



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The National Trust Wins Grant for Climate Education Programme

7th March 2023 – The National Trust for the Cayman Islands (NTCI) is the proud recipient of a grant from the Resilience, Sustainable Energy and Marine Biodiversity Programme (RESEMBID) that will fund the creation of a climate education pilot project in our local schools. The European Union and Expertise France created this mechanism to support the Caribbean Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) in their efforts to build lasting solutions toward resilient, sustainable and productive societies. This project aims to strengthen the resilience of the Cayman Islands through a standardised educational programme on climate science to help cope with the effects of climate change and promote the adoption of new sustainable practices.

The National Trust has a strong relationship with Cayman’s schools. They have been visiting both public and private schools and delivering lessons on our historic and natural heritage since the NTCI was established 35 years ago. The mandate of their educational programme is to empower people of all ages and to preserve Cayman’s natural and built heritage through public awareness and the creation of opportunities for hands-on learning. They believe these initiatives help shape a better understanding and increased appreciation for Cayman’s unique biodiversity and built heritage.

The overarching aim of the project is to improve the capacity of the Cayman Islands to mitigate and adapt to climate change through improved understanding of the threat, as well as through the protection of intact natural areas (such as coral reefs and mangroves) and increased renewable energy use, leading to greater resilience as a society.

The campaign will raise public awareness of climate science so that we may be a more resilient community to the effects of a changing climate. Catherine Childs, the National Trust’s Environmental Programmes Manager, stated that “we are grateful to RESEMBID for this grant to ensure that every child in the Cayman Islands receives a quality education on this critical subject. To be prepared for the inevitable consequences of climate change, our young people must understand the issue well.”

The National Trust will work with both public and private primary and secondary schools in Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac to create a standardised curriculum on climate science. Their activities will include classroom visits and the development of an E-Learning platform that will provide standardised climate science material. Teachers and students will then be better equipped with information on the effects of climate change that will prepare our society for future challenges. This



pilot project will take place in four schools in the Cayman Islands but will act as a model for other programmes throughout the region.

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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

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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 the National Trust Historic Preservation Programme

The National Trust for the Cayman Islands introduced the launching of its *Historic Preservation Fund* at its Annual General Meeting in September 2021 for the purpose of inviting increased support of its continuing efforts to encourage the preservation and protection of historic homes and buildings for present and future generations of the Cayman Islands.