**National Conservation Council**

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

# Annual Report 2021

Sybils Crownbeard Public Meeting

August 2021 public meeting in Spott Bay, Cayman Brac, regarding Sybils Crownbeard Conservation Plan, at the invitation of the Member of Parliament for the district, Hon. Juliana O'Connor-Connolly, JP.

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# Executive Summary

The National Conservation Council exists to promote and secure the biological diversity of the Cayman Islands and ensure the sustainable use of Cayman's natural resources. It acts to protect and conserve endangered, threatened and endemic wildlife and their habitats. The Council oversees the protection of terrestrial, wetland and marine areas with the support of the current generation and for the benefit of future generations of the Cayman Islands.

During 2021, the Council was reconstituted with a balance of continuing and new members representing a variety of backgrounds but with the united interest of improving conservation in the Cayman Islands. This balance is reflected in the activities of the Council during 2021 as well with work continuing on ongoing issues and new initiatives undertaken.

2021 began with the entry into force by the Cabinet of the enhanced Marine Parks, a major advancement which keeps the Cayman Islands at the forefront of marine conservation in the Caribbean and around the world. It concluded in December with the Cabinet decision to approve the purchase of additional lands to expand the protected areas at Hemmington Forest in Cayman Brac, the Salina Reserve in Grand Cayman and the Eastern Interior of Little Cayman.

Environmental assessments and advice remained significant matters for Council's consideration in 2021. Major development proposals were reviewed and though Council recommended specific assessments for several proposals, only one required a full Environmental Impact Assessment. However, the appreciation by special interests of the need for sustainable development decisions which respect the triple bottom line of environmental and societal benefits weighed equally with economic prosperity remains elusive. There is ongoing pushback from developers against even minor environmental accommodations in relation to the scope of works proposed, coupled with an avoidance of recommended technical assessments. Such assessments are needed if decisions are to be taken from a fully informed position thereby producing better national outcomes.

Internationally 2021 also included the COP 26 Climate Summit, with international reports before and after the COP drawing the stark reality that the world is unlikely to mitigate near and long-term climate-induced catastrophes. The creation locally of the Ministry of Sustainability and Climate Resiliency is therefore an important step on the road which the Cayman Islands must take to adapt to the predictable impacts of an irrefutably changing climate. Sustainability must become a central consideration of every national and personal decision if the Cayman Islands are to adapt to a changing environment in order to thrive financially and socially in a future that adequately safeguards our people, places and iconic species.

# Chapter 1 Cayman Islands National Conservation Council

## 1.1 Purpose

The National Conservation Council (the Council, NCC) is established by, and to facilitate the goals of, the National Conservation Act 2013 (the Act, NCA), 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 Act, in particular in subsection (9):

(a) subject to this Act, 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 Act 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 Act 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 Act and such orders, guidance notes and directives may include-

(a) criteria for identifying endangered or threatened species or other species needing protection under this Act;
(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 Act 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 Parliament.

This is the seventh annual report of the National Conservation Council and covers the period from 1 January 2021 to 30 December 2021 inclusive.

## 1.4 Composition of the Council

The Act regulates the composition of the Council. The Council is composed of thirteen voting members (section 3(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.

The Cabinet appoints the Chair. 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.

On 30 June 2020 some of the appointments to the Council expired. Nonetheless, the Council remained quorate until the remainder of the appointments expired on 30 November 2020. At that time the only Council Members were the ex officio permanent members under Schedule 2 of the Act. At this point the Council was inquorate. Cabinet appointed members to the Council, which was then again quorate, on 12 February 2021. However due to concern that there was a lack of the required relevant scientific or technical expertise on the Council, on 11 May 2021, after the election, Cabinet revised the makeup of the Council with the appointment of new members.

| Council Member | Date of Appointment | Date of Appointment | Representation |
|---|---|---|---|
| McFarlane Conolly | 12-Feb-21 | 11-May-21 | Chairperson; East End & Sustainable Development |
| Harry Lalli | 12-Feb-21 | - | George Town |
| Paul Parchment | 12-Feb-21 | - | West Bay |
| Edward Chisholm | 12-Feb-21 | 11-May-21 | North Side |
| Pierre Foster | 12-Feb-21 | 11-May-21 | Bodden Town |
| Jessica Harvey | - | 11-May-21 | George Town; Marine & Terrestrial Affairs |
| Lisa Hurlston-McKenzie | 12-Feb-21 | 11-May-21 | West Bay; Sustainable Development & Climate Change |
| Harrison A. Bothwell | 12-Feb-21 | 11-May-21 | Sister Islands |
| Annick Jackman | 12-Feb-21 | 11-May-21 | National Trust for the Cayman Islands (Executive Director) |
| Patricia Bradley | 12-Feb-21 | 11-May-21 | Avifauna & Biodiversity |
| Stuart Mailer | - | 11-May-21 | Sustainable Development |
| Adrian Estwick | Ex-Officio | Ex-Officio | Director of Agriculture |
| Haroon Pandohie | Ex-Officio | Ex-Officio | Director of Planning |
| Richard Mileham | Ex-Officio | Ex-Officio | Planning Officer, for the Director of Planning |
| Gina Ebanks-Petrie | Ex-Officio | Ex-Officio | Director of Environment |
| Timothy Austin | Ex-Officio | Ex-Officio | DoE Deputy, Research |

The Department of Environment (DoE) is charged with appointing a Secretary to the Council (section 6). John Bothwell, Manager of the Department's Legislation Implementation and Coordination Unit, has remained as Secretary throughout 2021 and since the Council's inception in 2014.

His Excellency the Governor Mr. Martyn Roper, OBE, Premier of the Cayman Islands, the Honourable Wayne Panton, JP, MP, and National Conservation Council member & Director of the Department of Environment Ms Gina Ebanks-Petrie viewing mangrove conservation and development areas in the North Sound of Grand Cayman as part of a conservation issues familiarisation trip in July 2021.

# Chapter 2 Council Activities, January – December 2021

## 2.1 Governance

Section 3 of the Act governs the proceedings of the Council. Seven voting members of the Council constitute a quorum. The decisions of the Council are 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 cause to be prepared and published the agendas and minutes of all meetings. The Council may, subject to the Act, regulate its own procedure.

The Council's Manual of Policy and Procedure contains rules for administration of the Council, a Code of Conduct, and a procedure for Disclosure 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 Act provides, in subsection 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.

Council members are also subject to the provisions of the Standards in Public Life Act and were required to file a declaration of interests with the Commission for that Act. Access to that register of interests would be through the Commission on Standards in Public Life.

The Department of Environment's Freedom of Information staff have been delegated to administer Freedom of Information requests to the Council.

## 2.2 Meetings

With the reappointment of the Council by Cabinet on 11 May 2021, the Council held its first General Meeting of 2021 on July 7th. The General Meeting for the second half of the year was held on November 24th. Agendas with working papers, and Minutes, of the meetings can be found at https://conservation.ky/general-meetings/. In accordance with the statutory requirement and the Council's Policy and Procedure Manual, the agenda and working papers for the meetings were published in advance and the public was able to view the proceedings of the meeting in full on YouTube.

Council also conducts non-binding working groups approximately every three weeks in order to prepare for the general meetings, though that schedule was irregular in the first part of 2021. During this period Council considered a number of procedural items via correspondence, e.g., section 41 advice to ensure that Planning Department timelines could be met, with those items being ratified once regular meetings could resume at the first General Meeting.

Matters for the Agenda are cast as Board Papers which may consist of Information Papers or Working Papers prepared by the Department of Environment and papers prepared by Council members either individually or representing Committees of the Council. Matters for decision are usually presented with a recommendation and a draft motion for approval as a resolution of the Council.

## 2.3 Entry Into Force of the National Conservation Act

Parts 5 and 7 of the National Conservation Act, 2013 (NCA), with the exception of sections 46 and 47 of Part 7, came into force on the 15th day of August 2016. This included section 51, which repealed the Marine Conservation Act (2013 Revision). Only sections 46 and 47 of the National Conservation Act still remain to come into force.

## 2.4 Implementation of the National Conservation Act

During 2021 the implementation of the National Conservation Act continued with ongoing efforts to improve management of protected species and important natural areas.

2.4.1. The Marine Parks Enhancement has been completed (National Conservation (Marine Parks) Regulations, 2021). A new brochure has been issued and a new App is available from the Apple and Android App stores reflecting the enhanced marine parks.

2.4.2. The previously approved changes to the gamebird seasons have been completed - National Conservation (General) (Amendment) Regulations, 2021.

2.4.3. The Council was asked to provide a public briefing in Cayman Brac on the Species Conservation Plan for Sybils' Crownbeard, which the Department of Environment undertook on the Council's behalf.

2.4.4. Still pending are the 2018/19 proposed protected areas and the listing of all land crabs as Schedule 1 Part 2 protected species which may be hunted or collected.

2.4.5. At its 14 December 2021 the Cabinet "Approved the purchase and establishment of additional terrestrial protected areas under the National Conservation Act – Salina Reserve extension, Grand Cayman, Block 65A Parcel 46; East Interior, Little Cayman, Block 91A Parcel 25 and Hemmington Forest, Cayman Brac, Block 101A Parcel 6"[1]. The Council looks forward to the completion of these acquisitions, pending mutually agreeable purchase negotiations with the landowners by the Ministry of District Administration & Lands.

[1] Cayman Islands Cabinet Post-Meeting Summary, Published by the Cabinet Office on Monday, 20th December 2021.

## 2.5 Invasive Species

The Grand Cayman green iguana cull continued throughout 2021 with 87,361 animals being removed (for a total of 1,349,919 since Council started the project in 2018). However, rates of capture continued to reduce, despite the increased bounty per iguana, and the Department of Environment's annual survey showed a population increasing over 2020. This suggests that the bounty style approach to control the green iguana population may have reached the limit of its effectiveness and new approaches will be needed in the future.

Targeted green iguana culling led by the Department of Environment continued on Cayman Brac, with the assistance of community volunteers. Department of Environment biosecurity activities continued on Little Cayman by their intern and community volunteers in an attempt to keep the invasive green iguana pests from becoming established on that island. The establishment of green iguanas on either of the sister islands brings with it the potential for interbreeding between the invasive green iguanas and the endemic endangered rock iguanas.

The need remains for the introduction of invasive species regulations to manage public removal of invasive species and support efforts by the Department of Agriculture to keep invasive pest species from becoming established in the Cayman Islands.

## 2.6 Section 41 Consultations

Under Section 41 of the National Conservation Act all Government entities are required to consult with the National Conservation Council before granting a permit or licence, or making some other decision, that would be likely to have an adverse environmental impact. Section 43 of the Act allows the Council, where necessary, to require the proponent to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). EIAs are only required where the Council is unable to robustly identify and evaluate the potential impacts associated with a particular proposal. When an EIA is initiated, the Council appoints an Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) to regulate the process.

In 2021, under delegated authority from the National Conservation Council, the Environmental Management Unit of the Department of Environment (as part of the Department's Technical Review Committee) reviewed 647 planning applications, 23 coastal works applications and 33 general consultations under section 41 of the National Conservation Act. This represents a 30% increase in planning applications from 2020 and a 1,000% increase from 2015 (which is prior to the development consultation provisions within the National Conservation Act (2013) coming into effect in 2016).

Eight (8) EIA Screening Opinions were issued by the DoE: proposed hotel in George Town, Hotel Indigo on Seven Mile Beach, Aster MedCity West Bay, Health City Camana Bay, Vista del Mar sargassum containment breakwater, Rum Point sargassum containment breakwater, Bayview high-rise residential development on SM corridor and Dart mixed-use hotel/tourism PAD application. This represents a 60% increase from 2020. All EIA Screening Opinions can be found at the following link: https://conservation.ky/eia-screening-options/.

The Screening Opinions concluded that EIAs were not required for seven (7) of the above projects. An EIA was required for the mixed-used hotel/tourism PAD application. Two additional EIAs continued to be developed through 2021. A Scoping Opinion was issued for an update to the proposed East-West Arterial extension in November 2021. The Terms of Reference for the ReGen EIA (Integrated Solid Waste Management System) were finalized and published in October 2021.

Of the three recommended Environmental Impact Assessments none of the underlying projects progressed significantly in 2021.

2.6.1. East-West Arterial
- 2.6.1.1. Council ratified the requirement for an EIA for the E-W Arterial.
- 2.6.1.2. The NRA transitioned to being one of the main proponents of the project and so was replaced on the EAB with the PWD's Major Project Office.
- 2.6.1.3. The NRA requested a new scoping opinion for the entire road from Hirst Rd to Frank Sound Rd, which was completed.
- 2.6.1.4. At the close of 2021 the East-West Arterial EIA was still pending action by the proponents based on the scoping opinion provided to them.

2.6.2. Integrated Solid Waste Management System (ISWMS or ReGen)
- 2.6.2.1. The proponents initiated the EIA for this project and remained in consultation with the EAB.

2.6.3. Dart Hotel/Tourism Planned Area Development, Seven Mile Beach
- 2.6.3.1. The Council required the proposal for the Planned Area Development to undergo an EIA before a decision could be taken.
- 2.6.3.2. The EIA was not commenced by the proponents.
- 2.6.3.3. The proponent's legal representatives wrote the National Conservation Counsel claiming that the Council's decision was unreasonable and against the principals of natural justice and several other allegations.
- 2.6.3.4. The Council sought legal advice in replying to the proponents. The legal advice was that the Council's actions were in accordance with the National Conservation Act and the EIA Directive, was completely reasonable and lawful, and complied with all the requirements of the Constitution and the Act.

EIAs remain international best practice at a relatively minor cost for those projects that require them, especially compared to the potential savings they can identify for the project. They are an important tool for assuring the public that environmentally, socially and economically appropriate decision-making is occurring. The activation of Environmental Impact Assessments in local legislation has gone a long way to raising the profile of the Cayman Islands which in February 2013 were assessed as "weak" in each of the four areas of environmental governance (species, sites, development control and people) evaluated by the Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development (FIELD). Having EIA legislation also assists the Cayman Islands in achieving commitments made under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Ramsar Convention, the 2001 Environment Charter, and the Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009.

Unfortunately, the non-acceptance of Council recommendations, or even Directions under the Act, in some instances remains a significant problem. Non-acceptance of Direction could leave the non-complaint Government agency, or even private sector entities acting on the advice or permission of the non-compliant Government entity, open to legal challenge or prosecution. In late 2021 the NCC was given leave by the Court to apply for a Judicial Review of a decision of

the Central Planning Authority not to require certain conditions as directed by the Council when they issued Planning Permission. The Judicial Review of the CPA decision remains ongoing.

The Council continues to recommend Turtle Friendly Lighting for any development on coastlines frequented by nesting turtles, and to encourage existing properties to take part in the Environmental Protection Fund supported retrofit programme administered by the Department of Environment. Thirteen (13) turtle friendly lighting plans were reviewed by the Department of Environment, which were conditions of planning approval, for a mix of residential schemes and hotel/tourism developments. This is an 86% increase from 2020. A further twelve existing properties had turtle friendly lighting installed or ordered ready for installation in 2021.

In 2021 a proposal for the development of overwater bungalows as part of a coastal tourism development adjacent to and within a protected area (marine reserve) was received by Government. The plan was submitted to the Development Control Board for development approval, and the Cabinet for a Coastal Works Licence. An inter-agency review team advised that Government should consider adopting national guidelines and policies informed by those from similar jurisdictions like Belize, Jamaica and other countries in the region. As part of its review of the proposal draft interim guidelines for the consideration of overwater habitable structures in protected areas were developed by the Department of Environment for the Council's consideration. Upon review the National Conservation Council strongly recommended to Cabinet that the proposed interim guidelines, that there be no overwater habitable developments in marine protected areas, should form the basis of Cabinet's decision. Council further recommended to the Cabinet that a comprehensive policy be developed for all habitable over-water structures in a manner that includes stakeholder and public engagement consultation.

## 2.7 Climate Change

Throughout 2021 the Council, individual members, and the Department of Environment continued to engage with local and international partners to both better understand the potential impacts of, and responses to, climate change, as well as to promote the need for a robust, national-level response to the reality of climate change for our small, low-lying country. In exercising its delegated authority, the Department of Environment, with input from the Council, ensured that all of its Section 41 environmental reviews recommended measures to reduce physical vulnerability to existing weather-related and projected climate change impacts, and enhance resiliency in efficient ways that address the consequences of and responses to changing climatic conditions. These recommendations sought to deliver win-win outcomes for other government policy objectives such as the National Energy Policy.

During 2021 a particular focus of the National Conservation Council members was the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP 26. (The 26th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the third meeting of the parties to the 2015 Paris Agreement (designated CMA1, CMA2, CMA3), and the 16th meeting of the parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP16).)

- The Premier of the Cayman Islands, and youth delegates from the Cayman Islands, attended COP 26 in Glasgow, Scotland.
- The National Trust selected the Youth Ambassadors, facilitated their participation at COP 26 and accompanied them at the Conference.

- Before their trip Council members Gina Ebanks-Petrie and Lisa Hurlston-McKenzie provided delegates with background information on the COP and local climate change issues relevant to the Goals of COP26.

Department of Environment, Director of Agriculture Adrian Estwick and Lisa Hurlston-McKenzie visited a locally run nursery piloting the cultivation of bamboo to offset the carbon footprints of two Government agencies' vehicle fleets over time. Council will continue to provide input to the project developers and monitor the climate benefits (carbon sequestration) anticipated over the life of the project.

Council was encouraged that the Climate Change Risk Assessment for the Cayman Islands is underway with the assistance of the Governor's Office. Along with other local stakeholders, Council will participate in ranking the list of climate risks identified by overseas experts, including to the environmental sector, and determine the priority actions and opportunities for addressing such risk. This work, which will run through 2022, will inform the update of the 2011 draft Climate Change Policy and other policies and regulatory changes necessary to enhance the resilience of these islands to current and future climate impacts.

# Chapter 3 Financial

All accounts for the National Conservation Council and the Environmental Protection Fund are held and administered by the Department of Environment and Ministry of Sustainability and Climate Resiliency (MSCR). The following information and tables are for qualitative purposes only and are as reported by the Ministry and Department. Accounts for financial reporting or auditing purposes should be sourced from the Department or Ministry directly. .

## 3.1 Council Budget and Expenses

2021 expenditures reported by the Department of Environment on behalf of the Council totalled $9,263.93 ($10,439.06 in 2020) for member stipends and other committee meeting costs, public consultations, the installation of markers and printing of brochures for the enhanced marine parks (the majority cost of which was borne by the Department of Environment Marine Parks maintenance budget), and ongoing maintenance costs for the Council's website.

| Conservation Council 2021 Expenditures | Expenditures |
|---|---|
| Website | $ 1,798.73 |
| Public Consultation | $ 775.45 |
| Council Stipends | $ 6,350.00 |
| Marine Parks | $ 339.75 |

The Council budget for the financial years 2022-23 was again included with the Department of Environment's biennial budget. The Council continues to be of the view that the Council's budget and expenses should be accounted for separately in core government accounts.

## 3.2 Environmental Protection Fund

Section 3 (9) of the NCA provides that the Council manage and make recommendations on the use of the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF or Fund). Although sections 46 and 47 of the Act (which provide in greater detail for the operation, management and reporting on activities financed from the Fund) remained unimplemented in this reporting period and the Fund continued to be operated under the pre-existing 1997 legislation[2], the Council makes the following report in completion of its duties under the National Conservation Act.

In 2021 the following was spent from the Environmental Protection Fund by the Department of Environment on behalf of or with the approval of the National Conservation Council. There was significant underspend due to COVID-related limitations on work, especially in 2020. Money not spent (the variance) in 2020 was carried over into 2021. The apparent overspend in Nassau Grouper Monitoring was covered on the advice of the Ministry of Environment / MSCR with unused funds from other line items, such as Turtle Friendly Lighting.

| EPF Projects | Account | Carry over from 2020 | Full 2021 Budget | Combined 2020 Carry over and 2021 Budget | YTD Exp Dec 2021 | Variance / Budget Left |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ENV0003 - Stingray Study / $42k to go to SCTLD Response from August 2020 | 55005 | 6,514.68 | 8,000.00 | 14,514.68 | - | 14,514.68 |
| ENV0004 - Traffic Calming Proposal for SIRI | 55005 | - | - | - | - | - |
| ENV0005 - Cayman Parrot Amnesty | 55005 | 16,087.04 | 30,000.00 | 46,087.04 | 16,461.16 | 29,625.88 |
| ENV0006 - Turtle Friendly Lighting -7k towards MAST Camera July 2021 | 55005 | 142,919.20 | 158,000.00 | 300,919.20 | 101,065.40 | 199,853.80 |
| ENV0007 - Coral Reef Restoration $42k to go to SCTLD Response from August 2020 | 55005 | (2,522.30) | 8,000.00 | 5,477.70 | 3,082.69 | 2,395.01 |

[2] The 1997 legislation describes the purpose of the Fund as "defraying expenditure incurred in protecting and preserving the environment of the Islands"

| EPF Projects | Account | Carry over from 2020 | Full 2021 Budget | Combined 2020 Carry over and 2021 Budget | YTD Exp Dec 2021 | Variance / Budget Left |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ENV0008 - Legal Advice for NCC | 55005 | 50,000.00 | 50,000.00 | 100,000.00 | 74,064.04 | 25,935.96 |
| ENV0009 - Green Iguana Expenditures | 54256 | 752,339.10 | 1,000,000.00 | 1,752,339.10 | 883,431.11 | 868,907.99 |
| ENV0010 - Nassau Grouper Monitoring | 55005 | 591.78 | 30,000.00 | 30,591.78 | 61,712.13 | (31,120.35) |
| ENV0011 - Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease | 55005 | 54,776.04 | 84,000.00 | 138,776.04 | 260,322.16 | (121,546.12) |
| ENV0013 - MAST Cameras | | | 7,000.00 | 7,000.00 | 5,800.00 | 1,200.00 |
| | | | | | | |
| Total EPF Expenditures | | 1,020,705.54 | 1,375,000.00 | 2,395,705.54 | 1,405,938.69 | 989,766.85 |

# Chapter 4 2022 Goals & Objectives

With the National Conservation Act now substantially in force the National Conservation Council will balance long-term policy direction with short-term initiatives to achieve those longer-term goals, while maintaining a watching brief on ongoing conservation operations. These ongoing operations for 2022 will include:

1. Final Environmental Protection Fund management sections of the National Conservation Act brought into force for the 2022-2024 budget.
2. 2024-25 budget for Council split out from Department of Environment.
3. Issuing Permits and Licences.
4. Providing guidance and advice to all government entities under the consultation requirements set down in Section 41 of the Act, as well as screening certain projects for the requirement for EIAs and managing various EIAs for ongoing major infrastructure projects.
5. Elevating the status of climate change on the national agenda.
    a. Completion of the Climate Change Risk Assessment for the Cayman Islands.
    b. Continue to advise the National Security Council and other branches of the Government on the implications of climate change for the Cayman Islands and measures to enhance resiliency.
    c. Support the implementation of the National Energy Policy through DOE's position on the Energy Policy Council and other collaborations.
    d. Support research by the DOE and continue to provide evidence-based recommendations for managing climate change impacts on Seven Mile Beach and other coastal systems.
    e. Provide input into the PlanCayman National Development Plan review and updated Climate Change Policy process.
6. Management Planning for protected areas, both marine and terrestrial.
7. Resume acquisition of high conservation value lands for protected areas, including a call for public nominations.
8. Species Conservation Planning for the management of selected protected species.
9. Public education and outreach activities, particularly to educational institutions, and in coordination with conservation partners such as the National Trust.
10. Continuation of Invasive Species Control Programmes.
    a. Green iguana culling efforts on all three islands.
    b. Feral cat control activities in selected areas for the protection of native species, the welfare of the cats, and the avoidance of potential human health and nuisance issues.
    c. Invasive Species Regulations. In coordination with the Endangered Species Trade & Transport Act, and Animals and Plants Laws.
    d. Targeted invasive plant removals.
    e. Licencing individual and group lionfish control efforts.
    f. Licencing continued Stoney Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD) control efforts by the Department of Environment and others.