



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Arrival of Blue Iguana Hatchlings

9th July 2024 – The Blue Iguana Conservation programme (BIC), and the National Trust for the Cayman Islands (NTCI) are delighted to announce the arrival of blue iguana hatchlings, the first of the season! In addition to the eggs laid within the captive breeding programme, eggs were recovered from outside the facility from a nest which was considered threatened by the extensive recent flooding. The parents of these eggs were released approximately 3 years ago and continue to reside happily within the QEII Botanic Park. Their eggs joined the others in incubators providing them an opportunity for a better chance of survival, and they are healthy and doing well. These hatchlings are a positive sign of the success of the programme and growth of the population of the blue iguanas. Heavy rainfall and flooding can potentially result in nests in the wild being at risk for a lower survival rate.

“The use of incubators, monitoring the eggs, and the hatchlings, has been a vital component of success for the Blue Iguana Conservation programme. The newborn hatchlings are cared for and monitored in the incubators for about a week before being placed at the Blue Iguana Conservation Nursery,” says Joseph Jamieson, BIC Assistant Manager.

Last year, BIC released approximately 100 blues into the wild. This included protected areas such as The Salina Reserve, Colliers Wilderness Reserve, and the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park. Protected areas are vital for the preservation of natural habitat and food sources for the blue iguanas. The Grand Cayman Blue Iguana has become an iconic symbol of these islands used frequently by government and businesses. The programme to protect and preserve them is dependent on the support of the community, including financial contributions and volunteer time.

The blue iguanas are safe and doing well post Hurricane Beryl. However, there is quite a bit of cleanup at the BIC facility. The community can help support our wardens in their efforts to cleanup the debris at the BIC facility by making a donation. Donations can be made online by visiting our website www.nationaltrust.org.ky or [clicking this direct donation link](#).

The Blue Iguana Conservation facility is based in the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park. Tickets can be purchased at the visitor centre. Private guided tours of the BIC facility or a “Warden for a day” experience can be booked by contacting tours@nationaltrust.org.ky in advance.



Follow @blueiguanaconservation on Facebook and Instagram. To get involved in the Blue Iguana Guardians or Gardens initiatives, please contact bic@nationaltrust.org.ky

ENDS

MEDIA CONTACT

Frank Roulstone / Executive Director
National Trust for the Cayman Islands
Tel: 345 927 6766 Email: director@nationaltrust.org.ky

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.