The Impact Funding For

BahamaReefs Newsletter

Quarter Three . September 2026

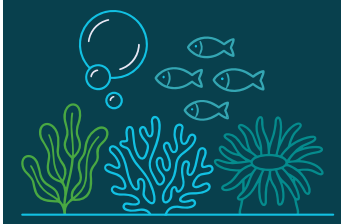


From Commitment to Action

Government leadership, reef-positive enterprise and regional collaboration are moving BahamaReefs forward.

Across the third quarter of 2026, BahamaReefs advanced three connected dimensions of reef resilience: government support for emergency response and risk financing; conservation and business development services for reef-positive enterprises; and regional collaboration on coral disease.

Together, these milestones show how policy, finance, enterprise and science can move from planning toward practical protection for reefs and reef-dependent communities.



NATIONAL REEF RESPONSE PROGRAM ENDORSED

50K

SEED FUNDING AWARDED

05

REEF-POSITIVE VENTURES

01

EXPERT CORAL-DISEASE WORKSHOP

Impact Funding for BahamaReefs is supported by the Global Fund for Coral Reefs and led by The Nature Conservancy with government, business and conservation partners.

REEF RISK FINANCING

Government Endorsement Creates a Pathway for Rapid Reef Recovery

At its 10th Cabinet Meeting, the Government of The Bahamas endorsed the BahamaReefs Emergency Response and Risk Financing Program for Coral Reefs and approved a technical working group led by the Department of Environmental Planning and Protection.

The Program is designed to pre-position financing and specially trained rapid-response teams to assess damage, remove debris and repair corals after hurricanes and other damaging events. Preliminary design pairs a $200,000 emergency fund with parametric insurance offering a maximum annual payout of $1 million. Together, the tools could support response across approximately 400,000 hectares of coastal and marine area, including portions of 24 Marine Protected Areas.

Economic analysis estimates that every dollar invested in the Program could prevent $30 to $119 in local economic losses. The approved working group will help establish governance, identify sustainable funding, define institutional roles and organize, train and equip response teams.

Immediate priorities:

- Convene government, private-sector and civil-society advisers to guide design.
- Confirm policyholder, governance, funding and implementation arrangements.
- Train and equip rapid-response teams for post-event reef assessment and repair.

200K
PROPOSED EMERGENCY FUND

~1M
ANNUAL INSURANCE PAYOUT

400K
HECTARES POTENTIAL COVERAGE

67K
PEOPLE EXPECTED TO BENEFIT



REEF-POSITIVE BUSINESSES

$50,000 Invested in Five Bahamian Blue-economy Ventures

After eight weeks of intensive business, conservation and investment-readiness support, seven finalists presented ventures capable of growing commercially while delivering credible reef-positive outcomes. Five reef-positive businesses received $10,000 each at the inaugural Blue Economy Accelerator Programme pitch competition. The programme is delivered by the Small Business Development Centre Bahamas and The Nature Conservancy, with support from the Global Fund for Coral Reefs through Impact Funding for BahamaReefs.

Blue Economy Accelerator Programme Pitch Competition Cohort One Winners

Island Bey Coastal Stewards
Responsible fly-fishing, visitor education and marine conservation.

Spa Chicks on the Go
Pineapple Wine natural skincare, including reef-friendly sunscreen.

BlueQuest Bahamas
Eco-tourism, coral restoration and environmental education.

Escape Bahamas
Electric-assisted kayaking through mangrove and coastal ecosystems.

Bahama Mineral Company
Conch-shell waste transformed into calcium-based products.

Above: Cohort one awardees and programme partners at the Ocean Advantage pitch competition on 20 August 2026. © Small Business Development Centre (SBDC Bahamas)



KNOWLEDGE AND CAPACITY

Turning Global Learning Into National Reef Readiness

The MSC Foundation convened global, regional and national experts to advance understanding of Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease, exchange practical experience in emergency response and disease management, and examine emerging research.

Frederick Arnett, BahamaReefs Program Manager, participated to strengthen collaboration and inform scalable approaches for climate- and disease-resilient reefs in The Bahamas. He also advocated for national response capacity, the Emergency Response and Risk Financing Program for Coral Reefs, and development of a National Coral Reef Conservation Plan.

Next steps

Connect workshop learning with national coral-disease planning, emergency-response coordination, restoration and sustainable reef-risk financing to scale coral reef protection and restoration efforts in The Bahamas.

Above: Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease workshop participants, Miami. © MSC Foundation

EMERGENCY RESPONSE & RISK FINANCING PROGRAM FOR CORAL REEFS IN THE BAHAMAS

Coral reefs are critical to the economy and coastal resilience in The Bahamas while helping protect communities and infrastructure from storm surges. They contribute:



~$671M

annually to dive-related tourism.



~$23.5M

annually to fisheries production.

HURRICANES ARE A MAJOR & GROWING THREAT!

~$3.4B
IN LOSES

In 2019, Hurricane Dorian caused an estimated $3.4 billion in losses, including significant impacts to tourism and fisheries.

Surveys in Abaco and Grand Bahama documented extensive reef damage, with conditions showing little or no recovery up to 18 months later. As climate change increases the intensity and frequency of storms, risks to coral reefs, coastal communities, and reef-dependent industries are expected to grow.

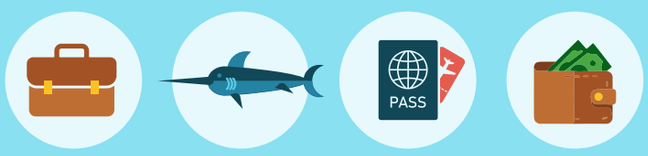
A 2024 analysis by The Nature Conservancy and Conservation Strategy Fund estimated that **hurricane damage could result in $51 million in fisheries losses and $2.6 billion in tourism losses** over 20 years across Exuma, Andros, Abaco, and Grand Bahama.

THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE & RISK FINANCING PROGRAM FOR CORAL REEFS



The Bahamas Government endorsed the Emergency Response and Risk Financing Program for Coral Reefs which will establish trained **RAPID RESPONSE TEAMS** to assess damage, remove debris, and repair and restore reefs following hurricanes and other damaging events.

By accelerating reef recovery, the Program will help **PROTECT** livelihoods, fisheries, tourism, and the wider Bahamian economy.

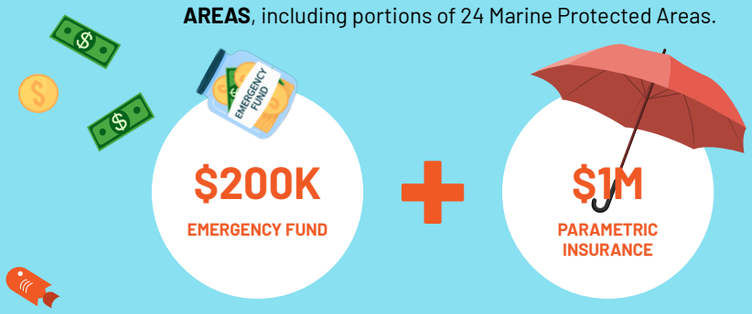


EVERY DOLLAR **$1** → PREVENTS AN ESTIMATED **$30-119**

INVESTED — IN ECONOMIC LOSSES

BENEFITING APPROXIMATELY 67,000 PEOPLE across The Bahamas.

The Program will combine a $200,000 emergency fund with parametric insurance providing up to $1 million annually, **COVERING APPROXIMATELY 400,000 HECTARES OF COASTAL AND MARINE AREAS**, including portions of 24 Marine Protected Areas.



$200K
EMERGENCY FUND

+

$1M
PARAMETRIC INSURANCE

Together, these tools would ensure funding is readily available for reef response without placing additional financial pressure on communities or government when it is needed most.

