



**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT**  
CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

5 June 2020

### **Seizing the Moment to Transition to a Greener Economy**

Following the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Cayman Islands Government took deliberate action to suppress the virus and preserve lives. However, the need to limit the local economic impact of the pandemic is now also urgent. Although economic diversification will form an important part of this recovery and future resilience, truly sustainable economic recovery also requires cross-sectoral collaboration and focus to ensure that this recovery strengthens and re-builds the economy, whilst protecting the environment and the social fabric of the Islands.

In support of the economic recovery efforts of the Government, and in keeping with our mission, the National Conservation Council and the Department of Environment has identified below a series of opportunities to help sow the seeds of an economic recovery plan that builds resilience and has the principles of sustainability embedded at its core. While we have experienced a period of unprecedented upheaval, changing nearly every aspect of our daily lives, it has also provided opportunities to make changes that will result in more climate-sensitive and resilient systems which are better able to manage and mitigate similar future events. As we work towards opening up of the local economy, we must therefore also take deliberate action to plan for a future which capitalises on these opportunities and embraces sustainability.

When strategising on the future economic recovery of the country, it is important to take stock and reflect on the position which immediately preceded the onset of COVID-19 and those aspects of life that could be improved or enhanced as part of the recovery plan. Traffic gridlock, biodiversity loss, and habitat fragmentation were all among the consequences of unbridled growth before COVID-19. On the west side of Grand Cayman alone, 72% of the wetlands have been lost since 1976 to canal-style residential subdivisions and tourism-related uses. Our Central Mangrove Wetland, the ecological heart of Grand Cayman, is under constant development pressure, and our biodiverse primary forests and shrublands are also being cleared and fragmented at alarming rates. As a result, and without the benefit of a national system of terrestrial protected areas to serve as refugia, the populations of several species of endemic plants and animals are under imminent threat. While Marine Parks exist, they are no longer fit for purpose and our vulnerable marine resources continue to be threatened by an ever-increasing human population. There is still no up-to-date comprehensive Development Plan for Grand Cayman and no Development Plans at all for the Sister Islands, who are at increasing risk of losing their unique biodiversity, cultural heritage and identity. Sustained rapid growth is therefore already having an appreciable impact on the quality of life that we all desire.

The issue of climate change and the failure of countries to address its underlying causes underpins the global environmental crisis. The International Energy Agency (IEA) has predicted that the world's carbon dioxide emissions are expected to fall by approximately 8% this year.<sup>1</sup> According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in order to get in line with the Paris Agreement, global emissions must drop 7.6% **per year** from 2020 to 2030. In order to reach this target, our National Energy Policy (NEP, 2017) commits us to achieving total peak greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 (this year) while not exceeding 2014 per capita emissions of 12.3 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, all while striving to achieve the Paris Agreement goal of 4.8 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per capita. This will not happen and emissions will quickly rebound<sup>2</sup> unless each country, including the Cayman Islands, acts urgently and responsibly. For small, low-lying countries such as the Cayman Islands, the science is now clear that current and future climate-related drivers of risk during the 21<sup>st</sup> century include sea level rise, stronger tropical cyclones or hurricanes, increasing air and sea surface temperatures and changing rainfall patterns. Climate change is therefore a very real and current threat which cannot be addressed or mitigated without long-lasting structural change. We must not squander this opportunity for 'green' stimulus as a component of the economic recovery plan. In keeping with the NEP's Goal 2 which seeks to position the Cayman Islands as "a destination of excellence and the standard for the development and application of sustainable energy solutions in small island developing states" we must also join over two dozen Caribbean Governments (including UK Overseas Territories) in the world's first climate-smart zone in modernising digital, physical and social infrastructure to become a zone of climate-smart development.

COVID-19 has changed our lives in ways that may have seemed impossible. Surviving the transition to COVID-19 protection measures was hard, but moving forward in a sustainable way will be easier. Through collective, planned and deliberate action, we can make key changes that will have long-lasting effects on the environment and provide for a sustainable future and a better quality of life.

In order to assist with the islands' economic recovery in the short-term and transition to a greener, more sustainable economy, we believe that changes must be made in eight key sectors. The intention underpinning these recommendations is to highlight opportunities for potential stimulation of employment (short-term gains), leading to large 'learning curve' effects, which will generate longer term benefits. High level explanations of the rationale for the recommendations are included below along with a sample of the wider range of recommendations contained in Appendix 1.

## **1) Energy Independence & Diversification**

The energy economy of the Cayman Islands is based almost entirely on imported oil products and the pandemic has shown just how variable the world markets can be. The NEP (2017) sets out ambitious targets to enhance and embrace a sustainable lifestyle through responsible and innovative energy supply and consumption. In a post-pandemic world, renewable energy is even more important in order to reduce economic and infrastructure vulnerability. Volatility in fossil fuel prices creates uncertainty and threatens energy security. The cost of renewable energy technologies continues to decline at unprecedented rates and investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency can increase green

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<sup>1</sup> International Energy Agency. (April 2020) Global Energy Review 2020. <https://www.iea.org/reports/global-energy-review-2020>

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Environmental Programme. (2019). Emissions Gap Report 2019. <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/30797/EGR2019.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

jobs throughout the Cayman Islands, grow the local sustainable energy industry which supports greening of the tourism and construction sectors and real estate market, and provide us with energy security for a climate-resilient future.

As part of our economic recovery plan we could:

- *Immediately implement a government policy to install solar energy on all new government buildings and to retrofit solar energy on all existing government buildings on all three islands, including hurricane shelters, hospitals and schools, in order to make use of the current solar energy allocation for government buildings.* This would support existing workforces and generate green jobs in the short-term as well as increase resilience and decrease the costs of running government buildings in the long term.
- *Mandate OfReg to work with CUC to establish a new version of the CORE program to significantly expand and simplify its implementation and make the best use of Cayman's capacity for rooftop solar (distributed generation).* Cayman's established green jobs are under threat from the limitations of the CORE program and current economic conditions. By expanding and simplifying the CORE program, the government can make best use of established delivery mechanisms and market structures to develop new green jobs and support existing buildings. In addition, lower energy bills could free up capital to be spent elsewhere and build resilience and energy independence.
- *In line with the NEP, establish and promote duty concessions for energy efficient certified or eco-labelled appliances, electronics, office equipment, lighting, heating and cooling, and building products (use EPA Energy Star scheme as guidance).* Ensure retailers pass on these cost savings to their customers. Not only would this help with energy consumption, it would also increase spending in local stores and bring forward deferred purchases, increasing the demand for skilled installation technicians and labour.

## **2) Sustainable Tourism**

As we look to the future reopening of the Cayman Islands' tourism industry, now is the time to ensure that when we restart, we can promote and deliver a high quality, truly sustainable tourism product. We have a window of opportunity to make changes which did not seem possible when our tourism industry experienced very little down-time; changes which help us to emerge stronger than ever, with a larger and more diverse set of employment opportunities for Caymanians. An analysis of the carrying capacity of our existing attractions will help to ensure that they are managed appropriately to maximise visitor experience and satisfaction without compromising the integrity of the attraction. The opportunity to enhance and promote alternative/additional tourism attractions, such as National Parks, can be explored.

To facilitate the diversification of Cayman's tourism offering away from mass cruise tourism, Cayman can direct its energy to upmarket tourism with patrons offered safe and enjoyable islands shielded from COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. Our new tourism product can focus on our natural advantages of safety, clean seas and coastlines with expanded biodiversity activities showcased by trained and certified guides on the three islands.

As part of our economic recovery plan we could:

- *Expand protected areas through the designation of Crown land and the purchase of private lands nominated by the NCC, allowing completion of National Parks and scope to develop visitor infrastructure (trails, interpretation, visitor shelters or even visitor centres in some cases) for recreation and nature tourism at places like Meagre Bay Pond, Hemmington Forest on Cayman Brac, and Barkers. This would create direct jobs during construction and then provide new, green tourism jobs and new tourism attractions to enhance our tourism product. Being able to advertise the islands as a truly environmentally responsible destination, demonstrated through the protection of its most-unique biodiversity and development of well-thought out nature-tourism experiences, is also a very powerful marketing tool.*
- *In line with the recommendations of the National Tourism Plan, develop carrying capacity plans for our most popular attractions so that they can be managed for sustainable tourism once we reopen. Planning for our future tourism now will enable us to ensure Caymanians are made ready to take up more tourism roles and ensure a higher quality of life for those Caymanians, as well as enhance our tourism product.*
- *Mandate the development and implementation of a national certification programme for tourism guides which draws on the knowledge, expertise and experience of existing environmental and cultural departments and Non-Governmental Organisations. This would ensure that, moving forward, visitors receive accurate information about Cayman's environmental and cultural resources and take away an authentic Caymanian experience. During the ongoing period of 'down-time' for many tourism enterprises, furloughed or unemployed workers could be required to obtain certification, possibly tied to the receipt of any further unemployment benefits, in readiness for the re-opening of the industry.*

### **3) Building Renovations**

According to the IEA, energy efficiency actions (like solar panels, installing insulation, tinting windows, and servicing air conditioners) are labour-intensive and benefit small to medium-sized businesses. These businesses and low- to mid- income-bracket households need our support during the economic recovery. Energy efficiency measures have long-term benefits to the cost of running homes and businesses – freeing up capital to be spent elsewhere in the economy. Many energy efficiency measures are low-cost, easy-to-implement measures that can bring economic benefits and cheaper energy bills. Energy efficiency actions not only support the goals of the NEP, but they can also help to meet the goals of economic stimulus programmes by supporting existing workforces and creating new jobs, boosting economic activity in key labour-intensive sectors and deliver long term benefits such as increased competitiveness, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, improved energy affordability and lower bills.<sup>3</sup>

As part of our economic recovery plan we could:

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<sup>3</sup> International Energy Agency. (April 2020). Energy Efficiency and Economic Stimulus. IEA Strategic Considerations for Policy Makers. <https://www.iea.org/articles/energy-efficiency-and-economic-stimulus>

- *Subsidise and encourage measures to improve the energy efficiency and performance of homes to benefit many levels.* Improved home insulation can help reduce energy costs and Government-subsidised home insulation schemes could be explored, especially for lower-income households, including window tinting.
- *Develop grant schemes and green loans for building renovations* through local banks, Cayman Development Bank and the CICSA Credit Union to support retrofits for private home owners, perhaps supported by ‘green’ capital from international financial institutions e.g. World Bank or Caribbean Development Bank.
- *Develop standard solar panel-equipped carport plans that meet the requirements of CUC and the Building Control Unit to allow for ‘off-the-shelf’ plans to be available for solar carports.* A current barrier to implementing solar panel-equipped carports is that each project is undertaken from scratch. Off-the-shelf plans would encourage uptake by streamlining the process and would generate additional government revenue.

#### **4) Sustainable Mobility and Transport**

No one is looking forward to sitting in stand-still traffic again. The changes we have experienced under the Shelter-in-Place restrictions can be leveraged into long lasting change so that we can be more productive as a society, spending less time in our cars. Our roads can be repurposed, retrofitted and redesigned to make our journeys quicker and more pleasant as well as reduce greenhouse gases and air pollution emissions. Private vehicle use is the second-highest contributor to our national emissions<sup>4</sup> and is one way people can change their actions for the better if given the right opportunities. There are many quick fixes (e.g. improving Old Crewe Road, existing pedestrian easements, formalising informal routes with easements and physical improvements). Internal neighbourhood connections could be improved by land acquisitions or law. Enabling the uptake of sustainable mobility options can support clean energy transitions while increasing well-being and productivity. Measures to control COVID-19 have changed everyone’s working patterns; this disruption will allow for long lasting changes towards more sustainable mobility patterns and practices going forward.

As part of our economic recovery plan we could:

- *Accelerate the National Roads Authority’s Complete Streets initiative by building and protecting green corridors and segregated bike lanes.* Repurposing and retrofitting our existing streets would provide direct jobs through construction and improve quality of life as well as generate health benefits.
- *Reduce transport impacts by executing action 3.4.4.3 of the NEP’s Implementation Plan “Adopt measures to decrease road demand” through providing government incentives and leading by example by facilitating staggered hours of work and encouraging regular working from home under normal conditions.* Our response to COVID-19 has proven that e-commerce and e-

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<sup>4</sup> Aether. (2020). The Cayman Islands’ GHG Inventory 1990-2018.

Government are absolutely possible with huge benefits for reducing our carbon footprint. Fewer hours in traffic would also increase productivity and quality of life.

- *In addition to the measures already taken in 2019, further duty and licensing concessions should be granted to electric tour and public buses, scooters, bicycles and other low-emission vehicles.* With lower duty and licensing fees applied to low-emissions vehicles, it may encourage spending on these items, supporting local supply chains.

## **5) The Recovery of Biodiversity**

How we emerge from the state of lockdown will have lasting effects on global biodiversity. The reduction in environmental degradation as a result of the pandemic has the potential to trigger enormous benefits on biodiversity and conservation outcomes. It seems likely that this virus emerged due to wildlife exploitation and the risk of new diseases increases with environmental degradation.<sup>5</sup> We are calling for a plan for nature, one that sufficiently invests in the protection, restoration and sustainable management of biodiversity, and that repositions nature at the heart of sustainable development.<sup>6</sup>

Along with increased focus on nature tourism, the control of pests and invasive species (both plant and animal) needs to be addressed, with legal regulations in place to allow humane control. For example, failure to address predation by feral cats has already threatened two breeding seasons of endemic populations of our Blue and Sister Islands Rock iguanas and rare colonies of large seabirds. The control of invasive species and pests is a proven employment generator on the islands.

As part of our economic recovery plan we could:

- *Allocate further budget for the green iguana cull and evaluate potential to expand to feral cats and chickens.* Further budget for iguana culls and other expansion to feral cats and chickens would provide employment opportunities with low barriers to entry and exit. It would also provide an elastic interim opportunity responsive to demand so cullers normally operating in the tourism sector could return to tourism once the sector reopens.
- *Pass the Enhanced Marine Parks Regulations.* The existing Marine Parks were proven to have economic benefits to fishing and tourism. The enhanced Marine Parks were designed with consultation of local fisherman and passing the Marine Parks Regulations can bring about further economic benefits by protecting and enhancing the ecosystem services that we enjoy through recreation, tourism and fishing,<sup>7</sup> and raising Cayman's international image and marketing potential as a proactive champion of the marine environment.
- *Support turtle friendly initiatives and implement the Turtle Friendly Lighting duty exemption.* The proposal is already being considered by Government and its implementation would make the purchase of certified turtle friendly lighting products more financially attractive, whilst creating

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<sup>5</sup> Pearson et al. (22 May 2020) Covid-19 recovery can benefit biodiversity. Science 368(6493) pp 838-839.

<sup>6</sup> Ervin, Jamison. (27 March 2020). Apply the hard lessons of coronavirus to the biodiversity crisis. United Nations Development Programme.

<sup>7</sup> Wolfs Company. (2017). The Economics of Enhancing the Marine Protected Areas of the Cayman Islands.

green jobs for local electricians and other maintenance works, not just in new construction but in the numerous retrofits needed for established properties. Retailers who stock the products would also enjoy a boost. Wild sea turtle nesting is a huge tourism-draw for the islands and it coincides with the traditionally low-season for tourism (May to November). The DoE is developing an accreditation scheme for properties that have turtle friendly lighting, so that they can promote themselves as being a turtle friendly property which has already proven a powerful marketing tool.

## **6) Sustainable Agriculture**

The threat of COVID-19 made many fear for food security. As we move forward, we must confront and resolve a number of issues and challenges that have impeded the country from achieving its full agricultural potential and increasing domestic agricultural output. The future vision must be a robust and sustainable agriculture sector.

As part of our economic recovery plan we could:

- *Improve education of students and the community at large in agricultural techniques, for example, by using a programme similar to 4-H.* Education in agricultural techniques can encourage agricultural jobs, equip our children with useful skills and knowledge and increase agricultural efficiency.
- *Identify and protect land that is or has been traditionally used for agriculture from conversion into housing. Land traditionally under cultivation should be mapped and, unless there is a compelling reason to change from that use, then it should remain as land for agriculture.* Protecting agricultural land prevents farmers from being pushed out by development pressure, increases yields and efficiency and safeguards primary, undisturbed ecologically sensitive habitats.
- *Support local farmers in the implementation of modern agricultural techniques such as hydroponics, vertical growing, shade houses, closed loop farming, and encouraging renewable energy.* Efficiency measures can not only improve earnings, create sustainable agricultural jobs and contribute to food security, but they will also help to protect biodiverse, environmentally sensitive land from inappropriate conversion to agriculture. In addition, modern intensive farming techniques will diversify traditional farming jobs and will potentially appeal to a greater cross-section of the labour force.

## **7) Amenities and Connectivity**

For many people, pre-pandemic daily life was consumed with commuting to work, driving to the gym, and shuttling home. With the Shelter-In-Place restrictions introduced, many people have found themselves walking, jogging or cycling for the first time in years, and appreciating their local community in a new way. But many communities have found themselves without adequate access to useable recreational space, walking along the edge of roads with no sidewalks and no segregation from traffic. Many have found that their communities have no meaningful areas of play for their children or places of respite for the elderly or weary pedestrian. This period of reflection brought about by COVID-19 can be

used to channel sustainable development for communities, so that all citizens and residents have access to amenity and recreation spaces to keep happy and healthy.

As part of our economic recovery plan we could:

- *Prioritise the formulation of neighbourhood plans, which ensure that districts have access to usable open space, green corridors and safe transit routes for non-motorised travel, affordable housing, and local infrastructure as appropriate e.g. shop, post office, community centre, playing field(s), recycling drop-off points etc. Neighbourhood plans should be underpinned and guided by community engagement and involvement.*
- *Develop a variety of parks (including dog parks) and nature and urban trails for hiking and biking (ranked highest among those surveyed for PLAN Cayman).*
- *Develop and enforce guidelines for the development of Crown property, including making best use of existing assets and other opportunities on Crown property to provide residents with reasonable amenity space/recreation space within walking distance.*

## **8) Circular Economy**

A circular economy means designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use and regenerating the natural system. It means sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and recycling existing materials and products for as long as possible. The post-COVID-19 economic hardships will affect us all, but some are likely to be hit harder than others. A circular economy can provide resilience and a helping hand to those in need, while reducing waste and creating employment in adjacent sectors of the economy.

As part of our economic recovery plan we could:

- *Develop initiatives to divert ‘good enough’ materials from the landfill e.g. furniture that needs reupholstering or refinishing, cabinets from renovations etc. By increasing the domestic market for goods (e.g. selling second hand products which have been up-cycled), we could increase local spending and avoid importing new items which sends money off-island.*
- *Invest in training opportunities, education, courses etc. for local people in “green” jobs e.g. electric vehicle maintenance, solar panel installation, environmentally sensitive landscaping design. Encouraging training can increase the number of Caymanians in green jobs.*
- *Partner with UCCI or Inspire Cayman to train people involved in the circular economy e.g. providing workspaces and classes to develop e.g. woodworking skills, cabinetry repair skills. Providing classes and workspaces for circular economy initiatives can increase job opportunities and increase skills within our local population*
- *Start a “Cash for clunkers” program to get unroadworthy vehicles off the roads and reduce the number of discarded vehicles so they can be recycled/scrapped. A Cash for Clunkers scheme can reduce unsightly vehicle dumping, and decrease emissions from old cars. Not only would there*



be benefits by increasing cash-in-hand for people who properly dispose of unroadworthy vehicles, but it would also create economic benefits in the supply chain by driving new sales as people may bring forward new purchases by using that cash to purchase newer energy efficient cars. A properly managed salvage yard where cars are stored prior to disposal but accessible for parts recycling could also assist with a circular economy.

## Appendix 1

To achieve our aims, we have developed a range of suggestions that could feature in the Economic Assessment and Stimulus Plan for our islands.

Goal	Initiative
Energy Independence and Diversification	<p>Install solar energy on government buildings on all three islands including hospitals and schools in order to make use of the solar energy allocation for government buildings.</p> <p>Establish a new version of the CORE program to significantly expand and simplify its implementation, make the best use of Cayman’s capacity for rooftop solar.</p> <p>Review duty waiver on renewable energy technologies and update as necessary.</p> <p>Establish and promote duty concessions for energy efficient certified or eco-labelled appliances, electronics, office equipment, lighting, heating and cooling, and building products (use EPA Energy Star scheme as guidance). Ensure retailers pass on these cost savings to their customers.</p> <p>Establish national fuel efficiency standard and incentivise use of new and existing vehicles that meet this standard.</p> <p>Launch a national energy efficiency campaign run through a central hub for information on energy efficiency measures, programs, and product and service availability promoted by retailers and service providers</p>
Sustainable Tourism	<p>Expand protected areas by land purchases, allowing completion of National Parks and scope to develop visitor infrastructure (trails, interpretation, visitor shelters or even visitor centres in some cases) for recreation and nature tourism at places like Meagre Bay Pond, Hemmington Forest on Cayman Brac, and Barkers.</p> <p>Develop carrying capacity plans for our most popular attractions so that they can be managed for sustainable tourism once we reopen.</p> <p>Assess options for managed shoreline retreat (e.g. removal of seawalls and structures located on the active beach) and other environmentally-beneficial works that can be undertaken when there are no visitors.</p> <p>Work with DOT to identify synergies between the employment needs of the environmental and tourism sectors as part of the adaptation strategy in Government’s 3-year Cayman Islands Tourism Recovery Plan.</p> <p>Reinstate environmental programmes for the tourism sector e.g. CEPTS to ensure that tourism properties, tour operators and attractions are operating sustainably and are continuously improving sustainability practices to meet certification criteria. Implement the recommendations of the Global Sustainable Tourism Council’s destination report on the 3 islands.</p>

Goal	Initiative
<p>Building Renovations</p>	<p>Subsidise and encourage measures to improve the energy efficiency and performance of homes to benefit many levels. Improved home insulation can help reduce energy costs. Government-subsidised home insulation schemes could be explored, especially for lower-income households, including window tinting.</p> <p>Develop grant schemes and green loans through local banks, Cayman Development Bank or the CICS Credit Union to support retrofits for private home owners, perhaps supported by 'green' capital from international financial institutions e.g. World Bank or Caribbean Development Bank.</p> <p>Develop standard solar panel-equipped carport plans that meet the requirements of CUC and the Planning Department to allow for 'off-the-shelf' plans to be available for solar carports.</p> <p>Implement a duty waiver for lower carbon building materials and practices.</p> <p>For new and major renovations of commercial buildings, provide substantial incentives to building owners for projects that demonstrate significantly higher efficiency than conventional buildings of the same category and size (use EPA Target Finder calculator tool).</p>
<p>Sustainable Mobility and Transport</p>	<p>Build green corridors and segregated bike lanes and accelerate the NRA's Complete Streets Initiative.</p> <p>Provide government incentives and lead by example to reduce transport impacts by facilitating staggered hours of work and encouraging regular working from home under normal conditions.</p> <p>Duty waivers for bicycles and other low emission vehicles in addition to the positive recent changes made.</p> <p>Waive licensing fees for electric and hybrid buses/public transport.</p> <p>Reduce licensing fees for scooters or other low-emission vehicles that use roadways (for all owners, not just public transport).</p> <p>Accelerate the development of a more comprehensive public transport system and create innovative ways (including pricing structures) to incentivise its use. Enhance and expand ferry services and terminals at key nodes, ensuring adequate bus and taxi support services to facilitate onward journey of passengers to the Central Bus Depot, other business centres and attractions. Subsidise conversion to fuel efficient marine engines (biofuels if feasible).</p> <p>Establish vehicle emissions standards.</p> <p>Set a target for electric vehicles on the roads and implement measures to accomplish it.</p>

Goal	Initiative
The Recovery of Biodiversity	<p>Allocate further budget for iguana cull and potential to expand to feral cats and chickens</p> <p>Pass the Enhanced Marine Parks Regulations.</p> <p>Support turtle friendly lighting initiatives.</p> <p>Establish additional protected areas for local people and as nature reserves.</p> <p>Implement measures associated with the Mangrove Conservation Plan such as mangrove planting projects, ‘train the trainer’ workshops for mangrove trimming, etc.</p> <p>Relaunch the ‘Sea Sense’ initiative with a focus on sustainable locally sourced seafood and develop a health and sustainability campaign targeted at lowering meat consumption in the face of rising meat prices and potential global shortages.</p> <p>Launch a survey on social media platforms to identify areas most photographed or where people experienced bird song or interaction with wild species during shelter-in-place and determine how best to recognise and preserve these areas (e.g. existing overlay or new designation which could be integrated into PLANcayman and other policies)</p>
Sustainable Agriculture	<p>Protect prime agricultural land from conversion into housing. Map land traditionally under cultivation and, unless there is a compelling reason to change from that use, then it should remain as land for agriculture.</p> <p>Support local farmers in the implementation of additional modern agricultural techniques.</p> <p>Encourage sustainable aquaculture.</p> <p>Update DOA’s Food Security and Nutrition Policy to reflect realities and lessons learned from COVID-19 and support its implementation.</p> <p>Revive lands left fallow and invest in practices to increase yields <i>in situ</i> wherever possible prior to clearance of new areas.</p> <p>Assist farmers to transition to more drought- and salt-tolerant crop varieties Find synergies with agri-tourism to provide further employment opportunities and diversification of the domestic and wider tourism economy.</p> <p>Ensure adequate provisions exist in PLANcayman and Planning regulations to support urban and community gardens, and rooftop gardens, and other food production techniques outside of traditional agricultural land use.</p>

Goal	Initiative
Amenities and Connectivity	<p>Build green corridors and segregated bike lanes and accelerating the NRA’s Complete Streets Initiative.</p> <p>Develop and enforce guidelines for the development Crown property, including making best use of existing assets, to provide residents with reasonable amenity space/recreation space within walking distance.</p> <p>Prioritise the formulation of neighbourhood plans, which ensure that districts have access to usable open space, green corridors and safe transit routes for non-motorised travel, affordable housing, and local infrastructure as appropriate e.g. shop, post office, community centre, playing field(s), recycling drop-off points etc. Neighbourhood plans should be underpinned and guided by community engagement and involvement.</p> <p>Encourage the better use of existing government facilities and investigate ways to make existing government buildings more accessible.</p>
Circular Economy	<p>Start a “Cash for Clunkers” program to get unroadworthy vehicles off the roads and reduce the amount of discarded vehicles so they can be recycled/scrapped.</p> <p>Develop initiatives to divert ‘good enough’ materials from the landfill e.g. furniture that needs reupholstering or refinishing, cabinets from renovations etc.</p> <p>Explore regulation change to open up the possibility for greywater reuse, composting toilets, rain gardens and soakaways, constructed wetlands and other water reuse measures</p> <p>Encourage large-scale composting to make better use of vegetative waste instead of sending it to the landfill.</p> <p>Invest in training opportunities, education, courses etc. for local people in ‘green’ jobs e.g. e-vehicle maintenance, landscaping design.</p> <p>Partner with UCCI or Inspire Cayman to train people involved in circular economy e.g. providing workspaces and classes to develop e.g. woodworking skills, cabinetry repair skills.</p> <p>Encourage a trial of sustainable effluent treatment at the Cayman Turtle Centre.</p> <p>Develop a utility body focusing on sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) in order to properly advise on solutions to avoid flooding. This would directly create jobs to staff the utility and create additional jobs in the private sector for implementation of SUDS.</p> <p>Assess and investigate the need for importation of aggregate given the programme of works and development in Cayman.</p>