



EAG TALK

Invasive alien species (IAS) and biodiversity

Every year, June 5th marks World Environment Day – a day recognised by the United Nations as the principal opportunity to encourage awareness and action for the protection of the environment. This year's theme for World Environment Day is "biodiversity," and Antigua and Barbuda is joining with countries around the world in celebrating this day. One of the important aspects of "biodiversity" that is being explored is the role of invasive species in depleting the biodiversity of our small island state.

Alien species (AS) are non-native or exotic organisms that occur outside their natural adapted ranges and habitats. Many AS support our farming and forestry systems in a big way – for example, cows, sheep and goats, or mangoes, lettuce, or cabbage. However, some of the alien species become invasive when they are introduced deliberately or unintentionally outside their natural habitats into new areas where they express the capability to establish, invade and out-compete native species, hence the name invasive alien species (IAS). The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) defines IAS as an alien species which becomes established in natural or semi natural ecosystems or habitats, an agent of change, and threatens native biological diversity. These invasives are widely distributed in all kinds of ecosystems throughout the world, and



Giant African Snail. (Photo courtesy Nathan Wilson)

include all categories of living organisms. Nevertheless, plants, mammals and insects comprise the most common types of IAS in terrestrial environments.

The great increase in the introduction of alien species that people are importing primarily for aesthetic reasons - ornamentals to make their gardens more attractive - often leads to a net increase in species richness in their destination. But a species introduced for noble economic or aesthetic objectives may escape into the wild, invading native ecosystems with disastrous results: they become invasive alien species (IAS). Greatly improved transport that enables traders to move goods around the world quickly is providing ideal opportunities for the accidental introduction of IAS, ranging from giant African snails to disease-carrying mosquitoes to bacteria and viruses.

Antigua and Barbuda is a small country with rich

biodiversity, especially vulnerable to invasive alien

species. It has a long history of introduction of non-native species, especially those with perceived beneficial impacts. Its rapid economic development, including an explosive growth in international trade and transportation, has increased the potential for new introductions. The IPBES Global Assessment identifies IAS as one of the significant drivers of biodiversity loss. The threat to biodiversity because of IAS is considered second only to that of habitat destruction. IAS cause loss of biodiversity including species extinction, and changes in hydrology and ecosystem function. Differences between native and ex-

TENDER NOTICE

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Contract for Project Manager

Antigua and Barbuda Social Security Board Headquarters Reconstruction Project

The Tenders Board of Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of the Antigua and Barbuda Social Security Board (ABSSB), invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for the contract as Project Manager to the Antigua and Barbuda Social Security Board Headquarters, Reconstruction Project.

The scope of work and primary responsibilities for the referenced project may be obtained by making a request to the Tenders Board Office, Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance, Government Office Complex, Parliament Drive, St. John's, Antigua at tenders.board@ab.gov.ag or (268) 562-5825/26.

Two (2) original copies of the Expression of Interest must be submitted no later than 12:00 noon, Wednesday 24 June 2020 in sealed envelopes marked: "Expression of Interest - Contract as Project Manager – Antigua and Barbuda Social Security Board Headquarters, Reconstruction Project", and addressed to: Chairman, Tenders Board, Ministry of Finance and Corporate Governance, Government Office Complex, Parliament Drive, St. John's, Antigua.

otic plant species in their requirements and modes of resource acquisition and consumption may cause a change in soil structure, its profile, and moisture availability. IAS are a serious hindrance to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, with significant undesirable impacts on the goods and services provided by ecosystems.

Biological invasion now operates on a global scale and will undergo rapid increase in this century because of interaction with other changes such as increasing globalisation of markets, rise in global trade, travel and tourism. For effective management of inva-

sive alien species, knowledge about their ecology, morphology, phenology, reproductive biology, physiology and phytochemistry is essential. IAS issues are also linked to other issues of major policy concern, such as biotechnology, global trade, water, human health, and climate change. Examples of some local Invasive Alien Species are as follows: Giant African Snail (*Lis-sachatina fulica*), Pacific Lionfish (*Pterois volitans*), Lemon grass (*Cymbopogon* spp.), Cuban tree frog (*Osteopilus septentrionalis*), Dwarf Mongoose (*Herpestes javanicus*), Lethal Yellowing (*Myn-dus crudus*), Black Rat (*Rattus rattus*), Brown Rat (*Rattus*



The green iguana, another example of an invasive alien species, was possibly brought in as a pet. (Photo courtesy Daryl George.)

norvegicus).

Decision-makers need to invest more in assessing the potential impacts before allowing introductions and to incorporate more biosecurity measures once the species has been introduced. Antigua and Barbuda can combat the problem through enhancing awareness, development of a database on invasive species, strengthening international co-operation, preparing case studies and introducing the necessary legislation, regulations and monitoring.

One of the ways this is

happening is through the GEF Funded project "Preventing COSTS of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in Barbados and the OECS," which is being jointly executed locally by Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International (CABI) and the Department of Environment. Through this project, prevention, early detection, control, and management frameworks are being developed to combat IAS, making a significant contribution to protecting and preserving the native biodiversity of our country.



The black rat has had a role in the decimation of several of Antigua and Barbuda's native species. (Photo courtesy the EAG.)

NOTICE

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA (Probate)

In the Estate of **BERNARD SYLVESTER AARON** a.k.a. **BERNARD AARON** late of Creek Side, St. John, Antigua, Deceased

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT

FIRST PUBLICATION

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by **EVELYN ANNETHA AARON** nee **GREENE** of Creek Side, St. John's, Antigua for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant who is the wife of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 7th day of September, 2019.

Any person having an objection to the grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant shall file an objection within fourteen (14) days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated this 27th day of May, 2020

Sgd. **EVELYN ANNETHA AARON** nee **GREENE**

Filed by Marshall & Co Attorneys-at-law whose address for service is Ann Rebecca House, Factory Road, St. John's, Antigua; Telephone Numbers 268 462 3562/7273/74; email address mco@hcmlaw.com

NOTICE

RESEALING FORM P16 Rule 30(2) THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA (Probate)

In the Estate of **TALATU USMAN IBRAHIM** late of Flat 1, Block 1, Plot J55, 20 Monrovia St. A07, Wuse U Abuja, Nigeria, Deceased.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR RESEALING

Notice is given that after the expiration of eight (8) days, application will be made to the Registrar of the High Court of Justice for the **RESEALING** of the Grant of Letters of Administration of Talatu Usman Ibrahim of Flat 1, Block 1, Plot J55, 20 Monrovia St. A07, Wuse U Abuja, Nigeria granted by the High Court of Justice of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Probate Division on the 16th day of September, 2019.

Dated the 02nd day of June, 2020

Nicholas A. Fuller Attorney-at-law for Mohammed Ibrahim Bomai and Bomai Ibrahim Mohammed

Filed by Nicholas A. Fuller, Attorney-at-law whose address for service is #11 Old Parham Road, St. John's, Antigua.