

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	9408
Project Name:	Preventing COSTS of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in Barbados and the OECS Countries
Countr(ies):	Regional, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, St. Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Grenada, Global
Implementing Agency:	UNEP

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Preventing COSTS of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in Barbados and the OECS Countries

Country

Regional, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, St. Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Grenada, Global

GEF ID

9408

Implementing Agency

UNEP

Executing Entity

Antigua and Barbuda Ministry of Health and the Environment, Barbados Ministry of Agriculture, Food Fisheries and Water Resource Management; St Kitts and Nevis Ministry of Sustainable Development; and CABI

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

FSP

PIR Submission

9/2/2025

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2025 , 6th PIR

Objective

Prevention, early detection, control and management frameworks for invasive alien species (IAS) that emphasize a risk management approach by focusing on the highest risk invasion pathways of Barbados and OECS countries.

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Satisfactory

Development Objective

Moderately Satisfactory

Overall risk

Moderate Risk

Project Financing

4,104,000.00

Cumulative Disbursement

3,517,797.00

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval 4/24/2018	Agency Approval 7/9/2018
Implementation Start 7/11/2018	First Disbursement 8/7/2018
Expected MTR 12/1/2021	Actual MTR 12/1/2021
Expected Completion 12/31/2025	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities

Component one is effectively completed all the actions with the scope and capacity of the project with the deliverables being submitted to the national authorities for adoption and implementation. Existing national working groups that served as National Steering Committees capacities were strengthened to oversee the management of Invasive Alien Species. All three National Invasive Species Strategy and Action Plans (NISSAPS) have been completed, reviewed, and accepted by the National Steering Committees and submitted to the cabinets for endorsement as official government policy. Component two with focus on the national sub-projects, has been largely successful (as detailed in prior PIR reporting) and contributed valuable lessons to the management of the region's rich biodiversity. The Barbados sub-project still remains active however, with the ongoing process in the installation of a biosecure environment with enclosure at Paragon (within the Barbados Defence Force grounds) for safeguarding the endangered Barbados Leaf-toed Gecko. The challenges with delays in the Barbados sub-project has necessitated extensions in the overall project (explained in the section below). Under Component 3 in respect to work at the regional level the following final deliverables were completed: i. International Trade Risk Assessment; ii. Passenger Luggage Risk Assessment; iii. The rollout of the Declare, Dispose or Pay Campaign in the remaining four of the six participating countries with the provision of biosecurity bins, and poster campaign. iv. The second field guide: 'Guide to the Alien and invasive animals in the Caribbean' was printed and circulated virtually. v. The final two policy briefs on the international trade and passenger luggage were completed and circulated. vi. The proceedings of the closeout workshop and the Magazine to highlight the outputs achieved by the project were completed and circulated electronically in September 2024.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

Key challenges Personnel movements and obligations: In St Kitts and Nevis the NPC left the project on the completion of the technical work, however some closeout national reports are outstanding and need to be completed. Change-over of key staff at Flora and Fauna that was contracted to deliver the bio-secure fence in Barbados (Leaf-toed Gecko conservation) lead to delays in implementation ultimately leading to premature termination of the contract. Further in Barbados, the Project Director, was temporarily assigned to a position in another Ministry, as well as the Departure of the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Environment and National Beautification, which resulted in administrative shortfalls that caused additional significant delays in awarding the contract for the fence construction. Delays in the installation of the bio-security fence - conservation of the Barbados Leaf-toed Gecko: Significant delays in completing the biosecurity fencing at the

Paragon site due to shortcomings in local procurement processes associated with procuring the materials from China to complete the bio-secure enclosure for the critically endangered Barbados Leaf-toed Gecko under the Barbados sub-project has been holding back the completion of the overall project. The unforeseen lengthy procurement process resulted in the enclosure's construction materials arriving in-country at the end of October 2023. Compounding this challenge was the need to re-design the construction of the foundation to support the fence posts given the failure of the 20-ton hammer drill to efficiently bore the holes in the rock substrate at the site. This necessitated the procurement of a new local contractor capable of managing the re-design and installation. The test holes were dug in April of 2024 and revised Terms of Reference circulated in February 2024. Two contractors submitted bids. The National Steering Committee met on May 2025 and selected a contractor. The revised completion date of the bio-secure enclosure is now September 2025. Removing invasive predatory species within the enclosure and monitoring the viability and stability of the leaf-toed gecko population is expected to be completed by October 2025. All other components and activities were completed and outputs were presented at the closeout workshop. The proceedings, as well as, a magazine highlighting the outcomes of the project was circulated in September 2024.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

Summary: Ministries responsible for environment, agriculture, fisheries, and tourism serve as frontline agencies in the control and management of invasive alien species (IAS). Specifically, the ministries overseeing agriculture and health typically manage port health functions, including the regulation of plant and animal imports. These institutions have been central stakeholders in shaping both policy and technical interventions under the project, with their personnel among the primary beneficiaries of capacity-building activities. National offices of the attorney general have contributed extensively to the policy and legislative frameworks required for effective IAS management.

To address the typically low financial commitment to IAS surveillance and control—particularly at ports of entry—the project has sought to advance sustainable financing mechanisms. These efforts aim to support long-term and intensive control measures for high-priority species, especially where eradication is the goal. A key development in this area has been the opening of a funding window under the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, which has already received an initial capitalization. Continued collaboration with the Fund will be essential to sustaining these efforts.

Given the high volume of inter-island travel and the need for harmonized policies, the Secretariat of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) is a critical partner. The OECS has committed to a leadership role in implementing the regional IAS strategy developed under the project, reinforcing the importance of coordinated action across member states.

The research community remains a driving force in assessing the ecological and socioeconomic impacts of IAS. Key contributors include the University of the West Indies, the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), and the Caribbean Herpetological Society. In addition, non-governmental organizations such as the Environmental Awareness Group (Antigua & Barbuda) and Fauna & Flora International have been actively engaged in field research and control efforts. These entities have collaborated with a broad network of technical and policy experts, enriching the overall approach to IAS management across the region.

Remaining engagements: Coordination meetings with Barbados stakeholders on remaining work under project at this stage:

1. Meeting of UNEP/CABI and MENB to remove impediments to the construction of the bio-secure fence at Paragon, Barbados. This meeting was held on the 4th of December 2024. This meeting agreed

to an action plan for submitting outstanding reports as well as plan that included CABI assisting in the procurement of contractors for the construction of the fence. The delays in submitting financial reports as well as the temporary promotion to other senior positions resulted in continued delays in the awarding of the contracts.

2. Another meeting is planned for July 2025 to expedite the awarding of the contract.

D. Gender Equality

A key gender-based indicator for the project focuses on strengthening the capacity of participating countries in invasive alien species (IAS) prevention—particularly in Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR), risk management, and economic impact assessment—while ensuring fair gender representation throughout.

Project investments, especially in capacity-building initiatives, have resulted in equitable gender participation. This is reflected in the employment profiles of personnel involved in government sectors such as port health and safety, as well as in non-governmental organizations. Notably, there has been a growing trend of women entering environmental management roles, often surpassing their male counterparts in representation.

At both national and regional levels, women were well represented in decision-making bodies, including National Steering Committees and regional working groups. Consultancy engagements under the project maintained a balanced gender ratio of 1:1, ensuring equal opportunities for men and women to contribute meaningfully.

Overall, no significant gender imbalance was observed in terms of access to project resources. Women with decision-making authority actively participated across both governmental and non-governmental platforms, reinforcing the project's commitment to inclusive and equitable engagement.

E. Knowledge Management

The Reptile Conservation Specialist overseeing the biosecure facility installation (leaf-toed gecko) at Paragon, Barbados attended a Biosecurity Study Tour in Anguilla in June 2025. This was funded by co-finance from the ReWild and included an examination of the biosecure facility on Sandy Island an offshore island of the coast of Anguilla. This experience contributed to the knowledge base in the supervision of the construction of the bio-secure facility at Paragon.

Main learning during the period

Sustainability of project actions: One of the best ways of sustaining project actions is to have the key people such as project managers be employed by national agencies to continue to work to manage IAS to protect biodiversity post project. This is not happening due to limited government funding and staff seeking better job opportunities. However this project had some success by working with community groups to strengthen them to sustain actions post project. The fisher folk and fishing hobbyists continue act in controlling lion fish in Barbados. The Turtle Conservation Group in Barbados in trapping invasives during the nesting period of the Hawksbill Turtle to maximise the number of hatchlings successfully returning to the oceans. Another NGO is the Environmental Awareness Group in Antigua that will continue to contribute to sustainability of actions.

CABI's continued actions to set up the Caribbean IAS Trust Fund with at least one project won for the management of Croton Scale in Grenada will also contribute to sustained actions for biodiversity conservation by managing IAS post project.

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	
Components and Cost	
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	
Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	No-cost extensions to facilitate implementation delays. Output 9 (2.1b2): Monitoring program on effectiveness of control of invasive alien plant species in support of the Integrated Gully System Management Plan in Barbados This pilot was discontinued; determined that effectively addressing target IAS species through chemical and other treatments were not viable. Resources re-allocated.
Executing Entity	
Executing Entity Category	
Minor Project Objective Change	
Safeguards	
Risk Analysis	
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	
Location of Project Activity	
others	

IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Paragon, Christ Church, Barbados	13.0795	-59.4723	

Location Description:

An uplifted wave-cut platform and cliff primarily covered in grass with exposed limestone.

Activity Description:

Habitat augmentation and establishment of a 1.4ha fenced bio-secure site to protect a sub-population of the Critically Endangered Barbados leaf-toed gecko (*Phyllodactylus pulcher*) from invasive predators such as cats (*Felis catus*), rats (*Rattus* spp.), mice (*Mus musculus*), centipedes (*Scolopendra* spp.), and cane toads (*Rhinella marina*).

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Bath Beach, St. John, Barbados	13.1865	-59.4752	

Location Description:

A sand beach on the east coast of the island which hosts a nesting population of Critically Endangered hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*).

Activity Description:

Pilot project to experiment control measures for invasive mongooses (*Herpestes auropunctatus*) and rodents (*Rattus* spp. and *Mus musculus*) in situ to eliminate or reduce turtle nest and hatchling predation.

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Redonda Island	16.9384	-62.3455	

Location Description:

Offshore island formerly degraded by IAS; approx 49 km WSW of Antigua

Activity Description:

IAS eradication

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Nevis Peak	17.1412	-62.5794	

Location Description:

forested interior of Nevis

Activity Description:

Nest Predation Study

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Nevis Peak	17.1492	-62.5841	

Location Description:

forested interior of Nevis

Activity Description:

Nest Predation Study

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
St Kitts and Nevis, Liamugia	17.3831	-62.8324	

Location Description:

forested interior of St Kitts

Activity Description:

Nest Predation Study

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
St Kitts and Nevis, Liamugia	17.3725	-62.8108	

Location Description:

forested interior of St Kitts

Activity Description:

Nest Predation Study

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Green Island	17.0709	-61.6664	

Location Description:

Offshore island threatened by IAS off east coast of Antigua

Activity Description:

Rat Eradication

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category
M and E Document

Title
9408-PIR-UNEP-2025-IAS Barbados and the OECS