



BLUE IGUANA RECOVERY PROGRAM
GRAND CAYMAN, CAYMAN ISLANDS

Press Release

13th September, 2006

For immediate release.

First successful breeding of released Blue Iguanas in the Salina Reserve, Grand Cayman

In December 2004, thirty-two Grand Cayman Blue Iguanas were released into the National Trust Salina Reserve, inland from the Queen's Highway. The iguanas had been reared in captivity to 2 years old.

A year later, a further 73 two-year-olds were released in the same areas of the Salina Reserve. In the summers of both 2005 and 2006, these released iguanas were monitored by teams of local and international volunteers, and this year three females from the 2004 release were seen digging nests to lay their eggs.

On 8th September, one of those nest sites had developed a hole, indicating that the eggs inside may have hatched, and the hatchlings dug to the surface. The nest has now been carefully excavated, and three perfect, hatched egg shells were recovered from the nest chamber a foot under the ground. The hatchlings have probably dispersed in search of safe retreats, and have not yet been sighted.

This landmark event is the first time successful reproduction of Blue Iguanas in the Salina Reserve has been seen, since the Blue Iguana Recovery Program began restoring a population there. The other two nests, which were laid later in the summer, are still being monitored.

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A Program of the National Trust for the Cayman Islands with local and international partners