

# Terrestrial Protected Area Nomination: Western Mangrove Areas, Grand Cayman

This nomination consolidates and expands the western Crown mangrove cays protected area designated in 2017. The remaining areas of mangrove and associated shallow seagrass beds along the North Sound side of the Seven Mile Beach corridor are greatly reduced and fragmented due to expanding human habitation. The ever increasing importance of what remains of these habitats includes provision of precious fish nursery habitat, exporting nutrients into the North Sound, filtration of water and protection against storm waves.

Designation of three small areas of un-dredged shallow water marine habitat to join the existing protected cays into a smaller number of cohesive protected area zones is proposed. This seeks to define protected area boundaries in a situation where mangrove cays are constantly changing as growth and storm damage events interact.

These areas are submitted for nomination as a Protected Area under Section 7 of the National Conservation Law.



# Protected Area Nomination

## Western Mangrove Areas,

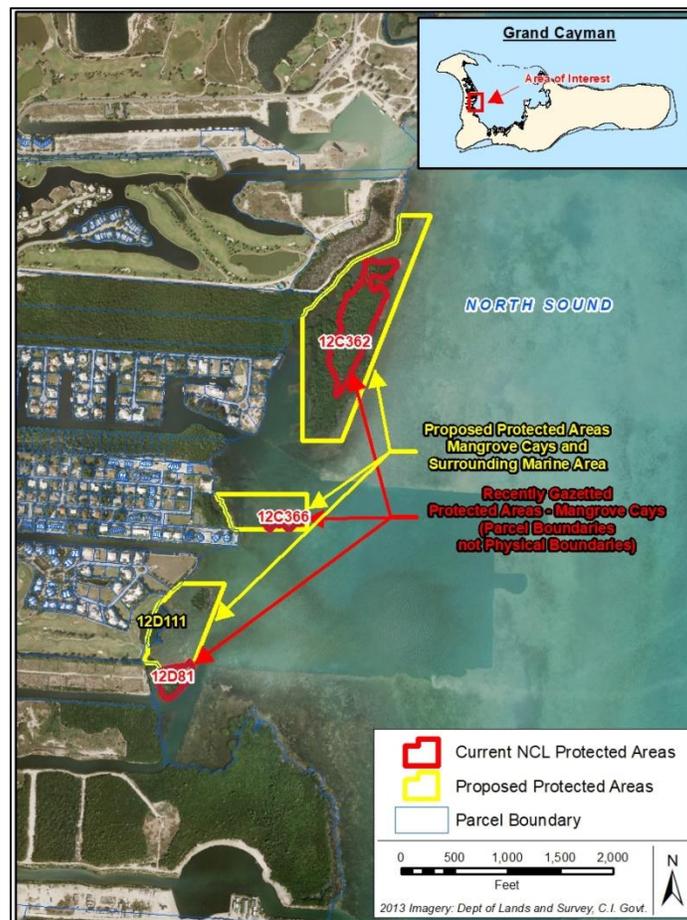
## Grand Cayman

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

### 1. Description of the Area

The nomination covers three areas of shallow marine and mangrove habitat, as shown in the map below. These envelop four existing protected mangrove cay parcels (12D / 81 & 111; 12C / 362 & 366). Navigable access through adjacent dredged areas remains open and unaffected.

Block	Parcel	Ownership	Portion of parcel	
12C		373 Rem 1	Private	Part
	Marine and un-parceled mangroves		Crown	As mapped



## 2. Reasons for Nomination

### Purposes and Objectives

- 2.1** Protection of these nominated areas will safeguard islands of natural habitat of value to resident and migratory birds. NCL ref. 8 (1) (a)
- 2.2** The nominated areas together constitute a representative example of tidal mangrove and seagrass habitat that are characteristic of Grand Cayman's West Bay Peninsula, and which is in the process of being converted on a large scale for human uses. NCL ref. 8 (1) (b)
- 2.3** Protection of the nominated areas will help maintain mangrove nutrient flows essential to the productivity of the North Sound, which will benefit sustainable harvest of marine life for human recreation and consumption. NCL Ref. 8 (1) (c)
- 2.4** Protection of the nominated areas will secure their ability to expand and recover from losses from recent hurricanes, thus allowing for regeneration of mangroves in an area which is of special concern for Herons, Egrets, Frigatebirds, and the marine life of North Sound. NCL Ref. 8 (1) (d)
- 2.5** Protection of the mangrove islands will secure their ecological and aesthetic value. NCL Ref. 8 (1) (e) and (f)

### Criteria for Protection

- 2.6** The nominated areas are almost entirely in a natural state. NCL Ref. 8 (2) (a)
- 2.7** The nominated areas support a significant diversity of life, including marine life that shelters in the Red Mangrove roots, and birds which roost in the tree canopies. NCL Ref. 8 (2) (b)
- 2.8** The nominated areas are of ecological importance due to the life-supporting role for marine life in the North Sound. NCL Ref. 8 (2) (c)
- 2.9** Management of the nominated areas will be straightforward and will require minimal resources (see Management Considerations below). NCL Ref. 8 (2) (g)
- 2.10** Birds such as Herons, Egrets and Frigatebirds roosting on the mangrove islands add significantly to the nature tourism values of the North Sound. 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 lands:

Common name	Scientific name	Description	NCL Schedule 1	Habitat use
Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	Seabird	Part 1	Has roosted at night habitually on one cay
Grand Cayman Parrot	<i>Amazona leucocephala caymanensis</i>	Parrot	Part 1	Roost and feed at least in the mangroves on and near land
Mosquitofish	<i>Gambusia xanthosoma</i>	Brackish water fish	Part 2. Endemic	Restricted to Red Mangrove fringes of North Sound
Red Mangrove	<i>Rhizophora mangle</i>	Mangrove	Part 2	Main vegetation component
Sea Grass	<i>Thalassia testudinum</i>	Marine plant	Part 2	In shallow water by cays

### 4. Conservation problems and special protective measures required

None known at present.

### 5. Management Considerations

Management of the western mangrove areas, once protected, need only involve occasional monitoring, and some public education and awareness measures.

