



CTA-034-Save the Bays-Bahamas

How do we save coral reefs?

Vic Ferguson

The World Federation for Coral Reef Conservation 281.886.7428 P.O. Box 311117 Houston Texas 77231

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Save The Bays meets with Coalition to Save Clifton at Jaws Beach

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NASSAU, Bahamas -- Two groups of concerned citizens, each working toward an end to unregulated development and protection of The Bahamas marine environment, drew one step closer today when they met at Jaws Beach.



Rev. CB Moss and the Coalition to Save Clifton met with representatives of Save The Bays, the fast-growing environmental movement partnering with organisations around The Bahamas to protect the archipelago's wetlands, waters and bays.

"We stand here today at what we believe signals the advent of a new chapter in conservation history," said Rev. CB Moss, "a chapter in which Bahamians from all walks of life are standing together to save our Bahamaland."

Save The Bays Director and Bahamas Waterkeeper Joseph Darville agreed. "We know that there was confusion at the initial introduction of our organization because the names were so similar, both coalitions with one called Protect Clifton Bay and the other Save Clifton. But the reality is that the history between us, or many of us, goes back 14 years when we first reached out to protect Clifton and its history for future generations of Bahamians and historians to study and treasure."

Environmentalist Sam Duncombe was part of the campaign 14 years ago and she was at the site today when the historic handshake took place.

"All we have to do is look around us and see this 208-acre park that is now in the public trust," said Duncombe, "Thousands of Bahamians came together to save their land and where we stand today is a living example of what you can achieve when people come together for a common cause."



"The Coalition to Save Clifton issued an appeal for financial support and Save The Bays answered that appeal," said Rev. Moss. "We are delighted that they did so and appeal to others to follow their lead. We hope that in the not too distant future our two organisations who are pursuing the same goal along parallel lines will work together. In the meantime, the Coalition will take under consideration a more formal arrangement, but for the time being we are pleased just to know that Save The Bays which has provided support for others finds the Coalition to Save Clifton worthy of its support."

Founded in March of this year, Save The Bays has swept the islands, teaming up with the Bahamas National Trust in its Conchervation campaign, lending support and a voice to the Bimini Blue Coalition, partnering with Earthcare. Comprised of Bahamian and international members united in



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their commitment to preserve and protect the Bahamian environment through proactive policy change, education, legal action and advocacy, the non-profit, non-governmental organization has garnered nearly 5,000 signatures on its petition, hosted on Change.org, asking the Prime Minister to take on a variety of issues affecting the environment, including the passage of an Environmental Protection Act and a Freedom of Information Act, the prevention of unregulated development, establishing a Clifton Marine Park and a West New Providence Marine Managed Area, protection of the conch populations and the prevention of oil spills.

Photo 1: UNITED TO SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT – Members of the Coalition to Save Clifton and Save The Bays met at Jaws Beach today, ushering in a new chapter of united efforts to preserve and protect the marine environment. Pictured l-r, Coalition members Celi Moss, founder Rev. C.B. Moss, Save The Bays Director Joseph Darville, Save The Bays partner organization Re-earth founder Sam Duncombe and Coalition member Paul Moss. *(Photo by BVS)*

Photo 2: Thumbs up – for voices united in the campaign to save the wetlands, bays and waters of The Bahamas. Pictured today at Jaws Beach, Rev. CB Moss, founder Coalition to Save Clifton, left, and Director of Save The Bays Joseph Darville signaling the start of a new chapter in the history of the environmental movement. *(Photo by BVS)*

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Vic Ferguson

The World Federation for Coral Reef Conservation

Executive Director

P.O. Box 311117

Houston, Texas 77231

vic.ferguson@wfcrc.org

www.wfcrc.org

281.886.7428 (office)

281.309.1201 (cell)