



RISING TIDES, DEPARTING SHORES: RESILIENCE AMIDST ADVERSITY FOR THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

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Cayman**



Message from our One Planet partner

It is a privilege - and also humbling - to be writing this foreword. What happens when a people are forced to plan for an end of a way of life? This is the stark reality when emerging climate change and ecological collapse unfold in front of our eyes.



"I am so inspired by these young leaders who have risen to the challenge of envisaging a future as the Cayman Islands, in all likelihood, disappear to sea level rise and increasing storm intensity. Let's hope the scientists have it all wrong and we wake up one day to realise this was just a nightmare. But at the same time, let's help the Caymanians plan for the worst and support them to become an inspiration for all of us."

Pooran Desai OBE, Founder
OnePlanet.com

What is so inspiring about this report is that these young leaders are putting forward ways in which a painful process can be transformed into a gift for the world.

When at COP28, courtesy of the Scottish Government, in late 2023, I was approached by young Caymanians who asked if I had any advice for helping them protect their central mangrove forest from building a road planned to go through the centre of it, to protect it for future generations. I was shocked and lost for words. I thought for a few moments then decided I had no option but to say something I really did not want to utter. 'But aren't your islands going to be underwater by 2050?'

This report is about using the best evidence combined with imagination to propose a positive response to a difficult situation. These suggestions contained in this report are ideas, not answers. They are here to start the debate of how this generation of young leaders in Cayman see their futures and how in turn they can become good ancestors to future Caymanians who may no longer live on the islands of their ancestors.

Index



↗ Introduction	05
↗ Our Mission	07
↗ Threats	10
↗ Solutions	13
↗ Economics	16
↗ Finance Hub	18
↗ Precedent	22
↗ Caymanian Identity	24
↗ Mind Map	27
↗ Resources	28
↗ Acknowledgements	30

Document Summary

In the heart of the Caribbean, the Cayman Islands face an existential threat as climate change looms large on the horizon. The Rising Tides Departing Shores Action Plan emerges as a beacon of hope in the face of impending catastrophe, aiming to ignite urgent dialogue and decisive action.



Existential crisis and resilience

As we confront the harsh reality of our changing environment, Caymanians grapple with a profound sense of isolation and ecological collapse. Stories of Hurricane Ivan serve as poignant reminders of the fragility of our existence.

Strategic solutions and legacy

The plan outlines strategic responses and relocation options such as a new Cayman 'Highland', aiming to leave a positive legacy. It emphasizes the emotional and cultural dimensions of migration, offering expertise in finance, tourism, and environmental stewardship as valuable assets for relocation.



Global implications and urgent call

Beyond the Cayman Islands, the plan offers a model for territories facing similar climate challenges. It urges governments to take proactive action, advocating for policy amendments to facilitate migration and ensure a resilient future for vulnerable communities worldwide.

● INTRODUCTION

The Catalyst for Conversation: Sea Level Rise and the Cayman Islands

The reality of climate change presents the Cayman Islands with an unprecedented challenge. The risk of rising sea levels, coupled with the increase in severe weather events, poses a serious threat not just to our natural environment but to the very survival and welfare of our community. This precarious situation demands a pre-emptive strategy to address the possibility of relocating our population in response to these threats. The Rising Tides Departing Shores Action Plan has been developed as a foundational document to kick-start this vital conversation with the government of the Cayman Islands and the United Kingdom, focusing not on prescribing solutions, but on highlighting the urgency to prepare for these eventualities.

The Rising Tides Departing Shores Action Plan: Catalysing Dialogue and Preparation

The Rising Tides Departing Shores Action Plan serves as a conversation starter, an invitation for critical engagement and strategic planning between the Cayman Islands and the UK. This document does not offer a fixed set of recommendations; instead, it lays the groundwork for in-depth discussions on potential exit strategies for Caymanians in the face of environmental displacement. It is a rallying cry for all parties – from government bodies to private entities and the broader community – to come together in anticipation and pre-emptive action, to ensure that the future does not catch us unprepared.

Who We Are

Sustainable Cayman, an NPO at the vanguard of this discourse, is committed to promoting resilience and proactive adaptation strategies, as well as policy like the draft Climate Change Policy. Our multifaceted mission reflects the intricate challenges we face:

1 Resilience & Forward Planning: We prioritize community empowerment to weather and recover from climate-related disruptions, focusing on forward-thinking initiatives that enhance national resilience.

2 Ecosystem Conservation & Resource Management: We urge for the safeguarding of our land and marine environments, promoting sustainable development and the responsible use of our natural assets.

3 Transition to Renewable Energy & Carbon Neutrality: Advocating for a switch to renewable energy, like solar, is key in our fight against climate change, aiming for a minimal carbon footprint.

4 Sustainable Local Economies: We support the development of local economies that thrive on sustainability, emphasizing waste reduction and the renewal of our natural resources.

5 Cultural Preservation & Evolution: Recognizing the dynamic nature of the Caymanian identity, we strive to protect our cultural heritage as our society progresses.

6 Inclusive Community Participation: We believe in the power of community involvement in environmental governance, encouraging active participation in our shared goal of ecological preservation.

A Unified Call to Action

The Rising Tides Departing Shores Action Plan, underpinned by the ethos of Sustainable Cayman, is an open invitation for collective engagement in securing a sustainable and safe future for the Cayman Islands. We stand at a critical point, and we urge every stakeholder to unite in this pivotal venture. Together, we can confront climate change head-on and ensure that our islands remain a flourishing and resilient home for future generations.

And yet, the specifics of such a future, one where mass relocation may be necessary, remains largely uncharted. Despite the clear and present danger that this represents for many nations and UK Overseas Territories, the conversation on this matter is still in its nascent stage. It is time to bring this dialogue to the forefront and prepare ourselves for the realities that lie ahead.





● EMERGING REALITY

Climate Change is a Housing Crisis

Concurrent with the environmental challenges, the Cayman Islands are grappling with a critical housing situation. A significant shortage of affordable housing, coupled with escalating property and rental prices, is putting a strain on residents, particularly those in middle and low-income brackets. The National Housing Development Trust has initiated several programs, including increasing affordable home supply and reintroducing a Lease to Own program, supported by a \$15 million budget allocation for 2024-2025.

However, these measures are challenged by the real estate market dynamics, which remain skewed towards a seller's market with low inventory and high demand. New residents moving for work in sectors like banking, legal services, and construction further exacerbate the demand, leading to a market where prices do not decrease even amid inflation and high interest rates.

The interplay between the threat of sea level rise and the housing crisis is complex. As sea levels rise, coastal areas, often prime for housing development, are at risk of becoming uninhabitable, further exacerbating the housing shortage. This could lead to increased housing prices and displacement of communities, placing additional pressures on an already strained housing market. The need for relocation and new infrastructure development could divert government resources, traditionally used for housing development, towards coastal defense and disaster mitigation.

● NAVIGATING CHANGE

The people of the Cayman Islands are resilient and have managed to create one of the most high-functioning economies in the Caribbean and Latin America. The Cayman Islands have been undergoing constant change since the 1950s when global finance began to take off. Simultaneously, the increase in GDP has increased the rate of coastal development. Caymanians have held on to their culture and ways of life the best they can, despite their changing environment. Climate change has begun to have a large impact on the ability of Caymanians to continue their traditional ways of life and has threatened the ability of the tourism industry to function. What are other island states doing to navigate change?

Survival

Tuvalu - Future Now Project

The idea of becoming a digital nation might be the only solution to address the threat of physical submersion for the South Pacific republic with 11,500 citizens. With the sea level rising 1.5 times faster than the worldwide average, Tuvalu plans to replicate the islands' terrain, traditions and landmarks using virtual reality.

Maldives - Floating Cities

80% of the Maldives sit just 3 metres above sea level. Plans have been revealed for a floating city that will house 20,000 people in 5,000 low-rise homes. As sea levels rise, so too will the city, which will be built upon a series of hexagonal-shaped floating structures by 2027.

Anguilla – Disaster Risk Reduction

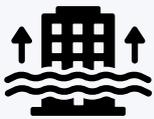
In 2017, Anguilla was ravaged by consecutive Category 5 hurricanes, Irma and Maria. In response, the island implemented flood risk, habitat restoration, and flood restoration mapping. This data-driven approach has since become a model for effective adaptation strategies, leading coastal restoration in the Caribbean.

UK - Climate Action Plans

The UK is experiencing sea levels rising approximately 3.6 cm per decade. Their action plan includes mandating climate resilience as a statutory consideration for planning authorities in infrastructure decisions, emphasizing the urgency for new developments to withstand flooding and physical damage amid the rising frequency of extreme weather events.

● THREATS

Climate Change causes a range of marine-related risks, such as



Sea-level rise



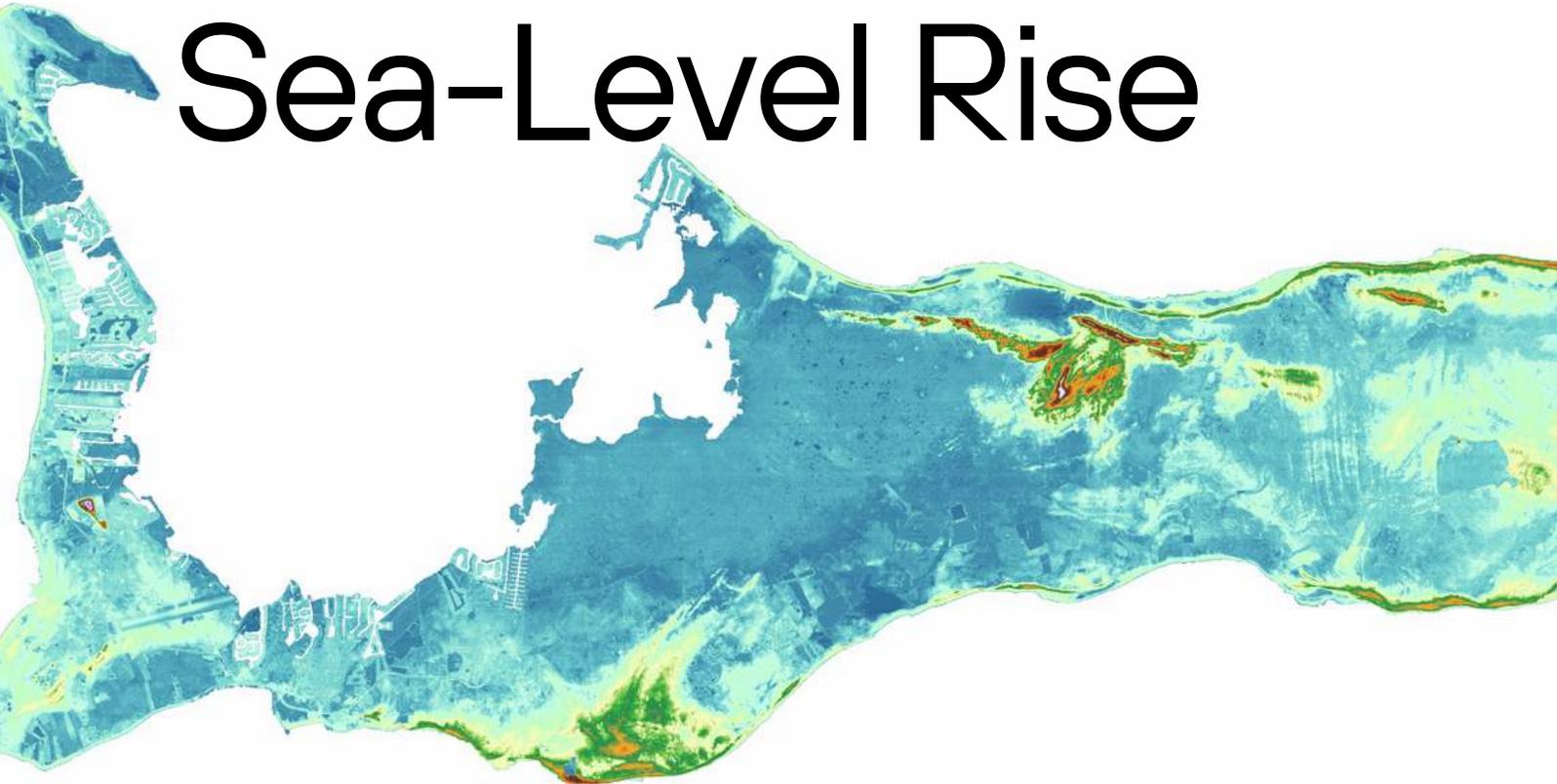
Ocean warming and acidification



Increasingly intensified extreme weather events



Sea-Level Rise



Excluding low-lying island states like the Cayman Islands from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Assessment Reports hinders a comprehensive understanding of climate change impacts. In the Cayman Islands, sea level rise (SLR) is a significant threat, increasing by 5-10 mm annually. Predictions suggest a 3m rise by 2100 affecting 70.86% of buildings.

CARIBSAVE estimated up to USD \$60.7 billion in capital costs by 2050 due to SLR. Johnston and Cooper's analysis, forecasts CI\$22 million worth in real estate impact with a 0.25m (0.82 ft) rise and \$132 million in losses by 2050 with a 1.5m SLR, highlighting severe consequences for both public and private sectors.

71% of buildings affected with 3m of sea level rise

\$60.7 BILLION in capital costs by 2050 with 1.5m of sea level rise



Extreme Weather Events

Violent storms ahead

In March 2023 the World Meteorological Organisation highlighted storm surge as the deadliest hazard linked to tropical cyclones worldwide. The Cayman Islands, with a vulnerable topography and a low average elevation of 7 ft on Grand Cayman, face heightened susceptibility. The tropical location exposes the islands to frequent hurricanes, experiencing impacts approximately every 2.23 years. Hurricane Ivan in 2004, a memorable event, led to Cayman ranking second globally for economic losses, with 83% of Grand Cayman's population directly affected, primarily by storm surge. Caribbean Risk Insurance underscores the islands as among the highest loss jurisdictions in the Caribbean, with many properties nearing the limit of insurability.

"ASYMMETRY IS INEVITABLE BUT WITH A PLAN WE ENSURE AN OFFICIAL RECORD OF WHO WE WERE AS A PEOPLE- WE DID EXIST, WE WERE IMPORTANT- I DON'T WANT TO BE FORGOTTEN"

Al Ebanks

The risks caused by climate change do not honour borders and boundaries, and the people of the Cayman Islands will either require complete self-sufficiency with less than 100 square miles of land coverage, compared to larger nations. The alternative is cooperation and equitable migration, especially for the vulnerable populations that have contributed little to the emissions of CO₂ in the atmosphere. It is hard to imagine Caymanians as “climate exiles”, when our culture has always been intertwined with the sea. However, there are transferrable skills and knowledge that Caymanians can offer anywhere they go, as they are a resilient and open people.

Adopting an open mindset

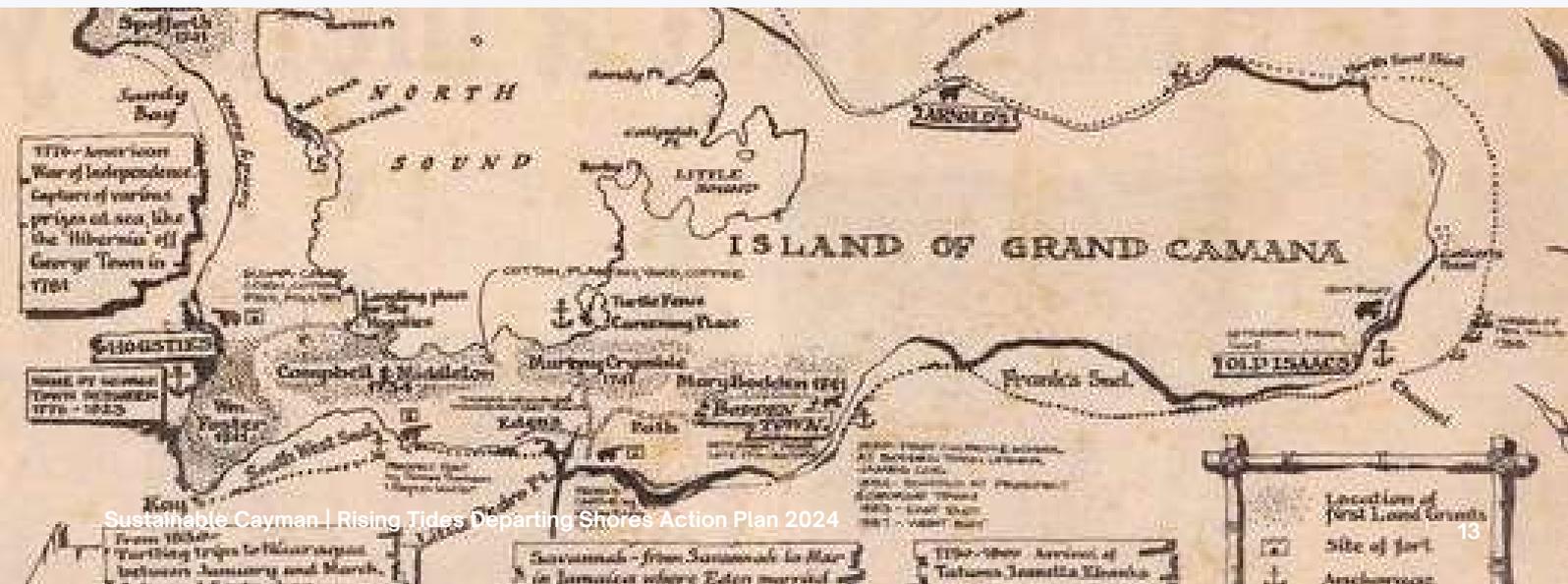
EMBRACING CHANGE: DOES SCOTLAND HERALD AN OPPORTUNITY?

Cayman was colonised by Europeans after the English Conquest of Jamaica in 1655. During the First and Second World War, many Caymanians used their skill as sailors to serve in the British Merchant Navy. Two-thirds of Caymanian men contributed to the war effort, the highest of any allied nation and their seafaring heritage is proudly heralded.

The Cayman people are of mixed European and African descent, coming from early British settlers and enslaved people from Africa. Developing a migration plan for Caymanian citizens, involves key considerations. Priority lies in selecting host countries open to migrants, with cultural affinities and economic opportunities. Logistics, legal frameworks, and infrastructure coordination are crucial, adhering to human rights standards.

Furthermore, social integration is pivotal, requiring programs for adaptation, support and community networks to aid in the development of programs to assist migrants in adapting to their new environment. Creating job opportunities, aligning skills with local needs, and collaborating with businesses are essential. Accessible education and healthcare services need coordination with host countries to accommodate the additional demand.

For a potential destination, Scotland offers shared British heritage, linguistic ties, and a coastal culture that aligns with Caymanian seafaring traditions. Diplomatic negotiations should explore the feasibility of migration to Scotland, emphasizing historical and cultural connections.



Preserving Cayman's Identity: A Decade-Long Vision for Collaborative Action

The Cayman Islands' financial sector should worry about sea level rise due to the potential risks to infrastructure and property values, impacting overall economic stability. As a significant international financial center, these risks could lead to cascading effects on physical assets and business operations. Incorporating climate risk assessments into strategies is crucial for long-term resilience, considering both physical and transitional risks associated with climate change. Genuine engagement is necessary for effective planning.

The Cayman Islands, reliant on finance and tourism, are at a critical crossroads, confronting the risk of uninhabitability from climate change. This forward-looking discussion aims to not only protect the islands but also actively mold a sustainable future amid threats like rising sea levels and extreme weather that jeopardize both the economy and the core of Caymanian identity.

"IT'S A CHALLENGING CONCEPT FOR ME TO GRASP. IT UNDERScores THAT MY FUTURE MAY NOT UNFOLD AS I ONCE THOUGHT. AS A BELIEVER IN CLIMATE CHANGE, IT'S CRUCIAL TO RAISE AWARENESS NOW FOR THE CAYMANIAN PEOPLE, IT'S IMPORTANT"

Hayley Roulstone



The Cayman Islands becoming uninhabitable holds profound consequences



Population Displacement

Over the next decade, rising sea levels and extreme weather events may force residents to relocate, prompting a strategic approach to migration.

Global Implications

The loss of the Cayman Islands as a global financial hub would have devastating ripple effects on international financial systems.

Economic Activity

Loss of habitability would severely impact the financial services and tourism sectors, emphasizing the urgency for a resilient economic model.

Cultural Disruption

The rich cultural heritage of Caymanians faces disruption, calling for strategies to preserve traditions despite potential relocation.

Environmental Consequences

Unique ecosystems and marine life could be severely impacted, demanding proactive measures to ensure biodiversity and global conservation efforts.



Voyage of hope

Considering the threats, we suggest exploring the establishment of a new economic town in Scotland for British Overseas Territory (BOT) passport holders. This envisions economic collaboration, emphasizing finance models centered on climate resilience and nature. The strategy aims to secure economic growth while fostering seamless integration, knowledge exchange, and regenerative finance collaboration between migrating Caymanians and Scottish communities. The following outlines measures for the coming decade.

01

Caymanian Expertise as a Beacon of Hope

Harness the financial prowess of the Cayman Islands as a beacon of hope in sustainable financial practices globally.

02

Tourism as a Cultural and Environmental Guardian

Embrace tourism as a cultural exchange and environmental guardian, sharing Caymanian traditions and fostering a deep connection with nature.

03

Coastal Protection: A Matter of Survival

Expand Cayman's knowledge in coastal protection and environmental conservation and regeneration, not just as a contribution but as a fundamental survival strategy.

● ECONOMIC COLLABORATION

Benefits of Passionate Cultural and Economic Exchange

Global Solidarity for a Common Cause

Ignite a sense of shared responsibility globally, where the struggle to save Cayman becomes a rallying cry for collaborative efforts to protect all vulnerable regions.
eg: establishing alliances with nations facing similar threats, creating a united front against climate change and the loss of nature on the global stage.

Emotional Connection Fuels Sustainable Practices

Infusing an emotional connection into tourism and financial practices, where every action becomes a heartfelt commitment to preserving Cayman's identity.
eg. sustainable tourism initiatives driven by a passion for environmental conservation and cultural preservation, creating a powerful narrative for change.



Leadership Cayman is a program
run by the Cayman Islands
Chamber of Commerce



● CASE STUDY

Creation of a Sustainable Finance Hub

Positioning the Cayman Islands as a regenerative finance leader in the next decade, presents an opportunity to make a substantial impact on global environmental challenges, where financial services could help to save the planet, while maintaining its status as a financial hub.

This innovative initiative, managed by a new security commission formed in collaboration with local, UK and Commonwealth stakeholders, aims to establish an offshore Regenerative Finance Fund. The fund would aim to address urgent global concerns, focusing on climate resilience and migration strategies for the Caymanian community. It would seek to blend financial expertise, sustainability principles, and inclusive community well-being for every generation, potentially becoming a model for sustainable finance that addresses local and global challenges simultaneously. By combining financial innovation with social and environmental responsibility, the initiative would offer a proactive solution to challenges, bypassing the conventional reliance on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) data.

“ARE WE GOING TO BE A HERO OR A VILLAIN IN THE STORY. WE MAY BE SMALL GEOGRAPHICALLY BUT WE ARE ALSO ON THE WORLD STAGE AS A LEADING OFFSHORE FINANCIAL JURISDICTION RECOGNISED AS HOLDING SOME OF THE BEST QUALITY FACILITATORS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS. BY SETTING MINIMUM STANDARDS WE CAN BE THE LEADERS IN STRUCTURED FINANCE FOR A BETTER PLANET.”

Winston Connolly, Chancery ESG

“Towards Net Zero: How Cayman Can Lead the World in Sustainable Finance”

To ensure transparency and efficacy, the security commission will operate as an independent non-profit entity with appropriate expertise and stakeholders. This structure will enable the Cayman Islands government and institutions to transparently direct funds into sustainable projects and investments with positive environmental and social outcomes, avoiding contributions to greenhouse gas emissions or deforestation and safeguarding critical natural resources.

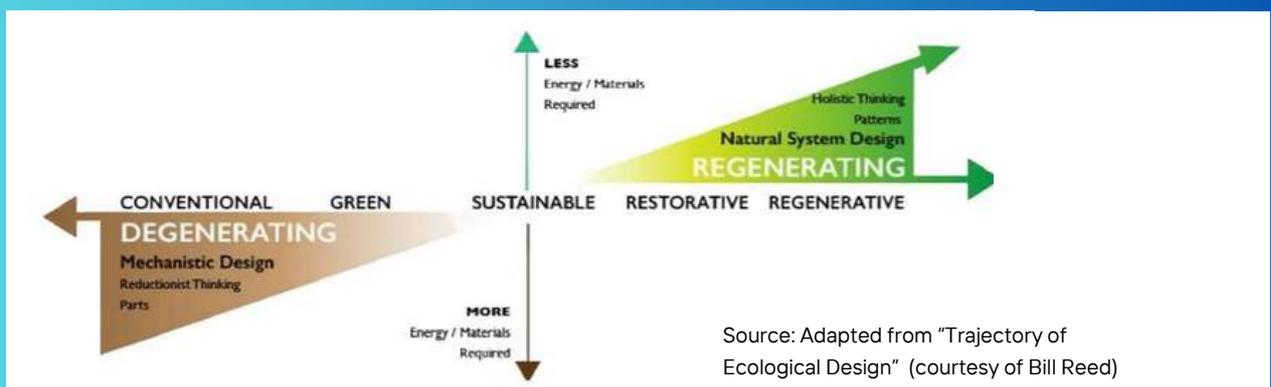
ReFi

Reimagining the meaning of money

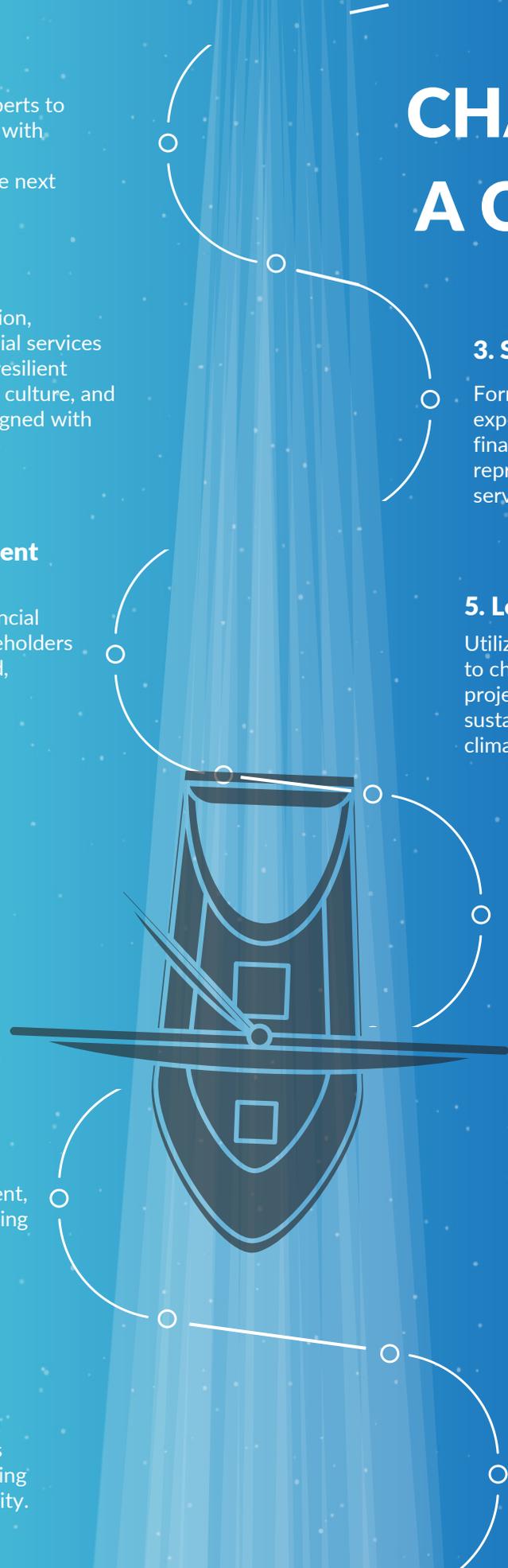
Exploring the principles of Regenerative Finance (ReFi) represents a clear mission: to transform our economic system into one that fosters social and ecological regeneration. The urgency of this transformation cannot be overstated. While our current economic model, which places significant emphasis on finance, has led to devastating consequences, it's important to recognise that finance is not the sole driver of climate change, economic injustice and pandemics. However, it is interconnected with the root causes that contribute to them.

ReFi offers a solution by aligning with the laws of natural systems and our scientific understanding of the world, in harmony with the compassionate values found in global wisdom traditions. Embracing ReFi means redefining wealth and reimagining finance to serve the emergence of an ecologically and socially regenerative economy. This approach not only addresses the root causes of pressing global challenges but also promotes the creation of thriving communities and a flourishing planet.

The vision of a Regenerative Economy, as sourced from John Fullerton's work on Regenerative Capitalism, taps into unseen potential and replaces unsustainable extractive growth. It is rooted in the essence of individual genius and the purpose of regenerative enterprises, extending to the entire socio-economic system. Shifting the perspective to see finance as serving the broader goals of the economic system can be challenging, but it's crucial for creating a more sustainable and equitable economic framework. This shift requires a fundamental reevaluation of priorities.



CHARTING A COURSE



1. Fund Formation

Collaborate with financial experts to structure the fund, aligning it with regenerative and sustainable investment principles over the next ten years.

2. Mission and Objectives

Clearly define the fund's mission, emphasizing the use of financial services and tourism to drive climate-resilient projects, preserve Caymanian culture, and create migration strategies aligned with economic aspirations.

4. Stakeholder Engagement

Engage with the Caymanian community, government, financial institutions, and tourism stakeholders to garner support for the fund, ensuring their participation in shaping its objectives.

3. Security Council Establishment

Form a security council comprising experts in migration, climate science, finance, and relevant fields, with representation from the financial services and tourism sectors.

5. Leveraging Financial Services

Utilize the expertise in financial services to channel investments into regenerative projects, green technologies, and sustainable infrastructure contributing to climate resilience.

6. Tourism Driven Initiatives

Integrate tourism initiatives that contribute to the economy and focus on sustainable practices, cultural preservation, and eco-friendly experiences, creating a positive feedback loop.

7. Investment Strategies

Develop investment strategies leveraging the strengths of the financial services and tourism sectors, ensuring they contribute to both economic growth and environmental sustainability.

8. Migration Solutions

Design programs leveraging economic pillars to create job opportunities, skill development, and community support, aligning migration strategies with the economic aspirations of the Caymanian community.

9. ESG Integration

Incorporate Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) considerations into the fund's investment criteria, emphasizing transparency and accountability.

10. Global Collaboration

Foster collaboration with international organizations, recognizing the unique strengths of the Cayman Islands' economic pillars in contributing to global efforts for climate resilience and sustainable development over the next ten years.



Call to action

Over the next decade, preserving Cayman's identity demands a visionary commitment. Through regenerative finance, leveraging expertise in finance and tourism, and embracing a sustainable future, the Cayman Islands can not only weather the storm but actively shape a resilient, thriving future for its people.

This is not just a strategy; it's a call to action for a decade-long journey towards a sustainable tomorrow. The journey is one of collaboration, resilience, and a commitment to preserving the essence of Caymanian identity for generations to come. By considering these elements, the initiative offers a holistic and inclusive approach that can serve as a blueprint for global collaboration, extending its positive impact and enabling the planned migration of Caymanians to a new resilient regenerative community in Scotland.

UK's Comprehensive Response to Crises in Overseas Territories: A Model of Support and Recovery

The United Kingdom's track record to handling crises in its Overseas Territories is comprehensive, encompassing immediate humanitarian relief, long-term recovery aid, and sometimes facilitating mass migration for affected populations. The response to the 1995 Montserrat volcanic eruptions exemplifies this approach, with the UK providing substantial financial aid, emergency supplies, full British citizenship for easier migration, and long-term development support. Similar strategies were employed in other crises, such as the aftermath of Hurricane Irma in the British Virgin Islands, the Falkland Islands conflict, and Hurricane Ike's impact on the Turks and Caicos Islands.

These cases underscore the UK's commitment to the immediate and sustainable recovery of its territories, highlighting a consistent policy of robust support in the face of natural disasters and crises. This history of support illuminates potential strategies for addressing the burgeoning challenges of displacement due to climate change-related sea level rise and extreme weather events.

● THE PRECEDENT

UK intervention following crises in its Overseas Territories (UKOTs)



1982

Falkland Islands
Conflict: April 2, 1982



1995

Montserrat
Volcanic eruptions



2004

Cayman Islands*
Hurricane Ivan
September 2, 2004

2008

Turks and Caicos Islands
Hurricane Ike
September 1, 2008



2017

British Virgin Islands
Hurricane Irma
September 6, 2017

* - Unofficial initial aid from Royal Navy



The Caymanian Spirit

A Tapestry of Hope and Resilience

In the intricate tapestry of the Caymanian identity, threads of emotion and culture intertwine, forming a narrative that resonates with personal stories and historical references. This section delves into the heart of the Caymanian experience, the rich cultural tapestry woven through tales of resilience and survival.

● CAYMANIAN IDENTITY

A Lifeline in Waves: Cayman's Seafaring Legacy

The sea has played an integral part in the survival and a symbol of the resiliency of the Cayman people. The sea once was and still is a cradle of sustenance, a conduit for travel, and a gateway to global commerce. It has been more than a geographic expanse for the people of Cayman—it's a vital chapter of their identity.



As generations come and go, the people of Cayman continue to sing folk songs and tell stories about Cayman long before we know it today. One notable example is "Munize Boat in the Sound" by [Julia Hydes](#), a well-esteemed Caymanian. It's a song known by heart to many people in Cayman, recounting the tale of fishermen returning from a long fishing trip in the 1930s. The imagery of the song vividly captures the joy and glee on the faces of the wives of these fishermen, considering it was commonplace not to see their partners return after days, weeks, and sometimes months at sea.

It is not hard to imagine that we, as the next generation in our current circumstances, will soon have songs similar to "Munize Boat" — songs or tales depicting the experiences of Caymanians making their next treacherous voyage onto the seas.

Perhaps we too will sing songs and tell tales to those who come after us, testifying to the experiences we will undergo and sharing what many Caymanians knew in their time. They had no choice; they had to find a way to survive.

● CAYMANIAN IDENTITY

Hurricane Ivan: A Modern-Day Epic

Hurricane Ivan emerges as another pivotal moment in Caymanian history. The emotional scars left by this powerful hurricane are still fresh, with stories of survival and recovery etched into the hearts of those who endured its wrath. The emotional landscape shaped by Ivan is one of resilience, adaptability, and an unwavering commitment to rebuilding shattered lives.

As individuals migrate, these survival stories serve as guiding lights, illuminating the path through the uncertainties of adapting to new environments. The emotional echoes of Hurricane Ivan become a source of strength, reminding Caymanians that they have faced and overcome challenges before, emerging stronger and more united. The storm, in its aftermath, transforms into a beacon of hope rather than a harbinger of despair.

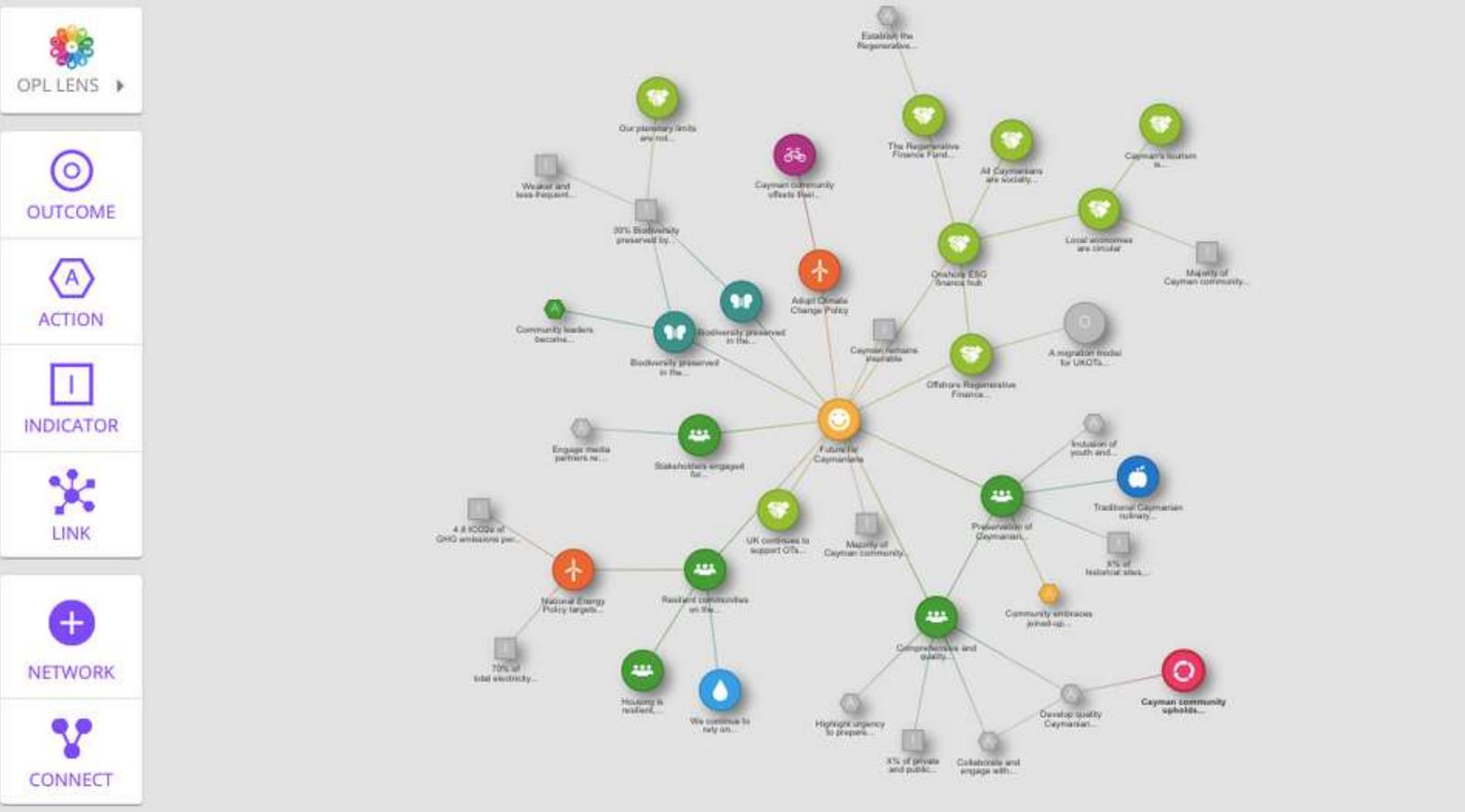
In the wake of Hurricane Ivan, the shared narrative of survival and rebuilding became a unifying thread, weaving through the fabric of the Caymanian identity. Families, neighbors, and communities leaned on each other for support, creating bonds that transcended the physical and metaphorical storms. The resilience cultivated during these challenging times didn't just fade away; it became an enduring legacy passed down through generations. The people embraced their ability to adapt, finding strength not just in overcoming adversity but also in the collective spirit that emerged from the challenges they faced together.

“WE’RE GOING TO DROWN OVER HERE...THERE’S NO WAY WE CAN GET OUT.”

Hurricane Ivan Survivor



MIND MAP



Rising Tides, Departing Shores One Planet Mind Map

The mind map we crafted for our report, "Rising Tides, Departing Shores," serves as a visual representation of the interconnectedness inherent in our proposed solutions. At its core lies the overarching goal: Future for Caymanians. Each branch that extends illustrates how each goal and action is intricately linked to the broader mission. Stakeholders from various sectors—government, public, and private—are depicted as integral components, all converging towards a unified approach to secure a future for the Cayman Islands. Key initiatives, such as adopting climate change policies, investing in regenerative finance, and establishing a comprehensive Caymanian education program emphasizing culture, heritage, history, and the environment, are depicted as essential pathways to achieving our collective vision. Through this mind map, we underscore the holistic nature of our strategy, recognizing the importance of addressing multifaceted challenges to secure a sustainable future for the Cayman Islands.

The plan is hosted on the OnePlanet Knowledge Hub:
<https://app.oneplanet.com/published/sustainable-cayman-community-ecosystem/plans/action-plan-1-sustainable-cayman>

Resources

Page 2

Grand Cayman Central Mangrove Wetland

<https://sustainablecayman.org/central-mangrove-wetland>

Adapt Now! (short OnePlanet film for COP26)

<https://youtu.be/0GmxZ4KRPIM>

Page 6

Cayman Islands Draft Climate Change Policy:

<https://www.gov.ky/climatechangepolicy>

UK Overseas Territories contain a real asset playing host to an estimated 90% of the UK's Biodiversity

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a755d99ed915d7314959669/pb13686-overseas-territory-environment.pdf>

Page 8

Local reporting on climate threats:

<https://www.caymancompass.com/2023/12/07/sea-level-data-a-wake-up-call-for-caymans-cop28-delegation/>

<https://www.caymancompass.com/2022/03/10/expert-climate-threats-already-impacting-cayman/>

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Rising Nations Initiative - UN Dept of Economic and Social Affairs:

<https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/rising-nations-initiative>

Rapid Review of the Regional Response in the Hurricanes Irma and Maria:

https://www.cdema.org/Rapid_Review_of_the_Regional_Response_-_Irma_and_Maria_Events_2017_Final.pdf

Maldives reveals "world's first true floating island city" to cope with rising sea levels:

<https://www.dezeen.com/2022/06/27/maldives-floating-city-climate-change-sea-levels/>

The UK's Plans and Progress to Reach Net Zero by 2050:

[chrome-](#)

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Page 10

[Harvey, B.J., Nash, K.L., Blanchard, J.L. and Edwards, D.P., \(2018\).](#)

[Ecosystem-based management of coral reefs under climate change. Ecology and evolution, 8\(12\), pp.6354-6368.](#)

“CLIMATE CHANGES ARE HAPPENING 70 YEARS EARLIER THAN PREDICTED, DRASTIC CHANGES ARE NEEDED IN FOUR YEARS OR ‘WE ARE COOKED’”

*Sir David King, former UK Chief Science Advisor
Interview July 2021*

Resources

[Petzold, J. and Magnan, A.K. \(2019\). 'Climate change: thinking small islands beyond Small Island Developing States \(SIDS\)', Climatic Change, 152\(1\), pp. 145–165. Available at: https://doi.org/10.1007/s10584-018-2363-3.](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10584-018-2363-3)

Page 11

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Page 12

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Page 16

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Page 18

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Page 19

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Page 25

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“TODAY, IT IS UP TO US TO RECOGNISE SIMPLY THAT IF WE DON'T ACT NOW, THAT WHAT WILL BE LEFT OF OUR PLANET WILL BE INHABITABLE NOT FOR US; THE MAJORITY OF US WILL MAKE IT...BUT IT IS YOUR CHILDREN AND YOUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN WHO WILL NOW HAVE TO FIND, IN MANY PLACES, NEW PLACES TO LIVE.”

*Honourable Mia Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados
20th Nelson Mandela Annual Lecture in eThekweni on 12 November 2022*

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THANKS

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