

# **GLOBE ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020**



**Commonwealth of  
The Bahamas**

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## INTRODUCTION

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The Bahamas' Globe Program began in July 1997 when it was under the auspices of The Ministry of Education and Culture. However, due to an extended period of inactivity, in July 2005, the responsibility of this organization was transferred to The Bahamas Department of Meteorology, under the leadership of Mr. Godfrey Burnside, who was assisted by Mr. Roger Demeritte, respectively.

This team began the development of the program in the government schools and then subsequently expanded it into the Independent or private school system.

The program began with Government schools namely: Sandilands Primary and S.C. McPherson Junior High School. The lone independent school initially was Queen's College Primary.

Many challenges were experienced in both public and private schools, however, a much greater level of sustained success has been achieved by Queen's College Primary. Despite, the high level of success that was once experienced by this and other highly dedicated schools, teacher movement, attrition and retirement has severely crippled the once promising success of the program. Despite the schools challenges, our departmental fiscal and personal resources have always been scarce and as a result, The Bahamas Globe Program has seen a tremendous setback during the last 2 years. The primary reason for the fiscal setback has been the concentration of the Department of Meteorology's expenditure towards our multi-million dollar radar network project, which has an expected completion date of March – May 2020. This has absorbed time and energy from key persons that would have been involved in the Globe Program. In light of this, The Globe Program was slowly rebounding, with much better days projected ahead. Despite, a decline in economic resources from The Bahamas Government, private partnership

has stepped in and is expected to grow as the program seeks further sponsorship and becomes better established within the community.

The Bahamas Globe Program has seen a transition in early 2020 as Mr. Godfrey Burnside, longtime country coordinator has since retired and now Mr. Ian V. McKenzie has been identified as his successor. It is expected that based on the initial foundation, the new infusion of energy and the anticipation from prospective members of Bahamas Globe program and private partnership and local NGOs, the best is yet to come for this initiative.

Having said this, a new level of excitement and an infusion of exhilarating energy was introduced to the program by a duo of young females who have already verbally committed to the program. It is anticipated that over the next several months the program will undergo a state of transformation and re-positioning that will assist in aligning it with the **Globe Strategic Plan 2018-2023**. The new level of infectious young energy should serve to implement new ideas that should greatly enhance the program and make it the rival of the region like it once was.

Despite all the strides that were being made for the globe program in The Bahamas for 2020, the global Covid-19 pandemic struck and basically decimated the progress and plans for the program. To this end, the program now has to reposition and refocus its efforts moving forward for the foreseeable future.

## **EDUCATION**

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We have aggressively been engaged post August 2019 in making attempts to grow and in some cases re-introduce the GLOBE program in both public and private schools, inclusive of our only university—University of The Bahamas (UB), and now even partnering with a local NGO on one of the other Family of Islands.

The Ministry of Education was engaged with hopes of allowing the program to become part of the permanent curriculum of both the Junior and Senior school's system. It was expected that these would have been introduced by September 2020 with a view to adhere to the program's model and strategic goals for 2018 – 2023. Again, the onset on the Covid-19 pandemic forced online virtual learning within the school system. To date, November, virtual schooling platform is the main mode of education and this has greatly limited the Globe program in country.

It was hoped that this could assist in raising awareness of the program while highlighting its importance to environmental education, while ensuring that both the short- and long-term benefits can be appreciated by not only the students and teachers, but also the country, region and the world as a whole.

The Globe program was engaged to present at two teachers' professional developmental workshops held on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020. This was done to garner teacher's interest of the program in the Ministry of Education's public-school system. It was hoped that based on the responses, subsequent meetings would have been conducted with a view to establish a Globe curriculum pilot program in several public junior and senior schools.

The Bahamas' GLOBE Program expects to also continue to engage with other educational groups in efforts to raise awareness and train them in the various protocols about the environment through workshops, and campaigns with both teachers and students. A half day workshop was conducted on February 24<sup>th</sup> 2020 at Queen's College to assist the Globe teacher as well as students in how to properly identify and report clouds.

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A subsequent **Zika Virus Country Mosquito Training Workshop** was also planned to be held April 21st - 22<sup>nd</sup> in Nassau Bahamas. It was scheduled to host at least 50 persons, inclusive of teachers, students, non- governmental workers, community leaders and other related stakeholders in the hydrosphere protocol as it relates to the mosquito app.. This was supposed to have coincided with Earth Day events on April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2020.

## SCIENCE

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Collaborative efforts with The University of The Bahamas, which is the country's only university is of paramount importance and is hoped to forge a greater working relationship with two STEM professionals who have been already targeted with a Marine Professor (Mrs. Jackie Chisolm-Lightbourne), and Kristen Welsh-Unwala Assistant Professor and Head of the Sustainability Program. Mrs. Lightbourne is no stranger to the program as she recently conducted a beach cleanup exercise early in February 2020, while Dr. Unwala has been actively engaged in a grant project between The Bahamas Department of Meteorology, Globe, CocoRaHS and The Young Marine Explorer's of Cat Island. in a nationwide hydrological project that is aimed at expanding the rainfall data collection network throughout The Bahamas. More of this collaborative project will be further discussed in the community section of this report.

## TECHNOLOGY

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We are encouraging our students and teachers to make use of the advancement in technology, and how it can improve their knowledge and awareness of the gadgets and software available.

We have embarked on the use of the Davis Instrument that would show them what technology can do, apps, weather links and storage of data for future use and current exchange of data. The model choice we have decided to use is the Davis Instrument VantagePro2 as this will allow the exchange of data via weather link with some of our partners both locally and internationally.

Recently, The Bahamas has been approached about a new technology that is expected to reduce costs while enhancing the accessibility of instrumentation for schools but especially those in remote areas and harsh conditions. In times such as remote student learning, instruments such as these could ensure that the level of data collected would not be disrupted even in times of national or global pandemic. I highly recommend this avenue be further explored by Globe. Further information regarding these instruments can be obtained via visiting <https://www.metocean.com/product/paws/>

The Bahamas Government along with various stakeholders have initially began outfitting Public schools with the necessary infrastructure for hard wired and Wi-Fi internet connection. To date, a total of 6 Public schools have been completed, with a rush to complete many more during this school summer break with a view to complete as many as possible before Spring of 2020. However, again, due to the global pandemic, most of these efforts were made redundant as the focus was to increase bandwidth capacity to focus more on providing the necessary virtual instruction to its many thousands of now displaced students. This initiative would have afforded all students and teachers in person to use smart phones, iPad and computers to research subject matter and google information related to subject with



higher and more efficient level of internet bandwidth accessibility to students and teachers for in person training.

This initiative now can be integrated into Globe schools upon return to in person instruction towards enhancing data collection and the uploading of this data in a timely manner and on a consistent basis with minimal internet disruption.

## COMMUNITY

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The Bahamas Globe Program has been interlinked with many schools via their visit to The Bahamas Department of Meteorology's Forecast Office. Through this effort, schools have been introduced to the program verbally and have been encouraged to further engage via the Globe's website.

Beyond students, there have been seasoned citizen scientists, as well as other environmentalists that have been engaged in the Globe Program and seek to support the program in any tangible means. A major community group that has been seeking to assist the Globe program via sponsorship and technical assistance is SI Weather Network. This group is comprised of citizen scientists that assist in mobile atmospheric observations.

Private partnership has been on the rise with companies like The Nassau Development Company along with The Nassau Container Port rendering assistance in the revitalization of the Globe Program in The Bahamas for the first quarter of 2020.

The Globe program in collaboration with The Climate Section of the Bahamas Department of Meteorology, along with Dr. Kristen Welsh-Unwala from The University of The Bahamas, and Ms. Nakita Shiel-Rolle are actively engaged in securing a grant from the World Meteorological Organization. The purpose of this grant, as previously mentioned is to expand the rainfall data network within The Bahamas, while providing training to citizen scientists in the necessary atmospheric and hydrological protocols that govern these processes. It is hoped that a successful bid for such a grant can serve as an integral stimulus to further promote and enhance the national revitalization and the sustainability of the Bahamas Globe program.



Members of the Bahamas Red Cross and The Bahamas Defence Force

The Bahamas Globe Platform was presented at this workshop along with the final meeting of the National Emergency Management Meeting in November 2019 in order to solidify its position as a national and global partner in disaster management and the fight against climate change. The primary role is to preach and foster ideals of observation and mitigation as a Small Island Developing State.

## COMMUNICATION

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The program will continue to visit the various schools earmarked while campaigning for their active participation in the Globe program once the pandemic threat is minimized. The organization has introduced a twitter feed but it has very limited activity due to the ongoing pandemic issues. Press coverage was expected to have been at an all-time high from the scheduled February, March and April events of 2020, again Covid derailed all plans. During this period, it was highly anticipated that there would have been media press coverage on a daily morning show about Earth Day activities and the Globe program itself, while promoting existing and future plans.

Below are some of the exploits that have been undertaken during late 2019 and 2020 to promote the Bahamas Globe program.



September 2019 Educational Talk at Hope Academy who are also expected to eventually join the Globe program later in 2020





Revitalization and Reintegration of The Globe Project at Queen's College in January 2020 with Mr. Gregory Gibson from The Electronics Section of The Bahamas Department of Meteorology along with Globe Teacher Ms. Tamara Saunders



School tour in November 2019 with students from Nassau Christian Academy while also speaking to them about weather and the Globe Program





Student outreach training about weather instruments at Eva Hilton Primary school in February 2020



Globe Presentation in February 2020 at C.I.Gibson High School



Teacher Training workshop where Globe was introduced to Public high school teachers



About to speak about the Globe Program at the second Teacher's workshop in February 2020



Routine Maintenance and Inspection of the Automatic Weather Station at Aquinas College in September 2019 with Mr. Godfrey Burnside

## **STAFF**

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The GLOBE Program in the Bahamas has no paid staff. All persons currently engaged in the facilitation of this program are volunteers with some affiliation to The Bahamas Department of Meteorology.

Besides persons engaged with the Department of Meteorology, The CEO of SI Weather Network Mr. Craig Lowe also renders assistance in kind whenever called upon to assist with the advancement of the program.



## **APPENDIX**

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### References:

Bahamas Coat of Arms (cover page)

Available at:

<http://www.bahamas.gov.bs/wps/portal/public/about%20the%20bahamas/national%20symbols/>