



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Trust for the Cayman Islands opposes changing the National Conservation Act

20 June 2024 – The National Trust for the Cayman Islands staff, council, and leadership have followed the recent media coverage regarding proposed changes to the National Conservation Act with grave concern. The National Conservation Act provides essential protection to our natural resources which are fast disappearing under a tide of development. Any amendments that weaken this legislation and undermine the National Conservation Council risk harming our living world, which includes the people of Cayman.

Despite having a permanent seat on the National Conservation Council and being mandated by law to advise government on conservation matters, the National Trust has not been consulted on any potential amendments to the National Conservation Act. Our elected officials have a duty to uphold the standards of good governance and we feel they are currently falling short of their obligations to the people of Cayman by attempting to rush through amendments without proper public consultation.

For the National Trust to be effective in fulfilling our mandate to protect the natural and cultural heritage of the Cayman Islands in perpetuity, we need our elected politicians to commit to the true principles of sustainability which seek a balance between economic, social, and environmental interests. This means upholding the National Conservation Act and listening to the recommendations of the National Conservation Council. This law does not stop development, it only seeks to empower and encourage decision makers to develop in a way that benefits us all.

This is not the first time the National Conservation Act has come under attack since it was passed in 2013. Five years ago, when the previous administration also sought to dilute it, the National Trust was vocal in our support of the NCA and we stand resolute again today in opposition to any amendments which would weaken the law.



We have a duty and responsibility to protect these islands for present and future generations. Failing to give the environment due consideration today can have unintended, unforeseen, and irreversible consequences tomorrow.

We hope that the Caymanian public will join the National Trust in speaking up to defend the protections the NCA gives to all of us.

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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.