



Northern Caribbean Disaster Response for Farmers

CARIBBEAN PROJECT 2023-2025

BLUE ATLAS PROJECT

The Blue Atlas Project is a 501(c)3 non profit registered in the United States. Blue Atlas (BA) is chiefly dedicated to crafting sustainable food system solutions with communities impacted by crisis. We focus on hunger and malnutrition with a partnership-driven approach, providing resources and training to help more people grow food.

We study pre-existing challenges to nutrition, farming and growing food while working with the community to find economically and environmentally sustainable solutions. BA provides organizational management and strategic growth plans to create new industry and jobs, ensuring our efforts provide a lasting impact on food security.

PROJECT DURATION: 36 MONTHS

Start: Q4 2023

End Date: Q2 2025

FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Food Security is a cornerstone of both a local economy and national health.

Innovation in agriculture can radically impact both the economics of small shareholder farmers and help combat the leading causes of death worldwide - hunger and malnutrition. Most of the world is negatively impacted by climate change and disasters, making it increasingly difficult for subsistent and small shareholder farmers to provide for themselves and their communities. These same farmers also struggle to grow nutrient dense foods that effectively fights greenhouse gas emissions. This has led to a reduction in the variety of crops and yields.

We will create a school garden program across the Northern Caribbean to enable more children to gain first-hand access to appropriate agricultural technologies which will have generational impacts. These school gardens will also act as in-person training centers on climate smart, sustainable agricultural practices which will provide the necessary instruction and guidance to create a holistic approach to food security.

In many locations there is little to no funding available for agricultural and food related small business development. BA aims to continue our Scaling Up Local Agriculture (SULA) Grant by extending our small to medium size grants (\$1k-\$15k) to more islands. We are establishing the SULA Fund which will allow those with the capacity to scale to commercial production compete for investments opportunities. The SULA fund will reinvest gains to increase food security in the same geographical area.



CHALLENGES IN THE REGION

Island nations present unique challenges. In agriculture, these challenges present as scarcity of land limited access to fresh water and nutrient poor soil. We take these into account with technologies presented and farmers we work with. There are also localized employment challenges related to an economy dependent on tourism, creating a need for financial incentives to work in agriculture. However, a national GDP cannot increase without a local food economy. BA will provide mentorship, support and resources for systems that allow individuals to slowly grow to a commercial level while considering their immediate financial needs.



NEEDS ANALYSIS

According to CARICOM there are 34 million people in the region suffering from hunger due to food insecurity.

Nearly all Island nations in the Northern Caribbean meet all criteria to be defined as a food desert in many instances. With large grocery stores on the Islands in one centralized location, reliant on food imports. Most settlements have access to what would commonly be known as "convenience" stores, with limited supplies, high prices and a lack of nutrient dense food and produce.

Due to the lack of arable land and limited domestic food production, Island nations import over 90% of their food supply and between both agriculture and fisheries their food production capacity comprises just 3% of their GDP. The rising costs of food commodities impacts locations with high imports bills more drastically than those with access to locally sourced, nutrient dense foods. Increased local food production allows dollars gained to remain in the country creating a higher GDP.

BUDGETED PROGRAMMING

The Food Equity and Sustainability Training (FEAST) Center: 3 x \$20,000.00 = \$60,000.00

BA has constructed our pilot FEAST Center in Marsh Harbor, Abaco. It acts as a school garden and training center for climate smart agricultural practices. FEAST Centers will be in centralized locations and serve as community based gardens established to also provide food in the aftermath of a storm and to provide access to these technologies along with increasing production of nutrient dense food. We focus on solutions that are tailored to the each environment; paying attention to water and land conservation, land availability and soil quality. We also provide trainings on technologies that can be maintained with little reliance on imports.

- 32' Aquaponics Garden: \$6,000.00 ea. = \$18,000.00
- Lasagna Layering Permaculture Demonstration: \$2,000.00 ea. = \$6,000.00
- Shade Structure: \$7,000.00 = \$21,000.00 (including labor)
- Solar Demonstrations: \$5,000.00 = \$15,000.00 (including installation)

Scaling up Local Agriculture (SULA) Grant: \$50,000.00

Serving the food and farming community through trainings, equipment and financial resources to support small business development. SULA will be focused on SME's in the Food and Agriculture industry to provide access to necessary funding. SULA is an incubator concept for new and young initiatives to be eligible for grants between \$1000-\$15000 to aid in increasing productivity. This will allow us to reach 5-7 SME's for agricultural development.

SULA Fund: \$150,000.00

SULA Fund works with entrepreneurs in the food and agriculture sector to provide capital in the form of investments up to \$200k. BA will work with these enterprises to create an investment roadmap that enables them to scale and succeed. The return BA's receives will be equal to no greater than the initial investment plus 10%. All returns will recirculate into the SULA Grant and SULA Fund programming in the region. This will allow us to work with 1-3 Entrepreneurs in the Bahamas to scale to commercial level.

Logistical Support: \$15,000.00

To support the shipping and transport of equipment and persons to execute assessments and program activities on impacted islands.

Project Management: \$36,000.00 (based on 50% of billable hours) for 12 months
\$10,100.00 (based on 30% of billable hours) for 6 months

Project Administration: \$27,500.00 (based on 10% of operational budget)

Total: \$348,600.00



PROJECT PURPOSE

- Actively increase local food production by providing training on grow systems and climate smart ag technologies
- Working with the community to stimulate the conversation around food security through outreach, trainings on nutrition and youth engagement
- Working our SULA Grant and SULA Fund to encourage and assist food and farm workers to reach capacity through mentorship, grants, and investments for the purpose of increasing the number small shareholder farms and commercial production facilities in the region
- Providing a sustainable path forward for farmers to increase their economic viability and the nutrient density of their crops



Alignment with United Nations Goals



The United Nations Development Program created Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 17 SDGs are integrated - that is, they recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability.

The Blue Atlas mission, vision, and project objectives are in line with the above, and directly support three key goals:

UNDP Goal 2: Zero hunger:

The number of undernourished people has dropped by almost half in the past two decades because of rapid economic growth and increased agricultural productivity. Many developing countries that used to suffer from famine and hunger can now meet their nutritional needs. Central and East Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean have all made huge progress in eradicating extreme hunger. The SDGs aim to end all forms of hunger and malnutrition, ensuring all people have sufficient and nutritious food. This involves promoting sustainable agricultural and supporting small-scale farmers and equal access to technology and markets.

The FEAST Center focuses on educating the community in sustainable, high yield, nutritionally dense growing technologies to be adopted and replicated by backyard farmers and commercial farms; promoting access to trainings on the system technology while expanding yield to market.

UNDP Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production:

Achieving economic growth and sustainable development requires we urgently reduce our ecological footprint by changing the way we produce and consume resources. Agriculture is the biggest user of water worldwide, and irrigation now claims close to 70 percent of all freshwater for human use. A large share of the world population is still consuming far too little to meet even their basic needs. Halving the per capita of global food waste at the retailer and consumer levels is also important for creating more efficient production and supply chains. This can help with food security and shift us towards a more resource efficient economy.

BAP's utilization of climate smart permaculture and aquaponics technologies dramatically reduces wild lands cultivation and water usage, while increasing yield and creating additional markets, such as fish hatcheries, aquaculture, supply, production.

UNDP Goal 14: Life Below Water:

Over three billion people depend on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods. However, today we are seeing 30 percent of the world's fish stocks overexploited, reaching below the level at which they can produce sustainable yields.

Aquaculture is a low cost, high impact, sustainable methods of growing and harvesting fish with no environmental impact on the world's fish stocks (fresh or salt).

Testimonials From Abaco & Grand Bahamas

"I'm so happy just watching my vision come to fruition.. thank God for putting you all as the force behind it all."
-Sharon Thompson (SULA Grant recipient)

"Thank you Kali and Blue Atlas for such an interesting and fun workshop filled with essential tools to help us through the difficulties of these times whilst dealing with our everyday lives! My daughter and I immensely enjoyed the workshop, and look forward to participating in future ones!"

-Jackie and Elizabeth Eldon (Attending the workshop on emotional health and how food plays a role)

"Good Morning Ms. Kali! Thanks for your encouragement, support and kindness!! Looking forward to seeing you soon!"
-Lloyd & Teresita Fox

I am so thankful for The Blue Atlas Project!

When I applied for the grant I honestly thought it would be a long difficult process that would end fruitless, as I had applied for other grants in the past and was unsuccessful.

She constantly kept me up to date with the status of my application. It wasn't long when I received news of my approval!

I can't put into words the feeling I got when I received my grant! I've been gardening on a small scale for about two years. Kali and The Blue Atlas team has not only help me to realize the unlimited potential of backyard farming but through the help of their educational projects and grant has made growth and expansion a reality for my family and I.

The Blue Atlas Project is the real deal!
- Sharman Davis (SULA Grant Recipient)
Seed company
Bush tea company

Good Afternoon

I'm looking forward to working with the equipment.

Thanks again for helping the farmers in this way. You can see the challenges we face, and your assistance will mean a lot.

- Charles Carey (SULA Grant Recipient)
Abaco orchards

Thank you for all you have done. You've made a significant impact on our farm and it was and is greatly appreciated. Thank you for taking the time to invest in us. It is greatly appreciated.
-Larhue McPhee

Thank you and all your team for imparting all your knowledge to us. It is greatly appreciated.
-Stephanie Hield- government representative for Treasure Cay Community Garden

For Our Donors

We will provide updates on the project featuring stories from the garden, the progress of our training programs, systems adoption, and outreach highlights in the forms of quarterly reports and budget updates..

Who we have Worked with:

***Templeton World Charity
Global Giving
Perpetual Foods
Rotary of the Bahamas
Rotary Disaster Relief
Glasscock Family Foundation
C & C Foundation
Mark J. Daley Foundation
JDC
Volcani International Partnerships
Abaco Strong***

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