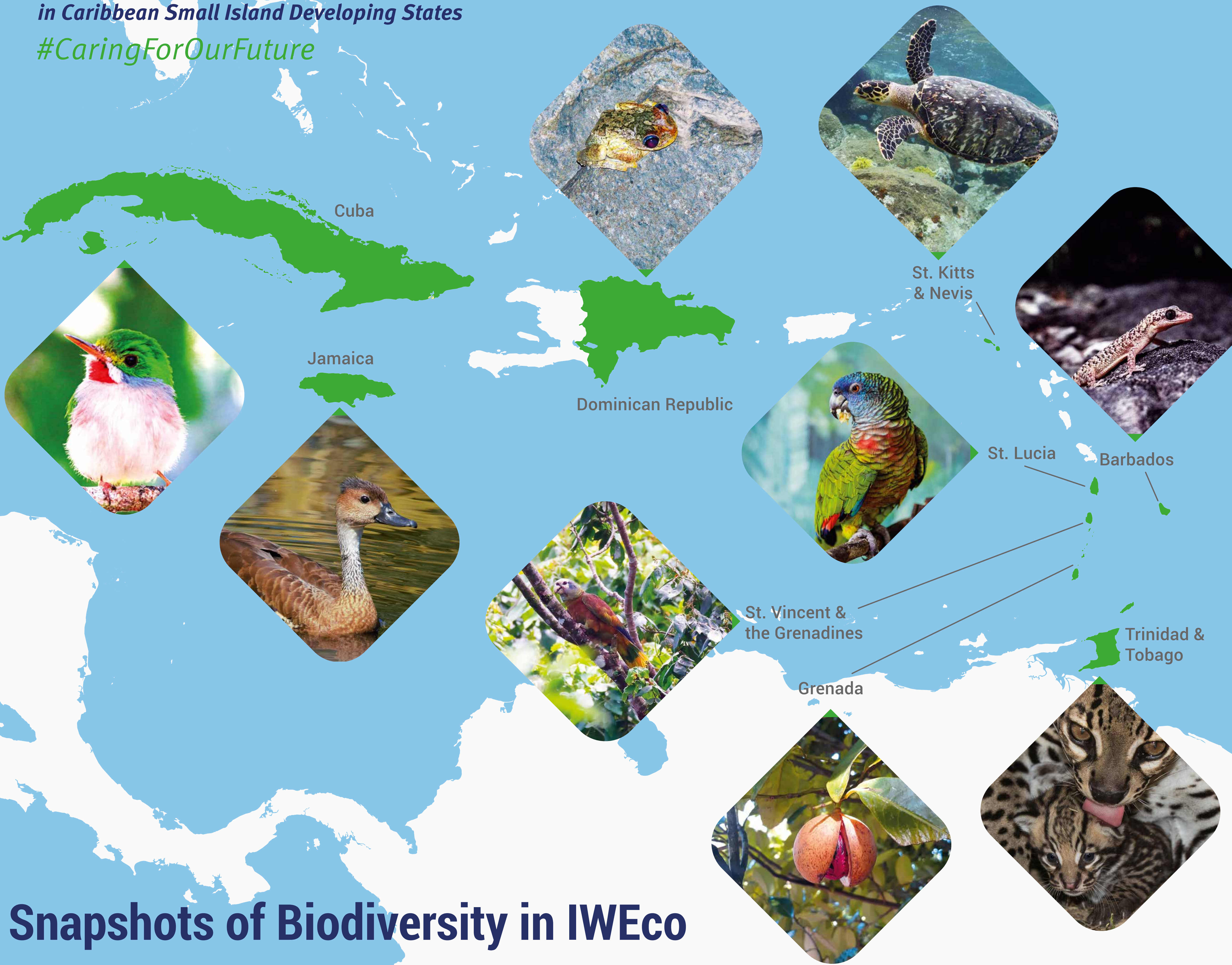




IWEco

**Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management
in Caribbean Small Island Developing States**

#CaringForOurFuture



Snapshots of Biodiversity in IWEco

The Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWEco Project) is a multi-focal regional project that addresses water, land and biodiversity resource management as well as climate change. Project implementation began in 2017 and will end in 2023. It is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) is the lead Implementing Agency. The Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention, UNEP CAR/RCU is the lead Executing Agency. Partnership is a central tenet of the project which is being implemented through a network of international, regional and national partners. A total of 10 countries are participating in the project and several of these have national sub-projects which target water, land and ecosystem issues at specific sites.

IWEco's objective is to contribute to the preservation of Caribbean ecosystems that are of global significance and the sustainability of livelihoods through the application of existing proven technologies and approaches that are appropriate for small island developing states through improved fresh and coastal water resources management, sustainable land management and sustainable forest management that also seek to enhance resilience of socio-ecological systems to the impacts of climate change.

Biological Diversity in the Caribbean. The Caribbean Sea Basin is globally significant, having been designated as one of the 36 biodiversity hotspots in the world due to its high endemism and threat risk (Ecosystem Profile - The Caribbean Island Biodiversity Hotspot - CEPF 2019). According to Conservation International (CI), the Caribbean Islands' 'hotspot' supports exceptionally diverse ecosystems.

Threats to Biodiversity. Conversions of forest and coastal/aquatic ecosystems have triggered loss of species richness and diversity in all the countries of the Caribbean. As lands and coastal ecosystems have been cleared for development, habitat fragmentation results in diminished ecological viability of remaining forest fragments, often left without connecting biological corridors.

In many of the islands, fragmented populations survive only in pockets within inaccessible high-elevation forests, or in areas that remain isolated due to lack of development investments. The rich biodiversity of the Caribbean consists of both native and introduced species. The uncontrolled expansion of exotic species is a significant issue that affects both land and biodiversity.

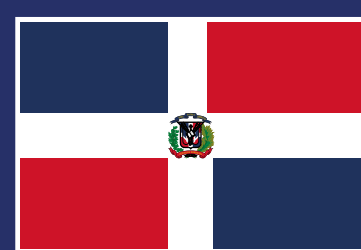
Based on reliable records, at least 38 Caribbean species have been declared extinct (CI). This underscores the global importance of Caribbean ecosystems and the need for critical conservation interventions.



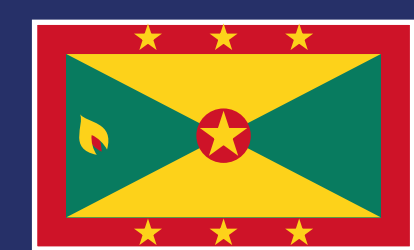
Barbados
Name: Barbados Leaf Toed Gecko
Scientific name: *Phyllodactylus pulcher*
Photo credit: Barbados Marketing Solutions Ltd.



Cuba
Name: Cuban Tody
Scientific name: *Todus multicolor*
Photo credit: Idania Garcia Castillo



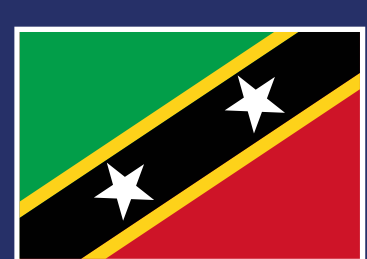
Dominican Republic
Name: Hispaniolan Giant tree Frog
Scientific name: *Osteopilus vastus*
Photo credit: Dario Flores



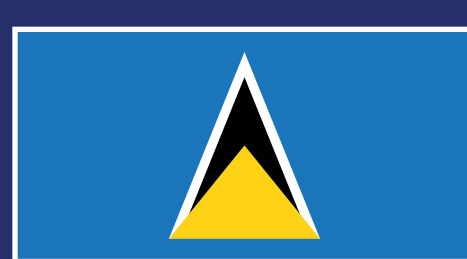
Grenada
Name: Nutmeg
Scientific name: *Myristica fragrans*
Photo credit: Dillon Palmer



Jamaica
Name: West Indian Whistling Duck
Scientific name: *Dendrocygna arborea*
Photo credit: Ricardo Miller



Saint Kitts & Nevis
Name: Hawksbill turtle
Scientific name: *Eretmochelys imbricata*
Photo credit: Jason Hanley



Saint Lucia
Name: Saint Lucia Parrot
Scientific name: *Amazona versicolor*
Photo credit: Johnathan Cornibert & Nerius Mitchel



St. Vincent & the Grenadines
Name: St. Vincent Parrot
Scientific name: *Amazona guildingii*
Photo credit: St. Vincent & the Grenadines Forestry Department



Trinidad & Tobago
Name: Ocelot
Scientific name: *Leopardus pardalis*
Photo credit: Quentin Questel

For more information on IWEco



The Cartagena Convention Secretariat
14-20 Port Royal Street
Kingston, Jamaica
www.iweco.org

