

# SAVE THE BAYS Gazette

FALL/WINTER 2020



COALITION TO PROTECT CLIFTON BAY

[www.savethebays.online](http://www.savethebays.online)



AND JUST LIKE THAT . . .

...it could all  
be gone!



Oil Drilling In The Bahamas | Dorian Relief and Recovery Efforts | Climate Change | Rising Sea Levels Concerns

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**PAGE 2.** THE DATES THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

**PAGE 3.** SAVE THE BAYS & WATERKEEPERS BAHAMAS HIGHLIGHTS

**PAGE 4.** SAVE THE BAYS DIRECTOR'S FOUNDATION FULFILLS \$1 MILLION DORIAN RELIEF PLEDGE

**PAGE 6.** SAVE THE BAYS' CHAIRMAN THANKS NEIGHBORING FLORIDA FOR SUPPORT

**PAGE 10.** SEA LEVEL RISE THREAT TO 15% OF BAHAMAS' GDP

**PAGE 12.** OIL ILLUSIONS COMPETE WITH RISING SEA LEVEL FACTS

**PAGE 15.** FREEPORT'S BLUE ACTION LAB WINS INTERNATIONAL PRIZE FOR BLUE ECONOMIC INNOVATION

**PAGE 16.** SAVE THE BAYS AND WATERKEEPERS BAHAMAS RISE TO THE OCCASION OF DORIAN DISASTER

**PAGE 19.** THE ART OF REBUILDING

## September 2019 - December 2019

- Hurricane Dorian immediate response and Monitoring
- Equinor oil spill discovery and plan of action
- Waterkeeper Alliance rapid response team visits GB to assist with Equinor Spill monitoring and training exercise
- WKB teams up with Waves for Water to construct Rainwater Catchment systems for hurricane-hit home for aged and homeless
- Rashema Ingraham named one of Bahamas' 40 under 40
- Joseph Darville receives Lifetime Achievement Award from Driftwood Association Bahamas
- STB participates in huge Nile River clean up while attending Waterkeeper Alliance International Regional Summit in Nairobi, Kenya
- WKB and International region participates in cluster training in Kismu, Kenya on Plastics as part of grant from Nat Geo
- Joseph Darville supports Climate Action Day
- WKB introduces kayak style to Canal Clean Sweep
- WKB, Beauty By Harper and Waves for Water supports Lewis Yard Primary Day of the Girl with KFB Concierge Services

## January 2020 - December 2020

- WKB launches "Book a Speaker" initiative
- Rashema Ingraham presents to GB Principals and Vice Principals Association on need to participate in community projects
- Activists joined by Robert Kennedy call on Disney to help create "sustainable alternative" to private port
- WKB makes courtesy call on Mercy Corps satellite Reverse Osmosis water station on GB
- STB starts YEA program with focus on mangroves and coral reef ecosystems
- WKB water monitoring efforts highlighted during Exhibition at UB North Conference
- STB and WKB continue to monitor wetlands and terrestrial areas affected by Equinor spill
- WKB joins with BREEF to launch Our Islands Our Future campaign to stop oil drilling in bahamian waters attracting over 150 local and international business and NGOs
- STB & WKB call for immediate action after reports of indiscriminate dumping in pine forest on GB that contained gallons of used oil
- STB & WKB begin major clean up with its canal clean sweep at Port of Call canal
- STB & WKB make JR application to stop oil drilling
- PM Minnis says NO to oil drilling in Bahamas, "but hands tied".
- STB stages demonstration at Freeport Harbour anticipating arrival of Stena IceMax



# The Freeport News

GRAND BAHAMA'S FIRST NEWSPAPER EST. 1961

## 10 Grand Bahamians selected for '40 Under 40'



Rashema Ingraham, Executive Director of Waterkeepers Bahamas made the list of the 10 Grand Bahamians selected for '40 Under 40' Award.

40 UNDER 40 SERVICE - In photo from top left Aryana Joy Roberts, Gayla McPhee, Glennette R. Fowler, Delano Arthur, Shan N. Elliot. From bottom left Rashema Ingraham, Shasheena Rolle-Farquharson, Talia Wildgoose-Davis and Raymond L. Jones III



Monthly Canal Clean Sweep- Save The Bays in partnership with Waterkeepers Bahamas patrols Grand Bahama waterways monitoring, collecting debris and gathering information regarding pollutants and derelict vessels.



# HIGHLIGHTS



Waterkeeper groups participate in a community clean-up during our International Region Summit in Nairobi, Kenya.

## Activist Calling On Disney To Help Create 'Sustainable Alternative' To Private Port



Robert F. Kennedy, Waterkeeper Alliance President. Photo: Shawn Hanna/Tribune Staff



Save The Bays challenges oil drilling plan in the courts

# Save The Bays Director's Charity Group Fulfills \$1 Million Dorian Relief Pledge

**B**ahamas affiliate of Louis Bacon's Moore Charitable Foundation issues fourth installment of humanitarian relief.

The Moore Bahamas Foundation ("Moore Bahamas") in December 2019 announced its fourth and final \$300,000 grant for Hurricane Dorian relief and recovery. Today's announcement brings total contributions to \$1 million, and completes its pledge on behalf of conservation philanthropist Louis Bacon to support hurricane recovery.

Initially focused on emergency aid and community rebuilding in some of the hardest hit areas of The Bahamas, Moore Bahamas' Hurricane Dorian recovery grants quickly expanded to meet essential needs exacerbated by the onset of COVID-19. This final round of Dorian donations builds on Moore Bahamas' mission to support sustainability by fostering environmental restoration and promoting economic diversification. In addition to ongoing food aid in Grand Bahama, the grants focus on building back better for the Bahamas' people and ecology.

Moore Bahamas has also joined with local partners such as inner-city community service organization, Lend A Hand Bahamas, to conduct job-skills training in New Providence. Training is aimed at diversifying student skill sets for jobs outside of today's heavily impacted tourism market.

"Tourism always will be foundational to The Bahamas' economy, but both Dorian and the coro-

navirus pandemic have made it clear that a resilient economic future depends on the next generation of Bahamians being ready to captain new industries less reliant on foreign visitors," said Lucas Metropulus, Chair of Lend a Hand. "The generous support from Moore Bahamas launches an enterprising program to upskill talented young people in topics ranging from web and graphic design to aquaponic farming to call-center etiquette."

In an effort to bolster environmental resilience against future storms, and working with partners such as the Bahamas National Trust, Friends of the Environment, and local bone fishing guides, the Bonefish & Tarpon Trust (BTT) will replant mangrove forests on both Grand

Bahama and Abaco. Hurricane Dorian destroyed nearly 74% of mangrove cover on Grand Bahama and 40% on Abaco.

Other programs will work to build long-term island resilience with a focus on renewable energy and sustainable food systems. In partnership with the Bahamian government, the Rocky Mountain Institute seeks to advance plans to create a solar-powered "green-grid" at East End Grand Bahama. ADRA Bahamas will provide aquaponic farming equipment to several Grand Bahama farmers whose equipment was lost to Dorian, as well as kits and training for at-home farming and community greenhouses to more than 700 households. SPB Bahamas, focused on ongoing household rebuilding, received a challenge grant to solarize a piece of critical infrastructure on the island.

"Working with the people of The Bahamas this year has underscored their incredible resilience in the face of Hurricane Dorian

and now a global pandemic," said Mr. Bacon, chairman of The Moore Charitable Foundation and Moore Bahamas, its local affiliate. "The humanity and passion of our local organizational partners is inspiring. We are proud to support their efforts to lessen the compounding economic stresses of this year and remain committed to driving growth and recovery in the Bahamas."

Additional Dorian relief grant recipients included the Bain Grant's Town Advancement Association, Friends of the Environment (Abaco), the Government's Grand Bahama Food Task Force, the Grand Bahama Rotary Disaster Relief Committee, Ranfurly Homes for Children, and Waterkeepers Bahamas.



Following the devastating strike of Hurricane Dorian to the Bahamas in September 2019, conservation philanthropist Louis Bacon pledged \$1 million to relief and recovery efforts. After supporting emergency relief in the days after Dorian, The Moore Charitable Foundation and its Bahamas affiliate, Moore Bahamas Foundation (Moore Bahamas), conducted an assessment to identify longer-term projects that would advance strategic, sustainable recovery in partnership with relief and conservation organizations, government agencies, and Bahamian communities.

Moore Bahamas will support continuing humanitarian needs, including those compounded by COVID-19, sustainable rebuilding and restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems. Investment in ecosystems' restoration will strengthen the country's tourism economy, sustainable fishing sector, and natural resilience.

#### **Moore Bahamas Dorian Relief and Rebuild Grantees:**

**Adventist Development and Relief Agency International (ADRA)** in The Bahamas is addressing the technology gap exacerbated by COVID-19 by improving access to quality distance learning education opportunities for lower income children in Grand Bahama and New Providence through the procurement of sim-ready tablets and associated equipment. ADRA is also providing disaster risk preparedness education.

**Bahamas National Trust** is conducting an ecological assessment to determine the necessary restoration strategy for the marine and terrestrial areas of Grand Bahama and the marine environment of Abaco. BNT is also evaluating and replacing infrastructure at several national parks, including Lucayan National Park, and supporting nearby communities through their resident park managers.

**Bahamas Reef Environmental Education Foundation (BREEF)** is replenishing school supplies and classroom essentials in schools that were devastated by Dorian. Additional funding has been provided for efforts to rebuild and sustain fisher livelihoods across the country through combatting ghost traps.

**Bain Town Food Program** is providing ongoing food aid for Dorian- and COVID-affected communities on Grand Bahamas Islands.

**Bonefish & Tarpon Trust** is replanting mangrove forests on Grand Bahamas Island destroyed by Hurricane Dorian.

**Briland Aid Foundation** – supporting job creation,

humanitarian relief, and post-hurricane debris removal on Harbour Island and North Eleuthera.

**"Feed Grand Bahama" via the Grand Bahama Food Distribution Task Force and National Food Distribution Task Force** is an initiative of The Bahamas Government that is supporting and coordinating efforts of NGOs bringing food aid throughout the Bahamas. Facilitated by IDEA Relief.

**Friends of the Environment in Abaco** experienced catastrophic loss when its office was destroyed and all employees were evacuated to Nassau and elsewhere. Moore Bahamas aid is now supporting a temporary community outreach office where Friends will resume its day-to-day work serving the people of Abaco through community conservation and education.

**Grand Bahama Disaster Relief Foundation (GBDRF)**, the charitable arm of the Grand Bahama Port Authority, is coordinating Grand Bahama recovery efforts. As the emergency humanitarian relief needs subside, GBDRF will spearhead individual household and school/community rebuilding efforts.

**Give Directly** is facilitating direct support to hundreds of households in East Grand Bahama and Abaco to allow it to purchase the goods and services they choose to rebuild their lives.

**International Medical Corps** is providing enhanced mental health support to the Grand Bahama community for people dealing with post-storm emotional trauma with Moore Bahamas support.

**Lend a Hand Bahamas** is providing meals to students and families affected by Hurricane Dorian in downtown Nassau as part of the National Food Distribution Task Force. The group is providing 50,000 meals to individuals every week. As well, they are providing job skills training for high school students and Dorian refugees.

**Paradise Fund & The Eagles' Wings Foundation** conducted "Christmas in Paradise" fly-ins with small plans to provide holiday cheer and relief supplies to the Dorian victims of Grand Bahama and Abaco.

**Rainfurly Home for Children**, a foster home in Nassau, is providing emergency staffing and supplies to support children displaced from

Grand Bahama and Abaco by Hurricane Dorian. foster home in Nassau, will hire emergency staffing to support its influx of children displaced from Grand Bahama and Abaco.

**RISE Grand Bahama via Mercy Corps in The Bahamas** is focused on advancing early stage and pre-licensed enterprises, specifically youth and women-owned businesses, in tech, eco-tourism, and marine ecosystems — critical to local food value chains (agriculture, fisheries, resource management); and businesses with growth potential outside Freeport.



STB's Rashema Ingraham demonstrates a home water purification system. Hundreds of these systems were donated to Hurricane Dorian victims through the Bahamas grants.

**Rocky Mountain Institute** is undertaking a green grid project to build a locally-sourced electricity system that is low-carbon, resilient, sustainable, and cost-effective.

**Rotary Grand Bahamas** is providing ongoing basic aid for Dorian- and COVID-affected communities.

**SBP Bahamas** is solarizing homes of families in need on Grand Bahamas Island.

**The Nature Conservancy Caribbean** is supporting efforts to rebuild the fisheries sector and strengthen capacity in fishing communities on Grand Bahama devastated by Hurricane Dorian.

**Waterkeepers Bahamas** is engaging with the public and advocating for improved Environmental Impact Assessment policies for new and key developments. They continue to monitor a tragic oil spill that contaminated four-square miles of Grand Bahama including wetlands, pine forests, and mangroves and conducting freshwater testing and advocate for swift governmental and corporate clean-up of the site.

**Water Mission** is making critical water system repairs to the Rand Memorial Hospital on Grand Bahama.

**Waves for Water (W4W)** is deploying an in-field filtration system that operates at both the household and community center level in order to fill an unmet need for clean drinking water in the East Grand Bahama area

# SAVE THE BAYS' CHAIRMAN THANKS NEIGHBORING FLORIDA FOR SUPPORT IN KEEPING AREA FREE FROM OIL DRILLING AND SPILL CATASTROPHE

US legislators appeal to the Bahamas Government to re-visit oil exploration permissions

NASSAU, BAHAMAS — A group of US representatives are expressing their opposition to Bahamas Petroleum's oil exploration efforts and are seeking to dissuade the Bahamian government from authorizing exploratory drilling.

Key concerns are penned in an April 17th letter to US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Stephanie Bowers the Chargé d'Affaires at the US Embassy in Nassau by Congresswomen Debbie Wasserman Schultz and Debbie Mucarsel-Powell along with several other representatives.

Bahamas Petroleum Company's (BPC) initially announced their intention to drill as soon as April 2020 however a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the company has delayed drilling until later this year.

The letter stated: "As coastal and near-coastal Member of Congress who have been fighting for years to protect the Atlantic Ocean, Straits of Florida, and Eastern Gulf of Mexico from the threat of expanded offshore drilling in US waters, this news is cause for great concern.

"As the representatives of Florida and East Coast communities, we respectfully ask you to join us in protecting the shared coastal economies and ecosystems of the United States and The Bahamas from offshore drilling by advocating to the Bahamian government that it should deny BPC any authorizations necessary to begin exploratory drilling."



The letter pointed to the BP Deepwater Horizon oil rig that exploded in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010.

Eleven people were killed and a US government study estimated the sea-food industry lost nearly \$1 billion, and the recreation industry lost more than a half-billion dollars following the disaster.

The letter urged the Bahamian government to learn from the Deep Water Horizon disaster.

as they provide critical ecosystem benefits like food security and coastal protection. A healthy ocean is the foundation of a coastal way of life in both the United States and The Bahamas. Coastal communities thrive when there is a healthy marine environment. Introducing the threat of an offshore drilling disaster would threaten that foundation.”

The local conservation community is also urging the government to



*The Deepwater Horizon oil spill was an industrial disaster that began on April 20, 2010, in the Gulf of Mexico on the BP-operated Macondo Prospect considered to be the largest marine oil spill in the history of the petroleum industry.*

It read: “Introducing offshore drilling to The Bahamas also goes directly against recent efforts in that nation to expand The Bahamas National Protected Areas System, which works to preserve marine habitats and protect Bahamian resources.

“It would be unfortunate to bring environmental risk to these marine sites with the prospect of oil pollution,

pay heed to the concerns expressed by the members of Congress and reiterated concern over BPC’s plans to drill exploratory wells in waters to the south and west of Andros.

Waterkeepers Bahamas executive director Rashema Ingraham said the group was heartened and encouraged by the strong stance taken by congresswomen.



Save The Bays chairman Joseph Darville said: *“Congress has thankfully acknowledged what we have been saying from the beginning.*



*Minister of the Environment & Housing, the Hon. Romauld Ferreira attended the recent "Our Oceans" Conference in Malta. Also pictured at the conference is Casuarina McKinney Lambert of Bahamas Reef Environmental Education Foundation (BREEF).*

"The environmental risks of this ill-conceived plan are astronomical and the fallout from an accident would be absolutely devastating – not just for the Bahamas, but also for our valued strategic partner to the north. The dangers far outweigh any conceivable potential benefit. Congress members are absolutely justified in heeding the lessons of history."

Casuarina McKinney-Lambert, Bahamas Reef Environment and Educational Foundation (BREEF) executive director, noted that **no progress has been made to reduce the dangers of off-shore oil drilling since the Deepwater Horizon disaster, adding the US is still feeling the repercussions a decade later.**

Save The Bays legal director Fred Smith, QC, noted that **successive Bahamas governments have failed to effectively oversee the implementation of environmental protection laws.**

"For instance, the Planning and Subdivision Act and the Conservation and Protection of the Physical Landscape Act are routinely ignored by legislators in giving the green light to industrial projects. Why would anyone assume that in regard to oil exploration, they will suddenly become responsible stewards of the environment?"

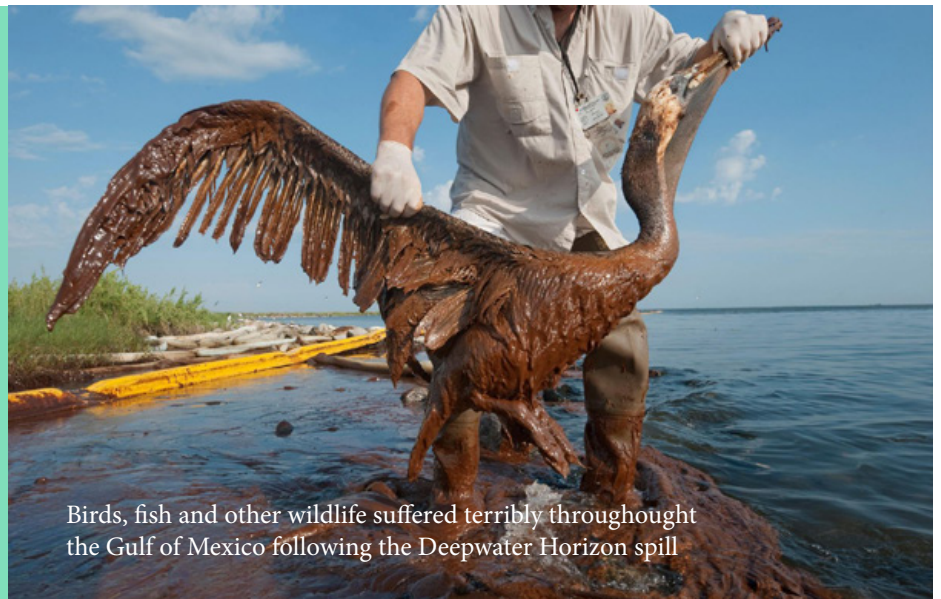


*STB directors Fred Smith, Joseph Darville and Sam Duncombe*

“Having laws and enforcing those laws are two completely different matters and the Bahamas has shown itself to be incapable of systematically ensuring that some of the very good laws passed by Parliament are administered. We still don’t have a Freedom of Information Act so we don’t know what permits have or have not been issued, under what circumstances, and there was no consultation. These are fundamental underpinnings for transparency demanded by civil society for decades now.”

Waterkeepers Bahamas’ Rashema Ingraham added that the Bahamas Environment Science and Technology (BEST) commission which advises the government, had raised concerns in the past and asked BPC to give more information regarding its environmental protection protocols, but it is unclear if this was ever complied with.

The environmental community called on the government of the Bahamas to respond to the Congress members’ letter promptly and to immediately revoke the exploratory license



Birds, fish and other wildlife suffered terribly throughout the Gulf of Mexico following the Deepwater Horizon spill



Deepwater Horizon spill cleanup team



Oil on beach from Deepwater Horizon oil spill



Sea Level Rise Threat To 15% Of Bahamas' GDP

# Sea Level Rise Threat To 15% Of Bahamas' GDP

By NEIL HARTNELL  
Tribune Business Editor  
neil.hartnell@tribunemedia.net

THE Bahamas is among the top four nations forecast to be hit hardest by rising sea levels, a rating agency warned yesterday, with up to 15 percent of annual GDP and 11 percent of its population in peril. Moody's, in a long-term assessment, said the rise "lack co-ordination" among government institutions and are made more complicated because much coastal, low-lying land is in the hands of private owners such as major resorts. Drawing on World Bank data, the agency disclosed projections that a one-metre sea level rise would submerge 11.6 percent of this nation's total land area. And the threat to the economy would also be three times' greater, with 4.5 percent of GDP in jeopardy, along with the lives of 11.6 percent of the Bahamian population. "Different studies yield

- Nation among top-four exposed countries
- Moody's warns on 'material credit risk'
- Says Bahamas' response 'uncoordinated'

turn, 4.7 percent of GDP would be lost. The threat to the economy would also be three times' greater, with 4.5 percent of GDP in jeopardy, along with the lives of 11.6 percent of the Bahamian population. "Different studies yield

Moody's, unveiling an assessment about the long-term threat to sovereign creditworthiness posed by climate change, drew on multiple studies to identify The Bahamas - as well as Vietnam, Egypt and Suriname - as the four countries most threatened by rising sea levels resulting from global warming.

The Moody's report, published as the Bahamas Business Outlook conference focused on resiliency in the face of climate change and natural disasters, disclosed projections that a one-metre sea level rise would submerge 11.6 percent of this nation's total land mass.

This, in turn, would endanger 4.7 percent of annual economic output (Gross Domestic Product), given the tourism industry's reliance on coastal sites, and 4.6 percent of the Bahamian population. However, the impact is much more extensive should sea levels rise three metres, as this would swallow 31 percent - or almost one-third - of all land in The Bahamas.

Over time, coastal erosion or concerns about natural disasters may make some regions less attractive to tourists," Moody's warned. "For a number of small-island sovereigns, such as The Bahamas, Belize, Fiji or Maldives, tourism is a driver of economic activity, and a major source of export revenue and foreign exchange.

In a scenario where sea level rise reaches three metres, Vietnam and Suriname are also the most exposed countries by economic output, followed by Benin and The Bahamas." Other studies researched by Moody's show that 100 percent of The Bahamas would be vulnerable to flooding and/or be submerged should sea levels rise by five metres.

Vulnerability to extreme events related to sea level rise can also undermine investment, and heighten susceptibility to event risk, by hindering the ability of governments to borrow to rebuild, increasing losses for banks, raising external pressures, and/or amplifying political risk as populations come under stress. While one isolated shock related to sea level rise is unlikely to materially weaken a sovereign's credit profile, repeated shocks could do.

Over time, coastal erosion or concerns about natural disasters may make some regions less attractive to tourists," Moody's warned. "For a number of small-island sovereigns, such as The Bahamas, Belize, Fiji or Maldives, tourism is a driver of economic activity, and a major source of export revenue and foreign exchange.



## OIL ILLUSIONS COMPETE WITH RISING SEA LEVEL FACTS

STB AND BNT SAYS THE COUNTRY WOULD BE  
DUPLICITIOUS TO GO THROUGH WITH DEAL

**D**espite Government's acknowledgment of international reports which place the Bahamas in grave peril from Climate Disaster and in particular rising sea levels brought about by green house gas emissions and fossil fuels, the country is about to gamble with its life, its future, its very existence by allowing exploratory Oil drilling in the southern Bahamas.

October 5, 2020, NASSAU, BAHAMAS- The Bahamas National Trust (BNT) has taken note of the recent national discussion, and media reports about the oil exploration well planned to be drilled before the end of this year by The Bahamas Petroleum Company (BPC). BNT further notes that the recent statement by the Minister of Environment and Housing, that The Bahamas Government has issued all necessary environmental clearances for this first exploratory oil well. The Minister advised that the Office of the Attorney General has advised that the Government of The Bahamas (GOB) was obligated, by virtue of previous apparently binding agreements, to allow this well to proceed.

The Bahamas National Trust, the established nature conservatory by legislation is opposed to the end of year drilling in the near by Cay Sal Bank by Bahamas Petroleum Company (BPC).

The BNT issued a powerful statement in opposition to the oil exploratory well:-

“While the BNT understands that complex negotiations may have resulted in the government being legally bound to

honour this commitment, the organisation has very serious concerns about The Bahamas allowing the exploration for possible exploitation of fossil fuels,” BNT said in a press statement.

“The Bahamas is known to be one of the most vulnerable nations on the planet to the impending impacts of climate change. It is now recognised as an existential threat to The Bahamas. The country, its people and their way of life could

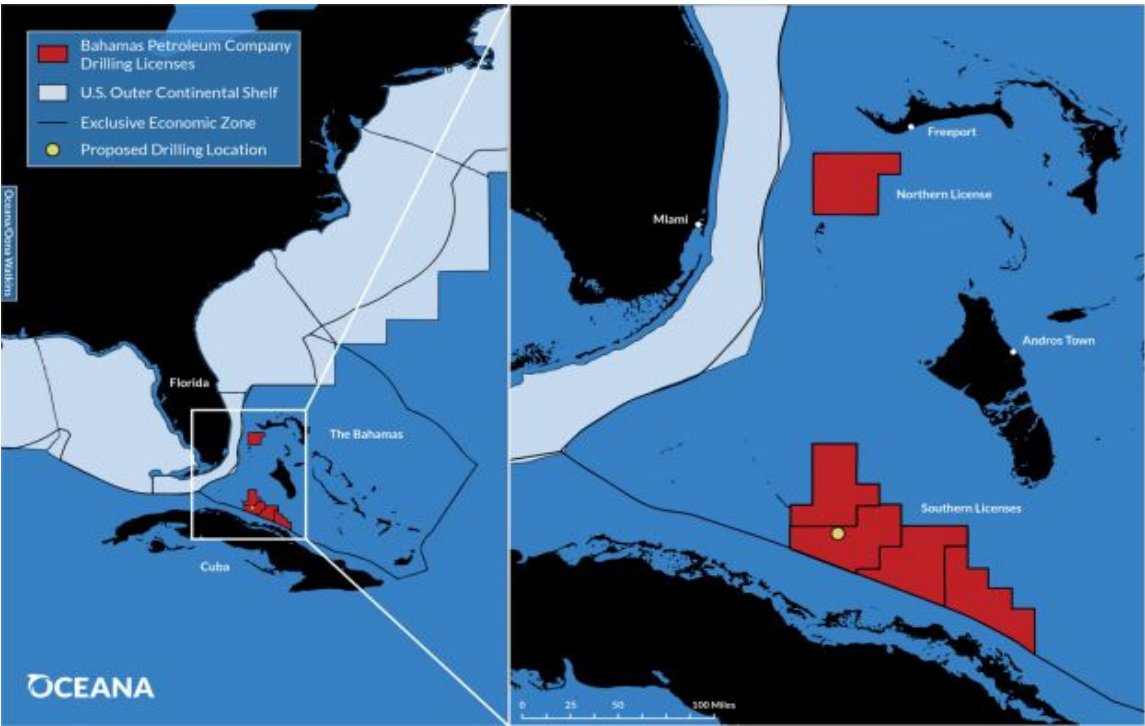
disappear if it is not successful as a global community in reversing the factors of a changing climate. Climate-charged Hurricane Dorian and the recent unprecedented number of concurrent named tropical storms and systems are clear indicators of climatic change.

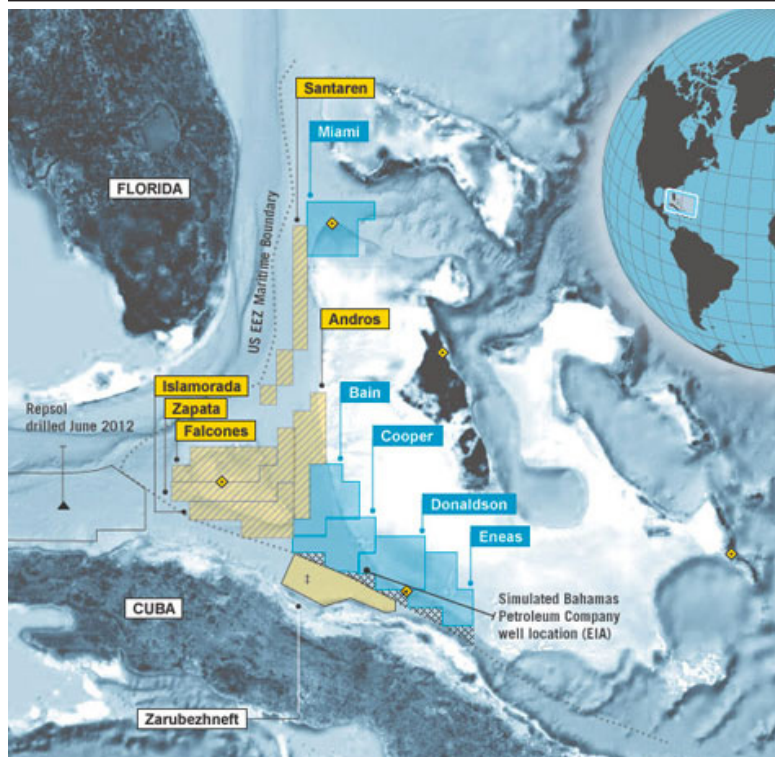
“It is patently clear that The Bahamas’ livelihood and survival depends not only on minimizing but reversing the impacts of climate change. Consequently, policies and

regulations must reflect the global and national efforts to combat the impact of climate change.

“The proposed initial well dubbed Perseverance-1 by BPC is within rowing distance of the Cay Sal Bank, one of the most ecologically productive and economically important marine systems in the country. The Cay Sal Bank Marine Protected Area (MPA) was declared a protected area by pronouncement and by national gazette in September 2015. The globally significant declaration was in fulfillment of The Bahamas’s commitment to protecting 20 percent of the near shore marine environment. It was also in fulfillment of inviolate obligations under the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Full Sized project.

“Cay Sal has thriving marine life inclusive of commercially important species including some of the last remaining viable populations of the queen conch. The importance of the Cay Say Bank for biodiversity and the fishing industry in The Bahamas cannot be overstated. Because of its strategic





importance, any pollution of the area would be devastating for The Bahamas and its fishing industry.”

“While the BNT understands that complex negotiations may have resulted in the government being legally bound to honour this commitment, the organisation has very serious concerns about The Bahamas allowing the exploration for possible exploitation of fossil fuels,” BNT said in a press statement yesterday.

“The Bahamas is known to be one of the most vulnerable nations on the planet to the impending impacts of climate change. It is now recognised as an existential threat to The Bahamas. The country, its people and their way of life could disappear if it is not successful as a global community in reversing the factors of a changing climate. Climate-charged Hurricane Dorian and the recent unprecedented number of concurrent named tropical storms and systems are clear indicators of climatic change.

“It is patently clear that The Bahamas’ livelihood and survival depends not only on minimizing but reversing the impacts of climate change. Consequently, policies and regulations must reflect the global and national efforts to combat the impact of climate change.

“The proposed initial well dubbed Perseverance-1 by BPC is within rowing distance of the Cay Sal Bank, one of the most ecologically productive and economically important marine systems in the country. The Cay Sal Bank Marine Protected Area (MPA) was declared a protected area by pronouncement and by national gazette in September 2015. The globally significant declaration was in fulfillment of The Bahamas’s commitment to protecting 20

percent of the near shore marine environment. It was also in fulfillment of inviolate obligations under the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Full Sized project.

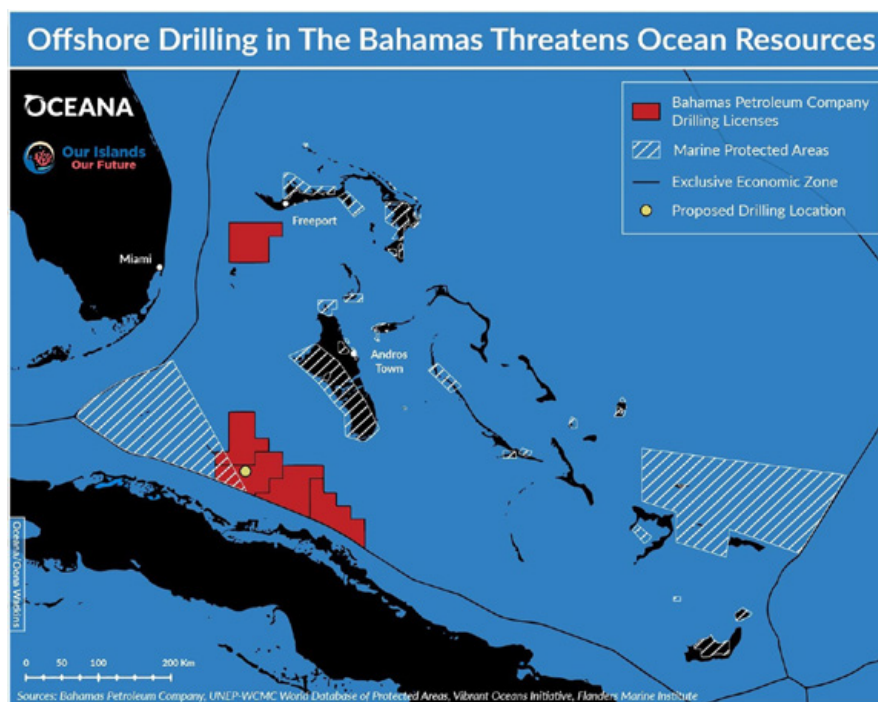
“Cay Sal has thriving marine life inclusive of commercially important species including some of the last remaining viable populations of the queen conch. The importance of the Cay Sal Bank for biodiversity and the fishing industry in The Bahamas cannot be overstated. Because of its strategic importance, any pollution of the area would be devastating for The Bahamas and its fishing industry.”

” Based on the country’s commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and the threat of climate change to our very existence, the BNT strongly believes that The Bahamas should not, in 2020, be allowing the exploitation of fossil fuels within our country.

“The economic gains from exploiting and burning fossil fuels are short-term and are ironically helping to shorten the lifespan of these islands. The BNT is extremely concerned about the impacts of climate change and the general health of the environment of The Bahamas. The organisation is extremely apprehensive about advancing oil exploration in the country.

“Several Bahamian prime ministers have appealed to the United Nations for urgent action to combat climate change, citing to the world how vulnerable and threatened The Bahamas is to its impacts.

“Bahamians cannot therefore cry out to the world that its country is being severely threatened by climatic changes, and in the same breath, boast of a newfound fossil fuel industry. This would present to the world from our sunny isles a hypocrisy that wholly undermines what fellow alliances of small island states have been trying to accomplish,” BNT said.



# Freeport's Blue Action Lab wins international prize for blue economic innovation



The future Blue Action Lab in Freeport, Grand Bahama. (PHOTO: BLUE ACTION LAB)

“Building solutions for coastal and ocean resilience” Freeport’s Blue action lab wins the international prize for blue economic innovation awarded by Blue Climate Initiative (BCI). The blue action lab on Grand Bahama brings together leading innovators, entrepreneurs, and researchers to focus on climate change. The lab focuses on the urgent need for coastal climate solutions into reality.

The award is given to innovative organizations working on place-based, sustainable solutions ranging from food security and renewable energy to ecosystem restoration and sustainable tourism. The Blue Action Lab was one of six organizations to receive the prestigious award out of more than 80 organizations from 45 countries and island nations around the world.

Rashema Ingraham, advisor to the Blue Action Lab and executive director of Waterkeepers Bahamas, said: “The Blue Action Lab understands the importance of inclusive and equitable sustainable development for the Bahamas, and I am looking forward to working with them and our communities both here in Grand Bahama, and in the wider Bahamas, to make sure the Blue Action Lab initiatives represent the concerns and aspirations of those communities.”

Freeport’s Blue Action Lab wins international prize for blue economic innovation – Eye Witness News (ewnnews.com)

## DID YOU KNOW?

In the last five years the Bahamas has seen frightening and tragically alarming increases in tropical hurricane weather patterns, all the results of CLIMATE CHANGE. Islands like Ragged Island, Eleuthera, Long Island, Grand Bahama, Abaco have been laid waste, hundreds of persons dying in climate disasters and communities ripped from the very foundation of the earth.



## CONGRATULATIONS

**Kristal Ambrose**  
2020 Goldman Prize Recipient  
Islands and Island Nations

Big congratulations goes out to @kristalocan for receiving the Goldman Environmental Prize. We are so proud of you and the work that you do! @bahamasplasticmovement



For more information visit our website at  
**www.savethebays.bs**  
Email: [info@savethebays.bs](mailto:info@savethebays.bs)





## Save the Bays and Waterkeepers Bahamas Rise To The Occasion Of Dorian Disaster

Save the Bays (STB) and Waterkeepers Bahamas; earned and sealed their place and their rightful legitimacy, relevancy and potency in our national life through their conduct and service in the epochal moments dating from Hurricane Dorian on 1st of September 2019. They are here to stay and will continue to make impactful and beneficial contributions to our understanding the piece of the Earth called the Commonwealth of the Bahamas- and our responsibility to it.

Sheer grit, determination and diligent obedience to its founding purposes and national direction steered and anchored Save the Bays (STB) & Waterkeepers Bahamas through this tragic historical period. Start-

ing with Hurricane Dorian; and its pillage of Abaco and Grand Bahama on 1st September 2019; the disastrous Equinor Oil Spill off East Grand Bahama in 2020; and the struggle to navigate the country from the risk of Oil Drilling in early 2021.

For an organization made up of volunteers NGOs and civic minded persons committed to the environment safeguards of our Island Nation; such effort, work, focus and courage can be met with resistance, road blocks and personal attacks drawn from a climate of garrison political insensitivities and intolerances.

The down side of this is it can slow. Yet it deters the fuller participation of the country in the national discourse and debate

on our way forward and our place on the saving the Planet. Governments on a whole in democracies can be very uncomfortable with advocacies and think tanks which espouse an aggressive or different view which is delivered free of sugar coating. Or new ideas which press for a time table to achieve certain important goals. Or even to remind Governments of their pledges and their duties.

STB and WKA, chugged on over the last two years, eyes riveted to the importance of their environmental agenda and urgency to educate the Bahamian people on Climate Change and the impact of rising sea levels brought about by global warming.

The reality in a country as small as the



For days prior to Dorian’s arrival South Florida with 7 million residents tottered on edge as the torrent of madness worked its way up the Atlantic. The Bahamas drew the death card. Prepared or unprepared a category five disaster was new, even with the regular pattern of storms and hurricanes over the last decade.

International research meteorologists said this about Dorian: “The storm stalled over the Bahamas because it was squeezed between two high-pressure systems, one to the northeast over the North



Bahamas is if these national priorities and agenda are left solely to the confines of the Executive; so much can be missed and lost. Not because the Executive has an indifference but out of the sheer magnitude of so much more on the national plate than any Executive can properly delegate, inform and channel; organizations like STB and WKA welcome opportunities for a working relationship with the Government. Consensus builds a better and more workable future and partnership.

Hurricane Dorian, a category 5 disaster demonstrated it should be all hands on deck moving forward.

Hundreds of lives lost. \$3billion dollars plus in damage and losses.

Hundreds still unaccounted for.

Dorian parked over Grand Bahama and Abaco respectfully for a period of over 40 hours. Winds over 120 mph and 24 inches of geyser rainfall. The old superstitions of how “blessed we are” and “we are all prayed up” did not loosen Dorian’s fanatical, manic and horrific torture.

Atlantic and one to the northwest over the US. Those intense wind currents prevented the storm from continuing its trek up toward the US coastline.”

The aftermath was just as traumatic.

Hundreds of persons homeless.

Jobless.

Island economies in ruin.

A frightened “undocumented” community of immigrants frustrated in quantifying human and personal loss.

STB and WKA (Bahamas) plunged head on into the fray. There was no time for wringing of hands and gnashing of teeth. The world needed to know what had happened in the Bahamas and

the world also needed to know that we are a resilient and spiritual people.

The work began in earnest and continues today.





Equinor spilled 5 million gallons of oil into Grand Bahama's delicate pine forest and wetland ecosystems, causing untold damage which will take years of remediation to overcome. It could have been much worse.



The situation in Grand Bahama today, where a large swath of landscape is polluted with heavy, dirty oil, the water table is likely contaminated and residents have been told they must avoid the water supply, should serve as a dire warning.



# THE ART OF REBUILDING

## Sea Oats

With the aftermath of Dorian and the effects it left on our Shorelines, Waterkeepers Bahamas teamed up with Coral Vita with efforts to rebuild the protection of our coast. Like mangroves, sea oats are beneficial in shoreline defense. Sea oats have a root system that builds up a protection of our coast from sea levels rising especially during storms like Dorian. Therefore, Waterkeepers Bahamas will be harvesting young oats at the coral farm and replanting them on our shorelines.



## Mangrove Replanting:

Mangroves serve as the first line of defense for coastal protection. They help with slowing down shoreline erosion and provide barriers for storm surges, flooding and hurricanes.

Save the Bays and Waterkeepers Bahamas has been using Coral Vita as a farming ground to harvest young mangroves to replant along our coastline to restore what has been lost over a period due to recent hurricanes that visited our island leaving our mangroves in need of new structure.



# ***Climate Change is Real!***

**We must prepare the Nation for the imminent threat of  
Climate Warming.**

**The certified universal scientific position is that our country  
is one of only four (4) on the Planet Earth most likely to  
disappear in the next 25 years from rising SEA LEVELS caused  
by fossil fuels.**

**Our children deserve a future not a death sentence.**

