



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Trust Opposes Proposed New Bill

28 April 2026 – The National Trust for the Cayman Islands is strongly opposed to yet another attempt to undermine the National Conservation Act and increase the powers of the Central Planning Authority by the introduction of a new section 5(2) of the Development and Planning Act proposed by Chris Saunders, MP for Bodden Town West.

This new section would grant the CPA and Development Control Board "exclusive authority" in planning matters. In simple terms this would override the consultation requirements established in other statutes — including the National Conservation Act — which exist to ensure that planning decisions are informed by environmental, heritage, and public-interest considerations beyond the application itself.

The Trust does not support the amendment of any laws which weaken the position of the National Conservation Act and maintains the position that the Act should be strengthened, not eroded.

The consultation framework it provides is not an obstacle to development; it is a safeguard for the residents of all three islands and for the natural and cultural heritage that belongs to every Caymanian. Weakening that framework — particularly through an amendment to a separate piece of legislation introduced without public consultation — sets a precedent that the Trust cannot support.

The Trust respectfully urges Members of Parliament to reject the Bill in its current form and to ensure that any future reform of the planning system is brought forward through proper public consultation with the statutory bodies, agencies, and communities whose futures depend on getting these decisions right.



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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.