



# National Experiences and Lessons Learned from Preparation of the Fourth National Report

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# Bahamas



# Fourth National Report (4NR)

- ❑ The 4NR to the UNCBD has been the only formal review of the NBSAP since its completion in 1999.
- ❑ This document was completed and submitted to the UNCBD in 2010



# 4NR Process

- Consultative process
- Interviews
- Questionnaires
- Two Workshops
  - First to gather information
  - Second to go over draft report of 4NR



# Key Stakeholders

- Bahamas Environment, Science and Technology Commission
- Bahamas National Trust
- Dept. of Agriculture
- Dept. of Marine Resources
- Forestry Section (Ministry of Environment and Housing)
- Dept. of Environmental Health Services
- Dept. of Local Government
- The Nature Conservancy
- College of The Bahamas
- Gerace Research Center
- Island School Cape Eleuthera
- Bimini Biological Field Station
- Water and Sewerage Corporation
- Bahamas Reef Environmental Education Foundation
- Friends of The Environment
- Andros Conservancy and Trust
- Bahamas Marine Mammal Research Center



# Summary of the Status, Trends and Threats to Biodiversity

Ecosystems / Biodiversity Component	Threat/Menaces				
	Climate Change	Habitat Loss	Invasive Species	Pollution	Over-exploitation
Agricultural	↗	↗	↗	→	↘
Coppice Forest	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗
Pine Forest	↗	↑	↗	↗	↗
Inland Waters	↗	↗	↗	↑	↗
Islands	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗
Coastal	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Coral Reefs	↑	↗	↗	↗	↑
Mangroves	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗
Deep Water	↗	→	↗	↗	↗
Seagrass Beds	↗	→	↗	↗	↑

## Driver's Impact on Biodiversity

	Very High
	High
	Moderate
	Low

## Driver's Trends

↘	Decreasing Impact
→	Stabilizing Impact
↗	Increasing Impact
↑	Very Rapidly Increasing Impact



# Summary of Progress Made on the Priority Actions Outlined in the NBSAP

Strategic Action	Activities Attempted	Progress (Scale: 0-5) (lowest- highest)
1. Establishment of The Bahamas Environment, Science and Technology Commission as a legal entity.	5 of the 8	2
2. Establishment of the National Biodiversity Task Force and Preparation for National Consultative Process.	2 of 2	3
3. The National Consultative Process.	5 of 5	1
4. Implementation of the Recommendations of the Biodiversity Data Management Project.	4 of 4	1
5. Preparation of Bioregional Guidelines, Position Papers and Policy Statements.	1 of 3	0
6. Planning for a System of National Parks.	3 of 3	3
7. Development of Monitoring and Evaluation Methodologies.	2 of 3	2
8. Protection or Rehabilitation of Threatened or Degraded Ecosystems and of Threatened Species.	1 of 3	2
9. Improvement of the Botanic Gardens to Enhance its Capacity for Ex Situ Conservation.	2 of 3	1



# Impact of Implementation of CBD

- Significantly assisting with sensitization of the public, policy makers, politicians and agencies to understand the need for biology conservation
- Assisting with the development of policies, plans, and strategies
- Creating a national focus for implementing agencies and resource managers to meet through the biodiversity committee
- One of the main driving forces for the creation of the BEST Commission and the Ministry of Environment
- Providing avenues for the Bahamas to access international conservation funding





# Lesson's Learned from the 4NR

- No defined national targets nor implemented global target indicators in policies and strategies
  - Measuring progress based on expert and practitioner information
- Lack of personnel at scientific and support levels
- Monitoring and reporting protocols should be implemented for research
- Lack of framework for intra and inter-agency communication
- Lack of comprehensive database
- Knowledge on biodiversity is fragmented
- Members of National Biodiversity Subcommittee usually have little or no opportunity to apply what has been learnt
- Archipelagic nature makes implementation and enforcement difficult
- Instillation of networks and infrastructure is challenging



# Future Priorities for Improving Implementation of UNCBD

- Standardized monitoring of biodiversity through a well defined monitoring, evaluation and storage system, therefore establishing ecological baselines;
- Establishment of indicators for tracking progress for the implementation of the CBD goals;
- Updating the NBSAP, inclusive of concise national goals and targets;
- Identifying mechanisms for sustainable financing for institutional strengthening and research;
- Implement on-going public awareness programs;
- Implementation and enforcement of environmental fines;
- Development of a monitoring system that can be updated in real time.

