



AUGUST 2024

ISU: YEAR ONE

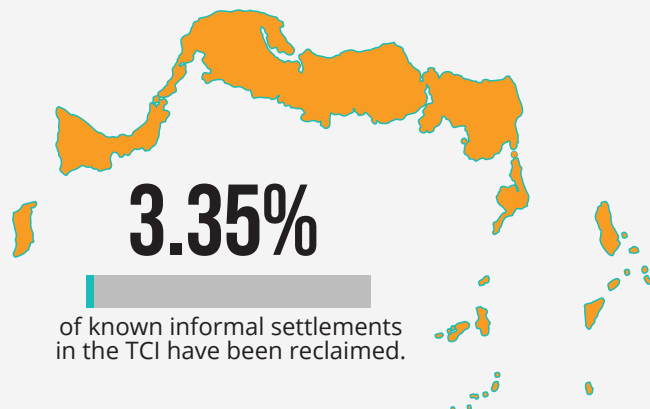
INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS UNIT

It has been one year since the Informal Settlements Unit (ISU) officially launched and in that year, great strides have been made toward the goal of building safer, more sustainable communities for the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Here, we take a look back at the accomplishments of the ISU while also looking ahead toward the brighter future yet to come.

PROGRESS REPORT

A QUICK GLANCE AT THE ISU'S PROGRESS IN THEIR MISSION OF MITIGATING THE PROLIFERATION OF INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IN THE TCI.



As of July 25, 2024 the ISU has successfully reclaimed 3.35% of land occupied by informal settlements in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

That 3.35% represents 19.23 acres of the initial 573.41 acres of land identified as containing informal settlements.



Members of the International Consultants for Organisational Development officially joined the Informal Settlements Unit team to help deliver on its mission to build safer, more sustainable communities in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

A TEAM OF EXPERTS

In addition to filling roles such as Executive Administrator and Senior Administrative Officer, the ISU has expanded with the onboarding of nine contracted consultants from the International Consultants for Organisational Development (ICOD). The team is eminently qualified in all areas related to the regularisation and containment of informal settlements. Each member brings at least fifteen years of

practical experience in their field, including Communications and Customer Service, Information Technology, Containment, Data Analysis, GIS Analytics, Urban Planning and Project Management, Organisational Development and Training, Legal review and Research, Contract Drafting, and Client Advocacy, Conflict Management, Conflict Resolution and Restorative Practices.



Aerial View Before Containment Exercise - The Bight Providenciales



Aerial View After Containment Exercise - The Bight Providenciales

TOP STORIES OF THE YEAR

CONNECTING WITH THE MASSES

In order to reach as many people as possible, the ISU has reached out to the non-English speaking communities of the TCI.

By making the ISU website available in English, Spanish and Creole, in addition to publishing advertisements in all three languages, they strive to reach everyone in the TCI.

The Unit has also appeared on several radio stations and broadcast shows which cater to those speaking both English and Creole, as they discussed the organisation's goal to build safer and more sustainable communities in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

[Visit our website to read the full story.](#)



Strategic Lead of the ISU, Justice Carlos Simons (far left), along with Mr. Leonardo Glasgow of the Ministry of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development (middle right), appeared on RTC's First Edition with Hosts Cheryl Ann Forman (middle left) and Zhavago Jolly (Far right) on Tuesday, September 19, 2023.

COMMUNITY FIRST FOCUS

In pursuit of their mission to build safer, more sustainable communities in the TCI, the ISU ensures that they remain focused on the heart of that mission: community.

In December of 2023, the Unit suspended reclamation exercises to ensure due diligence. Activities resumed in

February of 2024, with consideration for the human component within the respective communities and the rights of those affected.

[Visit our website to read the full story.](#)

GET INVOLVED

visit <https://www.isutci.com/get-involved>

Concerned Residents:

Whether you are directly or indirectly affected by informal settlements, you can help prevent their growth and identify areas that may not yet be part of our database.

If you suspect an area is hosting an informal settlement, contact the Unit directly or visit their website to submit an anonymous report.

Land Owners:

If you need assistance in removing illegal structures from your land, contact the Unit to report the issue and start the reclamation process.

If you would simply like more information about how to prevent the proliferation of informal settlements onto your land, the ISU can help with that as well.

Illegal Occupants:

If you receive an enforcement notice or have questions about the validity of your land purchase, the ISU can help you.

Contact the Unit to find out about your next steps. With the help of supporting agencies, the ISU will work with you to find a solution to your housing situation.



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LOOKING AHEAD

In the upcoming weeks, the ISU will undertake a Social Needs Assessment Survey in informal settlements in the Turks and Caicos Islands to gather information and assess the needs of residents. The team also intends to engage in a number of Community Outreach programmes to provide accurate information to members of the public on the operations of the ISU.

In addition to engaging with the communities, the ISU will also dialogue with various government agencies and non-governmental organisations to ensure a holistic, collaborative approach is applied in building safer, more sustainable communities for the Turks and Caicos Islands.



Justice Simons, ISU Strategic Lead (right), and Hon. Charles Washington Misick, Premier of the Turks and Caicos Islands (middle), meet with the Crown Land Unit (left) to assess concerns related to informal settlements.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please reach out to us.