

Sustainable Cayman

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Saving Cayman Biodiversity Sustainable Cayman Supports NCC Land Nominations

The National Conservation Council (NCC) is currently accepting <u>Nominations for Protected Areas</u> for all three islands. Designating areas for protection, either through the purchase of lands or conservation agreements with landowners, is critical to preserving Cayman's ecological integrity. Ecosystem services that flow from intact habitats sustain life for people and nature in the Cayman Islands; the two go hand in hand. One of the most prominent examples of this is the way that the Central Mangrove Wetlands influence temperature, produce rainfall and oxygen, and many other services. Therefore, establishing protected areas serves two purposes: to safeguard Cayman's biodiversity *and* the peoples' quality of life today and in the future.

In support of the NCC nomination process, Sustainable Cayman has started a social media campaign to spread awareness about this opportunity and to encourage citizens to take action in protecting what they love. Public participation is key to helping the NCC decide which areas should be protected. It is also a right granted to citizens under Section 9 of the <u>National Conservation Law (NCL)</u>. The Facebook group page 2022 NCC Nominations was created by Sustainable Cayman for the community so they have a space to ask questions and share concerns, and discuss areas they think should be preserved. The community can also review a short video that explains how they can start their own proposals. Individuals are encouraged to get family and friends to sign each proposal document to show that there is substantial support for that particular area.

Proposals should be submitted to <u>ConservationCouncil@gov.ky</u> by 13 May 2022.

For those interested in volunteering with Sustainable Cayman, contact them at: <u>SustainableCayman@gmail.com</u>.

About Sustainable Cayman

Our vision for the Cayman Islands is a flourishing society blending modern environmental practices with a respectful and commonsense approach to its unique heritage to ensure a sustainable and prosperous future for all.

Notes for editors

1. There are currently (5) nominations from 2018 awaiting approval: Hemmington Forrest Addition (Cayman Brac), East Lighthouse Park Addition (Cayman Brac), Central Mangrove Wetland 46A, Lower Valley Forrest Addition and Salina Reserve Addition.

