Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park

Identification

Country The Bahamas
Marine ecoregion Bahamian
Boundaries 24.517, -76.65
Total area 4.56 km²
Marine area 3.56 km²
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 lilys, black torch flowers.

Marine habitats seagrass beds, reef channels

Birds White tail tropicbird, green heron, little blue heron, black belliied plover, royal tern, ruddy turnstone, sanderling, snowy egret, cattle egret, yellow crown night heron, brown noddy 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 lilys, 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

**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

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**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.