

2023-2024 IMPACT REPORT

JANUARY 2023-JUNE 2024

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 Tiloo 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
- 33 Seahorse National Park at Sweetings Pond and Hatchet Bay

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

Our journey over the past 18 months has been extraordinary. Thanks to the dedication of our members, donors, partners, volunteers, and staff, The Bahamas National Trust now proudly manages 33 national parks, each a sanctuary for the unique biodiversity of The Bahamas. This milestone—and every accomplishment along the way—reflects the strength of our conservation community. Together, we're ensuring that these parks continue to thrive, serving as both safe havens for biodiversity and cherished spaces for all Bahamians.

In this period, your commitment enabled us to expand our protected areas, strengthen conservation for critically important species, and share the wonder of our national parks with communities across The Bahamas. Together, we are reaffirming BNT's legacy as a steadfast guardian of Bahamian natural heritage.

As we look to the future, our 2024-2029 Strategic Plan will serve as our guiding framework, empowering us to manage and protect these parks with an even greater impact. This new plan focuses on key areas essential to our mission, from conservation and enforcement to community engagement and educational outreach. With your ongoing support, we are ready to tackle the challenges ahead, build on our accomplishments, and inspire even more Bahamians to join us in this work.

Thank you for being with us every step of the way. Your fellowship makes all the difference, and I am deeply grateful for your continued belief in the BNT's vision for the future.

Warm regards,

Geoff Andrews

Geoff Andrews
President, Bahamas National Trust

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MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear valued BNT Supporters,

As I reflect on the past 18 months in my role as Executive Director, I am filled with gratitude, pride, and an unwavering sense of purpose. This period has been one of transformation and revitalization for The Bahamas National Trust, as we pursue bold initiatives while remaining committed to our mission of protecting and preserving the nation's natural treasures.

From the declaration of Seahorse National Park as the 33rd addition to our national park system, to completing critical research on keystone species through the GEF 2020 Project, this period has been characterized by innovation and growth. We have also advanced educational and engagement programs that have connected tens of thousands of Bahamian adults and youth to the wonders of our national parks. Initiatives like our National Park Experience Program, and teacher training workshops have inspired future generations, while the launch of the Conservation Storytelling & Media Internship empowered young Bahamians to tell compelling conservation stories nationwide.

On the ground, we've strengthened the foundations of national park management. The completion of Phase Three at the Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve has expanded facilities for science, education, and conservation, while the new Visitor's Centre at Lucayan National Park will enhance accessibility and engagement for park visitors. We have made strides in protecting species in peril by developing action plans for endangered species like the Bahama Oriole and Central Bahamian Rock Iguana, and the implementation of invasive species management programs in Inagua National Park and Bonefish Pond reflects our unwavering commitment to ecosystem health.

A cornerstone of this period has been the creation of our 2024-2029 Strategic Plan. Shaped by input from stakeholders and communities, this plan provides a clear and ambitious roadmap for the next five years. It prioritizes improved park management and enforcement, robust scientific monitoring, tackling invasive species, and building climate resilience while fostering stronger relationships with communities neighboring our parks.

As we celebrate these milestones, we must remain vigilant against global challenges such as climate change, habitat degradation, and biodiversity loss. National parks serve as beacons of hope, safeguarding ecosystems and providing pathways to a sustainable future. Their success relies on collective action, and we are profoundly grateful for the support of our members, partners, donors, and volunteers.

Your support fuels our mission, empowering us to protect endangered species, enhance community benefits, and preserve the incredible biodiversity that defines The Bahamas. Together, we are safeguarding a legacy for future generations.

While the road ahead presents challenges, it is also filled with promise. With your continued partnership, I am confident we can accomplish extraordinary things. Thank you for believing in the transformative power of nature and for choosing to protect our national parks and natural heritage. Together, we can build a future where people and nature thrive in harmony.

Sincerely,

Lakeshia Anderson - Rolle
Executive Director



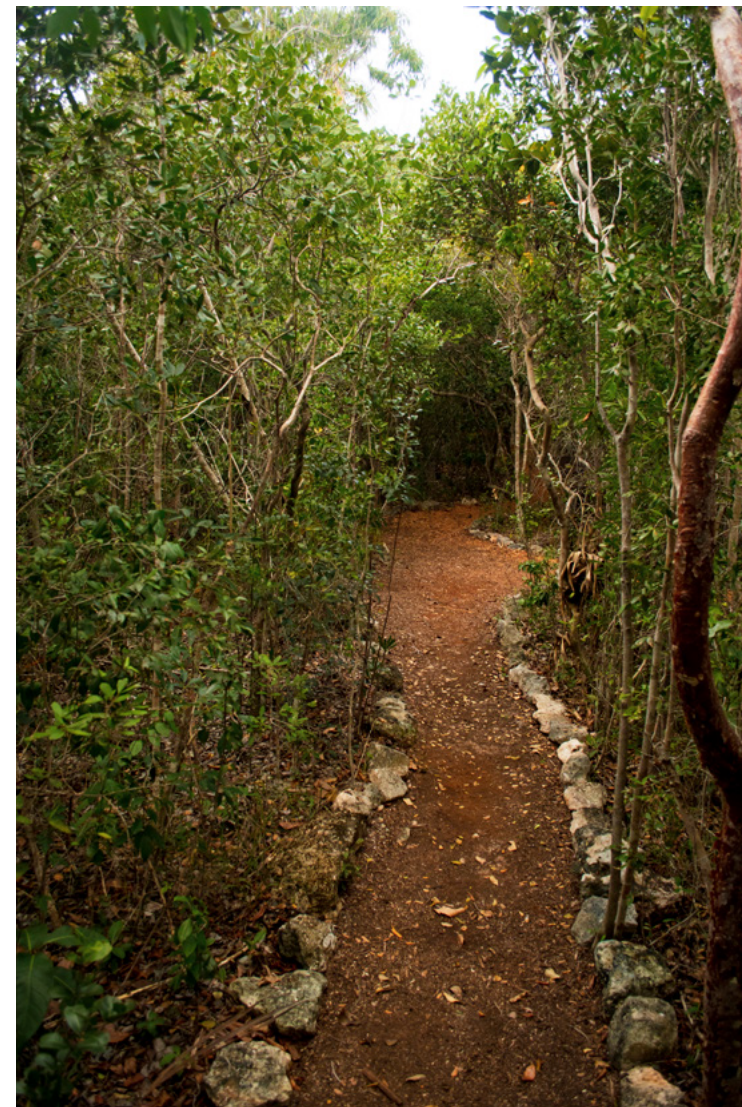
A BOLD VISION FOR THE FUTURE: THE BNT'S 2024-2029 STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2023, The Bahamas National Trust embarked on an ambitious journey to shape the future of conservation in The Bahamas. Over the course of 18 months, we carefully crafted our 2024-2029 Strategic Plan—a dynamic blueprint that will guide the BNT's work over the next five years.

We are honored to be the official steward of the country's 33 national parks, dedicated to safeguarding the rich biodiversity and natural beauty that defines our nation. The strategies, objectives, and activities outlined in this plan will pave our way forward, both in our day-to-day work and our overarching goals in conservation and national park management.

The 2024-2029 Strategic Plan is the product of a deeply collaborative process, rooted in feedback from Bahamians across the country. Executive Director Lakeshia Anderson-Rolle embarked on a listening tour to hear directly from communities, government representatives, and partner organizations about their priorities for the national parks and the work of the BNT. These insights, combined with input from a Strategic Planning Steering Committee, BNT staff, and BNT Council members, formed the foundation of our new plan. Months of discussion, analysis, and review culminated in a clear vision for the future of national park management and conservation in The Bahamas.

At its core, this plan reinforces the BNT's vision: "A comprehensive network of effectively managed Bahamian national parks and protected areas that is recognized as a powerful force for global biodiversity conservation, and is supported and enjoyed by the public."



With a legacy as a conservation powerhouse in The Bahamas, the BNT is ready to advance towards an even more vibrant future in environmental stewardship. One where we cultivate better-managed and accessible national parks for both Bahamians and visitors; help foster a more climate-resilient Bahamas; develop more active and aware environmental stewards; and unify the Bahamian identity with national parks - incredible environmental treasures to be proud of, to preserve and protect, and to enjoy.

The journey to this 2024-2029 Strategic Plan marks a defining moment in our history. We are grateful to our staff, Council, and stakeholders for their invaluable contributions, and to Paige Macleod for her exceptional guidance throughout the process. The future of The Bahamas' national parks is brighter than ever, and we look forward to sharing this bold vision with you.



CELEBRATING THE DECLARATION OF SEAHORSE NATIONAL PARK: A DECADE IN THE MAKING

On September 7th, 2023, after nearly a decade of tireless advocacy by the BNT and its partners, Seahorse National Park (SNP) was officially declared as the 33rd national park under the management of The Bahamas National Trust. This monumental achievement marks a new chapter in the BNT's history, with the official protection of Sweetings Pond and Hatchet Bay Cave in Eleuthera. Sweetings Pond, a land-locked saltwater pond, is renowned for its exceptional biodiversity, including what is believed to be the densest seahorse population in the world; and Hatchet Bay Cave is one of the longest dry cave systems in The Bahamas.

The journey to this historic moment was a collective effort involving public outreach, stakeholder consultations, scientific research, educational presentations, and sustained government engagement. These initiatives laid the foundation for Seahorse National Park, ensuring the preservation of its fragile and extraordinary ecosystem for future generations.

Following this declaration, the BNT's science team has undertaken aerial mapping and research initiatives to assess effective management strategies for the park. Supported by the Perry Institute for Marine Science (PIMS) and seahorse expert Dr. Heather Mason, these efforts have informed our decision to temporarily close Seahorse National Park to the public while we establish operations and finalize a comprehensive Park Management Plan. This temporary closure allows us to protect the park's delicate environment as we work towards its sustainable future.



In 2024, Seahorse National Park was selected as the beneficiary of our annual Cuban Pig Roast fundraiser, which raised a record-breaking \$162,000 for the park. These funds have been instrumental in advancing key initiatives, including:

- Recruiting essential staff to oversee park operations
- Purchasing and shipping a modular structure to serve as an on-site office
- Securing access points to the park with fencing and signage during its temporary closure

As we celebrate the declaration of Seahorse National Park, we remain committed to its long-term stewardship. This extraordinary ecosystem is now part of the BNT's legacy of conservation, and we are determined to ensure it thrives as a world-class national park.



"Our vision for Seahorse National Park is to create a legacy for The Bahamas – a world-class, sustainable national park that supports community, scientific, and educational initiatives while safeguarding our natural treasures. We have proven that community is an essential component of effective conservation. With continued support, I have no doubt we will achieve great things for our Bahamaland, and for the bright future of Seahorse National Park."

- Lakeshia Anderson-Rolle
BNT Executive Director

THE LEON LEVY NATIVE PLANT PRESERVE: COMPLETING PHASE THREE OF AN ENDURING VISION

The Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve (LLNPP), the first national park established on Eleuthera and a regional leader in plant conservation, marked a significant milestone in its journey with the completion of Phase Three of its development. This phase introduced state-of-the-art administrative, science, and educational facilities that further solidified the Preserve’s role as a hub for education, botany, and conservation.

An opening ceremony held at the Preserve celebrated this achievement, with key supporters and stakeholders in attendance, including the LLNPP’s visionary founder Shelby White; the Hon. Clay Sweeting, Minister of Public Works & Family Island Affairs; and Leon Levy Foundation President Meredith Moss. Together with BNT staff, donors, and community members, they honored the Preserve’s growth and its enduring impact on Eleuthera and beyond.

Since its public opening in 2011, the 30-acre Preserve has blossomed into a vibrant botanical institution. Established in memory of Leon Levy to reflect a shared love for Eleuthera’s natural beauty and bush medicine traditions, it has become an internationally accredited center for plant conservation. Over the years, its phased development has expanded its capacity to engage communities and advance scientific discovery.

The Phase Three enhancements include new office spaces, a staff building, workshop and storage facilities, and a multipurpose center for events and activities. These facilities enable the Preserve to deepen its contributions to science, conservation, and education while creating opportunities for local and international engagement.

During the ceremony, Shelby White reflected on the LLNPP’s evolution:

“You can have an idea, but without the incredible support of the BNT, and the people of Eleuthera, none of this would be possible. I am so grateful for all of the amazing people who helped to fulfill this vision. This is not our final phase; we will continue to grow, and I hope everyone will join us on this incredible journey.”



As the Preserve looks toward the future, its mission remains clear: to protect Eleuthera’s natural heritage while fostering a deeper understanding of The Bahamas’ native flora and fauna. The Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve continues to thrive as a beacon of conservation and a testament to what collaboration and vision can achieve.

“The Levy Preserve is home to one of the most beautiful natural spaces on Eleuthera and is carefully crafted to ensure that native flora and fauna thrive. I would like to express my gratitude to the BNT for their continuous efforts towards a sustainable Bahamas, and I commend them for continuing to work along local stakeholders to ensure everyone is involved. I would also like to thank Shelby White for her passion for Eleuthera, and our people, and look forward to the next phase of the Levy Preserve.”

- Hon. Clay Sweeting,
Minister of Public Works & Family Island Affairs
and Member of Parliament for South and Central Eleuthera



MANAGING UNIQUE SPACES

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



CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE ON NATIONAL PARKS DAY



In April 2023 and 2024, The BNT hosted its fifth and sixth annual National Parks Day, a signature event aimed at connecting Bahamians with the natural beauty and significance of their national parks. This celebration offered free access to national parks across The Bahamas, inviting thousands to experience these treasured spaces firsthand.

Over the past two years, National Parks Day featured activities at nine parks across seven islands: the Rand Nature Centre in Grand Bahama; Abaco National Park in Abaco; Inagua National Park in Inagua; the Exuma Cays Land & Sea Park (ECLSP) in Exuma; Blue Holes National Park in Andros; the Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve (LLNPP) in Eleuthera; and The Retreat Garden, Bonefish Pond National Park, and Primeval Forest in New Providence.

Each park offered unique opportunities for visitors to engage with nature through a variety of activities. From kayaking through mangroves and snorkeling vibrant reefs to hiking scenic trails, birdwatching, yoga sessions, bush tea demonstrations, and even sip-and-paint workshops, there was something for everyone. There were also several special events such as tree planting ceremonies and environmental film screenings.

National Parks Day is celebrated annually in honor of Earth Day, bridging the gap between people and nature.



By nurturing meaningful connections with the environment, this event inspires sustainable and responsible use of national parks. Record-breaking attendance in New Providence and Grand Bahama during the 2024 celebration reflected a growing appreciation for these protected areas. The day's success was further highlighted by an influx of on-the-spot BNT membership sign-ups, signaling a deepened commitment to conserving Bahamian natural resources.

For many attendees, National Parks Day marked their first visit to these parks, providing an opportunity to see their beauty and value up close. It also offered a chance for them to learn how these spaces contribute to environmental sustainability, recreation, education, and even the health and well-being of local communities. National Parks Day also provides a platform for local businesses to connect with communities, as they generally join the celebration to showcase sustainable products, lead workshops, and educate visitors on environmental issues.

The BNT is committed to making national parks accessible and enjoyable for all. National Parks Day continues to grow in popularity and impact, encouraging Bahamians to explore the remarkable natural heritage of their islands. As attendance grows each year, so does the shared commitment to protecting and celebrating these special places.

“A lot of people aren’t aware of all the ways they can use and benefit from these special spaces that the BNT manages on their behalf. We want to inspire that connection between them and these incredible natural treasures that we need their help to preserve. We want them to experience all the creative, fun, and relaxing ways they can use these protected spaces sustainably and responsibly.

- Ellsworth Weir
Director of Parks





FESTIVE MOMENTS IN CONSERVATION: THE BEST OF BNT'S EVENTS

Over the past 18 months, The Bahamas National Trust hosted an exciting lineup of events across The Bahamas, uniting communities in celebration of art, culture, conservation, and national parks. These beloved events brought thousands of people to explore, connect with, and support our parks while raising vital funds for conservation efforts.

ART IN BLOOM 2024

After a two-year hiatus, Eleuthera's art and cultural festival returned to the Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve in March 2024. "Art in Bloom" welcomed 200 visitors, who explored the Preserve's trails and enjoyed the creativity of 22 local artists, craftspeople, and food vendors. Live entertainment, including a vibrant Junkanoo performance, helped reestablish this annual event as a cherished community tradition.



PIG ROAST 2023 & 2024

Our annual Cuban Pig Roast reached new heights in both attendance and fundraising success over the past two years. In April 2024, Pig Roast drew over 300 guests and raised more than \$160,000 to support the development of Seahorse National Park, the BNT's 33rd national park. During the event, past president Pericles Maillis was honored for his pivotal role in securing the park's lease agreement.

In 2023, Pig Roast celebrated the beauty of the Moriah Harbour Cay National Park (MHCNP) in Great and Little Exuma, raising over \$150,000 for the park's Welcome Centre. This included a \$50,000 anchor pledge from Bob and Jeanne Coughlin, who were recognized during the event for their continuous support of the MHCNP.



WINE & ART 2023

Wine & Art 2023, hosted in October at The Retreat Garden, brought hundreds of attendees together for a weekend of creativity, culture, and conservation. Featuring 60+ premium wines, live music, and diverse culinary delights, the event also showcased the talents of over 40 local artists and vendors. As the BNT's only unrestricted annual fundraiser, Wine & Art is a cornerstone of our conservation efforts, raising money to support our mission while creating an unforgettable experience for patrons.



JOLLIFICATION 2023

The Christmas season began in style with the 30th anniversary of Jollification, celebrated in November 2023 at The Retreat Garden. Featuring locally-made art, crafts, food, holiday spirits, and live entertainment, Jollification once again supported the upkeep of the historic Retreat Garden, home to exotic palms and native biodiversity. For three decades, Jollification has been a beloved holiday tradition for the Bahamian community.



"Our events are more than gatherings—they're celebrations of culture, community, and conservation. Each one plays a vital role in supporting the BNT's mission to protect and preserve The Bahamas' national parks. Every ticket purchased, every person attending, and every moment shared contributes to ensuring that these natural treasures can be enjoyed for generations to come."

- Kimberly Knowles
BNT Events Coordinator



FESTIVAL NOËL 2023

Festival Noël rounded out the BNT's roster of fall/winter events, starring in its place as Grand Bahama's unique art and cultural festival. On December 1st, The Rand Nature Centre transformed under Grand Bahama's starlit sky, spotlighting local artists and chefs; showcasing 35+ international wines; and attracting hundreds to the national park for the night of festivities. As a beloved community event, Festival Noël supports Grand Bahama's three national parks. The funds raised from Festival Noël 2023 allowed us to pave a new driveway at the Rand Nature Centre, which was completed in March 2024!



PROTECTING EXUMA’S MARINE ENVIRONMENT: NEW MOORINGS IN MORIAH HARBOUR CAY NATIONAL PARK

In a significant step toward protecting the marine environments in Great Exuma, the BNT and the Elizabeth Harbour Conservation Partnership (EHCP) have successfully installed new mooring systems in the Moriah Harbour Cay National Park (MHCNP) and Elizabeth Harbour. This collaborative initiative reflects our organizations' shared commitment to protecting the unique and fragile marine ecosystems of Exuma.

These moorings, strategically placed at Stocking Island in Elizabeth Harbour and Red Shanks Cay in Moriah Harbour Cay National Park, are designed to safeguard sensitive seagrass habitats from the damaging effects of anchoring. By providing secure, eco-friendly alternatives, these systems not only protect marine environments but also help improve water clarity and quality, ensuring the long-term health of these important ecosystems.

Each mooring can accommodate vessels up to 60 feet in length and has been engineered to withstand regular use while minimizing environmental impact. Regular maintenance will ensure their longevity and reliability for the boating community.

The introduction of these moorings is one step towards helping the recovery of seagrass beds in the harbour, which play a crucial role in sediment stability, water filtration, and providing habitat for marine life. To ensure the sustainability of the mooring fields, a fee schedule was introduced in January 2024. All



revenue generated from these fees is directly reinvested into local conservation and community initiatives, supporting the ongoing management and protection of Elizabeth Harbour and Moriah Harbour Cay National Park.

The installation of moorings was made possible with support from the Friends of Exuma Harbour Conservation Fund, the Global Fund for Coral Reefs: Bahama Reefs Programme, The Elizabeth Harbour Conservation Partnership, and The Global Environment Facility: Meeting the Challenge of 2020 in The Bahamas Project.

A virtual public meeting held in December 2023 provided key updates about the new moorings and gathered valuable feedback from local stakeholders. The cruising community was also engaged through a survey to help balance visitor needs with conservation priorities.



RESTORING GOLD ROCK BEACH: PLANTING 1,000 PLANTS TO HELP A NATIONAL TREASURE RECOVER



In August 2023, the Bahamas National Trust (BNT), in partnership with the Sandals Foundation, spearheaded a transformative restoration project at Gold Rock Beach within the Lucayan National Park on Grand Bahama. This initiative aimed to revive areas devastated by Hurricane Dorian in 2019 by planting 1,000 native coastal plants, restoring the beach's natural beauty and resilience.

The planting effort focused on species that stabilize sand dunes, support sand recovery, and provide essential habitats for wildlife. These plants will not only help restore the beach's ecological health but also strengthen its defenses against future storms, ensuring the longevity of this iconic site for generations to come.

The restoration project was a community-wide effort, with over 40 volunteers—local residents, students, environmentalists, and BNT staff—coming together to plant and nurture these trees. Among those lending their support were Miss Universe Bahamas 2023, Melissa Ingraham, and Miss Supranational Bahamas 2023, Maliqué Maranda, who highlighted the importance of climate action and environmental stewardship.

The project reflects the BNT's ongoing commitment to ensuring functioning habitats across its national parks. Alongside the tree-planting initiative, new interpretive signage was installed within the Lucayan National Park in early 2024, offering visitors insights into the area's



ecological and cultural significance. These efforts demonstrate the BNT's holistic approach to conservation—combining habitat restoration with education to foster greater environmental awareness.

As the planted trees take root and grow, their impact will extend far beyond the beach. They symbolize resilience, renewal, and the power of collective action in preserving The Bahamas' natural heritage. The BNT thanks its volunteers, partners, and the Sandals Foundation for making this milestone in environmental restoration possible.



"As a Caribbean organisation, the Sandals Foundation believes very strongly that it is our duty to protect the region's breathtaking ecosystems. This mandate also rings true for The Bahamas National Trust, which works intently in raising environmental awareness, developing effective conservation practices, and empowering communities and the next generation. Together, we can do more to preserve our islands' natural treasures for generations to come."

- Patrice Gilpin,
Public Relations Manager at Sandals Foundation

PRESERVING PARADISE: MAINTENANCE AND UPGRADES ACROSS OUR PARKS

Managing The Bahamas' 33 national parks requires constant care and attention. From routine upkeep to major upgrades, the BNT works tirelessly to ensure these natural spaces remain accessible, safe, and sustainable. Between January 2023 and June 2024, maintenance initiatives across several parks have helped enhance visitor experiences while protecting biodiversity. Here's a look at some of the key accomplishments:

Lucayan National Park:

- Completion of the construction of the Visitor's Centre
- Installation of surveillance systems
- Reopening of the beach trail allowing ATV access to Gold Rock Beach
- Refurbishment of the Burial Mound Cave boardwalk
- Rebuilding of Ben's Cave staircase and observation deck above Burial Mound Cave
- Removal of invasive species like Australian Pine
- Installation of a MOTUS tower to monitor the movement of micro-chipped birds, facilitated by BirdsCaribbean
- Installation of hurricane shutters at the gift shop
- Upgrades to restrooms
- Replacement of railings on the David A. Knowles boardwalk



- Installation of eight new interpretive signs, funded by the Sandals Foundation

Rand Nature Centre:

- Repaving of the main entrance, exit, and parking lot
- Installation of a MOTUS tower to monitor the movement of micro-chipped birds, facilitated by BirdsCaribbean
- Conversion of a storage room into a conference room
- Installation of a new gate at the front entrance to allow foot traffic access to the park
- Installation of an exit gate to control access to the perimeter
- Fencing repairs
- Installation of boundary markers installed along fencing

The Retreat Garden:

- Completion of renovations on the old Langlois apartment, converting the space into offices and storage
- Installation of a CCTV system
- Resurfacing of the parking lot and redesign of the exit gate
- Completion of renovations to the newly branded Mahogany House, with furniture and appliances installed

Harrold and Wilson Ponds National Park

- Ongoing removal of cat tails
- Removal of the deteriorated boardwalk and deck
- Invasive species removal of Brazilian pepper trees
- Construction of a 6x3ft floating dock to aid invasive species removal



COMMUNITY IN ACTION: VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS FROM NATIONAL PARKS

At the BNT, much of our work couldn't be accomplished without the support of everyday people. Whether it's helping to fill gaps in capacity, providing specialized knowledge or skills, or getting their hands dirty in cleanup efforts, we rely heavily on members of the community to play a firsthand role in protecting our national parks and the natural beauty and resources within them. Throughout 2023 and 2024, we welcomed hundreds of volunteers into national parks across The Bahamas to assist with things like maintenance, invasive species removal, tree plantings, and cleanups. Some of these volunteers, like Royal Bank of Canada and Rotary, have consistently and unfailingly shown up to do their part during various community efforts. Have a look at some of the major volunteer initiatives we've celebrated over the past year and a half:

2023

- Seventy (70) Kiwanis members assisted in a range of roles at this year's Wine & Art Festival
- ALIV coordinated volunteer opportunities for their staff on Andros, Eleuthera, Exuma, Nassau, and Grand Bahama, having them clear trails, remove invasive plants, and plant native trees
- In honor of World Oceans Day, 150 Atlantis volunteers planted mangroves at Bonefish Pond National Park
- Our Grand Bahama staff hosted 42 volunteers to an International Coastal Cleanup on Gold Rock Beach
- The Rotary Club participated in a volunteer day at The Retreat



2024

- Eighty-five (85) people from Royal Bank of Canada (RBC's) Global Citizens Group helped with trail mulching, trash collection, debris removal, and cleaning off of kayaks
- RBC visited the Lucayan National Park (LNP) and assisted with invasive species removal of casuarinas and scaevola taccada on Gold Rock Beach
- In honor of World Environment Day, 100 RBC staff supported maintenance and beautification at national parks across multiple islands, participating in mulching trails, invasive species removal, trash removal, and native species planting at Abaco National Park in Abaco; the Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve in Eleuthera; the Lucayan National Park in Grand Bahama; Moriah Harbour Cay National Park in Great Exuma; and Bonefish Pond National Park in New Providence
- An international corporate volunteer group from Texas Roadhouse participated in invasive species removal, mangrove planting, sign painting, and terrestrial and marine cleanup at Bonefish Pond National Park. They also donated kayaks that were utilized for trash removal from mangroves and shorelines.
- Our Education Department engaged over 60 volunteers, who helped with various park maintenance tasks during the first quarter of the year
- ALIV and Cable Bahamas staff assisted with planting sea oates and sea grape trees on Gold Rock Beach, collecting trash, removing debris, and performing routine maintenance of the parking lot, trails, entrance, and adjacent areas at the Lucayan National Park

These are just some of the amazing volunteer initiatives we've had the privilege of hosting. The BNT recognizes and commends the efforts of all our volunteers. Their individual actions as environmental stewards, no matter how small, translate to major impact. Because of them, we're able to better maintain national parks and preserve our country's invaluable biodiversity.

ENHANCING MANAGEMENT ACROSS THE BAHAMAS' NATIONAL PROTECTED AREA NETWORK

Through an exciting partnership with the Blue Nature Alliance (BNA), the BNT and our partners are undertaking transformative efforts to improve the management, enforcement, and financing of The Bahamas' National Protected Area Network. This collaborative project leverages innovative technology, robust stakeholder engagement, and partnerships to ensure the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) across the country.

Central to this initiative is the creation and revision of climate-smart Management Plans for key national parks, including Conception Island National Park, Inagua National Park, and Union Creek Reserve. To spearhead this effort, the BNT has onboarded a Conservation Planner who is leading stakeholder engagement and is working alongside partners to develop a standardized management plan template. This framework will bring greater consistency and efficiency to managing The Bahamas' extensive network of MPAs, aligning with the goals outlined in the 2020 Fisheries Act.

In collaboration with partners like the Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPF), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Bahamas Wildlife Enforcement Network (BahWEN), and WildAid, the BNT will implement a Control & Surveillance Strategy to enhance compliance in protected areas. Training workshops on technologies such as the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) and satellite monitoring will equip wardens and officers with cutting-edge tools to



bolster patrols and surveillance efforts. Additionally, demarcation buoy construction and the installation of regulatory signs in marine parks will support improved enforcement.

Furthermore, The BNT will collaborate with the Bahamas Protected Area Fund, to work with McKinsey & Co., and other stakeholders to develop innovative financial mechanisms to support MPA management. These efforts aim to identify and implement sustainable revenue streams, creating a long-term roadmap to enhance the financial sustainability of The Bahamas' protected areas.

The project also emphasizes community engagement and government collaboration. BNT Outreach Officers have designed a Stakeholder Engagement Plan to work in partnership with the Department of Marine Resources to strengthen relations with communities near MPAs, especially with fishers. BNT's newly hired Sr. Government Relations & Policy Advisor will facilitate dialogue with policymakers to support the assignment of management agencies to newly declared marine protected areas, bringing the 20% protection designation goal to the finish line.

By the end of this project, the BNT will provide updated Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) scores for the targeted MPAs, showcasing measurable improvements in protected area management. This initiative represents a significant step forward in safeguarding The Bahamas' natural resources while fostering collaboration and innovation to ensure their long-term protection.

COLLABORATING TO STRENGTHEN ENFORCEMENT IN NATIONAL PARKS

With the official gazetting of National Park Bylaws in 2022, which granted the BNT expanded legal authority to enforce regulations within national parks, the organization has worked diligently to strengthen its enforcement capacity. Over the past 18 months, we've focused on equipping staff with the skills and tools necessary to uphold these laws while collaborating with enforcement agencies to protect The Bahamas' invaluable natural resources.

In March 2023, BNT Park Wardens from across the country convened in New Providence for a three-day workshop covering Park Bylaws, Fire Safety, and First Aid/CPR. This hands-on training helped wardens understand the new legislation created to protect Bahamian biodiversity, and honed their ability to effectively communicate these laws to the public.

The summer of 2023 saw further collaboration as the BNT joined forces with four enforcement organizations for a two-week Protected Area Managers Enforcement Training Course. Participants included representatives from the Bahamas Wildlife Enforcement Network (BahWEN), the Department of Environmental Planning & Protection (DEPP), the Bahamas Forestry Department, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources. This collaborative training strengthened inter-agency relationships while refining strategies to safeguard protected areas.



Recognizing the importance of effective communication in managing marine protected areas (MPAs), the BNT also hosted a two-day Facilitation & Strategic Communications Workshop, funded by The Builder's Initiative (TBI). This interactive course provided participants with tools to engage stakeholders and facilitate discussions critical to the management and protection of MPAs.

As the roll-out of park bylaws continued into 2024, the BNT focused on public outreach alongside our internal capacity building. Ten kiosks displaying the National Park Bylaws were installed throughout the Exuma Cays Land & Sea Park (ECLSP). Plans are also underway to install regulatory signage in several other parks to increase public awareness and understanding of park regulations.

Enforcement remains a cornerstone of the BNT's work, ensuring the protection of species, habitats, and resources within national parks. These training initiatives and partnerships have strengthened the ability of wardens and allied agencies to uphold conservation laws effectively.

"We recognize the importance of equipping our wardens with the tools to effectively perform their duties of protecting our national parks. This training would not have been possible without the individuals and organizations who supported us, and we're thankful for their time and resources. It's inspiring to hear the consensus that participants feel better informed about the roles of their partner organizations and better prepared to carry out their critical work on both a collaborative and individual level."

-Chantal Curtis,
New Providence Parks Manager,
and Parks Planner



LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR EFFECTIVE NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT

National Park Management Plans are essential tools for aligning conservation efforts with ecological, cultural, and community needs. They ensure that national parks are managed sustainably, balancing the preservation of biodiversity with opportunities for recreation, education, and economic development. These plans provide a framework for setting goals, allocating resources, and measuring the effectiveness of management strategies over time.

Each management plan begins with an in-depth assessment of the park's ecological, cultural, and economic values. This involves stakeholder engagement, scientific research, and extensive fieldwork to identify threats, opportunities, and priorities. Public consultations are integral to this process, ensuring the voices of nearby communities, local businesses, and key stakeholders are heard.

As the BNT charts its course for the next five years, a central focus of our 2024-2029 Strategic Plan is the development of robust climate-smart management plans for national parks. These plans serve as blueprints for effective conservation, guiding infrastructure improvements, scientific research, educational programming, and community engagement. Recognizing the unique potential and challenges of individual parks, the BNT has identified 20 priority parks for strategic management planning.



Lucayan National Park: In May 2024, the final draft of the Lucayan National Park Management Plan was opened for public consultation. The final plan incorporates valuable input from stakeholders and community members, reflecting shared priorities for ecological preservation and community access. The updated plan will guide efforts to enhance visitor experiences while safeguarding the park's unique habitats, including its world-renowned underwater cave systems and world-famous Gold Rock Beach.

Bonefish Pond National Park: A draft management plan highlights Bonefish Pond's potential as a dynamic outdoor classroom for environmental education and a hub for weekend recreation. The plan also envisions nature-based tourism opportunities that benefit nearby communities while fostering environmental stewardship. The BNT is collaborating with the Ministry of Works to develop plans for a Welcome Centre and Education Pavilion, which will enhance visitor engagement and support educational programming. The draft plan will be shared for public review in 2025.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

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



PROTECTING FLAMINGOS IN INAGUA: TACKLING INVASIVE SPECIES

Inagua National Park, home to one of the world's largest breeding colonies of Caribbean Flamingos, faced a significant challenge in 2021 when feral hogs disrupted a key flamingo rookery. The invasion forced thousands of nests to be abandoned, underscoring the urgent need for action to protect these iconic birds and the fragile ecosystems they rely on.

In response, the BNT launched the Invasive Species Management Program to mitigate the impact of feral hogs and safeguard flamingos in Inagua. This effort combines traditional conservation techniques with innovative technologies to monitor and manage invasive species effectively.

Throughout 2023 and 2024, the BNT has worked to gather baseline data on feral hog populations to better understand their densities, ranges, and habitat use within the park. Leveraging modern tools such as drones equipped with high-resolution cameras and thermal imaging, the team has been able to monitor the park more efficiently, including previously inaccessible areas. Motion sensor cameras deployed across the park provide continuous data on invasive species activity, enabling targeted interventions.

Collaborations have been key to the success of this program. Morton Salt Bahamas Limited, a long-time supporter of flamingo conservation, has been an invaluable partner, providing critical resources to bolster the BNT's efforts. Donors at the BNT's Cuban Pig Roast Fundraiser in 2022 also made substantial contributions to the program. In February 2023, a team from the BNT visited Inagua to engage local stakeholders, strengthening partnerships and building community support for the initiative.

The invasive species management program is an essential step toward ensuring the future of Inagua's flamingos. By reducing the threat of feral hogs and enhancing habitat protection, the BNT is working to secure the park's biodiversity for generations to come. This project highlights the power of collaboration and innovation in addressing conservation challenges and preserving The Bahamas' natural treasures.



"Morton Bahamas Limited is pleased to support The Bahamas National Trust's Invasive Species Management Program in Inagua, which will aid in preserving the flamingos' natural habitat and avert environmental harm. This is an important step in protecting the area's distinctive biodiversity and the long-term viability of the flamingo population."

- Jesus Rodriguez,
General Manager of Morton Bahamas Ltd



"Our knowledge of the hogs was largely anecdotal, based on hunters' accounts, wardens' general observations, and other eyewitness accounts. Although we knew hogs were plentiful on the island, we lacked quantitative data on their populations – densities, ranges, and habitat use for example – the kind of data needed to plan for their control. This marked the inception of the Inagua National Park Invasive Species Management Program. This program intends to conserve the park's biodiversity by making data-driven decisions to control invasive species."

- Falon Cartwright,
BNT Director of Science and Policy





DEVELOPING CONSERVATION ACTION PLANS FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES



The Bahamas National Trust is spearheading critical collaborative efforts to protect some of the nation's most iconic and endangered species. In partnership with Re:Wild and Fauna & Flora International, with funding from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, the BNT has developed conservation action plans for two endangered species: the Central Bahamian Rock Iguana and the Bahama Oriole. These plans aim to address urgent threats while setting clear objectives to ensure the survival of these unique species over the next five years.

The first workshop to create these action plans convened in November 2023 and focused on the Rock Iguana. In June 2024, the Bahama Oriole Workshop was held. These seminars brought together local and international experts, stakeholders, and community members to discuss current and potential threats, as well as solutions to safeguard the future of these species. The resulting conservation action plans outline tangible objectives, including strengthening protected area management, encouraging responsible tourism, enhancing law enforcement, and launching education and awareness campaigns.

These efforts go beyond the protection of two species. The BNT views these conservation action plans as blueprints for tackling the threats faced by many at-risk species across The Bahamas. By creating robust,

"As we stand at the cusp of transformative conservation action, we are determined to ensure that future generations inherit a Bahamas where these majestic creatures are not just surviving but flourishing. National parks are the sanctuaries where we can turn this vision into reality, showcasing these symbols of natural beauty and biodiversity."

- Giselle Deane,
Senior Science Officer

collaborative plans, the BNT and its partners are paving the way for impactful conservation strategies to protect the country's biodiversity. Together with Re:wild, Fauna & Flora, and other partners, we are charting a new course for the future of the Central Bahamian Rock Iguana and Bahama Oriole.



"Re:Wild is very honored to facilitate the recovery action plan for these two incredibly charming but critically endangered species. Caribbean wildlife is under such enormous pressures that this region has the world's highest extinction rates. But I believe the Central Bahamian Rock Iguana and Bahama Oriole have a real hope of survival thanks to the obvious pride, expertise, and determination I saw among the workshop participants and local residents."

- Dr. Jenny Daltry,
Caribbean Alliance Director for Re:wild and Fauna & Flora



FLYING FORWARD: ADVANCING AVIAN MONITORING ACROSS NATIONAL PARKS

The Bahamas National Trust continues to stand at the forefront of bird conservation, both locally and internationally. In 2023, our dedication to protecting birds and their habitats was recognized with the prestigious Keesee Award from Audubon New York. This honor celebrates the BNT's leadership in safeguarding the threatened Piping Plover, whose survival depends on the natural spaces we protect. While we take pride in this recognition, our commitment extends far beyond the Piping Plover to include many other avian species that rely on Bahamian national parks.

Over the past year and a half, the BNT has undertaken multiple avian monitoring projects and initiatives aimed at enhancing our understanding of bird populations, improving conservation practices, and engaging local communities in bird protection efforts. These initiatives include the USFS Kirtland's Warbler Mapping Project, monthly and quarterly bird surveys using the PROALAS monitoring program, and participation in the BirdsCaribbean Bird Banding Workshop in March 2023.

Through the Avian Monitoring Protocol Standardization Project (AMPS), the BNT has developed standardized bird monitoring protocols to be applied across Bahamian national parks. This effort was complemented by a Landbird Monitoring Training Workshop in Abaco, where local participants learned bird identification, PROALAS methodology, and data management techniques. In partnership with BirdsCaribbean, we've also

installed wildlife tracking systems (MOTUS stations) at several parks, including the Rand Nature Centre (RNC) and Lucayan National Park (LNP) in Grand Bahama, with plans to expand to other locations such as the Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve and Inagua National Park.

The BNT's participation in BirdsCaribbean's 24th International Conference in 2024 highlighted the progress made through these initiatives, including the development of standardized protocols and the expansion of bird monitoring programs across The Bahamas. These efforts are critical in preserving at-risk species such as the Bahama Warbler and endangered migratory birds like the Kirtland's Warbler.

By growing capacity, improving efficiency, and engaging in collaborative research and training, the BNT continues to advance avian monitoring and conservation in national parks. These initiatives ensure that we can make informed decisions to protect the birds that call The Bahamas home, safeguarding their habitats and securing their futures.



“The story of Bahamian birds is one of resilience and beauty. By leveraging sound science and innovative partnerships, we are building a brighter future for these species and the national parks they rely on to thrive.”

-Demonica Brown,
BNT Avian and Terrestrial Science Officer



Mahogany *Swietenia mahagoni*

In Honour Of
The Bahamas 50th Anniversary



PLANTING 50 TREES ON THE ROAD TO 50

In recognition of The Bahamas' auspicious 50th anniversary of independence - which was commemorated throughout the entirety of 2023 - the BNT launched our "50 by 50" tree planting campaign.

With national celebrations kindling a formidable force of pride in Bahamians far and wide, we were inspired to create long-term impact that would carry into the next 50 years of our country's future. Thus, on International Women's Day 2023, we embarked on a journey of planting 50 native trees across various islands on the road to The Bahamas' 50th Independence.

Under the patronage of the Office of the Spouse of the Prime Minister and with sponsorship and support from Aliv, Morton Salt, Zeta Phi Beta sorority, and others, trees were planted across the likes of New Providence, Grand Bahama, Inagua, Eleuthera, Abaco, etc.

The Kickstarter tree planting on International Women's Day involved an all-woman ensemble, featuring First Lady Ann-Marie Davis; Minister of State for Urban Renewal the Hon. Lisa Rahming; BNT's first female Executive Director, Lakeshia Anderson-Rolle; BNT Director of Development & Communications Anna Bancroft; BNT Director of Education Portia Sweeting; and BNT Director of Science & Policy Falon Cartwright. Together these dynamic women leaders officially launched the 50 by 50 campaign by planting two mahogany and one breadfruit tree at the Lou Adderley Park in New Providence.



Cultivated in the nursery at the Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve (LLNPP) in Eleuthera, the native trees planted under this initiative were carefully selected by Preserve Botanist Dr. Ethan Freid to complement each planting site and ensure a suitable environment for optimal growth. Mahogany trees, which are valuable for their hardwood, were selected for the Lou Adderley Park because of the ample shade they will provide for the Marathon community.

Mrs. Davis opted to plant as many breadfruit trees as possible during our 50 by 50 tree planting initiative. Breadfruit is the tree of choice in her "Trees that Feed" campaign, which focuses on planting trees that can serve as food sources for their communities. It was selected for its fruitfulness, ease of care, and resilience. During a year of heightened national pride, the BNT was proud to contribute to our nationwide spirit of community, celebration, and legacy-building in the form of planting trees that will benefit our environment and communities for years to come.



PROTECTING KEYSTONE SPECIES: ADVANCING CONSERVATION THROUGH SCIENCE

The BNT is spearheading critical research to safeguard keystone species in five of the country's national parks under the Global Environment Facility: Meeting the Challenge of 2020 in The Bahamas Project (GEF 2020). This initiative focuses on creating conservation and monitoring plans for species that are not only ecologically vital but also culturally and economically significant to The Bahamas.

Keystone species play a crucial role in maintaining the health and balance of ecosystems. Their presence supports biodiversity, and their decline often leads to cascading effects that threaten the stability of natural habitats. Recognizing their importance, the BNT, in collaboration with the Perry Institute for Marine Science (PIMS), has conducted extensive research across five national parks focused on the following species: Velvet Sponge in Andros West Side National Park (AWSNP), Nassau Grouper in Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park (ECLSP), Staghorn Coral in Lucayan National Park (LNP), Elkhorn Coral in Moriah Harbour Cay National Park (MHCNP), Spiny Lobster in Bonefish Pond National Park (BPNP).

Each species was selected based on its critical role in its respective ecosystem and its broader significance to The Bahamas. Sponges for example, once supported a once-thriving Bahamian commercial sponging industry, while Nassau Grouper and Spiny Lobster underpin The Bahamas' multimillion-dollar fishing industry. Elkhorn and Staghorn Corals are essential for reef-building, offering protection against storm surges and supporting marine biodiversity.



The research required extensive fieldwork, with teams spending countless hours in remote and challenging locations within these national parks. From diving in the vibrant reefs of the Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park to conducting surveys across the endless flats of Andros, BNT and PIMS meticulously gathered data on species populations, habitats, and threats.

The field data collected is being used to design actionable conservation and monitoring plans tailored to each species. These plans aim to enhance habitat protection, mitigate human and environmental pressures, and ensure the long-term survival of these keystone species. The work also provides critical insights that inform broader conservation efforts in The Bahamas and the region.

NEW RESEARCH: EXPLORING BONEFISH POND'S ROLE IN SPINY LOBSTER SURVIVAL



The Caribbean spiny lobster is a cornerstone of The Bahamas' marine ecosystems and a key driver of the country's fisheries economy, generating millions of dollars annually. These lobsters rely heavily on mangrove habitats like those at Bonefish Pond during their juvenile stages, seeking refuge and resources to grow and survive. However, as one of the last intact mangrove systems on New Providence, Bonefish Pond faces mounting pressures from coastal development and climate change, underscoring the urgency of this research.

By studying its role in supporting juvenile lobsters, this research highlights the park's indispensable value to The Bahamas' marine ecosystems and fisheries industry. Understanding the connections between mangrove ecosystems and species like the Caribbean spiny lobster will inform conservation strategies, ensuring these habitats remain intact and thriving for future generations.

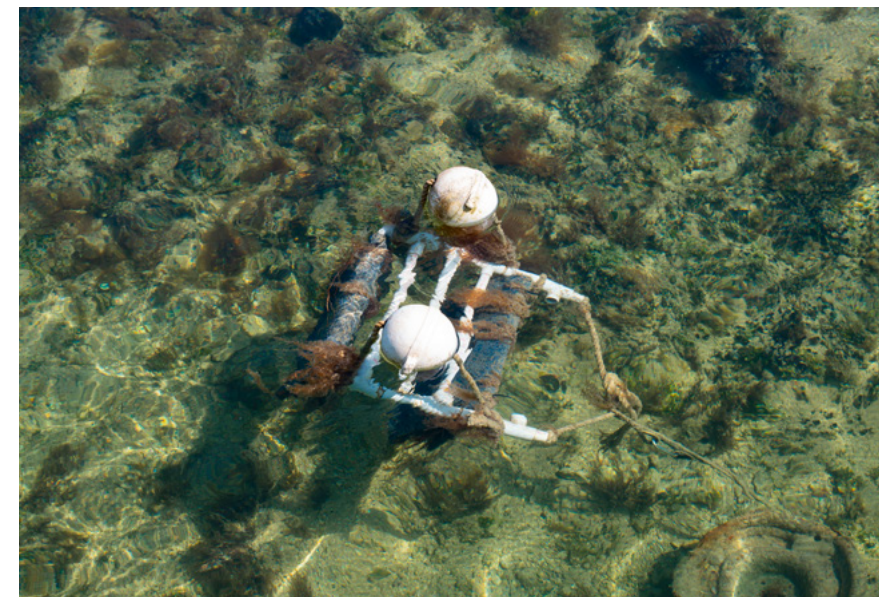


The BNT has launched an exciting new research project at Bonefish Pond National Park (BPNP), shedding light on the critical role this unique mangrove ecosystem plays in the early life stages of the Caribbean spiny lobster. This project involves the use of special equipment called Witham Collectors, to reveal insights into the biodiversity thriving within the park's mangrove creeks.

Witham Collectors are specialized artificial habitats designed to mimic the structures and natural refuges found within mangrove ecosystems. They simulate safe spaces for juvenile organisms drifting through the mangroves, allowing researchers to monitor species diversity and abundance in a non-invasive manner.

For the current project at BPNP, the collectors are instrumental in gathering crucial data on juvenile spiny lobsters. Once deployed, they provide a temporary habitat for these young lobsters and other marine species, enabling scientists to capture a detailed snapshot of the biodiversity thriving within the park. The collectors are carefully retrieved and examined, ensuring no harm comes to the marine life during the process.

By analyzing the data collected from Witham Collectors, BNT researchers can assess key metrics such as the abundance, size, and health of spiny lobster populations, along with information on the broader ecological community that supports them.



CITIZEN SCIENCE: ENGAGING COMMUNITIES IN CONSERVATION

The Bahamas National Trust (BNT) is empowering communities to take an active role in conservation through its Citizen Science Program, which has grown significantly since its pilot phase in 2022. This innovative initiative invites volunteers to assist with routine environmental monitoring in select national parks, contributing to the collection of critical data that informs park management and conservation strategies.

In its first year, the program engaged diverse groups of volunteers, including students from the University of The Bahamas' Rotaract Club, who monitored water quality and environmental factors at Bonefish Pond National Park and analyzed water samples at Atlantis' lab. Additionally, members of the Bird Club of New Providence contributed to avian population monitoring at three locations within Bonefish Pond National Park.

To celebrate the program's first year, the BNT hosted a volunteer luncheon at The Retreat Garden, bringing together citizen scientists to share their findings and exchange ideas. This gathering was an opportunity to recognize the volunteers' invaluable contributions and foster collaboration as the program moves into its next phase.

The Citizen Science Program continues to thrive, with volunteers conducting monthly monitoring activities at Bonefish Pond National Park, Lucayan National Park, and Andros West



Side National Park under the Global Environment Facility and United Nations Environment Programme (GEF-UNEP)-funded project entitled, "Meeting the Challenge of 2020 in The Bahamas" (GEF 2020). These ongoing efforts contribute to the routine collection of water quality and species monitoring data, ensuring that national parks are managed effectively for the benefit of The Bahamas' environment and communities.

The BNT is dedicated to empowering citizen scientists and expanding the program to engage more Bahamians in protecting the country's natural heritage. By combining community effort with scientific expertise, the Citizen Science Program is a shining example of how collective action can drive meaningful environmental stewardship.

ENGAGING EDUCATION

- BUILDING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS
- TOUCHING THE LIVES OF YOUTH



INSPIRING CONSERVATION THROUGH STORYTELLING: THE LAUNCH OF THE CSM INTERNSHIP

The power of storytelling lies in its ability to inspire action, and in 2024, the BNT harnessed that power with the launch of its first-ever Conservation Storytelling & Media (CSM) Internship. This groundbreaking program set out to elevate environmental advocacy by equipping young Bahamians with the tools to capture the beauty and urgency of conservation through creative media. Fueled by generous support from the Wanderlust Fund and the Sean Connery Foundation, this inaugural program brought together two talented young Bahamians, Lauren Ritchie and Quintez Bethel, for an immersive three-month experience designed to equip them to become powerful storytellers and voices for conservation.

The program focused on sharpening communication, media, and storytelling skills while showcasing the incredible biodiversity and pressing challenges within The Bahamas' national parks. From documenting endangered species to capturing community-led conservation efforts, Lauren and Quintez gained hands-on experience in crafting compelling narratives that connect people to the environment.

Throughout the program, the interns participated in training workshops, connected with conservation and media professionals, and explored the country's natural wonders, visiting national parks and natural sites on 5 different islands. Additionally, with support from the Perry Institute for Marine Science, they also became PADI Advanced Open Water certified divers with several specialties. With all their newfound skills Lauren and Quintez were able to document ecosystems, and connect with stakeholders, and local communities, learning how to weave powerful stories that bridge science, culture, and advocacy.

As the program concludes, both Lauren and Quintez are finalizing capstone projects, reflecting on the experiences and lessons that shaped their summer. These projects will highlight the critical intersection of conservation and communication, ensuring their voices continue to resonate beyond the internship.

The BNT celebrates the success of this inaugural program and looks forward to continuing to empower young Bahamians through innovative opportunities like the CSM Internship. By fostering the next generation of environmental advocates, the BNT reaffirms its commitment to protecting the natural beauty of The Bahamas and inspiring others to join the cause.



"The CSM Internship was created to inspire and equip the next generation of environmental communicators, leveraging the power of media to amplify the urgent need for conservation. Seeing Lauren and Quintez grow, not only as storytellers but as passionate advocates for our environment, has been an inspiring journey, and we cannot wait to see where their newfound skills take them next"

- Elijah Sands,
Senior Communications Officer



"After a few remarkable experiences in The Bahamas, we began searching for a deeper and more meaningful way to support The Bahamas with its beautiful underwater world, rugged landscapes, intricate bush medicine culture, and fascinating history. We are thrilled to have supported the Bahamas National Trust's first-ever Conservation Storytelling & Media Internship program offering two talented young Bahamians, the opportunity to explore their country's natural wonders while learning how to capture powerful conservation stories through creative media and communications."

-Kristin Lindblad,
Wanderlust Fund

FOSTERING FUTURE CONSERVATION LEADERS: SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

The BNT continues to nurture the next generation of environmental stewards through its transformative internship programs. Both the Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve Summer Internship and the Summer Science Internship provide young Bahamians with invaluable hands-on experiences in conservation, science, and policy, equipping them with the skills to shape the future of environmental stewardship in The Bahamas.

Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve Summer Internship: A Decade of Growth

The 2024 Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve Summer Internship welcomed three exceptional young Bahamian women—Khorī Stubbs, Amber Johnson, and Empress Sears—into its milestone 10th year. Over six weeks, these interns delved into botany and plant taxonomy. Guided by Preserve Botanist Dr. Ethan Freid, they explored Eleuthera’s unique ecosystems through fieldwork, research, and classroom learning.

This year’s interns participated in a week-long New York City exchange program with the Natural Areas Conservancy (NAC), exploring botanical gardens and other natural sites and broadening their perspectives on global conservation practices. As this report is published, the interns are completing their transformative journey, ready to carry forward the legacy of the Levy Preserve Internship Program. The program celebrated its decade of impact with a hybrid event hosted by the Leon



Levy Foundation in New York City. Current and past interns gathered to share their experiences and reflect on the program’s legacy in shaping careers in conservation.

Summer Science Internship

The 2024 Summer Science Internship brought together three promising students—Chantinae Gray, Gabrienne McIntosh, and Shawna Smith—for a month-long immersion in conservation science. From June 3rd to July 5th, these interns worked closely with the BNT Science & Policy Department, engaging in a wide range of activities designed to broaden their skills and understanding of environmental science.

The program included extensive training in organism identification, conservation technology, and geospatial mapping. Interns conducted field visits across New Providence’s national parks, including Bonefish Pond National Park, where they supported data collection efforts and observed ongoing restoration projects. They gained proficiency in drone operation and data organization, contributing to mapping projects and creating databases for tracking species like the Bahama Parrot and invasive Green Iguanas.

The interns also participated in workshops and conferences, including the SDG Workshop, the Youth Climate Conference, and the Bahama Oriole Workshop. Their exposure to conservation policy documents such as the Gap Assessments and the Protected Areas Master Plan equipped them with a comprehensive understanding of The Bahamas’ conservation landscape.

Government Summer Internship Program

The BNT also hosts a Government-Sponsored Summer Internship Program, which engages three cohorts of high school and college students annually. These interns play a key role in supporting education and outreach initiatives, assisting with park experiences, community engagement, and conservation-related projects. Through hands-on activities, they gain valuable exposure to environmental stewardship and BNT’s work in managing national parks.



INSPIRING CHANGE: REACHING THOUSANDS THROUGH EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Education and outreach remain at the heart of the BNT's mission, fostering a deep connection between Bahamians and their natural heritage. Since January 2023, our Education and Outreach programs have surpassed expectations, engaging diverse audiences across The Bahamas and empowering them to become active participants in conservation.

Through dynamic programming, we have reached over 69,000 young Bahamians, surpassing our revised 2019 - 2023 strategic plan goal of 52,000. These engagements ranged from hands-on environmental activities to immersive national park experiences, sparking curiosity and fostering stewardship among the nation's youth. From the youngest students exploring nature for the first time to high school groups delving into environmental science, these programs have made a lasting impact on participants and educators alike.

Our reach extends beyond youth, as we have engaged more than 14,000 adults through our outreach initiatives. Adults across The Bahamas have participated in workshops, park tours, and community events, strengthening their connection to national parks and building advocacy for environmental protection within their communities.

Since the start of 2023, the BNT has engaged over 200 educational groups from public and private institutions to deliver engaging and impactful programs. These partnerships have expanded our

reach, allowing us to connect with communities on every island and providing opportunities for people to experience the beauty and importance of The Bahamas' national parks.

These milestones were achieved through a flexible approach that combined in-person and virtual programming, ensuring accessibility and continuity in a post-pandemic world. From virtual presentations that brought national parks into classrooms, to hands-on, outdoor learning experiences, the BNT has adapted its methods to meet the needs of students, educators, and the general public.

The success of our education and outreach efforts speaks to the power of collaboration and community involvement. None of these achievements would have been possible without the dedication of our educators, the enthusiasm of our participants, and the unwavering support of our partners and donors. Together, we are cultivating a generation of Bahamians who understand the value of their environment, take pride in their natural heritage, and are inspired to protect it.



“Education is the foundation of conservation. By connecting people—especially young Bahamians—to the beauty and importance of our national parks, we’re inspiring a lifelong sense of stewardship and responsibility for protecting our environment. Every student, teacher, and community member we reach represents a step toward a more sustainable and empowered Bahamas.”

-Portia Sweeting,
BNT Director of Education



CONNECTING YOUTH TO NATURE: SUMMER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

The BNT continues to make meaningful strides in youth education through dynamic and interactive summer programs, introducing new initiatives while enhancing traditional favorites. The retirement of the beloved Discovery Club marked the beginning of an exciting new era for the BNT's education efforts, focused on creating fresh opportunities for children to engage with nature and explore the wonders of national parks.

In both 2023 and 2024, the BNT's annual "Summer Safari" camps brought week-long adventures to young Bahamians across Andros, Eleuthera, Grand Bahama, New Providence, and Exuma. These camps offered a unique blend of outdoor activities, field trips, interactive lessons, arts and crafts, and environmental experiences. Designed to inspire curiosity and cultivate a sense of wonder, Summer Safari allowed kids to immerse themselves in the beauty of their national parks while learning about the importance of conservation.

The summer of 2024 also saw the debut of the BNT's new "Summer Adventures" program, a fresh take on youth engagement that brought even more hands-on exploration to the forefront. Different from the traditional summer camps, Summer Adventures allowed groups to schedule customized, one-day experiences within national parks. Participants could choose between the Bush Adventure Program, focusing on terrestrial species and environments, or the Snorkelling Adventure Program, which took kids beneath the waves to discover underwater ecosystems. These tailored programs provided new ways for kids to connect with the natural world in a fun, engaging setting.

The BNT's summer programming reflects its unwavering commitment to fostering a lifelong connection to nature among young Bahamians. By engaging curious minds and sparking a passion for the environment, these initiatives are nurturing the next generation of environmental stewards.



EMPOWERING EDUCATORS TO LEAD ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING

In 2024, The Bahamas National Trust took a bold step to expand environmental education by collaborating with the Ministry of Education's Primary Science Unit to host a hybrid Professional Development Workshop for teachers. This innovative initiative engaged 540 educators from across the islands, equipping them with tools and strategies on how to use national parks as outdoor classrooms.

The workshop highlighted the value of national parks as accessible spaces that inspire creativity, curiosity, and a deeper connection with nature. By showcasing parks like The Retreat Garden and Primeval Forest in New Providence, the seminar demonstrated how outdoor environments could enhance learning across multiple subjects. Participants explored the physical and emotional benefits of nature-based learning while being introduced to practical ways to integrate outdoor experiences into their teaching.

This two-day hybrid workshop was designed to ensure accessibility, with both in-person and virtual sessions allowing teachers from islands such as Abaco, Andros, Eleuthera, Exuma, Grand



Bahama, and beyond to participate. In total, the workshop reached educators on 14 islands, fostering a national network of teachers inspired to bring environmental learning to their classrooms.

The ultimate goal of the workshop was to encourage educators to see national parks as not only teaching tools, but also vital spaces for inspiring stewardship among young Bahamians. By connecting students with the natural world, teachers can spark curiosity and instill a sense of responsibility to care for the environment.

This program is a cornerstone of the BNT's mission to empower communities through education, ensuring that the next generation of Bahamians will understand and value their natural heritage.



A UNIQUE MEDIA PARTNERSHIP TO TELL THE STORY OF BAHAMIAN NATIONAL PARKS

In July 2023, the BNT formalized a strategic partnership with Our News, a division of Cable Bahamas Ltd., to amplify awareness of Bahamian national parks and inspire environmental action. This collaboration, sealed through a memorandum of understanding (MOU), marks a transformative moment in the BNT's efforts to connect Bahamians with their natural heritage and encourage stewardship of the country's unique ecosystems.

The partnership leverages the storytelling expertise, audience reach, and production capabilities of Our News to highlight the importance of national parks and showcase the BNT's conservation efforts. Through engaging media content, the goal is to inspire pride in The Bahamas' natural resources and empower individuals to take meaningful action to protect them.

Under the partnership, Our News has committed to producing original stories that educate audiences about the value of national parks. This collaboration has already generated a series of original stories and news segments, including features on the BNT's work and the incredible biodiversity found within national parks. This includes two special episodes of "On The Record" - a popular news talk show hosted by veteran journalist Jerome Sawyer.



The first episode premiered in September 2023, and offered viewers an in-depth look at the BNT's work, with production spanning across three of New Providence's national parks and featuring interviews with key team members.

The second episode (aired in October 2024) highlighted the Moriah Harbour Cay National Park (MHCNP) in Great Exuma, showcasing its conservation and educational initiatives, as well as our partnerships with local communities to advance conservation.

Through this collaboration, the BNT aims to inspire pride in national parks, foster environmental stewardship, and encourage tangible actions that protect The Bahamas' natural beauty for generations to come.



"The story of the environment is the story of The Bahamas, and so as Bahamians, it's incumbent upon us to do everything within our power to protect the things that make The Bahamas beautiful and unique. We see this partnership as the first step on our part as an organization in helping to preserve The Bahamas; in helping to grow our tourism; but more importantly, to teach our people. Because if Bahamians don't know how to take care of The Bahamas, who will?"

-Jerome Sawyer,
Executive Producer, Our News

INVESTING IN NATURE

- OUR SUPPORTERS
- FINANCIALS



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. Whether it was making donations towards special campaigns, offering support through a grant or funded project, or in-kind contributions, the BNT was assisted by an amazing network of individuals and organisations throughout 2023 - 2024.

INDIVIDUALS

Aaron Turner
Abigayl Chea
Adam Valiani
Adoni & Karla Wells-Lisgaris
Alan Keough
Alastair Cole
Alden Spencer
Alejandra A Rosete
Alexander & Jennifer Alexiou
Alexander Ruger
Alexandra Rodriguez
Alisa Streather-Robinson
Alison Ball
Allison Macpherson
Alphonzo Munnings
Amanda Lindroth
Amanda Martin
Anastasia Fra
Andre Cartwright
Andrea Rojas
Andrew & Susan Allen
Andrew & Melissa Alexiou
Andrew Jarmolkiewicz
Andrew O'Brien
Andrew Patridge
Andrew Sheridan
Andrey Schelkunov
Ann Borkenstein
Ann Marie Davis
Annamaria Garraway
Anne Lever
Anne Shean
Anne St. John
Anselm Chea
Anthony Cartwright
Antoinette Glinton
Arlene Simmons
Armin Keidel
Arthur & Jennifer Wirtz
Ashley Bowers
Ashley Murphy
Autumn Costelle
Barry & Nicole Packington
Barry Newman
Benny & Lisa Popek
Beryl King
Beth & Pat Winkler
Beverley Lucken
Bob & Ann Snider
Bob & Jeanne Coughlin
Breanne Klockzien
Brenda Rouse
Brendan & Marsha McCarthy

Brendan Ercole Cole
Brent Burrows
Brent & Robin Symonette
Brian Correll
Brittany Alexandra Rolle
Brittney Culmer
Brock & Annabel Cole
Bruce Gibson & Phyllis Adams
Bruce Hopper
C.V. Truitt Thompson
Cadrington Coleby
Callum Pritchard
Cameron Louis
Cambren David
Camille Darville Gomez
Carl Allen
Carmen Williams
Carole Pennington
Caroline Ann Ackers
Caroline Spott
Catherine Hazlewood
Cerone Ramsey
Charles Moore & Michele Ross
Charmaine Francis
Charmaine Albury
Chester & Donna Blaszcak
Chris Amour
Chris Blankenship
Chris Hansen
Chris Massey
Chris Stafford
Christine Cassel
Christine Rodway
Christopher & Anastasia Francis
Christopher & Amy Thronebury
Christopher & Lesley Spencer
Christopher & Suzanne Baker
Christopher E. Lightbourn
Chuck & Karen Tennessen
Claire Solomon
Clarice V. Campbell
Clarke Freise
Cleotha Charlton
Clifford Fernander
Clifford Rhoades
Colby Martin
Coolidge Cartwright
Corinne Laville
Craig Johnson
Crystal Brown
Cynthia Elden
Dana & Sandra Wells
Danella Bain
Daniel Kiefer
Daniel Leach-Canibano

David & Mary Pearce
David Allen
David & Beryl N. Sheasby
David & Fiona Lincoln
David & Maria Warren
David & Mary Butler
David & Patricia N. Hughes
David Demarco
David Disiere
David Laughlin
David Schwedel
David Van Sickle
David Wolf
Dean Simon
Deandra Cartwright
Dee Witney
Delroy & Deborah Mortimer
Dennis Patti
Diana Valerie Gray
Dilys Anderson
Donald & Susan Boulanger
Donald & Deborah Tomlinson
Dorelle Marshall
Dory & Stacy Womack
Dr. Michael Freifeld & Dr. Amanda Pinder
Dr. Ruedeger Schlaga & Gisela Stang
Dr. Sophia Rolle
Dr. Van de Goor
Edmund L. Rahming
Eileen Buzy
Elaine Powers
Elijah Mandella Sands
Elizabeth Bruning
Elizabeth Scarfato
Emily Lowe
Emmalynn Singleton
Erica Reckley
Eric & Charlene Carey
Eric Brinsfield
Fallon Bethel
Falon Cartwright
Frank J. Crothers
Fred & Ruth Seifert
Fred & Martha Levert
G. Ferraiuolo
Gary Sands
Geoff & Lynne Andrews
Geoffrey Treco & Debra Nixon
Gerald Martin
Gerald McMillen
Gerrad Beukes
Gil Williams
Glinton Sweeting O'Brien

Godfrey Kelly, CMG
Gordon Keenan
Gordon Tomlins
Gore Flynn & Beth Stevens
Grace Treco
Guion Brennen
Hannah Miller
Hazel Stirling
Heather Peterson
Helen Kavelas
Helena Hermes
Herman & Adele Vandenburg
Hilary Birch
Howard Turrentine
Hugh Balloch
Iain Liles
Ian & Keiko Fleming
Ian & Pam Shilstone
Ian Torrie
International Field Studies
James & Angela Wiggins
James & Coretta Owen
James Chu
James S. Roberts
James Stevenson
Jamie Taylor
Jane Ruthe
Janene Roessler
Janet Bausch
Janet L.R. (Lisa) Bostwick & Brent Dean
Janet Fountain
Janet Watts
Janica Mast
Janice Peterson
Jason Callendar
Jason Macleod
Jason Spitz
Jean Paul Michielsen
Jeffrey Gabor
Jeffrey knowles
Jenna Chaplin
Jensen & Anne Farquharson
Jenyne Roberts
Jerda Smeltzer
Jerome & Janette Cartwright
Jerry Zhang
Jess Kirby
Jessie Moxey
Jianli Chu
Jim Doramus
Jim Pallotta
Jinhee Magie
Joanne McPike
Joanne Smith
Joe Blow
Joe Grote
Joe Kujawski
John & Debbie Thompson
John & Inga Johnson
John & Jennifer Hallett
John B Pohle
John Cahill
John Fielding

John Lawrence
John Madsen
John MCcrary
John Stolz
Jonathan Hope & Cristiane De Silva
Miranda
Joseph Curry
Josh Pedroza
Joshua Roberts
Judith & Norman Reiach
Julia Brown
Julie Kinamore
June A. Collie
June Collie
Kamella Boullé
Karen Aten
Karen Estella Smith
Karin L. Sanchez
Kate Jones
Katherine Donald
Katherine Weech
Kathryn Callahan
Kathy Kuriger
Kathy Pollard
Keith C. Bligh
Kele Isaacs
Kelley Bostwick-Toote & Godfrey Toote
Kelli Sadowski
Ken Wilkerson
Kenneth & Leslie Herd
Kenneth & Patricia Rodgers
Kenwood Kerr
Kevin & C Carolyn Cartwright
Kevin Sulewski
Kevin W McPadden
Khrystle Ferguson
Kim Chapman
Kim Mcardle
Kimone White
Kris Hearst
Kristen Levendusky
Kristofer Lehmkuhl
Kyle Albury
Lamar Pinder
Lanson & Patrice Munroe
Larry & Colleen Lewis
Larry D. Graham
Larry Wilson
Lashae Anderson
Lashanti D. Jupp
Latonia Symonette-Tinker
Laura Jones
Lauren Brush
Lauren Cohen
Lauren Evans
Lawrence Ainslie
Lawrence Wilson
Leanne Mertz
Lee McCoy
Leigh Spangler
Leo Schlinkert
Leslye & Rochelle Cleare
Levar & Owahteeka Fox

Lillian A. Russell
Lillian Ball
Linda Brown
Linda Stauffer
Linda Turtle
Lindsay Mulock
Lindsey & Lesley Cancino
Lisa Nicol
Lizbeth Miron
Lori Lowe
Lydia Cooke
Lydia Holland
Lynden Sands
Lynn Moren
Lynn Scott
Manica Saunders
Maragarat Schneider
Marco & Tatiana Montanari
Marcus & Patrice Laing
Marcus Cheetham & Candi Knowles
Margaret A. Butler
Mari Beth Matthews
Mario Albek
Margaret & Matthew Balitsaris
Mark Robson
Mark Sully
Marketa Jonas-Magy
Martha Cartwright
Martha Scott
Martha Wohlford
Martin & Maureen Robinson
Martin Solomon
Marvin & Zelia Bethell
Mary E. Howard
Mary Jacak
Matt Homolka
Matt Stokfisz
Matthew & Ellen Griffin
Matthew Watson
Matthieu Hoopes
Maxine Prendergast
Melanie Fleischmann
Meredith Turner
Miah Sears
Micah Holzbauer
Michael & Pandora Knowles
Michael Bruce & Beth Nottage
Michael Buckley
Michael Chappell
Michael Gill
Michael Niehans
Michelle Lakin-Hope
Michelle Roberts
Michelle Thompson
Michelle Symonette
Mick Beckstrom
Mike Mills
Mischa Lockhart
Missy Middleton & Rick Balser
Monalisa Hanna
Nadene Charlton
Naisha Russell & Ronald Roberts
Nancy Krtek

Natalie Hodges
Natasha Campbell
Neil & Samantha Davis
Neill & Lynn Pritchard
Nichole Gudeit
Nick Ivanoff
Nicki Jordan
Nicole Sweeting-Bain
Nikki Layton
Olivia Fisher Orr
Paco Nunez & Katherine Davies
Pamela Kirschke
Paul & Miriam Clarke
Paul McGreevy
Paula Adams
Penelope Smith
Percival & Yvonne Knowles
Peter & Nina Haan
Peter & Alisa Kuhn
Peter & Irene Goudie
Peter & Pippa Vlasov
Peter Cohen
Peter G. Matthews
Peter & Islee Muscroft
Peter Hulm & Nikki Meith
Phillip & Nicolette Sughrue
Phillip E. Figdore
Phylese Hanna
Pierre & Guenette Bradley
Pierrette Kiedrowski
Portia Colebrooke
Quinn O'Brien
R. Laurence Davis
Rachel Nordgren
Radeen Cochran
Rahul Chakraborty & Patricia Leacock
Raul Chelsea
Raymond Cass
Red & Niekia Horton
Regina Patton
Reo Horton
Riad El Aichar
Richard Oppenheimer
Richard Russell
Richard Cohen & Pamela Hattem
Robert & Lisa Spatt
Robert & Deborah Lotmore
Robert & Jill Evans
Robert & Tabitha Nabb
Robert Biernbaum
Robert Christie
Robert Diver
Robert Falls
Robert Martyn
Robert Mersereau
Robert Nelson
Robin & Andrea Brownrigg
Robin T. Cates
Robyn Joiner
Rocco LaSorsa
Rodney & Beverly Hilton
Rosemarie Gnam
Ross Jordan

Ross McGreevy
Rudolph Sawyer
Russell Kerr
Ruth Pamela Reid
Ruth Roberts
Sam Poole
Samantha Allen
Sara Farrington
Sara Gordon
Sarah Lobosky
Scott & Victoria Thompson
Scott Blubaugh
Scott Goren
Scott Mayhue
Scott Sherouse
Scott Straub
Selina Archer
Shaddia Smith
Shane Baker
Shannon Lee
Sharon Kirchner
Shaun Baummer
Shirley Cartwright
Shona Louise Lawson
Sidney & Ann Marie Maddock
Simon Assaad
Sonja Lunn
Sophia Cartwright
Sophia Nixon
Sophia Thompson-Williams
Sophie Cole-Heirgeneorff
Stanford Moore
Stephanie Murray
Steve & Lynn Plumb
Steve Harrington
Steven & Heather Oxley
Steven & Tabitha Tyler
Steven Evans
Stewart Miller
Susan Chitwood
Susan Kimball
Suzanne Baker
Suzi Lustgarten
Sven Off & Kristin Lindblad
Sylvia Russell-Mitchell
Tadashi Arisaka
Tamara Duncombe
Tameka Lightbourne
Tanya Gilbert
Tanya Simmons
Tanya Wolff
Tanya Woodside
Teresa Bingham
Teresa Butler
Terez Conliffe
Teshon Adderley
Tessa Adderley
Terrance Rolle & Lakeshia Anderson-
Rolle
Theone Douglas
Thomas & Ruth Chapman
Thomas Stark
Thomas Wadsworth

Tiffany Norris-Pilcher
Timothy Shih
T'Noya Thompson
Tom & Dana Talkington
Tony Hynes
Troy Anthony Dexter
Vaughn Minnis
Victoria Ainslie
Violet Goens
Virginia Preuss
William Hudek
William Mackin
Williard Patton Preschool
Zachary Lyons
Zavier Joseph-Smith
Zelia Bethel

FOUNDATIONS:

American Bird Conservancy
Aqualia International Foundation
Atlantis Blue Project
Baha Mar Foundation
Bahamas Protected Area Fund
Birds Caribbean
Bloomberg Philanthropy Advisors
Blue Dawn Foundation
Bob & Jeanne Coughlin Fund
Bonefish Tarpon Trust
British High Commission
Conservation International - Blue Nature
Alliance
Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund
Exuma Foundation of Canada
Global Environment Facility
Greater Cincinnati Fund
Inter-American Development Bank
International Conservation Fund for
Canada
Investindustrial Foundation
Jon Marsa Trustee
Leon Levy Foundation
Lyford Cay Charitable Trust
Moore Bahamas Foundation
Moore Charitable Foundation
MPA Connect
National Audobon Society
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
Re:wild
Richard Schneider Trust
Rotary Club of East Nassau
Sandals Foundation
Sean Connery Foundation
South Bar Community
Stills Point Charitable Gift Fund
The Bacon Foundation
The Bob & Jeanne Coughlin Foundation
The Biodiversity & Protected Areas
Management Programme
The Blackbaud Giving Fund
The Chancellors Group
The Estate of Godfrey Kelly
The Moore Bahamas Foundation

The Nature Conservancy
The New York Community Trust
The Pew Charitable Trusts
The Tang Family Foundation
The Walton Family/The Builders
Initiative
United National Environment Project
USAID
Wanderlust Fund
Windermere Island Foundation

COMPANIES:

Abaco Beach Club & Resort
Aliv
Allen Exploration
Amazon Smiles
Asa H. Pritchard
Atlantis
Auto Mall
Baha Mar Resorts
Bahamas Ferries
Bahamas First
Bahamas Freight Logistics
Bahamas Game Network
Bahamas Waste
Bahamas Wholesale Agencies
Bahamian Brewery & Beverage Co.
Bell Island
Blanco Bleach
Bristol Wines and Spirits
Britannia Drug Company
BTC
Callenders Realty
Caribbean Bottling Company
Caribbean Wines & Spirits
Carpet World
CBS Bahamas
Coffee Cay (Starbucks)
Comfort Suites
Commonwealth Bank
Commonwealth Brewery Ltd.
Custom Computers
d'Albenas Agency
Doctor's Hospital
Duty Free Caribbean (Bahamas)
EAB Services Limited
EY
Family Guardian Insurance
Glinton Sweeting O'Brien
Graham Thompson
Grand Bahama Port Authority
Harry B Sands Lobosky
HLB Bahamas
Indigo Island
J.S. Johnson Insurance
Jimmy's Wines & Spirits
John Bull
Kamalame Cay
Kelly's Lumber
Kidney Centre Limited
Leisure Travel & Tours
Lindblad Maritime

Lombard Odier & Cie
Louis Vuitton Moet Hennessey
(LVMH)
Maillis Law
Mandara Spa (Bahamas) Limited
Marine Data Solutions
Marlin Capital Partners
Media Enterprises
Mirage Cleaning
Nassau Motor Company
New Providence Ecology Park
Ocean Club Estates - HOA
Ocean Club Residences
Octogon Fund
Odyssey Aviation
Pieces of 8 Tours
Pinder's Custom Brokerage
Purity Bakery
RBC Capital Markets
RBC Global Citizens
RF Bank & Trust
Sanddollar (Central Bank)
Sandyport Development Company
Scott's Media House
Securites Commission of the
Bahamas
Service Electric Ltd.
Serv Tech Builders Limited
Sev Consulting Group
Simplified Lending
Sotheby's Damianos International
Summit Developers
Summit Insurance
Sterling Global Financial
Stuart Cove's Dive Bahamas
Sun Oil
Sysco Bahamas Food Services
The Bridge Authority
The Cove Eleuthera
The Nassau Garden Club
The Paint Place
West Bay Advisors
Zamar Group
360 Bahamas Ltd.

THE BAHAMAS
GOVERNMENT:

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



STEWARDING THE “JEWEL” OF EXUMA - SHAPING THE FUTURE OF MORIAH HARBOUR CAY NATIONAL PARK

Protecting thousands of acres of beaches, sand dunes, blue holes, coral reefs, mangrove creeks, and other sensitive and vital ecosystems, Moriah Harbour Cay National Park (MHCNP) in Great Exuma certainly stands out within The Bahamas’ national park system.

The park’s undeniable beauty and ecological importance captured the hearts of Bob and Jeanne Coughlin, of the Bob and Jeanne Coughlin Foundation, who have been steadfast supporters since 2021. Over the past four years, their philanthropy has contributed more than \$1 million to the park’s advancement, supporting key programs, personnel, and equipment to enhance the park’s protection and accessibility. Their generosity has earned them the title of true “Friends of Moriah Harbour Cay National Park,” recognizing them for their outstanding long-term partnership with the BNT and their demonstrated love, appreciation, and support for The Bahamas’ environment, culture, and heritage.

In April 2023, we selected Moriah Harbour Cay National Park to be the dedicated cause of our annual Cuban Pig Roast Fundraiser. Specifically, all funds raised were to contribute to the development of a Welcome Centre on the MHCNP. The Coughlins’ anchor pledge of \$50,000 at this event delivered a vital jumpstart for this critical fundraising initiative.



Some of the advancements we’ve been able to achieve thanks to The Coughlins’ philanthropic support includes:

- Hiring of key personnel to increase enforcement, education, science, and management capabilities
- Raising more than \$150,000 towards the future sustainable development of a much-needed Welcome Centre, which will be a hub of activity and base for park operations
- Installation of overnight moorings, in collaboration with the Elizabeth Harbour Conservation Partnership (EHCP), to protect fragile reef and seagrass habitats
- The advancement of science and conservation priority programs for species like the Queen Conch and the Central Bahamian Rock Iguana
- The advancement of the Oral History Project, which tells the story of historic resource use by communities surrounding Moriah Harbour Cay and was previewed at Pig Roast 2023
- The development of a zoning plan to guide community use of the MHCNP, which has been prioritized for completion

In addition to its role as a sanctuary for biodiversity, the Moriah Harbour Cay National Park offers incredible recreational opportunities – from snorkeling, kayaking, and kiteboarding, to bonefishing, hiking, and photography. It also historically supports local traditions like farming, fishing, and harvesting palm tops for the straw industry. The BNT’s vision for the MHCNP is to shape it into a model for community-based conservation benefitting local Exumians and The Bahamas as a whole. We continue to steward this national park, with the help of generous donors and partners like the Bob & Jeanne Coughlin Foundation - advancing it towards a future of sustainability, accessibility, and educational and economic opportunities.



“My wife and I care deeply about conservation as The Bahamas experiences rapid growth, and we have an opportunity with the activation of Moriah Harbour Cay National Park to preserve and teach for future generations. It’s a special place. We are committed to protecting it and continuing to assist in stewarding it towards its full potential as a natural resource that serves the local community.”

-Bob Coughlin,
he Bob & Jeanne Coughlin Foundation, philanthropic donor, co-founder of Friends of Exuma

MEMBERSHIP: A GROWING COMMUNITY OF CONSERVATION STEWARDS

The BNT is proud to celebrate the strength and growth of its membership community, which forms the backbone of our efforts to protect and manage the country's national parks. As of June 2024, our community has a total of 1,600 memberships across various categories, each contributing to our shared mission of conservation and stewardship.

This includes 735 family memberships, each covering up to four individuals, and 689 individual memberships, with a total of 293 lifetime memberships among them—a true testament to the enduring commitment of our supporters. Additionally, the Support Fleet Network, a unique community of boating enthusiasts dedicated to protecting marine parks, has expanded to include 176 vessels, highlighting their critical role in safeguarding The Bahamas' marine ecosystems.

The continued growth of our membership reflects the success of initiatives like the "National Parks, Bahamian Pride" campaign, which inspired individuals to see national parks as intrinsic to Bahamian identity. Events such as Wine & Art, Jollification, and National Parks Day also provided platforms for engagement, education, and new memberships.

Memberships are more than numbers—they represent a collective dedication to safeguarding The Bahamas' biodiversity, from pristine coral reefs to ancient pine forests. As we look to the future, we remain focused on expanding our reach and engaging with even more individuals and communities. With the continued support of our members, the BNT will persist in its mission to ensure that The Bahamas remains a beacon of natural beauty and biodiversity.

Thank you to all our members—your commitment drives our success and strengthens the impact of conservation in The Bahamas.

BNT MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

593
SINGLE

538
FAMILY

176
SUPPORT FLEET

293
LIFETIME

ANSWERING THE CALL: VOLUNTEERS ABOARD THE M/Y ADLER MAKE WAVES IN THE ECLSP

The Exuma Cays Land & Sea Park (ECLSP) is a crown jewel of The Bahamas' national park system, drawing visitors from around the world to its turquoise waters and vibrant biodiversity. While its remote beauty makes it a favorite among boaters, it also presents unique challenges for upkeep and conservation. That's where dedicated volunteers, like the crew and owner of the Motoryacht (M/Y) Adler, step in to make a difference.

For over 30 years, the M/Y Adler has been a loyal visitor to the ECLSP, even joining the prestigious "Special Friends of the ECLSP" Wall at Warderick Wells, which recognizes supporters who have donated \$1,000 or more to the park. Recently, Captain David Johnson, crew members Michael Francis, Andreas Kraus, and Zane Colebroke, and the yacht's owner have turned their visits into coordinated cleanup missions, tackling the growing issue of plastic waste on the park's windward beaches.

Recognizing the challenge of frequent storms pulling accumulated waste back into the sea, the Adler team didn't stop at beach cleanups—they committed to removing debris entirely. Their



efforts in 2023 alone have resulted in the removal of over 30 large bags of plastic waste, collected during multiple trips and properly disposed of in New Providence with help from the Lyford Cay Marina and the Norman's Cay Marina. On their most recent mission, the team spent three days clearing trash from Hawksbill Cay, hauling away 15 additional bags of debris. The BNT is immensely grateful for volunteers like the crew of the M/Y Adler, whose dedication exemplifies the power of collective action in protecting The Bahamas' most treasured spaces. Their work serves as a reminder that anyone can play a role in preserving these natural resources for future generations.



"The leadership and drive to clean up the beaches in the park begin with the yacht owner. He enjoys exploring the cays by land and sea and has been visiting the ECLSP on a regular basis for over 40 years. Without his interest and support, none of our cleanup efforts would have been possible. We hope our efforts will in some way inspire others to 'answer the call' and support the BNT and their efforts to protect the natural beauty of the ECLSP."

-Captain Johnson,
M/Y Adler

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT



\$9.9M
INCOME

\$6.7M
ADMINISTRATIVE
EXPENSES

\$2.4M
PROGRAM
EXPENSES

\$2.2M
CAPITAL
EXPENDITURES

INCOME

Donations	\$	2,633,201
Government Grants	\$	2,250,000
Non-Profit Grants	\$	2,046,861
Park Fees	\$	1,758,288
Special Events	\$	593,442
Other Income	\$	368,719
Retail Sales	\$	172,615
Memberships	\$	125,157
Educational Programs	\$	5,760
		\$ 9,954,043

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Salaries & Benefits	\$	4,461,670
Fundraising	\$	290,219
Project Management	\$	1,491,589
Depreciation & Amoritization	\$	471,358
		\$ 6,714,835

PROGRAM EXPENSES

Program Costs	\$	102,763
Operations Costs	\$	2,356,524
		\$ 2,459,287

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

		\$ 2,255,930

OUR PEOPLE

#WEAREBNT



CONSERVATION WARRIORS

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!



The BNT's Education Department participated in a transformative six-day exchange with the US National Park Service (NPS), visiting Everglades, Big Cypress, and Biscayne National Parks in South Florida. The team explored education, interpretation, and volunteer program strategies while gaining valuable insights into park infrastructure and ecological practices. This exchange, supported by the Bahamas Ministry of Education's "Education Good Practice Award," strengthened the BNT's commitment to innovation in environmental education and highlighted the benefits of its long-standing partnership with the NPS.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP

Lakeshia Anderson-Rolle
Ellsworth Weir
Anna Bancroft
Falon Cartwright
Kendyce Ferguson
Portia Sweeting

NEW PROVIDENCE

Alyssa Bastian
Princia Bethel
Daphne Brooks
Demonica Brown
Trevor Burgzorg
Deion Burrows
Chareece Butler-Porter
Leah Carr
Jonisha Cartwright
Justin Cartwright
Tiffany Cash
Christen Charlton
William Clarke
Melanese Coakley-McKenzie
Chantal Curtis
Kisstell Darling
Ancilleno Davis, PhD
Shaunna Dawkins
David Dean
Kristen Dean
Zaria Dean
Giselle Deane
Tisha Dolce
Lynn Gape
Monique Gibson
Shane Grant
Shanika Gray
Joshua Haeward II
Kizzia Hanchell
Regina Hepburn
Aaron John
Garth Jackson
Aaron John
Janeczka Johnson
Kimberly Knowles
Lindy Knowles
Felice Major
Ryan McCartney
Summer McCartney

Executive Director
Director of Parks
Director of Development & Communication*
Director of Science & Policy
Director Of Finance & Grants
Director of Education & Outreach

Parks Planner
Donor Relations Officer*
Bookkeeper
Science Officer*
Finance Manager
Education Officer
Operations Officer III
Communications Officer
Membership Officer*
Operations IT Officer*
Custodian*
Human Resources Manager
Messenger/Handyman
Executive Assistant
NP Parks Manager and Parks Planner
Accounts Officer I
Senior Scientist and Policy Analyst*
Executive Assistant*
Retreat Attendant*
Human Resources Officer II*
Web Graphics Officer
Senior Science Officer
Junior Bookkeeper
Special Projects Consultant
Operations Officer*
Security Officer
Custodian/Messenger
Web Designer
Human Resources Clerk*
Assistant Parks Planner
Education Officer
Outreach Officer
Education Officer III*
Retreat Curator
Development Officer
Senior Science Officer
Project Manager
Park Warden*
Human Resources Officer I

Robert McCoy

Gloria Miller
Audie Morley
Jenny Morris
Ashley Moss
Sheneil Moss
Juanita Munroe
Daavia Nesbitt
Tika Penn
Brandon Pratt
Gammell Rahming-Deal

Acacia Rolle
Anwar Rolle
Gregory Rolle
Marvon Rolle
Elijah Sands
Shawn Saunders
Alera Smith
Vernal Smith
Abdul Strachan
Jewel Thompson-Beneby
De'Shanna Williams
Michel Zonicle

ABACO

Marcus Davis
David Knowles
Devonte McKinney
Arthur Williams

ANDROS

Lehron Rolle
Stephen Smith

ELEUTHERA

Lakeisha Campbell
Tameko Coakley
Lakeshia Culmer

Tiajia Culmer

Frederick Deleveaux
Hermame Exament
Jason Forbes
Ethan Freid, PhD
Bria Johnson

Park Infrastructure & Maintenance Officer
Senior Education Officer*
Deputy Park Warden
Science Officer*
Operations Assistant
Gift Shop Attendant
Senior Gift Shop Associate
Science Officer
Education Projects Coordinator
Retreat Attendant
Senior Government Relations & Policy Advisor
Membership Officer*
Park Warden
Security Guard
Naturalist
Senior Communications Officer
Education Officer
Operations Officer II
Security Officer
Security Guard*
Science Officer*
Accounts Officer*
Office Receptionist*

Park Warden
Chief Park Warden
Deputy Park Warden
Deputy Park Warden

Deputy Park Warden
Park Warden

Preserve Manager
Preserve Attendant*
Visitor Services & Membership Assistant*
Visitor Services & Membership Assistant*
Preserve Attendant
Maintenance Supervisor
Preserve Attendant*
Botanist
Preserve Manager*

Lorenzo Knowles
Kirknell McCartney
Jason Moxey
Devonte Rahming
Philica Sands
Dustin Stubbs

EXUMA CAYS

Cherry Elliott-Rolle

Andre McCartney
Preston McKenzie
Eljin Morrison
Onelle Pugh
Bradley Rutherford

GREAT EXUMA

Catherine Booker
Bradley Charlton Jr.
Kristian Moree
Felicia Rolle

GRAND BAHAMA

Anne-Marie Carroll
David Clare II
David Cooper
Dani-el Hanna
Joanna Louis-Parker
Julian Moss
Bradley Pinder
Ellsworth Weir
Lisa Wildgoose

INAGUA

Randolph Burrows
Sydney Delancy Jr.
Henry Nixon

LONG ISLAND

Felice Major
Kim Roberts

**Indicates that the individual is no longer serving the organization as of year-end 2024.*

Preserve Attendant
Administrative Assistant
Preserve Attendant
Retreat Attendant
Preserve Attendant*
Retreat Attendant

Exuma Cays Land & Sea Park
Office Administrator
Deputy Park Warden
Park Maintenance Officer
Deputy Park Warden
Park Warden
Exuma Cays Land & Sea Park Manager

Exuma Programme Coordinator
Deputy Park Warden
Science Officer*
Education & Outreach Officer

Education Officer *
Deputy Park Warden
Deputy Park Warden
Education Officer
Grand Bahama Parks Manager
Caretaker & Security Guard
Deputy Park Warden
Grand Bahama Parks Manager
Rand Nature Center Officer
Administrator

Senior Park Warden
Deputy Park Warden
Senior Park Warden*

Project Manager*
Grants Officer

NATIONAL COUNCIL

JANUARY 2023 - JUNE 2024

TRUST COUNCIL:

Geoffrey Andrews	President, Elected Member
Joanne Smith	Deputy President, Elected Member
Ashley Sturrupe	Honorary Secretary, Appointed Member, Ministry of Education
Gavin Watchhorn	Honorary Treasurer, Appointed Member
Marvin Arrington	Elected Member
Glenn V. Bannister	Elected Member
Kevin Cartwright	Elected Member
Hank Ferguson	Elected Member
Marcus Laing	Elected Member
Edward Carter	Elected Member
Neil McKinney	Elected Member
Karin Sanchez	Elected Member
Gary Sands	Elected Member
Devon Peet	Elected Member
Naisha Robert	Elected Member
Stacey Wells Moultrie	Elected Member
Tanya Woodside	Elected Member
Christina Davis-Justin	Appointed Member, Governor General
Holly Peel	Appointed Member, Governor General
Janyne Hodder	Appointed Member, President of University of The Bahamas
Rhianna Neely, PhD	Appointed Member, Ministry of Environment
Gregory Bethel	Appointed Member, Ministry of Agriculture & Marine Resources
Kenneth Romer, PhD	Appointed Member, Ministry of Tourism
Meredith Ross	Appointed Member, Leon Levy Foundation
Barney Long	Appointed Member, Re:wild
Aurelio Ramos	Appointed Member, National Audubon Society
Karen Bjorndal, PhD	Appointed Member, University of Florida
Anna Porzecanski	American Museum of Natural History
Pamela Reid, PhD	Appointed Member, University of Miami
Christopher Hughes	Appointed Member, US National Park Service

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORS:

Dan Brumbaugh, PhD	Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
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PAST PRESIDENTS:

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

IN MEMORIAM

The BNT has had to mourn the passing of several great friends. These people are esteemed for their contributions to The Bahamas, their passion for the environment, and their steadfast support of the BNT during their lifetimes. Together, we remember their legacies.

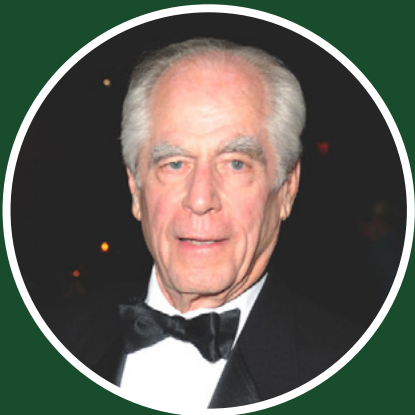


Dr. Paul De Luca
Entomologist, Naturalist, Friend
1971-2023

Dr. Paul De Luca was a cherished friend of The Bahamas, The Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve, and The Bahamas National Trust. He was a lecturer at the University of The Bahamas, and loved teaching and sharing his knowledge about insects with students and colleagues alike.

Dr. De Luca was intimately involved in the development of the Levy Preserve from its inception in 2009, assisting with the advancement of the Science and Conservation Program. He served as a mentor for many young Bahamian naturalists. His work at The Preserve led to the recent discovery of a new species of katydid, called *Erechthes levyii*.

Dr. De Luca loved The Bahamas and was most in his element when outside wandering and looking for bugs. His intellect, counsel, and passion for nature and biology will be missed by all who knew him. The BNT extends sincere condolences to his wife Dr. Kristen Brochu, his family, friends, colleagues, and students.



G. Carlton Ray
Founding Member of The Bahamas National Trust
August 15, 1928 – December 14, 2023

Dr. G. Carlton Ray was the last living founding member of The Bahamas National Trust. As the leader of the Exuma Cays Expedition, he along with other notable members of that initiative were responsible for the creation of the Exuma Cays Land & Sea Park: the first land and sea park in the world and The Bahamas' very first national park.

Dr. Ray spent the latter part of his five-decade career as Research Faculty at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville. He remained an active and interested member of the BNT, attending the organisation's 60th Anniversary celebrations and speaking of its inception at the first Bahamas Natural History Conference.

Most recently, Carlton and his wife and colleague Jerry McCormick-Ray were revising the textbook Coastal-Marine Conservation: Science and Policy (Ray and McCormick-Ray, Wiley-Blackwell 2004). This emphasis on marine conservation education had become his highest priority.

Dr. Ray considered the creation of The Bahamas National Trust and the Exuma Cays Land & Sea Park two of his outstanding conservation achievements – and so do we. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and widow, Gerry. We will miss him.

WAYS TO GIVE

Everything we achieved in 2022 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.

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.

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.

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.

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!

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. A copy of the report may be obtained by writing.

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THE JEWEL OF THE
bahamas
now &
tomorrow



@bahamasnationaltrust
#exploreyourpark
www.bnt.bs

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Cover Photo: Kayakers exploring the tranquil waters of Bonefish Pond
National Park - a haven for nature and discovery.

