

Country Profile: The Bahamas

Country Profile (PDF)

Country Resources

Topographic

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
Bahamas 1:25,000 Scale Topographic Maps	BLS	1:25,000	1963 - 1975	151
Bahamas 1:25,000 Scale Topographic Maps (DOS)	DOS	1:25,000	1962 - 1964	50
Cuba 1:1,000,000 Scale Topographic Map	FCO	1:1,000,000		1

Thematic

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
The World 1:30,000,000 Scale Topographic Map Series 1145 (NGA)	DMA	1:30,000,000		2

Global Census Archive: GIS Census Data

East View Geospatial has an ongoing effort to add GIS census data to our Global Census Archive program. Please contact us for the status and availability of The Bahamas census resources.

Global Resources

Topographic

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
Soviet Military City Plans	VTU GSh	Varies	1944 - 2003	3,020
Soviet Military 1:100,000 Scale Topographic Maps	VTU GSh	1:100,000	1947 - 1999	24,897
Soviet Military 1:200,000 Scale Topographic Maps	VTU GSh	1:200,000	1949 - 2009	17,799
Soviet Military 1:500,000 Scale Topographic Maps	VTU GSh	1:500,000	1953 - 1998	3,093

Nautical

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
NGA Nautical Charts POD Certified (All Scales)	NGA	Varies	1943 - 2013	4,517

Aeronautical

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
Joint Operations Graphic (JOG 1501A) 1:250,000 - Aeronautical	DMA	1:250,000	1958 - 2007	4,204
Tactical Pilotage Chart (TPC) 1:500,000 Scale - Aeronautical	DMA	1:500,000	1967 - 2006	598
Operational Navigation Chart (ONC) 1:1,000,000 Scale - Aeronautical	DMA	1:1,000,000	1969 - 2001	243
Jet Navigation Chart (JNC) 1:2,000,000 Scale - Aeronautical	DMA	1:2,000,000	1971 - 1999	117
Global Navigation and Planning Chart (GNC) 1:5,000,000 Scale - Aeronautical	DMA	1:5,000,000	1981 - 1999	27

Geoscientific

Series	Publisher	Scale	Years	Sheets
Soviet Military 1:1,000,000 Scale Topographic Maps	VTU GSh	1:1,000,000	1948 – 1994	1,089

Note: East View Geospatial is continuously sourcing new resources that may not yet be listed in Global Explorer. Please contact us if you have geodata needs beyond what is listed above and we will be happy to discuss available off-the-shelf and custom solutions.

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Historical Country Mapping Information

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Country Profile (PDF)

Topographic

The Commonwealth of the Bahamas has been an independent nation since 1973. It consists of about 700 islands (only 22 of them inhabited) and numerous small cays, spread over a 1200 km stretch of ocean.

Topographic survey was initiated by the **British Directorate of Overseas Surveys (DOS)** (now **Ordnance Survey International**), who began publishing a 1:25,000 series (DOS 358) from 1962. These map sheets were issued as multi-sheet sets for each island group, and the **DOS** completed mapping of Cat Island, Eleuthera, Grand Bahama, Abaco and New Providence. The five-color maps were all on a Transverse Mercator projection (Clarke 1866 ellipsoid) with UTM grid and, where there was sufficient relief, contours at 25 ft intervals. **DOS** also published, in 1961-63, 11 sheets of contoured urban mapping at 1:2,500 scale covering Nassau (DOS 158).

Since 1972, topographic survey has been the responsibility of the **Department of Lands and Surveys (BLS)**, Nassau, and mapping of all the remaining island groups was completed in the 1970s with new **BLS** series designations. Maps were compiled and drawn by **Fairey** (later **Clyde**) **Surveys** from 1967 air survey cover. The maps differ somewhat in specification from the **DOS** maps, and have 20 m interval contours. The maps are all at 1:25,000 scale with the exception of the Bimini Island Group, for which 1:10,000 scale maps were published. A total of 182 sheets at 1:25,000 scale and 10 at 1:10,000 are needed to give complete coverage of The Bahamas. **BLS** has also issued 1:10,000 scale maps of most islands. Nassau and other built-up areas have been published at 1:2,500 scale.

The **BLS** maps are listed in the island group series by which they were published. The most recent official mapping appears to be a large general map of the islands at 1:1,000,000 produced for **BLS** in 1988 by **Clyde Surveys**, together with a companion hydrographic chart at a slightly smaller scale. Both are on the Mercator projection.

Soviet military topographic mapping is available at the following scales: 1:1,000,000 (4 sheets, complete coverage, published 1963-1966); 1:500,000 (10 sheets, complete coverage, published 1979-1983) and 1:200,000 (43 sheets, mostly complete coverage, published 1976-1983). These products are available in print, digital raster and digital vector GIS formats from **East View Geospatial**.

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Vegetation/Forestry

A number of resource surveys were carried out for the Bahamas Government in the 1970s by the UK **Overseas Development Administration**. These included an island-by-island survey of vegetation, land use/land capability and land ownership with associated maps at 1:50,000 or 1:25,000 scales, and summarized as *Land resources of the Bahamas: a summary* (LRS 27) published in 1976 with several 1:1,000,000 scale maps of the island group.

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Thematic

In 1971, the UK **Directorate of Military Surveys**, conducted gravity and magnetic surveys for the Bahamas Government, and these were published at 1:250,000 scale.

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Tourist/Reference

For up-to-date maps of the Bahamas, a number of good quality tourist maps are available. These include a 1:1,100,000 map by **International Travel Maps (ITM)** which includes more detailed maps of the main islands on the reverse, a *Bartholomew holiday map* from **HarperCollins**, a map by **Nelles** and a two-sheet map by **Berndtson and Berndtson (B&B)**. **Island Maps** of Bermuda has a 1:31,680 scale map of Nassau and New Providence Island. A small road map with inset maps of major settlements is produced by **Cartographers Ltd**.

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