

Andros Conservancy and Trust ANCAT

Coral reef study : Living Oceans Foundation

“Over the past 50 years 20 per cent of the coral reefs worldwide have died. However it is not too late to reverse the decline in ocean health.”

Prince Khaled bin Sultan

The Living Ocean Foundation opened its worldwide five year study of the health of coral reef environments in The Bahamas. The expedition has been studying the coral reefs in The Bahamas, beginning with the Cay Sal Banks, then later this year moving on to Hogsty Reef, Inagua, Abaco and the Andros Barrier Reef.

The Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation is dedicated to the conservation and restoration of living oceans and pledges to champion their preservation through research, education, and a commitment to Science Without Borders®. They aim to promote public awareness of the need to preserve, protect and restore the world's oceans and aquatic resources.

The Golden Shadow is a specially outfitted 220 foot research vessel and is the live aboard operating headquarters for the Expedition.

The founder of the Living Ocean Foundation, Saudi Arabian Prince Khaled bin Sultan said, “It is not always clear but the ocean health is in serious trouble. If we do not take aggressive steps to care for our ocean now, our inaction will have

dire consequences for the future. Our children and grandchildren will certainly suffer the consequences.

Over the past 50 years 20 per cent of coral reefs worldwide have died. It is conceivable that over the course of one human lifetime more than half of coral reefs worldwide will no longer exist” However, Prince Khaled is hopeful and says that “it is not too late to reverse the decline in ocean health”. He emphasized that we must raise the public awareness about the coral reef crisis and educate people about the solutions.

The primary goals of the expedition are to map the coral reef ecosystems, evaluate their current conditions and major threats and identify factors that enhance their capacity to resist, survive and recover from major disturbance events.

Coral reefs provide food, employment, recreation, coastal protection and medicines.

Tavares Thompson as the eyes and ears of Andros travelled with



The Golden Shadow: research vessel

the research vessel ‘The Golden Shadow’ to the Cay Sal Bank, a shallow submerged platform. About 15,000 years ago Cay Sal was a large island about three times the size of New Providence. Now nearly 99% of the bank is submerged. Captain Renaud said that as the sea level has risen over the last 14,000 years, it came up to the present level and Cay Sal bank was almost entirely submerged. We can imagine there were trees, birds, bats and other animals and probably humans too existing on this island for a long period of time, then the sea levels rose and it basically drowned the whole bank, leaving just a small island showing above the waves.



Man Woman Wild

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In April the Discovery Channel filmed an episode of their survival television show “Man Woman Wild” here on Andros Island.



Survival tools

Mykel is a former Special Forces survival expert and Ruth, is a TV journalist. Together,

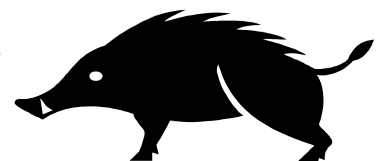
Mykel Hawke and his wife Ruth England were dropped into the famous, steamy, inhospitable Andros bush to see if they could survive the challenges of life in the wild, Andros pine forest, crab bush style.



they take on some of the most forbidding and remote locations in the world. They are dropped into each spot with only a knife each and the clothes on their backs, here they must survive as a team for four days and nights. Their will and their marriage is

tested, but the two find common ground standing up to nature as husband and wife in the wildest places on Earth.

Watch out for this edition of ‘Man, Woman, Wild’ to be aired on the Discovery Channel in August 2011 and filmed in the mysterious Andros bush.



Cut YOUR emissions



Scientists say that 350 ppm (parts per million) CO₂ in the atmosphere is the safe limit for humanity. Right now we have 391 ppm. Learn more about 350—what it means, where it came from, and how to get there at: www.350.org

The science is clear: global warming is happening faster than ever and HUMANS are responsible. Global warming is caused by releasing greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. The most common greenhouse gas is **carbon dioxide**. Many of the activities we do everyday, like turn the lights on, cook food, heat or cool our homes, we rely on the combustion of fossil fuels like coal, gas or oil, which emit carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases when burned. This is a major problem because global warming destabilizes the delicate balance that makes life on this planet possible. Just a few degrees in temperature can completely change the world as we know it, and threaten the lives of millions of people around the world.

BUT don't give up hope! We can help stop global warming by taking action.

350ppm is the number that scientists say is the

safe upper limit for carbon dioxide in our atmosphere, presently we are at 391ppm and this is a dangerously high level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Humanity needs to get back to 350ppm, to avoid runaway climate change.

Our planet is in the danger zone, we've poured too much carbon into the atmosphere. We can see the signs of real trouble with melting polar ice caps, and glaciers the world over are melting and disappearing, danger signals we have to heed because they are a source of drinking water for millions of people. Temperatures are rising and summers are getting hotter. Mosquitoes, who love a warmer world are spreading into new areas, bringing malaria and dengue fever with them. Drought is becoming much more common, making food harder to grow in many places. Tornadoes in 2011 are more powerful than ever before. And hurricanes are predicted to increase in size and fury.

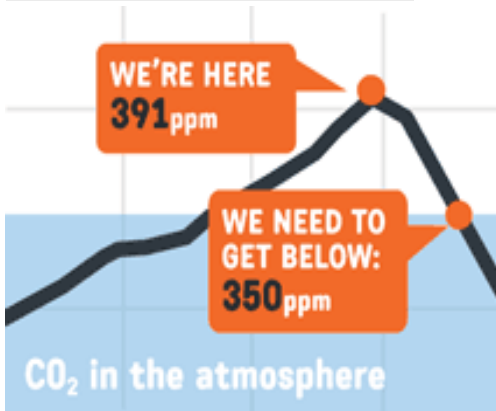
SEA LEVELS HAVE BEGUN TO RISE and scientists warn that

they could go up as much as several meters this century. If that happens many of the world's cities, island nations (such as our beloved Bahamas) and farmland will be under water. The oceans are growing more acidic because of the CO₂ they are absorbing which makes it harder for animals like corals and clams to build and maintain their shells and skeletons and coral reefs could start dissolving.

We need to stop taking carbon out of the ground and putting it into the air. We need to stop burning so much coal and gasoline and start using solar and wind energy and other sources of renewable energy. If we cut our emissions now eventually the earth's soils and forests will slowly cycle some of the extra carbon out of the atmosphere and eventually CO₂ concentrations will return to a safe level.

But the longer we remain in the danger zone above 350ppm the more likely that we will see disastrous results and irreversible climate impacts.

For info go to www.350.org



350.Org Demands

We need a movement of people from The Bahamas who care enough about our shared global future to get involved and make their voices heard. Tell our politicians that we need to join in the global battle to reduce CO₂ emissions



Science based policies to get the world back to 350 ppm



A rapid, just transition to zero carbon emissions.



Funding for a fair transition to a 350 ppm world.



Lifting the rights of PEOPLE and nature over the rights of polluters.

WHAT ARE FOSSIL FUELS?

Fossil Fuels are oil, coal and gas. Fossil fuels are formed by the decomposition of remains of organisms that settled at the bottom of the sea or lakes in large quantities millions of years ago.



“It is vitally important to lift the rights of people and nature over the rights of polluters”: this is a strong message for The Bahamas.

We know the climate crisis is a human rights crisis. We must support policies and programmes which lift up the rights of people and the environment over the rights of polluters, such as:

- Reducing corporate powers and wealthy individuals unfair influence on our leaders
- Stopping dirty energy projects
- Getting dirty money out of elections.
- Supporting the rights of indigenous people.
- Protecting human health.

The Turkey Vulture: the cleaner or purifier

Known by all on Andros as the **buzzard** or the **crow**, the turkey vulture has the scientific name of *kathartes*, as it represents the cleaner or purifier and refers to the scavenging nature of the bird. It is one of the few birds of prey who uses its sense of smell to locate food. It is a large bird, and has a wingspan of 5 to 6 feet and weight of 3.5 to 5 pounds. It has dark brown to black plumage; a featherless, purplish-red head and neck and a short, hooked, ivory-

colored beak. Its life expectancy in the wild ranges upward of 16 years, with a captive life span of over 30 years being possible. The Turkey Vulture is a scavenger and feeds almost exclusively on carrion (dead animals). It finds its meals using its keen vision and sense of smell, flying low enough to detect the gases produced by the beginnings of the process of decay in dead animals. In flight, it uses ther-

mal air currents to move through the air, flapping its wings infrequently. Its only vocalizations are grunts or low hisses. It nests in caves, hollow trees, or on the ground under bushes. Each year the female lays 2 eggs which are incubated for 38 to 41 days. The white fluffy chicks are fed through regurgitation, that is the parents bring up food it has eaten. It has very few natural predators.



© KorhnaK



Helps to keep the island clean

How to save something at the pump

As gas prices hit an all time HIGH it is in our best interests to learn some tricks to get more of our money's worth for every gallon.



1. Only buy or fill your tank in the early morning when the ground temperature is still cold. The colder the air the more dense the gasoline, when it gets warmer gas expands, so if you buy in the

afternoon your gallon will not be exactly a gallon.

2. When you are filling up do not squeeze the trigger of the nozzle to a fast mode. You should pump on a low mode, and this minimizes the vapours that are created while you are pumping.

3. One of the most important tips is to fill up when your gas tank is half full, the reason for this is the more gas you have in your tank the less

air is occupying the empty space and remember:

GASOLINE EVAPORATES FASTER THAN WE CAN IMAGINE.

4. If gas is being delivered when you stop to buy gas, DO NOT fill up, as most likely the gasoline is being stirred up as the gas is being delivered, and you might pick up some of the dirt that normally settles on the bottom of the storage tank.



Common sense solutions to lowering your gasoline bills can go far. Carpooling, taking fewer or shorter road trips, and ensuring that your tires are fully inflated can all help stop the pinch at the pump.

Bob Ney

Cut down on car use, get that bicycle out !

Are YOU or someone you know a victim of domestic abuse ?

Domestic abuse is a pattern of abusive or violent behavior between people who are or were married, living together or in an ongoing domestic relationship. Domestic violence can happen to anyone regardless of gender, race, religion, marital status, ethnic background, or socioeconomic level. Abusers use violence to gain and maintain power and control. Abusers may deny that their behaviors are domestic violence. Many are quite charming outside the privacy of their home. Victims may deny that they are suffering domestic abuse because they are afraid or because they don't understand what behaviors indicate domestic abuse.

Noticing and acknowledging the warning signs of domestic abuse is the first step to ending it. No one should live in fear of the person they love. If you recognize yourself in the warning signs and descriptions of abuse, do not hesitate to reach out, there is help available.

Signs that you are in an abusive relationship:

Do you: Feel afraid of your partner much of the time? Avoid certain topics in fear of angering your partner? Feel that you can't do anything right for your partner? Believe that you deserve to be hurt or mistreated? Feel emotionally numb or helpless?

Does your partner: Humiliate or yell at you? Criticize you and put you down? Treat you badly so you are afraid for your friends or family to see? Ignore or put down your opinions or accomplishments? Blame you for their abusive behaviour? See you as their property or sex object? Have a bad or violent temper? Hurt you or threaten to hurt and kill you? Threaten to take away your children or harm them? Threaten to commit suicide if you leave? Force you to have sex? Destroy your belongings? Act excessively jealous or possessive? Control where you go and what you do? Keep you from seeing your friends and family? Limit your access to money, the phone or car? Constantly check up on you?

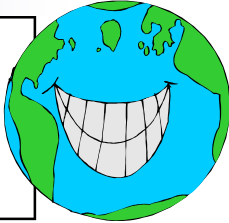


Abuse casts a shadow the length of a lifetime.

Bahamas Crisis Centre
1 242 3280 922

If you or someone you know is experiencing any form of abuse or want to talk about a relationship problem please call the crisis centre. Hotline open 24 hours a day 7 days a week. 1 242 328 0922

Andros Conservancy and Trust
 Fresh Creek Post Office, Box
 23338
 Andros, Bahamas
 Telephone: 1242 3682 882
 Fax: 1 242 3682 285



ANCAT is working to protect, preserve, enhance and restore the terrestrial and marine habitats of Andros through education, conservation and management.

***We're on the web
 Www.ancat.net***

Our membership is **GROWING**
 Now we have **572** members.
 Do not delay join our environmental group **TO-DAY**.



Take a bucket with you on every fishing trip and pick up the trash you see..... If we all pick up a little a lot will be moved

IWCAM REPORT ON ANDROS

After spending two years compiling information, the Nature Conservancy has released a report called, 'An Economic Valuation of the Natural Resources of Andros'. This suggests the overall extractive (such as fishing, crabbing) and non-extractive (recreational, tourism) use of Androsian natural resources generates \$142 million annually in direct gross economic activity, and an additional \$35 million in associated spending, which accounts for at least 60 per cent of all economic activity on Andros. Nature provides income and employment in some way for around 80 percent of Androsians, of which there are around 8,000 in the most recent census, providing the basis for 1,645 full time jobs and 8,000 part time jobs. The habitats themselves, including the forests, wetlands and coral reefs, provide "ecosystem services" such as carbon storage and biodiversity values worth an estimated \$260 million annually. Andros, "one of the last wilderness areas in the Caribbean" according to the report is likely to become more valuable if properly protected.

World's tallest man saves dolphins

In China, the world's tallest man has saved two dolphins by using his long arms to reach into their stomachs and pull out dangerous plastic shards. The mammals, after eating the plastic, had lost their appetites and were suffering depression, aquarium officials said. The world's tallest man, Boa Xishun (7 feet 8.95 inches tall) was called after officials had tried unsuccessfully to remove the plastic using tools. The heads of the dolphins were held back and towels wrapped around their teeth so Mr. Bao could not be bitten. He then extended his 41.7 inch long arm into the mammals' stomachs and carefully removed the plastic.



USE a reusable BAG to help save the environment

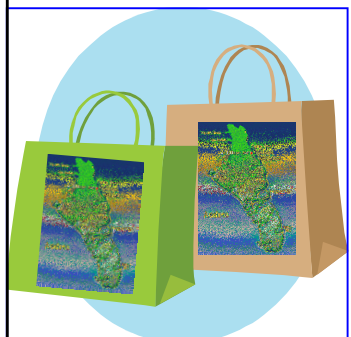
Ancat is selling lovely reusable cloth bags, which will give you years of service and cut down on the amount of garbage you produce. Every time you go to the shop take your own bag with you. Single use plastic bags have been banned in many places because they pollute the environment. Plastic bags are made from oil and this disintegrates but does not biodegrade, it enters the soil, the food chain and eventually you and me. Plastic is found on beaches, in the sea, by the roadside and it is eaten by animals who think it is food, then they starve to death. Do you know that 500 billion to a trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide in a year. And plastic bags account for over 10% of the debris washed up on shorelines. If each one of us uses a cloth bag we can save about **6 bags a week, that's 24 bags a month and 288 bags a**

Do something DRASTIC Cut out PLASTIC

year, and in an average lifetime we will stop 22,176 plastic bags from entering the environment. If one in five Bahamians stopped using plastic bags that would be 5,262,380 less plastic bags to pollute our environment.

There is something each and every-one of us can do to protect planet earth and save our world.

Come by Ancat today and buy a reusable cloth bag. They can be purchased in deep blue or forest green and have a batik of Andros Island on the side.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ANCAT?

Fish Identification Workshop

In June experts from the Nature Conservancy and The Bahamas National Trust held a fish identification workshop in Fresh Creek and after three nights studying the fish our interested students went to the Westside of Andros to snorkel and see how many fish they could see and identify.

Ancat and BNT Summer School

is achieving some great goals in the Central Andros district, a full report will be in the next newsletter, thanks go out to Lyford Cay Foundation, Cable Bahamas Cares and BTC for their generous support of this programme.

Tours in Fresh Creek

Take a guided boat tour into the wilderness of Fresh Creek with expert guide Tommy Kee Jr., enjoy the sights and learn about the ecosystem. For more information call Ancat office 3682 882.

Let's keep ANDROS CLEAN !! Find a BIN to put trash in

