

Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park

Identification

Country The Bahamas

Marine ecoregion Bahamian

Boundaries 24.517, -76.65

Total area 4.56km²

Marine area 3.56km²

Site national category

National Park

IUCN category II

Biophysical features

Physical features Beaches, rocky shores, rocky shores, keys, blue holes. Underground freshwater drainage; a few freshwater wells.

Terrestrial habitats Coppice and coastal strand

Terrestrial flora and fauna species

The hutia (*Geocapromys ingrahami*) is the only native land mammal in the Bahamas. Mini boa constrictor, land crabs, spider lilies, black torch flowers.

Marine habitats seagrass beds, reef channels

Birds

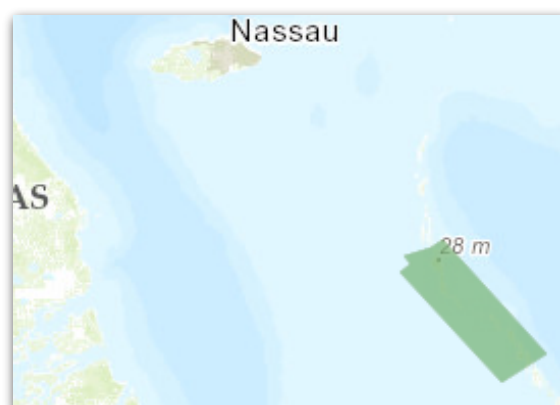
White tail tropicbird, green heron, little blue heron, black bellied plover, royal tern, ruddy turnstone, sanderling, snowy egret, cattle egret, yellow crown night heron, brown noddie and osprey.

Other species

The park is home to many unique flora and fauna including the hutia which is the only native land mammal in the Bahamas, the Exuma Island Iguana, the mini boa constrictor, land crabs, spider lilies, black torch flowers, and marine life such as the lionfish (invasive), green turtle, southern ray, spiny lobster, queen conch and numerous corals.

Endangered species

The hutia is endangered, and once thought to be extinct, but small colonies are found in the Plana Cays. Thanks to relocation, the population is thriving again in two locations.



Management

Primary management institution

Bahamas National Trust

Other institutions that participate in management

The Royal Bahamas Defence Force.

Personnel

Warden resident and office administrator.

Management objectives

Species protection, ecosystem protection, fisheries management, recreational tourism use, navigation restrictions.

Management programmes

Enforcement program, entrance user fees, fisheries regulations, institutional arrangements for management, monitoring program, mooring bouys, navigational restrictions, on site staff, permitting program, research facilities, research program, signalization, visitors center, volunteer program, zoning scheme

Zoning scheme

Anchoring, no-anchoring, no-wake and no-take zones

Funding sources

Funds through memberships, special functions, mooring fees and shop sales but more than half comes from the Heritage Endowment Fund, created in 1983

Fisheries regulations No fishing is allowed.

Monitoring programmes

Coral reef health, fish surveys

Legal framework

Status Legally designated

Year established 1958

Web site

<http://www.exumapark.info/>,
http://www.bnt.bs/_m1731/The-National-Parks-of-The-Bahamas/Exuma-Cays-Land-and-Sea-Park

Legislation Bahamas National Trust Act

General description

This was the first park of its kind in the Caribbean. In 1985, The Bahamas took the extraordinary step of making the park a no-fishing replenishment zone, also the first one in the Caribbean. Today, a network of moorings protect the park's coral reefs and seagrass beds so that visitors from The Bahamas and around the world can enjoy the park without damaging its ecosystems. Issues exist due in part to the insufficient involvement of the local stakeholders at its establishment.