

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	The Bahamas National Trust
Project Title:	San Salvador Island: Designation of Key Biodiversity Areas, Graham's Harbour and Great Lakes, as National Parks in The Bahamas
Date of Report:	June 22, 2015
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CEPF Region: Caribbean Islands

Strategic Direction: 1: Improve protection and management of 45 priority key biodiversity areas.

Grant Amount: \$62,380.00

Project Dates: January 1, 2013-April 30, 2015

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):

- 1) San Salvador Living Jewels (SSLJ) Foundation: The San Salvador Living Jewels has been an integral part of the project, being involved with all aspects of project implementation from inception to closure. Representatives from SSLJ has facilitated on-the-ground planning and participation in community and stakeholder meetings, training workshops, school visits, fieldtrips, management plan development and review, and has been instrumental in rebuilding the momentum amongst the local communities and key decision makers to advance park designations. SSLJ lead the process on obtaining local and international stakeholder support through community walk-a-bouts and the establishment of an online petition to compliment the park planning process. Representatives from SSJL also assisted in the completion of the GEF Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) forms for two (2) Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), in addition to coordinating and participating in the Public Announcement Reception in San Salvador.
- 2) Gerace Research Centre (GRC): Gerace has provided substantial input into the development of the park proposal document, incorporating significant scientific data to justify protection to proposed National Parks. GRC has also partnered with the Bahamas National Trust on project training opportunities, providing a venue for two (2) training workshops held under this project grant; Seabird Identification & Monitoring and Iguana Monitoring Training. Representatives from GRC also assisted in the completion of the GEF Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool

(METT) forms for two (2) Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and assisted in the coordination of the Public Announcement Reception.

- 3) Local Government Council of San Salvador: Local Government has been updated on the progress of the project, and has participated in community meetings, fieldtrips and the Public Announcement Reception.

Conservation Impacts

Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal):

Two Key Biodiversity Areas in The Bahamas, Graham's Harbour and Great Lake, are recognized locally, nationally and globally as Protected Areas, and contributes to national and global conservation goals, international obligations and local economic development, while maintaining the distinct and unique ecological attributes found on San Salvador.

Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:

To date, The Government of The Commonwealth of The Bahamas recognizes the ecological and social importance of Graham's Harbour and the Southern Great Lake on a local, national and international scale, and as such, officially declared these Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) as National Parks on April 23rd, 2015, at a Public Announcement Reception held in San Salvador. National park designations for San Salvador have received tremendous local and national support. An online petition, acquiring more than 600 signatures from international sources, shows recognition of the significance in the protection of ecologically sensitive areas in San Salvador. These newly designated national parks on and around San Salvador, will contribute to national conservation targets to meet international obligations under the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA), and under the Caribbean Challenge Initiative, which calls for 20% protection to near shore marine environments by 2020.

Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal):

1. By the end of the project, a park proposal will be submitted to The Government of The Bahamas for approval to designate The San Salvador National Parks System under The Bahamas National Trust Act, to include The Graham's Harbour Iguana and Seabird Park (GHISP) and The Great Lake National Park (GLNP), encompassing approximately 4,300 and 400 hectares respectively.
2. By the end of the project, a formalized partnership developed between The Bahamas National Trust and the San Salvador Living Jewels to define roles and responsibilities for National Park management on San Salvador.

3. By the end of the project, 11 communities neighbouring The GHISP and GLNP benefiting from CEPF supported activities, including increased capacity for monitoring iguana and seabird populations, improved local support, increased awareness of biodiversity conservation and stewardship building for the San Salvador National Park System.
4. By the end of the project, a monitoring program established for iguana and seabird populations.
5. By the end of the project, at least 14 persons representing local communities and partner organizations, trained on important ecosystems and key species found within park boundaries to build capacity for resource monitoring.
6. By the end of the project, a draft management plan will be developed with the appointment of a core management team consisting of key stakeholders and partner organizations.

AMENDMENT DECEMBER 2014

6. By the end of the project a final management plan will be developed for newly designation National Parks in San Salvador, inclusive of a budget for implementing various components of management.

Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:

1. In April 2014, a park proposal document and technical brief was prepared and submitted to The Government of The Bahamas for approval to designate The San Salvador National Parks System under The Bahamas National Trust Act, to include Key Biodiversity Areas - Graham's Harbour Iguana and Seabird Park (GHISP) and The Great Lake National Park (GLNP). The Bahamas National Trust's Executive Team formally presented the park proposal to the Prime Minister of The Bahamas, The Rt. Hon. Perry G. Christie, and park proposal packages were issued to relevant Senior Policy Makers, including the Member of Parliament for San Salvador and Minister of Environment & Housing, relevant Government Departments and to the Local Government Council of San Salvador in efforts to advance legal designations This proposal provided substantial scientific and socioeconomic information to emphasize the importance of advancing protection to outstanding examples of rich biodiversity areas on and around the island of San Salvador.
2. At the end of the project, The Bahamas National Trust and the San Salvador Living Jewels Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), outlining a partnership arrangement for management of the San Salvador National Park System. Specifically, the MOU calls for collaboration on scientific monitoring of species and habitats of conservation importance, stakeholder engagement, education & outreach initiatives, fundraising for management and nature-based opportunity development around National Parks.

3. At the end of the project, 8 communities neighbouring Graham's Harbour and Great Lakes have benefitted from project activities such as stakeholder and public meetings, school visits, capacity building training for seabird and iguana population monitoring, awareness questionnaires, fieldtrips to proposed Key Biodiversity Area (KBA), and management planning meetings. *(It should be noted that of the 11 settlements on the island of San Salvador, locals only reside in 8 of those settlements)*
4. To date, community representatives received training for site monitoring in the point-count protocol, adopted from existing methodologies established by BirdsCaribbean, to facilitate monitoring of seabird populations in proposed national parks in San Salvador. Community representatives have also received training in methods to monitor and track Iguana populations on sites on San Salvador and off shore cays.
5. At the end of the project, 19 individuals from five (5) settlements in San Salvador have received training in identification and count estimation of seabirds and on methods of monitoring iguana populations, in efforts to build capacity for long-term monitoring of these critically important species.
6. To date, a management plan has been drafted with stakeholder participation in a series of meetings and discussions with community representatives and resource users. The plan layout has also been reformatted in preparation for a public review process. A management planning team has been established, and management planning meetings with local communities, stakeholders and core team have been achieved to ensure feedback is incorporated and for consensus on management objectives and activities

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected:

- 1) **Graham's Harbour Seabird & Iguana National Park – 2,226 ha (5,500 acres)**
- 2) **Southern Great Lake National Park – 1,646 ha (4068 acres)**
- 3) West Coast Marine Park – 2,428 ha (6,000 acres)
- 4) Pigeon Creek & Snow Bay National Park – 1,969 ha (4,865 acres)
- 5) Green's Bay National Park – 242 ha (599 acres)

Species Conserved (based on national conservation targets):

- 1) Rock iguanas: Critically Endangered San Salvador rock iguana (*Cyclura rileyi rileyi*)
- 2) Important Bird Areas (IBA) – Graham's Harbour (BS028), Southern Great Lake (BS029)
- 3) Seabird Nesting
 - a. Populations of the following seabirds and waterbirds (including breeding colonies for some species);
 - i. Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*)
 - ii. Bridled Tern (*Sterna anaethetus*)
 - iii. Magnificent frigatebirds (*Fregata magnificensis*)
 - iv. Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus*)
 - v. Gull-billed Terns (*Sterna nilotica*)

- vi. Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*)
- vii. Double-crested cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*)

Corridors Created: N/A

Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.

1. Success:
 - a. Key Senior Government Officials were engaged at project inception, and frequent updates were provided throughout the life of the project. This allowed for the Bahamas National Trust to gain political commitments that aligned with project activities and deliverables, and to establish a relationship for future conservation efforts.
 - b. A major success of the project was due in part by the collaboration with local conservation organizations, which facilitated all on the ground project activities, and was instrumental in raising local and international awareness and support for the establishment of a new National Park System in San Salvador.
 - c. Establishing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with local conservation partner, San Salvador Living Jewels Foundation, has afforded a sense of ownership for the national parks, and has strengthened the relationship between the two entities. Discussions on management implementation and funding for the newly announcement national parks have been initiated, to further enhance park management and conservation efforts in San Salvador.
2. Challenges:
 - a. Protocols have been identified for seabird monitoring, however the level of training undertaken in this project was not sufficient to establishing monitoring programmes. This has be revisited, and adopted in management plan implementation strategies to facilitate long-term species monitoring within the national parks.
 - b. While the San Salvador National Parks has been officially announced as declared, a gazette copy of park leases (legal instruments) must be produced and signed prior to management plan publishing, which is currently in progress through the relevant Government agencies.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

The announcement of the newly designated national parks has brought a positive outlook to the people of San Salvador. Specifically, residents see this as a potential economic boost that will attract more visitors to the island.

Project Components

Project Components: *Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.*

Component 1 Planned: Relevant Government agencies/departments at the local and national level engaged and advancing the creation of a National Park System for San Salvador.

Component 1 Actual at Completion:

National Level – Stakeholder Engagement

Bahamas National Trust representatives, consisting of the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director and Parks Planner, formally met with the Member of Parliament (MP) for San Salvador and Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) of The Bahamas, The Hon. Philip Brave Davis on February 14th, 2013, following a meeting with his Senior Advisor & Former Member of Parliament for San Salvador, Mr. Philip Smith and BNT representatives on January 30th, 2013. The purpose of these meetings was to present the CEPF Project objectives and timelines, and to garner support and input for establishing new National Parks on and around the island of San Salvador. Regular project updates were provided to the DPM through his Senior Advisor, as advised during initial formal meetings.

BNT's Executive Team and partner organizations have regularly met with Minister of Environment & Housing, The Hon. Kenred Dorsett, on the progress of expanding the Bahamas National Protected Area System, inclusive of five (5) areas on San Salvador. Minister Dorsett has made commitments to advance protection to areas that would meet international obligations to the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD), and as such, the National Implementation Support Programme (NISP) Partners under the GEF Full Size Project submitted a White Paper on July 9th, 2013, outlining recommendations to meet CBD's 10% goal for nearshore marine habitat protection.

On June 12th, 2014, The Executive Management Team of the Bahamas National Trust met with the Prime Minister of The Bahamas, The Right Honorable Perry G. Christie, to formally present the San Salvador National Park proposal. BNT's President Lawrence Glington lead the BNT team, expressing the importance of the proposed San Salvador National Park System to national conservation goals, in efforts to assist The Bahamas with meeting international obligations.

On February 10th, 2015, BNT's Executive Director and Director of Parks met with MP & DPM Philip Brave Davis and Senior Advisor Philip Smith to discuss the process and plans for the Public Announcement of the San Salvador National Parks, and project timelines.

On April 23rd, 2015, The Deputy Prime Minister of The Bahamas and Member of Parliament for San Salvador, The Hon. Philip Brave Davis, announced the declaration of five (5) new national parks on and around the island of San Salvador, during a Park Announcement Reception on Almond Tree Park in Cockburn Town, in San Salvador. Brief remarks were given by The Hon. Kenred Dorsett, Minister of Environment & Housing, Eric

Carey, BNT's Executive Director, Philip Smith, Former Member of Parliament of San Salvador, and Michael Goffe, President of the San Salvador Living Jewels Foundation. A host of spectators gathered on this momentous occasion, with media coverage provided by the national television station of The Bahamas, ZNS Broadcasting Corporation.

A total of nine (9) newspaper articles have been published in four (4) newspapers over the course of the project, providing progress on education and outreach efforts of the project, on public meetings to engage local communities on new national parks in San Salvador, and on the achievement of formal Public Announcement of the five (5) new additions to the BNT's National Park System.

Local Level – Stakeholder Engagement

BNT's Parks Planner traveled to San Salvador from 5-7 February, 2013, and held five (5) initial project planning meetings with project partners; board of the San Salvador Living Jewels Foundation, Gerace Research Centre representatives, and presented project objectives and activities with Island Administrator Mr. Harvey Roberts, and to hold a project introduction meeting with the Local Government Council of San Salvador.

During September 2013, BNT's Parks Planner traveled to San Salvador to meet with local partner organizations regarding project activities, deliverables and challenges of employing a new Education Office to advance on-the-ground Education & Outreach activities.

Director of Parks and Parks Planner of the Bahamas National Trust have made courtesy calls to the Island Administrator during all visits to San Salvador, to provide updates on project activities and to outline the purpose of each trip. Updates were also provided to members of the Local Government Council, and with the President of the San Salvador Living Jewels.

Park Leases

In efforts to advance park lease development, the Bahamas National Trust requested an amendment to an existing project grant with The Nature Conservancy in July 2014, to incorporate the drafting of legal descriptions for the five (5) sites in San Salvador awaiting formal approval by Government. Approval was granted and contract amendments were signed in September 2014, after which, a land surveyor was engaged to complete maps and legal descriptions for park lease development. The San Salvador leases are currently in the gazette process, along with thirteen (13) additional sites proposed for the expansion of the Bahamas Protected Area System. The total areas proposed for protection seeks to meet international obligations under the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD), which seeks to protect 10% of nearshore marine environments, respectively. This achievement will move The Bahamas closer to its goal of protecting 20% of nearshore marine habitats by year 2020, under the Caribbean Challenge Initiative.

Component 2 Planned: Outreach conducted to key stakeholders to promote the establishment of national parks at Graham's Harbour and Great Lakes.

Component 2 Actual at Completion:

Two (2) Education Officers were hired in San Salvador during the life of the project. Ms. Beverly Laramore worked at the local BNT staff from April to August 2013, to execute on the ground education and outreach activities outlined in project grant agreement. Under her guidance, the pre-awareness surveys were administered, a fieldtrip was conducted at Graham's Harbour, and two (2) stakeholder meetings (Community and Focus Group) were held. Mr. Jermaine Johnson was hired as the new Education Officer in San Salvador, from January to August 2014, to carry out project related activities to meet the requirements of raising awareness and support of new national parks. To fulfill obligations of the CEPF Project, BNT representatives traveled to San Salvador during the period September – December 2014, to complete outstanding education and outreach activities in the absence of a local BNT representative.

Stakeholder Assessments

A Stakeholder Assessment survey was designed and executed by BNT's Education Department, to assist in the development of effective education & outreach initiatives in the San Salvador communities. The survey instrument consisted of Nineteen (19) questions, aimed to:

- Gauge awareness of the Bahamas National Trust,
- Gauge people's awareness of the Proposed National Parks, and
- Understand local views and opinions on the benefits and disadvantages of new national parks.

A pre-stakeholder assessment was administered prior to the implementation of education and outreach activities, during the period May – June 2013. One Hundred Six (106) surveys were administered throughout the eight (8) settlements in San Salvador. At the end of the project from Feb – Mar 2015, post-stakeholder assessments were undertaken to assess the success of education and outreach activities. A total of One Hundred Three (103) persons were surveyed, and a post-stakeholder assessment report was generated, to provide a comparative analysis of the two (2) surveys sets administered during the CEPF San Salvador Survey. Overall survey results indicate the need for continuing education about national parks at the local level, and to provide opportunities for economic benefit from the newly designated protected areas.

CDs

One Hundred (100) CD's of the "Living Jewels of the Land, The Sky and Sea" were reproduced under the CEPF San Salvador Project, and have been issued to local businesses, packaged with other promotional and education materials for distribution to Government Offices, to local school teachers and partner organizations. CDs were also disseminated during outreach activities under this project grant.

Public Service Announcements (PSAs)

1) Radio PSA: Two (2) 30-second radio PSAs were produced under this project, to promote the protection of habitats for the critically endangered and endemic San Salvador rock iguana, and for nesting seabirds. Both PSAs were transmitted on the national radio station during the month of October 2013.

2) TV PSA: One (1) television PSA was produced under this project, to promote the establishment of the San Salvador National Park System. The TV PSA aired on eight (8) television stations most frequently watched by residents of San Salvador, from October 3rd – 31st, 2013. Currently, the PSA is being utilized as fillers during the regular broadcast schedule on ZNS Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas. Additionally, the San Salvador PSA has been uploaded to BNT's you tube channel, posted to BNT's social media pages, and is available for viewing on the internet.

The song "Living Jewels of the Land, The Sky and Sea" was used as background music on all PSAs produced under this project grant.

Promotional Materials

Graphics were designed for promotional materials, depicting the key species aimed to be protected within the San Salvador National Park System – seabirds and iguanas. A soaring White-tail Tropicbird and an iguana were used on t-shirts, reusable bags and on tumbler cups.

1) T-shirts: A total of 150 t-shirts (75 adult sizes and 75 sizes for children) were produced under this project grant, with dissemination completed during community walk-a-bouts, at community meetings, during school visits and to fieldtrip participants.

2) Reusable Bags: Five Hundred (500) reusable bags were produced, and widely distributed throughout the life of the project. The bags were the most requested items produced under this project grant, and are being used locally as grocery bags.

3) Tumbler cups: One Hundred Forty-Four (144) tumbler cups with project graphics have been produced under this project, and widely distributed throughout the communities of San Salvador.

School Visits

A total of twelve (12) school visits were conducted at the local high school and primary school during the project, exceeding the number (10) of visits slated under this project grant.

1) April 15th, 2013: Local Education Officer accompanied by visiting scientists (2), made two **(2) school visits** to the San Salvador Primary and Central High Schools. The team educated the students on sea turtle conservation, and areas proposed for new national parks on San Salvador, that are important for supporting sea turtle populations.

2) March 3rd, 2014: A visit was also made to the high school to address the school assembly, with One Hundred Eight (108) students and teachers attending. Project posters and promotional materials were issued to children after mini quizzes were given to test their knowledge of what was presented during the assembly.

3) March 17th, 2014 – **2 school visits:**

- Local Education Officer visited the primary school, and had the opportunity to address the school assembly on project objectives and proposed national parks, in which One Hundred Thirty (130) students and teachers attended.

4) March 18th, 2014: Local Education Officer presented to the grade 6 Science Class at the San Salvador Primary School in United States. The students learned about national parks and their values, and the areas proposed for protection in San Salvador. Educational and promotional materials were issued to the students and teachers during these visits.

5) March 19th, 2014, **3 School Visits:** Local Education Officer provided the 5th grade Science Class with a presentation on national parks and key species to be protected from park designations. The principal and teachers of the high school were given a presentation by local Education Officer during a staff meeting, to discuss the scope of the CEPF Project, educational activities that would engage and educate students, and on the purpose of designating areas in San Salvador for protection. The Grade 4 Science Class also received a presentation from local Education Officer, learning about what makes San Salvador so unique, and the protection needed to ensure those areas remain pristine.

6) April 7th, 2014: During Natural Science Week, BNT local representative gave a presentation to 11 and 12 grade students of the San Salvador Central High School significance of mangroves, and viewed Great Lakes, to learn about birds.

7) September 30th, 2014: A presentation was given by San Salvador Living Jewels rep, at the primary school for grade 5 and 3 students, to learn about the Spiny lobster and Nassau grouper. T-shirts and posters were handed out as well as bags to students, and a map of the proposed parks was highlighted to discuss how these 2 animals use and need these areas and why we must protect them.

8) October 15th, 2014: A presentation was given by project partners, to the grade 3 class of the primary school. The children learned about the importance of seagrass beds and mangroves, in which a fieldtrip followed to proposed national parks for a more hands-on learning experience.

10) November 10th, 2014 – **2 school visits:** Visiting BNT Education Officers gave a presentation on “Why Birds Matter” to grades 4 thru 6 students at the San Salvador Primary School in United States, and at the San Salvador Central High School to grades 10 & 11. The talk linked the importance of the proposed Key Biodiversity Areas on San Salvador, and how they support seabird populations in The Bahamas.

Educational Materials:

1) Brochures: A total of One Thousand (1,000) 16 x 9 tri-folded brochures were produced under this project, providing details on the ecological, historical and cultural values of the areas proposed for protection on San Salvador.

2) Posters: Two Hundred (200) 18 x 24 posters were produced under this project, depicting the boundaries proposed for five (5) national parks on San Salvador, and highlighting the species each area seeks to protect. Posters have been erected at Government Offices (Bahamas Electricity Corporation, Bahamas Telecommunications Company, Administrator's Office, Post Office, Local Government Office), in the classrooms of the Primary and High

Schools, at the airport, in local food stores, on notice boards around the island, in the bank, at local bars, and in three (3) local hotels.

3) Banners: Two (2) large pull-up portable banners were produced, and featured at the Public Announcement Reception in April 2015, to highlight the resources found within the newly designated national parks and park boundaries. The 2nd banner highlights the key species protected within the new national parks, the San Salvador rock iguana, providing information on the threats that would negatively impact their populations and contact information for reporting infractions. Banners were issued to the Manager of the San Salvador Airport Authority, for installing in the international airport.

*Educational materials were distributed throughout the life of the project, and packaged with other education and promotional materials during various events and activities on the island of San Salvador.

Fieldtrips

The following seven (7) fieldtrips were held during the life of the project, exceeding the number of site visits (4) to be conducted under this project grant:

Graham's Harbour

1) Fifteen (15) persons participated in the fieldtrip by boat to Graham's Harbour on **April 25th, 2013**, including three (3) BNT representatives – local Education Officer Beverley Laramore, Director of Parks David Knowles and Park Warden Tavares Thompson. Other participants included representatives from the San Salvador Living Jewels, Island Administrator Harvey Roberts, Chief Councilor Clifford Fernander and other Local Government Council Members, in addition to local community residents.

2) On **July 29th, 2014**, the visiting BNT team, along with local fishermen, San Salvador Living Jewels Board Members, and Management Planning Consultants took part in a fieldtrip to Graham's Harbour, witnessing the abundance of birds that occupied the offshore cays. Guided jet skis tours were also in progress, which afforded the team an opportunity to discuss developing management prescriptions for resource protection against visitor use.

Southern Great Lake

3) A fieldtrip to the proposed Southern Great Lake National Park was conducted on **July 27th, 2014**. The group consisted of eight (8) persons, including local fisherman, BNT Staff and management planning consultants.

4) BNT's Education Officer Scott Johnson traveled to San Salvador to lead a fieldtrip by boat to the proposed Southern Great Lake National Park on **November 11th, 2014**. The group consisted of Local Government Officials and members from the San Salvador Living Jewels, to learn and see the diversity of bird life that makes this site so unique, and thus a priority for protection status. None of the Ten (10) participants had ever visited this site on San Salvador, and were grateful for the opportunity to experience the beautiful scenery, and the abundance of birdlife found within the lake system.

All sites:

5) Local Education Officer Jermaine Johnson, led a fieldtrip to four (4) proposed national parks, with ten (10) high school students (11 & 12th graders) on **April 7th, 2014**. Stops during the visit allowed the group to view the area of Graham's Harbour from the local park, and the Great Lake from the Dixon Hill Lighthouse that overlooks the inland lake system. Participants were able to learn hands on of the importance of protecting the species and habitats found within the areas proposed as national parks. The group was accompanied by their Social Studies teacher, and CEPF Project Representative Nicole Brown.

6) A fieldtrip followed a school visit for the grade 8 Civics Class on **September 26th, 2014**, of the San Salvador Central High School, which provided the students an opportunity to view four (4) proposed national parks, from various landmarks around San Salvador. The students were provided with an overview by San Salvador Living Jewels representative, of how these areas can provide livelihoods for locals through Ecotourism.

7) Following a school presentation on **October 15th, 2014** with the grade 3 class at the primary school, a field trip around the island was carried out by project partner organization, San Salvador Living Jewels. There were stops made at all the sites visible to show the proposed parks. The kids learned about the importance of the sea grass beds in Graham's Harbour, and had a number of visits from sea turtles. Mangroves and marine life in Pigeon Creek was also another feature the children learned about, and experience firsthand. T-shirts and bags were handed out as keepsakes for their participation.

Component 3 Planned: Strengthened capacity for long-term management and resource monitoring on San Salvador.

Component 3 Actual at Completion:

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Bahamas National Trust and San Salvador Living Jewels was drafted in February 2015 for review and discussions by both parties. The MOU calls for the collaboration of both entities to improve on-the-ground conservation initiatives, capacity building activities and programmes for national park management, research on critical species and habitats, education and outreach projects, and fundraising efforts to finance the implementation of management activities. President of the San Salvador Living Jewels Michael Goffe, and BNT's Executive Director Eric Carey, signed the MOU on behalf of their respective organizations at the end of the project.

Training Workshops

A total of Nineteen (19) residents of San Salvador received training through (2) training workshop sessions under this project grant.

1) The Seabird Identification and Monitoring Training workshop, led by BNT's Science Research Coordinator Predensa Moore, was held from June 18-20, 2013, at the Gerace Research Centre. Fifteen (15) representatives from five (5) local communities participated in the training, which consisted of classroom sessions and hands on field exercised at Graham's Harbour. The objective of the workshops was to build local capacity for long-term

monitoring of seabird populations within the National Parks on San Salvador, specifically for Graham's Harbour and Southern Great Lake.

2) The Iguana Monitoring Training workshop was held on December 15th – 18th, 2014, with classroom sessions conducted at the Gerace Research Centre. Expert iguana scientist, Dr. Williams Hayes of Loma Linda University facilitated the training, in which practical sessions included offshore cays, and cays within the interior of the Southern Great Lake. A total of nine (9) persons participated in this training opportunity, including five (5) local residents, BNT Park Wardens (2), and visiting wardens (2) from the Turks & Caicos National Trust.

Management Plan

A draft management plan was produced and submitted to BNT by Management Planning Consultants of Global Parks in November 2014. A graphic designer was hired to design zoning maps, plan layout and reformat sections following project extension approval in January 2015. The management plan would be finalized upon signing of legal documents (park lease), currently being formalized by the Government of The Bahamas.

Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT)

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) tracking tool for measuring the effectiveness of Protected Area management was completed at project inception and at the end of the project. Overall scores for both Graham's Harbour and Southern Great Lake increased from initial scores, thus highlighting improvements to on the ground management of national parks. The increase in scores is attributed to the implementation of activities and deliverables under the CEPF-San Salvador Project.

Component 4 Planned: Developed park proposal for the San Salvador National Park System.

Component 4 Actual at Completion:

Formal Meetings

The Bahamas National Trust in collaboration with the San Salvador Living Jewels has undertaken broad and comprehensive public consultations over the course of this project grant and in prior engagements in the San Salvador communities, aimed to garner input and support for the creation of national parks in San Salvador. Under this project, a total of five (5) community and stakeholder meetings were held, to engage in discussions on proposed national parks and for the management planning process to be formalized upon park designations. These meetings are listed as follows;

1) Community Meeting: Thirty-Three (33) persons attended this meeting, held on **April 25th, 2013** in Cockburn Town. The purpose of the meeting was to present the CEPF Project objectives and activities, and to provide a formal presentation on the areas proposed for national park status. Director of Parks David Knowles and SSLJ President Michael Goffe chaired the meeting.

2) Focus Group Meeting: The objective of the meeting was to bring together key resource users of proposed national park sites, to discuss the current uses of the sites, existing threats, and management of these sites once they are designated as national parks. The meeting was

held on **July 17th, 2013** at the Gerace Research Centre in United States, in conjunction with the BREEF Teachers Training workshop. The Meeting was chaired by SSLJ President Michael Goffe, and BNT's Education Officer Scott Johnson. A total of Thirty Five (35) persons attended the meeting, which included local tour guides, dive operators and fishermen.

3) Public Meeting: The Member of Parliament, Deputy Prime Minister the Hon. Philip Brave Davis, hosted this meeting on **January 11th, 2014** in San Salvador, to seek firsthand input on the level of support towards establishing a system of national parks on San Salvador. Parks Planner Lakeshia Anderson attended the meeting, and spoke on project activities achieved to date, and the importance of each specific site proposed for protection, and how they contribute to national conservation goals. Approximately Ninety-Eight (98) persons attended the meeting, in which Former Member of Parliament for San Salvador, Mr. Philip Smith also gave remarks to the overcrowded room.

4) Public Meeting: The objective of this meeting was to initiate discussions for the development of management plans for the anticipated new national parks in San Salvador. The meeting was held on **July 29th, 2014**, with BNT represented by Parks Planner Lakeshia Anderson, and local Education Officer Jermaine Johnson. Facilitating the meeting was management planning consultant from Global Parks, David Morris, contracted under this project grant to guide the management planning process and produce draft management plan document.

5) Community Meeting: The purpose of this meeting was to gather final feedback from residence in San Salvador, regarding uses of national park site upon designations. Specifically, stakeholders wanted input on what areas will be designed as no-take areas, and what other restrictions will be implemented. This meeting was held on **November 8th, 2014**, with BNT Parks Planner and Management Planning consultant leading the meeting. Twenty Four (24) persons from the San Salvador community attended.

Park Proposal

BNT's Parks Planner led the park planning process for the development of park proposal with input from core team, consisting of BNT's Science Officer Lindy Knowles (GIS Expert – mapping), Executive Director of Gerace Research Centre, the President and Founder of San Salvador Living Jewels Foundation, Michael Goffe and Sandy Voegeli. A follow-up meeting in September 2013 with core team representatives (Living Jewels and Gerace) and BNT Parks Planner achieved the completion of criteria ranking for each sites for inclusion in park proposal document, and to strategize for support letters and petitions.

An on-the-ground and online petition process was initiated to facilitate gathering support from international and national sources. School visits and walk-a-bouts garnered signatures from One Hundred Eight (108) residents, and an additional 726 signatures were acquired through an online petition, of which 115 were Bahamians.

The San Salvador National Parks proposal was developed and submitted to the Government of The Bahamas in April 2014, to incorporate five (5) areas of conservation importance on and around the island of San Salvador. Two (2) of the sites, are nationally and internationally recognized as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs); Graham's Harbour and Southern Great Lake.

A Technical Brief accompanied the park proposal, to provide a summarized document for relevant Senior Policy Makers. Hardcopies of the proposal have been distributed to all relevant Government Ministers and Departments, including the Deputy Prime Minister, who is the Parliamentary Representative for San Salvador, the Minister of Environment & Housing, Minister of Agriculture, Marine Resources & Local Government, the Minister of Tourism, the Director of Marine Resources and the Director of the Bahamas Environment Science & Technology (BEST) Commission. Local distribution of the park proposal included the Administrator's Office, Local Government Office, and to members of the San Salvador Living Jewels Foundation. Summary details of the park proposal was posted online on the BNT's website, www.bnt.bs, inclusive of maps and the ecological significance each area provides to the National Protected Area System.

Were any components unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project? All components were of relevance, however specific actions under components were unrealistic considering project timelines. See Lessons Learned section.

Please describe and submit (electronically if possible) any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

Education & Outreach Materials

- 1) Brochures
- 2) Poster
- 3) T-shirts
- 4) Reusable bags
- 5) CD label
- 6) Tumbler cups - design
- 7) Banners (x2)

Documents

- 8) San Salvador National Park Proposal
- 9) Technical Brief for San Salvador National Park Proposal
- 10) Pre-Awareness Survey Report
- 11) Post Survey Awareness Report
- 12) Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool for two (2) KBAs

Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

- 1) Production of promotional and educational materials, such as posters, banners, t-shirts, and bags, were successful tool for increasing local awareness and for engaging in discussions with local residents.
- 2) Fieldtrips were also effective in providing firsthand experience in understanding the importance of protecting critical habitats and unique species on San Salvador. Residents that were afforded the opportunity to visit the Great Lake through the CEPF Project were amazed to witness the richness of bird species and the endemic iguanas that inhabited this lake system, which offered a new perspective to conservation.
- 3) School visits are always instrumental in increasing knowledge and information dissemination, as children tend to take the key messages home to their parents.
- 4) Implementing the management planning process during this project was a significant step in addressing the many concerns of resource users regarding the management prescriptions and regulations that will be implemented for the new national parks. The series of meetings held under this project grant allowed for the participation of key stakeholders in the decision making process, to identify park bylaws and regulations that will manage for the protection of park values while allowing visitor use.
- 5) Park Leases: Incorporating activities that require formalizing and signing of legal documents should not be included as a project deliverable. The drafting of such documents should be considered, however timelines for the completion of a process that entails the review and gazettement of documents by the legal branch of the Government, cannot be predicted.
- 6) The training, specifically for shorebirds/seabirds was not structured in a way that would build long-term capacity for monitoring. Capacity building training exercises should be continuous, to ensure appropriate time is allocated for increasing knowledge and experience for long-term monitoring programmes. Trainings should be structured as a series of classroom and field sessions (3 or 4), rather than and 1-time, 1-week training, and should be conducted on days and times more practicable for local participation (evenings and weekends). Additionally, field equipment and supplies should be factored into training budgets, to facilitate future monitoring activities. This can include items such as binoculars, spotting scopes, cameras etc.

Project Implementation: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

- 1) Engaging stakeholders at the local and national levels have provided boundless benefit to the project, ensuring participation and buy-in from relevant Senior Policy Makers and local representatives throughout the project. While identifying a champion that is a high ranking political figure was beneficial for key deliverables of the project, a disadvantage remained on the hectic schedules such a figure has acquired thus resulting in delays of some project deliverables.
- 2) Distribution of educational and promotional items throughout the communities, in the schools, and in local offices and business were effective in spreading knowledge to local residents.
- 3) Hosting the Park Announcement Reception in San Salvador provided a positive message to the community, in that their support has led to a great achievement, that

contributes to the local economy, to national conservation goals, and to international obligations and global conservation efforts.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

Additional Funding

Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of the CEPF investment in this project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
Bahamas National Trust	Cash and In-kind	\$88,524	Staff time, and direct and indirect project cost
Gerace Research Centre	In-kind	\$1,000.00	Venue for training workshops (x2)
The Nature Conservancy	Cash	\$2,400.00 +240	Drafting of Legal Descriptions for Park Leases, Public Announcement Reception
San Salvador Living Jewels Foundation	In-kind	\$1,000.00	On the ground assistance and local coordination

****Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:***

- A*** *Project co-financing (Other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)*
- B*** *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project.)*
- C*** *Regional/ Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

Sustainability/Replicability

Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.

Through collaboration with the San Salvador Living Jewels Foundation and the Gerace Research Centre, the following actions will be replicated beyond the project:

- 1) Education & Outreach Initiatives: BNT will establish a chapter(s) of its environmental youth club, “Discovery Club” in the local schools, to foster environmental stewardship, and will continue school visits and fieldtrips to educate children on the values of their environment, using the national parks as outdoor classrooms.

- 2) Training exercises: New Park Wardens and education Staff will be trained to carry out their respective duties more effectively. Training for community members will also be undertaken to provide assistance to species monitoring exercises, and for annual bird counts. BNT has been working with the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism, on training tour guides, and also specifically for developing a birding tourism industry, and as such, would be replicated in San Salvador considering the rich diversity of bird life on the island.
- 3) Management Effectiveness Tracking Tools: San Salvador National Parks will be included in the METT process with other existing national parks in the system, considering this tool has been adopted for measuring the management effectiveness of the Bahamas National Protected Area System.
- 4) Funding mechanisms: While the Bahamas National Trust will absorb the newly designated national parks into its central budget, the MOU established with the San Salvador Living Jewels Foundation also seeks to identify additional funding for implementing the management plan. Annual fundraising activities will be organized locally to raise funds, and BNT will continue to secure project grants for the San Salvador National Parks. The Bahamas Protected Area Fund, which is the Bahama's sustainable funding mechanism for PAs, also seeks to provide financial assistance to San Salvador, and will be identified for funding specific activities for management plan implementation.
- 5) Research: The BNT will continue to work with the Gerace Research Centre on prioritizing research needs for the national parks, through visiting scientific institutions and US Colleges and Universities.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

The Bahamas National Trust (BNT) secured additional funding to provide assistance to the park lease development process. Through a project grant from The Nature Conservancy, the BNT contracted a land surveyor, to perform activities of digital mapping and legal description drafting for the areas proposed for the San Salvador National Park Systems. Moreover, the BNT secured another project grant for legal description drafting of an additional 13 sites proposed for the expansion of the Bahamas National Protected Area System (BNPAS), to align with the Government's intention of signing park leases for a suite of areas to be designated as Protected Areas, including that for San Salvador.

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

Please include your full contact details below:

Name: Lakeshia Anderson

Organization name: Bahamas National Trust

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 The Bahamas

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*****If your grant has an end date other than JUNE 30, please
complete the tables on the following pages*****

Performance Tracking Report Addendum

CEPF Global Targets

(January 1st, 2013 – April 31st, 2015)

Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	YES	8,511	8,511	1) Graham's Harbour Seabird & Iguana National Park – 2,226 ha (5,500 acres) 2) Southern Great Lake National Park – 1,646 ha (4068 acres) 3) West Coast Marine Park – 2,428 ha (6,000 acres) 4) Pigeon Creek & Snow Bay National Park – 1,969 ha (4,865 acres) 5) Green's Bay National Park – 242 ha (599 acres)
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	YES	8,511	8,511	1) Graham's Harbour Seabird & Iguana National Park 2) Southern Great Lake National Park 3) West Coast Marine Park 4) Pigeon Creek & Snow Bay National Park 5) Green's Bay National Park
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	YES	3,872	3,872	
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	NO			
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	NO			

If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table

Table 1. Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities

Please complete this table if your project provided concrete socioeconomic benefits to local communities. List the name of each community in column one. In the subsequent columns under Community Characteristics and Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit, place an X in all relevant boxes. In the bottom row, provide the totals of the Xs for each column.

Name of Community	Community Characteristics							Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit													
	Small landowners	Subsistence economy	Indigenous/ ethnic peoples	Pastoralists/nomadic peoples	Recent migrants	Urban communities	Communities falling below the poverty rate	Other	Increased Income due to:				Increased food security due to the adoption of sustainable fishing, hunting, or agricultural practices	More secure access to water resources	Improved tenure in land or other natural resource due to titling, reduction of colonization, etc.	Reduced risk of natural disasters (fires, landslides, flooding, etc)	More secure sources of energy	Increased access to public services, such as education, health, or credit	Improved use of traditional knowledge for environmental management	More participatory decision-making due to strengthened civil society and governance.	Other
									Adoption of sustainable natural resources management practices	Ecotourism revenues	Park management activities	Payment for environmental services									
Total																					

If you marked "Other", please provide detail on the nature of the Community Characteristic and Socioeconomic Benefit:

