



ANGUILLA NATIONAL TRUST PRESS RELEASE

Preservation For Generations

ANGUILLA NATIONAL TRUST ORGANISES EARTH DAY EVENT FOR THE ISLAND'S YOUTH

22 April marked the 35th anniversary of Earth Day. Founded by former US Senator Gaylord Nelson, Earth Day began in the United States in 1970 and expanded to the rest of the world in 1990. By 2000, approximately 5 000 environmental groups and hundreds of millions of people in 184 countries participated in Earth Day events. The fight to maintain ecosystem integrity and diversity continues today and Anguilla is proud to among those who have accepted the challenge.

The theme for this year's event was "Protect Our Children and Our Future." In Anguilla, as Farah Mukhida, Protected Areas Manager at the Anguilla National Trust, noted, that for at least one national Earth Day event, "it was Anguilla's children protecting Anguilla's future by taking the initiative to keep the island's natural environment clean and healthy.

To celebrate this important day, the Trust, with the support of the Department of Education, organised a clean-up of one of Anguilla's protected areas – the East End Pond in East End Village. Two schools took part in this activity with 49 Morris Vanterpool Primary School students from grades 4,5, and 6 (led by Principal Celestine John, Teacher Ingrid Fullington, and Teacher Khonn Hazell) and 22 students from Island Harbour Primary School (supervised by Teacher Janice Conner and Teacher Michelle Herbert) participating. Despite the heat and the humidity, the students collected over a dozen bags of rubbish from the site. Mukhida expressed her gratitude for their time, commitment, and support – their efforts were appreciated not only because a clean environment allows humans, animals, and plants alike to thrive but also because the activity set the stage for the implementation of a larger community-based project - the jollification of the Pond which is slated for Saturday 7 May.

The Earth Day initiative was deemed a success – not only in terms of unsightly garbage being removed from the premises but also, and perhaps even more significantly, in that students were able to recognise the role that they and Anguilla's youth, in general, can and do play as stewards of Anguilla's environment.

About the Anguilla National Trust

The Anguilla National Trust was established in 1993 to act as custodian of Anguilla's heritage, preserving and promoting the island's natural environment and its archaeological, historical and cultural resources for present and future generations. It is in the business of ensuring the sustainability of Anguilla's heritage. The ANT is a dynamic people-centred organisation working in collaboration with public and private sector entities to manage Anguilla's natural social and cultural heritage.

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