



TNC's Sea Turtle Conservation Program



Dear Neighbor,

Imagine St. Croix today if Jack's & Isaac's were covered with homes – from Point Udall to the beach. That was the plan in the 1970's, when the area was slated for residential development. With the generous support of many local donors, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) purchased those 300 acres in 1999 and created our now beloved Jack's & Isaac's Bay Preserve.

Today, **TNC's Sea Turtle Conservation Program** ensures the preserve's beaches are protected as nesting habitats for endangered sea turtles. In fact, the largest nesting populations of green and hawksbill sea turtles on St. Croix are found at Jack's & Isaac's Bay Preserve.

In the early 1990s, as many as one-third of all sea turtle nests on St. Croix were lost to threats from habitat loss, invasive species, poaching, pollution and unregulated fishing activity. TNC led the efforts that have resulted in strong signs of recovery. On St. Croix the number of green sea turtle nests rose from 8 in early years to over 300 nests in 2019.

Though TNC spearheaded the endeavor, the scale of this conservation achievement was possible only because Crucians rallied to support the **Sea Turtle Conservation Program** — as donors and as volunteers and as guardians of those fragile hatchlings.

You can watch the action here: [USVI J & I Bay Sea Turtle Hatchlings](#).

Yet, without immediate action our success in protecting this iconic preserve is under risk. The onset of nesting season in July is nearly upon us. We would be most grateful for your consideration of a gift in support of this remarkable program.

Donations can be made by visiting: nature.org/SupportCaribbean

Wishing you and your loved ones good health and safe shelter during these uncertain times.

With warm regards,



Susan Smith
Founding Board Chair & Trustee
TNC Caribbean Division



Celeste Jarvis
Director, Virgin Islands
TNC Caribbean Division

PS But wait, there's more! Click this: [Defending Paradise - News & Inspiration from the Caribbean](#)