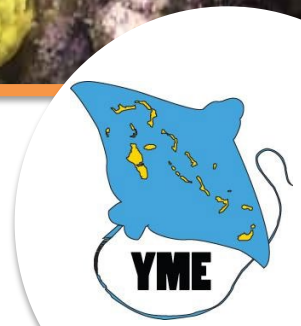




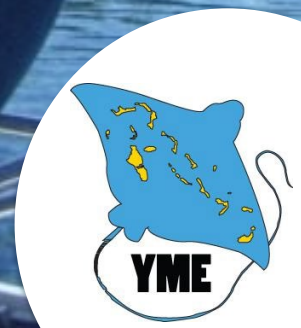
Young Marine Explorers

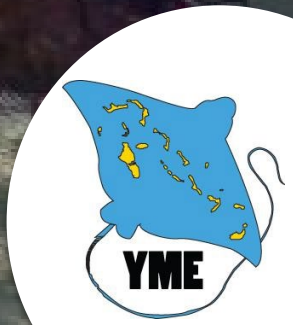
Nikita Shiel-Rolle, MSc – Executive Director





**I founded YME in 2007
as an undergraduate
Marine Affairs
student.**





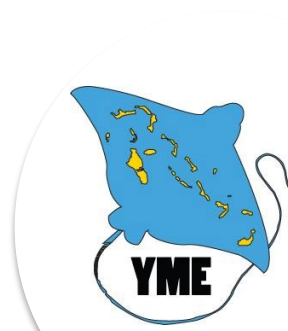




**“In every
community,
there is work
to be done.**

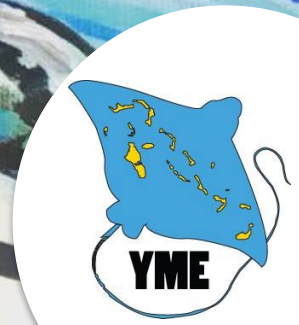
**In every
nation, there
are wounds
to heal. In
every heart,
there is the
power to do
it.”**

**Marianne
Williamson**





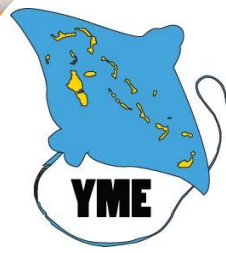
GUY HARVEY





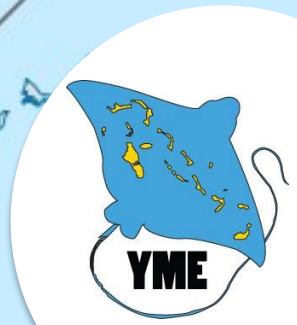
Becoming a Young Marine Explorer

Kentay Campbell, 10th Grade Student





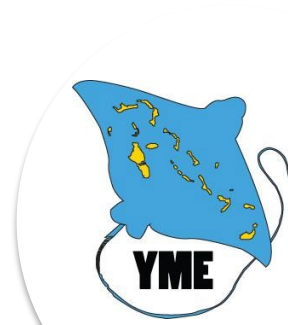
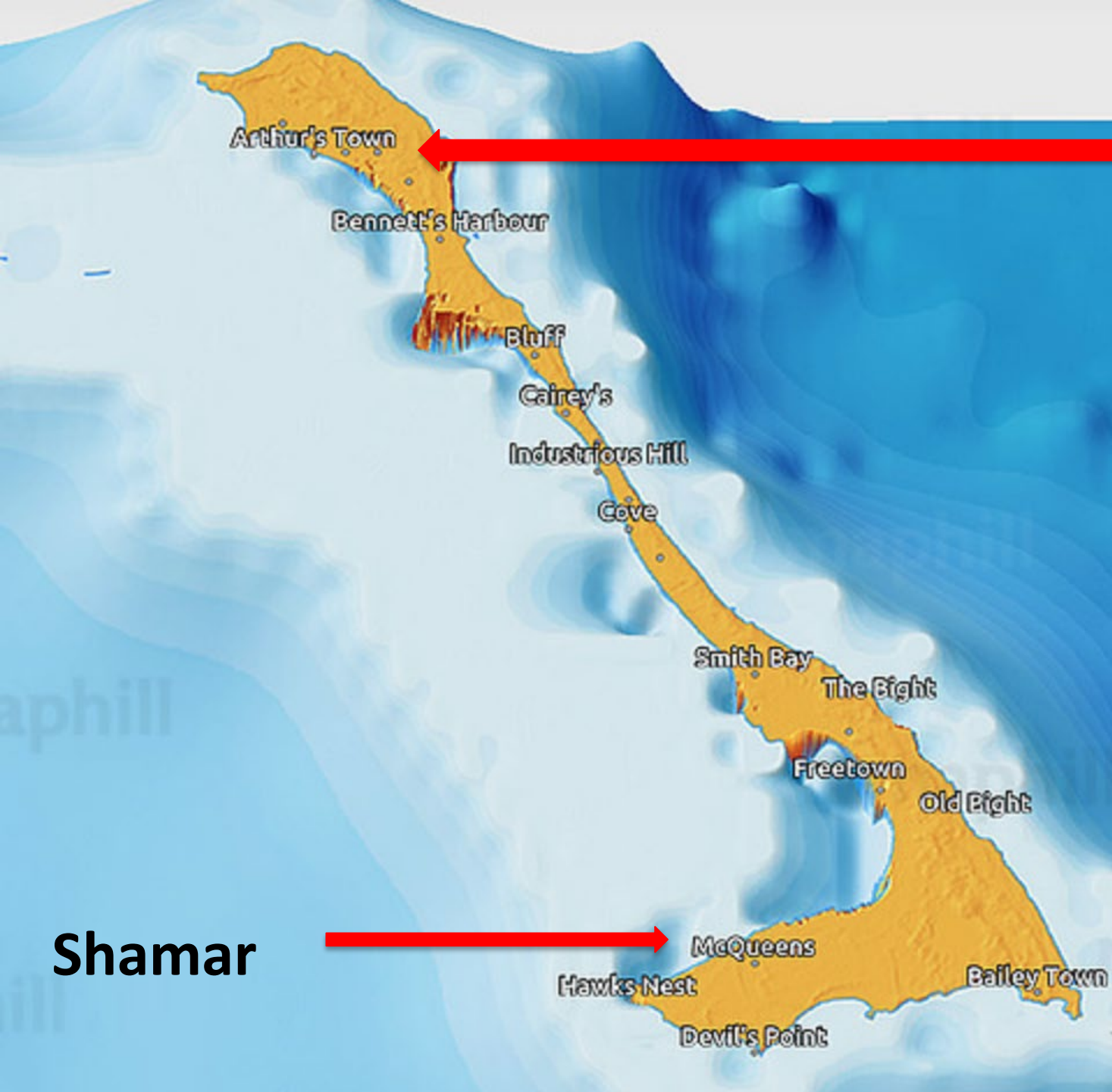
Cat Island

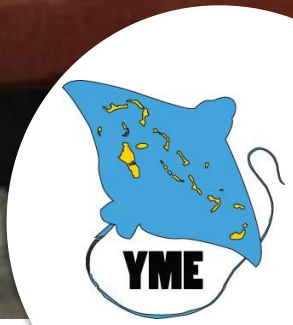


Kentay

Located
in the
central
Bahamas,
Cat Island
is about
60 miles
long.

Shamar







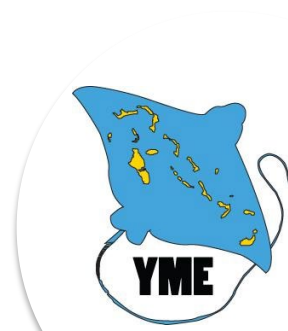


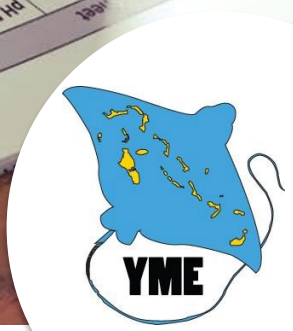
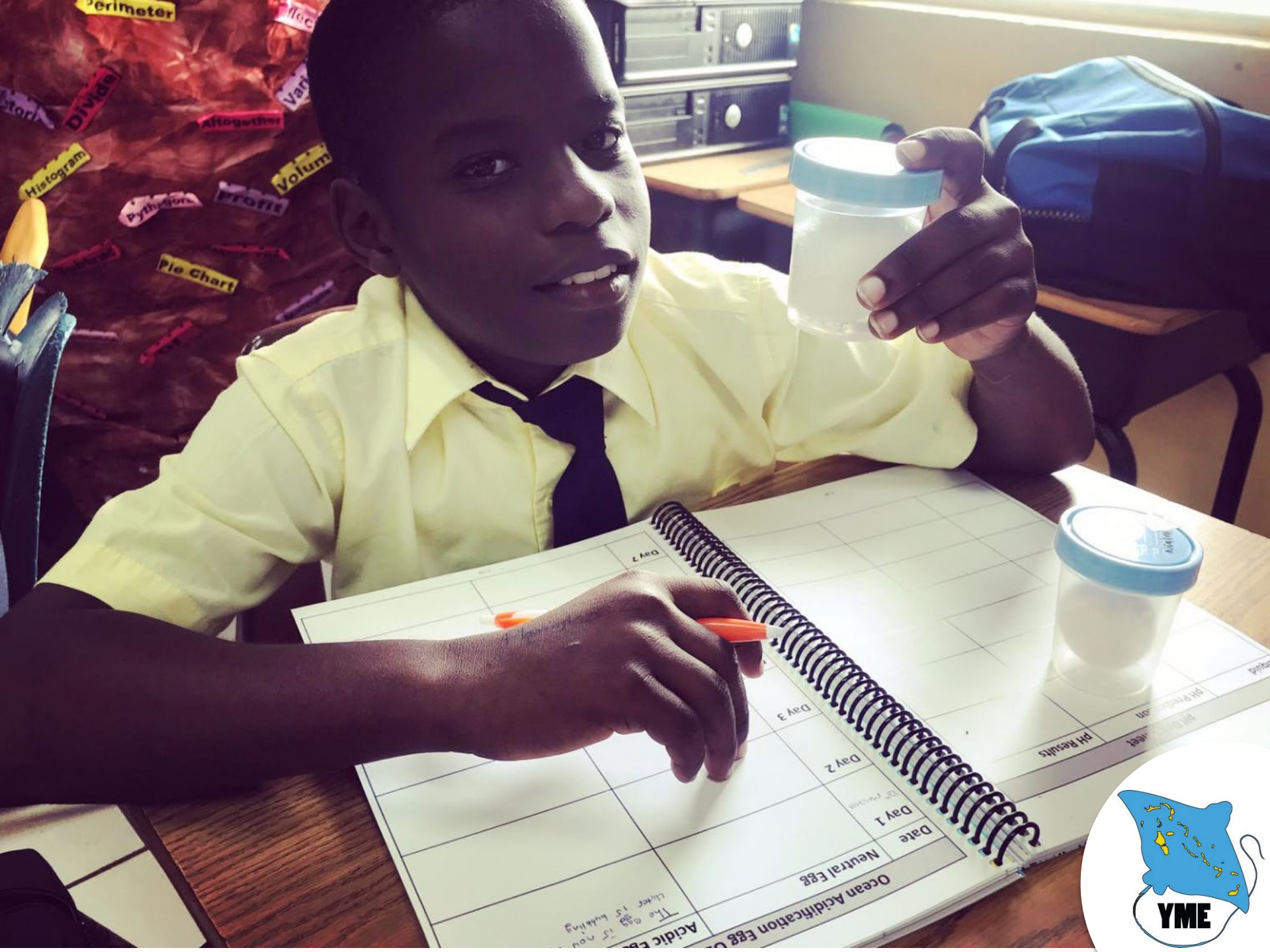
CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

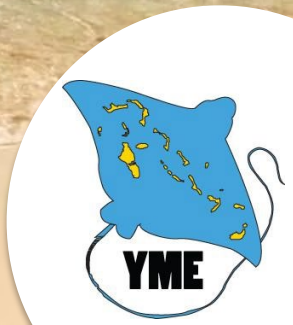
JOIN YME

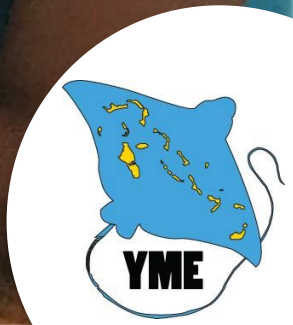
As a YME Member you will:

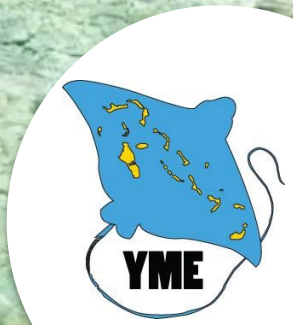
- Learn to swim, snorkel, and SCUBA dive
- Participate in marine science research
- Become community leaders
- Develop skills for future employment
- Improve your academic performance
- Take part in community service
- Have fun, play games, and complete art projects

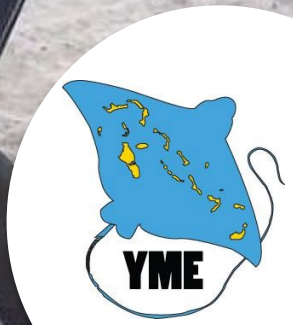


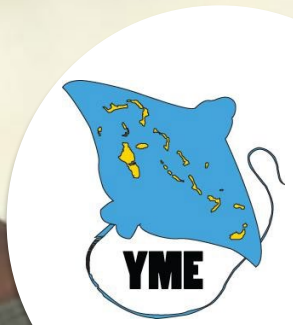


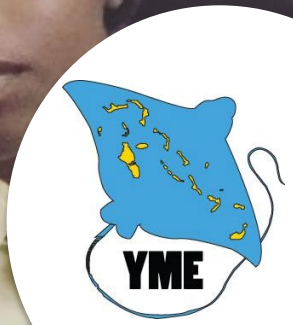








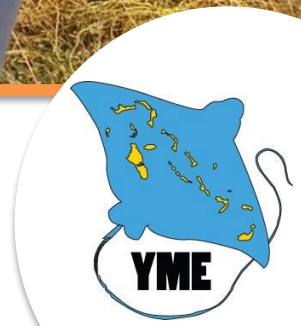






My Ocean My Future

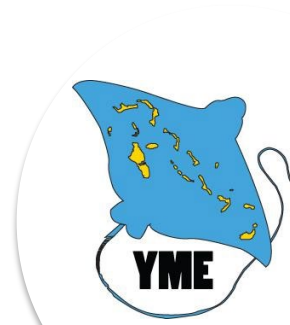
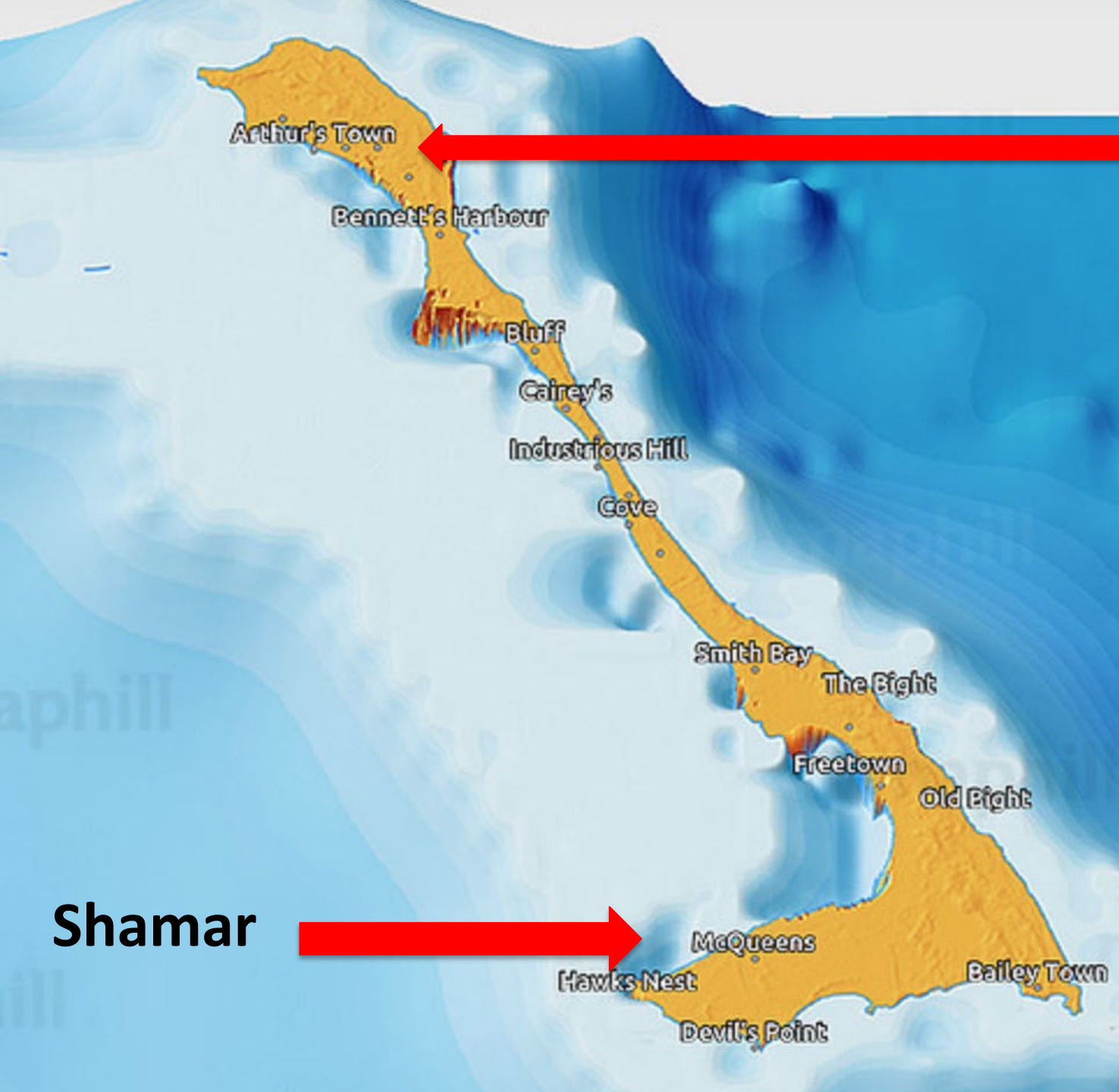
Shamar Thompson, 12th Grade Student

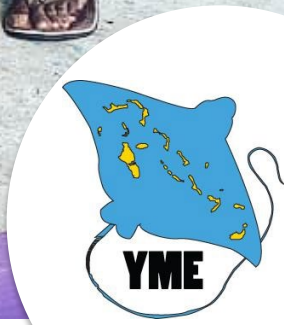


Kentay

Located
in the
central
Bahamas,
Cat Island
is about
60 miles
long.

Shamar

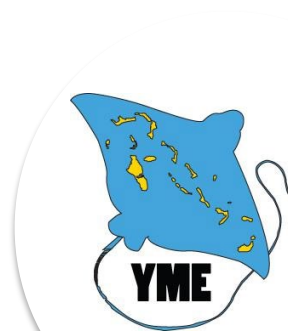






Como hill is
the highest
point in the
Bahamas,
206 ft above
sea level

A monastery
called the
hermitage is
at the top



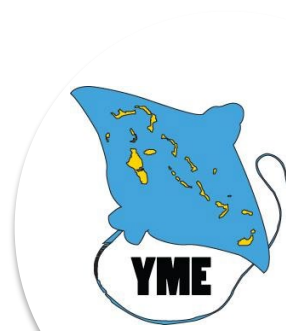


“My YME highlights include conducting experiments, collecting water quality data, and beach profile data

...

As YME members we are being inspired to become active citizens and stewards of our environment.”

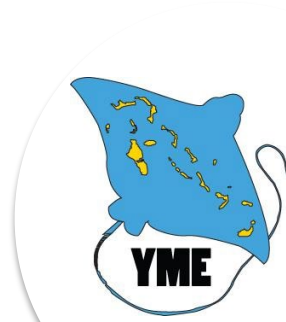
Shamar Thompson





We meet after
school
once a week for
2 hours.

Ocean
classroom
sessions are
held every
other Saturday
for 4-5 hours





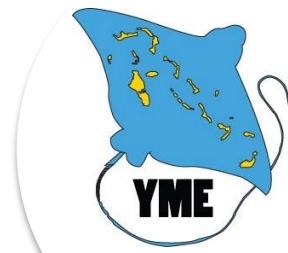
Sandy Beach Zones:

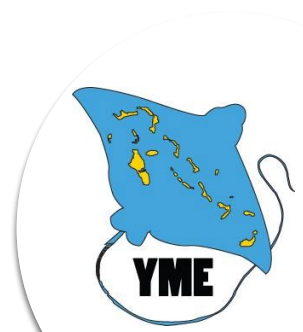
1. Intertidal
Zone -
seaweed

1. Pioneer
zone -Sea
purslane

1. Fixed Dune
Zone - Sea
Oats

1. Scrub
Woodland
zone - Sea
Grape







It's my ocean.

A health ocean
means my
generation will
have a
prosperous
future.

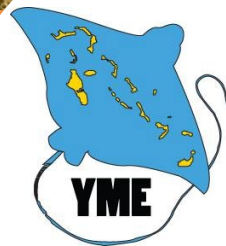
As a citizen
scientist I am
understanding
the status of
our ecosystems
and working
towards
building
resilient
communities.





Community Driven Conservation in Small Islands

Nikita Shiel-Rolle, MSc - YME Executive Director



Education

The Bahama has a functionally illiterate society. High school students are not graduating with the skills required for economic growth and sustainable development.

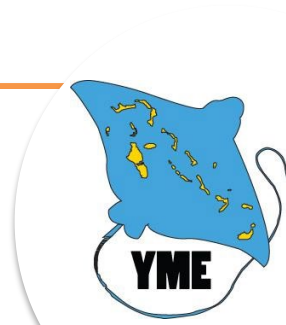
Engagement

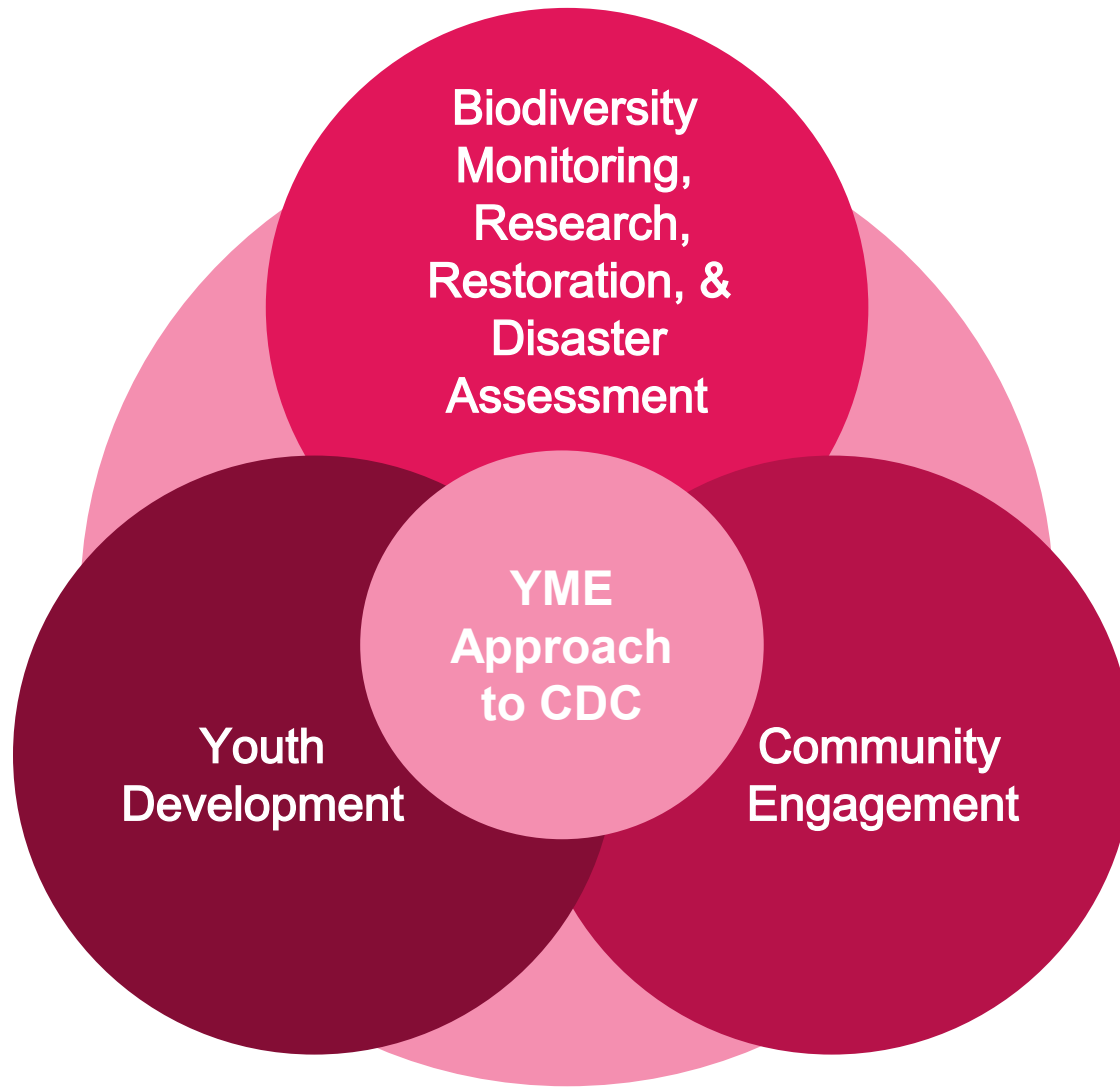
Local communities who are often most greatly impacted by environmental policy decisions are not actively and equally engaged in the conservation process.

Data

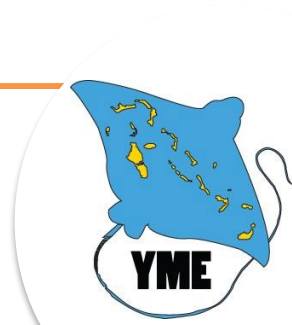
There are major data deficiencies and no systems in place to collect spatio-temporal data throughout the Bahamas, preventing evidence based resource management.

Factors inhibiting successful conservation in The Bahamas.





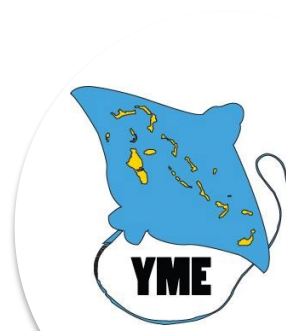
The YME Approach to Community Driven Conservation(CDC)





We are developing active citizens and environmental leaders who are taking action by:

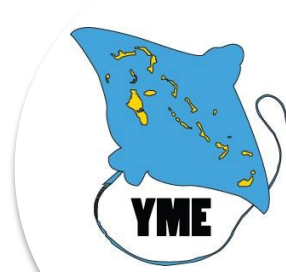
- monitoring biodiversity,
- restoring ecosystems,
- assessing impacts from disasters, and
- supporting natural resource management and policy.





Cat Island Community Driven Conservation Project Objectives:

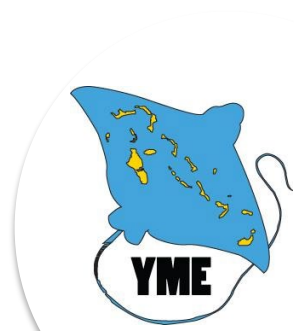
1. Inspire and develop active citizens and environmental leaders
2. Collect large data sets on ecosystem health and community perspectives to support evidence based management and policy making
3. Develop sustainable behavioral habits that support community driven conservation, creating changes that build environmentally resilient communities.





Engaging The Community

- Requested permission from local government
- Identified and developed strategic partnerships
- Enrolled 42 students, approx. $\frac{1}{3}$ of our targeted high school population
- Enrolled 8 apprentices (local government, fisheries officers, fisherman, and youth)



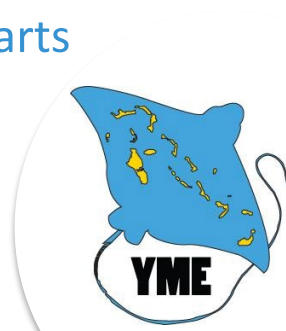


Our YME Marine Citizenship Curriculum has seven units:

1. marine citizenship
2. shorelines
3. marine debris
4. reef fish
5. mangroves
6. coral reefs.
7. water quality

The YME Curriculum has been mapped on top of the Ministry of Educations learning objectives for:

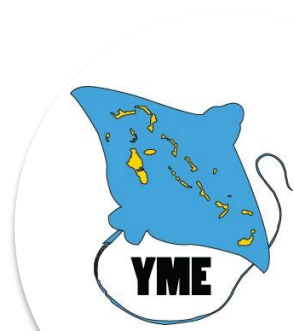
- biology
- math
- geography
- language arts





Training Community Conservation Leaders

- The YME Apprenticeship Program focuses on training conservation leaders and building local capacity
- Our apprentices reflect a cross section of the Cat Island community
- The educational background of our apprentices range between individuals who never completed high school, to a recent graduate with an Associate Degree in Marine Science
- Our goal is 100% employment for the 5 unemployed apprentices

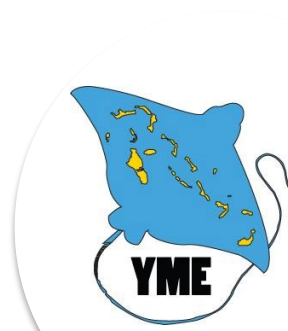




Participatory Science:

Our goal is to train and engage high school students and community members in collecting, analysing, discussing, communicating, and restoring/addressing:

1. shorelines
2. marine debris issues
3. reef fish populations
4. mangroves
5. coral reefs.
6. water quality issues



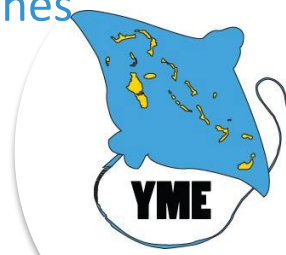


Since January 2019 We:

Trained 50 citizen scientists in beach profile and water quality protocols

Through a consultative process with our apprenticeship team, identified 10 beaches throughout the island that have become our long term monitoring sites for our Beach Profile Surveys..

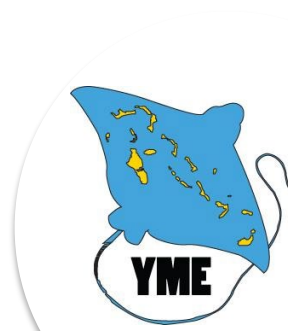
Conducted beach profiles and collected water quality data on 4 of the 10 beaches





Inspiring Behavioral Change:

- This work is personal, emotional, and must come from the heart
- Being an active member in our community is a critical to the success of our conservation work.
- we host community events and support initiatives led by local organisations.





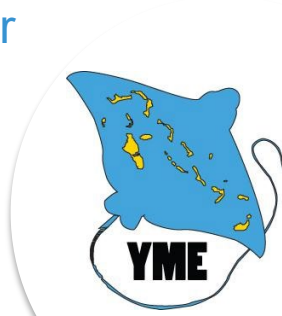
Our Future Plans

Produce a Policy Brief for UNESCO on the implementation and scalability of YME's approach to Community Driven Conservation and the use of participatory science

Host a stakeholders workshop for UNESCO to improve awareness, capacities, and actions that will result in improved decisions, policies, and coastal and marine programming at a local level, including climate change adaptation of vulnerable communities.

Coral Fest: A celebration of Bahamian Natural and Cultural Heritage July 4-7th

Opening of Co-Laboratory Research and community Center



Thank You

UNIVERSITY
OF MIAMI



COASTAL
ECOLOGY
LABORATORY



Perry
Institute
FOR MARINE SCIENCE



Restoring Life
Growing Opportunity



CAT ISLAND UNITED



ZSL
LET'S WORK
FOR WILDLIFE

