



FORESTRY UNIT
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT
AND HOUSING



PRESENTS

FORESTRY AWARENESS WEEK (FAW)

"FORESTS AND BIODIVERSITY"

16th- 21st MARCH 2020



About The Forestry Unit

WHAT IS FORESTRY?

Forestry is the science, art, and practice of managing, using and conserving trees or forests and the associated natural resources for human benefit, in a sustainable manner to meet desired goals, needs, and values.

Vision

To ensure the valuable natural forest resources of the Bahamas are managed in a sustained manner, in perpetuity.

Mission

Guided by prudent policy and the provisions of the Forestry Act 2010 and Regulations, the forest resources of the Bahamas will be sustainably managed as a viable renewable natural resource for the benefit of The Bahamas.

Mandate

To develop the forest resources of the Bahamas to their maximum potential by applying sound, scientific, and sustained yield forest management principles and concepts.

Forestry Legislation

Forestry Act 2010 came into effect on 4th January 2011.

Forestry Amendment 2014 allows for selected forested Crown Land, to be vested in the Minister responsible for Forestry. Forestry Regulations 2014 came into effect on 8th July 2014.

History of Forestry in The Bahamas

The Bahamas possesses substantial forest resources, comprising of coppice (hardwood), mangroves, and pine forests. Of this, pine forests have the highest economic potential with 20% on private lands and 80% on crown lands. We have a long history of forest exploitation dating back to the 1700's where many hardwood trees like brasiletto and mahogany and pine trees were harvested. Pine in the country were severely exploited in the 1960's & 1970's.

Forestry Pledge

I pledge my allegiance to the forests that grow in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas and to tell all people of its great benefits.

I pledge to seek to engender in them a passion for the preservation of forests and trees outside of forests.

I pledge to never illegally dump garbage, light fires or remove natural resources from the forests without the proper consent.

I pledge to care for the coppice, protect the pine and to manage the mangroves.

Above all, I pledge to be a land steward and to train my children to be one also to ensure that the forests are protected into perpetuity.

Forests & Biodiversity

Forests cover one third of the Earth's land mass, performing vital functions around the world. Around 1.6 billion people - including more than 2,000 indigenous cultures - depend on forests for their livelihoods, medicines, fuel, food and shelter. Forests are the most biologically-diverse ecosystems on land, home to more than 80% of the terrestrial species of animals, plants and insects. Yet despite all of these priceless ecological, economic, social and health benefits, global deforestation continues at an alarming rate - 13 million hectares of forest are destroyed annually. Deforestation accounts for 12 to 20 percent of the global greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. A world without forests is a world without air, light, water, animals and plants; essentially without biodiversity.

Highlights of Forestry Unit Activities

2019-2020

Blue Hole Conservation Forest Dedication to The Queen



Newly erected sign designating Blue Hole Conservation Forest

Commonwealth Canopy



Minister Romauld Ferreira, PS Janice Miller, Director Christopher Russell, and other attendees



Director Russell addressing attendees

Plant Identification Training



Botany Training in The Turks & Caicos Islands with Department of Environment and Coastal Resources



Forestry Unit staff Botany Training with the University of The Bahamas

Forestry Camp and School 365 Program



Restoration & Remediation Projects

Hocking College (USA) Mangrove Restoration in Davis Creek, Andros



The Bahamas Seed Collection With Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, U.K



Prescribed Burning on Abaco, Forest Inventory Training and Other Field Activities



PUBLIC AWARENESS AND PARTNERSHIPS



Kiwanis Club of Nassau Courtesy Call



Forest Patrols with RBPF on Abaco



Forestry Exhibition Booth at World Food Day held in October, 2019



Wild Bird Hunting Town Meeting at Bahamas National Trust



Panelists from Round Table Discussion at University of The Bahamas



Forestry Exhibition Booth at The Mall at Marathon



Administrative field trip with Ministry of Environment & Housing



Radio interview with 98.7fm

10,000 Trees Campaign & FAW Mall Exhibition & Tree Giveaways



Tree Planting at Police Headquarters



Earth Day Tree Planting at University of The Bahamas





FAW 2020 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



FAW Events 2020

- *Bahamas at Sunrise Appearance*
- *Selfie Competition*
- *History of logging and Forestry in The Bahamas Documentary to be aired on ZNS*
- *Radio Appearances*
- *School Visits*
- *Round Table Discussion at The University of The Bahamas*
- *Forestry Exhibition Booth 3-7pm at The Mall at Marathon*

Contact Us:

Charlotte House (Ground Floor)

Charlotte Street & Shirley Street

Phone: 242-322-4546

Email: forestryinfo@bahamas.gov.bs

Facebook: Bahamas Forestry

Instagram: Bahamas Forestry

Web: www.bahamas.gov.bs/bahamasforestry

About School 365 Program

A program designed to instill a love for the environment in students by visiting schools in The Bahamas and teaching them about the benefits of trees and forests.

About Faw

Forestry Awareness Week is a week of activities held to commemorate World Forestry Day/ International Day of Forests, which is celebrated annually on 21st March. The observance of this day is meant to celebrate and promote the significant benefits provided by trees. It is also intended to educate the public and build awareness on matters affecting forests. This year's theme is "Forests and Biodiversity."

Royal Botanic Gardens, KEW, Seed Banking Initiative

The Forestry Unit has a partnership with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The project is The Global Tree Seed Project. Chief among the many opportunities a project such as this affords The Bahamas is the establishment of our own seed bank.

About 10,000 Trees Campaign

In 2017 The Bahamas pledged to plant 10,000 trees in contribution to Environment Online worldwide 100 Million Trees Initiative. This goal was met on December 31st 2017.

About Forestry Summer Camp

Forestry Summer Camp is a fun, educational, action-packed week led by the Forestry Unit, where students get hands-on experience with different forests ecosystems in The Bahamas and how to protect them. This year summer camp will be held 22nd - 26th June, 2020 at Botanical Gardens.

Partners:



The Nature
Conservancy



Royal Botanic Gardens

Kew

