



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Trust Celebrates 35 Years of Blue Iguana Conservation with a Blue Tie Dinner

14 MARCH 2025 – On Saturday, 8th March 2025, The National Trust for the Cayman Islands (NTCI) was proud to host our first-ever, Blue Tie Dinner at Grand Old House in celebration of 35 years of Blue Iguana Conservation. The evening was a tribute to the passion, dedication and conservation of our Grand Cayman’s treasured Blue Iguana, all staff, volunteers, and partners both internationally and locally who played a vital role in the survival of this endemic species. The Blue Iguana Conservation Programme is a story of success in protecting an endemic species that was on the verge of disappearing forever and is now seen as an iconic ambassador for Grand Cayman. The story of their survival is a significant part of our natural heritage.

Guests enjoyed an evening under the stars, with a sublime dinner and wine pairing experience. Our Patron, H.E. Governor Jane Owen was in attendance at our event, joining in on the celebrations. Local musician Alejandro played the saxophone adding to the festive atmosphere. This event raised just over \$17,000 and funds will go towards the Blue Iguana Conservation Programme, and funding of a new office at the Blue Iguana Conservation facility, that will be equipped with an education room, lab, incubator room, and a room dedicated to showcasing artefacts of both our natural and built heritage.

A focal point of the event was an incredible work of art on display, a custom piece by Pam Laurensen from Stoakd, as part of her melting pop collection. The stunning artwork features a Blue Iguana comprised of a mosaic of local and international stamps. This artwork will be available for auction at the National Trust’s fundraiser on 1 May 2025, tickets for the event will soon be available online. Visit our website www.nationaltrust.org.ky for more details on this event.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our Headline Sponsors: Walkers, Department of Tourism, and Gold Sponsor CUC.

The Blue Iguana is an iconic and charismatic animal. The National Trust for the Cayman Islands is proud to be custodians and caretakers of our endemic Blue Iguana, a species found only in Grand Cayman. Once on the brink of extinction, the endangered Blue Iguana is steadily increasing in population and is important to our natural ecosystem. To date, over 1,200 Blue Iguanas have been released into the wild. Our designated protected areas for the Blue Iguana include: QEII Botanic Park (home of Blue Iguana Conservation Facility), The Salina Reserve, and Colliers Wilderness Reserve.



It was a fabulous celebration to commemorate the incredible strides made in protecting our beloved Blue Iguanas! Together, let's continue to safeguard our unique natural heritage for future generations. If you would like to **make a donation or learn more about symbolically adopting a Blue Iguana** please email marketing@nationaltrust.org.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.