

ANNUAL REPORT

2021 Commonwealth of The Bahamas

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INTRODUCTION

The Bahamas Globe Program continues to make strides despite the many challenges that it has been presented with due to the global pandemic. It is hoped that as restrictions ease and students resume face to face interaction, the program can begin to realign with its mandate of educating students to become present and future environmental and scientific stewards via a hands on approach.

EDUCATION

Due to covid restrictions at the limited schools that were meeting in person, training has been severely hampered as a result. Despite this, the program has been visible via a recent summer workshop for teachers. One of the main objectives of the Bahamas Globe program was to involve national environmental agencies such as The Bahamas National Trust. This entity highlighted Globe as a viable environmental option for primary school students through a workshop that was held for teachers in August 2021. The response was overwhelming and this has led to the expansion of the program in Freeport Grand Bahama at the Walter Parker Primary School.

Despite some limitations, there has been another major boost to the Globe program with the addition on Eleuthera at the The Island School Institute. The program there is chaired by Ms. Marjahn Finlayson who has previous globe training and experience and is excited to assist in training and expanding the program throughout that island.

SCIENCE

THE GLOBE PROGRAM

Collaborative efforts with The University of The Bahamas continues and we are now in the process of engaging in a rainfall network expansion in Grand Bahama which seeks to expand the reach of the program via an automatic network and increase data collection and research capacity at the tertiary level.

In addition to the effort of the University of The Bahamas, a major research proposal involving several globe protocols has been presented to me for review and input via The Island School. Their hope is to develop a 3 year long environmental project that seeks to tie in climate resilience, forest/native species restoration and food security.

Some of the protocols they expect to utilize include but are not limited to: soil pH testing, water quality and these are to be undertaken with a view to expose young scientists to the research methodology.

COMMUNITY

The Bahamas Globe Program continues to be 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.

A close working relationship with the Ministry of Education continues to be a priority in order to continue to assist geography and science teachers where possible in the application of globe protocol exposure that may be of assistance to their pedagogical undertakings.

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 composed of citizen scientists that assist in

mobile atmospheric observations. Online meetings with this group have assisted in raising awareness about the program and to assist where necessary.

COMMUNICATION

It is anticipated that the program will continue to visit the various schools earmarked while campaigning for their active participation in the Globe program. Additionally, constant communication with the Ministry of Education along with the various private schools, through workshops and liaising with key personnel that seek involvement and further instruction can prove to be instrumental in the further advancement and sustainability of the program when less restrictions imposed due to the pandemic are implemented.

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