

Projects supported by Caribaea Initiative Suisse



1

Rescuing the vulnerable Hispaniolan Slider

Dominican Republic, Haiti

Project cost: CHF 15,000/year, two years

Trachemys decorata is a vulnerable freshwater turtle endemic of the island of Hispaniola that is threatened by habitat loss, climate change, overharvesting (for meat consumption and the vodou ritual) and ongoing hybridization with invasive species of the same genus.

It is urgent to develop research to support a captive breeding conservation programme and preserve the species from extinction. Collected funds will support research and the development of a captive breeding programme.



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2

Conservation of the Caribbean Amazon parrots

Dominica, Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, Saint-Vincent and the Grenadines

Project cost : CHF 25,000/year, two years

Amazon parrots inhabiting the Caribbean Islands represent a fascinating model of species diversification. Unfortunately, many of these birds are threatened as a result of human activity, and some, like the Imperial Amazon, *Amazona imperialis*, are critically endangered.

Funding is necessary to help Caribbean researchers and conservationists to coordinate conservation-oriented research on Amazon parrots, improve on management practices, and develop educational activities, particularly to reduce pet trade.



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3

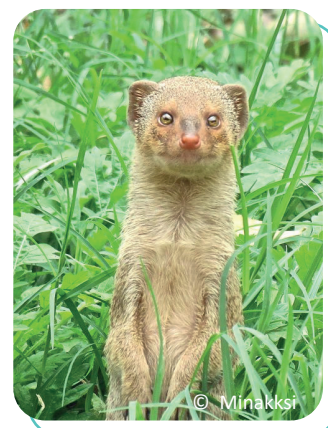
Assessing the impact of introduced mammal predators on the Caribbean fauna

All Caribbean islands

Project cost: CHF 15,000/year, one year

The introduction of various species of small mammal predators is regarded as a major threat for Caribbean islands biodiversity. Still, the impact of species such as the Small Indian Mongoose (native to Iraq), feral cats, or rats, on the local wildlife has not been quantitatively assessed so far.

We have developed a highly effective method consisting in using non-lethal techniques, such as diet analysis from faeces collected in the wild and estimation of predation on artificial nests and decoys using camera-traps, to document the extent of predation pressure by exotic mammals on both invertebrates and vertebrates in various Caribbean islands.



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4

Training tomorrow's Caribbean experts in Conservation

All Caribbean islands

Project cost: CHF 6,000/year for a master; CHF 12,000/year for a PhD

One of the main missions of Caribaea Initiative is capacity building in conservation biology in the insular Caribbean. Access to higher education, and hence scientific expertise, is limited by lack of financial and academic support for a large number of young Caribbean people.

By contributing to the funding of fellowships at the master and PhD levels, you will allow motivated local students to acquire all the relevant skills to become major players in the conservation of their natural heritage.



5

Teaching natural history and biodiversity in Caribbean secondary schools using local species as examples

French West Indies

Project cost: CHF 45,000 to provide materials to 100 schools

Caribaea Initiative has developed a series of five original booklets to illustrate key concepts in natural history and biodiversity. The content of the booklets is based on the French national program in Life Sciences for the secondary school, but unlike textbooks coming from continental France, is using local Caribbean species of plants and animals as examples. A companion series of two booklets is intended for the teachers and provides recommendation on how to best introduce concepts and examples in the classroom.

This series of booklet aims at raising awareness about the preservation of biodiversity at the regional level, nurturing the feeling of belonging, and generating interest in and enthusiasm for science as a career choice. Collected funds will allow the free distribution of booklets to the largest possible number of secondary schools in the French West Indies (Guadeloupe and Martinique).

