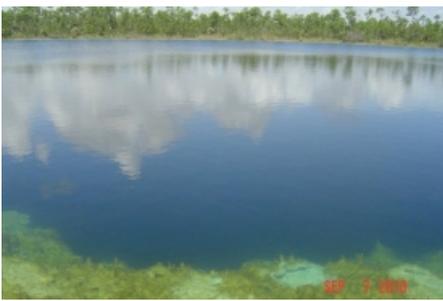


## Integrated Watershed and Coastal Areas Management for Andros Island Bahamas

Bahamas  
Elvardo Thompson







**Organization type:**

nonprofit/ngo/citizen sector

**Budget:**

\$10,000 - \$50,000

Website:

<http://www.ancat.net>



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- [Conservation](#)
- [Energy conservation](#)
- [Sustainability](#)
- [Water Supply](#)
- [Wildlife conservation](#)

Project Summary

Elevator Pitch

**Concise Summary: Help us pitch this solution! Provide an explanation within 3-4 short sentences.**

To find ways to protect groundwater resources through the development of a Land and Sea Use Plan

## About Project

### **Problem: What problem is this project trying to address?**

Environmental degradation in the Caribbean means that natural resources on Andros are likely to become more valuable, if they are properly protected. Conversely, the potential losses in values and the loss in income, jobs and welfare could be enormous, if effective conservation actions are not implemented.

### **Solution: What is the proposed solution? Please be specific!**

Of all Bahamian island aquifers, Andros represents the largest source of freshwater and wetland habitat. It also supports some of the most pristine forest (pine and coppice) in the northern Caribbean. The main threats to the water regime and related biodiversity include pollution of the aquifer (agriculture, sewage, unsanctioned domestic use, and puncture as a result of development), encroachment, destruction of sensitive habitats, dredging and overfishing. The incidents of pollution are not heavy or chronic as yet but here is a high potential for such chronic effects from wastewater and development (fuel and oil pollution also) and from sedimentation for construction and dredging. The important groundwater resources of Andros are therefore under threat and need protection through zoning, land-use management and effective policy development and implementation. Groundwater conservation and protection in Andros is critical to the sustainable management of the island ecosystem and the specific management and long-term conservation of water resources necessary to the welfare of The Bahamas.

## About You

### **Organization:**

Andros Conservancy and Trust

[Visit website](http://www.ancat.net)

### Section 1: About You

#### **First Name**

Elvardo

#### **Last Name**

Thompson

#### **Website**

<http://www.ancat.net>

#### **Organization**

The Andros Conservancy and Trust

#### **Country**

### Section 2: About Your Organization

#### **Organization Name**

Andros Conservancy and Trust

#### **Organization Phone**

1242-368-2882

#### **Organization Address**

Andros Town, Andros Island Bahamas

#### **Organization Country**

## Your idea

### **Country your work focuses on**

, NAN

### **Website URL**

Would you like to participate in the [MIF Opportunity 2010?](#)

## Innovation

### **Do you have a patent for this idea?**

## Impact

### **What impact have you had on your clients and the tourism sector?**

Through this project, we along with our project partners were able to determine the evaluate the full cost of the ecosystem services found on Andros which will help us to better plan for the future. The present ecosystem species and landscapes of Andros represent a huge ecological and economic endowment for the people of Andros, The Bahamas and the wider Caribbean region.

The habitats on Andros provide an estimated mean of \$46, 000 per km2 per year in ecosystem services, such as carbon storage, water supply and recreation.

Overall habitats on Andros are thought to generate \$296 million a year in net economic benefits which if sustained, will be worth \$4.6 billion over the next 25 years. The net benefit of freshwater on Andros is \$3.5 million each year.

Nature provides income and employment for 80% of Andros; 1,645 full time jobs and 8,000 part time jobs. Commercial fisheries in Andros (including crabbing and sponging ) generate \$70 million in revenues each year, which provides food and income for many people. Nature based tourism activities (including accommodation, bonefishing and diving) constitute 43.6 million in revenues each year in Andros.

### Actions

In order to establish a basic level of sustainable management of these habitats, funding will be needed. Promising sources of funding include bonefishing fees, fundraising program, cruise ship fees and voluntary hotel surcharges

### Results

The expected results of this project will help us to better manage the natural resources of the island in a sustainable way. The Andros Conservancy and Trust has been instrumental in leading the charge to not only protect the natural resources of Andros but The Bahamas as well. Tourism is the number one industry of The Bahamas, therefore for it to continue it must be done in a sustainable way.

### What will it take for your project to be successful over the next three years? Please address each year separately, if possible.

Over the next few years additional funding will be needed (\$1.62 million which is equivalent to 0.6% of the economic benefits and 1% of the gross revenues of this island's ecosystems produces a year) to continue to engage key stakeholders. Additional public meetings, workshops and presentations will need to be conducted. Additionally, the following will have to take place • stakeholder consultations to document natural areas which are important to the communities on Andros and existing and potential threats to those areas.

- Mapping the distribution of land and sea resources and zoning of important areas.
- Conducting a study of the Economic Value of the Natural Resources on Andros.
- Development of an Ecotourism for island of Andros that would include action steps for advancing ecotourism on the island.
- School awareness program which involved a poster competition, environmental books to school and installation of weather stations at three high schools on the island
- Development of a Water Conservation Strategy which highlights water use by various sectors and ways to reduce water wastage and increase water efficiency

### What would prevent your project from being a success?

Not achieving significant level of funding. Without intensive conservation and management the biodiversity of Andros could be gone in less than 50 years. Andros and the rest of The Bahamas, harbours populations of the Caribbean's most iconic marine species, from Nassau, Grouper to bottlenose dolphins, bonefish and seaturtles

### How many people will your project serve annually?

1001 10,000

### What is the average monthly household income in your target community, in US Dollars?

Less than \$50

### Does your project seek to have an impact on public policy or introduce models and tools that benefit the tourism sector in general?

Yes

### Sustainability

#### What stage is your project in?

Operating for less than a year

#### In what country?

, NAN

#### Is your initiative connected to an established organization?

Yes

#### If yes, provide organization name.

The Nature Conservancy, and The Bahamas Environment Science and Technology Commission

#### How long has this organization been operating?

More than 5 years

#### Does your organization have a Board of Directors or an Advisory Board?

Yes

#### Does your organization have any non-monetary partnerships with NGOs?

Yes

#### Does your organization have any non-monetary partnerships with businesses?

Yes

#### Does your organization have any non-monetary partnerships with government?

Yes

#### Please tell us more about how these partnerships are critical to the success of your innovation.

**What are the three most important actions needed to grow your initiative or organization?**

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The Story

**What was the defining moment that led you to this innovation?**

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The incidents of pollution are not heavy or chronic as yet but here is a high potential for such chronic effects from wastewater and development (fuel and oil pollution also) and from sedimentation for construction and dredging. The important groundwater resources of Andros are therefore under threat and need protection through zoning, land-use management and effective policy development and implementation.

Groundwater conservation and protection in Andros is critical to the sustainable management of the island ecosystem and the specific management and long-term conservation of water resources necessary to the welfare of The Bahamas.

**Tell us about the social innovator behind this idea.**

Collective Project the residents of Andros Island

**How did you first hear about Changemakers?**

Email from Changemakers

**If through another, please provide the name of the organization or company**

50 words or fewer

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