



Organization: Island Conservation

ID: 3004

Title of the side-event: Progress Towards the Implementation of the CBD Strategic Plan and Aichi Biodiversity Targets through the Eradication of Invasive Alien Species in the Caribbean

Time: 13:15 - 14:45

Summary: Case Studies of invasive alien species eradication in Antigua and Barbuda and the Dominican Republic, were presented ,highlighting (a) how these successes have effectively furthered Aichi Biodiversity Targets (especially 5, 9, 12, 15, and 19); Island Conservation (b) discussed the scientific and technical needs and opportunities for invasive alien vertebrate eradication; and (c) provided an update on the *Small Islands Big Difference* campaign and information systems (www.tib.islandconservation.org and <http://eradicationfdb.fos.auckland.ac.nz/>) that can assist Parties in planning and implementing invasive alien vertebrate eradication programs; and d) invited discussion of Party interest in a “GEF Proposal Writing Clinic” that Island Conservation may host with partners in the margins of SBSTTA 18 (June 2014; Montreal).

The following conclusions were offered on the utility of invasive alien species eradication:

- The eradication of invasive alien species can be a cost-effective action, particularly when introduced organisms are detected early in the invasion process, the area of introduction is geographically or otherwise contained (e.g., oceanic islands), and a site-specific strategic plan is developed that takes relevant biological and socio-economic parameters into consideration.
- There are already more than 800 examples of the successful eradication of invasive alien vertebrates recorded from islands. This body of work provides a strong scientific and technical basis for the design and implementation of cost-effective eradication programs worldwide.
- Advances in eradication technology and the strategic application of lessons learned from past eradication efforts have increased the feasibility and the success of invasive alien species eradication.
- Eradication often enables ecosystem restoration and the recovery of species at risk of imminent extinction.



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Participants were particularly interested in information on how to:

- Effectively address animal rights concerns when eradicating invasive alien vertebrates;
- Measure species and ecosystem-level recovery following eradication projects; and
- Communicate the benefits of invasive alien species eradication from the socio-economic and cultural perspectives (e.g. green vervet monkeys are impacting the human and natural environment in St. Kitts, but also starting to be used as 'point of interest' by the tourism industry).

Although emphasis was placed on the Caribbean region, much of the information and discussion was relevant to all island States and nations that include island ecosystems.

For further information, please contact:

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