

FOCUS ON CONSERVATION

Lesser Antillean Iguanas on St. Eustatius

ALL PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT JAN VAN OOSTEN



PLEASE SUPPORT THIS CAMPAIGN

Lesser Antillean Iguanas (*Iguana delicatissima*) are endemic to the Lesser Antilles. Extant populations occur on only a few islands, and few of these populations are thriving. Most are affected by habitat loss and, to a lesser extent, exploitation (mostly for food). Hybridization with introduced Green Iguanas (*Iguana iguana*) is threatening the integrity of the gene pool on some islands.

In 2004, the population on St. Eustatius (= Statia) was estimated at **425 individuals**. However, St. Eustatius National Parks protect substantial tracts of suitable habitat and many landowners with adjacent properties maintain gardens that are extensively exploited by iguanas. Prospects for conserving a viable and stable population are quite good. However, roadkills occur and, although Stadians rarely kill and eat iguanas, guest workers often fail to distinguish Lesser Antillean Iguanas from the Green Iguanas routinely consumed on their home islands. Consequently, ongoing educational efforts are necessary, if only to reinforce the pride Stadians should take in their endemic population.

In 2004, the International Iguana Society donated signs that were placed in prominent locations throughout the island. Unfortunately, they have not held up well to the tropical sun. The IRCF is spearheading an effort to replace them with new color signs that carry a 20-year guarantee. If you are interested in making a donation to support that effort or want more detailed information, please visit:



www.IRCF.org/eustatius (or accessible from the IRCF home page)

Donors who contribute \$50 will have their names listed on the signs and those who donate \$100 or more also will receive a special T-shirt featuring the artwork of Joel Friesch.

YOUR NAME HERE

There is a restriction on characters due to space limitations. See website.

GET THE T-SHIRT!



Beautiful color artwork of *Iguana delicatissima* by Joel Friesch



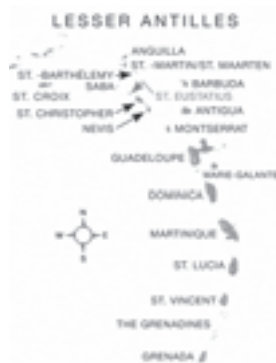
Color IRCF logo labeled CONTRIBUTOR St. Eustatius, Lesser Antilles



www.STATIAPARK.ORG



www.IRCF.ORG



CORPORATE SPONSORS. Corporate logo added below the bottom of the back artwork & name added to the sign: \$1,000. Contact the IRCF for more information.