



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **NATIONAL TRUST FOR THE CAYMAN ISLANDS LAUNCHES FIRST YOUTH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMME**

**26<sup>th</sup> May 2021** – The National Trust for the Cayman Islands (NTCI) is proud to announce the launch of the Youth Stewardship Programme. This programme is the first of its kind by the National Trust to offer young Caymanians (ages 18 -30yrs old) a unique opportunity to learn about Cayman’s environment and historically significant sites and become future custodians of these sites. The six weeklong programme is being hosted in partnership with R3 Cayman Foundation and WORC.

Our aim is to provide a comprehensive training by guest experts, government agencies and our staff for the Youth Stewards through lectures, field study and tours of our treasured gems on all three islands. We want them to be brand ambassadors to protect what is uniquely ours” stated Annick Jackman, Executive Director for the National Trust.

“The Department of Workforce Opportunities & Residency Cayman are extremely excited to partner with the National Trust of the Cayman Islands and R3 to spearhead this unique pilot programme, to get Caymanians trained and certified with entry level tour guide skills. This will be the first tour guide certification offered locally which is specifically geared to the Cayman Islands and focused on the National Trust programmes and sites; and we are very proud to support and be a part of history in the making” stated Dianne Connolly, Manager - National Training & Development, WORC.

“The National Trust for the Cayman Islands is proud to offer our young Caymanians an opportunity to take part in our Youth Stewardship Programme. This a pilot programme as part of my mandate to create more positive awareness of the National Trust. Each of the individuals taking part are trail blazers who will be setting a precedent for those who will follow them. We are excited to see the positive future for our first group of Youth Stewards” stated Olson Anderson, NTCI Chairman.

The NTCI is proud to have the R3 Cayman Foundation as a sponsor for this incredible initiative. Their support has allowed for this programme to be possible and an amazing educational opportunity for the participants is underway as they are immersed in Cayman’s rich heritage and environment. R3 Cayman Foundation is a



private sector-led, charitable organisation focused on disaster Readiness, Relief and Recovery in the Cayman Islands.

“R3 Cayman Foundation is proud to have partnered with the National Trust for the Cayman Islands for its first Youth Stewardship Programme. As part of our recovery mandate, we are happy to support programmes that are being offered by non-profit organisations like the National Trust which assist young persons whose job opportunities have been limited by the Covid-19 pandemic to be reskilled or retooled in order to be able to take advantage of the jobs that will exist in the post-pandemic economy. The fact that this programme is also meant to promote the protection of the environment is in keeping with one of our broad objectives to mitigate the environmental impact that has arisen, or may arise, from an emergency or disaster. We wish the students the very best as they progress through the programme and are keen to see how they are able to put their newly acquired skills to use on the completion of the programme” stated Bryan Hunter, Chairman R3 Cayman Foundation.

**ENDS**

#### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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#### **About the National Trust for the Cayman Islands**

The National Trust for the Cayman Islands is a non-governmental organization whose mandate under the National Trust Law (2010 Revision) includes the preservation of the historic, natural and maritime heritage of the Cayman Islands for present and future generations.

#### **About the Blue Iguana Conservation Programme**

The Blue Iguana Recovery Programme began in 1990 with only 30 dedicated Blue Iguanas and the primary goal to restore the wild population to 1,000 Blue Iguanas, encouraging viable population in the long-term.



Having met its primary goal in 2018, the initiative formally transitioned to the Blue Iguana Conservation Programme in 2019 with a new focus of sustainably conserving the native species of Grand Cayman.

### **About the National Trust's Environmental Programme**

The National Trust for the Cayman Islands' environmental programme was founded on the concept that the protection of native plants and animals is best achieved by protecting the natural areas in which they depend.

### **About the National Trust Conservation Programme**

The National Trust for the Cayman Islands' conservation programme strives to protect Cayman's native species and the habitats in which they live, and includes the endemic Blue Iguana of Grand Cayman, the Sister Islands Rock Iguana and Cayman's native bat species.

### **About R3 Cayman Foundation**

R3 Cayman Foundation is a private sector-led, charitable organisation focused on disaster Readiness, Relief and Recovery in the Cayman Islands. Our mission is to help our three islands proactively prepare for, resiliently cope with and sustainably recover from manmade or natural emergencies and disasters. Established in 2020, our support enables community partners to maximise their positive impact in our community. To learn more and see our work in action, please visit [www.r3foundation.ky](http://www.r3foundation.ky).