

# THE INTERNATIONAL IGUANA FOUNDATION

## THE YEAR IN REVIEW 2020

Issue 02. 2021

**The Lesser Antillean Iguana**  
*Iguana delicatissima*



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Tim Morrow  
San Antonio Zoo

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Read more about our End of Year Campaign to save the Last Strong Hold of the Lesser Antillean Iguana on page 5!



Find out how COVID-19 has affected iguana species and conservation projects in our COVID impact report on page 7.



Find out which projects were funded in 2020 on page 6.



Read about our 2020 budget updates on page 8



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**About the front cover:** The Lesser Antillean Iguana is a Critically Endangered species that once occupied most islands from Anguilla to Martinique in the eastern West Indies. Only two populations are considered stable while others have been extirpated in the last decade. With an estimated population of 13-20,000 individuals, Dominica supports the largest single population of these iguanas. However, this population was compromised in 2017 when Common Green Iguanas were found after Hurricane Maria hit. If the spread of Common Green Iguanas cannot be controlled, this important population could be lost to hybridization. See page 8 for an update on our End of Year Campaign to Save the Last Stronghold of the Lesser Antillean Iguana on Dominica.

**Photo credit:** Jeanelle Brisbane



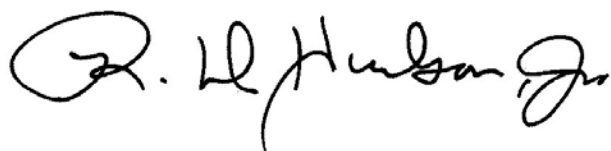
# EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

I don't have to tell you what a challenging year 2020 has been – you've heard it all before. The nonprofit sector – including zoos and aquariums – has been particularly hard hit, enduring funding shortfalls through a prolonged pandemic lock-down. Though many zoos are up and running again, many aquariums continue to struggle financially due to limited attendance. Given that the majority of IIF's finances derive from the zoo community, we made the difficult decision to cancel our 2020 grant cycle. However, by October our budget allowed us to award some small emergency grants to help sustain programs through COVID; see p. 6 below. We hope 2021 will be better but until people are sufficiently vaccinated, we will continue to experience impacts, especially with travel restrictions.

This report contains results from a survey we circulated to our grant recipients to determine the impact of the pandemic on their programs. 100% of recipients reported negative effects, forcing all projects from the 2019/2020 cycle to require extensions. Perhaps most troubling – though not unexpected – was the surge of poaching and consumption of iguanas related to increased poverty. On a more positive note however, we are pleased to announce substantial progress at the Hope Zoo in Jamaica where the head-start program was improved, resulting in a much more secure facility with increased capacity to manage iguanas.

And of course, our most exciting news was our record-breaking EOY campaign to save the Lesser Antilles Iguana in their last major stronghold, the lush and largely pristine island of Dominica. Invasive green iguanas pose THE biggest threat to this species today. Green iguanas – in novel habitat – are explosive breeders and can rapidly out-compete native iguanas. If we can't get a handle of this situation now while there is still time, then the situation will most likely get out of hand and we will have lost most of our most important populations of this highly distinct iguana lineage. I believe this is one of the single greatest challenges that the IIF has taken on in our 20-year history and we will commit ourselves to a successful outcome. For this to happen we will require considerable outside support. I commend the government of Dominica for taking this threat seriously and committing resources to this project.

We are indeed living through unprecedented times and we look forward to reporting better news in 2021 as we get back to the business of protecting endangered iguanas. As always thanks for your sustained support through this most difficult period.




Rick Hudson, pictured with a Critically Endangered Fiji Crested Iguana (*Brachylophus vitiensis*) during fieldwork in the south Pacific islands.



A Jamaican Iguana (*Cyclura collei*) hatched in 2016 at the head-start facility Hope Zoo in Kingston, now earmarked for release into the Hellshire Hills later this year.

# WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

## TANDORA GRANT



Tandora Grant joined the IIF board in 2020 from San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance where she works as a Conservation Program Specialist in Population Sustainability.

Primarily her work focuses on conservation recovery strategies for Caribbean Rock Iguanas. Tandora's field research experience includes several species of rock iguanas, and she continues to work closely with reintroduction programs for Grand Cayman and Jamaican iguanas. Tandora also serves as the Program Officer and Red List Authority for the IUCN SSC Iguana Specialist Group.

## TIM MORROW

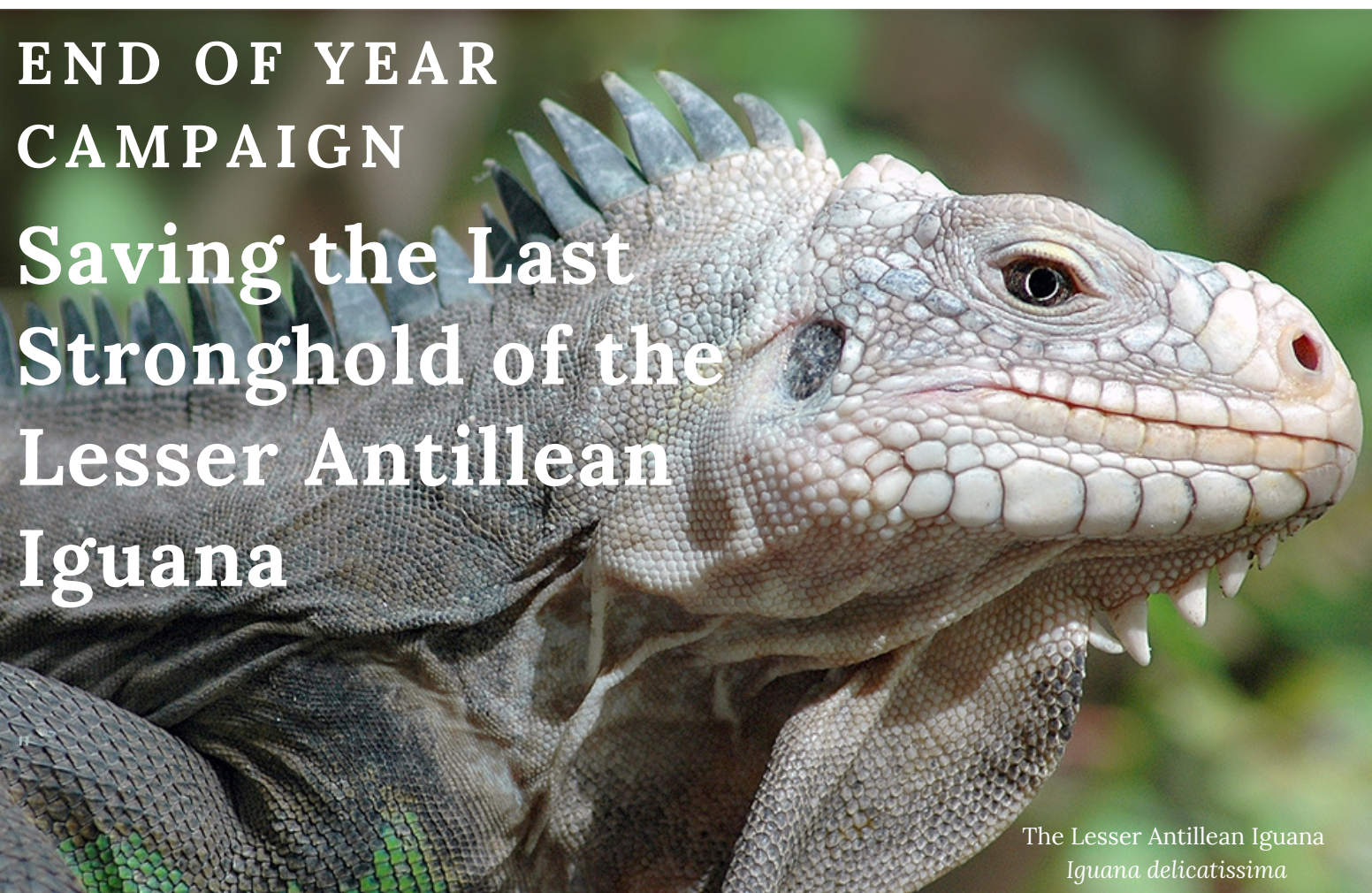


Tim Morrow is CEO/Executive Director of the San Antonio Zoo in San Antonio, Texas and joined the IIF board of directors in late 2019. Tim is a graduate of the University of Texas and had a 24 year career in the theme park industry, with almost 20 years at Sea World, before joining the zoo world. As well as running the San Antonio Zoo, Tim is also Executive Director of the Will Smith Zoo School, which is the largest nature based preschool in the U.S.A. Tim serves as the President-Elect of the International Elephant Foundation as well as on boards including the San Antonio Visitor Alliance, Zoo Conservation Outreach Group, and the Urban Outreach Advisory Committee for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.



# END OF YEAR CAMPAIGN

## Saving the Last Stronghold of the Lesser Antillean Iguana

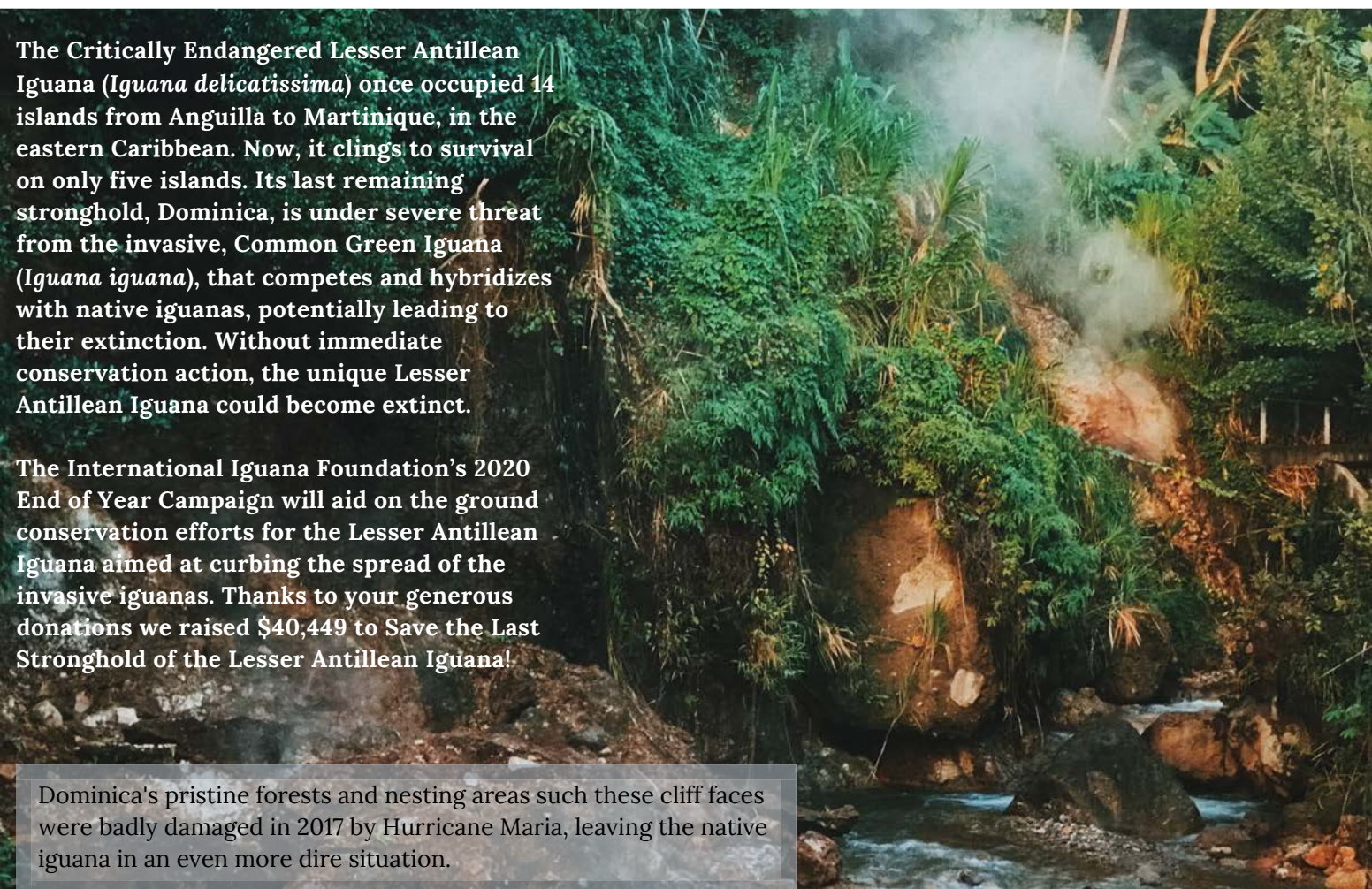


The Lesser Antillean Iguana  
*Iguana delicatissima*

The Critically Endangered Lesser Antillean Iguana (*Iguana delicatissima*) once occupied 14 islands from Anguilla to Martinique, in the eastern Caribbean. Now, it clings to survival on only five islands. Its last remaining stronghold, Dominica, is under severe threat from the invasive, Common Green Iguana (*Iguana iguana*), that competes and hybridizes with native iguanas, potentially leading to their extinction. Without immediate conservation action, the unique Lesser Antillean Iguana could become extinct.

The International Iguana Foundation's 2020 End of Year Campaign will aid on the ground conservation efforts for the Lesser Antillean Iguana aimed at curbing the spread of the invasive iguanas. Thanks to your generous donations we raised \$40,449 to Save the Last Stronghold of the Lesser Antillean Iguana!

Dominica's pristine forests and nesting areas such as these cliff faces were badly damaged in 2017 by Hurricane Maria, leaving the native iguana in an even more dire situation.





# PROJECTS FUNDED

## 2019/2020 FUNDED PROJECTS

On December 2nd 2019 the Annual Board of Directors meeting was held at the Audubon Zoo, New Orleans, Louisiana. Eight grants totaling \$49,597 were awarded to the following projects (these projects are currently on going due to covid related delays and final reports have not yet been submitted):

- Daniel Ariano and Johana Gil. Expanding the elementary education program for the conservation of the Motagua Spiny-tailed Iguana *Ctenosaura palearis* at the influence area of Heloderma Natural Reserve.
- Jeanelle Brisbane. Assessing and mitigating threats to Iguana *delicatissima* on Dominica post-hurricane Maria.
- Ashley Goode. Monitoring an Endangered Iguana (Roatán Spiny-tailed Iguana) and Increasing Local Capacity to Train the Next Generation of Researchers and Managers.
- Hope Zoo. Enhancing the Hope Zoo Headstart Program for the Jamaican Iguana (*Cyclura collei*).
- Amy Macleod. Armchair conservation: monitoring threatened Galápagos Marine Iguanas using drones and citizen science.
- Daisy Maryon. "Save the Swamper" Conservation outreach and population monitoring of Utila Spiny-tailed Iguana.
- Nestor Perez. Reassessment of headstarting initiatives and population status of the Mona Island Iguana.
- Matthijs. P. Van den Burg. Natural history data of hatchling Iguana *delicatissima* to guide local and regional recruitment and conservation management.

## COVID-19 EMERGENCY GRANTS

In October 2020 The International Iguana Foundation offered an emergency round of grants in the absence of the normal grant cycle which was suspended due to funding shortages related to the pandemic. These emergency grants aim to help iguana conservation projects and organizations survive in these unprecedented times and continue to sustain programs impacted by COVID-19.

- Johanna Gil and Daniel Ariano: Conservation of the Motagua Spiny-tailed Iguana at the Heloderma Natural Reserve and its influence area.
- Tom Brown and Daisy Maryon: Saving the Swamper: ensuring conservation action for Utila Spiny-tailed Iguana in the midst of COVID-19 and environmental crisis.
- Jose David Quiroz Martinez and Marlon Daniel Diaz Zuniga: Integrated, community model for the conservation of neonates and nests of Five-Keeled Spiny-tailed Iguanas.
- Jone Brian Niukula: COVID-19 Shutdown assessment of remote populations of Fiji Crested Iguanas.

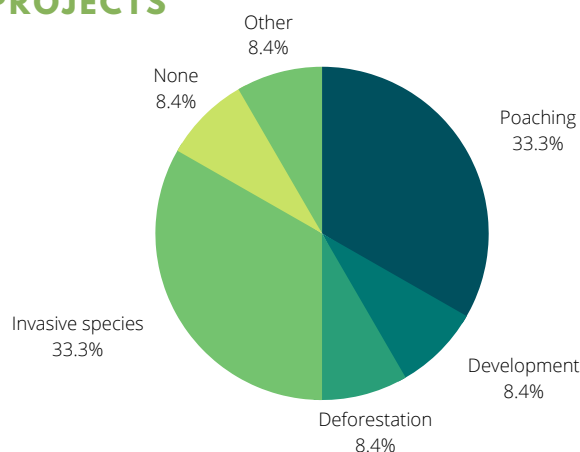


## IGUANA POPULATIONS SUFFER DUE TO COVID CRISIS

The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lock-downs have affected conservation projects worldwide. To better understand how this has impacted our grant recipients, we asked them to complete a survey. Projects were funded in seven countries, across seven species. All project countries experienced lock-downs which resulted in suspended activities, despite recipients working within a variety of organizations.

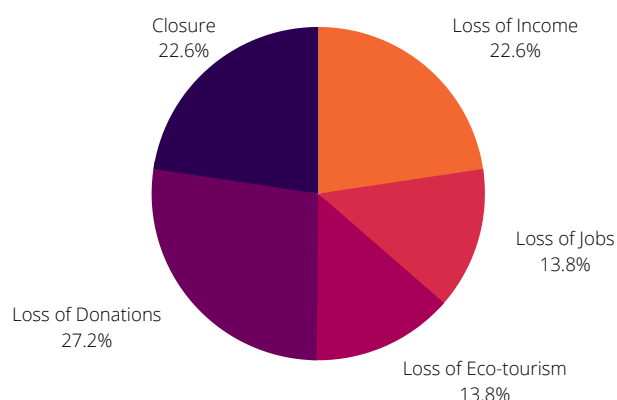
Most projects reported an increase in threats. Some recipients observed an increase in hunting pressure as economic hardships from the pandemic worsened. Unchecked development took place during the pandemic and may have large impacts on vital iguana habitats. For some projects these issues may also have been heightened by hurricanes, as both Eta and Iota made landfall in Central America in November 2020.

### THERE WAS AN INCREASE IN THREATS REPORTED IN 91% OF PROJECTS



### COVID-19 NEGATIVELY IMPACTED 100% OF THE PROJECTS, ONLY 12.5% OF THE PARTICIPANTS WERE ABLE TO CONTINUE IN DEPTH MONITORING OF THE TARGET SPECIES IN 2020

Recipients suffered from loss of income, jobs, and donations, and in some cases even organization closures.



### 25% OF PROJECT HAVE NOT YET STARTED ANY OF THE PLANNED ACTIVITIES DUE TO COVID-19 AND 44% OF PROJECTS ARE UNSURE IF OUTREACH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES WILL BE ABLE RESUME IN 2021

Recipients reported the following primary hardships:

**"Loss of incomes from eco-tourism and government cuts which help pay forest guide salaries"**

**"Loss of eco-tourism which is 90% of the income for both the organisation and the island economy"**

**"Not being able to visit our field sites has delayed the project and now our goals will take longer to achieve"**

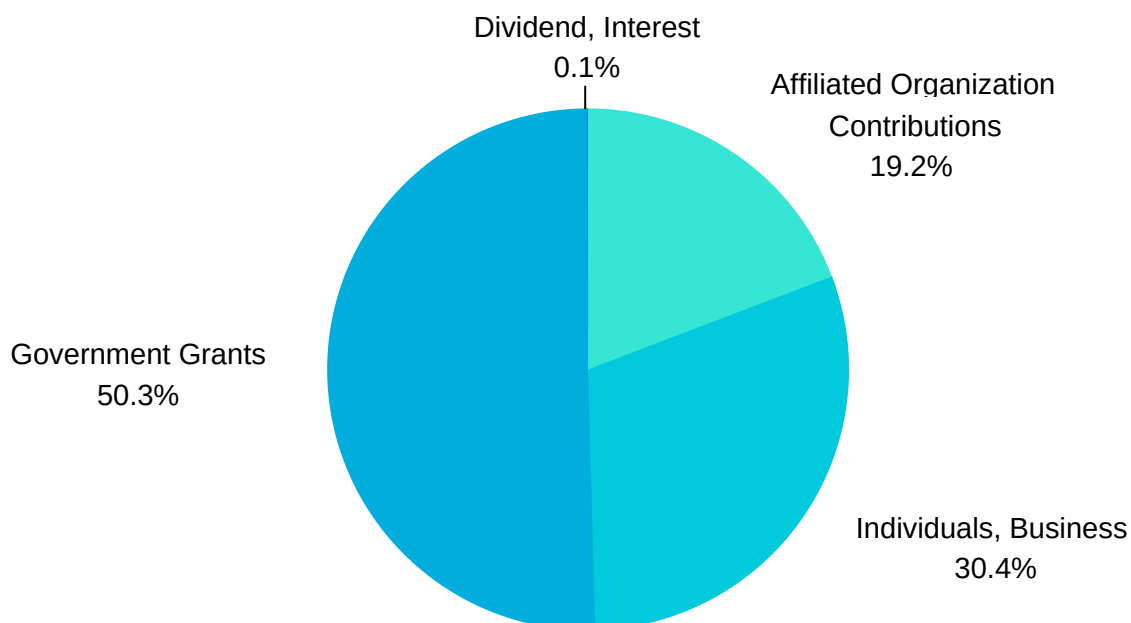
### 75% OF THE PROJECTS HAVE NOT SECURED ANY ADDITIONAL FUNDING AND 57% ARE CONCERNED THAT THE SAME FUNDING STREAMS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE IN 2021 AND BEYOND.

**OUR EMERGENCY GRANTS ARE AIMED AT COMBATING THIS ECONOMIC HARDSHIP, AND WE ARE DEDICATED TO SECURING FUNDS FOR IGUANA CONSERVATION INTO THE FUTURE.**

# FINANCIALS

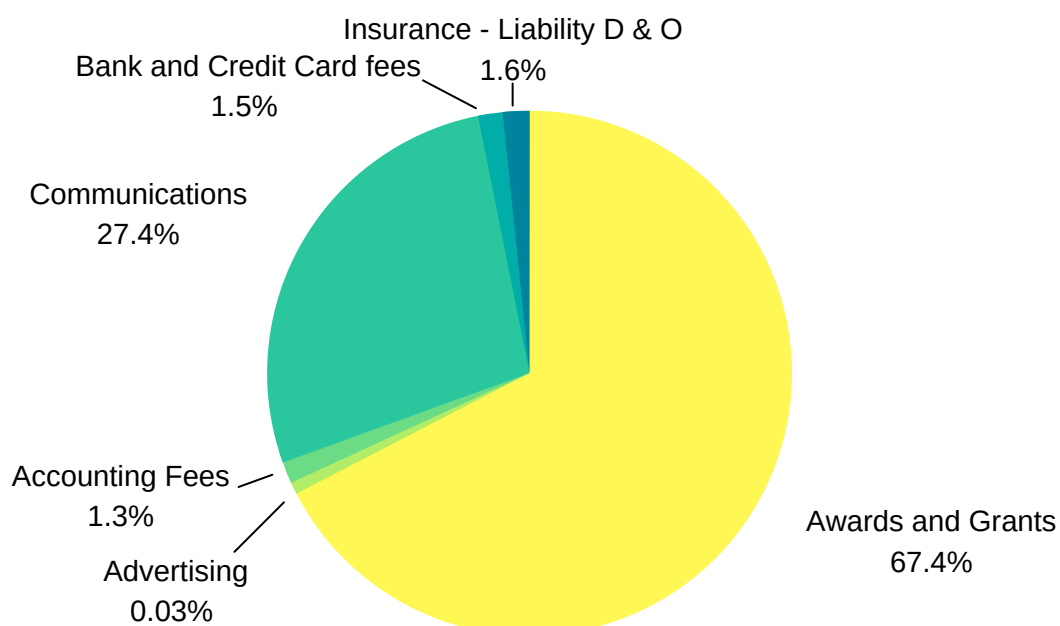
## 2020 Income

**Affiliated Organization Contributions**  
\$39,000  
**Individual, Business contributions**  
\$61,670.95  
**Government Grants**  
\$102,232.90  
**Dividend, Interest (Securities)**  
\$201.57



## 2020 Expenditure

**Awards and Grants**  
\$52,243.56  
**Communications**  
\$21,226.49  
**Accounting Fees**  
\$1025  
**Insurance- Liability D & O**  
\$1,250  
**Bank and Credit Card Fees**  
\$1,169.21  
**Advertising**  
\$21





We wish to acknowledge the following donors and recognize you as conservation heroes. We thank you for stepping up during this global crisis and continuing your support. Because of your generosity, we are able to sustain our commitment to saving threatened iguanas and their habitats during this unprecedented time.

## \$50,000 to \$100,000+

U.S Fish & Wildlife Service

## \$25,000 to \$50,000

Jill Jollay

## \$1,000 to \$25,000

Brevard Zoo  
Cameron Park Zoo  
Disney Conservation Fund  
Fort Worth Zoo  
Jacksonville Zoo  
John Iverson  
Network for Good  
San Diego Zoo  
Sedgwick County Zoo  
Wendy Townsend  
Anders Wallden  
Wildlife Conservation Society  
Bruce Weissgold  
Aaron Zelnik  
Zoo Med  
Zoo Miami

## \$500 to \$1,000

Allison Alberts  
Ryan Blakley  
Tandora Grant  
Jakob Magnus

## \$1 - \$500

Colette Adams  
Michal ÅerÅ anskÅ  
Varga Andras  
Erik Jan Arends  
Glyn Avery  
Lorraine Baker  
Duckie Batt  
Alexander Batt  
Liselle Bertrand

## \$1 - \$500 continued

Avril Bertrand	Rick Hudson	Elaine Powers
Dawn Bloom	William Hutchisn	Tynnetta Qaiyim
Anne R Boy	Anne Marie Hutchison	Athar Qasim
Michael Capek	Worth Jennings	Aisling Quinn-Fleming
Ellen Chernoff	Lara John	Brittany Ramone
Christopher Cobb	Trent Johnson	Reptile Passions
Noah Cohen	Lily Jones	Gunilla Ridderberg
Janet Lee Connors	Humphrey Keeper	Christine Roserens
Livvy Cropper	Chuck Knapp	Linda Rosenberg
Andy Daneault	Tom Knapp	Ernst Rupp
TJ Davis	Peter Konneker	Nicholas Samuels
Omar De Casas	Stephen LaBriola	Alyssa Scagnelli
Kevin De Queiroz	WM Landau	Nico Schulz
Marjorie Dick Stuart	Paul Larosa	Iain Sim
Beth Dillenbeck	Paolo Larosa	Alex Slavenko
Melissa Easton	Jacob Larsson	Jerry Sorrell
Kirstin Eilers	Heidi Later Hager	Isabel Smith
Elemental Luxury	Beverly Lawrence	Sharron Smith
Tina Ellner	Megan Lee	Kiki Sonoflars
Jeffery Ettling	Steve Lewis	Natalie Stewart
Tiago Esteves	Carolyn Lyall	Shannon St Hilaire
Sam Farro	Lani Lyman-henley	Stickney
Ann Caroline Feike	Anita Madhav	Shannon Stubbs
Yael Feinerman	Rune Magnusson	Molly Talbott
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Michael Fouraker	Anita Malhotra	Ashley Thompson
Aaron Frank	Marie Maltese	Cate Thomson
Rande Gallant	Daisy Maryon	Toby Ross
Anthony Galyer	Thorben Maur	Kathryn Tosney
George Ganat	Josaih McCarthy	Wendy Townsend
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	Lynne Pieper	



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