

Offshore Island Conservation in Saint Lucia



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SAINT LUCIA

Maria Islands Wildlife Reserve

Maria Major:
-12 ha
-Vested in SLNT

Maria Minor:
-1 ha
-Vested in SLNT

Dennergy Island



4 ha

Vested in SLNT



© Matthew Morton

Praslin Island:
-1 ha

Rat Island:
• 1 ha



© Matthew Morton

- Offshore islands
- Whiptail lizards
- Highway

Rat Island

Lapins Island

Dennery Island

L'Islet a Ramier
Rouche Island

Dennery Island

Praslin Island

Praslin Island

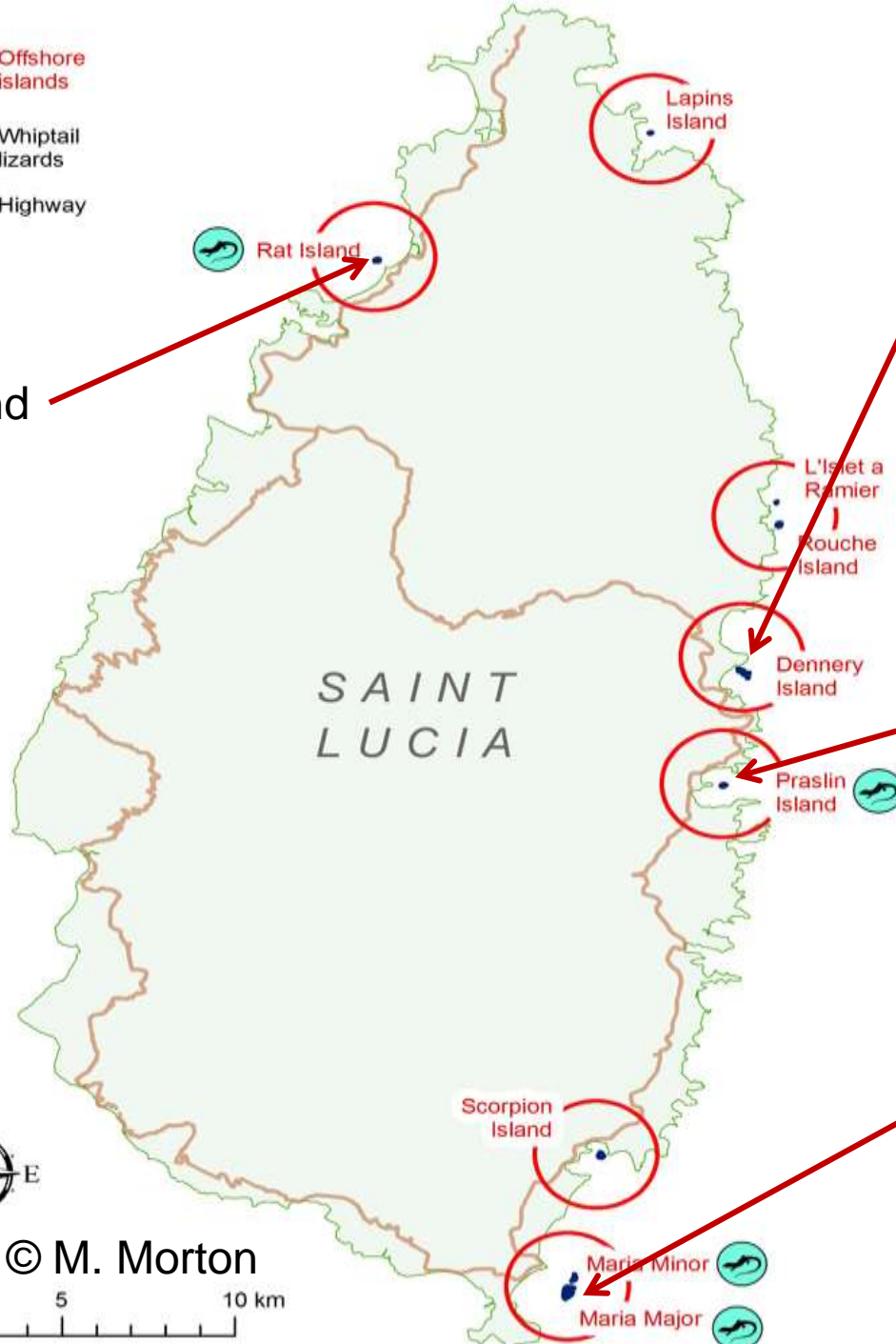
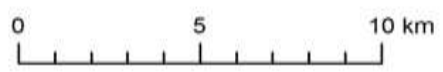
Scorpion Island

Maria Islands

Maria Minor
Maria Major



© M. Morton



The reptile package



tree gecko © Toby Ross



Saint Lucia dwarf gecko © Jeni Morgan



rock gecko



Saint Lucia anole (tree lizard)



Saint Lucia worm snake © Jeni Morgan



worm lizard

the Saint Lucia whiptail lizard

- zando
- only discovered in 1960s: Gregor Williams, Robert Devaux
- Red Listed: Vulnerable
- conservation programme: 1993 → present
- don't keep all our eggs in one basket; translocation to Praslin Is

The background image shows a Saint Lucia racer snake, a slender brown snake with a distinct diamond-shaped scale pattern, coiled among a thick layer of dry, brown, autumnal leaves. A small, bright yellow fruit is visible on the left side of the frame. The text 'the Saint Lucia racer' is overlaid in white at the top center.

the Saint Lucia racer

- kouwess
- believed extinct by 1930s
- re-discovered in 1973
- new conservation assessment 2011-12
- rarest snake in the world

racers_to_wk5

TYPE_1

- capture
- recapture
- sighting



Birds



Threats to these islands and species

- Fires
- Invasive species
- Garbage disposal
- Illegal harvesting
- Natural disasters (Hurricanes)

our current biosecurity protocols

- on-site rat surveillance using bait stations
- = integrated detection and killing devices
- wax bait detects: gnaw marks, blue droppings
- poison bait kills... but we do follow-up checks if rats are detected





our current biosecurity protocols

other rat detection methods:

- droppings on branches, rocks;
- footprints in sand
- ... we have only recently formalized these methods
- detection of other IAS is opportunistic

our current biosecurity protocols

frequency of offshore island checks:

- in theory: each island visited on one day every 5 weeks
- in practice:
 - Dennery Is difficult/impossible from Dec-Apr
 - access to Rat Is a bit patchy

Dennerly Island restoration



Awareness and Education



What we've learnt and how we move forward

- Conservation efforts must involve community participation
- Pursue protected status for islands not currently protected
- Support current efforts to get cabinet's approval of the System of Protected Areas
- Ensure that the department's work plans are aligned to the goals of the NBSAP

Thank You