



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cayman National donates fifty trees at Malportas Pond Bird Sanctuary

Cayman National has donated fifty trees to the National Trust for the Cayman Islands to restore dry forest habitat along Malportas Pond Bird Sanctuary in North Side. At an event held on Friday 1 November, Cayman National’s senior leadership team joined National Trust staff and representatives from the Ministry of Sustainability and Climate Resiliency to plant a selection of native trees which produce fruit and flowers that attract birds.

The trees will form the entrance to 5 acres of land the National Trust acquired in 2019 adjacent to Malportas Pond which is a birding hotspot for local and migratory birds including herons, ducks and the famous flamingo visitor from earlier this year. The shores of the pond are an important breeding ground for Least Terns whose numbers are in decline.

Cayman National is donating the fifty trees as part of their 50th anniversary celebrations this year. As a long-term supporter of the National Trust, Cayman National is a corporate member and sponsored a youth delegate to attend the United Nation’s COP28 in Dubai last year, Go Green radio tips, their Dive Into Maritime Heritage fundraiser and more.

“Cayman National’s commitment to sustainability and ESG principles encompasses products and services, such as our GreenLiving programme, to the way we give back in the community,” said Janet Hislop. “The National Trust does invaluable work in conserving our natural environment and preserving our built heritage and we are proud to partner with them on this tree planting initiative.”

The trees donated by Cayman National will line both sides of the pathway leading from the entrance on North Side Road to Malportas Pond, providing shade for visitors as well as food for local wildlife. The National Trust also has plans to build two viewing platform for birdwatchers to enjoy the diversity of wildlife at Malportas Pond.

The mangroves fringing the ponds are home to West Indian Whistling Ducks, while Snowy Egrets use the island in the middle of the pond as an overnight roost. Migratory visitors

include Roseate Spoonbills, American Avocets and flocks of White-rumped Sandpipers which stopover each year on their 9,000-mile trip from South America to Canada.

"The National Trust greatly appreciates the community spirit of Cayman National in support of our efforts to rehabilitate and preserve the coastal areas surrounding Malportas Pond," said Frank Roulstone, Executive Director of the National Trust. "The dry woodland ecosystem around the pond supports a diverse range of native animals and plants, some of which are unique to these islands."

Malportas Pond Bird Sanctuary is admission-free and is open to year-round to birdwatchers and visitors in North Side.

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Photos:

1. Cayman National donates 50 trees to Malportas Pond Bird Sanctuary as part of their 50th anniversary celebrations this year
2. Representatives from Cayman National, the National Trust for the Cayman Islands and the Ministry of Sustainability & Climate Resiliency at a tree planting event at Malportas Pond on 1 November 2024
3. Native trees selected for their fruit and flowers that attract local and migratory birds

About Cayman National

Established in 1974, Cayman National Corporation Ltd. is the leading financial services company based in the Cayman Islands, providing banking, trust, fund administration, and wealth management services to clients locally and around the world, from the Cayman Islands and the Isle of Man. Cayman National is publicly traded on the Cayman Islands Stock Exchange. Cayman National is part of the Republic Financial Holdings Limited Group.

Cayman National comprises: Cayman National Bank Ltd., Cayman National Fund Services Ltd., Cayman National Securities Ltd., Cayman National Bank (Isle of Man) Limited and Cayman National Trust Company (Isle of Man) Limited.

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.