

Terrestrial Protected Area Nomination: East Interior Addition, Little Cayman

The attached nomination proposes that a privately-owned parcel in the interior of the east end of Little Cayman, together with a Crown-owned pond that is adjacent to it, be made a Protected Area under Section 7 of the National Conservation Law. This has been considered by the National Conservation Council, which has resolved to advance this nomination. If Cabinet approves this proposal, the diverse and pristine natural environment in this parcel will be protected and managed according to a Management Plan to be developed under Section 10 of the Law.



The interior of Little Cayman's east end includes open wetlands important to Whistling Ducks and other water birds, and native rock iguanas. It consists of a mosaic of dry shrubland, large inland ponds, and buttonwood wetlands. Most of the area is practically inaccessible, and there may well be more rare and



endangered species there than we currently know about. The land forms the backdrop for the huge natural vista that can be seen inland from the higher parts of the east coast road.



Protected Area Nomination

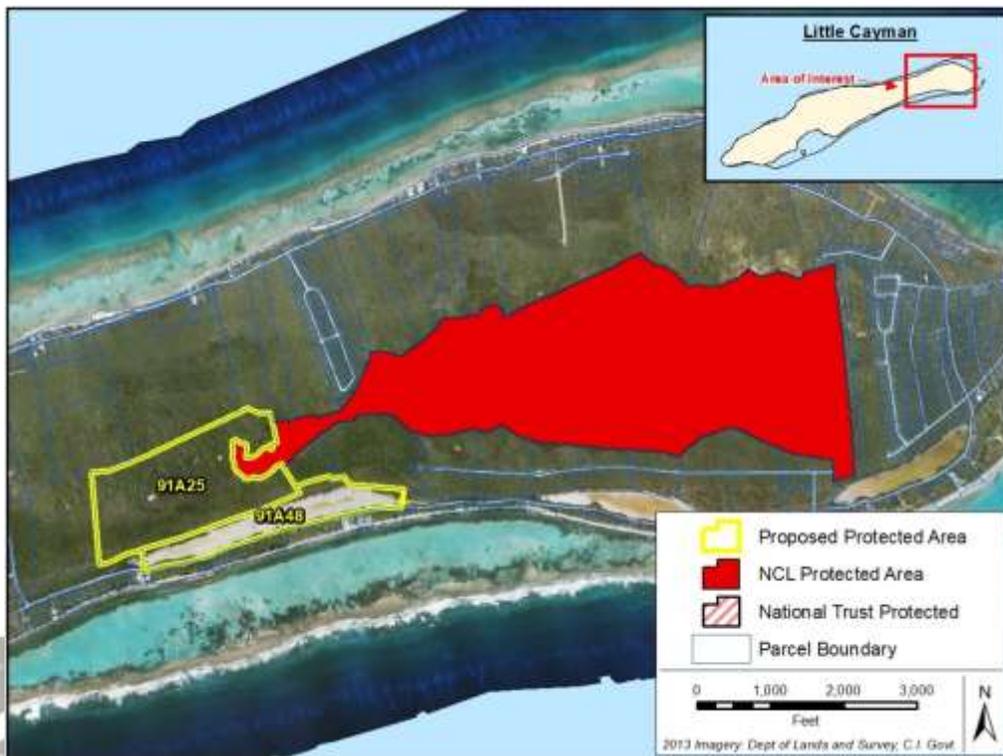
East Interior, Little Cayman

This nomination is made under Section 9 of the National Conservation Law, 2013

1. Description of the Area

The nomination includes a relatively large inland parcel which includes open ponds, buttonwood shrubland and dry shrubland habitats. The majority of this area has not been biologically explored, along with the neighboring East Interior parcel that has recently been declared a protected area. The nomination also includes an adjacent pond, which forms part of a larger parcel owned by Crown. The proposed protected pond area extends almost to the pond's eastern end, up to but not including a small land bridge which crosses to the privately owned land on the other side. This eastern boundary for the protected pond is defined as due north across the road from the northeast corner of Block/Parcel 91A66 at the coordinate 19.698663 N, -79.987264 W (19° 41' 55.186 N, 79° 59' 14.152 W).

Block	Parcel	Ownership	Portion of parcel
91A	25	Private	Whole
91A	48	Crown	Part



2. Reasons for Nomination

Purposes and Objectives

2.1 Protection of the nominated land will safeguard feeding habitat for a variety of migratory waterfowl species, and the West Indian Whistling Duck. NCL ref. 8 (1) (a)

2.2 Protection of the nominated land will safeguard a large area of mixed natural habitats which are representative of the ecological systems of eastern Little Cayman. NCL ref. 8 (1) (b)

2.3 Protection of the nominated land will safeguard life-support systems that are provided by the interconnected wetlands including high levels of carbon sequestration and oxygen production. NCL ref. 8 (1) (c)

Criteria for Protection

2.4 The nominated land is entirely in a natural state. NCL Ref. 8 (2) (a)

2.5 The nominated land supports a significant diversity of life, especially waterfowl and aquatic fauna, and the diverse flora and fauna of Little Cayman's xerophytic shrubland. NCL Ref. 8 (2) (b)

2.6 The nominated land is of ecological importance by virtue of the extensive natural ecosystem it contains, especially in consideration of the wider protected area that it would be contiguous to, block 91A parcel 24. NCL Ref. 8 (2) (c)

2.7 As an example of a diverse suite of completely undisturbed, natural habitats, the nominated land is likely to be of interest in scientific studies. NCL Ref. 8 (2) (e)

2.8 The nominated land is of international importance in that the mangroves' peat substrates are incrementally increasing carbon stores responding to rising sea level, and as such are assisting in global efforts to reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide accumulation. NCL Ref. 8 (2) (f)

2.9 No active management is expected to be needed for the area in the foreseeable future. NCL Ref. 8 (2) (g)

2.10 The nominated land provides part of a vista that is often admired from the eastern coast road and is a good example of what makes Little Cayman so attractive to nature tourism. NCL Ref. 8 (2) (h)



3. Species of Special Concern

The following table lists the species of concern known to depend at least in part on the nominated land:

Common name	Scientific name	Description	NCL Schedule 1	Habitat use
West-Indian Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna arborea</i>	Duck	Part 1. Classified as Vulnerable on a regional scale.	Feeds and breeds in wetlands
Vitelline Warbler	<i>Dendroica (Setophaga) vitellina crawfordi</i>	Warbler	Part 1. Species is classified as near-threatened	Breeds in dry shrubland
Sister Isles Rock Iguana	<i>Cyclura nubila caymanensis</i>	Iguana	Part 1. Classified as Critically Endangered	Occupies territories in the dry shrubland
Buttonwood	<i>Conocarpus erectus</i>	Mangrove associate	Part 2.	Main vegetation of wet areas

Additional plant and animal species of special concern are very likely to be present on the nominated land, as may become apparent upon further exploration.

4. Conservation Problems and Special Protective Measures Required

None known.

5. Management Considerations

Unless adjacent land becomes subject to human activity, the nominated land appears to require no management at this time.

