

Andros Conservancy and Trust

Andros, The Bahamas

NEWSLETTER Dec, Jan, Feb

ANCAT

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Issue # 4

Global warming? Climate Change? What does this mean for ANDROS?

Global warming is one of the most serious challenges facing the world today. To protect the health and economic well-being of current and future generations, we must reduce our emissions of heat-trapping gases by using the technology, know-how, and practical solutions already at our disposal.

Every time we drive a car, use electricity from diesel fired power plants or cool our homes with oil or natural gas we release carbon dioxide to the atmosphere.

WHAT IS GLOBAL WARMING?

Carbon dioxide and other gases warm the surface of the planet naturally by trapping solar heat in the atmosphere. This is a good thing because it keeps our planet habitable. However, by burning fossil fuels such as coal, gas and oil also clearing and burning forests we have dramatically increased the amount of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere and worldwide the temperatures are rising.

The vast majority of scientists agree that **global warming is real**, it's already happening and that it is **the result of our activities** and not a natural occurrence. The evidence is overwhelming and undeniable.

We're already seeing changes. Glaciers are melting, plants and animals are being forced from their habitats, and the number of severe storms and droughts are increasing

The Bahamas ?

Small islands have characteristics that make them especially vulnerable to the effects of global warming, most notably sea level rise and there is an increase in extreme weather. Our beautiful beaches, coral reefs, mangroves, fisheries, bird life and livelihoods focused on the coast are all threatened by climate change.

The Bahamas is a vulnerable hot spot because our islands are low lying. Here are some of the impacts of climate change:

1. Coastal erosion
Rising sea levels, the sea could rise up to 20 feet, devastating Andros.
2. Increased air temperature
3. Changes in rainfall and seasons
4. Sea surface temperature increase
5. Extreme events, eg. Droughts, flood, hurricane, storm surge
6. Loss and changes in marine and terrestrial biodiversity.
7. Salt water inundation into fresh water aquifers.
8. Increase in vector borne diseases
9. Increase in insurance payments and coverage
10. Loss of employment and

economic development

11. Loss of land and aesthetics of island beauty.

12. Acidification of the oceans

13. Warming oceans threaten corals by causing them to bleach, this could lead to widespread death of the reef which protects us from storm surges and also severely damage fisheries and tourism.



Other shocking possibilities:

More than One million species could be extinct by 2050.

The Arctic Ocean could be ice free by the summer of 2050

These predictions are dire **BUT** there are ways that we can offset the effects of climate change, it is not too late to live more carefully and cut down on our carbon footprint and protect the earth from these consequences.

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BECOME ENVIRONMENTALLY ACTIVE TODAY

Nature: not just the victim of climate change it holds the answer too

The Bahamas Government plans to increase size of Andros National Parks

Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham has announced that the Government will expand the West Side National Park in Andros.

This park is set to be expanded to areas north of the western most tip of Andros, including Williams Island and Billy Island, Turner Sound, identified creeks with significant mangroves extending into South Andros, a fresh water lake system on the West side, Cabbage Creek to Timber Creek and the area south of Lisbon Creek including Sandy Cay in the south Bight.

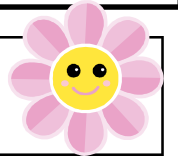
The expected size of the ex-

panded Andros National Park or what resources will be allocated for the management of this vast park system have yet to be announced, but ANCAT wants to share this great news with its members and we will add the details as they become available. The following species are found in abundance in this area and through this park system will be protected forever: sharks, tarpon, turtles, bonefish, iguana, permit, juvenile reef fish and sawfish. Our bird life too will be protected in these parks. The bird life on Andros is extensive

and the park area harbours flamingoes, egrets, herons, roseate spoonbills, ibis, osprey, owls, pigeons and many more.

The island of Andros helps the world as our forests absorb carbon dioxide and the oolites in the Joulter Cays trap carbon forever. Our marine life stocks fisheries throughout the Caribbean and along the Eastern Seaboard and our pristine forests and mangroves provide habitats for migratory birds too. Look here, Andros is key to the future of life on earth!

The earth's climate is warming. Human activities such as burning fossil fuels and clearing forests are causing the warming by adding more heat trapping gases, primarily carbon dioxide (CO2), to the atmosphere.



How we can help reduce Global Warming

Checklist

Tick the ones that you are doing

- 1 Use fluorescent light bulbs
- 2 Turn off electric devices you're not using, especially at night.

- 1. Reduce, reuse and recycle
- 2. Plant a native tree
- 3. Check car tyres to make sure they're properly inflated
- 4. Drive less, walk or use a bicycle, arrange a car pool
- 5. Buy a fuel efficient vehicle.
- 6. Buy energy efficient appliances.
- 7. Encourage your school or business to reduce emissions.

Go to www.climatecrisis.net for more information

9 ticks... great YOU are making a difference

4ticks... congrats, you are trying.

0 ticks.... Terrible, where are you planning to live when this planet is finished !!! THINK ABOUT IT

Food Shopping

We can reduce our carbon footprint in the way we feed ourselves and families:

- **Buy locally grown and produced foods**

The average meal in The Bahamas travels 1,300 miles from the farm to your plate. Buying locally will save fuel and keep money in your community.

- **Buy fresh foods instead of frozen**

Frozen food uses 10 times more energy to produce.

- **Seek out and support local farmers markets**

They reduce the amount of energy required to grow and transport the food to you by at least one fifth.

- **Buy organic foods as much as possible**

Organic soils capture and store carbon dioxide at much higher levels than soils from conventional farms. If we grew all of our corn and soybeans organically, we'd remove 580 billion pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere!

- **Avoid heavily packaged products**

You can save 1,200 pounds of carbon dioxide if you cut down your garbage by 10%.

- **Eat less meat**

Methane is the second most significant greenhouse gas and cows are one of the greatest methane emitters. Their grassy diet and multiple stomachs cause them to produce methane, which they exhale with every breath.

- **Use green or reusable bags.**

this will cut down on the plastic grocery bags we use and throw away.

- **Eat more fish, crab and seafood** (yummy)

- **Start a vegetable garden**, this is the time of year to put your seedlings in.

EVERYONE CAN DO SOMETHING TO SAVE THIS PLANET WE CALL HOME.



RECYCLING ? YES we can !

In Small Hope village lives Mrs. Goldie Rahming, a leader in our recycling movement. Goldie has been collecting, packaging and sending to Nassau our used glass bottles for many years now.

She accepts the following bottles: guinness, heineken, kalik and vita malt.

These bottles are then returned to Commonwealth Brewery who sanitize them and use them again and again.



It is easy to recycle once you get in the groove. When you have used bottles, simply pack them in a box

or a bag and leave them at Goldie's house in Small Hope.

Every time we recycle we save valuable natural resources, reduce the amount of garbage at the dump and help to keep our magnificent island clean.

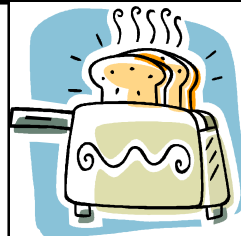
Coming SOON ANCAT is working to introduce recycling for aluminum soda cans to our island.

Each school, office, workplace and home will be asked to assist in this effort to reduce the size of our dumpsite and cut our carbon emissions.

Soda can bins will be supplied to pre arranged places, you will be asked to simply place your used cans in the bins. From here they will be washed, crushed and then shipped to recycling plants in the US. It takes only 30 days for the recycled can to be back on the shelves in our supermarkets. We can all do our piece to save our world from global warming.



Al Gore in the movie 'An Inconvenient truth', says: "There is no doubt we can solve this problem. In fact, we have a moral obligation to do so. Small changes to your daily routine can add up to big differences in helping to stop global warming. The time to come together to solve this problem is now – Everyone must TAKE ACTION"



Long live the toaster

Extending the life of your appliances is another way to save, for example the toaster: the main problem with the toaster is caused by the crumbs which can set on fire causing an electrical shortage. Simply open the little trap door at the bottom of your toaster and shake out the crumbs. Your toaster will live into old age with this simple cleaning process.

Stopglobalwarming.org

Visit the stop global warming website and join the over one million persons worldwide who have signed their petition. It is easy to sign up and join their supporters in a virtual march. By signing you can become a part of the movement to demand that our leaders

freeze and reduce carbon emissions now. When the world leaders meet in Copenhagen this December make sure that our Minister of the Environment, Dr Earl Deveaux knows that The Bahamas needs to become a nation which is actively pursuing reducing our carbon footprint.

We are all contributors to global warming and we all need to be a part of the solution. Future generations are depending on us to shift the tide.



BONEFISH

Bonefish live in inshore tropical waters, moving onto shallow tidal flats to feed with the incoming tide and retreating to deeper water as the tide ebbs. Juvenile bonefish may be observed in large shoals of like sized individuals with large mature fish swimming in smaller groups or in pairs. Bonefish are considered to be among the world's premier game fish and are highly sought after by anglers. Bonefish are primarily caught for sport.. They are not commonly eaten. They may weigh up to 10kg and grow to a length of 104 cm. They are silvery in colour with dusky fins and the bases of the pectoral fins are yellow.

The bonefish, also known as phantom or gray ghost, is probably pound for pound the strongest and fastest running animal in the collective of salt water fish. Bonefish are found in shallow water with a sandy or rocky bottom, over sea grass beds or near mangrove roots.

Bonefish are a prized sport fish throughout the Caribbean. However, bonefish populations are declining in some areas. Habitat loss and mortality from harmful catch and release practices may be contributing to this decline.

There are ways to help the bonefish survive, for example when practicing catch and release fishing, keep the fish underwater and allow it to swim away as this helps to increase its chance for survival. Also you should learn about and comply with the local bonefishing regulations and be warned that netting and harvesting bonefish is illegal. If you use barbless hooks and thus limit the fight time the fish will not become so exhausted and stand a better chance of surviving as exhausted fish are vulnerable to predators. Furthermore, if you handle the fish gently with wet hands and release only in areas where predators are not present the damage to the fish will be minimized. Another precaution we should take seriously to ensure the survival of our bonefish is to protect the sea grass beds and mangroves where the fish live. Bonefish lifecycle posters are available in the Andros Conservancy and Trust office in Andros Town, these are provided FREE of charge by Kerzner Marine Foundation.



Al Gore advises:
“ Renewable sources of energy...if developed could completely replace CO2 rich fossil fuels and new technologies can allow us to move forward with unprecedented scale and speed to avert the worst impacts of global warming and set the stage for successful recovery.”

IWCAM = Integrated Watershed and Coastal Area Management

The Global Environment Facility along with The Nature Conservancy are working to create a watershed and coastal area management plan, a plan which will assist The Bahamas Government to plan the best possible land use on Andros and avoid inappropriate locations for development. Andros has The Bahamas' largest fresh water resources and ships millions of gallons of water to New Providence yearly, so it makes good sense to understand the need to protect this water and preserve it for future generations. Water can easily become polluted and humans need fresh water for sur-

vival, there may come a day when water becomes more precious than gold.

Main issues of IWCAM

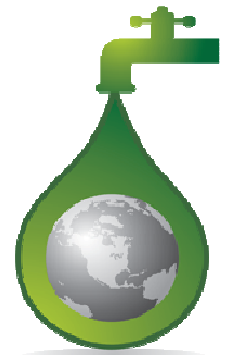
- 1 Diminishing freshwater supplies.
2. Degraded Freshwater and coastal water quality.
3. Inappropriate land use.
4. Hygiene and sanitation.

Project Objective

The overall objective of this Project is to strengthen the commitment and capacity of

the participating countries to implement an integrated approach to the management of watersheds and coastal areas. The long-term goal is to enhance the capacity of the countries to plan and manage their aquatic resources and ecosystems on a sustainable basis.

The project is being managed by TNC and its coordinator is Ms Sharrah Moss, who will be visiting the island frequently until May 2010 to compile the data which is needed. Please cooperate with her and share any concerns you may have about our fresh water reserves.

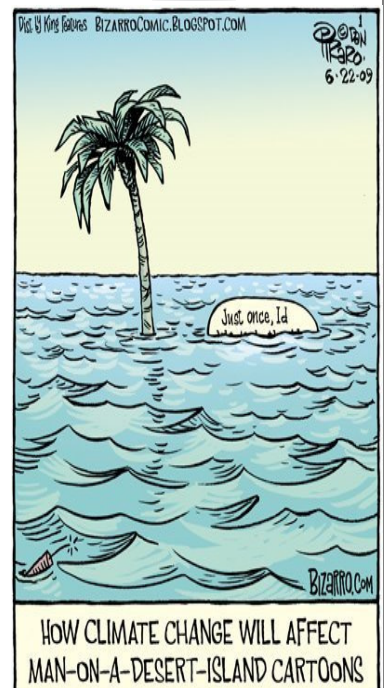


Doctorate student chooses Andros

Anthropology graduate student, Sarah Wise, and her family (Androsian Jermaine Forbes and their daughter Josephine) are here in Andros conducting field research for her graduate degree at Rutgers University in New Jersey. Sarah is exploring the social effects of protected area conservation in Andros Island, The Bahamas. In particular, she focuses on how people think about spatial and social boundaries in an area undergoing changes in resource management, such as the Westside National Park. Her research asks: How do people

negotiate “rightful” access to space that is changing from a commonly valued area to a national park system managed by the Bahamas National Trust. Her preliminary research in The Bahamas suggests that some conservation projects, such as the Westside National Park, have led to increased controversy over local versus foreign ownership of, and access to resources, questions about national identity, and resource decision-making processes. There appears to be a difference in the ways conservation agents, government officials and

island residents think and talk about the marine environment, and she hopes that her research will increase understanding about the marine environment and resource users as well as offer Androsians the opportunity to voice their opinions and participate with resource decision-making in The Bahamas. More to the point, after three and a half years of grueling studies and cold New Jersey winters, Sarah is thoroughly enjoying spending the year in The Bahamas and talking to people about their livelihoods.





ANCAT

Andros Conservancy and Trust

Winter 2009-2010

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Working to protect, preserve, enhance and conserve the natural resources of Andros, through education, conservation and management for future generations.



The Andros Conservancy and Trust

We're on the web
Www.ancat.net

To donate to ANCAT make cheques payable to Ancat and send to PO Box FC 23338, Fresh Creek, Andros, Bahamas.

US citizens may make a tax deductible contribution through Eco Ed Foundation. Send donations to : Eco Ed Foundation Inc., Co/ Ms Norman, 3780 N 169th St., Brookfield WI 53005 Federal Tax ID # Eco Ed Foundation 40-0001542

Adopt a piece of Andros

Calling all Andros lovers to ADOPT a piece of the island.

This is not a legal agreement and there are no tests necessary for this adoption. Just choose a spot that you particularly like and decide that you will become its caregiver, this will include clearing any debris that is there, monitoring any bird, fish species you may see and dropping Ancat a note to let us know what you are doing.

In Fresh Creek, Gabrielle Douglas has adopted a strip of the inland shoreline. "I started kayaking to explore the island" she explained, "but when I first went out all I could see was glass. Everywhere I looked, instead of seeing fish, I saw glass bottles filling the rocky shoreline and lying scattered. They have to be having a negative impact on our fisheries as they fill the spaces which should be home to juvenile fishes. I started to pick them up and so far have removed 1600 bottles from half a mile of the creek. Already I can see a difference with the appearance of more juvenile fish along the shoreline.

After picking up the bottles the area is pristine, we have no major pollutants here, it is so easy to clean up our land and shoreline, and restore a healthy vibrant ecosystem.

It takes ONE MILLION YEARS for glass bottles to biodegrade in the natural environment

The message in the Bottle reads...
"dispose of me carefully"



Community ACTION

What's going on?
Get involved

On Saturday 26th September Ancat was proud to sponsor Mrs. Cinderella Hinsey, Pastor Thomas, Deacon Thompson and their fabulous youth group from the Mount Ethel Baptist Church, Love Hill to clean up their beach. Youths and concerned community members came out to support this effort and within a couple of hours the difference was noticeable. 15 sacks of garbage were carried away and the beachgoers worst enemy, the sand spur, which was growing in abundance, was also removed.

If your community would like to organize a beach clean up ANCAT would be happy to assist you .

Call the office at 3682 882 /286 to let us know your dates.

CONGRATULATIONS goes out to **Behring Point Primary School**, the first school on Andros to have the entire student body and all the teachers signed up as members in the Andros Conservancy and Trust. The school donated \$68 to ANCAT, Thank you for your generosity, every donation helps.

We know that it all begins with our youth and we would like to thank Ms. W. Bevans for all her tremendous effort to make this happen.

On Friday December 4th the entire school was on the beach in Behring Point to restore an area of great natural beauty to a pristine state. To all who made this wonderful event such a great success we want to send out a big

THANK YOU

Thanks goes out to Joyce Coleman, Eco Ed Foundation, Rick Scheck and Cathy & Brad Rustermier, for their generous support of ANCAT.

Thanks goes out to Corrine Kahn and Elvardo Thompson of The Nature Conservancy for all the support and great ideas you keep sending our way, keep up the good work.

ANCAT is GROWING

By December Ancat had 165

members... why not add your name to the list, make a small donation and help to keep our own environmental watchdog alive. We have so much to be thankful for, lets make sure there is something left to pass onto our children, we owe this to them.



TOURS Bonefishing is a great specialty on Andros Island, many call us the bonefishing capital of The Bahamas and our guides are second to none. If you are interested in a bonefishing trip either in Fresh Creek or further a field to the Jouters, south Bight or the West side of Andros please contact Tommy Kee and Benry Smith at 3682 769 .

Thanks to Tommy Kee, a local bonefishing guide for the use of his boat and his volunteer time to restore a piece of the inland shore of Fresh Creek.

On Friday 20th November 2009 a group of concerned Androsians met at the Fresh Creek Town Hall to discuss their concerns about the environment in Central Andros. Each settlement in the area was well represented and everyone present signed on as a person willing to volunteer to work in each of the settlements. The name of the group was decided and the **LET'S KEEP ANDROS BEAUTIFUL** campaign was launched. The goals of this volunteer group are to remove all the derelict vehicles and demolish all derelict buildings, remove trash also to restore the waterfront in Fresh Creek. Mr. Ricky Rolle spoke convincingly about the support the Government will offer in the form of garbage bags and plants, also Mrs. Theresa Minnis emphasized that we should take pictures of the eyesores in our settlements and bring them to the next meeting so that a master plan can be laid out. It was decided that the first area to be restored will be the Andros Town Airport, so look out for fliers and details and make sure to lend a hand.

ANCAT is requesting **HELP** from any boat owners, scuba divers or beach combers to participate in our Fresh Creek Restoration, contact the office if you would like to volunteer. Fresh Creek is the major creek in this area, water that passes through this creek travels between the Tongue of the Ocean and the massive inland creek system, this water is rich with marine life We need to restore our creek to a pristine condition to ensure that the marine life will flourish providing us with food, livelihoods and attractions for our visitors forever. If you enjoy fishing, swimming, scuba or snorkeling this is an opportunity to contribute to our marine habitat.

Sending out an SOS

Spread the news, pass this newsletter on to another person...And help us to save on paper too!