

Study Information Sheet

Exploring Traditional Environmental Knowledge and Plant Awareness

Introduction

You are being invited to participate in a PhD research project which aims to explore opportunities for reactivating Caymanian Traditional Environmental Knowledge to increase awareness of plants in our local community.

Why are you being asked to take part?

This first phase of the study aims to gather and preserve information about the traditional uses of plants in the Cayman Islands. You have been identified as someone who may have first-hand knowledge of Caymanian traditional plant uses.

What will you be asked to do if you agree to take part?

We will arrange a convenient time for an interview, during which I will ask you questions about your experiences with, knowledge about, and perceptions of local plants. An audio recording will be taken of your interview for digital transcription purposes.

How much of your time will taking part involve?

It is anticipated that there will be no more than two (2) interviews, each lasting no more than an hour and a half (1.5 hours). The duration of the interview is flexible and can be adapted to suit your convenience.

Do you have to take part?

Your participation in this project is entirely **voluntary**. If you do not wish to take part, you do not have to give a reason. You are not obliged to take part and you are free to withdraw without giving any reason. However, please note that, once your data have been included in published analysis or data repositories, it **cannot** be withdrawn.

How will your data be handled?

All data collected as part of this study will be stored and transmitted in accordance with the Data Protection Act and UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Any publication resulting from this work will report only anonymised data. Your anonymised responses may be used by the research team, shared with other researchers, or made available in an online data repository.

OPTIONAL: I plan to transfer records gathered as part of this study to the Cayman Islands National Archive (CINA). If you agree to take part, you will be asked to confirm your consent to this transfer. You may request a copy of your audio recording and/or interview transcript for your personal records.

What happens now?

If you are interested in being interviewed as part of this project, please respond by either reply email to hlr31@kent.ac.uk or by calling (345) 928-2215.

Do you know someone else who might be interested in taking part in this study?

If you know a Caymanian who may have first-hand knowledge of traditional plant uses, please feel free to pass this information sheet along to them so they can contact me using the details provided.

This research has been approved by the University of Kent Research Ethics Committee (Ethics ID: 20241706000890585). If you have any complaints or concerns about this research, you can direct these, in writing, to the Chair of the Research Ethics Committee by email at: sacethics@kent.ac.uk. Alternatively, you can contact us by post at: SAC Ethics Committee Chair, School of Anthropology and Conservation, University of Kent, Canterbury, CT2 7NR.

Researcher Contact Details: Hannah Reid Ford | hlr31@kent.ac.uk | (345) 928-2215

Phase 1

Interviews on
Caymanian traditional
environmental
knowledge

Phase 2

Digital survey on
environmental knowledge
and plant awareness

Phase 3

Design and test an
intervention to increase
environmental knowledge
and plant awareness