

# 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

9/11/2026

#### Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2026 , Final 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<br>4/24/2018 | Agency Approval<br>7/9/2018     |
| Implementation Start<br>7/11/2018     | First Disbursement<br>8/7/2018  |
| Expected MTR<br>12/1/2021             | Actual MTR<br>12/1/2021         |
| Expected Completion<br>12/31/2025     | Actual Completion<br>12/31/2025 |

## II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

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

The project reached technical completion on 31 December 2025. The project Terminal Evaluation commenced in March 2026 and is ongoing, to conclude by August 2026. Component one has effectively completed all actions within the project's scope and capacity, with the deliverables including: three critical situation analyses that informed the three National IAS Strategies and action plans. 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 a 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 under Component Two for safeguarding the Barbados Leaf-toed Gecko by the construction of a biosecure fence at Paragon (within the Barbados Defence Force grounds) remains active, as the installation of the fence is incomplete at project technical completion. The contractor engaged to install the fencing encountered challenges and had not resumed work by the time this report was prepared. MENB continues to pursue all available options to complete the fencing. However, habitat conservation measures at the site included installing predator evasion/refuge structures for the geckos. Based on research observations, the geckos are thriving at the site. The challenges and corresponding delays have necessitated extensions in the overall project (explained in the section below).

Under Component Three: regional activities, the following final deliverables were completed:

- i. International Trade Risk Assessment: this assessed the risks of trade in agricultural commodities, wood and wood products, used tyres, used equipment and vehicles as high-risk pathways of IAS introduction into the sub-region.
- ii. Passenger Luggage Risk Assessment: highlighted that intra-regional trade possibly posed a higher risk and that passenger luggage from ferries and cruise ships posed a higher risk than from international flights.
- iii. The rollout of the Declare, Dispose or Pay Campaign, in the in the remaining four of the six participating countries by the provision of biosecurity bins, and a poster campaign to sensitize passengers on deplaning for the need to adhere to biosecurity regulations.

- iv. The second field guide: 'Guide to the Alien and Invasive Animals of the Caribbean' was printed and circulated virtually.
- v. The final two policy briefs on international trade and passenger luggage were completed and circulated virtually.
- vi. The proceedings of the closeout workshop and Magazine to highlight the outputs of the project were completed and circulated electronically.

## **B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities**

The primary challenge the project faced in the closing phase was due to delays in the installation of the biosecure fence for the Barbados Leaf-toed Gecko habitat at Paragon. As reported in the prior PIR, this pilot project had experienced delays due to several administrative issues, including onerous procurement procedures in Barbados. Flora and Fauna International, contracted to fully deliver the installation, procured and imported the materials needed for construction. However, staff turnover in the organization led to prolonged delays, and the contract was eventually closed, allowing MENB to continue the work given that the materials were on-site. Further delays however, arose when key MENB personnel were temporarily reassigned to other ministries, creating administrative gaps that slowed the award of the fence construction contract. Work resumed in October 2025 with the intention of completion by year-end (ahead of project closure), but the contractor was unable to finish because of personnel challenges. MENB has committed to completing the installation and estimates this will be done before the end of 2026.

## **C. Stakeholder Engagement**

Given that the project is now at closure, the summary narrative below remains substantially as at last PIR; update on the remaining stakeholder engagements in Barbados where delays were experienced in delivery of field elements of the pilot project.

**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 to project closure** - coordination meetings with Barbados stakeholders on remaining work on the biosecure facility for the Leaf-toed Gecko at Paragon: CABI, MENB, and UNEP continued discussions that began in 2024 to address barriers to constructing the biosecure fence at Paragon, Barbados. CABI and MENB interviewed candidates from a shortlist of local contractors and submitted their recommendations to the Biodiversity Working Group, which serves as the project steering committee for the national sub-project. The Biodiversity Working Group made the final selection, and the contractor was engaged in October 2025.

#### **D. Gender Equality**

A key gender-related project indicator focuses on strengthening participating countries' capacity to prevent invasive alien species (IAS), particularly through Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR), risk management, and economic impact assessment, while promoting equitable gender representation.

Across the investments over the project duration, particularly in capacity building, the project supported equitable gender participation as was evident in the gender composition of personnel in government sectors such as port health and safety, as well as in non-governmental organizations. Women's participation in environmental management has also increased, in some cases exceeding that of men.

As recognized in recent times in the Caribbean, women were well represented in decision-making bodies at national and regional levels, including National Steering Committees and regional working groups. Consultancy engagements under the project generally maintained a 1:1 gender ratio, providing equal opportunities for men and women to contribute. Overall, no significant gender imbalance was observed in access to project resources, and women in decision-making roles actively participated across government and non-governmental platforms, reinforcing the project's commitment to inclusive and equitable engagement.

#### **E. Knowledge Management**

The project has strengthened the knowledge-management base through the Caribbean Invasive Alien Species Network and its dedicated website, <https://caribbeaninvasives.org/>, which CABI manages as a repository for knowledge products developed over many years. The site provides open access to a wide range of content, including guidelines, technical notes, papers, and course material for online learning. It is expected to remain a valuable resource for practitioners and specialists working on invasive alien species management in the Caribbean, Small Island Developing States, and globally.

As the project comes to an end, in retrospect, some key learnings include:

**1. Assumptions on securing high-level policy commitment to action:** A well designed project that included the inputs of the high-level policymakers in its formulation is no guarantee that the project's goals will be fully achieved, especially in the areas of improving policy and legislation. This requires input from national

cabinets to instruct the attorneys general's offices to act. However, environmental policies generally are seen as less important than crime, education, and health-related policies.

**2. Making measured investments at critical times to realize greatest efficacy:** Of the many drivers of biodiversity loss in SIDS, IAS is among one of the most significant drivers. Managing IAS populations at critical times of the life cycle of the native population, such as peak reproduction, can contribute significantly to stabilizing populations in the absence of sustainable control measures. This was demonstrated in the trapping of Mongooses in Barbados and the culling of lionfish in high-biodiverse reefs.

**3. Alternative nature-based solutions in IAS management; consideration for replication:** Adoption of nature-based solutions for managing IAS is sustainable in the long run. This was seen in the case of managing the croton scale in Grenada, where two bio-control agents released 30 years ago complemented native bio-control agents in keeping in check a new invasive species that had the potential to cause severe economic and environmental damage.

### III: Minor Amendments

|                                               |  |
|-----------------------------------------------|--|
| CONTEXT                                       |  |
| Result Framework                              |  |
| Components and Cost                           |  |
| Institutional And Implementation Arrangements |  |
| Financial Management                          |  |
| Implementation Schedule                       |  |
| 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

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Activity Description:

Rat Eradication

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## V. ANNEX

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Uploaded Document

|                   |                                              |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Document Category | Title                                        |
| M and E Document  | 9408_PIR_UNEP_2026_IAS Barbados and the OECS |