



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Trust for the Cayman Islands

Statement on the National Conservation Act

February 1st 2024 –

The National Trust for the Cayman Islands is honoured and privileged to have a permanent seat on the National Conservation Council and be part of the protection that the National Conservation Act provides to the people of Cayman. As a non-governmental organisation, the National Trust's mandate is to serve the interests of the people of Cayman by protecting the natural and cultural heritage of the Cayman Islands in perpetuity.

The National Conservation Act (NCA) established processes to ensure decisions made today do not have a negative impact on our future. As can be seen in other countries and in Cayman's past, decisions made without careful consideration of the environment can have unintended, unforeseen and irreversible consequences.

While development and change are a necessary part of life, Cayman must take a long-term view to ensure that short-term benefits are not outweighed by enduring costs to people's health and quality of life.

It is difficult, if not impossible to see how the NCA is seriously impeding development, as some might claim, when we see a skyline filled with cranes and rising buildings, once green spaces cleared to the ground, mangrove forests razed and filled, poorly planned seawalls leading to the disappearance of the peoples' beaches, and historic structures torn down. Currently, the pace of development far outstrips the pace of protection on our islands.

The NCA exists to promote and secure the biological diversity of the Cayman Islands, ensure the sustainable use of Cayman's natural resources and protect and conserve endangered, threatened



and endemic wildlife and their habitats. The National Trust believes that the mandate of the NCA is more important now than ever.

Alongside the protections provided by the NCA, the National Trust will continue its efforts to acquire and preserve land which is environmentally valuable to current and future generations of Caymanians. Any such land declared inalienable by the National Trust is protected from development in perpetuity.

You can support the National Trust in our efforts to protect each of our three islands' special places by volunteering, becoming a member, partnering with us to protect your own land, and/or by donating to the cause. You can also voice your support of the National Conservation Act and the protections it provides to the Caymanian people and our natural heritage by contacting your Member of Parliament.

For more information about the National Conservation Act, visit conservation.ky.

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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 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.