

THE TIME

to act

IS NOW



SUSTAINABILITY CHARTER 2021

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Uncle Sammy's Pond in West Bay, GCM



Introduction



Mangrove seedling in
Red Bay, GCM

The Environment Charter signed by the Cayman Islands with the UK in 2001, states that all people need a healthy environment for their well-being and livelihoods. Since its twenty years of existence, we believe that not enough has been done to satisfy the ten principles it pledged to.

Further, the targets outlined by the United Nations' (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – which British Overseas Territories have a global commitment to - have not been met. The UN's Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development was signed by all 193 member states, and is critical because it is a “universal call to action to protect the planet, end poverty and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity.”

Governments, scientists, and communities around the world have agreed that business as usual is no longer an option. Climate change, habitat destruction and over-exploitation of natural resources such as forests and fisheries are now doing great harm to human health, our wellbeing, culture and livelihoods, particularly among Caribbean nations. This negligence threatens today's and future generations.

We - and many others - recognize that the health of our environment, society, and economy - the three pillars of sustainability - are all central to our prosperity. Our welfare depends on a happy, healthy, and safe community, which requires a stable and resilient environment. Acknowledging these connections as a foundation for all human activities is necessary if genuine sustainability is to be truly achieved.

People-Driven Solutions

We also recognize that the Cayman Islands is a democracy, meaning that the Government is accountable to its citizens and must be responsive to the peoples' will. In order for this system to work, the people must participate in their own democracy by organizing and crafting solutions.

Thus, we encourage participatory democracy in our islands and will amplify the voices of those citizens holding our Government accountable. Through this, we wish to foster a positive allyship between community and government, and collaborate on solutions that benefit all of Caymanian society.



In moving forward with solutions, Amplify Cayman will be using the 10 One Planet Living Principles (OPLPs) which support and complement the international standards of the 17 UN SDGs and LEED v4 initiatives; and our own national framework of the 2001 Cayman Islands Environment Charter and The Cayman Islands Constitution (particularly sections 15 through 21).

We believe Cayman should be following internationally accepted and supported principles, and measuring our progress using universally recognized metrics. A multilateral approach is necessary to achieve the balance these targets aim for. We will work collaboratively with partners, from all sectors and communities, on initiatives to support these goals.

It is time to become a sustainable culture, working together to pursue bold and innovative local, regional and global regenerative projects for the common good; to invest in the business of restoration with Reciprocity as the new status quo. What is Reciprocity? It is “our ethical obligations to care for, restore, and protect the land and resources that, in turn, support our existence.”

People-Driven Leadership

"Each generation owes the next generation a moral duty to be good stewards of, and minimise as far as possible any harm to, this planet we all share."

- Premier Wayne Panton

PACT Policy Commitments 2021:

- Update and adopt the 2011 climate change policy;
- Ensure climate change policies are included in development laws;
- Fully implement the National Energy Policy;
- Raise duty on items that are not environmentally friendly;
- Establish a sustainability and climate change task force;
- Change existing laws to regulate construction in the dynamic beach zone.
- Review and revise the national development plan;
- Increase the number of solar farms through public/private partnership; and
- Upgrade CI Government facilities to utilise renewable energy.
- Enact stiffer fines and penalties for environmental violations and limit the sale of Crown lands.
- Re-plant buffer zones that have been damaged and ensure the protection of existing mangroves, which act as natural carbon sinks.
- To protect against future environmental destruction, we will continue the purchase of land, especially beach lands, for public usage and the benefit of generations of Caymanians to come.

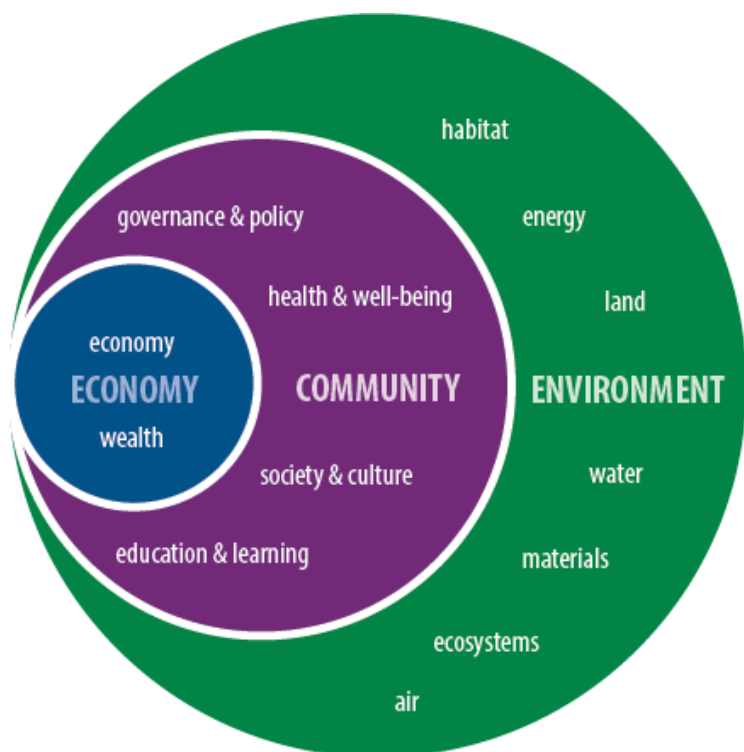
"For all residents, including this and future generations of Caymanians, to understand the importance of sustainability, we will build awareness and understanding of climate change through increased environmental education in schools and an integrated public education campaign on the effects of climate change."

- Premier Wayne Panton



Premier Wayne Panton
Inauguration Day, April 21 2021

Interdependence



This is the "Nested Interdependence" model showing environmental, community and economic dimensions of sustainability. This model expands on the basic three pillars and the "three legs of a stool" model, which is based on the premise that ecology, society, and economy are equally important. The nested circle framework recognizes that social and economic activity must occur within ecological limits. Economics depends on community, and both depend on the shared environment.

- **Environment** - is stewarded for current and future generations
- **Community** - is supportive, creative, equitable and accessible for all
- **Economy** - grows in balance with ecological and community wellbeing



Our future depends on a happy, healthy, and safe community, which requires a healthy, stable and resilient environment.

Sustainability

Charter

We, the people of Amplify Cayman hereby subscribe to:

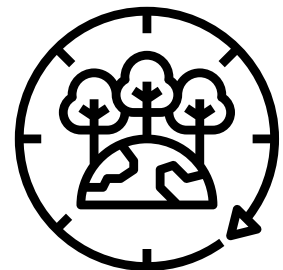
ACKNOWLEDGE

that we have a moral and social responsibility to make Cayman and the world a better place for current and future generations.



UNDERSTAND

that the pursuit of Global Environmental Sustainability aims to meet the needs of present generations without jeopardising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.



RECOGNISE

the global, regional and national challenges to all three pillars of Sustainability:

- Environmental

the ongoing pollution of our home - our islands and our planet - habitat destruction for millions of species, and the refusal to acknowledge planetary boundaries, leading to rapid loss of biodiversity and to the global climate emergency.

We call upon decision-makers to undertake a multilateral approach to the global environmental crisis, to declare a state of climate emergency and to communicate the urgency for change.

- Social

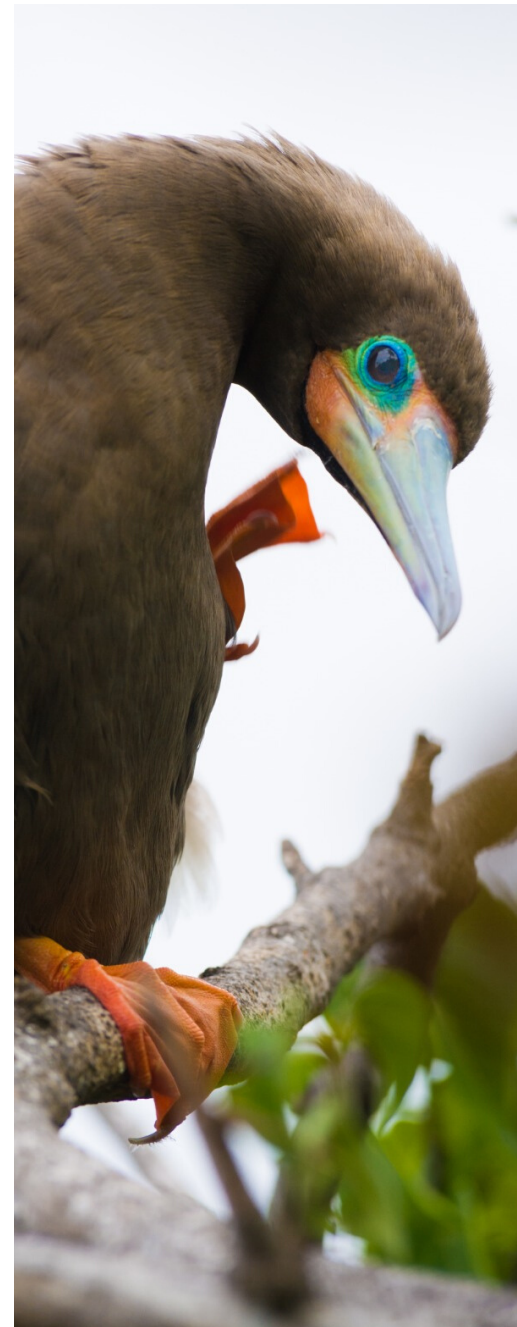
barriers to inclusion, growing inequalities, the normalisation of disrespectful speech, weakened democratic institutions, lack of solidarity and of civic education.

We call upon decision-makers to tackle the growing inequalities in society such as inclusion, healthcare and education, fair pay, cost of living and social benefits for all.

- Economic

inhibited equity, following a model that creates great disparities in society and stimulates overconsumption by focusing on short-term economic growth and profit at the expense of society and the environment.

We call upon decision-makers to rethink our economic models and find alternatives in which economic prosperity, social equality and environmental protection go hand in hand - in which success isn't just measured by GDP growth, but by human happiness.



Red Footed Booby
Little Cayman

**The challenges
to the three pillars require
local and global action.**

Commit, Empower & Call to Action



Sister Island Rock Iguana in Cayman Brac

COMMIT

to incorporating the three pillars of sustainability into everything we do, with the model of nested interdependence as a foundational guideline.

COMMIT

to ensuring that elected officials and public agencies are held accountable to us, its citizens, and to encourage participatory democracy.

COMMIT

to demanding from every politician and decision-maker to lead the systemic change that is necessary in order to mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis, move towards a fair and equal society and a suitable economic model for the challenges of our generation and the ones to come.



Silver Thatch Palm at sunset, East End, GCM

EMPOWER

the people to work towards environmental sustainability and achieving the SDGs through non-formal education, awareness-raising and our collective actions. We will inspire others to get active in the fields of sustainability and movements for climate, environmental and socio-economic justice.



CALL

upon every politician and decision-maker to acknowledge their moral and social responsibility to make the world a better place for current and future generations.

CALL

upon everyone in the process: individuals, civil society, governments and businesses. It is only by educating all stakeholders about these issues, increasing participation and creating citizens' assemblies, that we can mobilise ethical leadership to bring about the balance that all people deserve.



Key Points & Initiatives

Sustainability is providing for our current needs while ensuring the ability for future generations to provide for theirs.

Resilient economies depend on empowered communities which depend on a healthy environment - nested interdependence.

Participatory democracy enables us to hold leaders accountable and lobby for working together for the common good. Sustainability will require active participation from *all* of us.

The Time is Now to put aside differences, arrange priorities, embrace reciprocity and *take action* for future generations.

Environment

- Policy that prioritizes conservation
- Community awareness and education of ecological importance
- Restoration and Stewardship of Nature

Community

- Empowered communities create national unity
- Prioritize equity, education, participation and accessibility
- People-driven neighbourhood planning and development
- Partnership in Caribbean and Global initiatives

Economy

- Human resource investment in every sector
- Innovative Blue & Green local commerce
- Collaborative partnerships to address Climate Action



Nassau Grouper at
The Capt Keith Tibbetts Wreck in Cayman Brac

Amplify Cayman is a public advocacy group for sustainability that is composed of local professionals and community members, and collaborates in partnership with non-profit organizations.

Our goal is to ensure that elected officials, public agencies, and the public at large have the knowledge needed to shape policies and practices that have the long-term sustainability of our communities, economy, culture, and environment in mind.

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We thank you for supporting our efforts to contribute to Sustainability and Climate Action in the Cayman Islands.

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Photos courtesy of Amplify Cayman volunteers; pgs 5, 8, 9, & 11 courtesy of Courtney Platt
 Cover Photo: *Everyone is Part of the Solution...*

This is an evolving document and will be reviewed yearly.