Project:	Preventing COSTS of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in Barbados and the OECS Countries
GEFSEC ID:	9408
Technical Report:	Validating capture techniques for green monkeys in St. Kitts and Nevis
Project component/activity:	**2.1c.3 Validate capture techniques for green monkey under local conditions**
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Monkeys are trapped in St. Kitts and Nevis using a longstanding trapping tradition. There is no need to validate capture techniques in the pilot project as originally proposed; we therefore recommend that this activity be removed from the workplan. Trappers use a technique originally developed by a local man, Mr. Joseph Cabey, in the 1970s to assist the biomedical research facilities in humane trapping. Trappers use an approximately 20-foot trap (see photo 1) combined with troop observations from within hides. A string is attached to a door that remains open so many animals can enter the trap. Traps are typically baited for two weeks, allowing the animals become comfortable in the trap. The trapper observes the group from within the hide to learn their travel patterns. When there are a large number of animals (up to 20-30 animals have been trapped at one time), or a specific animal desired (e.g. a male suitable for collaring), inside the trap, the trapper closes the door from within the hide. When the trapper exits the hide, he chases the animals towards a corner where there is a wire mesh funnel. The animals squeeze themselves into the funnel where they become immobilized. They can then be sedated immediately via ketamine injection, and the funnel can be unwrapped to take the animals out. It is highly effective and humane. Trappers can trap the entire group as long as the trapper traps the least dominant animals first, as the dominant animals lead group movements. To trap the entire group, the trapper therefore waits until the least dominant group comes in, trapping in essentially reverse fashion, finally getting the dominant animals trapped at the end. This process can take a few days. In enough time another troop will move into the area and can be trapped with the same trap, or sometimes trappers will move the trap to another location. We will create a short video of this capture technique to share with Barbados.

Photo 1. Monkey trap in St. Kitts.

The IAS project document states that the Federation will evaluate traps that were developed by Grobler and Turner (2010) in South Africa against traditional methods used in the Federation to trap and sedate monkeys; however, these traps are much less effective and humane than the traps described above. The author of this report is the former student of Dr. Trudy Turner and has experience using these traps. They are designed to capture one animal at a time; the animal enters the trap, and upon touching the food the trap falls down, capturing the animal. Typically, the trappers are a distance away, and in the time between trapping and sedating, the animals are in distress and almost always rip up the top of their heads on the wire. This trap is therefore not effective for capturing large numbers of animals.

References

Grober, J. P and Turner, T.R. 2010. A novel trap design for the capture and sedation of vervet monkeys (*Chlorocebus aethiops*). *African Journal of Wildlife Research* 40: 163-168.