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

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

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

Read about our 2020 budget updates on page 8.

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
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 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.
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!
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 (Roatàn 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).
- 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.
- 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.
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**

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

"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

Affiliated Organization Contributions 19.2%
Government Grants 50.3%
Individuals, Business 30.4%
Dividend, Interest 0.1%

2020 Expenditure

Awards and Grants
$52,243.56
Communications
$21,226.49
Accounting Fees
$1,025
Insurance - Liability D & O
$1,250
Bank and Credit Card Fees
$1,169.21
Advertising
$21

Awards and Grants 67.4%
Insurance - Liability D & O 1.6%
Bank and Credit Card fees 1.5%
Communications 27.4%
Accounting Fees 1.3%
Advertising 0.03%
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 ÅerÅanskÅ
Varga Andras
Erik Jan Arends
Glyn Avery
Lorraine Baker
Duckie Batt
Alexander Batt
Liselle Bertrand

Avril Bertrand
Dawn Bloom
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Ellen Chernoff
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Noah Cohen
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TJ Davis
Omar De Casas
Kevin De Queiroz
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Anne Marie Hutchison
Worth Jennings
Lara John
Trent Johnson
Lily Jones
Humphrey Keeper
Chuck Knapp
Tom Knapp
Peter Koneker
Stephen Labriola
WM Landau
Paul Larosa
Paolo Larosa
Jacob Larsson
Heidi Later Hager
Beverly Lawrence
Megan Lee
Steve Lewis
Carolyn Lyall
Lani Lyman-henley
Anita Madhav
Rune Magnusson
Sara Magoon-Healy
Anita Malhotra
Marie Maltese
Daisy Maryon
Thorben Maur
Josaith McCarthy
Elaine McIlroy
Jay McKinney
Rebecca Morris
Tim Morrow
Sean Murphy
Kusum Naik
Warayot Nanakornpanom
Nikhil Nayee
Antonia Neben-verhoolen
Zahra Oliphant
Sarah Otterstrom
Stesha Pasachnik
Susan Pasachnik
Thomas Patnaude
Paul Cerino
Lynne Pieper
Elaine Powers
Tynnetta Qaiyim
Athar Qasim
Aisling Quinn-Fleming
Brittany Ramone
Reptile Passions
Gunilla Ridderberg
Christine Roserens
Linda Rosenberg
Ernst Rupp
Nicholas Samuels
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Nico Schulz
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Christopher Tracey
Audrey Tucker
United Way of Buffalo
Jamileth Urbina
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David Winsten
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