

Welcome to Cayman Net News Online

Search:

Governor supports mangrove project

GO

web 🖟 c



Thursday, January 25, 2007

International Sister Islands Supplements Archive

--

1--1

--



H.E the Governor, Stuart Jack, Director of Department of Environment, Gina Ebanks-Petrie (centre) and wife of the Governor, Mariko, assisting the Mangrove Restoration Project.

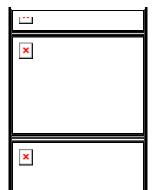
The Department of Environment (DoE) has partnered with the Reef Ball Foundation in starting up the Mangrove Restoration Project in an effort to save one of the Cayman Islands' most critical plant.

This project, which began in November 2005, is on a plot of land owned by and nearby the Red Bay Sailing Club.

According to reports from the DoE, the declining mangrove situation was grossly exacerbated by Hurricane Ivan in 2005 and during the 2005 hurricane season.

However, extensive damage of remaining mangrove areas has further opened up the potential for their development, though, conversely, the storm has also awakened an increased public awareness of the fragile nature, as well as the importance of the Island's ecosystem.

Therefore, environmental decisions and activities undertaken over the



next few years may be of the utmost significance for the long-term ecological future of the Cayman Islands.

DoE staff in charge of the project has been planting a number of mangroves and monitoring the site.

H.E the Governor, Stuart Jack, and his wife, Mariko became part of the 'planting process', on Friday 19 January, when they visited the mangrove site.

According to Tim Austin, Assistant Director of Research and Assessment (DoE), the Governor was invited because they wanted him to be part of an important process.

During his brief remarks, Governor Jack pointed out that it quite important that 'we look after our mangroves'. He was also pleased that 'a lot of young people are involved in the project.'

Gina Ebanks-Petrie, Director of the Department of Environment, Matt Cottam, Terresterial Ecologist, and James Gibb, Research Officer were also present to lend a helping hand.

The project involves the implementation of a high-survivorship headstarting protocol, using Reef Ball technology. This involves using reef balls to headstart and anchor the seedlings in place, re-establishing mangroves in denuded areas.

While the initial outlay per seedling is high, once pioneer seedlings are established, they will provide shelter for further back-planting.

This novel methodology additionally has the potential to showcase a restoration technique which may be implemented, by private landowners, and will be accompanied by an ongoing monitoring programme to evaluate comparative survivorship and cost-effectiveness.

Restoration activities will be supported by an extensive interactive website, interpreting projects in the context of local biodiversity and international environmental responsibility.

The DoE reported that in the Cayman Islands, as in many areas of the world, traditional under-valuing of mangrove habitat as a natural resource has contributed to a precedent for rapid wetland reclamation and development.

The mangroves play a very significant role in the Cayman's ecosystem. They are a critical habitat for key local species including the Yucatan Vireo (Vireo magister caymanensis), the (near-threatened) Cayman Parrot (Amazona leucocephala caymanensis), and the main breeding site for the (vulnerable) West Indian Whistling-

Ads by Gooooogle

Grand Cayman Airfare \$359

Flagship Carrier, Non-Stop Flights. Fly from Houston International IAH. FlyAwayTravel.com

Cayman Island Companies

Form an offshore company online in minutes. Reliable, trusted service.

Wetland QuickForms

Wetland delineation software with autocompleting reference data.

Grand Cayman Sucks

Do Not Travel to Grand Cayman Until You Read This Shocking Report GrandCayman.travel411.org

Advertise on this site

Ads by Google

Cayman Island Real

For houses, condos, or land, ocean front or inland

ww.caymanluxuryproperty.com

Cayman Luxury Condominium

On 7 Mile Beach close to town. Stay with us for a perfect vacation w.SimplyCayman.com

Oceanfront Cayman

2BR Luxury Seven Mile Beach Condo All rooms oceanfront, \$266-399/nt

Hyatt Grand Cayman Resort

View Rates & Book Rooms for Hyatt Regency Grand Cayman ww.Hyatt.com

Advertise on this site

duck (Dendrocygna arborea).

The mangroves are also an important stop-over and over-wintering habitat for migratory birds:

waterfowl, waders, raptors including Osprey, Merlin and Peregrine Falcon, and passerines including, most commonly Northern Parula, Yellow-throated Warbler, Palm Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Black-andwhite Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird and Northern Waterthrush. The mangrove wetlands are also an integral component of Cayman's marine environment.

The idea for the Mangrove Restoration Project began on Earth Day 2005, when over a hundred members of the public planted 650 seedlings. However this effort was in vain as the subsequent intensity of the 2005 hurricane season, coupled with the exposed nature of the site, resulted in very poor survivorship of seedlings.

But the current project is doing well and will hopefully survive through bad season.

The funding agency for the project is the US Fish and Wildlife's Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act.

Our partners are the Reef Ball Foundation who have provided additional funds and logistical support in conjunction with assistance from the CI Sailing Club (donated the site), Foster's Food Fair (donated 200 wooden pallets) and local schools and support groups who have volunteered their time and effort to plant the mangroves.

Back...

Sponsored listings:

'Cruise Package Deals'

Find dream cruise vacation packages from the top online travel providers all in one place at BookingBuddy.com!

'Cheap Airline Tickets - Huge Air Fare Blow-out'

Cheap Airline tickets. Book last minute Specials, web -only fares and consolidator fares in one place and save

globe-travels.com

Discount Cruises

Save up to 75% on cruises. All Cruise Lines and Destinations. vacationstogo.com

Send us your comments!

Send us your comments on this article for publication in our Readers' Forum. All fields are required and in the interest of openness and transparency we will no longer accept anonymous submissions. We therefore request that all submissions include a name for publication, Αc

<u>C</u> В 0

7 C fr \$

F ٧ Е

R В

1/25/2007

regardless of content. We will in special circumstances protect a writer's identity only after we have established good cause for anonymity, otherwise we will not be able to publish the submission.

For your contribution to reach us, you must (a) provide a valid e-mail address and (b) click on the validation link that will be sent to the e-mail address you provide. If the address is not valid or you don't click on the validation link, it will be a waste of your time typing your submission because we will never see it!

Your Name:				
Your Email:		(Valida	tion required)	
Topic:	Governor			
				_
Comments:				.





Copyright © 2003 - 2007 Cayman Net Ltd All Rights Reserved

Disclaimer: Letters, articles, and cartoons from contributors do not necessarily reflect the editorial position of Cayman Net News, nor can Cayman Net Ltd be held accountable for these views.