

THE JAMAICAN IGUANA



Scientific Name: ***Cyclura Collei***
Common Name: **Jamaican Iguana**
Habitat: **Hellshire Hills, St. Catherine – Jamaica**
Native Land: **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 the 1990s.



Iguana hatchling

Predators and threats of the Jamaican Iguana:

Goats

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



Wild Cats

eat the young Iguana when they hatch



Wild Pigs

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



Mongoose

eat Iguana eggs and hatchlings



Dogs

hunt and eat the mature Iguana



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

GEF/ UNEP/ CABI/ MTIASIC Project

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