

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Connor Childs Swims 5 Miles from Cayman Brac to Little Cayman for Land Conservation

**1 September 2025** – On Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> August 2025, Connor Childs, 22, a member of the National Trust and local conservationist, completed one of his lifelong goals by swimming 5 miles from Cayman Brac to Little Cayman. Connor was inspired to complete this 5-mile swim after hearing his Montessori By The Sea teacher, Ms. Andrea, tell the story of swimming it herself. He decided to use this personal challenge as an opportunity to give back by raising funds for nature conservation to protect our native biodiversity with the National Trust for the Cayman Islands.

Connor received incredible support from the local community, including the wildlife. During the swim, he appeared to be cheered on by a Brown Booby, which helped lead the way as he cleared the halfway point. This was a poignant moment, as Connor was striving to protect what he loves, the natural heritage of the Cayman Islands. Another heartfelt moment occurred when Ms. Andrea, who had inspired Connor to take on this personal challenge, joined him as they swam the last mile together towards Point of Sand, Little Cayman. Connor was greeted by the Little Cayman community as he completed his swim.

After the event, Connor said that "the swim was one hardest things I've ever done, but no matter how many times I wanted to stop, I knew I had to keep going for the sake of our natural environment. I'm so inspired by all the people who helped me on this journey and all those who donated. The Brac and Little Cayman communities went above and beyond in their support and I'm incredibly grateful."

The National Trust received a heartwarming response from their members and the local community in support of Connor's swim. Encouraging messages and donations to the National Trust Land Reserve Fund poured in, helping to raise over \$13,000 in personal donations for the protection of ecologically significant habitats across our three islands. Special thanks to Maples for their Bronze Pledge. Currently, the National Trust protects just over 3, 600 acres of critically important habitat. Some of their key protected areas include the Mastic Reserve, Salina Reserve, Colliers Wilderness Reserve, the Brac Parrot Reserve, and the Little Cayman Booby Pond Nature Reserve. These special places in nature are home to Cayman's endemic and native wildlife.

<u>Pledge to protect what you love</u>. Donate today to our Land Reserve Fund to protect valuable and special places in nature forever. Together, we can continue to protect our natural heritage.



<u>Click this link to donate to our Land Reserve Fund</u> or visit our website <u>www.nationaltrust.org.ky</u> Or, <u>join the National Trust by becoming a member</u>, your membership fee directly supports preserving our natural and built heritage. <u>Click here to become a member</u>.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported Connor in his swim and efforts to raise awareness and funds for the National Trust Land Reserve Fund.

#### **ENDS**

#### MEDIA CONTACT

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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.