

# Terrestrial Protected Area Nomination: Salina Reserve Extension, Grand Cayman

The nominated parcel is adjacent to the Salina Reserve, which is one of the major protected areas of the National Trust for the Cayman Islands. The Salina Reserve, along with the Colliers Wilderness Reserve and the QE II Botanic Park, is a key area supporting a restored population of the endangered Grand Cayman Blue Iguana. The primary, dry forest and shrubland in the nominated parcel contains foraging, retreating and some nesting habitat for the blue iguanas, and it supports many other endangered and iconic species of both flora and fauna. The protection of this land would aid the recovery of the blue iguana due to their territorial nature and the need for additional nesting areas for the expanding population.

If protected under the National Conservation Law, this parcel will form part of the Salina Reserve while remaining in Crown ownership.



# Protected Area Nomination

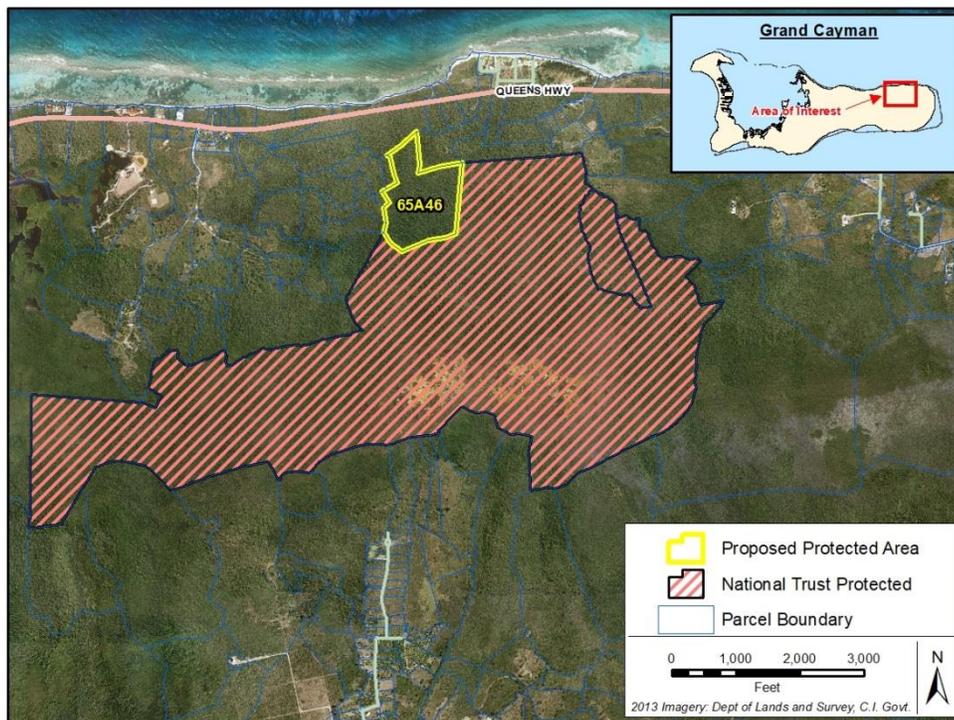
## Salina Reserve Extension

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

### 1. Description of the Area

The nomination covers a privately owned parcel adjacent to the current Salina Reserve which is owned by the National Trust for the Cayman Islands. The land comprises dry forest and shrubland typical for those elevated areas of the Cayman Islands which are still under their original vegetation cover.

Block	Parcel	Ownership	Portion of parcel
65A	46	Private	Whole



## **2. Reasons for Nomination**

### **Purposes and Objectives**

- 2.1** Protection of the nominated land will safeguard habitat that is critical to a range of endangered and Part 1 species, including the Grand Cayman Blue Iguana. NCL ref. 8 (1) (a)
- 2.2** Protection of the nominated land will conserve a representative area of dry forest which is critical to the survival of unique elements of the Cayman Islands' biodiversity. NCL ref. 8 (1) (b)
- 2.3** The nominated land is facilitating recovery of the Grand Cayman Blue Iguana. The nominated area is of special concern also for birds and endangered plants. 8 (1) (d)
- 2.4** In recent decades, the Grand Cayman Blue Iguana has become a national and cultural icon as an endemic, highly charismatic species. As a species unique to Grand Cayman, its conservation here is of global significance. Protection of this parcel would assist in safe-guarding the future population status of this species. NCL ref. 8 (1) (e)

### **Criteria for Protection**

- 2.5** The nominated land is entirely in a natural state. NCL Ref. 8 (2) (a)
- 2.6** The nominated land supports a high diversity of life, including reptiles, birds and endangered plants. NCL Ref. 8 (2) (b)
- 2.7** The nominated land is of high ecological importance as a large dry forest landscape with endemic and endangered Grand Cayman Blue Iguanas as well as suitable habitat for birds and endangered plants. NCL Ref. 8 (2) (c)
- 2.8** Protection of this parcel would extend the current capacity for the primary, dry forest comprising the Salina Reserve, one of two major recovery sites for the blue iguanas. Where there is potential for the blue iguanas to expand their range, there are only three known geographic locations of current, stable populations. NCL Ref. 8 (2) (d)
- 2.9** The nominated land is of scientific importance due to the pioneering reintroduction of a rock iguana species and the research that has supported this initiative. This long term precedent has been replicated for other iguana species in the Caribbean, and continues to serve as a knowledge base for other organizations wishing to instigate a head-start program for iguanas or other endangered reptile species. NCL Ref. 8 (2) (e)
- 2.10** The nominated land is of global, regional and national significance in that its protection will assist in safeguarding the future population status of the endemic blue iguana. NCL Ref. 8 (2) (f)

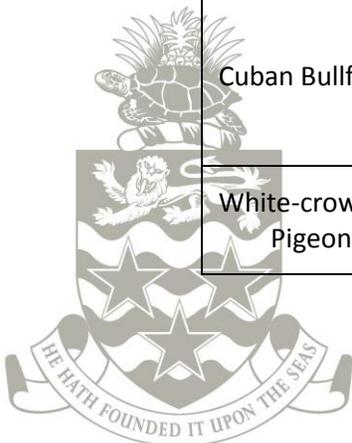


**2.11** Management of the nominated land will be synergistic with the National Trust's management of the Salina Reserve, and so should be moderately straightforward and feasible. NCL 8 (2) (g)

**Species of Special Concern**

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

Common name	Scientific name	Description	NCL Schedule 1	Habitat use
Ironwood	<i>Chionanthus caymanensis</i>	Tree	Part 2. Endemic, Endangered	Component of forest
Cedar	<i>Cedrela odorata</i>	Tree	Part 2. Endangered	Component of forest
Grand Cayman Parrot	<i>Amazona leucocephala caymanensis</i>	Parrot	Part 1. Endemic, Critically Endangered	Nesting and feeding
Caribbean Dove	<i>Leptotila jamaicanensis collaris</i>	Dove	Part 1. Endemic Subspecies. Nationally endangered	Foraging and Nesting
Thick-billed Vireo	<i>Vireo crassirostris</i>	Vireo	Part 1. Endemic subspecies. Nationally endangered	Foraging
Yucatan Vireo	<i>Vireo magister caymanensis</i>	Vireo	Part 1. Endemic subspecies. Nationally endangered	Foraging
Vitelline Warbler	<i>Dendroica vitellina vitellina</i>	Warbler	Part 1. Endemic subspecies. Nationally endangered	Foraging
Western Spindalis	<i>Spindalis zena salvini</i>	Tanager	Part 1. Part 1. Endemic subspecies. Nationally endangered	Foraging
Cuban Bullfinch	<i>Melopyrrha nigra taylori</i>	Finch	Part 1. Part 1. Endemic subspecies. Nationally endangered	Foraging and Nesting
White-crowned Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas leucocephala</i>	Pigeon	Part 1. Globally threatened species	Foraging



Grand Cayman Blue Iguana	<i>Cyclura lewisi</i>	Iguana	Endemic Species. Endangered.	Resident range, nesting
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**3. Conservation Problems and Special Protective Measures Required**

Where the historic and potential current threats to Grand Cayman Blue Iguanas include habitat loss, human disturbance and predation by alien invasive species, ensuring that land is set aside for the habitation and recovery of the iguanas is an essential step towards addressing current threats.

**4. Management Considerations**

Management of the nominated land will be carried out in coordination with the National Trust for the Cayman Islands and the Blue Iguana Recovery Program, such that the Trust and Crown holdings in the Protected Area are managed as a single unit.

