



December 17, 2020

Notice of Appeal
Director of Planning
Government Administration Building
Grand Cayman

Dear Sir,

Re: Aircraft Hangar & Administration Bldg, CBW Block 93C parcel 66 (CB-F20-0378)(CB-P20-0030)

We are appealing the Board's decision granting Daggaro permission to construct an Aircraft Hangar and Administration building on Block 93C Parcel 66 under the Grounds that it is unreasonable. While the National Trust supports sustainable economic development for our islands, it must be done in a way that protects and preserves our fragile environment and historical sites. Loss of these sites leaves us vulnerable to extreme weather events due to climate change but also diminishes our cultural identity and community pride for future generations.

The land in question is extremely important to Cayman Brac because it houses the only remaining remnant of tropical dry forest in the Brac's far West End. This forest represents a broad sample of plants and trees native to the Cayman Islands, several of which have historic significance as they were used historically by the people in Cayman Brac.

The site is home to the West End Turtle Crawl, an important heritage site. It was and is frequently visited by tourists, as well as by local school and church groups. While it may be easy to dismiss the Crawl as a hole with stagnant water, this is a significant part of Cayman heritage and should be preserved as an illustration of our past for future generations. Without a tangible piece of history to visit and see for oneself, it is all too easy to lose aspects of our culture over time. This crawl is both accessible and safe and must therefore be preserved.

In addition, it is home to the endangered Sister Island Rock Iguanas (SIRIs). Surveys have shown that this area supports the highest density of SIRIs in the Brac and that they use the habitat for nesting. Once abundant on both islands, the Sister Islands Rock Iguana has been almost wiped out on Cayman Brac, suffering extreme losses to free-roaming dogs and feral cats. Now only a small population remains but adults are often sighted near the West End Public Park, adjacent to this parcel. The SIRI is strictly protected under local and international legislation. In fact, the Sister Islands Rock Iguana is "protected at all times" under Schedule 1, Part 1 of the National Conservation Law and listed as critically endangered on the IUCN Red List. Regardless of these protections, the population of this species is plummeting due to feral cats and dogs and road deaths. While the Board has stipulated for the iguanas to be relocated, this requires disturbance of the species and it not as straightforward as may seem on paper.



We believe it is essential that safe flight paths be negotiated and established for both Little Cayman and Caymana Brac. There is significant concern over the potential of these powerful aircraft to damage the nearby Red-footed Booby colony which is protected under the National Trust Law, as well as the NCL and the international RAMSAR convention, to which the Cayman Islands Government is a signatory.

The Brown Boobies and Tropicbirds which nest along the Bluff are also at risk, as is the Brac Parrot Reserve. Any disruption of these protected bird populations (several of which are globally threatened species or classified as rare or vulnerable) would be disastrous at both a local and international level. Furthermore, it would be illegal.

As such we are asking that this site be reconsidered for such a project and we continue to assert that the destruction of this site is unnecessary as nearby previously disturbed parcels are available.

Kind regards,

Annick Jackman
Executive Director