

## *2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT*

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# ***THE BAHAMAS***



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**Function: Country Coordinator (CC)**

**Organization: BAHAMAS DEPARTMENT OF METEOROLOGY**

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- **Organization and Number of Staff:** Bahamas Department of Meteorology  
No paid staff. Volunteers include: Ian McKenzie- Country Coordinator  
Ms. Alexandria Adderely, Mr. Godfrey Burnside- retiree- Immediate Past  
Country Coordinator and Consultant, Rodger Demeritte-retiree ( trainer)
- **Funding by:** Public Private Partnership with Limited Proposed Government  
Funding
- **Cooperating Organizations/Individuals:** New Providence Development  
Company-Mr. Phil Simon, Arawak Port Development, Marjahn Finlayson-  
Research Scientist Cape Eleuthera Institute
- **GLOBE Schools:** Cape Eleuthera, St.Andrew's, Queen's College, Aquinas  
College, Hope Academy (Recently joined and students are undergoing  
training), University of The Bahamas
- **GLOBE Protocol Areas:** Atmospheric, Pedosphere, and Biosphere
- **Number of Schools Reporting Data over Past Year:** 1

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### **Program Implementation, International Cooperation in GLOBE Network, and Activities over Past Year (categorized by GLOBE Strategic Plan 2018-2023 Goals):**

- **Education**

Educational outreach continues with student training at Hope Academy High School for both students and a designated teacher at the school at this time. This in-person training is to assist in establishing the program at the school in a club format. Hope Academy, C.C Sweeting Senior High, along with Aquinas and St. Andrew's College have all been exposed to the introduction or re-introduction of the Globe program.

- **Science**

Research is being done under the atmospheric, biosphere and pedosphere protocols by the Island School in Cape Eleuthera. The School is undergoing a 3-year-long project about climate resilience, forest/native species restoration, and food security.

- **Community**

Community outreach proposals inclusive of beach cleanups and other environmental initiatives have been proposed.

- **Technology**

Automatic weather stations have been seen as the choice for reporting data as noted by the purchase of two new stations by the University of The Bahamas, primarily for rainfall investigation in Freeport and New Providence. Existing stations include Aquinas, Cape Eleuthera, and St. Andrew's. A manual station still exists at Queen's College but they are waiting to have a teacher reassigned to the program after Ms. Saunder departed from the school in 2020, during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. Talks were underway with a company out of the US to gain access to some portable printer weather stations. Hopefully, this can be further discussed for feedback at the upcoming LAC Regional meeting.

- **Communications**

Most communication is done via email, WhatsApp, telephone calls, and in-person sit down meetings. There have been several meetings performed to introduce the program with follow-ups to continue with hopes of expanding the program. The use of the Globe website is also done as a major communication network hub.



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### **Plans and Ideas for Next Year:**

Despite the lockdowns, there were constant interactions with schools and the educational outreach never ceased either virtually or in person. The outlook seems promising as there are now revitalized persons in various schools that are willing to become re-engaged or introduced to the Globe program since the return to face-to-face instruction. One school that has already begun in the observation process is the Island School in Cape Eleuthera under the guidance of Ms. Marjahn Finlayson. Further to this school, commitments have been made from Aquinas College and St. Andrew's who should be on stream and reporting data within this Fall school semester. We also hope to re-engage Queen's College as soon as a suitable replacement has been identified and trained. Several other schools continue to express keen interest and it is hoped that these schools too can become a part of the program once the requisite funding and training can be done.

St. Andrew's School, which was also a certified Globe School has identified a Globe teacher to reintroduce the program this fall school semester. Aquinas College which is a high school has also been contacted and they too have an automatic weather station and just need to have teachers trained. An in-person training session has also been proposed for October with the hopes of identifying key persons to assist in administering the Globe program at that school. The science coordinator has earmarked approximately 15 members of staff that he would like to have trained. This within itself is a huge undertaking. Joint training with other schools was initially proposed, but due to the large number of persons identified for that training session, other avenues may have to be explored.

Above all, we have had verbal commitments from the University of Bahamas to assist with technical expertise and also for data collection, and to lead special projects as well that stand to benefit both the local and wider Globe community at large.

The Global Goals for sustainable development have been introduced and will be spoken to during training workshops with specific mandates to ensure that: 4-Quality of education between teachers and students involved in the Atmosphere and Biosphere protocols are undertaken. Collaboration with the CocoRas program which is a rainfall network initiative will also be closely linked with the Globe program. Numbers 6 & 14 of the SDGs dealing with clean water and sanitation and life below water will also be emphasized, especially since we are an island nation and as is already being stressed, what happens on land affects the surrounding water bodies. Overall, the earth as a system will be emphasized to show that all things that happen on the planet are interconnected. To this end, the testing of the proposed microplastics was also explored but there were too many scheduling conflicts between potential participants. Finally, life on land through tree investigations can be seen as most appropriate for Lyford Cay, one of our proposed schools. Lyford Cay High is an independent school with an extensive network of assets



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and its campus surroundings possess a vast nature trail. It is hoped that after formal negotiations are settled this school too can re-join the Globe program hopefully sometime late this year or early next year.

Greater collaboration and further expansion of this project is a must as the data collected is paramount in not only assisting research at the basic level for high school students but also broadening The Bahamas Department of Meteorology and Globe's database to make better and more informed decision-making, not only for the short term but for the long term as well; especially as it related to climate change and its potential impact on our islands.

To make the Globe Bahamas successful, there must be interaction and support from the local US Embassy. Outreach from this organization is integral in assisting some of the needs and requests of various entities for their initial and continued level of participation. Along with the US Embassy, re-engaging private partners and also ensuring that in the new fiscal year, Globe is presented with a portion of the Bahamas Department of Meteorology's budget.