



AN OVERVIEW OF DURRELL'S HERPETOLOGICAL CONSERVATION WORK IN THE CARIBBEAN

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Caribbean-PARC Meeting

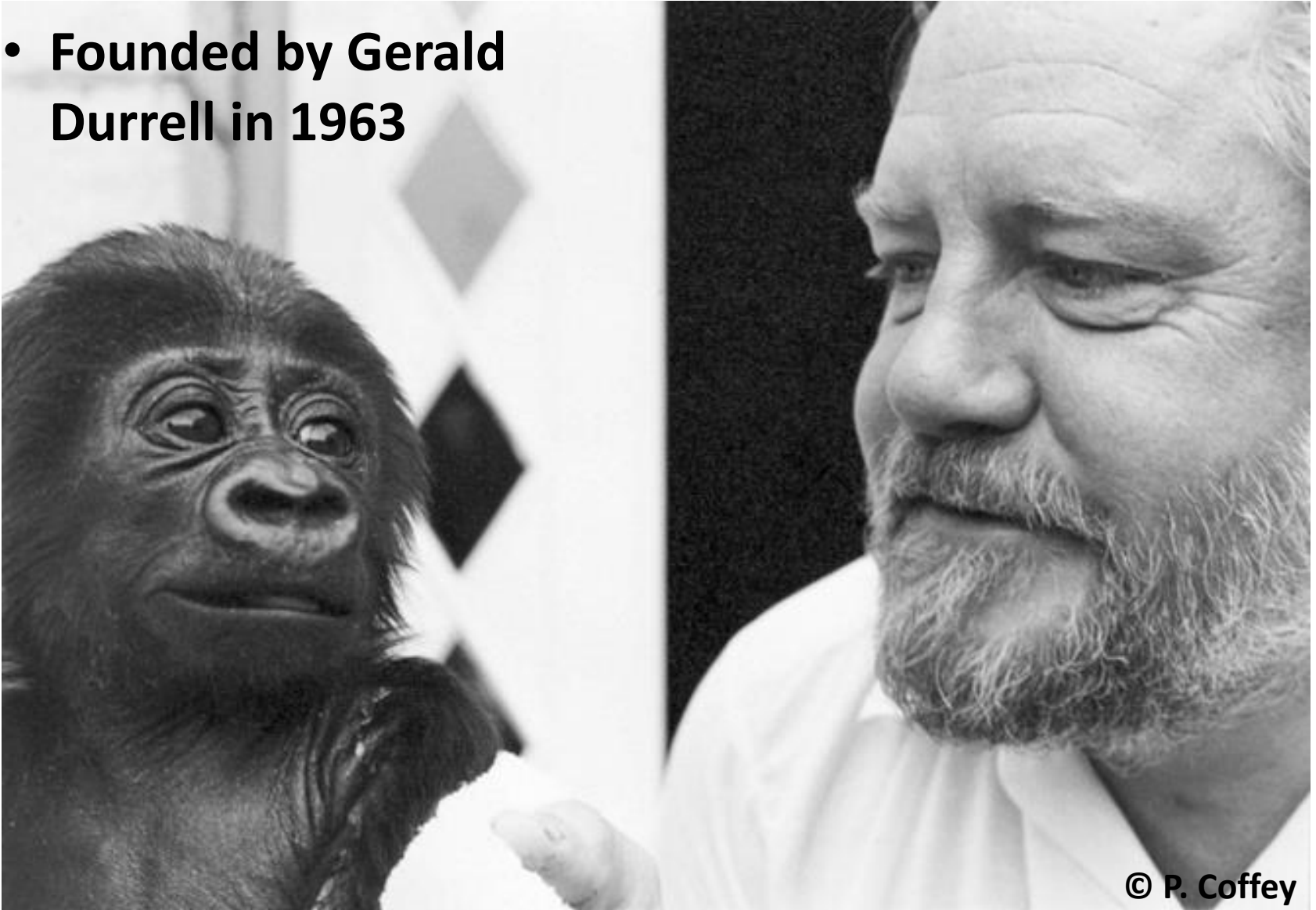
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

12 – 13 March 2015



Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust

- **Founded by Gerald Durrell in 1963**





Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust

- International Conservation Charity
- Based at Durrell Wildlife Park on Jersey in the British Channel Islands





Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust

- Organisational mission is **Saving Species From Extinction**

Pacific
Islands

Caribbean
Islands

South
America

Channel
Islands

Madagascar
& Comoros

Mauritius
(Mascarenes)

Continental
India

South-East
Asia



Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust





Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust



Wildlife park



Field programmes



Academy

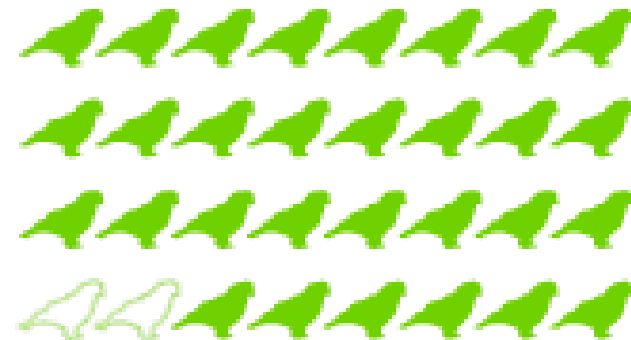


Durrell in the Caribbean



- Started in 1975

+ 1,500%



St Lucia Parrot
Start population: 125
Finish population: 2,000
1975-2009



Antigua

Antiguan Racer *Alsophis antiquae* - CR



Antigua

- In 1995 just 50 racers remaining on one island
- Five organisations formed the Antiguan Racer Conservation Project (ARCP) in 1995



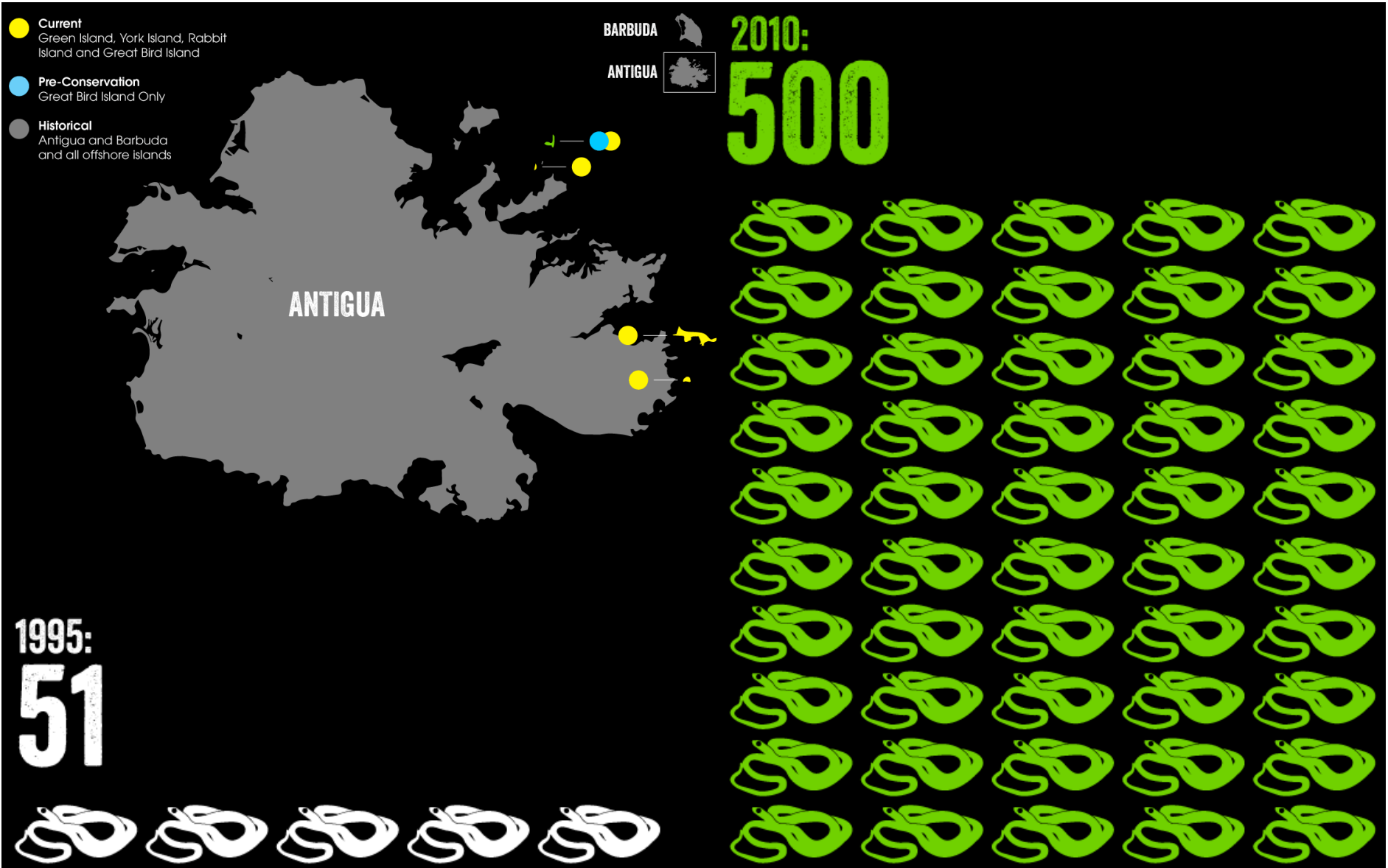
Antigua

- Rat eradications on offshore islands
- Biosecurity measures and public education
- Translocation of racers to rat-free islands
- Species Action Plan





Antigua



Saint Lucia

Saint Lucia Whiptail - VU



© Durrell

Saint Lucia Fer de lance – EN*



© G. Young/Durrell



© T. Ross/Durrell

Saint Lucia Racer – CR



© E. Corry/Durrell

Saint Lucia Iguana – CR*

Saint Lucia – Offshore Islands

- Saint Lucia whiptail and racer restricted to just 2 and 1 islands respectively
- Partnership with St Lucia Forestry Department and St Lucia National Trust
- 1986 establish safety net population of whiptails in Jersey
- 2011 first successful surveys of racer – Est. population 18



Saint Lucia – Offshore Islands

- Invasive goat and rat removal on Rat and Praslin islands
- Whiptail's successfully reintroduced to both islands
- Dennery Island restoration for future reintroduction of whiptails and racers
- Biosecurity protocols revised to increase protection



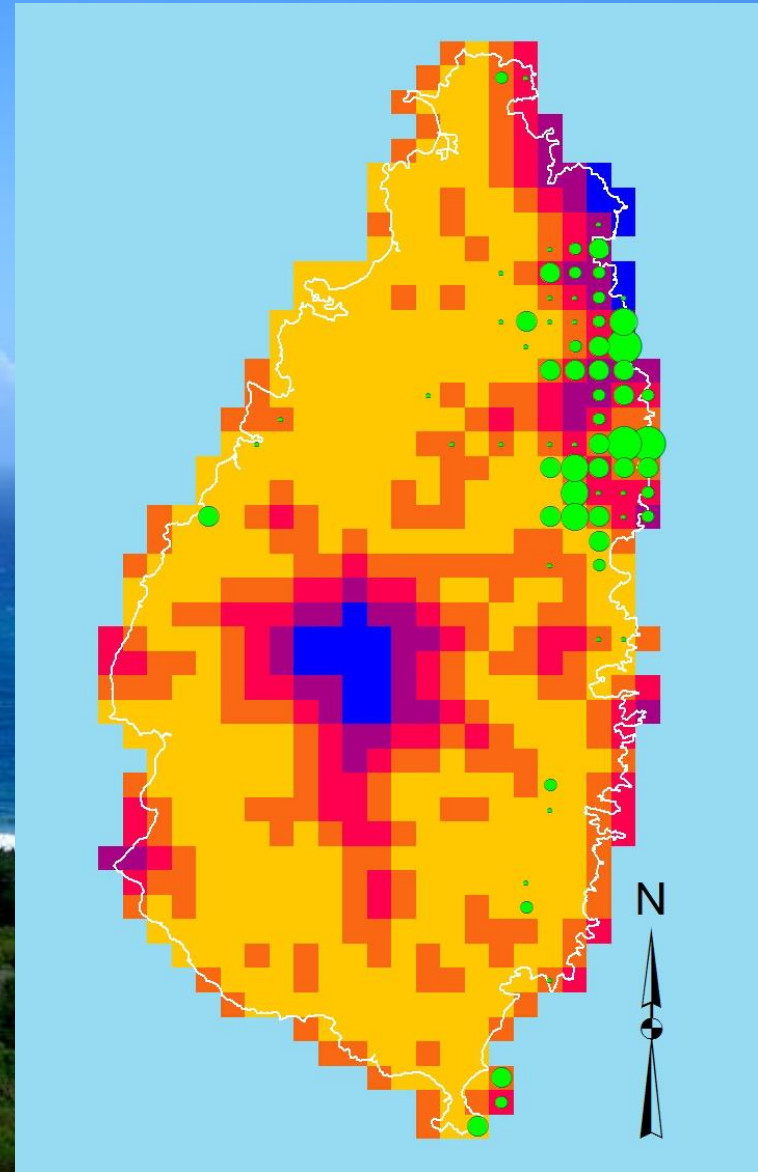
Saint Lucia – Offshore Islands

- Capacity development including exchanges with Antigua
- Captive breeding programme for analogue species Anguilla Racer established in Jersey in 2014



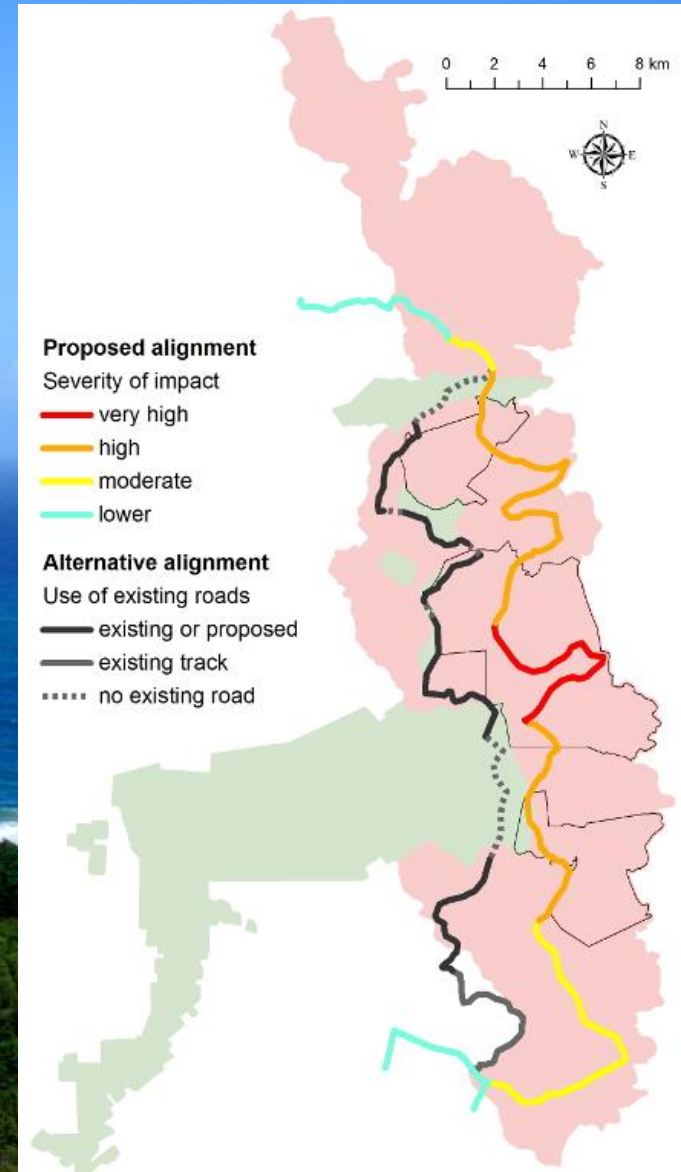
Saint Lucia – Mainland

- Saint Lucia Iguana
- Population surveys - Est < 1,000 adults
- Nest on just 2 beaches



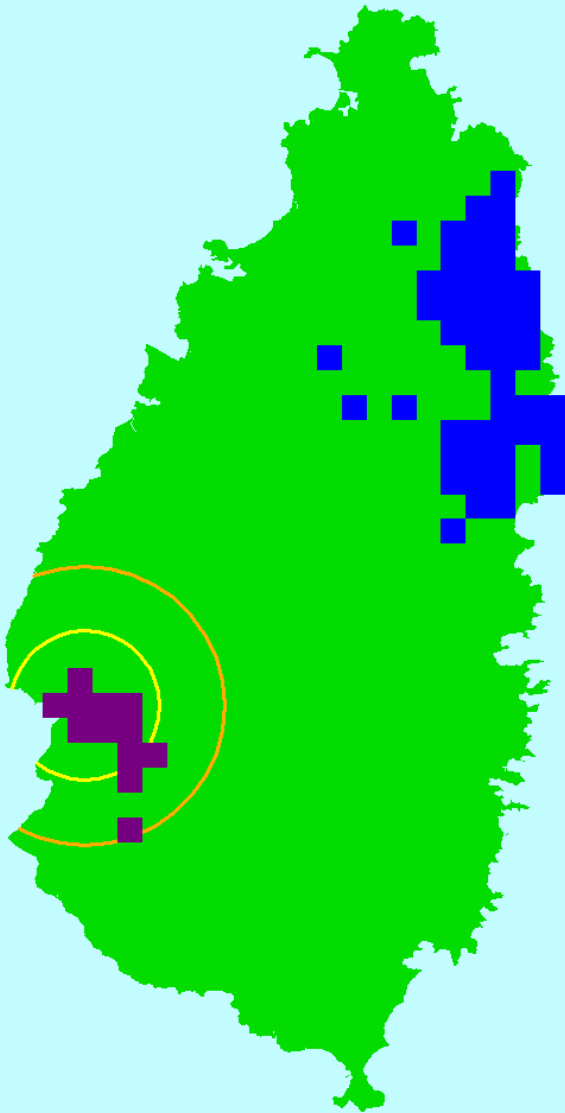
Saint Lucia – Mainland

- Working with Government to address main threats
- Habitat loss – unregulated tourism, highway construction, unsustainable land use practices



Saint Lucia – Mainland

- Invasive species – predation by dogs, cats, mongoose
- Risk from green iguanas (right)



Saint Lucia – Mainland

- Public education and Awareness



Montserrat

Mountain chicken *Leptodactylus fallax* - CR



Montserrat

- 1997 volcano erupts
- Durrell establish safety-net population in Jersey
- Record unique breeding behaviour for first time



Montserrat

- 2002 chytrid hits Dominica
- 2009 chytrid hits Montserrat. 50 frogs evacuated to European zoos
- Within 2 years population crashes by 99%



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Montserrat

- 2009 Mountain Chicken Recovery Programme formed



- Treatment trials undertaken using anti-fungal agents



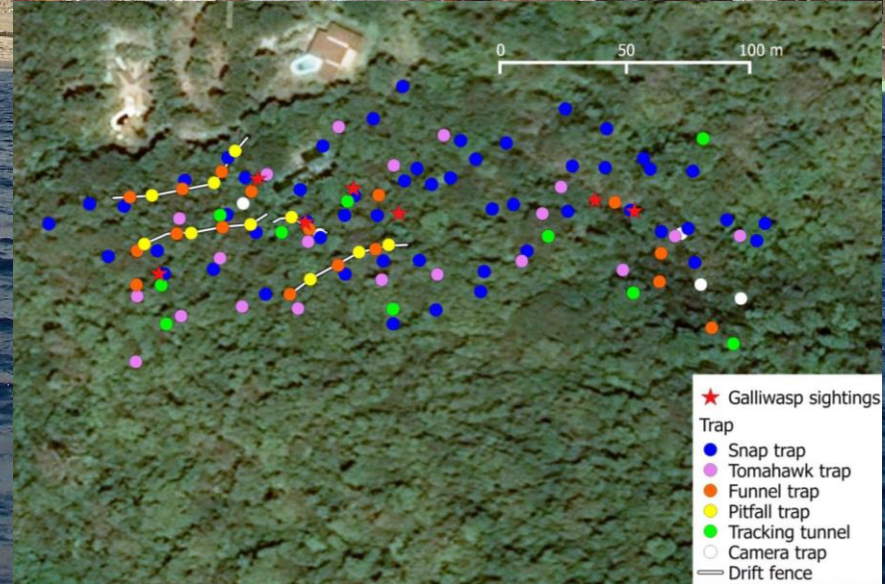
Montserrat

- Darwin Initiative project undertaken series of experimental reintroductions to investigate disease dynamics and survival rates
- 2013 developed a 20-year Long Term Recovery Plan for the Mountain Chicken



Montserrat

- Montserrat Galliwasp
Diploglossus montiserratti
Critically Endangered
- 12 confirmed sightings since 1963 in 1.5Ha area
- Undertook surveys in 2007 and developed Species Action Plan
- Intensive surveys for 3 weeks in 2014 - none found



Cayman Islands

- Grand Cayman Blue Iguana
Cyclura Lewisii Endangered
- Partner of the Blue Iguana Recovery Program since 2004
- Technical advice: monitoring, radio tracking and captive breeding, fundraising, species action planning
- 2005 – 5 wild individuals
2014 – 650 wild individuals
- Only *Cyclura* downlisted



Cayman Islands

- Sister Islands Rock Iguana
Cyclura nubila caymenensis
Critically Endangered
- Initiated project in 2007
- Baseline surveys on
population, threats, Species
Action Plan
- Technical advice to DOE and
National Trust





Saving Amphibians From Extinction



PROJECT

S.A.F.E

Saving Amphibians From Extinction

**PREVENTING A CATASTROPHE
FOR AMPHIBIANS**



Our 2020 Mission

By 2020 we will **secure the survival of amphibian species** at ten sites across four of the world's highest priority regions for amphibian conservation.





Our Priority Regions



Hispaniola

- Global priority site for amphibian conservation
- Amphibian assemblages in the Bahoruco





Hispaniola

- **Amphibian monitoring in Haiti with Societe Audubon Haiti and Philadelphia Zoo**



American Friends of Durrell

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American Friends of Durrell
is a new non-profit organization which helps
save species from extinction. It assists Durrell
Wildlife Conservation Trust in its worldwide
efforts to protect and restore threatened species
and their wild habitats.

Most conservation organizations go in for spectacular or cuddly animals, but we are different. We are the champions of all animals, even the 'little guys', the inconspicuous creatures that are just as crucial to the ecology of the planet as the more appealing



Thanks for listening!

Gracias por sus atención!

www.durrell.org

www.durrell.org/safe