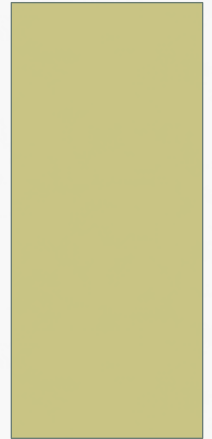




CLIMATE AND DATA COLLECTION

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COUNTRY:BAHAMAS



- The Bahamas, an archipelago of several inhabited islands and hundreds of cays, is oriented northwest to southwest between latitudes 20.9 and 27.4 degrees north and longitude 72.5 and 79.3 degrees west, approximately.
- A little more than half the islands lie north of the Tropic of Cancer which passes through Exuma and northern Long Island.



- The capital, Nassau, is located on one of the smallest islands called New Providence.
- The population of the Bahamas is a little over 300 000 people, the majority of which reside in the capital.
- The islands are relatively flat, Mount Alvernia, the highest elevation reaches 206 feet above sea level and is found on Cat Island.



The Hermitage, Mount Alvernia

- Tourism is our main industry followed by Banking and Fishing
- The vegetation consists of low shrub, logwood, mahogany and lignum vitae trees.
- The soil is porous and comprises of limestone, CaCO_3 .
- This stone in dry areas is virtually unusable for agricultural purposes, therefore agriculture is limited to mainly subsistence or pot hole farming.



- The Bahamas has a semi-tropical climate, the single most important climatic agent affecting it, is the refreshing trade wind flow generated by the quasi-permanent Bermuda Azores anticyclone.
- It lies in the path of Tropical cyclones however , deaths caused thereby have been rare.
- An effective warning system is provided by geostationary weather satellite and hurricane-hunter aircraft operated by the United States National Weather Service.



Figure 4



STATION NETWORK

- Presently we have a network of 22 automatic weather stations located on some of the major islands.
- There are two synoptic stations located on the islands of New Providence and Grand Bahama.
- Weather elements recorded are: rainfall, air temperature, dew point temperatures, wind direction and speed, atmospheric pressure, maximum and minimum temperatures.
- A dense Rainfall Station Network confined to the island of New Providence

CHALLENGES

- Automatic Weather Stations constantly in need of repair, they down time can be anywhere from a few months to a year.
- It is very expensive to fly or sail to the various islands to carry out repairs.

- Thank you