



MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 4 October 2007

Law firm champions Jersey's endangered green lizard

Jersey's Environment Division has joined with law firm Walkers to launch a combined initiative to promote the conservation of the Island's green lizard population.

Last year, the States of Jersey Environment Division established survival plans, called Biodiversity Action Plans, for every threatened and protected species and habitat in Jersey. The plans include 51 species that are protected, rare, declining or significant in Jersey, with Jersey's green lizard being one of them. Walkers has now become the first champion for one of the plans and has given a three year commitment to help maintain the green lizard's existing habitats, raise money and encourage Islanders to get involved in its protection.

Deputy Anne Pryke, Assistant Minister for Planning and Environment, said: "We are the only place in the British Isles to have a native population of protected green lizards. The green lizard biodiversity action plan was set up because we realised that the island's population is at risk of decline. Our aim is to get people involved in species and habitat protection and the much needed support from the Island's private sector will help us achieve this. We are thrilled to be working in partnership with Walkers and extremely grateful to them for agreeing to commit their company time and resources to protect the Island's green lizard. Jersey has an amazing amount of wildlife and it is crucial that Islanders understand the important role reptiles and amphibians play within our delicate eco-infrastructure."

Under the green lizard biodiversity action plan, the Environment Division plans to ensure its survival by:

- Protecting the species
- Safeguarding and managing known sites

- Continue to monitor and research the population
- Introducing financial support through the Countryside Renewal Scheme to maintain or improve suitable habitats.

Walkers has committed:

- to be the champion of the green lizard for three years
- to design, produce and donate a limited edition green lizard toy which will be sold to raise money for the project
- to provide administrative, marketing and public relations support
- to assist the Environment Division in maintaining the green lizard habitat by gorse and bracken clearing

Julie Melia, Walkers' Managing Partner, said: "We want to make a difference to Jersey's environment and we are looking forward to working closely with the Environment Department to raise awareness of these beautiful creatures and ensure that they remain a permanent feature of our coastal areas".

"Walkers is a global company with our main office in the Cayman Islands where we have run a similar project for several years to support the Cayman blue iguana. We have produced a series of limited edition blue iguana toys, and profits from their sale have helped secure their future. There has been a significant increase in the numbers of blue iguanas in Cayman, and if we can have similar results in Jersey too then this will have been a success."

Walkers has also produced a branded green lizard, which the firm will give as gifts. Unbranded versions are expected to go on sale in the next month in Jersey. Members of staff will also be helping the Environment Division to maintain green lizard habitat next weekend, on Saturday 13 October.

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Notes to editor:

In 2006 the States of Jersey Environment Division launched a series of biodiversity action plans for rare, declining or significant species to Jersey with the green lizard being one of them. The green lizard biodiversity action plan will be implemented through many organisations including the Environment Division, Durrell and the Jersey Amphibian and Reptile Group (JARG). JARG is a non-profit and independent group which aims to

- Conserve through study and direct action, the native reptiles and amphibians of Jersey.
- Collect and collate herpetofauna records.
- Provide general advice on native reptiles and amphibians and their habitat management.
- Raise awareness amongst the general public.

In 2006 Walkers merged with the Jersey firm Crills. From offices in the Cayman Islands, the British Virgin Islands, Dubai, Hong Kong, Jersey, London, and Tokyo, the Walkers Group provides legal and management services to clients including leading FORTUNE 100 and FTSE 100 global corporations and financial institutions, capital markets participants and investment fund managers.

The Walkers Group comprises leading offshore law firm Walkers; fund services provider Walkers Fund Services Limited; and SPV and corporate services providers Walkers SPV Limited, Walkers (Jersey) Limited and Walkers (BVI) Limited.

In 2006, Walkers was named as the *Who's Who Legal Law Firm of the Year: Cayman Islands*, the *PLC Which Lawyer? Yearbook* Leading Cayman Islands Law Firm, *The Lawyer's* Offshore Law Firm of the Year, and was one of two firms honoured as "Offshore Legal Team of the Year" by the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP).