Bermuda Audubon Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 5 JUNE 2013 - AGENDA

- 1. Apologies
- 2. Approval of Minutes of 2012 AGM
- 3. President's Report
- 4. Financials
- 5. Election of Officers and Committee of Management

Proposed Slate of Officers and Committee:

Andrew Dobson - President

Karen Border - Secretary

Angela Kendall - Treasurer

Jennifer Gray

Peter Lee

Jeremy Madeiros

Andrew Pettit

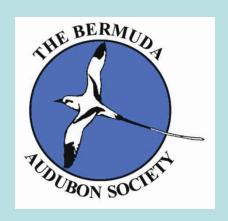
Angelo Pimental

Kim Smith

Paul Watson

David Wingate

6. Any Other Business



President's Report 12-13

Committee of Management 2012-2013 Andrew Dobson - President Karen Border - Executive Secretary Angela Kendall - Treasurer Jennifer Gray Peter Lee Jeremy Madeiros Andrew Pettit Kim Smith Paul Watson David Wingate

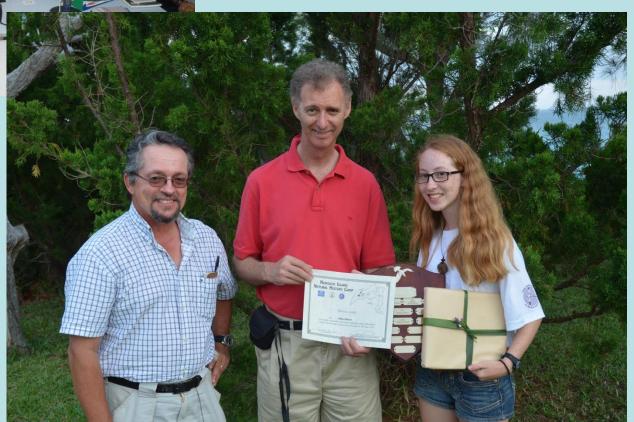
June
Bermuda National Trust Awards
(recognition for Nonsuch Island natural history camp)





June

Nonsuch Island Camp



Spittal Pond fieldtrip

Sept



Sept

Harbour and Islands Sunset Cruise







Sept

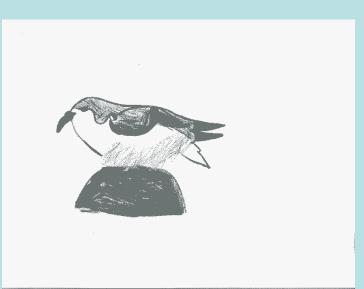
Harbour and Islands Sunset Cruise



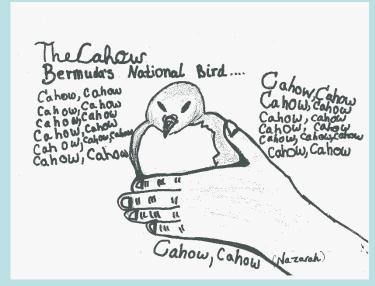


October - Cahow Art Competition

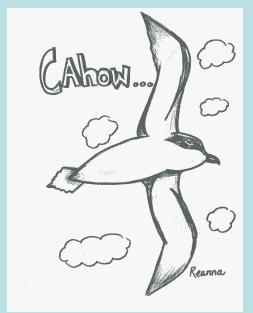








October - Cahow Art Competition







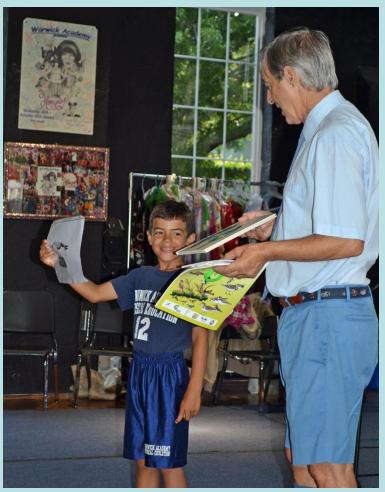






October - Cahow Art Competition





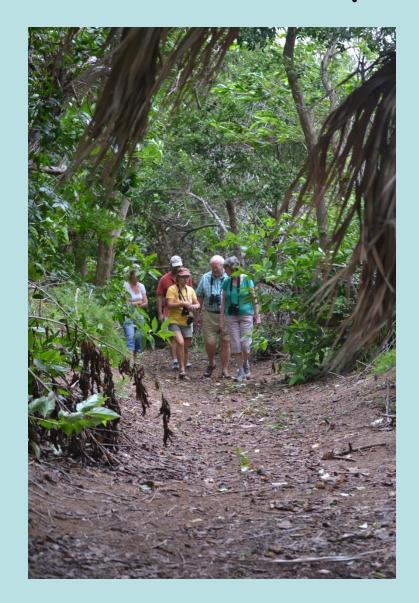
October - Paget Island Bird Camp



October - Paget Island Bird Camp







October - Paget Island Bird Camp







The students made about 50 boxes for the Society

November – Partner Re Dollars for Hours Bermuda High School



The Centre on Philanthropy

Volunteer recognition awards

Paul Watson- 2012 Audubon Volunteer

Christmas Bird Count

The Bermuda Audubon Society held its 38th CBC on 29th December 2012.

Features of this year's count included:

- 8,580 individual birds were counted (nearly 1,000 more than last year's total)
- 101 species of birds (88 in 2011, 101 in 2010, 100 in 2009)
- One new species for count day (Long-tailed Duck)
- House Sparrow was the most common species (17.5% of the count)

Christmas Bird Count



Jan - ABS reserve working party







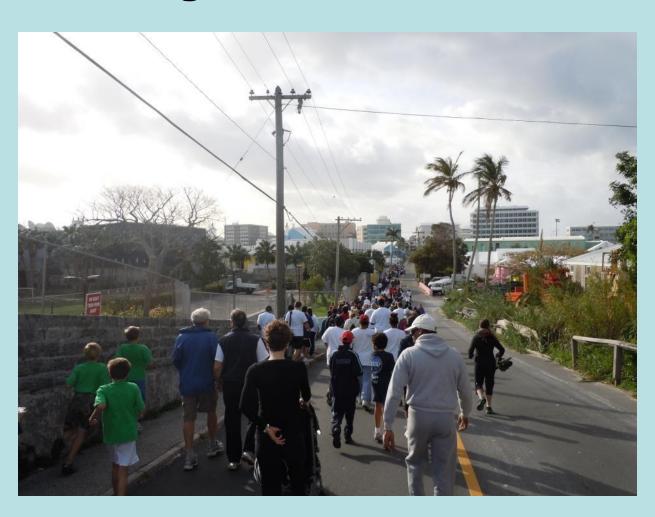
Feb -Seymour's Pond reserve working party



Feb - Assist at BNT Children's Walk



Feb - Walk the Walk Argus and the COP







March -Vesey reserve working party







March - Aberfeldy Bluebird nestbox workshop











April - Horsfield's volunteer day



April - Annual Show



Winner Kristen Bean

April - Vesey nature reserve opening



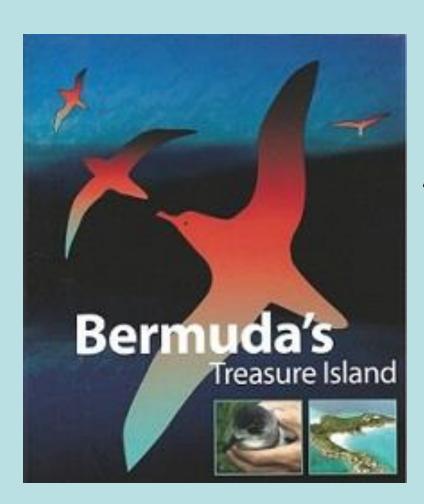












May Audubon's documentary
screened at the
Explorers' Club in NYC

May - Fieldtrip - Coral Beach









May - Fieldtrip - Vesey NR









May - Strategic Planning







May Centre on Philanthropy recognises Audubon



May - World Ocean's Day



Nature reserve management and working parties

Purchased Through Public Donations



Alfred Blackburn Smith Nature Reserve Seymour's Pond Nature Reserve Stokes Point Nature Reserve Vesey Nature Reserve

Cooperation and Partnerships

Locally:

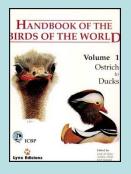
- ·Bermuda Alliance for the Sargasso Sea (BASS)
- •B.E.S.T.
- ·Bermuda National Trust
- ·Bermuda Zoological Society
- ·Centre on Philanthropy
- ·Conservation Services, Bermuda Government
- ·Eco Bermuda
- ·Parks Commission

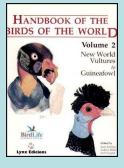
Internationally:

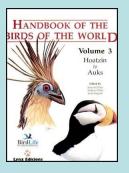
- BirdLife International
- ·National Audubon Society
- ·North American Birds
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (UK)
- ·Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds
- UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum

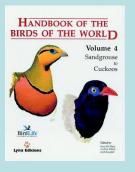
Partnerships

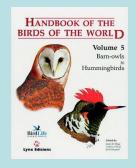
BAMZ Library – Handbook of the Birds of the World

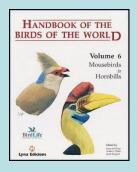




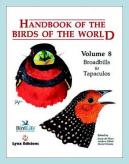


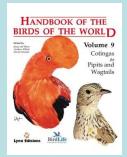










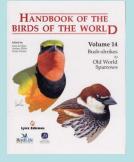




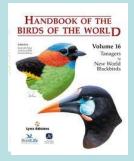


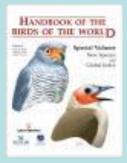




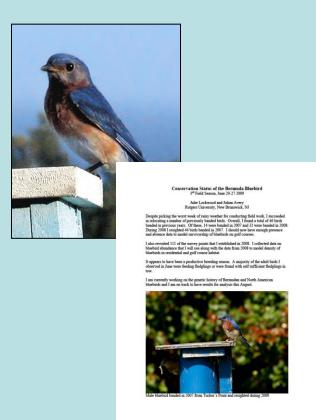








Research We continue to support the research by Dr. Jamie Bacon on amphibians Julian Avery on Bluebirds





Communication

- ·Newsletters Vol. 24
- ·Web site www.audubon.bm
- ·Email info@audubon.bm
- ·Birders' email group
- Newspaper and magazine articles
- ·Banners
- ·Facebook



In this iss

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- Vesey Nature Reserve Karen Border
- Bird Report January to May 2013 Andrew Dobson
 Bermuda's Bluebirds
- Society News
- Notice of Annual General Meeting

First record of live Atlantic Puffin in Bermuda



On 10 April 2013 Matthew Watson was fishing with his brother Andrew at Challenger Banks to the southwest of Bermuda. He contacted the Audubon Society to say that he believed he had photographed a putfin. He said, "I came across this small bird awimming asound," We were able to get pretty close to it, and it wouldn't fly away, it just kept swimming away. Twice it dowe down and seemed to stay down for a really long time." When Audubon President, Andrew Dobson saw the photo he was delighted. He said that

over the years there have been many dead Atlantic Puffins washed up dead on our beaches. Recent research suggests that juffins do winter well out to sea away from the continental East Coast, to the north of Bermuda. In some winters, and this year was no exception, prolonged bad weather can prevent puffins from feeding and they can starve. Weakened binds can't fly and many drown. In March and April at least six dead brids have been found. Therefore it was a real thrill to know that a live puffin has at last been seen in Bermuda waters. Puffins are frequently referred to as the clown of the seas with their somewhat comitcal face. The bird that was seen at Challenger Banks was a first-wrinter bird, showing some red on its large triangular bill. Puffins only land on suitable coasis to breed, spending the majority of their lives on the sea. The nearest breeding colonies are in Maine and Nova Scotia. With the advance in photographic equipment, more and more people are taking an interest in volldle photography. Mr Watson is obviously the envy of the local briding community, but if he had not photographed the bird, we might never have known! The Audubon Scotisty is always pleased to hear of rare bird sightings or help people identify bird species. (Prote: Matthew Watson)



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 Society News
- SALES AND ADDRESS.

The Sargasso Se



'great quantities of weed' on the ocean. More recently oceanographer Sylvia Earle has described the Sargasso Sea as the golden floating rainforest of the Atlantic Ocean'. The Sargasso Sea is a bugely important ecosystem. The golden rainforest is made up of sargassum seaweed which spends its entire life adrift, and reproduces by simply growing and breaking apart. The rains of sargassum are home to a huge variety of life. It acts as a feeding ground for fish, birds and mammals. It provides a

nursery for young turtles and a spawning ground for many fish including the marlin and tuna. At least 10 of 145 species of invertebrates and 125 fishes associated with sargassum are found only here. The Sargasso Sea is used by many migrant species, notably whales and seabirds. The Sargasso Sea is threatened by over-fishing, commercial harvesting of sargassum, pollution etc. The importance of the Sargasso Sea is recognised by many governments and organisations. Launched in 2010, the Sargasso Sea is recognised by many governments and organisations. Launched in 2010, the Sargasso Sea a Likiance is a partnership led by the Bermuda government in collaboration with scientists, international marine conservation groups and private donors who share the vision of protecting the Sargasso Sea. The Bermuda Alliance for Sargasso Sea (BASS) is supporting efforts by the SSA to establish the Sargasso Sea as a high seas protected area through research, education and community awareness. BASS members are Atlantic Conservation Partnership: Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute: Bermuda National Trust; Greenrock; Bermuda Institute of Ocean Science; Bermuda Sloop Foundation; LookBermuda Education Foundation; National Museum of Bermuda; Bermuda Audubon Society; and Bermuda Zoological Society. To learn more about the Sargasso Sea Alliance – pleases come along to the AGM and listen to Jennifer Crav's presentation. (Placter Ennia Dobson)

Facebook



Newspaper articles

"Visiting falcon bodes ill for local pigeons"

"Audubon Society Responds To Magazine Writer"

"Bermuda Bluebird Nest Box Workshop"

"101 species of bird spotted in annual count"

"Hook removed and recovery complete, Laughing Gull takes flight"

"Pelican spotted in Bermuda"

"New \$50 depicts correct longtail"

"Plankton bloom turns nature reserve pink"

"Discarded fishing line snares unexpected visitor"

"Horsfield gang clear invasive species for charity"

"Vesey Nature Reserve formally opened"

The Challenges



- •Invasive species
- ·Reserve maintenance
- ·Protecting open spaces
- Funding

Advocacy

- Shopping bags
- Protecting open spaces
- ·Feral animals



Environmental governance in the UK Overseas Territories

Summary assessment for each Overseas Tentfory

	Species	Sites	Development control	Accountability
Anguilla	Moderate	Woak	Vary weak/Absent	Very week/Absent
Ascension	Moderate	Weak	Very weak/Absent	Very week/Absent
Bermuda	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
British Antarctic Territory	Strong	Moderate	Strong	Moderate
British Indian Ocean Terr.	Moderate	Waak	Vary weak/Absent	Very weak/Absent
British Virgin Islands	Wook	Strong	Moderate	Weak
Cayman Islands	Weak	Waak	Weak	Weak
Cyprus SBAs	Moderate	Strong	Woak	Very weak/Absent
Falkland Islands	Moderate	Waak	Weak	Moderate
Gibraltar	Strong	Strong	Strong	Strong:
Montserrat	Moderate	Waak	Moderate	Weak
Pittaim	Woak	Weak	Weak	Weak
St Holema	Moderate	Waak	Strong	Moderate
South Georgia & SSI	Moderate	Moderate	Vary weak/Absent	Vary waak/Absant
Tristan da Cunha	Moderate	Moderate	Very weak/Absent	Weak
Turks and Caioos Islands	Woak	Moderate	Waak	Weak

7 recommendations to achieve the Prime Minister's ambition

The Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO):

- 1. Logal drafting capacity is a brake on ambition for many smaller OTs. By summer 2013, the FCO should establish a dedicated OTs Environmental Governance Taskforce of legal staff to work with OT Attorney Generals and Defra to help draft required policy and share good practice across the OTs.
- 2. In those five Territories with stalled pieces of environmental legislation, the FCO should direct its Governors to advocate strongly for their passage. Continued funding from the UK Government in 2014/15 should be made contingent on demonstrable progress.
- 3. Building on the White paper's commitment to "exemplary environmental management" in the uninhabited Territories, the FCO should work to ensure that by 2015 these Territories are rated as "strong" in every category.

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra):

- 4. Befra currently has no dedicated staff working on OTs. By summer 2013, at least two full-time Defra staff are needed to assist the OTs in strengthening their environmental governance and to implement the OTs' Biodiversity Strategy.
- 5. Defra's new Implementation Plan for its OTs' Biodiversity Strategy should contain a programme of work for proactive technical policy assistance to

The Department for International Development (DFID):

6. For Territories in receipt of budgetary aid, DFID should secure a cross-departmental agreement with FCO and Defra that funding in 2014/15 be contingent on delivering the Prime Minister's ambition to "set world standards" in environmental governance.

Overseas Territory Governments:

7. Those Territories with stalled environmental legislation or development plans should work urgently to achieve their passage by the end of 2013.

For further information, please contact Jonathan Hall, UK Oversoas Territories Officer, Tet. + 44 (8) 1767 693008, e-mail: jonathan hall ill repturg uit or visit www.rspb.org.uk/oversoasterritories





The RSPE speaks out for birds and wildlife, tackling the problems that Birnaton our environment. Nature is arracting - help us keep it that way. The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL The RSPE is part of Einst. to International, the global partienthip of bird www.mpb.org.uk



Environmental governance in the UK Overseas Territories

The 14 UK Overseas Territories (OTs) hold some of the world's most remarkable environments, from vast coral mots to windswopt albutross tslands, and over 90% of the threatened wildlife for which the UK is responsible. These unique environments are, however, highly vulnerable. Whilst Territory environmental protection laws and policies follow good practice in some important areas, many Territories have significant gaps in their environmental governance that urgently need to be addressed.

Enabling the UK Government's ambition

In a welcome and ambitious passage in the 2012 Overseas Territories White Paper, the Prime Minister wrote: "We see an important opportunity to set world standards in our stowardship of the extraordinary natural environments we have inherited. The White Paper also announced a new strategic priority to ensure that the Territories "abide by the same basic standards of good government as in the UK?

To inform a concrete readmap for these political ambitions, the RSPB and the Foundation for International Environmental Law & Development (FIELD) completed the first-ever analysis of environmental protection logislation and policy across all 14 Overseas Territories. This will enable the UK Government to fulfil its White

"We see an important opportunity to set world standards in our stawardship of the extraordinary natural environments we have inherited."

Prime Minister David Carneron,

Paper commitments by identifying good practice and outlining areas for improvement. A follow-up report in 2015 will measure progress.

Significant governance

Two priority policy areas - biodiversity protection and development planning

- have been assessed against criteria based on what are widely accepted in the UK to be the fundamental elements of good environmental governance.

The analysis revealed that while there are important areas of good practice in many Territories, most notably in Gibraltar, the British Virgin Islands and St Holona, many OTs still have significant gaps in their environmental governance. One size cannot fit all, and the challenges of small populations, lack of capacity and lack of resources must be taken into account. However, increased input and strategicallyfocused technical support from the UK Government is essential if the White Paper's aims are to be met. The analysis has also demonstrated that resources are not the only blockage to progress, but also a lack of political will and technical capacity in both UK and OT Governments.

Major improvements are within reach and much of this can be achieved within existing budgetary constraints.

Highlights from the analysis

Species protection mechanisms for protecting threatened species

Species protection is generally the area where Territory logislative and policy frameworks are best, though some areas can still be improved.

Good practice: British Antarctic Territory, Gibraltar, Montserrat, South Georgia

Areas for Improvement:

- Hunting regulations in the Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs) need strengthening and enforcing. Weeker laws than in the Republic of Cyprus are encouraging illegal hunting to take place.
- The Cayman Islands have no legal protection for endemic plants, reptiles, amphibians or bats.

Site protection – mechanisms for protecting sites and habitats

Overall standards of site and habitat protection are highly variable. Only three Territories have strong terrestrial protected area networks where sites were selected based on sound science. Moderate to strong marine protected area retworks are in place in seven familiories, whilst four still have no marine protected areas.

Good practice: British Virgin Islands, Cyprus Sovereign Base Areas, Gibraltar

Areas for Improvement:

- Protection is urgently needed for Anguilla's network of wotlands and salt ponds, many of which remain vulnerable to infilling and development.
- The Cayman Islands have no comprehensive legal framowork for establishing protected areas (see right).
- The hydrocarbon industry is rapidly developing in the Falkland * Islands, but there are no Martine Protected Areas yet, and no logal mechanism for protecting important biodiversity hotspots

- more than 15 nautical miles from the shore.
- Legislation designating the Centre Hills National Park on Montserrat appears to have not been passed.
- The pristine wilderness of South Georgia remains unprotected from mineral resource extraction.

3. Development control

mechanisms for ensuring environmentally-sensitive development

An absence of development controls, or incomplete development frameworks that do not integrate environmental considerations, is a common issue. Five Territories have no legal requirement to undertake Environmental impact Assessments (EIAs) before permitting major development proposals. Three of the most populous Territories are also lacking strategic development. plans to identify respective areas for building and conservation and prevent uncontrolled development from spreading across their most valuable coastlines and habitats.

Gibraltur is the Overseas Territory that best demonstrates good practice across the board.

Good practice: British Antarctic Territory, Gibraltar, St Helena

Areas for Improvement:

- Development in Anguilla has been largely uncontrolled to date, with no strategic planning or development plan to guido development, and no legal requirements for EMs in place.
- In Bormuda, Ministers have significant discretion to permit developments which go against established development plans.
- In the Falkland Islands, most developments outside of Stanley with potential impacts on wildlife do not currently require an EIA or any permission to proceed.

 Uncontrolled and frequently flegal development sprawl is a major challenge in the Turks and Calcos Islands.

People – mechanisms to ensure local communities can engage in development processes

Only Gibraltar is classed as "strong" in this category. Nine Territories scored "weak" or "very weak" for political accountability in their development decision-making, and accountability mechanisms for Foreign and Commonwealth Office-appointed Governors can be poor. Open and transparent development procedures with clear fines of accountability and appeal are needed to ensure good government and prevent corruption. In many jurisdictions it is also currently very difficult to establish which environmental laws are in force. Such a lack of legislative transparency impodes the effectiveness of environmental legislation and can undermine the rule of law.

Good practice: Gibraltar Areas for Improvement:

- In Bermuda, Ministers can grant Special Development Orders with no public notice and no right of appeal.
- In the Cayman islands, challenges against major developments can no longer be made in the national interest and are only permitted from neighbouring landowners.
- In the Falkland Islands, there is a lack of legal procedures to challenge development.
- In the Turks & Calcos Islands, the Encouragement of Development Ordinance has no reference to the environment and appears to give the Governor great freedom to issue Development Orders.

Nine Overseas Territories lack strong networks of protected arees to conserve their natural habitats.

Uninhabited Territories

In the 2012 White Paper, the UK Government made the very welcome commitment to "exemplary environmental management" of the uninhabited Territories. At present, the three uninhabited Territories achieved "strong" ratings in only two of their 12 categories.

Good practice: Development control in British Antarctic Territory

Area for Improvement:

The South Georgia Commissioner has significant leeway to grant permits for otherwise restricted activities, with no right of appeal.

Obstacles to progress

1. Stalled legislation

The analysis has revealed that many of the more populous Territories have draft pieces of logistation or policy that would remody many of the most pressing gaps in their environmental governance. However, at least tive major environment talls, and the same number of development plans, appear to have stalled within political or bureaucraftic processes:

- Anguilta Physical Planning Bill 2001, Anguilta Environmental Protection Act.
- BVI Environmental Management and Conservation of Biodiversity Bill.

The printing wilderness of South Georgia remains

- Cayman National Conservation Bill, Development Plans for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.
- Montsomat Conservation and Environmental Management Bill 2008, Montsomat National Development Plan.
- Turks and Calcos Wildlife & Biodiversity Conservation Bill, Endangered Species Act and Protected Areas Act.

2. Lack of capacity

For the smaller Tentiories, many of whose Environment Departments have only four or five staff with little formal training, a lack of capacity and technical expertise is the major obstacle to developing environmental policy. There is also often a significant lack of capacity in Attorney Generals' offices to draft the required legal instruments.

Case study; environmental governance in the Cayman Islands

The Cayman Islands are home to remarkable wildlife, from rare blue iguanas to critically endangered ghost orchids. It has the last large tracts of old-growth forest left in any of the Territories, and the largest configuous mangrove wetland remaining in the Caribbean (the Central Mangrove Wetland).

The Cayman Islands are, however, still missing many of the basic elements of good environmental governance. The Cayman Department of the Environment is not recognised in any law and is not a legal entity. The department therefore has to rely on using pieces of other legislation and making non-binding recommendations. Since there is no comprehensive conservation legislation to enable the establishment of protected areas, almost 85% of the Central Mangrove Wetland remains without any protection at all. Five sites were designated as animal sanctuaries by the Cayman Government in 2003, but two have since had their protection revoked, setting a worrying precedent.

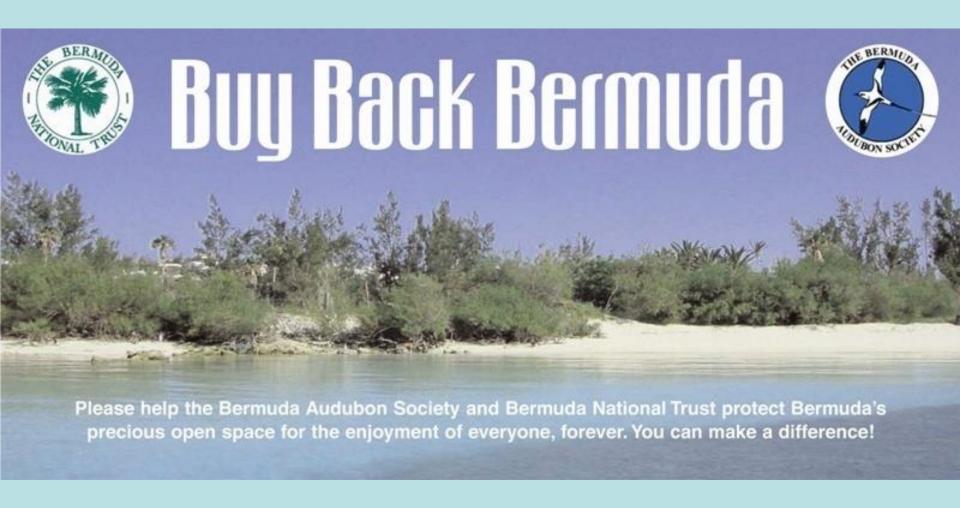
Major developments can also take place on important habitats without any requirement for EIAs. Many major developments, including a cross-Island highway through key mangrove and forest habitat, are proposed. On Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, there are no development plans and limited planning legislation. Undeveloped forest land is therefore being subdivided into small lots and sold with no regard to the environmental impacts of development.

The draft National Conservation Bill, proposed since 2007, would remedy many of the most significant gaps in Cayman's environmental governance, but remains stalled in the political process.





The opportunities



A big "thank you"

Governor George Fergusson
Julie Greaves and Aberfeldy staff - bluebird workshop
Maurice Shaeffer & David Semos - wood cutting
Derek Singleton and Coral Beach Club
Stuart Smith - and his bluebird volunteers

The Audubon Executive Committee
Bermuda high School
BNT - Buy Back Bermuda partnership & facility use
Catlin - Nonsuch Camp
Conservation Crew, Dept of Conservation Services esp. Alison Copeland
Partner Re - Dollars for Hours/Nonsuch Camp

Working parties from:
HSBC
Butterfield Bank
Lancashire Re
Deloitte
Horsfield Design and Landscaping
BAS working party volunteers

All our financial sponsors - too numerous to list - especially to all those who have donated towards the new Vesey nature reserve