



I am a teacher at the Rum Cay All Age School and I was a participant of the 10th BREEF Teacher Training Workshop which took place at the Gerace Research Centre in San Salvador from 13th-20th July 2008.

As a participant of the workshop I have acquired a wealth of knowledge, experience, both practical and theoretical, teacher/pupil resources and a host of literature related to the marine environment. I left the workshop` fully equipped and confident, with the necessary tools, equipment and skills required to educate the pupils at my school.

None of the accomplishments mentioned above could have been possible without your sincere sponsorship and generosity. Your continued assistance towards B.R.E.E.F. will go a long way in ensuring that they continue to train, educate and inform the general Bahamian public as to the importance of protecting the marine environment.

Please accept my sincere gratitude and I am anticipating your continued support of BREEF.

Sincerely,
Junior Todd, Rum Cay All Age School, Rum Cay, Bahamas

It was indeed a pleasure to be chosen as one the participants for BREEF 10 Teacher Workshop on San Salvador. As a Bahamian teacher firstly it gave me the opportunity to visit one the most beautiful islands that normally, I might have never visited. It gave me the opportunity to learn more about our precious marine environment and the importance of conserving and preserving it for future generations of Bahamians.

I was able to explore our wonderful coral reefs and mangroves, as well as visit Green and Bird Cay where I saw the endangered species of iguana and beautiful sea birds on their nesting grounds. Hence, when I teach things I have a greater passion to pass on to future generations of Bahamians.

This was a workshop that I would exchange for no other. BREEF 10 formed a network of teachers who I will forever remember. I must commend you for your contributions to this venture and encourage you to continue because you are not only helping the Bahamas but indeed the world.

Yours Sincerely,
Anistacia Dawkins, Central Abaco Primary School, Abaco, Bahamas



It is truly better down there where it's wetter: under the sea. I would like to express a heartfelt thank you to the sponsors of BREEF 10. Your generous donations have afforded my colleagues and me with an experience that we will never forget.

This experience has brought about an awareness and passion for our environment, especially our marine resources. It has deepened my commitment to ensuring that I do my part to safeguard those things which we once took for granted i.e. the Queen Conch, and the Spiny Lobster.

This experience has also exposed facts about our marine resources which at times were quite alarming. The facts indicated the rapid depletion of our marine resources and the grim future that would be inevitable as a result of its loss. The fact that ignorance and greed is furthering this course at a rapid pace is a source of contention for me. Hence, I leave this training workshop equipped to inform and educate future stewards of our environment on the importance of doing something now so as to sustain this resource that has far reaching effects.

Your sponsorship is greatly appreciated and I assure you, is of lasting impact. I do hope that much consideration would be given to affording this opportunity to others in the future, as this message must be heard throughout this country for generations to come. The Queen Conch must not become a foreign organism to my grand or my great- grandchildren. Once again thank you, thank you, thank you and THANK YOU.

Glendena Sawyer
Principal, Amy Roberts Primary School, Abaco, Bahamas



I have enjoyed attending BREEF's Teacher Workshop this summer and it has increased my knowledge and appreciation for my country and its marine environment. I have discovered new and interesting ways to impart the training of conservation even to the little ones that I teach daily.

On a larger scale, I will use my enhanced knowledge of conservation to improve the level of awareness in my own fishing community. For this opportunity to attend BREEF's Workshop, I am indeed grateful and therefore extend a heartfelt "Thank You."

Best regards,
Carolyn Stuart,
Long Bay Cays Preschool
South Andros, Bahamas



The 10th BREEF Teacher Training Workshop held in San Salvador from July 13th-20th, 2008 was one of the most meaningful teacher workshops I have ever attended.

As participants, we were fully immersed in information gathering from our arrival. The workshop far surpassed my expectations both in terms of the range of topics and amount of printed material presented to us, as well as the extent of the practical applications, which involved daily field excursions on land or sea. The workshop was well organized and managed, highly comprehensive and resourceful, and most timely and relevant. Obviously, the workshop was a most impactful experience for me. I feel privileged to have been a part of this workshop both from a professional level and a personal one.



I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to you our sponsors for your generous support of this venture and assure you that the knowledge and appreciation that I have developed for the marine environment will be transmitted to my students, thereby extending BREEF's effort to protect and preserve our marine life. I therefore urge your continued support of this workshop for the good of the Bahamas and ultimately the world.

Elizabeth Morrison
Head of Department – Social Sciences, Aquinas College, Nassau, Bahamas



I am writing to thank you for affording me the opportunity to attend the BREEF Teacher Training Workshop (2008).

As a Secondary School Biology Teacher, information and skills gained are truly useful to me. It is ironic that although we have the ocean at our disposal, as a resource, we know very little about it. Having attended the BREEF workshop, I was immersed in activities that will empower to teach about marine resources and conservation with more authority as I have now truly experienced what I have been teaching about.

Workshops of this nature are not only beneficial for educators, but also the public at large, as preservation of our resources is vital, yet often overlooked.

I thereby encourage you to continue facilitating the opportunity for others to attend the workshop. It was indeed a tremendous experience. Thanks again.

Sincerely,
Celanthia Brown, Government High School Biology Teacher, Nassau, Bahamas



Never have I been in such a hot, sand fly infested and quiet environment and it was fabulous. I am born and raised in Nassau; originally, I was an ocean-phobic and would never go near a dark spot in the ocean. Now I am beyond eager to see the wonderful life that helps sustain our Bahamian economy.

I cannot swim, but miraculously I am an excellent snorkeler and this experience along with the facilitators and guest speakers have touched one of my more sensitive sides as I now consider myself an environmentalist.

The level and quality of information is truly amazing and even as flabbergasted as I am, I am also proud and honored to be in the midst of passionate persons who share similar and greater passion about the environment.

From swimming in shallow shores, to mangroves, to coral reefs and seeing birds and iguanas up close and personal, now I can never remain passive about the knowledge I've learned. Although I'm still in college, studying to become a biology teacher, these 8 days have ensured my future as an environmental steward. Your sponsorship is well appreciated and thank you for this grand opportunity.

Sincerely,
Sophia Butler, Pre-service teacher,
College of The Bahamas

Thank you very much for this wonderful experience. I have a greater appreciation for marine life and my environment. I look forward to sharing this information with my students.

Sincere Thanks,
Daniel Pratt
South Andros High School
South Andros, Bahamas





It is with great pleasure that I say thanks to you for affording me the opportunity to have an all expense paid workshop, to gain an experience, which I know now; I can't get anywhere else around the world.

I can use the information throughout my teaching career. So you see it can be an enjoyable experience for the students not only for me.

Thanks to all of the presenters of BREEF 10 - Charlene, Casuarina, Shelly, Portia, Sophia, Miaya, Deon, Lakeshia, Janet, Cecilia, Juanita and the others. Thank you to anyone else who made this experience possible.

Best regards,
Rebecca Sweeting
Simms Primary School
Long Island

Thanks to your generosity for partnering with BREEF. I have just completed a week of workshops with BREEF 10 at San Salvador. This week has done for me, what I have not done for more than ten years, re-introduced me to Bahamian waters, and the pleasures that they bring.

The workshop was well balanced, providing information on corals, mangroves, ecosystems, even the anatomy of a coral. I am well able to stand not only in front of my students, but the public at large to gently encourage them to do right by the environment.

The facilitators, Casuarina McKinney and Charlene Carey were the best and they never faltered, making it easy for the rest of us to stay focused. The knowledge is a part of me now and I intend to share it. Please continue to support this worthy cause.

Sincerely,
Teresa Sands
Trainer
Ministry of Tourism
Governors Harbour, Eleuthera





I would like to take a minute of the busy schedule that BREEF has set for me, to thank you for the opportunity you have given me. Without your help, I would not have been able to conquer my greatest fear, well almost, the sea/ocean and the creatures that live in it. When I look at it now, I see a world of adventure. I've learned a lot of new things especially about the mangroves. I never knew how important they were to us.

If it wasn't for this experience, I would still be ignorant to the dangers that face our future I will now go out and spread the news. Thank you, thank you, and Thank you.

Sincerely,
Indyanna Moss, Thelma Gibson Primary School, Nassau, Bahamas

BREEF is a wonderful and much needed organization. During the course of the week I was informed about and experienced the beautiful biodiversity found in our waters.

The facilitators were very friendly and knew without a doubt, their roles and shared the abundance of the knowledge they possess. I think that "ALL" teachers in the Bahamas should have this experience.

Thank you for making it possible for me to experience what BREEF has to offer. I have gained a wealth of information that has caused me to be more conscious of our marine environment. Again, I extend a heart-felt "Thank You" for making this experience possible.

Sincerely
Lakeisha Whitfield
Bowen Sound, Andros Bahamas



I want to thank you for your donation to BREEF; without your funding it would not have been possible for me and my fellow teachers to be a part of this workshop. During this workshop I learned a great deal about the environment, and how our actions can adversely affect our marine habitat.

When I first studied marine habitats such as the mangroves, coral reefs and the sea grass beds at college it was only for informational purposes to pass an ecology test. So I did not really appreciate these marine habitats for what they truly are an irreplaceable part of the Bahamian ecosystem, which we can never get back if they are destroyed. However, this trip instilled a new appreciation for our marine habitats. This workshop also provided me with the resources and tools to effectively teach marine conservation regardless of the topic.

Your kindness will not go un-noticed because whatever I learned from this workshop, I will teach to my fellow colleagues and students.

Yours truly,
Eldora Clarke, H.O. Nash Junior High School, Nassau, Bahamas

This summer I attended the 10th BREEF Teacher Workshop in San Salvador and now appreciate why this island was selected as the venue for these workshops.

During this past week I learned a lot more about our Marine Resources and the importance of preserving them, not only for the Bahamas but for this entire region. It is vital that we educate our children about conservation and offer them opportunities to explore and learn about the environment.



I want to thank you, the sponsor, for supporting BREEF in this venture. Casuarina McKinney and Charlene Carey should be commended for the excellent work that they do in facilitating these sessions. They both have mastered the skill of making it so easy and comfortable to explore the ocean, even in unfamiliar depths. Your support is truly appreciated and very much needed because all of our teachers need this type of workshop so as to empower our students to become environmental BREEF stewards.

Sincerely,
Cecilia Bodie
Administrator/ Education Specialist
Bahamas National Trust, Rand Nature Centre, Grand Bahama

We are writing this letter to thank you for the opportunity to participate in The Teacher Training Workshop held by Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation (BREEF) at the Gerace Research Center, San Salvador. Because of your contributions to this organization, the facilitators were able to bring in the best in their specific fields, to share their knowledge and experiences with us. It was made more poignant because most of them were Bahamians, which indicates that the attitudes of future Bahamians may change as it relates to the environment. The hands-on activities were effective, which allowed the week's events to be engraved on our hearts and minds.

We commend you for affording us as teachers to be better equipped and informed on the issues that affect us as Bahamians.

Your sponsorship was greatly appreciated. We would like to encourage your continued support of BREEF, in their efforts to recruit environmental stewards of today and tomorrow. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Wendy Pinder
St. John's College

Rosetta Moss
Cleveland Eneas Primary
School

Kimberly Mullings
Queen's College





Thank you for affording me the wonderful opportunity to attend the 10th BREEF Marine Conservation Teacher Workshop. The week of the 13th- 20th July, 2008, in San Salvador was truly a rewarding experience. So many important and vital topics concerning our coastal environments were covered.

Not only were the interactive informational sessions and presentations stimulating, but the field-trips with their first-hand experiences added unique insights. Such learning processes definitely etched permanent consciousness within me and other participants.

Again, thank you for the enrichments received at this BREEF Workshop, and I will be eternally grateful for the priceless experiences. Your kind contribution to expanding the awareness of preserving our coastal environments will extend to all those whom I will share my experiences. Please continue to support this most worthy endeavor.

Sincerely,
Michael Brooks.
North Andros High School
Andros, Bahamas

I am grateful to you for affording me the opportunity to be an active participant of this enlightening experience.

Although I was excited about being selected for BREEF's workshop there was no way of expecting the invaluable lifetime experiences I would have had. It has been an "awakening", and my concepts of the marine ecosystems and other ecosystems are now positioned to conservation of what exists in it, delicately balanced with sustainable development. I now consider myself a steward of the environment and it is my privilege to educate my students and relate with others from the perspective of "hands-on information".



My gratitude also goes out to BREEF for selecting and putting into effect a curriculum for the involvement of the target group. Presenters were resourceful and they followed up their presentation with group work and field trips. These activities reinforced the theoretical information that was simulated during classroom interactions. The Gerace Research Center's location facilitated access to the varying environments we have benefited from. BREEF 10 has collaborated with all who have been involved in the week of activities in an admirable way. It has become a cohesive unit of which I am fortunate to be counted among. Of course, you have made it possible for me, and I will always be grateful. Thank You.

Sincerely,
Arnold Hope, Inagua All Age School, Inagua, Bahamas

This letter comes with regard to the Marine Conservation Teacher Workshop hosted by BREEF at Gerace Research Center, in July 2008. I express my sincere gratitude for giving me such an exciting and enriching opportunity.

The wealth of knowledge I received has ignited a passion to do whatever I can to heighten the awareness of anyone I come into contact with, towards environmental issues.

The experience has equipped me with the information, strategies and skills that will help me in motivating my students and colleagues. Teaching students about the environment and marine conservation, in particular, will never be the same again. I also express gratitude for the level of professionalism displayed by the instructors mainly Charlene, Casuarina, Shelley, Miaya and Sophia. All of the lectures and their aids made an invaluable contribution to making this such an eye-opening experience.

The materials given were meaningful and appropriate for children of all ages and may also be given to parents. The hands-on experiences have been incredible and I will never forget the friends that I have made and once again, a heartfelt “thank you!”

Sincerely,
Miss Sharon Bowe, R.N. Gomez All Age School, Bullock’s Harbor , Berry Islands, Bahamas



Thank you so much for contributing to the BREEF organization which has given me the opportunity to gain an experience of a lifetime.

Prior to attending this workshop, I knew very little knowledge in the subject areas of the Bahamian Queen Conch, Mangroves and other various types of marine life. I had no knowledge of invasive species and how much of a detriment they can be to an environment.

Also, I was not aware of the problems faced by our ecosystems and how important it is that we conserve them; and I am almost ashamed to say that because of my lack of knowledge and experience, I too may have contributed to the disasters and destruction of our marine life. Therefore, now that I have completed this workshop, I can honestly say that I have developed a love for our marine life and a passion for conserving it.

I not only want to take this knowledge and experience back to the classroom, but also to my family, friends, and community, so that they too can gain the same love and appreciation which I have acquired here at BREEF’s Teacher Workshop.

Once again thanks for your contribution, and know that you are not just contributing in aid of educating Bahamians about conserving marine life, but, that you are also contributing towards paving the way to a flourishing future for marine life here in the Bahamas. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Sincerely,
Keziah Samantha Knowles, Glinton’s Primary School, Long Island, Bahamas



Whenever you hear a teacher describe a workshop as very nice, really good, “I really enjoyed it,” you think to yourself, sorry I missed it, but, oh well. However, whenever you hear teachers describe a workshop as “AMAZING! AWESOME! and Unbelievable!” That is a workshop you do whatever’s necessary to attend because you want to be a part of the experience.



I attended the workshop ‘Treasures in the Sea’ at the Bahamas National Trust in the summer of 2007 where, a few participants of the BREEF workshop raved about their experience using the terms mentioned above. Their expressions and the way their faces lit up when they told about the experience was enough for every teacher present who hadn’t experienced the workshop want to be a part of the experience.

I have taught for 6 years, but if I live to teach for 50 years, this would, without a doubt, stand out as the most educational, beneficial and impacting workshop that I have ever and would ever attend.

I am greatly in debt to you, the sponsors, to Gerace Research Center, our host and to the most wonderful, accommodating and (putting it simply) coolest facilitators I will ever have the pleasure of meeting; Casuarina McKinney, Charlene Carey, Shelly Cant, Portia Sweeting, Miaya Smith and Sophia Smith as well as the other knowledgeable facilitators will forever be in my heart. I would compare this experience to child birth in that it’s something you just can’t explain, you have to experience it for yourself. Once again, thank you ever so much.

Sincerely,
Latia Johnson, Cleveland Eneas Primary School, Nassau, Bahamas

I am extremely grateful for your act of kindness. Whether you gave out of your abundance or it was a sacrifice, meant a lot to me. You recognize what BREEF is trying to do in The Bahamas, and in joining in with them, you have now educated another generation.

I am an educator in Eleuthera who has always been passionate about the beauty of our Bahamian seas. In this week I have learned a lot of new and fascinating facts about our wetlands, our marine resources, conch, crawfish, turtles, the Nassau grouper and a host of other flora and fauna. Not only did I learn a lot of new facts but the hands-on approach helped me with prior knowledge I had about other marine topics.

Prior to this I had assumed that I knew what an adult conch looked like, but I was wrong. This workshop now encourages me to act more responsibly and to encourage others to do so.

It is good when you are in a classroom teaching about our marine environments with the help of aids, but it is a whole lot better when you experience these things hands on. Many of the topics are not only helpful in teaching Science but can be integrated into many other topics such as Language Arts, Arts & Crafts to name a few.

San Salvador is home to the largest variety of sea birds in the Bahamas as well as their very own iguana. Without your sponsorship I would have not been able to travel from Eleuthera to San Salvador, nor be able to afford the accommodations, meals or transportation. The presenters were from the Bahamas National Trust, The Department of Marine Resources, San Salvador’s Living Jewels, Atlantis, Dolphin Encounters, BREEF as well as other individuals. The workshop was bursting at the seams with presenters who were filled with knowledge and concern about our Bahama Land. I could go on but I was told to not write an epistle. Again thank you, and may God continue to bless you.

Sincerely,
Keyshna McIntosh-Kemp, Gregory Town Primary School, Eleuthera, Bahamas



I am writing to say how much this experience has given me an appreciation for my environment both locally and globally.

When I first arrived, I thought that everything was going to be so difficult or I would not pass this through this conference successfully. I have come to appreciate the swimming, snorkeling and observations. The daily activities were quite rewarding and each day I looked forward to attending the workshops in the conference room. However, it was the activities in the water, that I anticipated, which motivated me to wake up, put on gear and rush out of the room.

There were many days that I missed home and was experiencing headaches, but I felt if I stayed indoors, I was missing out on so much. I fought my feelings because whenever I went to the conference room, there was always something new and fascinating. The snorkeling field trips in those gorgeous waters were completely irresistible.

San Salvador is a beautiful island with so much life and you would want to go out DAILY to see what is out there. More importantly, I want you to know that our education officer for this trip, Ms. Charlene Carey treated me with special care and those of us who were not familiar with snorkeling she made sure we were comfortable and protected, while in the water. In addition, I could never forget when she kept saying to one of the young interns, "Tevin stay with Pearl," I remembered her saying this when I kept moving around in the water and started to move away from the group. It was like having a body guard or a guardian angel to protect me while in the water and that is an experience I will never forget.

Lastly, I want you to know that I appreciate you sponsoring me and that you have given me a good education, one that will carry me throughout my life time. I have learned so much in 8 days and this educational conference has inspired me to want to teach my family, neighbors, friend's not just students, about the environment. I look forward to school opening because now that I am fully equipped and appreciative of the environment, I can share and educate my colleagues and I could not do this without your support. I also plan to share this experience at our curriculum writers meeting in August. Hopefully, we can integrate conservation and Environmental Studies into a civics Curriculum. Thank you for this Wonderful experience and it will always remain with me.

Sincerely,
Pearl Baker, Subject Coordinator – History, Government High School, Nassau, Bahamas

