Bahamas Debt Conversion Project for Marine Conservation

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Bahamas

Quality score: 27/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

In November 2024, The Bahamas refinanced US$300m of commercial debt via Standard Chartered, backed by an IDB guarantee, to fund the Bahamas Protected Areas Fund with an estimated US$124m over 15 years for managing 70 marine protected areas covering 6.8 million hectares.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	1/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	0/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	3/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-07-16

Government of The Bahamas / The Nature Conservancy / Inter-American Development Bank / Standard Chartered — accessed 2026-07-16

IDB — Bahamas launches debt-for-ocean-conservation swap — accessed 2026-07-16

ImpactAlpha — Debt-for-nature swap in the Bahamas will funnel $124 million — accessed 2026-07-16

Oceanographic Magazine — The Bahamas flips $300m debt to fund marine conservation — accessed 2026-07-16

The Tribune — Debt conversion's $124m won't fully close the gap — accessed 2026-07-16

The Tribune — Bahamas begins assessment of 70 marine protected areas — accessed 2026-07-16

Debt For Nature — Bahamas case study — accessed 2026-07-16

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