

Fact Sheet



THE JAMAICAN IGUANA

Scientific Name: *Cyclura collei*
Common Name: **Jamaican Iguana**
Native Land: **Jamaica**
Habitat: **Hellshire Hills, St. Catherine – Jamaica**

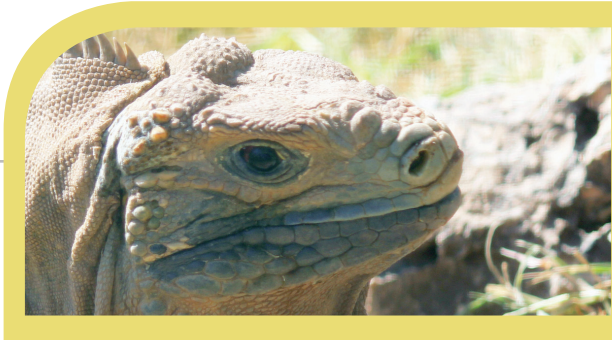
The Jamaican Iguana (*Cyclura collei*) is endemic to Jamaica and was fairly well distributed throughout the country until the mid 1800's.

The introduction of the mongoose in this period resulted in the near extinction of the Jamaican Iguana. So complete was its disappearance, the Jamaican Iguana was declared extinct in 1948. It was officially "rediscovered" in the Hellshire Hills in 1990.

MORE IGUANA FACTS

The Jamaican Iguana:

- Is considered one of the rarest animals in the world
- Is Jamaica's largest native land animal
- Makes its nest in the ground
- Is estimated to number between 50 and 200 in the wild



For information on the MTIASIC Project in Jamaica and Invasive Alien Species, contact:

GEF/ UNEP/ CABI/ MTIASIC Project
The National Environment & Planning Agency
10 Caledonia Avenue, Kingston 5
Tel: (876) 754-7540
www.nepa.gov.jm/projects | www.ciasnet.org

THE JAMAICAN IGUANA

THREATS TO THE JAMAICAN IGUANA

Predators and threats of the Jamaican Iguana:



Wild Pigs
destroy the Iguana's nesting sites which are situated on the ground



Wild Cats
eat the young Iguana when they hatch



Dogs
hunt and eat the mature Iguana



Mongoose
eat Iguana eggs and hatchlings



Goats
compete with the Iguana for food by eating the vegetation in its habitat

Habitat destruction

The Iguana's habitat in the Hellshire Hills is being reduced by:

- Charcoal burning and
- Land clearing for housing and farming

Preserving the Jamaican Iguana

The Department of Life Science, UWI and the Jamaica Iguana Recovery Group, spearhead efforts in preserving the Jamaican Iguana through:

- The Iguana Head- Start Programme – young Iguanas are returned to the wild after being bred at the Hope Zoo
- Controlling the impact of predators by trapping and removal
- Developing awareness-raising material for distribution (posters, brochures), hosting school and community events to help preserve the Jamaican Iguana – an important part of our natural heritage.

