

NATIONAL PARKS TRUST OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS  
**PROJECT CATALOGUE**



TOGETHER WE CONSERVE NATURE'S LITTLE SECRETS



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Juvenile Anegada Rock Iguana



Brown Pelicans on Red Mangrove seedling

## About The National Parks Trust of The Virgin Islands

Established in 1961, the National Parks Trust was mandated to conserve, preserve and protect the historic, cultural and natural resources of the Virgin Islands - the lead institution to manage the system of over 20 (and growing) protected areas and National Parks. We believe that our natural environment fortifies our identity as a people, the very things which have the power to unite, inspire and delight—our environment, our history, our heritage, our arts, our way of life. Because of this, it is often times difficult to imagine that it is under constant threat. With the growing dependency of tourism and the economic livelihood of our people on our protected areas, it is imperative that our natural environment imbues the things that anchor us as a people. Most importantly they are protected for their vital role in preserving a major representation of natural, environmental, biological, cultural, historic resources which define who we are as Virgin Islanders.

Protected areas are identified based on the importance of their continued existence to provide continued growth for economic, sustainable resource use and recreational opportunities thus sustaining the livelihoods of residents by protecting and increasing their earning capacity. They are also identified and protected as areas which enhance unique ecosystems, habits that are fragile or threatened by human activities and as well as those which reduce the impact of natural disasters.

Through partnerships with international institutions across the world such as Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, International Union for Conservation of Nature, the Late Sir Laurance Rockefeller and the Rockefeller Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Fort Worth Zoo and Dr. Henri Jarecki, just to name a few, our aim continues to be to develop a National Trust System which imbues all the leading international Conservation, Research, Environmental Education and Climate Smart practices and facilities. Due to our transparent, results oriented and responsible financial practices, we have been awarded BEST, European Union and Darwin Initiative grants. With such grants we have been able to conduct invasive species eradication projects, seabird monitoring projects and hydrographic mapping of the seabed, just to name a few.

With a growing portfolio of proposed national parks and protected areas and new environmental challenges (natural and man-made) our magnitude of our work and responsibilities are never ending. As a non-profit organisation, we rely heavily on the generosity of supporters and donors like you to ensure that the Virgin Islands' most-loved and treasured places remain for residents, visitors and most importantly, for future generations to enjoy.

The National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands presents this catalogue of projects geared to carryout our environmental conservation mandate and build a more robust and financially self-sufficient organisation.

## **Governor's Message**

The National Parks Trust (NPT) has the very special responsibility and something I see as critical - protecting and conserving designated natural and cultural heritage treasures. The natural environment of the British Virgin Islands is one of the most amazing in the world. It's diversity ranges from the world renowned batholithic rock pools, to pristine beaches, indigenous species and gorgeous coral reefs. These areas deserve and need dedicated protection. The NPT also protects and nurtures the BVI's heritage – preserving sites and cultural treasures, often set in stunning natural spaces. The history of the RMS Rhone can be contemplated among nurse sharks and angel fish, the Mount Healthy Windmill explored in a backdrop of lush green valleys.

NPT's mandate is extensive, their work includes education and awareness raising programmes which aim to create a culture of environmental stewardship in children. Reforestation efforts and management of areas such as The Baths and Sage Mountain ensure that children, families and tourists can enjoy the unique qualities of this beautiful environment and understand the importance of protecting it. We cannot deny the economic value of our beautiful oceans from facilitating the safe exploration of coral reefs and a premier sailing playground, to protecting fish supplies for a growing food industry. These world class tourism attractions create a booming marine industry enabled by NPT's long standing programmes in maritime conservation.

When choosing The National Parks Trust your contribution supports an organisation which uses empirical research to inform their programmes. Their longstanding relationships with international agencies such as Kew Gardens, England Fauna and Flora and the Smithsonian Institute in Washington continuously help to build capacity in their team and the local community and ensure best practices for effective, scientific based conservation. The natural environment and cultural history are one of the British Virgin Islands' greatest assets. Your support provides an investment for now and future generations - by supporting the NPT you are safeguarding natural sanctuaries, preserving history and securing a valuable future for children and families.



His Excellency Augustus James Ulysses Jaspert  
Governor of the Virgin Islands



Governor's Office  
British Virgin Islands

## Premier's Message

As Citizens of this earth, and more specifically citizens of these beautiful Virgin Islands, we should embrace our national parks and protected areas and help protect them—as they are a symbol of our territory's beauty and history. Through the work of the National Parks Trust, residents, tourists and our future generations can enjoy over 20 National Parks and Protected areas; from lush green forests, to majestic mountain tops, to pristine beaches and cultural and national treasures such as the endangered Anegada Rock Iguana, the Greater Flamingo and the Virgin Gorda Gecko.

A widely respected research and conservation organization internationally, NPT has enjoyed partnerships with the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, IUCN, RSPB, Fort Worth and San Diego Zoo, and successfully secured BEST and Darwin Initiative grants to forward research and conservation of critical ecosystems and habitats, plant and animal species. Recent work with Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, culminated in the BVI being the first country in the world to record Tropical Plant Important Areas—ahead of countries such as Bolivia, New Guinea and Mozambique, just to name a few.

As we reflect on the many natural, environmental and cultural gifts that our National Parks and Protected Areas provide, we must also pledge our support to secure and preserve and conserve these precious resources—working to save endangered and vulnerable plant and animal species and their habitats. As a territory heavily dependent on tourism as an economic pillar, we more than anyone else should truly understand the economic value the conservation and preservation of these treasures afford us as a community. Having unique vistas, beaches, plant and animal species, found no where else in the world. These sites hold the stories, history and culture of us as a people, they embody us as a people and our movements which distinguish this Territory's journey and define the authentic Virgin Islands experience.

National parks and protected areas bring about joy, happiness, inspire young minds and the young at heart, bring families together and enriches our livelihoods. Let us continue to build upon the legacy left by those who came before us. I implore you to generously support the National Parks Trust, let us have the foresight to do what it takes to protect these treasures for generations to come.



Honourable Andrew Fahie  
Premier and Minister for Finance of the Virgin Islands



## Minister's Message

For over 50 years the National Parks Trust (NPT) has led the charge in conserving and protecting over 20 National Parks and Protected Areas. The Trust has devoted much time and effort to the reforestation of degraded habitats and mangrove rehabilitation. Much effort has been directed towards marine conservation - conserving coral reef environments and historical shipwrecks from anchor damage through the installation of mooring buoys. The Trust has also embarked on Historical preservation, with the re-stabilization of historic ruins; biodiversity conservation and the conservation, protection and recovery of endangered plant and animal species such as the endemic Anegada Rock Iguana and the Greater Flamingo.

Over the years, NPT has built strategic partnerships for capacity building and best practices in effective conservation and protected areas management with international organisations such as the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew (Kew), the Royal Society for the Preservation of Birds (RSPB), International National Trust Organisations (INTO), Fort Worth Zoo and Rockefeller Foundation, just to name a few.

The protection of the environment is our collective responsibility, national parks and protected areas allow us to protect the best of our natural history, heritage and environment—stunning landscapes and seascapes, extraordinary wildlife and magnificent forests. These protected areas form the basis of our economic and social wellbeing. They serve as refuge for threatened and endangered plant and animal species unique to these Virgin Islands, attracting millions of visitors to our shores. By generously supporting the National Parks Trust, you will ensure that our natural resource is conserved not only for our residents and guests, but for future generations. The Tourism industry and our livelihoods depend on our ability to conserve and preserve our historic, cultural and environmental assets. As a non-profit environmental organisation the NPT needs your support as we endeavour to achieve and sustain a pristine environment.



Honourable Vincent Wheatley  
Minister for Natural Resources, Labour and Immigration





Magnificent Frigate Birds

## Partner's Message

While the British Virgin Islands is lauded as a leading centre for financial services, we are also known for our natural resources which bear global conservation significance. The importance of our National Parks and Protected Areas to the British Virgin Islands' well-being cannot be overstated, ensuring that humankind is able to live in harmony with nature. For over 50 years the National Parks Trust has been charged with the task to conserve and preserve more than 21 national treasures such as the endangered Anegada Rock Iguana, The Baths National Park and the historic ruins within Mount Healthy National Park.

Having been awarded Approved Destination Status by the People's Republic of China we welcome you to come and immerse yourselves in our cultural and environmental treasure trove. To do so, we need to return to our roots and partner with modern-day visionaries and philanthropists who believe in the power of protected areas to provide resiliency against human-induced and natural impacts like global climate change, development pressures, invasive species and habitat degradation.

The fact that you are reading this catalogue is a strong indicator that you are one such potential partner. If you are dedicated to the idea of conserving the priceless natural heritage of these islands, I encourage you to join with us now in taking the mission of the Trust forward.

Become a Friend of The National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands, together we can ensure a sustainable future for these beautiful islands.



Sherri Ortiz-Fahie  
Director, BVI House Asia



## NPTVI Director's Message

The National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands (NPTVI) was formed in 1961 and came about from the vision of local environmental efforts and the kind donations of local and international philanthropists. Since NPTVI's inception and the declaration of Sage Mountain as the first national park in 1964, the Trust has grown and currently manages 21 parks including the RMS Rhone Marine Park, the first and only marine park in the British Virgin Islands (BVI). Most recently, in November 2019, the National Parks Trust was able to acquire Toad Hall Estate with assistance from the Government of the Virgin Islands, thus extending The Greater Baths National Park the most revered of our national parks.

The BVI, like many of the other islands in the Caribbean region, is home to several endemic species; however, due to rapid growth and development many of the environments where these species live are under threat. The National Parks Trust's vision is "**to preserve and manage designated natural and cultural areas in order to improve the quality of life in the British Virgin Islands.**" In order for the NPTVI to accomplish our mission, the Trust has instituted the Marine Conservation Programme and is actively involved in species recovery, reforestation, environmental education and outreach, biodiversity conservation, and historical preservation.

Under the Mooring Buoy System which forms the basis for our Marine Conservation Programme, the buoys safeguard against damage to our fragile coral reefs and other marine habitats all the while enhancing the visitor experience to the BVI. One of our most critical programmes at the National Park's Trust is the restoration of endangered, endemic or indigenous species. Through international partnerships with the Bermuda Aquarium Museum & Zoo, and zoos in San Diego and Forth Worth in the United States, the NPTVI was able to successfully restore the roseate or greater flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*), and the Anegada Rock Iguana (*Cyclura pinguis*), respectively. The restoration of the Anegada Rock Iguana was vital as it is an endemic species that once roamed the Puerto Rico Bank, and has been placed on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list as a critically endangered species.

In addition to the afore-mentioned institutional partners, the NPTVI is fortunate to have resourceful institutional partners in the United Kingdom, United States and the Caribbean region, which provides the Trust with the technical competence while building internal capacity to continue our mission. The Royal Botanic Gardens Kew has assisted the National Parks Trust with the foundations for a herbarium, seed bank and conservation garden beds at the J. R. O'Neal Botanic Garden. Moreover, an

assessment of important habitats throughout the Territory has led to the definition of a network of Tropical Important Plant Areas (TIPAs). Other blossoming partnerships that will aid the Trust to yield a wide array of development capabilities into the future include the International National Trust Organisation (INTO), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), and the Caribbean Conservation Network (CCN) of the United Kingdom Caribbean Overseas.

In the BVI, the national parks are an integral part of the natural environment, and they are essential to the livelihood of our people and our tourism product now and in the future. The breadth of the national parks and protected areas is spread over different islands, terrains, and environments. In order for the National Parks Trust to effectively execute its mission today and into the future, the Trust will require the financial support from all persons interested in conserving and protecting these beautiful Virgin Islands.

I leave you with a quote from the late John F. Kennedy who describes the importance of national parks and reserves best when he said... “*National parks and reserves are an integral aspect of intelligent use of natural resources. It is the course of wisdom to set aside an ample portion of our natural resources as national parks and reserves, thus ensuring that future generations may know the majesty of the earth as we know it today.*” Please join us in preserving our national and historical treasures.



Dr. Cassander Titley-O'Neal  
Director  
National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands

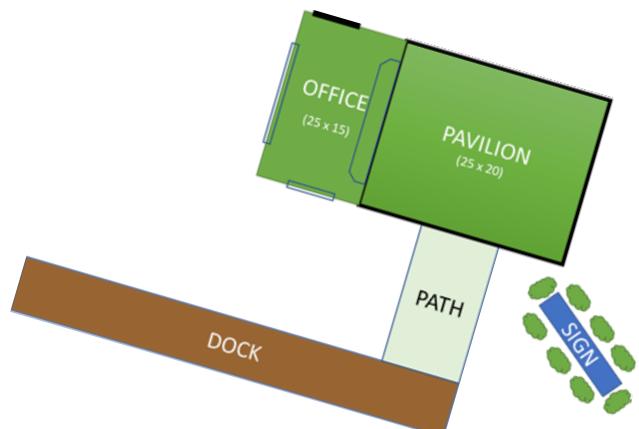


# Project 1: Prickly Pear National Park Development

Legally declared a bird sanctuary in 1959, Prickly Pear Island was declared a National Park in 1988 for its rich biodiversity as a mangrove and salt pond system, a turtle nesting site and a popular site for tropical important plant areas, and rare and endangered plant species. The Park is heavily trafficked and widely used, however the park is located on an outer island with no National Parks Trust (NPT) presence. There is a need enhance the visitor experience through a visitor center, gift shop and research field station with educational environmental interpretation and lookout platforms for panoramic views of the North Sound Harbour.

## Benefits:

- Visitor Center and park trails with lookout platforms outfitted with interpretation increases environmental education and enhances the visitor experience
- Minimize visitor impact on park's sensitive habitats and biodiversity
- Research field station vital in supporting crucial terrestrial and marine research, build and develop interdisciplinary collaborations and partnerships locally, regional and internationally and increases public awareness and education.
- Increase public awareness of protected habitat, animal and plant species
- Presence of facilities increases attractiveness and visitation to the park, thus alleviating the more popular and heavily trafficked parks



**Project Duration:** 8 - 12 months

**Project Cost:** \$ 892,500.00

## Project Components

- Construct NPT Welcome Center with Office, gift shop and research field station
- Construct lookout platforms
- Expand trail network
- Design and install educational biodiversity interpretation along trails and ponds (birds, turtle, flora and other fauna)
- Develop snorkel trail

Project components	Costs
Construction of Visitor Centre	\$375,000.00
Construction of 4 lookout platforms	\$70,000.00
Construction of field station	\$92,000.00
Trail expansion	\$7,000.00
Interpretation - Visitor centre, ponds, trails and lookout platforms	\$70,000.00
Construction and outfitting Snorkel Trail	\$11,500.00
Construction of Dock	\$172,500.00
Admin/Insurance	\$15,000.00
Project Management	\$8,750.00
Transportation Fee	\$70,750.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$892,500.00</b>



## Project 2: Hides at Anegada Ramsar Site

The extensive network of ponds and limestone cays that make up the Anegada Eastern and Westerns Ponds were declared a Ramsar Site in 1999 under the Ramsar Convention. These significant wetlands contain endemic species of flora and fauna such as the Anegada Rock Iguana and Greater Flamingo. They also serve as an important site for migratory birds and a traditional fisheries and salt production site. A great tool to protect and promote the endangered species, these strategically crafted environmentally integrated “invisible” observation platforms are used to conceal visitors from birds thus being sensitive to the needs of the birds while managing human activity needs - need for visibility of birds in their natural environment. Hides will be outfitted with video displays showing live feed of the population in the wild, as well as prerecorded videos about NPT’s species recovery programme, as well as educational information such as the life cycle of the flamingo and iguana species and the importance of the habitat.

### Benefits:

- Increase current Flamingo population to 1000 by 2035
- Minimize negative visitor impact on flamingo nesting season and population growth - eliminate the need for tour helicopters and planes to fly low over the ponds to get a closer look at the birds thus disrupting birds nesting, which negatively impact the population growth.
- Capacity training and development - revenue generating opportunity for local Anegada tour guides/operators.
- Increase public awareness of protected habitat, animal and plant species

**Project Duration:** 8 months

**Project Cost:** \$458,000.00

### Project Components:

- Construct Pond Hides and pond/mangrove boardwalks
- Train local Anegadian tour guides/residents
- Install game cameras
- Design and install flamingo and iguana interpretation and video displays along trail and within hides
- Security, Maintenance and Management Plan
- Content sharing on NPT website to be used in classrooms

Project components	Costs
Construction of 4 Hides	\$225,000.00
AV outfitting per hide	\$15,000.00
Trail Security outfitting	\$28,000.00
Trail expansion (raised boardwalks)	\$150,000.00
Hides, ponds, Trail and lookout platform interpretation	\$12,000.00
Local Tour Guide Training	\$7,000.00
Wildlife Game Cameras	\$10,000.00
NPT Ornithology Training/secondment	\$7,000.00
Transportation Fee	\$ 4,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$458,000.00</b>



# Project 3: Joseph Reynold O'Neal Botanic Gardens

The new Joseph Reynold O'Neal Botanic Gardens will serve as the gateway of the National Parks and Protected Areas System. This envisioned world-class facility will house the new headquarters for NPT as well as facilities which will better equip and position NPT as a leading Conservation institution within the region building on the foundation from over 20 years of collaborative work with Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. New facility to include, but by no means limited to, Research Lab, Library, Centre for Conservation Strategy, Gift Shop, Seedbank and Herbarium, Auditorium, NPT Headquarters, Meeting rooms, Conference room, Green roof, Green walls, energy efficient interior and interpretation which highlights the entire protected areas system.

## Benefits:

- Provide an enhanced environment for plant research and garden development, positioning the BVI as a regional/international model with respect to conservation of threatened and endemic species
- Capacity building and generation of species for rehabilitation and recovery programmes
- Opportunity to construct green, solar/self sustaining facility
- Increased visitor engagement and environmental education, and revenue generation through iconic ex-situ collections, activities, workshops, exhibitions etc.

**Project Duration:** 2 years

**Project Cost:** \$6,000,000.00

## Project Components

- Conduct territory-wide Charrette
- Design new facility using community input
- Source botanical and conservation material
- Construct and outfit new facility
- Design and install educational interpretation
- Staff training and capacity building



# Project 4: Marine Conservation Maintenance Vessel

Dubbed the “Sailing capital of the World”, a key component of NPT’s marine conservation efforts is the Marine programme and system of marine buoys. Strategically placed within marine protected and coral reef areas, these buoys prevent anchor damage to the reef system and seabed. The success of this system is solely dependent on NPT’s Marine team (and maintenance vessel which was destroyed in Hurricane Irma) and their ability to quickly and successfully install and maintain the 250+ mooring fields across the entire Virgin Islands.

## Benefits:

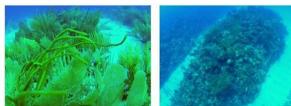
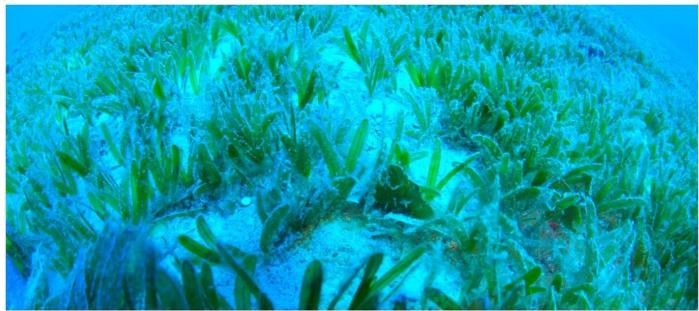
- Ensure habitat and species survival and provide for adequate fish stocks and enhanced visitor enjoyment while protecting delicate coral reefs
- Continue Capacity building and data collection with CEFAS, UK Hydrographic Office for Marine Protected Areas and Hydrographic Surveys

**Project Duration:** 3 months

**Project Cost:** \$275,000

## Project Components

- Purchase Marine Pursuit Vessel
- Outfitted Vessel with additional equipment
- Ship Vessel
- License and Insure Vessel
- Maintenance Plan





Magnificent Frigate Bird

## Partner's Message

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew ([www.kew.org/science](http://www.kew.org/science)) has been working in partnership with the National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands for more than 20 years to document, understand and conserve the rich botanical heritage of the British Virgin Islands. Part of the Puerto Rican Bank Floristic Province and positioned at the heart of the Caribbean biodiversity hotspot, the British Virgin Islands supports globally significant plant species and a rich diversity of native habitats.

The partnership between Kew and the National Parks Trust has documented 648 native plant species with four of these being unique to the BVI. Plants are critical to every aspect of our daily lives and regular outreach activities with the community and particularly young students, often through the JR O'Neal Botanic Garden, have showcased this. Today, plants and their habitats are under threat, whether it is from the impacts of extreme weather events caused by climate change, or the loss of habitats and their constituent species through changes in land use.

The National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands is the beacon of hope for the future of these plants and their habitats and they need your help. Together we can ensure a sustainable future for BVI's biodiversity, but only if the Trust has the resources and support to continue their vital work.



Dr Colin Clubbe,  
Head of Conservation Science, RBC Kew



# Project 5: Marine Conservation Patrol Pursuit Vessel

In 1991, NPT implemented a Marine Conservation Programme to prevent and protect premier dive sites and coral reef environments from anchor damage. The programme also ensures marine habitat and species survival. Due to the wide spread of the marine mooring field across the BVI's 60 islands, islets, rocks and cays, a pursuit patrol vessel is required. This allows the marine team to effectively cover the vast mooring field ensuring that the rules and regulations are being enforced.

## Benefits:

- Marine Conservation/Protection enforcement and surveillance
- Rapid assessment of territory wide mooring field to speed up repair
- Recoup revenue which NPT losses through illegal moorings

**Project Duration:** 2-4 months

**Project Cost:** \$330,000

## Project Components

- Purchase Midnight Express Marine Patrol Pursuit Vessel
- Outfitted Vessel with additional equipment and NPT branding
- Ship Vessel
- License and Insure Vessel
- Maintenance Plan



# Project 6: Copper Mine National Park Development

The remains of an 18th century copper mine, this prominent historic landmark dominates Mine Hill, on cliffs of the southeastern tip of Virgin Gorda. Restoration works began in 1998 to stabilize the ruins with the assistance from Cornwall, England. Due to the continuing destabilization as well as the destruction caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria, this historical treasure is in dire need of repairs and restoration.

## Benefits:

- Restore and conserve terrestrial ecosystem areas of historical and aesthetic value
- Potential UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Improve visitor experience and increase historical/cultural awareness through trails, interpretation and tours
- Serves as a revenue generating opportunity for local Virgin Gordian tour guides and NPT.

**Project Duration:** 1 year

**Project Cost:** \$1,665,000.00

## Project Components:

- Stabilize ruins
- Purchase and install lighting, generator and solar power system
- Repair and outfit visitor centre and gift shop
- Repair wall and soil undermining/erosion
- Grade and pave driveway
- Replace Interpretation
- Expand trail network
- Print and install signage and interpretation

Project components	Costs
Visitor Centre Repairs	\$220,000.00
Historic Ruin Restoration/Stabilization	\$1,000,000.00
Addition of covered entry way	\$120,000.00
Signage and Interpretation	\$95,000.00
Trail Expansion/Safety Equipment	\$80,000.00
Driveway rehabilitation	\$90,000.00
Lighting, Generator	\$25,000.00
Replacement for Solar panels	\$35,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,665,000.00</b>



# Project 7: Seed Bank

The seed bank located at the J.R. O'Neal Botanic Gardens housed a number of seed collections for local plant species that were either endangered, important natives or culturally significant to the territory. The building, formerly known as the Curator's office, which housed 80% of the collections and the work station for processing the collections was destroyed by Hurricane Irma on Sept. 6th, 2018. Along with the building, the collections were also lost. The loss of important plant species in the wild and important research.

## Benefits:

- Existing relationship with Kew, Millennium Seed Bank programme
- Seed collections could be used to propagate new plants and further restore areas where the loss occurred if any collection is lost in the wild.
- As an area for research where seeds were tested in propagation trials in order to observe their suitable soil types, conditions needed and behaviors such as dormancy periods.

**Project Duration:** 1 - 2 years

**Project Cost:** \$70, 000

## Project Components

- Construct and outfit facility
- Source and install deep freezer, custom built seed dryer and oven
- Source botanical and conservation material
- Staff training and capacity building at Royal Botanic Gardens, KEW
- Field work to collect seeds
- Source, ship and store seeds from seed bank partners





Zebra Longwing Butterfly

## Partner's Message

Hello, and thank you for your interest in helping the National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands look after some of the world's most beautiful and endangered natural and cultural places. As a director of the English and Welsh National Trust and lead Trustee of the International National Trust Organizations, I know first-hand how important great conservation and vibrant experiences are to the wellbeing of countries and territories. And as someone who has loved the Virgin Islands since I first visited over 35 years ago, I know how unbelievably precious these places are both to islanders and to the many visitors who come to explore Nature's Little Secrets.

The National Parks Trust works tirelessly in its mission to look after the many national parks that the islands are blessed to have, protecting the biodiversity of the region, giving locals and visitors access to some of the most beautiful places anywhere, and highlighting the need for marrying great conservation with great experiences. The National Parks Trust is guardian of a rich and diverse portfolio of special places – the exotic tropical flora of Sage Mountain National Park, the wealth of marine life at the Wreck of the Rhone, the history-rich Coppermine, and the world-famous Baths. These many parks comprise a world-class collection that have global conservation significance, and the work of the National Parks Trust is respected throughout the conservation movement. In my professional roles, I know how important the role of the National Parks Trust is in creating a balance between sustaining the environment and supporting the local economy and tourism infrastructure. Maintaining that balance is not easy and requires hard work and dedication, both of which the National Parks Trust tirelessly deliver.

This is where you can come in. The National Parks Trust needs funds to continue its great work and look after even more special places forever and for everyone. The natural and built heritage of these extraordinarily beautiful islands is at risk; climate change, a growing population, and an increase in visitors are affecting the very fabric of the islands. But with your help, the National Parks Trust can better understand, and mitigate, the dynamics of global warming, build better infrastructure to the parks, and teach a new generation to love and care for these special places. So please give as generously as you can so that future generations can enjoy these blessed and extraordinary islands.



Justin Albert

Director, National Trust for England, Wales and Northern Ireland  
Trustee, International National Trust Organization

**I N T O** INTERNATIONAL  
NATIONAL TRUSTS  
ORGANISATION



# Project 8: The Greater Baths National Park Development

The world-renowned geological wonders that are The Baths and Devil's Bay National Parks is the number one tourist destination in the Virgin Islands. Unfortunately for this great wonder, with great visitation comes far much greater user damage. In order to save this national treasure from these negative impacts, rehabilitative measures must be taken to maintain its natural and environmental integrity and ensure its longevity. The creation of a state of the art NPTVI Headquarters and Visitor Centre serve to engage the largest audience in the BVI, introducing them to the national park system and the importance of protecting the parks. By providing the history and uniqueness of each park, signage and interpretation has the ability to create a sense of pride among the local community, as well as, increase the value and profile of the park to visitors.

## Benefits:

- To maintain the iconic landscape view and meet/exceed visitor expectations
- Minimize visitor impact on park's sensitive habitats and biodiversity and restore attractiveness of park through raised trails and other rehabilitation efforts
- Opportunity to construct green, solar/self sustaining facility to enrich visitor experience and increase environmental awareness, interpretation and tours
- Increase public awareness of protected habitat, animal and plant species and
- Increase public safety with proper facilities and personnel

**Project Duration:** 2 years

**Project Cost:** \$5,430,000.00

## Project Components

- Construction and outfitting of welcome center facility including car park and other infrastructure
- Construction and outfitting of First Aid Station
- Lifeguard programme
- Emergency response vehicles (land)
- Rebuild The Baths Restaurant Concession
- Park drainage rehabilitation
- Construction of rest stops along trails
- Purchase, shipping and installation of flag pole system
- Repair of trail infrastructure
- Construction of raised boardwalk along trails
- Construction of vending units

Project components	Costs
Visitor Centre Construction	\$3,500,000.00
First Aid Station construction and outfitting	\$75,000.00
Emergency Response vehicle	\$50,000.00
Construction of raised/boardwalk trails (ghut and drainage) rehabilitation	\$1,300,000.00
Construction of Restaurant Concession	\$300,000.00
Construction of 4 rest stops	\$60,000.00
Lighting, Generator	\$25,000.00
Solar power system	\$30,000.00
Lifeguard Programme	\$90,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,430,000.00</b>



# Project 9: Environmental Education and Outreach Programme

Our aim is a world-class research based national park system which provides exemplary experiences and service to our guests, as the Natural Environment of the Virgin Islands is its tourism product and main economic pillar. The economic strength of the territory depends on the existence of our National Parks, which can only be achieved with an even stronger outreach and education programme. By increasing resources to expand our reach, with the use of technology, teachers will be trained to use national parks as outdoor classrooms using innovative techniques, raising a generation of environmental influencers. This promotes more informed and critical decision making which ensure our irreplaceable and vulnerable natural resources are protected and developed in a sustainable manner.

## Benefits:

- Promotes conservation of the natural and historical environment, ensuring its longevity and sustainable development
- Ensures that the community become environmental stewards and promotes behavioural changes to carry on the conservation work from generation to generation
- Strong linkages with local community groups provide volunteers and financial support towards the work of the National Parks Trust.
- Environmental education encourages and builds critical thinking and problem solving skills with the younger population —where persons must investigate, hypothesize, interpret data, analyze and form conclusions

**Project Duration:** 2 years

**Annual Programme Cost:** \$1,780,000

## Programme Components:

- Research to inform data and historical gaps
- Production team - Graphic designer, videographer, virtual reality technician
- Design and production/printing of educational material - videos, newsletters, guidebooks, activity books, docuseries, virtual tours
- Conduct exhibitions and tours and in-school presentations
- Host Regional and International Scientific and Environmental Conferences
- Conduct NPT Virtual reality experience at Cruise Pier, Schools, Tradeshows and Conferences
- Plan and execute NPT educational community events:
  - NPT Garden Festival
  - NPT Iguana Festival
  - NPT Arbour Day Celebration and Enviro-Innovation Fair
  - National Park Exhibitions
  - Art Walks and Cultural Villages

Project components	Costs
Capacity Building, Training and Research	\$175,000.00
Production team—graphic designer, videographer, editors, virtual reality	\$125,000.00
Park videos and Docu-series	\$175,000.00
Print Material - guide and activity books	\$20,000.00
NPT Augmented and Virtual Reality tour development	\$575,000.00
NPT Public Lectures and Conferences	\$275,000.00
NPT Exhibitions	\$45,000.00
NPT Mobile Classroom/Bus	\$250,000.00
NPT Garden Festival	\$40,000.00
NPT Iguana Festival	\$15,000.00
NPT Arbour Day Activities	\$35,000.00
Art Walks and Cultural Villages	\$50,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,780,000.00</b>



# Project 10: National Parks and Protected Areas Signage and Interpretation

The purpose of the signage and interpretation systems within the parks and protected areas is to provide vital directional, health and safety information to park visitors. It also enhances and encourages the learning experience, and communicate the importance of protecting the park and abiding by park rules. Hurricane Irma destroyed all park signage and interpretation and NPTVI identified the need to improve and standardize park signage and interpretation across the entire park and protected areas system to better inform visitors, increase safety measures and create a stronger identity and enhanced visitor experience.

## Benefits:

- Encouraging visitors to actively participate in environmental protection, restoration and reducing their negative impact.
- Ensure visitor health and safety
- Enhance visitor experience and increase environmental, historical and cultural awareness

**Project Duration:** 3 years

## Phase 1 Parks:

- The Baths and Devil's Bay National Parks
- Queen Elizabeth II National Park
- Prickly Pear National Park
- Copper Mine National Park
- Sage Mountain National Park
- Gorda Peak National Park
- Sandy Cay National Park
- Flora, Fauna, Endangered Species and TIPAs

**Project Cost:** \$700,000.00

## Project Components

- Design park signage and interpretation
- Produce park signage and interpretation
- Ship park signage and interpretation
- Install park signage and interpretation

Project components	Costs
Design signage and interpretation	\$17,500.00
Production of signage and interpretation	\$750,000.00
Shipping and handling	\$19,000.00
Transportation	\$2,500.00
Installation	\$15,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$804,000.00</b>





The Baths National Park, Virgin Gorda

## Partner's Message

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) has been working in collaboration with the National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands (NPTVI) over the past two decades. This partnership is important to the RSPB in its efforts to deliver on its conservation and sustainable development mandate in the UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) where it represents the BirdLife Partnership.

The RSPB and NPTVI have successfully collaborated on the delivery of a number of projects funded by the European Union under the Voluntary Scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas (EU-BEST) as well as the UK government funded Darwin Plus. Such projects have included island restoration work through management of invasive alien species; specifically controlling invasive plants and eradicating feral goats from Great Tobago and Little Tobago. The results of the work undertaken by the NPTVI on such initiatives are of importance to the BVI, other Caribbean UKOTs and the wider Caribbean region. Lessons learned from various project activities have been shared with staff of government and non-governmental environmental organisations of the other islands through workshops hosted by the NPTVI. The RSPB particularly welcomes the site protection framework that is in place; The National Parks Act (2006) is one of the major pieces of conservation legislation, allowing areas to be designated as nature reserves, wilderness areas or national parks.

The NPTVI suffered a significant setback with the passage of the hurricanes in 2017 and the RSPB provided assistance to help the Trust in its recovery efforts. We encourage members of the BVI community, potential local and international donors to support the NPTVI. Help the Trust succeed in its efforts to contribute to a thriving, beautiful environment in the British Virgin Islands.



Charlie Butt  
Caribbean Territories Programme Manager  
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)



# Project 11: Expansion of The Baths National Park

## - Toad Hall Estate

The addition of Toad Hall Estate to The Greater Baths National Park presents NPTVI with infinite opportunities for revenue generation. The investment in the purchase of the estate and the development of the various experiences afford NPTVI the ability not only to increase revenues and become more self-sufficient, but also enhance the Tourism product of the Territory as well as support the Territory-wide conservation and historical preservation work of NPTVI. This new venture will allow the non-profit conservation organisation to be able to better support/fund its operations, management, research and capacity building.

5.5 acres of prime real estate, 42 feet above sea level, Toad Hall was built in the 1970s as a secluded paradise nestled within The Greater Baths National Park - Devil's Bay, Spring Bay National Parks and the world renowned Baths National Parks – which to this day remains one of the Virgin Islands' most popular tourist destinations. The owner managed to create an exclusive luxury paradise – 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom, with open plan kitchen and living areas, with a pool built within majestic boulders and lush tropical landscape. This property also boasts a trail with private access to The Baths National Park. Along this trail is a hidden lookout platform and lounge area amongst the boulders, which offers visitors panoramic picturesque views of the National Parks and outer islands. The property also owns its own restaurant which is currently being leased by 'Mad Dog' Restaurant.

### Benefits:

- NPTVI Headquarters - 'Gateway to the National Parks and Protected Areas' - an opportunity to engage the largest captive audience in the Virgin Islands within a state-of-the-art interpretation and environmental education centre
- Enables NPT to offer authentic immersive environmental, cultural and historical experiences to guests
- Used as a revenue generator in the form of a luxury vacation rental with private access to The Baths National Park, event rental space

**Project Duration:** 3 years

**Project Cost:** \$10,550,000

### Project Components

- Property purchase and associated costs
- Post Hurricane renovations and repairs
- Produce signage and interpretation

Project components	Costs
Purchase of Property	\$6,000,000.00
Closing Costs	\$600,000.00
Post Hurricane Renovation/Repairs	\$1,375,000.00
NPT Signage and Interpretation	\$75,000.00
NPTVI Headquarters and Visitor Centre Construction	\$2,500,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,550,000.00</b>



# Project 12: Gorda Peak National Park Development

Gorda Peak was declared a National Park in 1974, protected for its extensive area of Caribbean dry forest, endangered species, research and recreational activities. At the pinnacle (highest point in Virgin Gorda) visitors are rewarded with a lookout tower which affords them breathtaking unobstructed panoramic views of neighbouring islands, which was destroyed in Hurricanes Irma and Maria. In addition to the reconstruction of the lookout tower, it is desired that NPT construct a small visitor center facility to offer more environmental, historical and cultural interpretation, and restrooms. The expansion of the trail network within Gorda Peak National Park, allows visitors picturesque oceans views through the newly identified Tropical Plant Areas filled with native, rare and endangered plant species.

## Benefits:

- The picturesque view from the tower enhances visitor experience, encouraging visitors to actively participate in environmental protection, restoration and reducing their negative impact on the environment.
- Strong linkages with local community groups provide volunteers and financial support towards the work of the National Parks Trust.

**Project Duration:** 6 months

**Project Cost:** \$757,250.00

## Project Components

- NPT Kiosk/Visitor Centre and restrooms
- Procurement and transportation of material to peak
- Signage and Interpretation
- Trail expansion
- Construction of lookout tower
- Lookout platforms and rest stops
- Parking

Project components	Costs
Visitor Centre and Restroom construction	\$452,500.00
Construction of lookout tower and lookout platforms	\$172,500.00
Transportation of material to peak	\$57,500.00
Expansion of trail network	\$17,250.00
Construction of parking lot, drop -off and pick up areas	\$57,500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$757,250.00</b>



# Project 13: Invasive Species Control Programmes

Within the National Parks and Protected Areas System there are a number of seabird nesting sites and colonies which require protection and reforestation. Great Tobago for example is the only nesting site in the BVI for the magnificent frigate bird and the largest colony in the Eastern Caribbean for the endangered seabird. The Tobagos, Green Cay and Prickly Pear, all possess important plant and animal species. Goat population control is the first step to protecting our fragile biodiversity of rare and endangered flora and fauna. For example, Great Tobago has the largest Frigate bird colony in the Virgin Islands. Little Tobago, the largest Pelican and Brown Booby nesting sites, Green Cay is a Tropic birds and Turns nesting sites and Prickly Pear for its rich diversity of plant species.

## Benefits:

- Healthier nesting trees
- Regeneration of endangered plant species
- Increased life cycle of plant species
- Safe environment for ground nesting birds, by nests no longer being trampled
- Prevention of land erosion

**Project Duration:** 3 years

**Project Cost:** \$109,250.00

## Project Components:

- Removal of invasive species
- Reforestation
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Staff training and capacity building

Project components	Costs
Transportation/Fuel	\$17,250.00
Equipment and supplies	\$23,000.00
Staff Training and Capacity building	\$57,500.00
Wildlife/Game Cameras	\$11,500.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$109,250.00</b>



# Friends of the National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands

## Donor Levels: Annual Contributions

### National Park Advocate

- Student - \$25
- Sponsor - \$100 - \$500
- Sustainer - \$600 - \$900

### National Park Fellow

- \$1,000 - \$4,500
- \$5,000 - \$9,500
- \$10,000 - \$14,500
- \$15,000 - \$25,000

### National Park Champion

- \$30,000 - \$45,000
- \$50,000 - \$65,000
- \$75,000 - \$90,000
- \$100,000 - \$249,000

### Hon. Ralph T O'Neal, OBE Legacy

- \$250,000 - above

## Donor Level: Estate Planning

### Benefactor

- Bronze - \$10,000 - \$49,999
- Silver - \$50,000 - \$99,999
- Gold - \$100,000 - \$249,999
- Ruby - \$250,000 - \$499,999
- Sapphire - \$500,000 - \$999,999

### Joseph Reynold O'Neal MBE Society

- Trustee Circle - \$250,000 - \$499,999
- Chairman's Circle - \$500,000 - \$999,999
- Botanical Circle - \$1 million - \$5 million
- Botanical Trustee - \$6 million - \$9,999,999
- Chairman's Trustee - \$10 million and above

### Bequest Society

- Platinum - \$1 million - \$9,999,999
- Diamond - \$10 million - \$49,999,999

### Rockefeller Fellow

- \$50 million and above

### Rockefeller Legacy

- Chairman of Board of Trustees
  - 5 generations of living contributions of \$50 million or more
  - 5 generations of estate plan contribution of \$50 million or more



Mount Healthy National Park, Tortola

## The Frequently Asked Questions

### **Does the system of protected areas in the BVI have any international significance?**

Yes! Not only do some of our protected areas have international significance, they have received international designations for protection under relevant multilateral environmental agreements. For example:

- UN Millennium Development goals
- Bonn Convention
- Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention)
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention)
- Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention) - Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol)
- Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) St. Georges Declaration

### **Can I fund part of a project?**

Yes! The National Parks of the Virgin Islands welcomes donations of any size and can be applied to a specific project of your choosing.

### **Can I fund more than one project at a time?**

Yes! You may choose to fund as many projects as you like, in one area or in different areas.

### **Can I host an event to raise funds for the National Parks and its projects?**

Yes! We welcome collaborative efforts to raise funds for the work of the Trust.

### **Can I make a general donation not specific to any project?**

Yes! General donations are applied wherever the need is greatest.

### **How will my contribution be acknowledged?**

As a donor you will automatically become a “Friend of the National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands”

### **Will I receive updates on community projects?**

The National Parks Trust provides donors with annual reports.

### **Can I donate land to the National Parks Trust?**

Yes! You can donate land to the National Parks Trust and also receive Tax exemption for the transaction.

## **How do I make my donation?**

There are several options for making donations to the National Parks Trust of The Virgin Islands.

### **Donate by cheque to:**

National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands

### **Donate directly from your bank account.**

Beneficiary Name:

National Parks Trust of The Virgin Islands

#16 Mill Mall, Road Town

Tortola, British Virgin Islands, VG1120

### **Intermediary Bank:** Wells Fargo Bank N.A.

Bank Address: 375 Park Avenue NY 4080, New York, NY 10152

Swift Address: PNBPU3NNYC

ABA# 026005092

### **Beneficiary Bank:** FirstCaribbean International Bank

Bank Address: Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands

Beneficiary Account Number: 215 146 367

Beneficiary Name: Friends of the National Parks Trust

Swift Code: FCIBVG VG

## **Is my donation tax deductible?**

US: NPTVI is in the process of receiving 501C3 status

Receipts are provided for each donation made, for financial and/or tax filing.

## **For more information, contact:**

Diehdra Potter

Deputy Director - Marketing, Communications and Business Development

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Norman Allen



Sandy Cay National Park