

# IRONWOOD FOREST.com

3,469 VISTORS, 1,010 SIGNATURES

YOUR SITE – YOUR VOICE

**UPDATE – 29<sup>th</sup> MAY 2008**

Dear Friends

**WELCOME** to your third, (and hopefully your final!) *Ironwood Forest Update*.

## IRONWOOD FOREST ROAD SCRAPPED

<http://www.caycompass.com/cgi-bin/CFPnews.cgi?ID=1030984>

This is the headline in the *Caymanian Compass* (27<sup>th</sup> May 2008).

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the 1,010 individuals who signed their names to the preservation of this unique piece of Cayman. It would appear your voices have been heard!

*The organisers of the Public Gathering to support the preservation of the Ironwood Forest are very pleased with the news that government has decided not to build the proposed road through the Ironwood Forest. We were confident that the government would listen to the voice of the people and are pleased to see that civic action met with responsive political will on the issue of this delicate and unique ecosystem. It is hoped that measures will now be taken to remove the current road corridor from government's gazetted plans so that the area is no longer legally designated for a road. We hope that a solution for the long-term preservation of this forest will be found for the benefit of the landowners, the government and the people of the Cayman Islands. We encourage the government to consider alternative options to deal with the issue of traffic management and transportation so that we and future generations can enjoy the results of sustainable economic, social and environmental policies for the Cayman Islands.*

The effort to preserve the forest has been ongoing for over six years now, however, it is only in the past six weeks that the issue has come to the attention of most. Since then, we have seen a groundswell of popular support for the preservation of the forest; a movement which indicates that environmental issues are of real concern to the people of Cayman. Over the past six weeks, the original proposal has been exposed as being ill-conceived and lacking in support, not only from the public, but also the people who own the land through which the road was planned.

So, what does the future hold in store for our environment? Maybe it is a little early for us to sit back and relax, just yet? At the NRA's public meeting to discuss the Ironwood Forest road (14<sup>th</sup> May), Mr. Arden McLean described his own government's proposed *National Conservation Law* as "draconian", and proceeded to misrepresent the operation of the proposed Law. In fact, the *National Conservation Law* REQUIRES an inclusive process of consultation, which would bring together landowners, government departments and special interest groups, as a matter of course, through the process of *Environmental Impact Assessment*, BEFORE initiation of major development projects. This would include projects like the Ironwood Forest road. Perhaps this is the reason why this Law is so feared by Government?

**Get a copy of the *National Conservation Law*, and read it yourself.  
Otherwise, be content to rely on someone else's interpretations.**