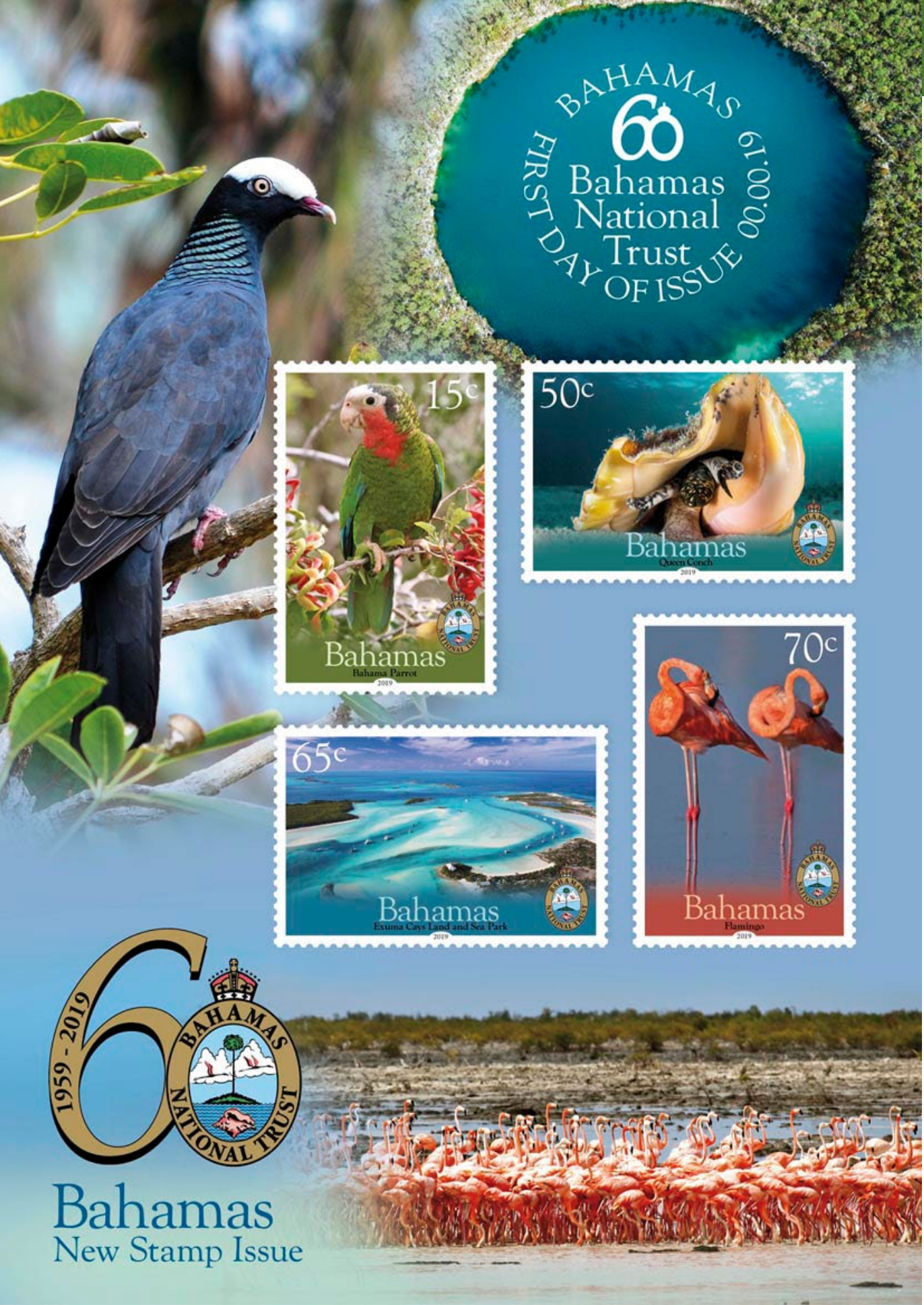
We look forward to sixty more years of conservation success.



BNT Past Presidents and dignitaries at the 60th Anniversary celebration. From left: Glenn Bannister, Janet Johnson, MacGregor Robertson, Geoff Andrews, Prime Minister Dr. Hubert A. Minnis, Lynn Gape, Neil McKinney, Sandy Buckner, Pericles Maillis and Eric Carey.



BAHAMAS NATIONAL TRUST 60TH ANNIVERSARY COLLECTION WORTHY



WE GOT STAMPED!
To commemorate the 60th anniversary of the BNT, we collaborated with the Post Office Department on the issue of special stamps featuring national parks and iconic Bahamian wildlife.

The stamps, denominated in 15, 50, 65, and 70 cents feature the bold and charismatic Bahama Parrot, the iconic Queen Conch, the world-renowned Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park and The Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve.

Going forward into 2020, we are happy to know that these new stamps will be available for the enjoyment of collectors and will serve as a great reminder to the Bahamian people of the animals and places that their support goes toward protecting.

Stamp Photos by Patricia Vazquez VandenBerg, Shane Gross, Elijah Sands and Melissa Groo.



BNT'S CLIMATE RESPONSE

WE DECLARE WAR ON CLIMATE CHANGE

For 60 years, the BNT has been on the frontline of the fight against climate change. As the national park service of The Bahamas, our every work is climate action.

National parks and protected areas are the most effective weapons we have to combat the effects of warming temperatures on our planet. The Bahamas, because it is a low-lying island country is particularly vulnerable to the impact of climate change.

On September 1st, we faced Hurricane Dorian, the worst climate disaster that The Bahamas has ever seen. Sadly, it will not be the last.

Climate change is fast becoming one of the greatest threats to global biodiversity and, ultimately, the human family. To save our planet and secure the future of our country, we must act now.

The BNT remains committed to this fight.

We have a climate change action plan that will make our country more resistant to climate change by using the biodiversity within national parks, and protected areas to counter the effects of this enemy.

Our plan involves employing strategies that use different types of living things and the benefits they provide to reduce the impact that climate change has

on the environment and people of The Bahamas. At the core of this strategy are national parks.

The **four main pillars** of this national park centred strategy are:

Mitigation: By protecting seagrasses, coral reefs, mangrove, pine, and broadleaf forests, we are ensuring that our islands continue to remove carbon from the atmosphere and lock it away. By keeping our national parks healthy - preventing the pollution of them, removing invasive species from them, and refusing to allow them to be inappropriately developed - we ensure that these ecosystems, which are designed to remove carbon from the atmosphere, can do so at the best possible rate.

Adaptation: By managing national parks, reducing threats to them, and restoring endangered populations - we ensure that the environment of The Bahamas will be healthier and more capable of absorbing the impacts of deadly storms. Our national parks will act as reservoirs that contain thriving populations of the species we rely on culturally and economically. They will secure the survival of the wildlife that make up the rich biodiversity of The Bahamas. These ecosystems will be better able to deliver the services that we need from them. These services include

coastline defence, floodwater absorption, groundwater filtration, and a consistent supply of food.

Policy: The BNT remains committed to its statutory role as an advisor to the government on environmental issues and to championing a tough climate agenda. We will continue to be at the forefront of scientific research and to share the results of that research with the government and communities. Based on that research, we will make expert recommendations on the way forward that will give our country the best possible outcome.

Education: We will continue to ensure that the next generation of Bahamian leaders are better informed about the value of the natural resources found in our country, the threats to those resources, and the ways we can ward off those threats.

The BNT is committed to helping The Bahamas move in the right direction on climate change. Our goal is to make The Bahamas stronger so that it can successfully navigate an unpredictable and changing future. The best protection for our country is to have a climate-resilient network of effectively managed national parks across The Bahamas that supports biodiversity and people in the face of climate change.



BNT'S CLIMATE RESPONSE IMMEDIATE ASSESSMENTS AFTER HURRICANE DORIAN

The last winds from Hurricane Dorian hadn't died down before our team was assembled and drafting a plan to help the islands of Abaco and Grand Bahama recover from the storm.

After the humanitarian crisis that the hurricane created had stabilized, our primary concern became the birds and other wildlife that call Abaco and Grand Bahama home.

We were particularly interested in how the Bahama Parrot had fared on Abaco. A once-common bird throughout the chain of islands, the Bahama Parrot is now found mostly on Abaco and Inagua.

Our scientists immediately teamed up with scientists from the Audubon Society and travelled to Abaco to assess the state of the Bahama Parrot and other bird species there.

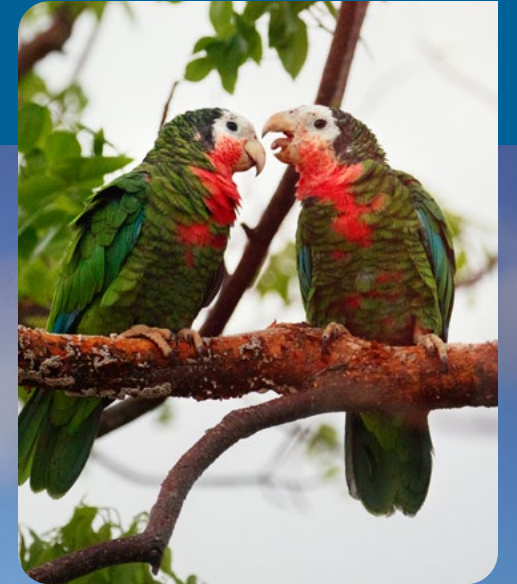
The team spent five days on the island recording where birds were located, looking at food availability, and evaluating the structure of the habitats.

We were happy to discover that the Abaco National Park, located in the southern part of the island, which is the main breeding site for the Bahama Parrot, sustained very little storm damage. However, as we anticipated, most of Central and North Abaco was devastated. We saw very few birds there.

The Abaco population of the Bahama Parrot was once on the brink of extinction. Since the early 1980's we implemented a predator control program that has helped this population to rebound to its current numbers.

The assessment was the first in a series of surveys conducted on Abaco and Grand Bahama to assess the state of the environment after Dorian.

Moving forward, we will continue to strengthen habitats across these islands to ensure the best opportunities for the survival of species affected by natural disasters



BNT'S CLIMATE RESPONSE FROM SAVING NATURE TO RESCUING PEOPLE

On September 1st, 2019, category 5 Hurricane Dorian crawled across the northern islands of the Bahamas, leaving in its wake devastation, unlike anything the country had ever seen.

In the aftermath of this disaster, like the rest of the world, we realized that the humanitarian crisis that emerged needed our immediate focus.

Our team devoted itself to assisting the communities ravaged by the storm.

On New Providence, we helped with relief efforts working to send desperately needed supplies to Abaco and Grand Bahama, the two islands that sustained the most significant damage.

Lending a Helping Hand

On Grand Bahama, many of our staff, having sustained losses themselves, became volunteer heroes. BNT team members worked tirelessly in the Emergency Operation Centre of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), assisting with coordinating the activities of all the national and international NGOs that came to the island to help.

We also assisted the Royal Bahamas Defence Force in transporting supplies and soldiers from their ships to their base, since their vehicles had been destroyed in the storm. Further, we assisted them in carrying 50 Trinidadian soldiers who came over as a part of the emergency relief effort, along with their supplies.

We worked with relief organization IsraAID to set up a 'safe zone' for kids at the YMCA centre, donating chairs and tables and helping the group create this special area that became a haven for traumatized kids.



International and Local NGO's at the National Emergency Centre in Grand Bahama.



Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force contingent on their arrival at the HMBS Coral Harbour on Friday October 4, 2019.

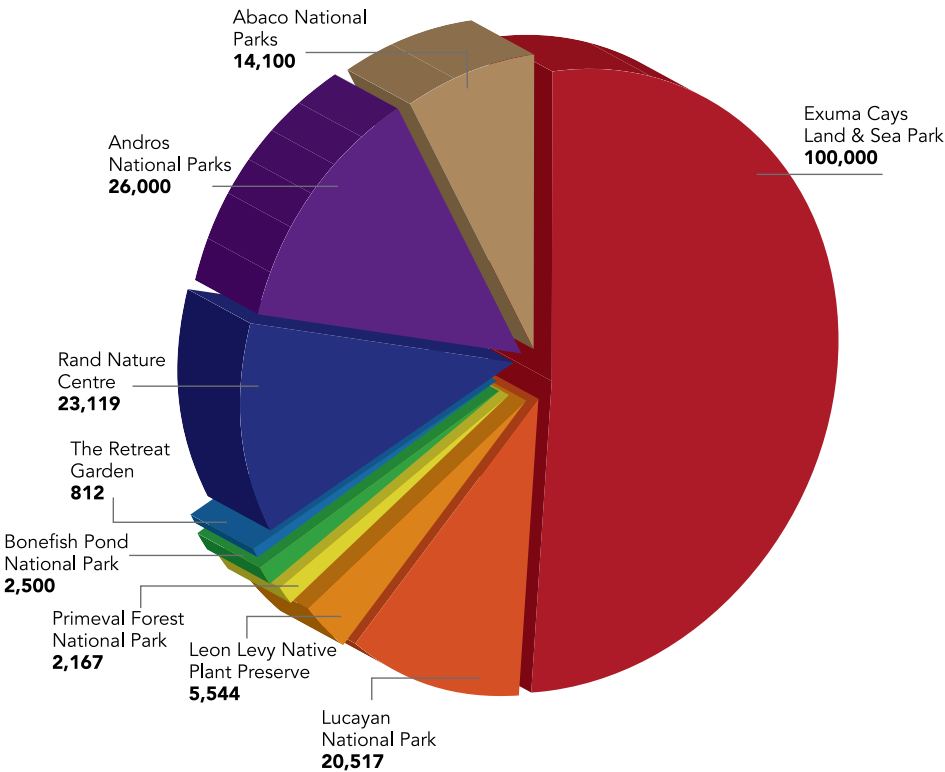
MANAGING UNIQUE SPACES BRINGING PEOPLE TO PARKS

National parks. At BNT, they're who we are, they're what we do. We bring parks to people by making them accessible. Our dedicated staff work hard to maintain these special places by employing impeccable management practices. Finally, we safeguard the natural resources that our parks protect.

In 2019, we gave over **194,000** people incredible experiences in national parks across The Bahamas.



2019 National Park Visitation



Why we focus on legislation and leadership

The Bahamas is a global leader in conservation. That is an achievement that belongs to the country. We want Bahamians to know and be proud of that. As the national park service, we manage 32 parks across the country on behalf of the Bahamian people. The amendments in the act will give our park wardens the ability to issue spot fines, like how police issue traffic tickets, to people who break park rules. We are excited to have the framework needed to be effective caretakers and guardians of these unique places.



National Park Day 2019

Getting people into their national parks is something we are fully committed to doing. We want people to understand that these beautiful spaces are not just there to protect nature, but for them to enjoy.

On National Park Day 2019, we welcomed nearly 2,000 people into national parks across the country. It's our biggest day for people in parks every year.



MANAGING UNIQUE SPACE ACCOLADES FOR PLANT CONSERVATION

In April 2019, the Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve became the first institution in The Bahamas to be designated as an accredited **Botanic Garden** by Botanic Gardens Conservation International. This tier of accreditation recognizes institutions for their achievements in plant conservation.

To receive this distinguished designation, a botanic garden must have documented collections, public access, an education programme, research capacity, and a long-term strategic plan among other things.

The Preserve's long-range plans include providing support for tertiary level research in both botany and plant taxonomy, mentorship programs, and partnerships with regional institutions to promote plant conservation.

Like the GLORES award we received last year for the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park, this honour shows that, when it comes to national park management, we must be doing something right!



BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

PROTECTING SPECIES IN PERIL

In 2019 we broke out the champagne! After a more than 40-year global conservation effort, the Kirtland's Warbler was taken off the endangered species list.

The Kirtland's Warbler was one of the first animals placed on the United States' federal list of endangered and threatened species when it was added there in 1974. At the time, estimates put the number of breeding pairs of these tiny birds as low as 167.

The fact that this rare warbler annually migrates from Michigan to the Bahamas, and spends several months there, placed the fight to save it solidly on the doorstep of the BNT.

For more than 20 years, we were on the frontline of the battle to save this unique bird, leading the Bahamas' side of the allied effort. Now, there are more than 2,000 breeding pairs! This increase prompted the US Fish and Wildlife Service to announce, on October 8th, 2019, that the bird had recovered enough to be removed from protection.

We are happy that, with the aid of our partners and the support of our donors, we were able to help the numbers of this little songbird grow from those of a small singing ensemble to a mass choir.



Ensuring Functioning Habitats

292 coral fragments were placed into coral nurseries within the Peterson Cay and Lucayan National Parks

5,400 metres of coral reefs were surveyed around the Moriah Harbour Cay National Park, Abaco, New Providence and Rose Island. That's an area roughly the length of 58 football fields! An additional 2,900 meters of coral reefs were surveyed after Hurricane Dorian.

547 conch were surveyed and habitat mapped in the East Grand Bahama Marine Protected Area prior to Hurricane Dorian which the team plans to reassess to understand the impact Dorian had on conch and its habitat.



Why we survey coral reefs
Coral reefs are vital habitat for many marine species. However, corals are extremely sensitive and vulnerable. Slight changes in temperature, water chemistry, water clarity and changes to the food chain can result in massive coral die-off and eventual loss of marine

species. How can we know if our coral reefs are in trouble? How can we tell if there is a new disease outbreak or unseen pollution spill? How can we know if the climate is changing? We can answer these questions and many more by regularly monitoring our coral reef and the fish that live there.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

PROTECTING SPECIES IN PERIL

Guardians of the Bahama Oriole

We continued our efforts to learn more about and protect the Bahama Oriole, a critically endangered songbird, native to Andros and Abaco Islands.

After the recent discovery that Bahama Orioles nest in pine trees, a lot of our focus has been on monitoring pineland habitat for nests and tracking the movements of this rare bird.

The Blue Holes National Park (BHNP) protects 40,000 acres of important pineland habitat, making it the ideal place to conduct this research.

Our terrestrial scientists joined researchers from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, to conduct further studies in the park.

During the expedition, the science team discovered one nest in a pine tree in the BHNP. This nest is the third one found in BHNP and the fifth nest seen in a pine tree on the island.

The team banded birds and set up wildlife cameras in BHNP to further monitor and study the Oriole's behaviour. They also placed radio transmitters and tags on a few Bahama Orioles. These devices will help us track the movements of these birds so that we can make the best conservation decisions.

Our researchers set up three wildlife cameras in the area around Captain Bills Blue Hole to monitor Bahama Oriole nests and learn whether Shiny Cowbirds are interfering with the Oriole's reproductive process.

The IUCN currently lists the Bahama Oriole as a critically endangered species. We hope that the work we do today will lead to a more secure and healthier population of Bahama Orioles tomorrow.



Shifting Perspectives

In the end, we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand, and we will understand only what we have been taught"

- Baba Dioum

Awareness is an important aspect of conservation. Since 2018, The BNT has been hosting snake workshops aimed at shifting people's perspectives on snakes. Snakes are one of the most persecuted animals in The Bahamas. Getting people to understand why we should not harm them is the first step in the fight to protect snake populations.

In March, we held our biggest snake workshop to date. We gave many people the opportunity to learn about Bahamian snakes, not with the expectation that they will love them, but with the hope that they will understand these beautiful creatures better.

Over 80 people walked away with a new perspective on our native, endemic serpents. That means more people now realize the ecological importance of these very misunderstood creatures, and now know how to handle them properly.



ENGAGING EDUCATION
TOUCHING THE LIVES OF YOUTH



Building
Environmental
Stewards

We helped kids become agents of change in their community. Inspired by their Discovery Club lesson on the issues around plastic pollution and marine debris, Club members at the St. Thomas More Primary school led a campaign to teach their school about pollution and the dangers of single use plastics.

To raise awareness among their classmates, they sold paper and metal straws, while treating their customers to free samples of tea made from native plants. Because their campaign complemented an on-going national effort to ban single-use plastics, they were invited by the Ministry of the Environment and Housing to be a feature story on its social media pages and in a national news broadcast



The students donated the \$400 they raised through their campaign to the BNT to further support conservation efforts. These young people are committed to the cause!

Our Education department embarked on a Discovery Club roadshow in April to encourage early registration by May 31st for

the 2019 school year. Promotional "Proud to Deliver the Discovery Club" banners in institutions across the country improved awareness of the club and brought momentum to the early registration campaign. One hundred students signed up early, but many more students and leaders became interested in joining.

Outdoor Classrooms

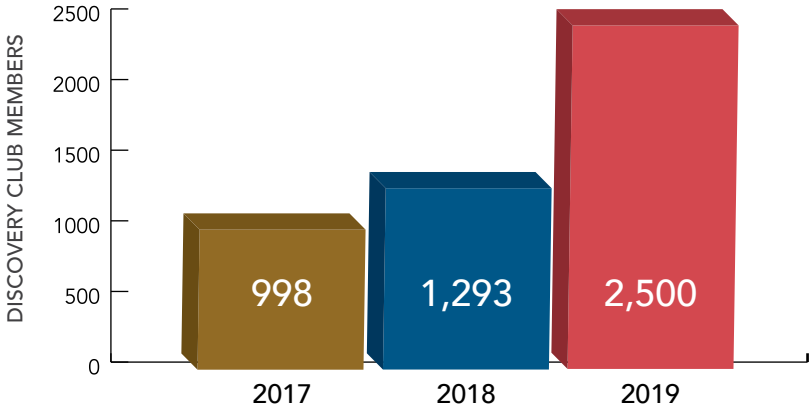
In recognition of the 2019 Character Day, an international initiative, we helped young people in our environmental education programs propagate nearly 5,000 native trees.

We did this to help them bring awareness to their schools and communities about the threats to plant health. The kids learned how increasing threats from climate change and human activities, as well as damage to ecosystems, are creating niches where pests can thrive and destroy plant life. They also learned what the features of a healthy forest are and what's needed to keep them healthy.

Through our efforts, we supported a national campaign dubbed "Five Star Forests." We got kids outdoors and taught them how protecting plant health protect the environment and boost economies.



Discovery Club Growth



ENGAGING EDUCATION A DECADE OF INSPIRING LEADERS

At the heart of our award-winning Discovery Club Program is a network of 120 dedicated and passionate volunteer teachers.

These teachers are the ones who help us inspire the kids in the Discovery Club program at their respective schools. Some teachers have been leading Discovery Clubs for 20 years, others for only a few months.

Every year, in summertime, The Bahamas National Trust hosts the Discovery Club Symposium. A train-the-trainer style workshop that equips these teachers with the motivation and materials they need to ignite a passion for the environment in their kids during the upcoming school year.

10 years of Discovery Club Symposium

It also allows the teachers to meet other club leaders from across the country. They get to share the joys and success they experience in working with the kids in their club. The symposium is a week full of excitement, learning, and bonding for these education champions.

This year, as part of the symposium, we held a full-day wilderness training on Rose Island. The activities allowed teachers to learn the essential skills needed to create safe and exciting camping experiences for the kids in their club.

Because of these teachers, we can reach the hearts and minds of school kids across the country, teaching them about the environment and encouraging them to save our planet!



"Fired up and ready to Go" attendees returned from the tenth Annual Discovery Club Training Symposium to conduct exceptional recruitment activities

in their schools and communities. Leaders began the new school year with increased enthusiasm which had multiplying effects across the programme.



MEMBERSHIP

ENVIRONMENTAL GUARDIANS

Members, donors, supporters, we call the folks that make what we do possible a few names. But regardless of what we call them, we wouldn't exist without their passion, dedication and generosity. **We thank them for being environmental guardians and a part of our conservation family.**

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Vanessa L. Miller
Kevin W McPadden
Kim E Thurlow
Kurt Eckert
Lampkin Marine Services
(Poker Run)
Leon Levy Foundation
Leonard Lyons
Lili C Wagner
Lillian A. Russell
Linda Clews
Linda Cronin Jones
Linda M. Huber
Lindsay Garcia
Lisa Guillou
Lisa Nicol
Mara Mactaggart
Maria A. Nottage
Marina Data Solutions
Mario Portuondo
Mark & Susan Davies
Mark Kryder
Martha Scott

Marvin and Zelia Bethell
Mary Castner
Maryellen Fullerton
Massimo Liusso
Matthew Hicks
Maxwell Pollock Dieck
Michael Edens
Michael, Mills, Nicole,
Kane & Cash T Halpin
Michelle D. Mitchell-Lloyd
Mike and Aranzazu
Klonaris
Monalisa Prabhu
Morton Bahamas Limited
Nadine Hunziger
Nancy Taylor
Nanette Watjen
Nassau Paper Company
National Audubon Society
Network for Good
Niall Playfair
Nicholas D. and Carolyn
Wardle
Nicolas Stiliadis
Olivia Orr
Oren Schneider
Overseas Salvage
Pericles and Christina
Maillis
Perrin Wicks
Peter and Irene Goudie
Peter and Mary-Ann
Becker
Peter Andrews
Peter Hulm
Philip and Silvina Andrews
Philip Tunnicliff
Phillip E Figdore
Phillip Powell
R Smith
Rachael Dubin
Rachel Lightbourne
Randall & Annie Hall

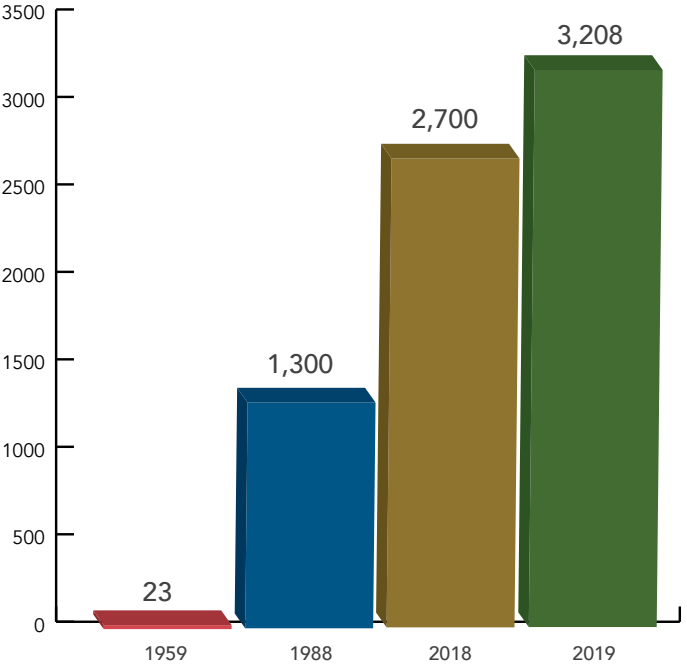


Raymond Jungles
Renee Lowe
Richard Alexander
Richard and Sheree Pyfrom
Richard Brenner
Robert & Alice Yoakum
Robert Bruce Purdy
Robert Edward Welch
Robert Kramer & Susan
Saxl
Robin Glod
Roderick Cameron
Roland (Rick) von Goeben
Rolf Klug
Ronald and Richelle
Knowles
Round River Foundation
Royal Bahamas Defense
Force
Sagoma Construction
International
Sam Cohen
Samuel Burchkhardt
Sandals Foundation
Sandra McGwier
Sarah Michelmores
Science & Perspective
Scott Schwenk
Scott Sherouse
Sheldon Regular
Seventh Day Adventist
Church
Staniel Cay Yacht Club
Stephanie & Bill Gardner
Steven Anthony Dean
Steven C. Eberbach
Steven Tyler
Summit Insurance Co., Ltd.
Susan Kimball

Tami LaPilusa
Tanya Simmons
Tara Dolan, 2753596
Tarra Ellen G. Linda
The Kearns Family
Foundation Fund of the
Community Foundation
of Broward
The Moore Bahamas
Foundation
The Moore Charitable
Fund
The Nature Conservancy
The Owl Foundation
Theo & Kerstin Kiesselbach
Todd Hawkins

Todd Solondz, 6749791
Trueranda Cox
University of Florida
Vakis Limited
Viktoria Kokics
Virginia G Hunneke
W. Hardy & Barbara K.
Eshbaugh
William and Deborah
Louda
William McEntee
William S Barbour
Windsor Trustees
(Bahamas) Limited
Zelpha Mae Davis

BNT Membership Since 1959



OUR BEST YEAR YET EXTENDING OUR GLOBAL REACH

With the support of our valued partners, we extended our global reach. Now more people than ever know about Bahamian national parks and why they play a crucial role in protecting the biodiversity of our planet.

In 2019, we reached over 15 million people with the message of Bahamian national parks and conservation. No kidding! Here's how.

We teamed up with Global Wildlife Conservation (GWC) to get our message into networks we never have before. After Hurricane Dorian, we wanted to let the world know that the environment had taken a hit and it needed their help to recover from the storm. With the help of superstar actor, producer, and environmentalist Leonardo DiCaprio, we sent out an appeal to the world, asking for support.

2019 Social Media Statistics

Facebook
Total Engagements

185,143

Total Video Views

236,210

Total Instagram followers

6,000

56% increase from 2018

We led a joint expedition to the island of Eleuthera with GWC ambassador Karrueche Tran to spread the message of national parks and Bahamian conservation.

Our BNT ambassador network also played a key role. We took Bahamian social media influencers, Sacha Kalis and Andre Musgrove, on a voyage to experience and share the beauty of the five breathtaking national parks on Andros island. Hundreds of thousands of people saw the unique images we created on this expedition. Many people have since reached out to us wanting to learn more about these parks, and some have even visited them! That's what we call influence.

Social media buzzed as we worked along with our partners to let people know that conservation is cool and why they should care.

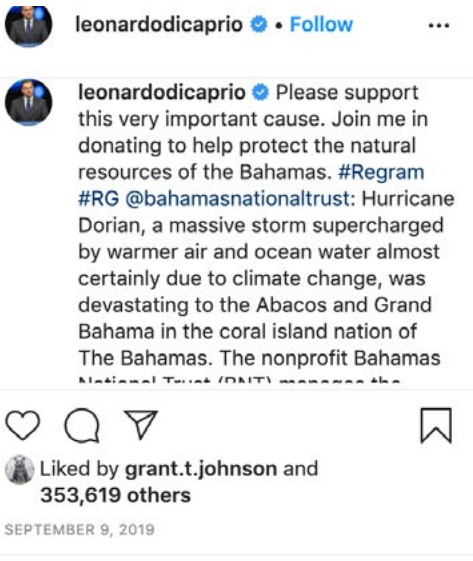


BNT social ambassadors - Sacha Kalis and Andre Musgrove.
@andremusgrove @_bahamasgirl_

Impressions

4,575,279

Impressions tells us how many times one of our posts appeared on people's screens. That number shows that people have seen us, a lot.



HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2019
IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



February
VOLUNTEERS REVITALIZE A NATIONAL
PARK FUNDRAISER

The Cuban Pig Roast is one of the major fundraisers we hold each year to support the national park system. But, this year, we were looking to give the event a refresh. BNT volunteers Sara-Manson Wood and Rachel Lightbourne- Graham stepped up to the plate, helping to breathe new life into the event. We had record-breaking attendance!

Each year we select a national park or BNT program as the focus of an appeal we make to attendees. Our goal this year was to raise money to buy a new van to support our environmental education program on Andros Island. The vehicle was needed to take kids on field trips and visits to the Blue Holes National Park.

Thanks to the generosity of Pig Roast attendees, and the support of a loyal BNT donor who issued a challenge match, our education team now has the vehicle necessary to give kids on Andros life-changing experiences in national parks.



March
ASHORE @ STANIEL CAY

Thanks to the support of our partners David and Christina Hoher of the Staniel Cay Yacht Club (SCYC), we were able to launch Ashore!@ Staniel, a new fundraising event to support the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park (ECLSP). This unique event attracted locals and many of the boaters who are frequent visitors to the park. At the event, we pre-



miered the film “The Blue Sanctuary” by environmental photographer and filmmaker, Colin Ruggiero. The film highlights some of the unique challenges the BNT experiences as a nonprofit organization managing the ECLSP.

The event was a success! We are grateful to our friends at SCYC for allowing us to raise awareness about the needs of this park and to raise money to support it.



April

SAVING SAWFISH

The Smalltooth Sawfish is the most threatened animal in the shark and ray family. Scientists believe that there are only ten breeding females left in the wild.

In April, we partnered with the Atlantis Resort and the Initiative to Save Caribbean Sawfish to host a Sawfish Soiree. This event brought together key conservation partners to raise awareness about the plight of the Smalltooth Sawfish and share findings from the latest research.

Florida and The Bahamas, specifically the Andros West Side National Park, are the last two places where Smalltooth Sawfish are still regularly encountered, making The Bahamas a critical Smalltooth Sawfish refuge. The Andros West Side National Park is the largest intact mangrove system in this region, making it key to the survival of the Smalltooth Sawfish.

Dr. Dean Grubbs of Florida State University’s Coastal and Marine Lab was the featured speaker. Dr. Grubb has been conducting sawfish research on the west side of Andros since 2010. He will be partnering with the BNT to continue research and develop a conservation plan for this critically endangered species.



May

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENVIRONMENTALISTS

Our annual science internship provides Bahamian undergraduates with the opportunity to work and study in the natural environment of The Bahamas.

In May, Melissa Ingraham and Christopher Fox spent six weeks getting hands-on experience being BNT scientists. They learned about national parks, ornithology, biology and botany. They also spent ten days aboard the Coral Reef II research vessel, studying and tagging endangered Rock Iguanas in the Exuma Cays.

We are happy to provide life-changing experiences to young people and inspire the next generation of environmentalists.



“My internship with the BNT really immersed me in The Bahamian environment. That experience has guided me towards wanting to learn so much more about our culture, history, and environment and to really appreciate our beautiful native and endemic treasures. Thank you, BNT, for opening my eyes to the true Bahamas!”
— Melissa Ingraham

June

TREKKING THROUGH NATIONAL PARKS

In honour of our 60th Anniversary year, we launched a new event to encourage residents to get outdoors and experience their national parks in a whole new way. Park Trek 242 was a triathlon with a twist. We centered the athletic activities around national parks. Participants kayaked in Bonefish Pond National Park, raced around the area, and then cycled to the Primeval Forest National Park. Competitors appreciated being given a chance to work up a sweat while immersing themselves in nature and their beautiful national parks.



December

LIFTING THE SPIRITS OF A SUNKEN COMMUNITY

For the past 24 years, the community on Grand Bahama Island has supported our Festival Noel fundraiser. The event, which raises money to support the national parks there, is considered by residents as the official start to the local Christmas season.

However, with the island still reeling from the blow of Hurricane Dorian, we struggled with the decision on whether we should hold the event this year.

When we announced our intent to cancel, the overwhelming feedback we received from our community partners was, don’t do it, hold the event.

The community on Grand Bahama was desperate for some normalcy and familiarity. And many felt that everyone there could use the boost and merriment that the event typically brings. So, with that feedback, and our desire to boost the community, we hosted the event.

The community responded enthusiastically. More than 400 people showed up for the event (which typically attracts closer to 250), ready to leave the burden of the devastation of hurricane Dorian behind them for a night. Everyone was in high spirits, and we raised money to support the post-Dorian recovery of the Grand Bahama national parks.

The fantastic turnout for Festival Noël highlights the indomitable spirit of the Grand Bahamian community. They will rebuild their island. The outpouring of support for this event inspires us. We will continue to find ways to assist with the rebuilding of the community of Grand Bahama and to providing help and hope to those in need.



HIGHLIGHTS FOR
2019 FINANCIALS

THE BAHAMAS NATIONAL TRUST

Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income/(Loss)

For the year ended December 31, 2019

	General Fund 2019	The Heritage Fund 2019	Total Funds 2019	Total Funds 2018
INCOME				
Government grants (Note 13(a))	\$1,500,000	\$ -	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Contributions from non-profit organizations	990,141	-	990,141	1,384,618
Other gifts and donations	816,944	-	816,944	682,937
Park fees, moorings and tours	785,899	-	785,899	561,977
Events proceeds and other activities	483,018	-	483,018	307,394
In-kind donations	237,055	-	237,055	217,883
Insurance claim proceeds	176,096	-	176,096	-
Income from Discovery Club	104,914	-	104,914	69,472
Retail sales	103,357	-	103,357	77,644
Members' subscriptions	93,630	-	93,630	101,458
Interest	232	91,852	92,084	103,240
Net change in unrealized gain on financial assets at FVTPL	-	77,017	77,017	-
Dividends (Note 8)	-	76,861	76,861	143,835
Dive tag sales	49,574	-	49,574	39,942
Research fees	3,275	-	3,275	900
Realized gain on sale of financial assets at FVTPL	-	-	-	88,045
Total income	5,344,135	245,730	5,589,865	5,279,345
EXPENSES				
Salaries and benefits (Notes 13(c), 19)	2,098,146	-	2,098,146	2,004,325
Projects supported by non-profit organizations	882,431	-	882,431	913,389
Cost of events	565,401	-	565,401	380,458
Depreciation and amortization (Notes 10, 11)	425,336	-	425,336	267,110
In-kind expenses	237,055	-	237,055	217,883
Repairs and maintenance – general	171,258	-	171,258	176,676
Maintenance – vehicles and boats	139,268	-	139,268	156,504
Utilities	122,796	-	122,796	124,871
General insurance	119,217	-	119,217	102,391
Committees, conferences and travel	113,285	-	113,285	135,227
Professional fees	98,941	-	98,941	87,858
Miscellaneous	93,313	-	93,313	103,047
Advertising, publications and outreach	86,945	-	86,945	85,450
Cost of sales – retail	77,420	-	77,420	47,182
Postage and office supplies	71,728	-	71,728	69,098
Security	54,000	-	54,000	16,830
Bank charges	34,638	-	34,638	29,810
Freight and duty	23,224	-	23,224	28,311
Impairment loss on property and equipment (Note 11)	21,532	-	21,532	-
Public meetings and school education	12,020	-	12,020	5,589
Rent	11,600	-	11,600	52,800
Interest on lease liability (Note 17)	9,402	-	9,402	-
Net change in unrealized loss on financial assets at FVTPL	-	-	-	440,257
Total expenses	5,468,956	-	5,468,956	5,445,066
Total comprehensive income/(loss)	\$ (124,821)	\$ 245,730	\$ 120,909	\$ (165,721)

OUR STAFF
CONSERVATION WARRIORS

Our dedicated staff are on the front lines, 24/7, working hard to protect parks, inspire kids and refine their research.

NEW PROVIDENCE

Eric Carey | Executive Director
Dominique Martin | Director of Development
Kendra Sturup | Director of Finance & Operations
Portia Sweeting | Director of Education
Shelley Cant-Woodside | Director of Science & Policy
Dorcas Miller | Human Resources & Operations Manager
Falon Cartwright | Retreat Curator/ NP Parks Manager
Janeczka Johnson | Grants and Projects Manager
Maureen Taylor | Finance Manager
Abdul Strachan | Security
Alera Smith | Office Assistant
Antone Barrow | Website & Graphics Officer
Anwar Rolle | Park Warden
Bradley Watson | Science Officer
Brent Williamson | Policy Analyst
Celeste Christie | Donor Relations Officer
Chantal Curtis | Parks Planner
Daphne Brooks | Book-keeper
Elijah Sands | Communications Officer
Giselle Deane | Assistant Science Officer
Gloria Miller | Education Officer
Gregory Rolle | Security Officer
Juanita Munroe | Retreat Shop Manager
Kim Iturriaga | Office Custodian
Kristoff Francois | Park Warden
Lynn Gape | Special Projects Consultant
Marc Miller | Gardener
Monique Gibson | Receptionist
Pachancia Knowles | Marine Science Officer
Raquel Smith | Membership Officer
Robert McCoy | Maintenance Officer
Rovan Humes II | Development Assistant
Scott Johnson | Science Officer
Shannan Yates | Assistant Retreat Curator
Steffon Evans | Outreach Officer
Trevor Burgzorg | Director of Finance & Operations Assistant
Urmie Braynen | Events Coordinator
Ventoi Bethune | Park Warden

ANDROS

Lehron Rolle | Education Officer
Steven Smith | Park Warden

ELEUTHERA

Heidi Johnson | Preserve Manager/LLNPP
Camilla Adair | Deputy Preserve Manager
Alvanna Johnson | Office Assistant
Arlington Johnson | Site Supervisor
Brian Smith | Preserve Attendant
Brittany Ingraham | Gift Shop/Membership Assistant
Ethan Freid | Botanist
Hermane Exament | Maintenance Supervisor
Jason Moxey | Preserve Attendant
Omar McKlewhite | Preserve Attendant

EXUMA

Joseph Ierna Jr. | Administrator
Nicola Ierna | Administrative Assistant
Peter Graham | Operations Manager
Cherry Elliott | Office Manager
Preston Mckenzie | Maintenance Officer
Andre McCartney | Park Warden
Stephen Fox | Park Warden

GRAND BAHAMA

Lakeshia Anderson | Director of Parks
Ellsworth Weir | Parks Manager
Ann-Marie Carroll | Education Officer
David Clare | Park Warden
David Cooper | Park Warden
Jewel Thompson-Beneby | Science Officer
Jinnel Sturridge | Admin Assistant & Membership Officer
Lisa Wildgoose | Office Manager

INAGUA

Henry Nixon | Senior Park Warden
Sydney Delancy | Senior Park Warden

ABACO

David Knowles | Chief Park Warden
Marcus Davis | Deputy Park Warden
Arthur Williams | Park Warden

OUR 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 MISSION

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