

# National Conservation Council

Promoting and securing biological diversity and the sustainable use of natural resources in  
the Cayman Islands

Annual Report 2015

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***Statement from Chair***

The National Conservation Law 2013 took its first steps to implementation in September 2014 with the entry into effect of Parts 1 and 2 and the appointment of the Council. In this first nine months of existence the National Conservation Council members have worked diligently towards bringing the rest of the Law into full effect. I was happy to join with Minister Panton on Earth Day 2015 to announce the commencement of Parts 3, 4 and 6. The Council looks forward to the commencement of the final two parts (5 and 7) early in the next reporting period.

We are pleased that the first nomination for protected area status under the Law was for the long-proposed enhancement of the Marine Parks. No other nomination could more aptly fit the purposes for which the protected areas system is designed, especially that of conserving, maintaining and restoring the productivity of ecological systems and natural resources that provide economic or social benefits.

The Council has also determined to tackle the problem of the invasive green iguana in our islands. Again, the interrelationship of a healthy natural environment and a healthy, sustainable civic society is obvious - finding effective means to control and eradicate this threat to our native flora and fauna will have an added benefit to us all in our built and agricultural environment.

This first annual report of the Council contains details of these and other activities of the Council in its inaugural year. We have also set goals for the future by which the Council may be measured. I thank all the Council members and our Secretary for their hard work and commitment to the objectives of the National Conservation Law.



M. Christine Rose-Smyth  
Chair, National Conservation Council

**The National Conservation Council - *Fostering a duty of care to the environment***

## **Chapter 1: The National Conservation Council**

### **1.1 Purpose**

The National Conservation Council (the Council, NCC) is established by and to facilitate the goals of the the National Conservation Law 2013 (the Law, NCL), that is: to promote and secure biological diversity and the sustainable use of natural resources in the Cayman Islands; to protect and conserve endangered, threatened and endemic wildlife and their habitats; to provide for protected terrestrial, wetland and marine areas; and to give effect to the provisions of certain international conventions (the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean region, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (especially as waterfowl habitat), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Global Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change).

### **1.2 Statutory Functions**

The functions of the NCC are set out in Part 2, section 3 of the Law, in particular in subsection (9):

- (a) subject to this Law, managing and making recommendations on the use of the Environmental Protection Fund;
- (b) promoting the biological diversity and the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in the Islands;
- (c) co-ordinating the establishment and adoption by the public and private sectors of national policies for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, including-
  - (i) the use of wetlands and wetland resources; and
  - (ii) the excavation of aggregate and fill materials;
- (d) recommending and maintaining protected areas and conservation areas and conserving, maintaining and restoring their natural resources in accordance with Part 3;
- (e) conserving, maintaining and restoring populations and critical habitats of protected species in accordance with Part 4;
- (f) promoting the training of professional and voluntary personnel in the fields of research, management and wardening of protected areas and species and the other natural resources of the Islands;
- (g) promoting wider understanding and awareness of the significance of the ecological systems of the Islands, the benefits of conserving natural resources and of the provisions of this Law and the Conventions;
- (h) publicising the establishment of protected areas and the designation of protected species and raising public awareness, through educational programmes and

other means, of the significance and value of protected areas and species and of the benefits that may be gained from them;

- (i) encouraging public involvement, particularly by local communities, in the planning and management of protected areas and the conservation of protected species;
- (j) promoting the adoption of guidelines by entities for the integration of conservation issues into their decision making processes and for the achievement of the sustainable use of natural resources;
- (k) promoting district, national and regional initiatives, including co-operative enforcement measures and mutual assistance in the enforcement of national laws, in order to further the objectives of the Conventions;
- (l) promoting national plans for emergency responses to activities or events, whether caused naturally or not, that present a grave and imminent danger to biological diversity and encouraging international co-operation to supplement such national plans;
- (m) promoting national plans for the sustainable management, conservation and enhancement, as appropriate, of sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases; and
- (n) carrying out such other functions and duties as are specified under this Law and the regulations;

and in subsection (12):

the Council, subject to any directions of the Cabinet, may make orders and guidance notes and issue directives for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of this Law and such orders, guidance notes and directives may include-

- (a) criteria for identifying endangered or threatened species or other species needing protection under this Law;
- (b) criteria for evaluating proposals for the establishment and management of protected areas and for the measures required to protect and conserve protected species and their critical habitat;
- (c) criteria for the application for, and grant of, monies from the Fund;
- (d) criteria for the review, assessment and reporting of activities funded in whole or in part by monies from the Fund;
- (e) the form and content of a petition under section 16(3);
- (f) procedures for determining the circumstances under which permits and licences may be granted under Part 5;
- (g) measures governing the methods and conditions under which the captive breeding or artificial propagation of protected species may be allowed;
- (h) procedures for regulating and controlling wild populations and the import, introduction, possession, transportation and release of alien or genetically altered specimens;

- (i) procedures for consultation by entities pursuant to section 41(3); and
- (j) the carrying out of environmental impact assessments under section 43.

### **1.3 About this report**

This report is prepared in compliance with the duty set out in section 5 of the Law requiring the Council, no later than three months after the end of the financial year, to prepare and submit to the Minister a report of its activities during the preceding year, following which the Minister shall submit it to Cabinet for laying on the table of the Legislative Assembly.

This is the first annual report of the NCC and covers the period from 12 September 2014 to 30 June 2015 inclusive.

### **1.4 Appointment of the first Council**

The Law regulates the composition of the Council. It is composed of thirteen voting members (section 3(2)) who are more specifically identified in Schedule 2:

- (a) the Director or his nominee from the Department of the Environment;
- (b) the Deputy Director of Research in the Department of the Environment;
- (c) the Director of the Department of Agriculture or his nominee from the Department of Agriculture;
- (d) the Director of Planning or his nominee from the Department of Planning;
- (e) a person nominated by the National Trust and appointed by the Cabinet; and
- (f) eight persons appointed by the Cabinet.

Amongst the Cabinet appointees at least four shall have relevant scientific or technical expertise and they are chosen such that there is at least one person from each of the six electoral districts. The Cabinet appoints the Chair (Schedule 2).

The first members were appointed on 12 September 2014 and notice was published in the Extraordinary Gazette No. 67. The biographies of members of the Council as at 30 June 2015 are given in Appendix 5.1.

Mr. Brian Tomlinson, appointee from North Side resigned from the Council with effect 14 January 2015 for personal reasons. Cabinet had not appointed a replacement as at 30 June 2015.

The Department of Environment is charged with appointing a Secretary to the Council (section 6). John Bothwell, Senior Research Officer was so appointed at the first meeting of the Council held on 25 September 2014.

## **Chapter 2 Council Activities, September 2014 - June 2015**

### **2.1 Governance**

Section 3 governs the proceedings of the Council. Seven voting members of the Council constitute a quorum. The decisions of the Council are made by simple majority and the Chair has a casting vote only. The Council is obligated to meet in a place open to the public and publish the agendas and minutes of the meetings. The Council may, subject to the Law, regulate its own procedure.

The Council adopted a Manual of Policy and Procedure at the meeting held on 3 December 2014. The Manual contains rules for administration of the Council, a Code of Conduct, a procedure for Disclosure of Interests and Register of Interests. The Council chose to adopt the model Code of Conduct proposed by the Commission for Standards in Public Life.

In respect of Disclosure of Interests Schedule 2 of the Law provides:

9. (1) If a member of the Council has any pecuniary or other interest in any matter to be dealt with by the Council he shall disclose the fact to the chairman and shall not take part in any meeting at which the matter is considered or discussed.
- (2) A member of the Council who fails to comply with subparagraph (1) commits an offence and is liable-
- (a) on summary conviction to a fine of twenty thousand dollars and to imprisonment for two years; or
- (b) on conviction on indictment to a fine of fifty thousand dollars and to imprisonment for five years,
- unless he proves that he did not know that matter in which he had an interest was the subject of consideration at that meeting.
- (3) A disclosure under subparagraph (1) shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the Council.

The Register of Interests is open for inspection at the Department of the Environment. No disclosures of interests were made in the reporting period.

The Department of Environment's Freedom of Information management unit administers Freedom of Information requests to the Council. None were received in the period.

### **2.2 Meetings**

The Council held meetings quarterly from 3 December 2014 on the following dates: 3 December 2014; 24 February 2015 and 26 May 2015.

All meetings were held at the Ground Floor Public Conference Room at the Government Administration Building, Elgin Avenue, with the exception of the inaugural meeting which took place at the Department of Environment Conference Room, North Sound Road.

Notices, agendas and minutes were published on the Department of the Environment website ([www.doe.ky](http://www.doe.ky)) in accordance with the statutory requirement and the Council's Policy and Procedure Manual.

Matters for the Agenda are cast as Board Papers which may consist of Information Papers, Working Papers and papers prepared by Council members. Preparation of Board Papers other than members papers may be delegated to either (i) the appropriate Department represented on the Council or (ii) such other Committee or persons as the Council may determine. Matters for decision are presented with a recommendation and a draft motion for approval as the resolution of the Council.

Council also conducts non-binding working groups on a fortnightly basis in order to prepare for the quarterly meetings.

### **2.3 Preparation for coming into force of Parts 3-7 of the National Conservation Law**

The NCL is being brought into force in stages. Law 24 of 2013 was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 13th December 2013 and received the assent of the Governor on 22 January 2014. The first commencement order, made in Cabinet on 9 September 2014, caused Parts 1 and 2 (sections 1-6) and Schedule 2 (providing for the administration of the Law and enabling the appointment of the Council) to come into force on 12 September 2014.

Therefore, an important initial focus for the Council was preparing for the coming into force of the remaining substantive sections of the Law relating to Conservation of Land and Wildlife, Permits and Licensing, Enforcement and Penalties and General Provisions. Over a series of Preparatory Workgroups the Director of the Department of Environment provided the Council with a detailed review of the Law and a proposed order of entry into force of the remaining Parts. The integration of regulations replacing elements of the Marine Conservation Law, which will be repealed when section 51 is commenced, and the development of new regulations and directives are a factor in the order in which the remaining Parts are being brought into force.

As a practical matter and in accordance with the Law the Council delegated administrative support functions including the preparation of Working Papers and recommendations to the Department of Environment by resolution passed at the meeting held on 3 December 2014. A list of delegations made to DoE are to be found in Appendix 5.2.

### **2.4 Preparation for Implementation of sections 41 – 43 (Part 7) - Government Consultation on Environmental Matters and Environmental Impact Assessments**

In preparation for the implementation of sections 41-43 inclusive which pertain to (a) the duty of every government entity to comply with the provisions of the Law and to ensure that its decisions, actions and undertakings are consistent with and do not jeopardise the protection and conservation of a protected area or any protected species or its critical habitat as established pursuant to the Law and (b) the powers of the Council to require an environmental impact assessment (EIA) to be carried out, the Council approved:

- (i) that the Director be delegated to assist the Council with the preparation of all such documentation necessary for the development of relevant orders, guidance notes and directives to be made by the Council and advisories to be proposed to Cabinet for the production of regulations in relation to sections 41-43;
- (ii) that when implemented, the Director act on behalf of the Council to receive and assess such development consultations and applications, and to correspond with and communicate the Council's views or decision to entities;
- (iii) the form of Guidance Notes for Consultation with Council to be issued to the Government entities;
- (iv) the content of regulations for environmental impact assessments (EIAs) to be made law by Cabinet under their powers in section 50(1).

The Guidance Notes for Consultation with Council were gazetted on 2 March 2015 (G05/2015) but had not taken effect as at 30 June 2015.

The draft Regulations for EIAs were approved by Cabinet on 14 April and passed to the Legal Drafting Department for completion. The Ministry has advised that it expects to receive the completed draft before the end of the calendar year.

## **2.5 Implementation of Part 3 – Conservation of Land**

In preparation for the implementation of Part 3 of the Law the Council approved the procedure for nomination of protected areas and set the time period for receiving nominations from the public at 1 August -31 October each calendar year at the meeting held on 25 February 2015. Part 3 of the Law came into effect on Earth Day, 22 April 2015.

**Enhanced Marine Protected Area System.** Conservation of Land includes the waters of the Cayman Islands. Thus, at the meeting held on 25 May 2015 the Council approved the commencement of the procedure for considering the nomination by Department of Environment of an enhanced marine protected area system for the Cayman Islands. The procedure involves a series of notification and consultations with the public which were delegated to DoE. The first stakeholder focus group was held on 18 June and the wider public meetings were planned to begin in September 2015. The proposed Enhanced Marine Protected Area System is itself the result of public consultation held on the proposals put forward between 2009 and 2012 and continued research by the DoE in conjunction with Darwin Initiative partners. On completion of the public consultation phase the Council will prepare a recommendation to Cabinet, which holds the decision making power to designate protected areas.

## **2.6 Implementation of Part 4 – Conservation of Wildlife**

At the meeting held on 25 February 2015, in preparation for the implementation of Part 4 of the Law, the Council (a) delegated to the Department of Environment the preparation of Species Conservation Plans that are required by section 17 of the Law to be adopted for protected species, and (b) approved the form of petition under 16(2) to add a species to or delete a species from Schedule 1 or to list a species in a different Part of Schedule 1.

Part 4 of the Law and section 50 came into effect on Earth Day, 22 April 2015. The form of the petition is available on the DoE website.

The Council's Working Group, with the assistance of DoE, also began preparation for the transposition and amendment of existing species conservation, permitting and licensing measures (regulations and directives) that must be brought under the NCL when the Marine Conservation Law ceases to have effect.

In the absence of the implementation of Part 5 – Permits and Licences and the repeal of the Marine Conservation Law the DoE and the Marine Conservation Board continue to administer permits and licences under the MCL and such other statutory provisions as are applicable. The Working Group reviewed a number of such applications to DoE for various permits as a training exercise.

## **2.7 Invasive Species Committee**

An Invasive Species Committee (ISC) was formed at the 3 December 2014 meeting: with Davy Ebanks Chair, Gina-Ebanks-Petrie, Tim Austin, Fred Burton and Department of Agriculture (Adrian Estwick or designate) as members. Paul Watler, Environmental Programmes Manager of the National Trust was also invited to join the Committee.

The Invasive Species Committee's formation was prompted by the severity of the green iguana problem in Grand Cayman and the threat it poses to the Sister Islands. Over the course of its formal meetings, held on 4<sup>th</sup> February, 17, March and 6<sup>th</sup> May, and at other meetings nor formally constituted as ISC meetings, fact finding and response planning was carried out. The Committee considered bounty and directed culling options, culling methods, and use or disposal of carcasses. The Committee contacted and met with knowledgeable individuals to get perspective on specific issues. As a result a Green Iguana Control Pilot Project is being developed with a two pronged remit. First, to identify the optimal culling strategy and to carry out test culls to gather data to inform future management initiatives for wider control on Grand Cayman, and secondly to investigate measures for the Sister Islands to (a) eradicate the smaller populations occurring there and (b) prevent further infestation.

The Committee has received CI\$200,000 from the Environmental Protection Fund in the CI Government 2015-16 Budget Appropriations to fund the Green Iguana Control Pilot Project.

A broader reference list of alien invasive species is in production as the Committee recognises that there are many other actual and potential threats that should be addressed.

## **2.8 Climate Change Committee**

A purpose of the Conservation Law is to give effect to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to which Cayman is a party, and the Council's functions under section 3(9) include promoting (g) wider understanding and awareness of the significance of the ecological systems of the Islands, the benefits of conserving natural resources and of the provisions of this Law and the Conventions; (j) the adoption of guidelines by government entities for the integration of conservation issues into their decision making processes and for the achievement of the sustainable use of natural resources; and (k) promoting district, national and regional initiatives, in order to further the objectives of the Conventions.

The Doha Amendment of 2012 established a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, starting on 1 January 2013 and ending on 31 December 2020, with legally-binding emission reduction commitments for the Parties listed in its Annex B. The U.K Government is moving towards ratification of this second commitment period of the KP in advance of the U.N Climate Change Conference of the Parties taking place in Paris in December 2015.

Aware that it is necessary for the Cayman Islands to make a request to the U.K Government for the extension of the ratification to the territory Council members, Lisa Hurlston-McKenzie, Wallace Platts and Tim Austin formed an ad hoc committee to prepare a submission by the Council to the CI Government urging the Cayman Islands to make such a request. The submission was delivered to caucus in August 2015.

The Committee has gone on to the preparation of a paper to inform and update the Council on the status of Cayman's climate change and energy initiatives. The draft paper will propose policies to be adopted by Council and to be proposed to the CI Government.

## **2.9 Alien Plant Importation Committee**

The formation of this advisory committee in June 2015 arose from the implementation of amendments to the Plants (Importation and Export) Law (1997R) and the complementary section 35 of the Law. The purpose of the Committee is to prepare a memorandum of understanding among the Council, DoE and DoA for consultation on alien plant import licensing during the period needed to develop Council directives and to advise on form of such directives. The Committee is composed of the Council Chair, Fred Burton, and the Director of Environment. The Committee met with the Cayman Islands Nursery Growers Association (CINGA) on 22 June 2015 to discuss their concerns and a representative of CINGA has been invited to join the Committee to provide industry input and feedback.

## **2.10 Cruise Berthing Facility Environmental Assessment**

The Council's powers and duties, relating Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) were not in effect during the reporting period. However the framework which forms the basis of the draft regulations for EIAs was used to conduct the George Town Cruise Berthing Facility EIA, with the only significant difference being that the functions of the Council were carried out by an Environmental Advisory Board which was empanelled for that EIA in September 2014. The Council therefore determined that it would withhold comment on the EIA process until it had reached the stage at which the Council will, under Part 7 of the Law, provide its views on an Environmental Statement (ES). The Council closely followed the EIA process, the issue of the draft ES, and the public consultation, which did not close until after the end of this reporting period.

At the request of the Save Cayman group the Council together with the DoE, represented by the Chair, Davy Ebanks and the Deputy Director, met to hear concerns raised by that group on June 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **2.11 Official Correspondence**

Due to the importance and relevance of Crown land to conservation measures to be implemented under the Conservation of Land provisions of the Law, the Council wrote to the Premier, Deputy Governor and Minister of Environment on 10 October 2014 requesting an assurance that no action would be taken on the Ernst and Young Report recommendation to dispose of so-called non-operational lands without consultation with the Council. A verbal indication was communicated to the Director that the Government was not considering land sales at that time.

## Chapter 3 Financial

### 3.1 Council Expenses

The first budget for Council expenses was estimated by the DoE and submitted to the Ministry on behalf of the Council, included within its own budget, for the entire 21 month period September 2014-June 2016 inclusive.

The budget totalled CI\$54,794.66 made up of the following amounts:

2014-15 Council expenses, meetings (travel for the Sister Islands member and Council compensation (Chair \$200, other members other than \$100 per meeting respectively) for nine months - CI\$20,112.68.

2015-16 Council expenses, meetings (travel and compensation – 12 months - CI\$25,112.68.

2015-16 Marine Protected Areas designation and Management Plans including public consultation expenses and Species Conservation Plans consultations expenses – CI\$8,988.

As at 30 June 2015 expenses disbursed on behalf of Council were CI\$1,762.93, being CI\$1345.31 for air travel expenses for the Sister Islands member, and CI\$417.62 of other expenses. No Council members' compensation had been disbursed as the requisite Cabinet approval had not been issued.

The Council intends to submit an independent budget to the Ministry for the financial year 2016-7.

### 3.2 Environmental Protection Fund

Section 3 (9) of the NCL provides that the Council manage and make recommendations on the use of the Environmental Protection Fund (Fund). However sections 46 and 47 which provide in greater detail for the operation, management and reporting on activities funded from the Fund have not been implemented. The Fund continued to be operated under the pre-existing 1997 legislation which describes the purpose of the Fund as “defraying expenditure incurred in protecting and preserving the environment of the Islands”.

This report therefore merely notes the following:

The Cayman Islands Government 2015-2016 Annual Plan and Estimates contained the following details of the Fund. Amounts in \$000s.

	Budget 2015/16	Forecast 2014/15	Unaudited 2013/14
Reserves:			
Opening Balance	56,337	51,089	46,364
Interest	214	206	201
Transfer In	5,463	5,248	4,728
Interest to General Revenue	(214)	(206)	(201)
Transfer to General Revenue	(4,000)		
Closing Balance	57,800	56,337	51,089

At the conclusion of the Budget Debate on June 19, 2015, it was announced that the Standing Finance Committee had approved the appropriation of CI\$5.18 million, to be disbursed by the Minister of Finance, from the Fund as follows:

CI\$2.5m to be spent on costs associated with the Cruise Port EIA (equity injection, Appropriation EA 143, Ministry of District Administration, Tourism and Transport), CI\$1.0m on the Integrated Solid Waste Management project (equity injection, Appropriation EI53, Ministry of Home Affairs, Health and Culture), CI\$180,000 marine patrol vessel replacement and CI\$1.5 million to be added to Appropriation FSC 13 - Environmental Research and Services - to cover elements of FSC 13 and to enable further (i) conservation related operational expenditure, and (ii) conservation related projects and initiatives.

## Chapter 4

### 4.1 Looking Forward

The Council's goals and objectives for the financial year 2015-16 are:

1. Provide input for implementation of Parts 5 and 7 of the Law. This is the critical priority to ensure that the Law, the Council and the DoE can function effectively.
  - a. Complete Council input to licensing and permitting regulations and directives.
  - b. Prepare Council procedures for recommending, managing and reporting Environmental Protection Fund activities and monies.
2. Complete the Enhanced Marine Protected Areas consultations, evaluate written representations and make recommendation to Cabinet.
3. Commence implementation of Management Plan procedure for Marine Protected Areas.
4. Initiate terrestrial protected areas nomination processes: protected area of Crown land and / or conservation agreement for private land.
5. Review and implement three-five Species Conservation Plans.
6. Invasive Species Committee: Green Iguana Control Pilot Project, complete plan for and implement pilot study for control of green iguana on Grand Cayman and eradication from the Sister Islands.
7. Alien Plants Committee: issue interim MOU among Council, DoE and DoA for consultation on alien plant import licensing and commence research for Council directives.
8. Develop Council policy in relation to Climate Change adaptation and mitigation with view to providing advice to Ministry and Cabinet.
9. Develop an overall vision for Council's implementation of its functions and a five year plan.
10. Explore outreach and education opportunities with conservation partners.

In connection with the administration of the Council:

1. Enhance identity of the Council.
  - a. Submit an independent budget to the Ministry for the financial year 2016-17 and subsequent years.
  - b. Implement an independent website and social media presence.
  - c. Adopt a logo.
2. The Schedule of Public Meetings for 2015-16 is:

Wednesday, 23 September 2015

Tuesday, 24 November 2015

Wednesday, 24 February 2016

Wednesday, 18 May 2016

## Chapter 5: Appendices

### 5.1 Appendix – Council Members as at 30 June 2015

Christine Rose-Smyth                      Chair; Bodden Town, Plants, Terrestrial & Marine Biodiversity

Christine Rose-Smyth has called the Cayman Islands home since 1985 and has lived in the district of Bodden Town since 1998. She is a life member of the National Trust for the Cayman Islands and BirdsCaribbean, has been a member of the Cayman Islands Orchid Society since 1992, and is also a member of the Friends of the Botanic Park. She is a volunteer administrator for eBird, the Cornell University global, online, bird data website.

Christine is an avid field naturalist, promoter of citizen science and supporter of conservation outreach and education. For example, since 2013 she has participated in ecosystems services data collection, field work for the UKOT Millennium Seed Bank project, co-curated Passing Through, an exhibit seen by over seventy-five hundred visitors and twelve hundred school children during its twelve month run at the Cayman Islands National Museum and mounted a complementary International Migratory Bird Day Festival for the National Trust.

Under the name Verdant Isle Orchid Research she conducts studies of Cayman Islands native orchids, including ecology, genetics, pollination and in vitro propagation. Previously she published research on deep-sea crinoids, pleurotomarian slit shells, and acroporid reef corals.

Christine Rose-Smyth holds degrees in natural science (Trinity College, Dublin) and law (University of Liverpool). She was admitted to the Cayman Islands bar in 2006 (currently non-practicing) and was a member of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators, London from 1994 until her retirement from fellowship of the Institute in 2012. Altogether, Christine has twenty years experience in the Cayman Islands financial and legal services industry.

Davy Ebanks                                  West Bay and Marine Conservation

Davy Ebanks was born in Grand Cayman on April 11th 1957. He was raised and spent his early years in West Bay. After graduating from CIHS, Davy trained at the Caribbean Meteorological Institute and Air Traffic and Aeronautical Information Services School in Barbados.

Davy's varied career includes experience as a boat captain of both charter and party boats, in restaurant and golf course management and as a construction project manager.

A lifetime fisherman, boater and outdoorsman Davy is keenly interested in the preservation of all things Caymanian and its marine environment in particular. Having served as a member of the Marine Conservation Board for 14 years Davy brings valuable continuity and perspective to the National Conservation Council.

Davy Ebanks currently live in Newlands and operates a commercial farm in Northward, growing a variety of crops which are sold locally to restaurants and supermarkets.

Lisa Hurlston-McKenzie      George Town and Sustainable Development & Climate Change

Lisa Hurlston-McKenzie is manager of GreenTech Environmental, a sustainable solutions company focused on innovations that benefit people and their built environment. She is the author of numerous publications on climate change policy and adaptation for small islands.

Former manager of the Cayman Islands Government Department of Environment's Sustainable Development Unit, where she spent 14 years, Lisa managed several projects and programmes aimed at enhancing the country's sustainability and climate change resiliency through her sustainable development, environmental assessment and climate change knowledge.

Inspired by the opportunity to help businesses, government and environmental organizations work together in new ways, Lisa joined GreenTech Environmental in 2014 to help design a Carbon Offset Programme for the National Trust and advance the burgeoning green building industry regionally.

Lisa is a past Judge for the Governor's Award in Design and Construction Excellence and the Governor's Conservation Awards. In 2014 Lisa was appointed by Her Excellency, The Governor to serve on the Human Rights Commission which promotes and upholds the environmental rights enshrined in Section 18 of the Cayman Islands Bill of Rights. In the same year she was appointed to the National Conservation Council as the George Town District Representative bringing sustainable development and climate change expertise.

McFarlane Conolly      East End and Sustainable Development

Hermon Howard McFarlane Conolly is a 62 year old native of East End, Grand Cayman. He is a retired banker who spent 34 years at his chosen profession before retiring in August 2006 at the level of Senior Vice President of one of our leading banks.

Mr. Conolly's managerial skills and his interest in planning lend themselves well to the challenge to ensure environmentally sustainable development.

As a grandfather of 15, Mac is committed to ensuring that measures are put in place to conserve, protect and preserve the resources of our islands for future as well as present generations.

Born (1940) and raised in Prince Edward Island, Canada, Wallace Platts paid his way through university by working on oil tankers. He graduated with an honours degree in political science and joined a large oil company, working in the two fields of human resources and corporate secretariat during his career. He was certified in both these professions. Twice he left the company for two-year stints of volunteer work abroad -- as a high school teacher in Jamaica and much later as a town manager in Papua New Guinea. Wallace retired and emigrated with his wife, Edna, to Cayman Brac in 1992.

Nature study had been Wallace's avocation in Canada, where he contributed to field naturalist societies in Toronto (treasurer of the Toronto Field Naturalists' Society) and later in Calgary. In the Cayman Islands he has immersed himself in nature and history and accepted responsibilities with the National Trust both on Cayman Brac and at national level. He was fortunate to do field work with older Brac residents, and with Dr. George Proctor and other international experts.

Wallace is dedicated to nature conservation and has a blog to share findings and ideas. ([www.naturenotes19n79w.ky](http://www.naturenotes19n79w.ky)). While also involved in tutoring English and music, and in composing, his central quest is the identification and preservation of the varied habitats and the wild plants and creatures of his adopted island, Cayman Brac.

Christina is a Caymanian with familial roots in Cayman Brac. Christina has served as the Executive Director of the National Trust for the Cayman Islands since 2012. She is an accredited mediator and practised as a litigation attorney prior to taking up her role at the National Trust. Christina holds degrees in Law and Computer Science and is a Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer. In her current role, Christina is responsible for ensuring that the National Trust carries out its mandate to protect environmentally sensitive and historically significant sites across all three Cayman Islands.

During her time at the Trust, Christina has developed the biennial Governor's Conservation Awards, Island Offsets carbon offset programme, Heritage Heroes Youth Conservation Club, Families in the Wild nature programme, Adopt Nature programme and the Save Our Sites endowment campaign.

Ever the nature lover and a Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award holder, Christina spent 6 weeks hiking the Indian Himalayas after graduating high school and has led multiple hiking expeditions in Grand Cayman. She also led relief trips to several Central American countries to assist poverty stricken areas and to rebuild homes after natural disasters.

She resides in the district of West Bay with her husband.

Patricia Bradley      Avifauna & Biodiversity

Best known in Cayman as the author of *The Birds of the Cayman Islands*, Patricia Bradley began her career as a field and conservation biologist in Africa. She has been studying and writing about Caribbean birds since 1974 and on Cayman's birds since 1983. Besides several field guides she has written many articles, reports and monographs for ornithological and conservation journals and the Cayman Islands Government.

Patricia was one of three instigators of the National Trust for the Cayman Islands in 1986, and continues to act as a Trust Council member and as its Environmental Programmes Committee chair. She was an office holder of BirdsCaribbean from 1989 to 1996 (previously SCO and SCSCB) promoting regional conservation of habitats and wetlands, with special emphasis on West Indian Whistling-Duck and seabirds.

Patricia Bradley conducted the first censuses of the Cayman Parrot populations in the mid-1980's. More recently her observations on bullfinches are expected to lead to the formal raising of the Grand Cayman Bullfinch to full species status.

Frederic J. Burton      Terrestrial Biodiversity

Frederic J Burton moved to Cayman to work for the Mosquito Research & Control Unit in 1979 and remained there until 1991, when he left his final position as MRCU's Deputy Director to lead the newly-formed National Trust for the Cayman Islands' environmental programmes. At the Trust, he played a leading role in establishing the Cayman Islands' first terrestrial protected areas.

Fred has also mapped the dry land vegetation communities on all three islands, and classified the natural plant communities in work that later culminated in his publishing the IUCN Red List status of all Cayman's native plants. While still at the Trust he worked on conservation of a wide range of animal species across the islands, including the Cayman Brac Parrot and Little Cayman's Red-footed Booby. On Grand Cayman Fred began what has developed into the globally recognized Blue Iguana Recovery Programme, which he formed with local and international partners in 2002 and led as its volunteer Director until 2015. Mr. Burton was awarded the M.B.E. in 2007, for services to protected endangered species in the Cayman Islands.

Gina Ebanks-Petrie      Director of Environment

Gina Ebanks-Petrie, was born in the Cayman Islands. She holds a Bachelor of Science (Hons.) degree in Biology from the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada and a Master of Science (Distinction) in Environmental Management from the University of Stirling in the U.K. She has one son, Duncan, who is sixteen years old.

Ms. Ebanks-Petrie is a founding member of the National Trust for the Cayman Islands and served on its Council in various capacities for 23 years. She has worked in the Department of Environment for over 30 years and was appointed Director of Environment in 1996.

Under her leadership the Department of Environment works to promote and facilitate responsible management and sustainable use of the natural resources and environment of the Cayman Islands through various programmes and strategies. The Department undertakes activities that fall within the broad categories of environmental management recommendations; sustainable development and environmental policy advice; environmental research, monitoring and assessment; protected area management; and permitting and advisory services for various boards and committees.

Timothy Austin      DoE Deputy, Research

Adrian Estwick      Director of Agriculture

Haroon Pandohie      Director of Planning

## **5.2 Appendix – Delegations to Department of Environment**

The Council may delegate any of its functions other than the making of orders and the issuing of directives to the Director, Department of Environment.

In the period 2014-2015 the Council delegated the following matters:

1. Administrative support functions including the preparation of Working Papers and recommendations to the Department of Environment (resolution passed at the meeting held on 3 December 2014).
2. Preparation of Species Conservation Plans to be considered for adoption by Council to enable implementation of section 17 (resolution passed at the meeting held on 24 February 2015).
3. Conduct of the notifications and consultations required to proceed with the consideration of the nomination of Enhanced Marine Protected Areas under the conservation of land provisions of section 9 (resolution passed at the meeting held on 26 May 2015).