



PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL PARKS ORDINANCE AND REGULATIONS



Please review the proposed amendments (see below) along with the maps and send you comments/suggestions to environment@gov.tc .

	COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS
1. Reword/Redefine Interpretation (National Parks Regulation Section 8(2) for “fishing zone” and add “non-commercial fishing zone” “fishing zone” means a zone established under regulation 6(1)j.ii “non-commercial fishing zone” means a zone established under regulation 6(1)j. i	
2. Reword Regulations 3. (1) The following are prohibited within all national parks— <i>(d)</i> the removal of sand, rock, coral, coral-rag or any calcareous substance <u>except where such removal is necessary to maintain wise-use and access to a navigational channel, dock or marina.</u>	This is too wide open and subject to the interpretation of whoever is in charge – wise use could mean anything. Too broad – retain the current wording.
3. Reword Regulation 3(1)(c) To reword Regulation 3(1)(c) as follows: (1) The following are prohibited within all national parks- (c) the destruction of, or damage or injury to any animal or plant, <u>except for allowable uses as outlined under Section 4(1)(a) of the Ordinance, or activities covered under a valid scientific research permit.</u>	Not a necessary change as it is clearly subordinate to the Ordinance. This change would potentially open the door for development within National Parks that is inconsistent with the original intent of the National Parks system as it is subject to interpretation as to what is “allowable” development.
4. Reword Regulation 3(2) <i>The following are prohibited within all nature reserves-</i> 3(2)(a) <i>the taking of any animal or plant by any method on land or at sea, except to the extent permitted in any fishing zone or non-commercial fishing zone and for allowable uses as outlined under Section 4(1)(b) of the Ordinance or activities covered under a valid scientific research permit</i>	Again there is no need to change it as it is clearly subordinate to the Ordinance. This change would potentially open the door for development within Nature Reserves that is inconsistent with the original intent of the National Parks system as it is subject to interpretation as to what is “allowable” development.

<p>5. Reword Regulation 3(3)<i>The following are prohibited within all sanctuaries- 3(3)(c) the taking of any animal or plant by any method on land or at sea, except for allowable uses as outlined under Section 4(b)(2) of the Ordinance, or activities covered under a valid scientific research permit</i></p>	<p>Same as above</p>
<p>6. 6(1)j to reword Regulation 6(1)j as follows: 6(1)j.i. <i>non-commercial fishing zone where, subject to the Fisheries Protection Regulations, non-commercial recreational fishing from the shoreline or from the piers or jetties within the zone is permitted, using light tackle of not more than 30 pounds breaking strain. 6(1)j.ii. fishing zone where, subject to the Fisheries Protection Regulations, commercial and recreation fishing within the zone is permitted, provided in possession of a valid commercial fishing license. Additional conditions may apply (e.g. no traps allowed).</i></p>	<p>Fish populations are already under pressure and the only thing struggling to sustain them at the present time are the Marine Protected areas. Allowing recreational and commercial fishing in National Marine Parks and Nature Reserves will further degrade the populations of commercially valuable fish species.</p>

7. With the re-wording of Regulation 3(1)(c), it would allow developments in protected areas as outlined in Belonger Business Opportunities in Protected Areas (Mehta et al., 2005) such as following:

Project	Proposed Location	COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS
Interpretive Centre	Gun Hill (South Creek National Park)	
Nature Trails	South Creek National Park	
Heritage House Café and Nature Tours	Salt Cay Area of Historic Interest	
Various Ecotourism Projects	South Caicos	
Lucayan Village and Interpretive Centre	Pigeon Pond and Frenchman’s Creek NR	
Ec lodge	Ramsar Nature Reserve	
Park and Nature Centre	Flamingo Pond, North Caicos	
Visitor Centre	Yankee Town, West Caicos	

8. While the above developments are appropriate for some protected areas, they are not suitable for all. For example, an ecolodge

is appropriate for the North and Middle Caicos Ramsar Nature Reserve; however, it would not be appropriate in the South Creek National Park on Grand Turk. It is therefore recommended that further studies be undertaken to determine the capability of the protected area to sustain such developments.

The following guidelines for developments in protected areas:	COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS
a) All development must be in keeping with the spirit of the National Parks Ordinance, which has a stated purpose of “the conservation of the natural environment and ecology of the islands.”	This makes sense
b) All development must be “off the grid,” and must have sustainable means of generating electricity, treating wastewater and providing fresh water, e.g. solar and wind generated renewable energy, wastewater reuse and rainwater collection.	Would this be in the Regulations or Ordinance? Seems to make sense, but only if it doesn’t adversely affect the protected area ecosystem (e.g., via pollution from wastewater)
c) All developments must be constructed of natural materials and should be designed to avoid the need to clear any vegetation. For example, wooden structures supported by piles, rather than cement slabs, etc.	Makes sense, but how durable will these structures be?
d) No artificial landscaping will be permissible, and no landscaping chemicals, e.g. fertilizer, pesticide, herbicide shall be used.	Regulation or Ordinance? What about farming that is allowed in some protected areas – will they not be able to use fertilizers?
e) No development shall take place until appropriate locations for such development are identified via a thorough study, undertaken by qualified environmental professionals, which incorporates environmental impact assessment. The proposed locations and developments in the Belonger Business Opportunities Report are recommended.	And the EIA process must be a process open for public review and comment.

9. Add Ticketing Powers for Enforcement Officers

Provides for ticketing powers for DEMA Officers, issuing fines of \$300+, depending on offence. Ticketable offenses should include the following:	COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS
a) Harassment, including but not necessarily limited to aggressive	These are all good

sales by vendors, uninvited touching, sexual harassment, refusal to take “no” for an answer;	
b) Reckless operation of a vessel, including but not limited to operating a vessel within 300 feet of a shoreline, except in a boat access lane, speeding or operating a vessel in such a fashion as to pose a threat to the public;	This should be extended to 400 feet as swim zone outer edges are located 300 feet from low tide mark
c) Anchoring a vessel in a boat access lane;	
d) Vending other than in a designated commercial zone;	
e) Loading and unloading passengers, other than in a boat access lane;	
f) Failure to clean up after an animal (horse or dog, etc.);	
g) Lighting a bonfire without a permit;	
h) Littering.	
i) Swimming inside restricted areas (e.g., the boundary buoy line at Coral Gardens	Although sites like this are well marked and labeled with keep out notices (signage and buoys), it remains a frequent occurrence and causes damage to those reef systems

10. The following other issues, revisions and recommendations:

a) <i>Vendors</i> –no vending activities should be allowed in a protected area, other than in a designated commercial zone.	<i>There is no definition of a designated commercial zone in the Ordinance or Regulation</i>
b) <i>Customer Service Training</i> – All holders of commercial licenses within National Parks should be required to attend Customer Service Training as a prerequisite to the acquisition of the license.	
c) <i>Beach Structures</i> – An inventory of all beach structures should be done. Beach structures, including chairs, tents, etc. shall be required to be registered by DEMA, with an applicable registration fee. The registration numbers should be clearly displayed on the structure, and the structure should be removed from the beach at the end of each day.	<i>The requirement to remove chairs and umbrellas each day is overly burdensome on resorts both financially and from a wear and tear perspective on the beach chairs, tables, and umbrellas – removal in case of inclement weather should be mandatory. – Would the inventory be a one time event or annual? How do you account for varying</i>

	<p><i>numbers of chairs, etc set out on the beach at different times of the year? Would the fee be one time or annual and how do you intend to indicate that a chair or umbrella has been included in the inventory? Seems impractical - perhaps a better way is to charge an annual fee to resorts for use of the public beach</i></p>
<p><i>d) Other Equipment – Kayaks, paddleboards, etc. shall be removed from the beach at the end of each day.</i></p>	<p><i>Does this include small sail boats, such as Hobie Cats? Could potentially result in damage to dunes as these items are pulled up into the dunes and off the beach</i></p>
<p><i>e) Government Vehicles – An amendment to regulation 3(1)(j) should make allowance for government vehicles, such as police ATV's, etc.</i></p>	

Name of PAs	PROPOSED AMMENDMENTS TO BOUNDARIES	JUSTIFICATIONS	COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS
NP1 Admiral Cockburn Land and Sea National Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend the boundary of the Park to include all marine habitats up to the high water mark and extending to 300 feet offshore from the fringing coral reef, along the entire eastern coast of South Caicos. The extended area should be designated as a fishing zone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent wall diving and representative coral reef ecosystem The area having a predominance of berried female lobsters Critical habitat- migratory pathway and spawning/nursery areas To ensure that fringing coral reef and the breeding grounds for fish are protected. Fishing will be allowed by declaring such area as “fishing zone” with certain conditions. 	<p>We assume that every change must go through delineation of the new boundaries by the Survey Department and the AG’s office which will take a considerable amount of time.</p> <p>Although we applaud the addition of area to the National Park, the key question here are what are the “certain conditions” to make it a fishing zone – also adding “certain conditions” to fishing zones in National Parks creates special regulations that may vary from Park to Park which will be very confusing. Fishing zone boundaries should be clearly marked on the water</p> <p>There also is a seasonal migration of rock fish for mating purposes through this area which should be protected</p>

<p>NP2 Chalk Sound National Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove residential lots from the National Park but with sufficient buffer zones to the north west of the Sound. • All wetlands as depicted on the attached map should be retained in the National Parks. • All developments in these parcels should be in accordance with planning regulations and shall be subject to EIA. • Planning Department should establish strict guideline for the development of these parcels to minimise and mitigate against the potential impact which the further development of those lots could have on the NP. • A buffer zone along the northern and eastern boundary up to the existing road should be annexed to the NP. • Silly Cay and surrounding waters to Silly Pond is to be removed from the NP. • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic water, bonefish, boating, picnic area. • Mangroves and other vegetated buffer zones should be protected and not destroyed neither disturbed. The vegetated buffer zone can be enhanced by conducting an assisted-natural regeneration project and/or performing various silvical treatments. • The beach area and surrounding mangroves near and/or around Silly Cay are pristine and believed to be an important habitat for fishes. • Critical habitat- spawning/nursery areas • Sufficient buffer zones will be established to protect the ecological integrity of the national park. • Some residential lots are developed and were deemed to have been legally obtained from TCIG. • TCIG may be forced to compensate the lot owners. 	<p>If Silly Cay mangroves and beaches are pristine and important habitat for fishes, why is it being removed from the National Park? Doesn't make sense.</p> <p>The commercial lots on the southern edge – none of which have been developed – should not be removed, including Silly Cay and Silly Creek as they provide access from the water to the Park – as was observed during Joaquin, Silly Cay acts as a buffer for storm surges reaching into the Park – also commercial development on these bordering lots may adversely affect the spawning and nursery areas in the Park and in the mangroves around Silly Creek</p> <p>As there are homes that were build in the residential area before the owners learned they had built in the Park, either some form of compensation or special treatment should be considered – but lots which have not been built upon should not be taken out and the owners are probably going to have to be compensated.</p>
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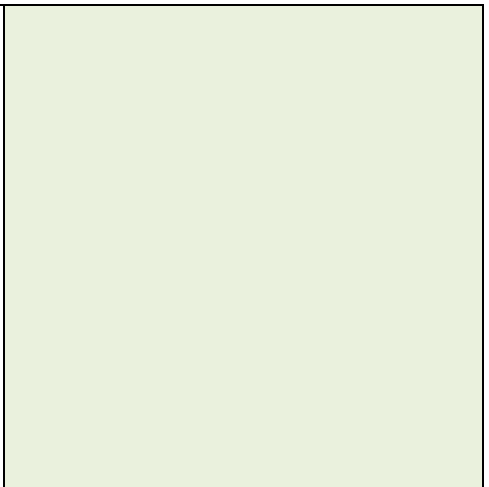
<p style="text-align: center;">NP3 Columbus Landfall National Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change “fishing zone” to “non-commercial fishing zone” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change to align with 2nd type of fishing zone 	<p>If it is currently designated as a fishing zone under the current regulations, we have no problem with this change</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">NP4 Conch Bar Caves National Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend the NP to include Indian Cave and the Jacksonville/East Caicos caves. • Designate above water areas in caves as Nature Reserves and below water areas as Sanctuaries. • Land areas outside the caves shall remain as National Park. • Indian Cave shall be designated as a National Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The entirety of the cave ecosystem is not contained within the PA. • Critical cave habitats remain outside of protected area at Indian Cave on Middle Caicos and at Jacksonville on East Caicos • The caves are unique and protection is necessary to this critical and sensitive area to a number of species at risk. • The areas immediately above the caves should be protected to avoid unnecessary damage to the caves underneath and for ecological connectivity reasons. • Home to rare species – locally, regionally and internationally • Cultural value – symbolic, intellectual and experiential value. 	<p>It would appear that a new National Park is being proposed - Indian Cave National Park and this makes sense as the proposed additions are quite extensive</p> <p>This entire area should be deeded to the National Trust to insure that the surface lands are not removed from the Park in the future for commercial or residential use</p>

<p>NP5 East Bay Cays Land and Sea National Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend NP areas to include reef areas off North and Middle Caicos. • Extended areas are to be designated fishing zones. • Extend but adjust the boundaries to exclude eastern cays to allow for future port developments to fuel socio-economic development. • All developments shall be subject to Planning Regulations including EIA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic islands and favorite picnic area • The reef areas requires protection so that they will serve their functions to protect the shore. • Fishing will be allowed (to be designated as fishing zone) but with some restrictions • Critical habitat • Intellectual (scientific research) and experiential value 	<p>We are pleased with the addition of territory to this Park, but concerned that designated fishing zone “with some restrictions” is once again creating a special set of rules for one Park that don’t apply to other Parks – this will make compliance and enforcement more complicated - fishing zone boundaries should be clearly marked on the water</p>
<p>NP6 Fort George Cay Land and Sea National Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend to connect with the Princess Alexandra National Park. • New areas are to be designated as fishing zones. • No fishing is to be allowed within 500 feet of a dive mooring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural and historic values • 1789 English fort; shipwreck; canons in shallow water, iguanas, ospreys and wading birds. • Excellent dive, snorkel and picnic sites • To extend protection to the area in between PALSNP and FTNP, for ecological connectivity reasons. • Fishing will be allowed (to be designated as fishing zone) but with some restrictions. 	<p>We are pleased with the addition of territory to this Park, but concerned that designated fishing zone “with some restrictions” is once again creating a special set of rules for one Park that don’t apply to other Parks – this will make compliance and enforcement more complicated – fishing zone boundaries should be clearly marked on the water - appreciate the addition of no fishing within 500 feet of dive mooring as dive moorings are currently used frequently by fishers</p>

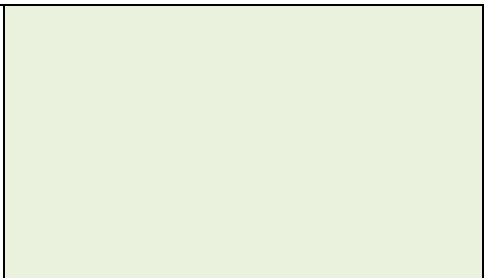
<p>NP7 Grand Turk Cays Land and Sea National Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-designate all cays, with the exception of Gibbs Cay as Nature Reserve. • Gibbs Cay to remain National Park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Grand Turk Cays Land and Sea are important habitat for seas birds, fish nurseries, day outings and picnics. • Gibbs Cay prized for recreational features, and Penniston and Martin Alonzo Pinzon cays prized as critical habitats for internationally-important pelagic seabird populations and endangered sea turtle (also on Gibbs Cay). • Gibbs Cay remain as National Park to facilitate the public's enjoyment of its unique recreational features • Other remaining cays will be reclassified as Nature Reserve. 	<p>We applaud the proposed changes but wonder if any of the Cays to be added to the Nature Reserve are currently privately owned and therefore will the owners be compensated for the change in status of their property?</p>
<p>NP8 Northwest Point National Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change. The recommendations of the Nautilus Report were not supported by a 2/3 majority of the NPORC (National Parks Ordinance Review Committee). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent wall diving 	
<p>NP9 Princess Alexandra Land and Sea National Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See above. Extend to connect with Fort George Cay National Park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological connectivity reasons • Excellent for dive and picnic excursions, iguana, ospreys, mangrove and marine life • Critical habitat- migratory pathway and spawning/nursery areas 	<p>Same comments as made about Fort George changes</p>

<p>NP10 South Creek NP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change. The recommendations of the Nautilus Report were not supported by a 2/3 majority of the NPORC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetlands, mangroves, viewpoint, tourist destination, picnic areas, small boat activities and harborage Represents the largest, unspoiled tract of land on the island of Grand Turk that has protective status 	<p>Agree that no change is needed or should be made</p>
<p>NP11 West Caicos Marine National Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend the boundary to include the southern marine areas of West Caicos from the high water mark to 300 feet off the fringing reef, including all of the coastal areas off the southern tip of West Caicos up to Sandy Point. The extended area is to be a fishing zone. Only line fishing will be allowed. No fish pots or traps will be allowed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent wall diving Ecological connectivity reason To protect spawning and breeding areas Critical habitat- migratory pathway and spawning/nursery areas 	<p>We are pleased to see this area being added to the National Park, but again concerned that special regulations on fishing make each Park subject to it's on unique set of fishing regulations complicating compliance and enforcement – fishing zone boundaries should be clearly marked on the water</p> <p>Also, grouper spawning aggregations must be protected</p>
<p>NR 12 Admiral Cockburn Nature Reserve</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change – the current boundaries are satisfactory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rare rock iguana, breeding terns and Magnificent frigate birds 	<p>Agree no change needed or should be made</p>

<p>NR13 Bell Sound Nature Reserve</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-designate as National Park. • Allow catch-and-release bonefishing. • Extend to include some shoreline vegetation and mangrove • Establish a buffer zone around the Sound 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-designation to allow for recreational and amenity area such as catch and release of bonefish. • To protect the shoreline and ecological integrity of the area. 	<p>We agree that this is a reasonable change – but could be some local resistance as it has been a historic area for netting bonefish for personal consumption</p>
<p>NR 14 Cottage Pond Nature Reserve</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change – the current boundaries are satisfactory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bird nesting 	
<p>NR 15 Dick Hill Creek & Bellefield Landing Pond Nature reserve</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change – the current boundaries are satisfactory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bird nesting 	

<p style="text-align: center;">NR16 Lake Catherine Nature Reserve</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change – the current boundaries are satisfactory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic value and interest to naturalists, large hyposaline lake supporting abundant pint bivalve mollusk and black mussels • Critical habitat - habitat of sea turtles and birdlife including flamingos with old causeway and small islands offering bird nesting sites • Cultural value • Scientific and experiential values • Regulation and maintenance – flow regulation 	
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<p style="text-align: center;">R17 Ramsar Nature Reserve</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjust the boundaries of the Nature reserve near the North Caicos International Airport to allow for possible extension of the runway to 9000 ft. • Adjust the boundaries of Ramsar site to extend to East Caicos but exclude McCartney Cay as it is private property. • Adjust the boundaries of the shallow seaward margin on the south/west of the Ramsar Site to be delineated by the low water tidal. • Jacksonville should be declared an Area of Historic Interest. • The East Caicos Caves shall be annexed to the Nature Reserve. • Nanny Pond shall be annexed to the Nature Reserve. • Where pine yard lands are in Crown ownership, they shall be annexed to the Nature Reserve. • Where wetland habitats on East Caicos are in Crown Ownership, they should be annexed to the Nature Reserve. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • natural, representative mangrove system; bird diversity; ocean hole; iguana; flamingo; arawak villages; West Indian Whistling Duck 10% of "a population"; fish and turtle nurseries • critical habitat • Cultural values – Arawak village • Rare species - bird diversity, ocean hole, iguana, flamingo, West Indian Whistling duck 10% of population, fish, turtle nurseries. • Provisioning values- nutrition and materials • Scientific and experiential values • Extension of the boundaries will allow for more protection of the area (environmental protection reasons). • De-listing some areas near the NC airport will allow for future expansion of the airport (Socio-economic reasons) • The area represent a natural mangrove system, • Ramsar Sites are designated for wetland areas and the shallow bank area may extend beyond this purpose 	<p>No problem with removing a small portion of the of the Nature Reserve to allow for airport expansion.</p> <p>Ramsar treaty mandates that the site must include water to 6 meter depth at mean low tide, so adjusting the seaward margin on the south/west side to the low water tide mark would be a violation of an international treaty to which the TCI is a party</p> <p>All of East Caicos should be a protected area as it is the largest uninhabited island left in the Caribbean and a pristine example of what the Caribbean was like before large scale development began – it is an international treasure that should be preserved. Also Thatch Cay is an important tern nesting area – East Caicos has the highest ecological value in the Caribbean</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">NR 18 North West Point Nature Reserve</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change – the current boundaries are satisfactory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A prime example of red mangrove lagoon habitat with an abundance and diversity of lagoon fauna, serving as a nursery and food source for neighboring waters, • An important feeding area for migrant wading birds and breeding area for locally common waterfowl species 	
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<p>NR19 Pigeon Pond & Frenchman's Creek Nature Reserve</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjust the PA boundaries in West Harbour Bluff to exclude the commercial and residential subdivision in order to allow for some sort of development including the development of Marina/dock for West Caicos Development. • Offer protection of rock carving as site of historic interest. • A sufficient buffer zone should be established. • All developments in the area removed from the nature reserve should be in accordance with planning regulations and subject to EIA. • Adjust boundaries to exclude 7 commercial lots south of Amanyara development (Block 60000) – see proposed maps, prepared by Survey and Mapping. • All development in this area should follow Amanyara style of development (low density development). • All Wetlands should remain in the Nature Reserve. • Commercial lots which were allocated in this reserve should remain in the protected area. • Titleholders should be offered a land swap or compensation for the monies expended on the lease fees, purchase price, registration fee, survey fee, plus 6% interest • If titleholders do not accept, title is retained and development restricted to what is permissible under the NP Ordinance. • Planning guidelines/policies for development should apply to these parcels. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical habitat –important habitat for wetland birds • Species and community biodiversity • Regulation and maintenance – physical environment, biotic environment • Scientific and experiential values • Removal of some lots will allow for some kind of developments, subject to existing Planning Regulations (EIA). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buffer zones will be established to ensure that environmental integrity of the Nature reserve (environmental protection reasons). 	<p>The West Harbour Bluff should not be removed as it not only contains the mentioned rock carvings, but is an important osprey nesting area and a very popular tourist attraction (Pirate Cove/Cave)</p> <p>It says that a “sufficient buffer zone should be established” – for what></p> <p>Any area removed from the protected area will only be subject to normal planning regulations, which means anything goes and should not be allowed</p> <p>The adjustment of boundaries to exclude “7” commercial lots (the map shows 12 lots of 10 acres each) being removed – the provisions that thses lots should “follow Amanyara style of development” has no meaning and any 10 acre lot will be able to accommodate 12 story developments (who defines “Amanyara style of development”</p> <p>The commercial and residential subdivisions should not be excluded to allow “some sort of” development. The parties “purchasing” these lots all knew at the time of purchase that the land was within the Nature Reserve and subject to restrictions. This property is subject to AG Chambers action and no change should be made.</p>
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**NR 20 Princess Alexandra Nature Reserve
(Donna, Mangrove and Little Water Cays)**

- No change – the current boundaries are satisfactory

- Picnic excursions, iguanas, osprey, mangrove
- Species and community diversity
- Critical habitats – migratory pathway/stopover, spawning/nursery area, nesting site
- Intellectual (scientific) and experiential values
- Home to rare species/endemic species – internationally rare species (Rock Iguana)
- Regulation and maintenance – physical and biotic environment

Since Little Water Cay and Water Cay are now joined at Half Moon Bay, where does the boundary end?

<p>NR 21 Pumpkin Bluff Nature Reserve</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change – the current boundaries are satisfactory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This habitat functions as only a fraction of a wider wetland ecosystem - including Moore Hall Pond, Mangrove Pond, St. Thomas Hill Pond, a boiling hole, and surrounding seasonal marshes and swamps; • wildlife utilizes all of these habitats intermittently and requires all of them for long-term sustainable populations; • This NR has no upland terrestrial buffers making it vulnerable to adjacent value, which could further undermine its values for wildlife. 	
<p>NR 22 Vine Point (Man O' War Bush) and Ocean Hole NR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change – the current boundaries are satisfactory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical Habitat - frigate bird nesting area; and 220' deep by 1200 ' wide hole in 3' shallow sand bottom 	
<p>S23 Big Sand Cay Sanctuary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend boundaries of the Sanctuary to include the surrounding reef complex. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical Habitat – nesting birds • Migratory pathway or stopover • Spawning and nursery area. • To extend further protection to the reef (environmental protection reasons). • Important nesting for birds and turtles 	<p>Agree with this change as it provides extra protection for sea birds</p>

<p>S24 French, Bush and Seal Cays Sanctuary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate dive sites off French Cay as National Park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To extend further protection to the reef as dive sites (environmental protection reasons). • Critical Habitat – nesting sea birds, terns and Frigate birds • Migratory pathway or stopover • Spawning and nursery area 	<p>We presume this will be designated as a new National Park – will need to be policed regularly by DEMA to protect from poachers</p>
<p>S 25 Long Cay Sanctuary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change – the current boundaries are satisfactory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nesting terns, flora, iguanas 	
<p>S26 Three Mary Cays Sanctuary</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-designate as National Park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanctuary or Nature Reserve status, which is awarded to areas of critical ecological significance, is not merited in this case. • a popular picnicking spot, and it is therefore recommended that this PA be renamed as a National Park • To allow more usage in the area without losing its ability to protect the sites. 	<p>Agree with the change, but encourage provisions be included to protect/provide for safe nesting of ospreys</p>

<p>HA27 Boiling Hole Area of Historic Interest</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-designate as Nature Reserve. • Increase boundaries to include wading areas for flamingos and other ecologically important salina areas. • Adjust the boundaries of Boiling Hole to remove some parcels near the basketball court • Sufficient buffer zones should be maintained near the XSC Airport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical and cultural values • Critical habitat for birds • Regulation and maintenance of physical and biotic environments • Intellectual (scientific) and experiential values. • The Boiling Hole and adjoining Salinas are important habitat for birds 	<p>Applaud the change and the additions to protect these important habitats and historical areas</p>
<p>HA28 Cheshire Hall Area of Historic Interest</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend boundaries to include access road. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical value • To allow for the development of the frontage area for TCNT, subject to existing Planning Regulations 	<p>Seems like a logical addition</p>
<p>HA 29 Fort George Historical Area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change – the current boundaries are satisfactory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical value - 1798 English Fort 	

<p style="text-align: center;">HA30 Endymion Wreck</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include reef areas surrounding the wreck as National Park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical value - 18th century shipwreck in shallow water • the presence of other wrecks in the area would also indicate reasons for increasing the limits of this historic site. • To extend protection to the reef areas near the wreck (environmental protection reasons). 	<p>Another good addition – assume it will become a new National Park</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">HA 31 Molasses Reef HA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change – the current boundaries are satisfactory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical value - site of oldest known wreck in W Hemisphere • the DECR amended maps now indicate the wreck and surrounding areas of patch reef as included within the site 	
<p style="text-align: center;">HA 32 Salt Cay Salt Works and Village Area of Historic Interest</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-designate Town Salina areas as Nature Reserve. • Re-designate whaling station areas as Nature Reserve. • Extend Nature Reserve to include creek areas. • Retain town land areas as Area of Historic Interest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical values - salt works, historic building including brown and white houses; • Critical habitat – important habitats for resident and migratory birds. • To further preserve Historical interest. 	<p>Not sure what the additional benefits are to changing from area of Historical Interest to a Nature Reserve, but see no harm in doing so</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Yankee Town</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declare Yankee Town and surrounding areas as an Area of Historic Interest. • Declare the Causeway and old railroad line, inclusive of a buffer zone of 100 feet on both sides of the causeway and railroad, as an Area of Historic Interest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical value- Yankee Town deriving from development in the 1890's, the town area includes remnants of a large-scale attempt to grow and process Sisal (<i>Agave sisalana</i>) fibre for export. Roads originating at Yankee Town provide access to all other parts of the Island. A causeway (now severed) links Yankee Town with the Eastern shore across Lake Catherine. • Cultural and experiential values 	<p>This seems like a logical addition but will it be in conflict with any privately owned land?</p>

<p>Wades Green Plantation and Teren Hill</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate the Plantation House and surrounding buildings as an Area of Historic Interest. • Establish a Nature Reserve on all remaining Crown Land areas surrounding the Plantation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Species and Community Diversity - The most important high forest area in the Turks and Caicos Islands, incorporating two major historic plantations. • Critical habitat – locally and regionally rare species • Regulation of physical and biotic environment • For ecological continuity reasons 	<p>This makes a lot of sense, but will there be any conflicts with privately held land?</p>
<p>Little Ambergris Cay and Fish Cays</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate as Nature Reserve. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical habitat for endemic species, locally and internationally rare species. • Migratory pathway or stopover • Spawning and nursery areas • Regulation and Maintenance of physical and biotic environment. • A low lying sand cay with extensive internal wetland, coastal coppice vegetation and the largest protected population (15,000 individuals) of TC Rock Iguana (<i>Cyclura carinata</i>) • For ecological reasons 	<p>This makes a lot of sense, but again, is there any conflict with privately held land?</p>
<p>East Harbour Lobster and Conch Reserve</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change “fishing zone” to “non-commercial fishing zone” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update in line with new type of fishing zone 	<p>We believe this is a protected area under the Fisheries Ordinance and not sure it is part of a Protected Area under the National Parks Ordinance, so this may not be an appropriate change in these regulations</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">North and South Wells, Grand Turk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate as Nature Reserve. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical habitats for the National Flower, <i>Limonium bahamense</i>. • Species and community diversity • Habitat for birds • For ecological reasons 	<p>We don't know of any reason not to make this change, but be aware that the wells are now the only source of freshwater for the roaming donkeys and horses on Grand Turk</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wheeland Ponds, Providenciales</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate as Nature Reserve. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical habitat for Important bird species • Species and community diversity • Migratory pathway or stopover (birds) • Regulation and Maintenance of physical and biotic environment. • For ecological reasons 	<p>We agree this is a good idea.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">EEZ of TCI</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate as a Shark Sanctuary (to be defined as an area where commercial exploitation of sharks and rays is banned) that encompasses all areas of the EEZ except where the seabed is at a depth of less than 100m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the protection of sharks and rays (elasmobranchs) reasons 	<p>We hardly endorse this idea and would suggest that the 100m depth limit be removed and language added to allow artisanal fishing of sharks – 100m depth limit would not prevent shark finners from coming into the shallow waters to catch sharks and this would destroy what is probably the healthiest shark population left in the Caribbean</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Turks Bank</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate as a Marine Mammal Sanctuary (to be defined as an area where interaction with marine mammals must conform to established rules of etiquette). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the protection of Marine Mammals reasons 	<p>We hardly endorse this idea also and suggest the entire EEZ be made a marine mammal sanctuary as there are marine mammals, including whales, that are frequently harassed by boat operators on the Caicos Bank also – rules should apply to all marine mammals, not just whales</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Critical Habitat Reserves</p>	<p>This is a new category of protected areas and is to include all of the following habitat types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetlands • Pine Woodlands • Caves and other karst features • Tropical Dry Forest • All critical habitats for endangered species. <p>Critical Habitat Reserves will be subject to environmental impact assessments for all development and a policy of “no net loss” of habitat value will be implemented.</p>	<p>Critical Habitat reserves is a good idea and should include habitats for conch breeding areas, grouper breeding aggregation sites, etc.</p>	

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Notes:

1. All Maps prepared by Survey and Mapping Department.
2. An **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** will be required for all development projects within and adjacent to the Protected Areas. An EIA is a process of evaluating the likely environmental impacts of a proposed project or development, taking into account inter-related socio-economic, cultural and human-health impacts, both beneficial and adverse. EIA estimates and evaluates significant short-term and long-term effects of a project on the quality of its location's environment. It also includes identifying ways to minimize, mitigate, or eliminate these effects and/or compensate for their impact.

Please send your comments to environment@gov.tc