



## 2020 - BEST YEAR IN REVIEW

BEST's priority for 2020 was to undertake a strategic planning initiative to develop a new way forward. With thanks to our committed and active team, and to the Zoom platform, our plans were not derailed by the Covid pandemic and we now have a more streamlined infrastructure and a renewed commitment to 'greater collaboration for greater impact' with others in the environmental sector. BEST's future will rely upon strengthening our reach in the community and in further developing these collaborative relationships.

Other projects that were worked on during 2020 included:

- The formation of a collaborative team from a number of environmental organizations to actively engage with the applications, plans and policies concerned with development and land use with a specific focus to promote the preservation of the Conservation Zones and Areas which include: Parks, Nature Reserves, Open Space Reserves, Coastal Reserves, Recreation, Agricultural and Woodland Reserves.
- The promotion of marine conservation to protect Bermuda's valuable marine resources particularly around reef health and fisheries stocks and to raise awareness about current fishing restrictions. Additional focus was put on encouraging (i) the responsible disposal of PPE to mitigate marine pollution, (ii) the reduction of one's carbon footprint to slow global warming and the disastrous impact on our oceans, and (iii) greater sharing of information with the public in regard to the Government's announcement of the launch of the Bermuda Triangle Fishing Cooperative.
- BEST consulted with BZS, KBB to produce a position paper regarding single-use plastics which was published in the Royal Gazette and sent to Government in Sept 2019, well in advance of the proposed ban in 2022. We then began a campaign to encourage people to 'Bring Your Own Containers' (BYOC) for takeaway food. We continue to speak to restaurants and container wholesalers to find non-plastic alternatives for take-out food containers. Progress has been hampered by the impact of the pandemic.
- Adapting to the new normal of zoom meetings and working more predominantly in an electronic mode.

BEST's overall goal for 2021 is to bring synergy to environmental activism and advocacy by bringing others to the table around significant environmental issues so that there is an improved overall impact and, ideally, more efficient use of resources.

BEST recognizes that for many people looking out of their window in (beautiful) Bermuda, it is unlikely that they see the many signs of potential environmental disaster. BEST is developing critical messaging

to inspire greater understanding and appreciation of how critically important our environment is and how human activity affects it. Humans need to exist in harmony with nature, not in competition with it! A clean, healthy environment is not only vital to our own healthy living, but to the survival of all living things.

“Our natural world is under greater pressure now than at any time in human history, and the future of the entire planet – on which every single one of us depends – is in grave jeopardy”, said Sir David Attenborough in a recent news release. We encourage everyone to consider ways to reduce the impact of our own lives. Perhaps start by curbing excesses, reducing waste and considering the impact we have through our purchasing power. We may be right in questioning how we alone can make a difference but just imagine what could happen if each one of the 7 billion others that share this planet with us commits to making positive changes.

*It has been said that . . . **“the best way to predict the future is to create it”**. This is what BEST is working towards, with an overriding goal of ‘greater collaboration for greater impact’.*