

5th CARIBAEA INITIATIVE Research & Conservation CONFERENCE



PROGRAMME

- **Date:** 10 - 12 June 2025
- **Location:** Karibea Sainte Luce hotel, Martinique
- **Information & Book of Abstracts:** <https://www.caribaea.org/conference-2025/>



--- TUESDAY 10 JUNE 2025 ---

09:00 - 09:30 – Dr. Nicole Herbert, Caribaea Initiative General Secretary and Spokesperson

Welcome address and introduction to the conference

09:30 - 12:10 – Symposium “Ecology and conservation of aquatic species and ecosystems in the insular Caribbean” 1st session

Chairman: Dr. Mark Freeman

- 09:30 - 10:30 – Amy Deacon, UWI Saint Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago
A model species in a model system: how a Caribbean fish is shedding light on threats to freshwater habitats
- **10:30 - 10:50 – Coffee break**
- 10:50 - 11:15 – Danièle Gaspard, Centre de Recherche en Paléontologie – Paris (CR2P) MNHN, France
Unappreciated benthic invertebrates around the French Caribbean Islands: Brachiopods sampled during the Karubenthos and Madibenthos Expeditions – Biodiversity, characteristics, ecology
- 11:15 - 11:30 – Kerri-Ann Benett, UWI Mona, Jamaica
*Mitochondrial cytochrome b reveals cryptic diversity in Jamaican *Limia melanogaster* amidst invasive species crisis*
- 11:30 - 11:55 – Edlyne Colletin, Institut Pasteur de la Guadeloupe, Guadeloupe
Characterization of trace metal elements in mangrove sediments of Guadeloupe
- 11:55 - 12:10 – Diana Benuffé, Roots of The Seas, Martinique
*Optimisation of growth conditions of the red mangrove *Rhizophora mangle*, an experimental study*

12:15 - 13:45 – Lunch Break

13:45 - 17:20 – Symposium “Ecology and conservation of aquatic species and ecosystems in the insular Caribbean” 2nd session

Chair: Dr. Etienne Bezault

- 13:45 - 14:10 – Jean-Philippe Maréchal, UMR CNRS Université des Antilles 8053 – PHEEAC, Martinique
Reef decline and benthic dynamics in Martinique: contrasted trajectories and ecological transitions. The need for a Coral Reef Ecology Laboratory
- 14:10 - 14:35 – Mark Freeman, Ross University, Saint Kitts and Nevis
Molecular and microbial insights into coral reef dynamics: A roadmap for targeted restoration and conservation
- 14:35 - 14:50 – Jeniece Germain, UWI Cave Hill, Barbados
Intrapopulation dynamic heterogeneity in two sympatric Caribbean cleaner gobies: the effect of microhabitat type and abundance

- 14:50 - 15:05 – Nicole Herbert, Ross University, Saint Kitts and Nevis
Nemertean egg-predators of the Caribbean Spiny Lobster – A regional issue?
- 15:05 - 15:30 – Carla I. Rivera-Pérez, Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine, Saint Kitts and Nevis
Understanding the Greater Caribbean manatees in Puerto Rico: Enhancing conservation strategies through the use of veterinary pathology and parasitology
- 15:30 - 15:45 – Renoir Auguste, UWI Saint Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago
Are tropical oceanic islands overlooked? Knowledge gaps regarding the vulnerability of amphibians to global anthropogenic threats
- **15:45 - 16:10 – Coffee break**

Chair: Dr. Howard Nelson

- 16:10 - 16:30 – Guillaume Rieucan, LUMCON, Louisiana, USA (visioconference)
From the Sky to the Sea: Emerging technologies in the observation and monitoring of aquatic organisms health, distribution and behaviour
- 16:30 - 16:45 – Benjamin de Montgolfier, Aquasearch, Martinique
Acoustic monitoring of cetaceans in Saint-Pierre Bay, Martinique
- 16:45 - 17:00 – Marion Poupard, Aquasearch, Martinique
*Intraspecific and spatial variation in habitat use by sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*) along the west coast of Martinique*
- 17:00 - 17:20 – Concluding remarks

17:45 – 19:00 – Evening session

- 17:45 – 18:00 – Video presentation by the OECS Commission
- **18:00 - 19:00 – Poster session and cocktails**

--- WEDNESDAY 11 JUNE 2025 ---

08:30 - 12:00 – Study and conservation of wildlife and ecosystems in the insular Caribbean 1st session

Chair: Dr. Nicole Herbert

- 08:30 - 09:30 – Reia Guppy, the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), Chaguaramas, Trinidad and Tobago
The hidden library of knowledge within biodiversity
- 09:30 - 09:55 – Margot Gumbau, INRAe, Guadeloupe
Parasitic wasp diversity and implication for sustainable pest management in agro-ecosystems in Guadeloupe

- 09:55 - 10:10 – Sergio L. del Castillo Domínguez, Institute of Ecology and Systematics, La Havana, Cuba
Identification of areas of endemism in Cuba based on the distribution of amphibians and reptiles
- 10:10 - 10:25 – Isabella Serrette, McGill University, Montréal, Canada
Unearthing soil invertebrate diversity in Barbados
- **10:25 - 10:45 – Coffee break**

Chair: Dr. Amy Deacon

- 10:45 - 11:10 – Maikel Canizares, Institute of Ecology and Systematics, La Havana, Cuba
Incorporating climate change and human pressures in the identification of priority areas for the conservation of two threatened parrot species (birds: Psittaciformes) in Cuba
- 11:10 - 11:25 – Gary Auguste, The University of the West Indies, Cavehill Campus, Barbados
Quantifying the population density and distribution of Amazona Imperialis and Amazona Arausiaca on the Island of Dominica post Hurricane Maria
- 11:25 - 11:40 – Lemuel Familia Rodriguez, Ayuntamiento de Santo Domingo Este, Dominican Republic
Variation in avian assemblage composition between contrasted forest habitats in the Sierra de Bahoruco National Park, Dominican Republic
- 11:40 - 11:55 – Jeanne Cambron, CIRAD, Guadeloupe
Eco-epidemiology of West Nile Virus in wild birds in Guadeloupe
- 11:55 - 12:10 – Eleanor S. Devenish-Nelson, University of Edinburgh, U.K.
An assessment of forest cover change within and outside protected areas in Trinidad

12:15 - 13:45 – Lunch break

13:45 - 15:50 – Study and conservation of wildlife and ecosystems in the insular Caribbean 2nd session

Chair: Dr. Eleanor S. Devenish-Nelson

- 13:45 - 14:10 – Etienne Bezault, UMR CNRS BOREA, Université des Antilles, Guadeloupe
A regional approach to Lesser Antillean iguana Iguana delicatissima conservation: using genetics to inform conservation action
- 14:10 - 14:35 – Nathalie Duporge, N.Duporge - Biodiversité-Expertise-Pédagogie
Fighting the spread of the Common Iguana: the French West Indies case (2018-2024)
- 14:35 - 14:50 – Annabelle Vidal, Institute of Ecology and Systematics, La Havana, Cuba
Potential impact of the invasive Puerto Rican anole on body size and demography of the Dominican anole
- 14:50 - 15:05 – Norma Anthony, Forestry, Wildlife and Parks Division, Dominica
The impact of urbanization on native and invasive species: A case study of the coexistence between Anolis oculatus and Anolis cristatellus in Dominica
- 15:05 - 15:20 – Yuna Mélane, Caribaea Initiative & Université des Antilles, Guadeloupe
Using camera traps to assess the abundance and the distribution of invasive mammals in Guadeloupe
- 15:20 - 15:35 – Sarah Lionnet, Caribaea Initiative, Guadeloupe
The use of detection dogs in conservation: the example of a scat detection dog in the CIMBA project

- **15:35 - 16:00 – Coffee break**

16:00 - 17:30 – Mini-symposium “Safeguarding biodiversity and ecosystems in Haiti”

Chair: Dr. Frank Cézilly

- 16:00 - 16:25 – Anne-Isabelle Bonifassi, Haiti National Trust
Ecosystem restoration and innovative strategies for protected area management In Grand Bois National Park, Haiti
- 16:25 - 16:40 – Pierre Michard Beaujour, Caribaea Initiative & PNUE Haïti
Biodiversity, insects, and ecological resilience in Haiti: from scientific evidence to strategic action
- 16:40 - 17:30 – Round table discussion
Call for regional and international cooperation to safeguard biodiversity and ecosystems in Haiti

--- THURSDAY 12 JUNE 2025 ---

09:15 - 09:20– Announcements

09:20 - 10:00 – Training and Education

Chair: Dr. Sophie Labaude

- 09:20 - 09:35 – Jenn Yerkes, Les fruits de la mer, Sint-Marteen
Bring local nature education to everyone with books
- 09:35 – 10:00 – James Goetz, Vermont Center for Ecostudies, U.S.A.
Why should you use Conservation Standards adaptive management framework to co-produce, develop, fund and implement your next research or conservation project?
- **10:00 - 10:30 – Coffee break**

10:30 - 12:30 – Symposium “Hunting, wildlife management, and conservation in the insular Caribbean” 1st session

Chair: Dr. Christopher Cambrone

- 10:30 - 11:30 – Howard Nelson, University of Cambridge & Fauna and Flora International, U.K.
Pathways to sustainable hunting in the insular Caribbean
- 11:30- 12:00 – Maikel Canizares, Institute of Ecology and Systematics, La Havana, Cuba
Hunting and conservation in Cuba
- 12:00 - 12:30 – Roger Pradel, CEFE CNRS, Montpellier, France
Monitoring harvested populations

- **12:30 - 14:00 – Lunch break**

14:00 - 17:30 – Symposium “Hunting, wildlife management, and conservation in the insular Caribbean” 2nd session

Chair: Dr. Reia Guppy

- 14:00 - 14:40 – Erica Von Essen, University of Stockholm, Sweden
Killing for conservation: Reconciling hunting with biodiversity agendas
- 14:40 - 15:05 – Luke Rostant, The University of the West Indies, Saint Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago
The conservation status of native monkey species in Trinidad, W.I.
- 15:05 - 15:35 – Christopher Cambrone, Caribaea Initiative, Guadeloupe
Citizen science takes flight: unveiling 10 years of population trends for two endemic pigeon species across the Caribbean
- 15:35 - 16:00 – Bryan Leborgne, Caribaea Initiative, Guadeloupe
*Combining citizen science and camera traps to study population trends and habitat selection of the Bridled Quail Dove, *Geotrygon mystacea**
- **16:00 - 16:30 – Coffee break**
- **16:30 - 17:30 – Round table discussion: Hunting and conservation in the insular Caribbean**

18:30 - 22:00 – Banquet (upon registration)

- 18:30 – 20:00 – Cocktail party
 - Presentation of the 2025 Caribaea Initiative Photo Contest
 - Dawn T. Phillips Award ceremony (best student talk)
- 20:00 - 22:00 – Dinner

Poster session – list of presentations

- *Evaluating the effectiveness of passive acoustic monitoring at detecting anurans in Caribbean tropical forests*
Renoir J. Auguste, The University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago
- *In situ conservation of the critically endangered palm *Attalea crassispatha* in Southern Haiti: Seed collection, community engagement, and germination strategies*
Anne-Isabelle Bonifassi, Haiti National Trust, Haiti

- *Citizen science reveals the invasion of the Bare-eyed Pigeon in Saint-Martin*
Christopher Cambrone, Caribaea Initiative, Guadeloupe
- *Rapid expansion of the invasive mourning gecko, *Lepidodactylus lugubris*, in Guadeloupe*
Christopher Cambrone, Caribaea Initiative, Guadeloupe
- *Compensating our environmental footprint: The Caribaea Initiative cactus restoration program in Haiti*
Caribaea Initiative, Guadeloupe
- *Improving access to Caribbean biodiversity data*
Amy Deacon, The University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago
- *Using molecular tools to detect and quantify impacts of invasive freshwater turtles in French West Indies*
Jérémy Eudleur & Mirella Morgene, Caribaea Initiative, Guadeloupe
- *One Shark: An integrated approach to Tiger Shark conservation and risk management in the Caribbean*
Mark Freeman, Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine, St. Kitts
- *How Conservation Standards adaptive management framework can help you to write better research and conservation funding proposals and increase the impact of your conservation actions*
James Goetz, Vermont Center for Ecostudies, USA
- *The possible implications of a Dinoflagellate parasitizing Cascadu (*Hoplosternum littorale*) in Trinidad*
Reia Guppy, The University of Trinidad and Tobago, Trinidad
- *Indicator of the state of birds in the islands of Guadeloupe, an awareness-raising tool*
Catherine Hermant, Agence régionale de la biodiversité des îles de Guadeloupe, Guadeloupe
- *Lessons from the wetland: Two decades of experience in the management of the endemic Manjuari fish (*Atractosteus tristoechus*) and the invasive Catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*) in the Zapata swamp, Cuba*
Andres Hurtado Consuegra, Company for the Conservation of the Zapata Swamp, Cuba
- *Coral reef status indicator of the Guadeloupe islands as a scientific popularization document*
Lisel Loschenkohl, Agence régionale de la biodiversité des îles de Guadeloupe, Guadeloupe
- *Pathways through paradise: Reconciling coastal development and biodiversity in Rincón, Puerto Rico*
Julie North, Surfrider Foundation Rincón, Puerto Rico
- *Acoustic characterization of Fort-de-France Bay, Martinique*
Marion Poupard, Aquasearch, Martinique
- *Impact of the 2023 bleaching event on corals of Martinique, French West Indies*
Victor Tersiguel, Office de l'Eau, Martinique
- *Assessment and long-term monitoring of soil quality in overseas territories: A focus on soil biodiversity*
Lilou Vanoverbeke, INRAE, Guadeloupe
- *Trees for me and my island*
Mark Yokoyama, Les Fruits de Mer, Saint-Martin

We warmly thank all our partners for their valuable support. We would like to express our special gratitude to our Gold partners for their major contribution to the success of this event: Fédération Départementale des Chasseurs de Martinique, Fédération Départementale des Chasseurs de Guadeloupe, Groupe Comte-Serres, and Rhum Chantal Comte. Silver partners: Office de l'Eau de Martinique, Office Français de la Biodiversité, and DEAL Martinique.