

THE COMMISSION NEWSLETTER

Conserve nature, preserve life



TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH

EMANCIPATION STATUE RESTORATION

THE RESTORATION OF the Emancipation Statue - Bussa - was recently executed. A five-member team of the National Conservation Commission (NCC) braved the humid conditions to effect the cleaning process, which took about a week to complete.

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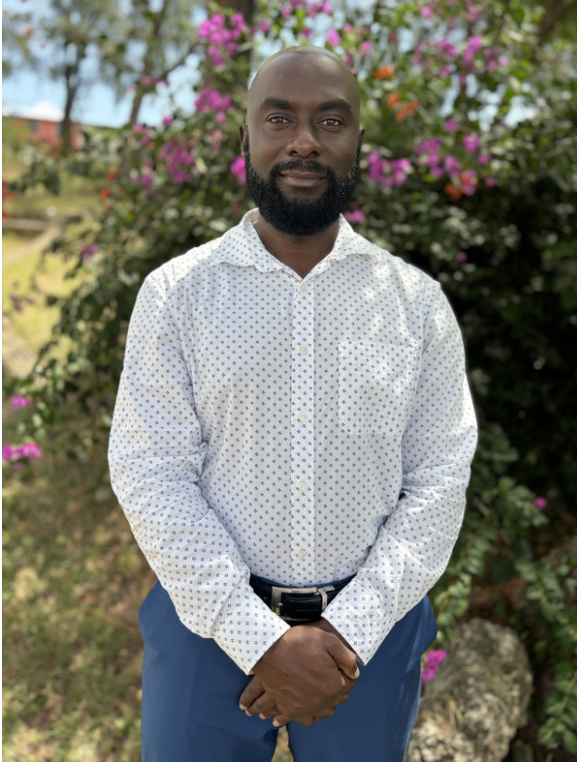
THE RESTORATION OF Queen's Park continues with the refurbishment and coral rendering of the gate columns at the historic site. The NCC team commenced the refurbishment process on the President's gate and will commence the Queen's gate columns on their completion.

READ MORE ON PAGE 8



QUEEN'S PARK GATE COLUMNS REFURBISHMENT UNDERWAY

GM'S MESSAGE



Mr. Ryan Als
Acting General Manager
National Conservation Commission

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BARBADOS' SYMBOLS OF emancipation are the inspiration of this month's message, as we embrace and celebrate Black History Month.

On further reflection, I am proud of the National Conservation Commission's (NCC) progress over the past few months with the restoration of some of these historic treasures including the Trash house in Queen's Park, the improvement of the Montefiore Monument and its gardens and now, the Emancipation Statue – Bussa's Statue – which is highlighted in this edition of The Commission.

Our monuments are not vestiges of the past or artefacts that we pass by while tourists bask in the glory of taking pictures with and of them.

Rather, they are historic snapshots of our lives, our history, the struggles and achievements of those who have gone before us.

The monuments also represent their fight for freedom and their thrust towards emancipation from any oppression which has befallen us, through their strength, courage, intelligence and perseverance to achieve great things.

From the writings on history's pages, it is clear that if we set our minds to the task, each day – whether challenging or seamless – we can make great strides.

The Commission's team continues to make progress and gain the admiration of the nation – a heartwarming fact.

And as the respective departments continue to make measurable progress, the restoration of these national treasures gives great satisfaction.

This satisfaction is not limited to us at The Commission but throughout the length and breadth of this nation and generates a pride in self which is immeasurable.

There is still much work to be done, but I am extremely pleased with the progress and enthusiasm of our dynamic team.

Residue removed from Emancipation Statue



The Emancipation Statue after the cleaning process which included residue removal.

THE ERECTION OF scaffolding around the Emancipation Statue - Bussa - piqued the curiosity and interest of persons traversing Haggatt Hall, St. Michael earlier this month.

As the National Conservation Commission's (NCC) team swept into action, the speculation surrounding the scaffolding was quelled as it was simply for the ease of access to enhance the statue's appearance.

The cleaning process, which took about a week, saw the monument being reinstated from a statue clad in chalky residue to the original sun-kissed bronze commemorative sculpture that symbolises freedom.

NCC's Foreman, Verdun Seale, explained that four persons - including himself - were previously trained in this form of cleaning by a Cuban national.

He credited this training for the team's ability to adequately restore monuments such as the

Emancipation Statue and the Errol Barrow statue in Independence Square.

"We start by washing off the monument with plain water and then using vinegar after to remove residue from the monument. We then use soap water to wash off the vinegar after which we use normal water to wash off the soap water," he outlined.

Seale added that they allowed the statue to dry and used blow torches to ensure that they remove any remaining water from the statue before they heated the sculpture's metal.

"This was necessary before we applied the wax and once we had done so, we used cloths to wipe Bussa until we got the desired shine," he explained.

While Seale noted that this was the first time NCC's team cleaned this statue, he lauded the five-member team for braving the humid conditions to execute the process, which he deemed as critical.

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A shining finish for the Emancipation Statue



The back view of the Emancipation Statue after the recent cleaning was completed.

“Some members of the public thought we re-enslaved Bussa when they initially saw the scaffolding but we were actually bathing him and ensuring that we shined the monument,” he said in a light-hearted reflective moment. Sealed said that he believes the public’s thought may have stemmed from the length of time the scaffolding was erected, prior to the commencement of the work. He added that NCC’s team were assisted by one of its contractors to erect the scaffolding for the cleaning process. There were no reported challenges with the cleaning process and Seale expressed his gratitude to the team for the seamless process. NCC’s Acting General Manager, Ryan Als, echoed Seale’s sentiments and expressed heartfelt gratitude to the team for their dedication to the cleaning and restoration of the Emancipation Statue.

DID YOU KNOW?

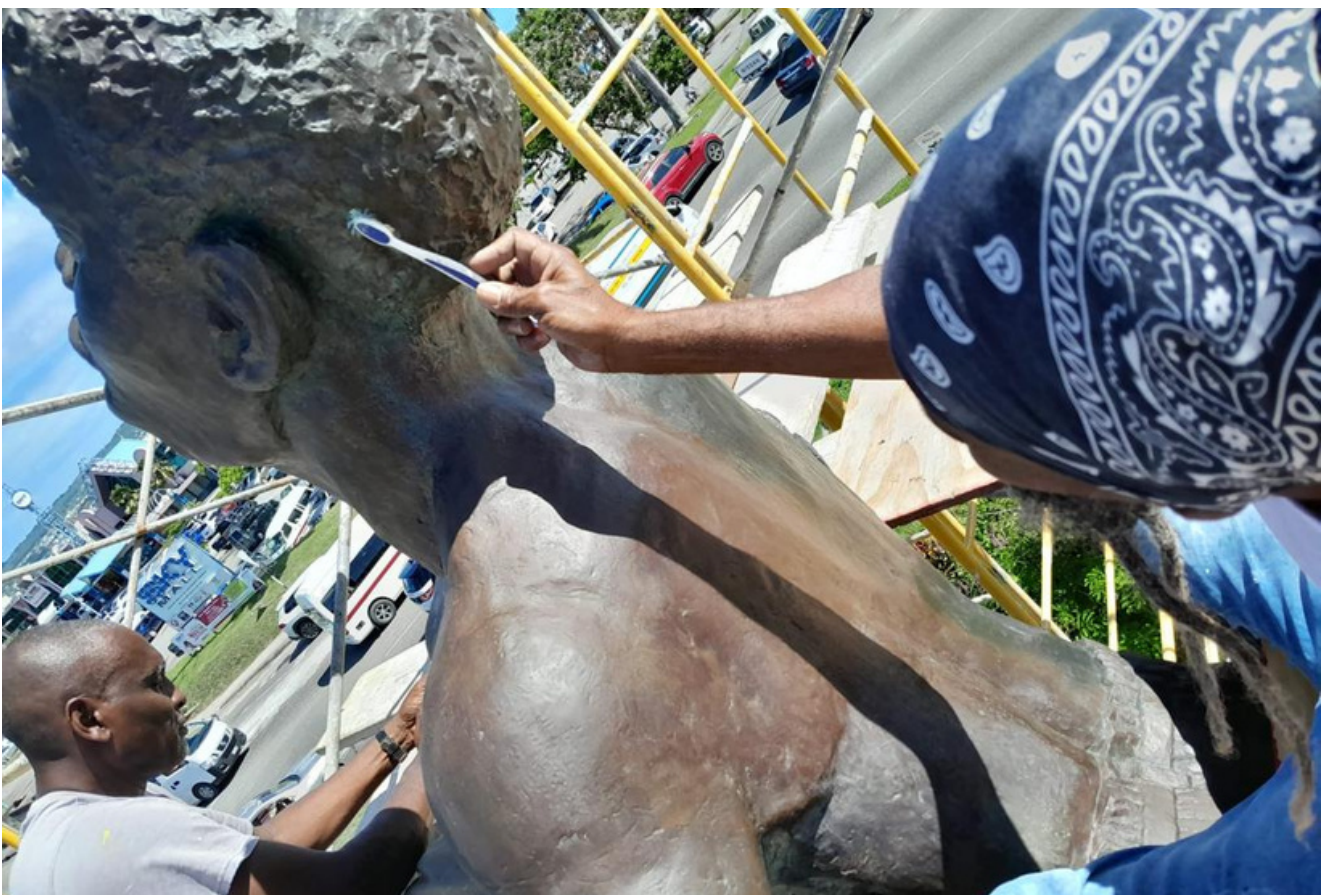
The Emancipation statue is the work of one of Barbados’ best-known sculptors, Karl Broodhagen, and portrays an enslaved person rising and breaking free from chains. It symbolizes the strength of emancipation and is a clear nod to the courageous freedom fighter, Bussa, who is now a Barbadian household name. The Statue was unveiled on March 28th, 1985. Source: Totally Barbados

TRANSFORMATION TRACKER

The restoration process of the Emancipation Statue - Bussa



Front view of the emancipation statue before the completion of the cleaning process.



Back view of the emancipation statue - Bussa - as the workmen executed the process.

TRANSFORMATION TRACKER

The restoration process of the Emancipation Statue - Bussa



Back view of the statue during the process.



Side view of the statue during the process.



Front view of the statue before the application of the wax.



Another view of the statue before the application of the wax.

TRANSFORMATION TRACKER

The restoration process of the Emancipation Statue - Bussa



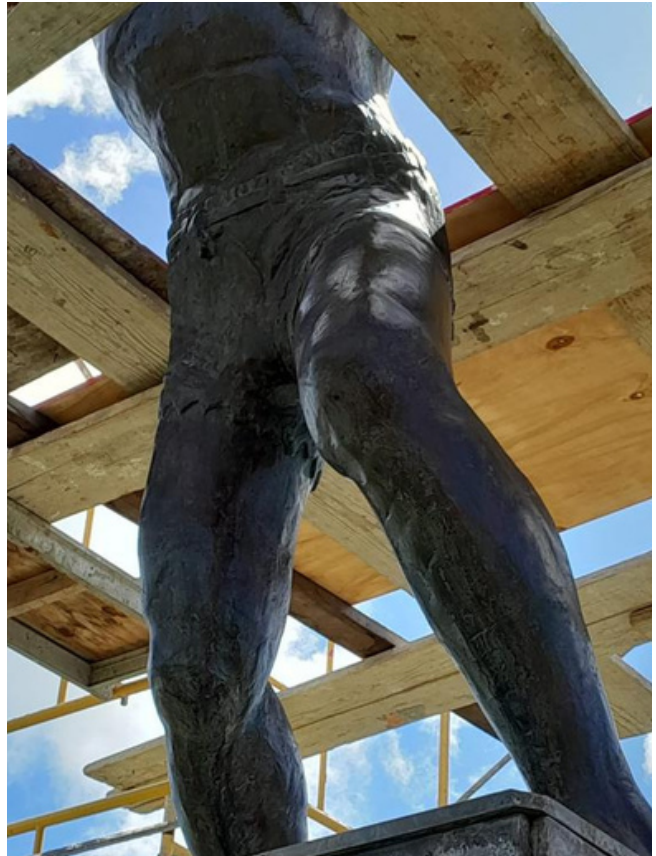
Front view of the statue on completion.



Left hand of the statue on completion.



The lower view of the statue on completion.



Another view of the statue on completion.

Enhancement of gate columns underway



A view of the coral rendered columns at the President's gate in Queen's Park.

THE ENHANCEMENT AND repairs of the gate columns in Queen's Park are underway as the restoration process continues at the historic site.

The National Conservation Commission's (NCC) team commenced the process last month at the President's gate - opposite the entrance of the Nursery Drive Terminal, John Beckles Drive in The City.

Artisan, Peter Jules, indicated that some aspects of the process will vary for each set of the gate columns.

He explained that key factors such as the materials used for the initial construction and the magnitude of the requisite repairs have been carefully examined to determine the strategic approach for the execution of the work.

Jules, who also worked on other areas in the Park including the Trash House, described the process as 'tedious' but noted that 'it may look easy' to the average person because of the team's approach.

"We are coral rendering each set of the columns, previously they were just painted. The base of the columns along with the balls at the top will be repainted to complement the coral rendering portions," he said.

The process, Jules added, takes about two weeks on average for each set of columns, if there are no delays caused by inclement water or any other related factors.

With the finishing touches being applied to the columns at the President's gate, the team's focus will soon shift to the Queen's gate, which is opposite the Ministry of Education, Technological and Vocational Training.

The Nelson's gate columns on Crumpton Street will be the final phase of this project. Jules indicated that given their closer proximity to the road and the red stones that was used during their construction, the team will be very meticulous in their execution of this aspect of the restoration.

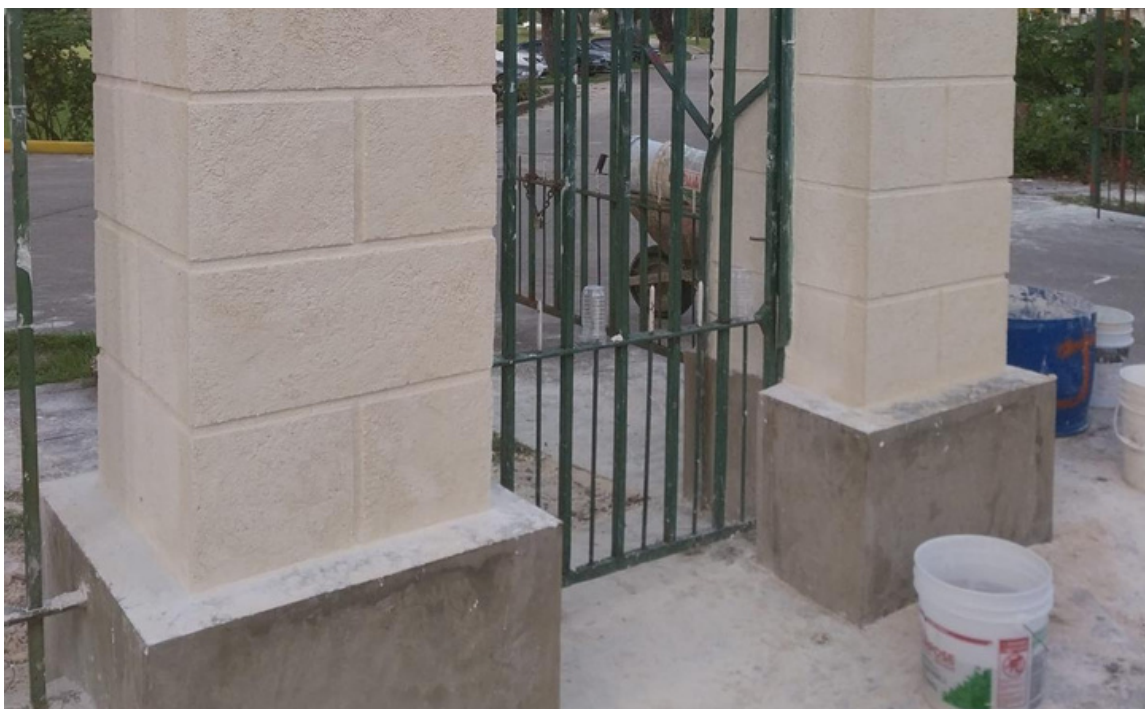
An update on this project will be provided in the next edition of The Commission.

TRANSFORMATION TRACKER

Coral rendering of the President's gate columns



Partial completion of the columns at the President's gate.



A closer view of the coral rendering design on the gate columns.

TRANSFORMATION TRACKER

Coral rendering of the President's gate columns



Full view of the coral rendered columns at the President's gate in Queen's Park.



A closer view of the coral rendered columns at the President's gate.

TRANSFORMATION TRACKER

Preparatory work on the Queen's gate columns



Full view of the preparatory work on the Queen's gate columns in Queen's Park.



A closer view of the preparatory work on the Queen's gate columns.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Meet NCC's Deputy Chairman, Mr. Ronald Carrington



Ronald Carrington was recently appointed to the role of NCC's Deputy Chairman.

THE GENESIS OF Ronald 'Ronnie' Carrington's love for photography and video production was the gift of a camera, which he received from his aunt at nine years old.

This invaluable gift sparked his interest in photography, and later ignited his picturesque career that spanned over 25 adventurous years.

"I spent most of my school days, not necessarily in books, but in the art room behind a camera. Eventually, I did some training in New York in photography and video production and I came back and opened the first video production company in Barbados," he said.

The birth of his company, Carrington Photo-Creations/Video Productions, broadened his horizon as he traveled

extensively across the Caribbean on work assignments.

As his proverbial life lens were placed into greater focus, Carrington's work extended to 30 countries across the world, which gradually sharpened his perspective with each experience. "My travels gave me a greater appreciation for humanity, particularly human resilience and efforts, and also for the environment," he noted. Carrington fully embraced this greater level of appreciation, while he linked the environmental aspect to his family's love for gardening and beautification.

"My mom and my aunt did a lot of gardening... my mom, who is now 105 years old, still goes in the garden every morning. I have adopted their practices and have a small green space of my own outside of my office," he noted.

A lover of all things green, Carrington relishes

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Carrington's love for the environment has deep roots

in the beauty of the outdoors and its invigorating activities such as hiking.

“Almost every weekend I am in some part of the Scotland District, if not hiking or taking photographs, I am being inspired by the outdoors for my books,” the Author said. His book, ‘Pathways... thoughts on the journey’, is a pictorial publication with captivating photographs of the natural environment and some of Carrington’s complementary compelling thoughts.

Undeniably, the photographer’s body of work contrasts with his natural gravitation towards the environment.

This has led to his recent appointment to the role of Deputy Chairman of NCC’s Board of Directors.

“I had always said that if I was going to be involved in any state-owned enterprise, I would be involved with the NCC and it came to pass that the current Minister, the Hon. Adrian Forde, invited me to be a board member and here I am on the Board,” he said with a pleasant smile. Prior to his assumption of the role, Carrington visited the beach facilities managed by the NCC to gain insight into their operations and more importantly, to communicate with the staff.

“I made it my business to visit every beach facility that the NCC has responsibility for, it took me about two weeks. I also held discussions with the workers, and I was happy that the attitude of the vast majority of the workers was positive, and they



Empowering NCC’s staff and ensuring they feel appreciated and valued is important to Carrington.

seemed to really care about the environment,” he proudly told The Commission.

While Carrington stressed that he appreciates NCC’s staff members, he alluded to the need for the workers to feel more appreciated, more valued, and incentivised – a keen area of interest for the Board of Directors.

Equally important for Carrington, and NCC’s Board members by extension, is the sustainability of the environment and the prospects for the use of renewables in future projects.

These fundamental factors and the enhancement of Barbadians’ awareness of the importance of conserving the environment are top of mind for Carrington.

In fact, it is his strong desire to see a cleaner country and the better disposal of litter.

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Enhancing public awareness is critical to Carrington



The benefits of the environment and its sustainability are part of Carrington’s focus.

“The benefits of the natural environment, not just to our physical wellbeing but our mental wellbeing, is also important for persons to understand and that might be a wide remit but if we do it step by step, encouraging people to use the outdoor facilities, and to also take care of them, we can achieve it,” he said.

Key partnerships with Corporate Barbados, Carrington added, are also on the Board’s radar to amplify NCC’s messaging about

the environment and measures that can be taken to support its conservation efforts.

“It is not always about money, it is about the corporate entity recognizing the value of the natural environment and commit to working with the agency that is tasked with working with the natural environment because we have the same goals,” he explained.

Carrington believes that there is scope for churches, community groups, community-based organizations, and youth groups to also partner with The Commission to execute its conservation mandate.

“NCC and the Ministry of Environment and National Beautification, Green and Blue Economy is well-positioned to lead this environmental campaign and effect the messaging. I am happy to be a part of NCC’s Board and to effect this change,” he affirmed.

Board of Directors Retreat was a treat

Corporate Governance and Team Building were among the primary focuses



From left: The Hon. Dr. Allyson Leacock, Denise Sanford, Alicia Carter, Ronald Carrington, Carla Daniel, Janelle Farley (via ZOOM), Paula Chapman and Ryan Als.

UNDER THE THEME, Strengthening Oversight and Shared Understanding within the NCC, The Commission's Board of Directors recently held a two-day retreat.

The objectives of the retreat included the strengthening of knowledge on Corporate Governance, the enhancement of leadership skills and the strengthening of team bonds. On day one, the Board of Directors and key persons from the NCC's management team assembled in the Needham's Ballroom at Hilton Barbados Resort for the Corporate Governance Training, which was facilitated by the National Transformation Initiative (NTI).

Structure, leadership, processes, systems and practices as well as the Governance

model were among the topics that were extensively examined in the first segment. The second segment focused on roles, responsibilities, accountabilities and relationships while the third segment examined effective financial management, which evoked the bulk of the session's constructive discussion.

The Hon. Dr. Allyson Leacock led the segments and shared nuggets of wisdom with the participants, much to their enlightenment and appreciation. The other facilitators of day one's engaging session, which was just over five hours, were Dr. Ashwell Thomas, Dr. Alfred Walkes and Mr. Carver Hinds.

On day two, NCC's management team joined the Board of Directors at Chukka Barbados

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NCC's Retreat was interactive and energizing



Facilitator of the Team Building session, Errol Griffith, interacting with the participants.

for an interactive and energizing session that was action-packed.

The participants formed groups of pairs for the icebreaker activity, which required full concentration and cooperation among the respective pairs.

For each attempt at the activity, the teams were challenged to reduce the amount of time they took to complete the task.

With the exchanging of laughter and light banter, they grabbed the proverbial bull by the horns and reduced the initial time of completion from just under a minute to 11 seconds, on the last attempt.

It was testimony to the overarching objective of the retreat which aimed to strengthen the bonds of the team members, and promote the effectiveness of working closer together through collaborative measures.

On completion of the icebreaker session, the

team moved swiftly into the first activity which examined thinking outside of the box to solve challenges and opportunities.

This activity also challenged the participants to realize their potential and capitalize on it. The second activity focused on the importance of control as well as the tools and techniques in relation to control that are necessary, both personally and professionally.

After a sumptuous lunch, the team participated in a Tram Tour of the Cave and explored the Pride of Barbados Nature Trail and Bird Aviary.

Day two of the retreat concluded with the next steps and strategic planning session.

NCC's Chairman, Alicia Carter, facilitated this aspect, which was titled, 'Bringing it all together'.

NCC's Board of Directors thanked the staff for their participation and contributions to the two-day retreat, which was deemed a success.

RECOGNITION AND REWARDS

Day one's presentation: Certificates of Completion



Congratulations to NCC Chairman, Alicia Carter!



Congratulations to NCC Deputy Chairman, Ronald Carrington!

RECOGNITION AND REWARDS

Day one's presentation: Certificates of Completion



Congratulations to NCC's Board Member, Carla Daniel!



Congratulations to NCC's Board Member, Paula Chapman!

RECOGNITION AND REWARDS

Day one's presentation: Certificates of Completion



Congratulations to NCC's Board Member, Denise Sandiford!



Congratulations to NCC's Board Member, Janelle Farley!

CONSERVATION CHRONICLES

NCC to strengthen partnership with the Barbados Sea Turtle Project



The *Eretmochelys Imbricata* - Hawksbill Sea Turtle - is the primary focus of the BSTP.

THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN the National Conservation Commission (NCC) and the Barbados Sea Turtle Project (BSTP) will be strengthened over the next six months.

Ryan Als, NCC's Acting General Manager, made this disclosure in recognition of the need for greater support in contrast with the Project's efforts to safeguard and enhance the conditions of the beach at Fitts Village, St. James for sea turtle conservation.

Earlier this month, the project formally requested the Commission's assistance in maintaining and improving the environmental conditions of the area in support of sea turtle nesting and hatchling release.

Director of the Barbados Sea Turtle Project,

Carla Daniel, suggested that mitigation measures such as the placement of bollards, the planting of low and mid-level vegetation to improve the screening of artificial light from the beach and the proper maintenance of the existing vegetation should be implemented to support the project's efforts.

"This critically endangered species is now facing unprecedented threats from [the] development of its nesting beaches. In 2023, for the third year in a row, numbers of nesting females declined. Without human intervention, it will take very little for our population to crash," Daniel stressed.

While Als saluted the efforts of the BSTP for its unwavering commitment and dedication to protecting the endangered hawksbill sea turtle, he noted that their ecosystem is under pressure.

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CONSERVATION CHRONICLES

A multi-prong approach will be taken by NCC to support BSTP



The BSTP tries to safeguard as many nesting adults, eggs and hatchlings each season.

“NCC has the responsibility for managing the nesting beaches, which are under significant pressure due to the high demand for space and a myriad of activities, he said.

NCC’s officials, Als added, are mindful that a balance must be met in order for harmony to exist between man and nature.

“Recreation and economic activity must work together with conservation to enable us to enjoy our natural environment and maintain our biodiversity and species protection,” he affirmed.

A multi-prong approach will be taken by NCC to ensure the beaches are safeguarded for sea turtle conservation and to ensure there is greater balance between conservation, recreation and economic activity.

Als noted that the first phase entails consultations with all stakeholders such as fisherfolk, vendors, jet ski operators, property owners, and beach users.

“We will also oversee the installation of turtle

friendly lighting at our beach facilities, replant coastal vegetation to save our beaches, reduce activities which are harmful to nesting turtles and education of visitors and Barbadians about conservation of beach habitats,” Als explained.

While he emphasized the importance of the commitment and dedication shown by the Barbados Sea Turtle Project and its members, he urged all Barbadians to emulate these characteristics.

For the past 30 years, the BSTP has combined conservation and monitoring activities with management approaches designed to reduce the adverse impacts of anthropogenic activities on the beaches of Barbados.

The focus is primarily on protecting the nesting population of the Critically Endangered (IUCN, 2017) hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*).

Each year hundreds of hawksbill sea turtles return to the shores of Barbados to nest.

NCC's Garden Centre Staff Selection

A variety of pineapple plants are
available at our Garden Centre!



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National Conservation Commission

