

# Improving Risk Assessments to Protect Endemic Wildlife



## The Unintended Consequences of Transporting Animals: Diseases, Behaviour, and Genetics



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### Snake scare in Quarry

Special Investigator 24/01/2014 15:36:00

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CAUGHT: Montego Bay Marine Park rangers, after succeeding in removing this snake from an ackee tree, got it under control before departing with it, much to the relief of residents.

Scores of curious onlookers (residents) from the community of Quarry, leading off the Salt Spring main road in Montego Bay, yesterday afternoon converged on a section of that community eagerly trying to get a glimpse of the over eight-foot-long snake discovered in a yard wrapped around a banana tree which eventually broke and the reptile took refuge in an ackee tree.

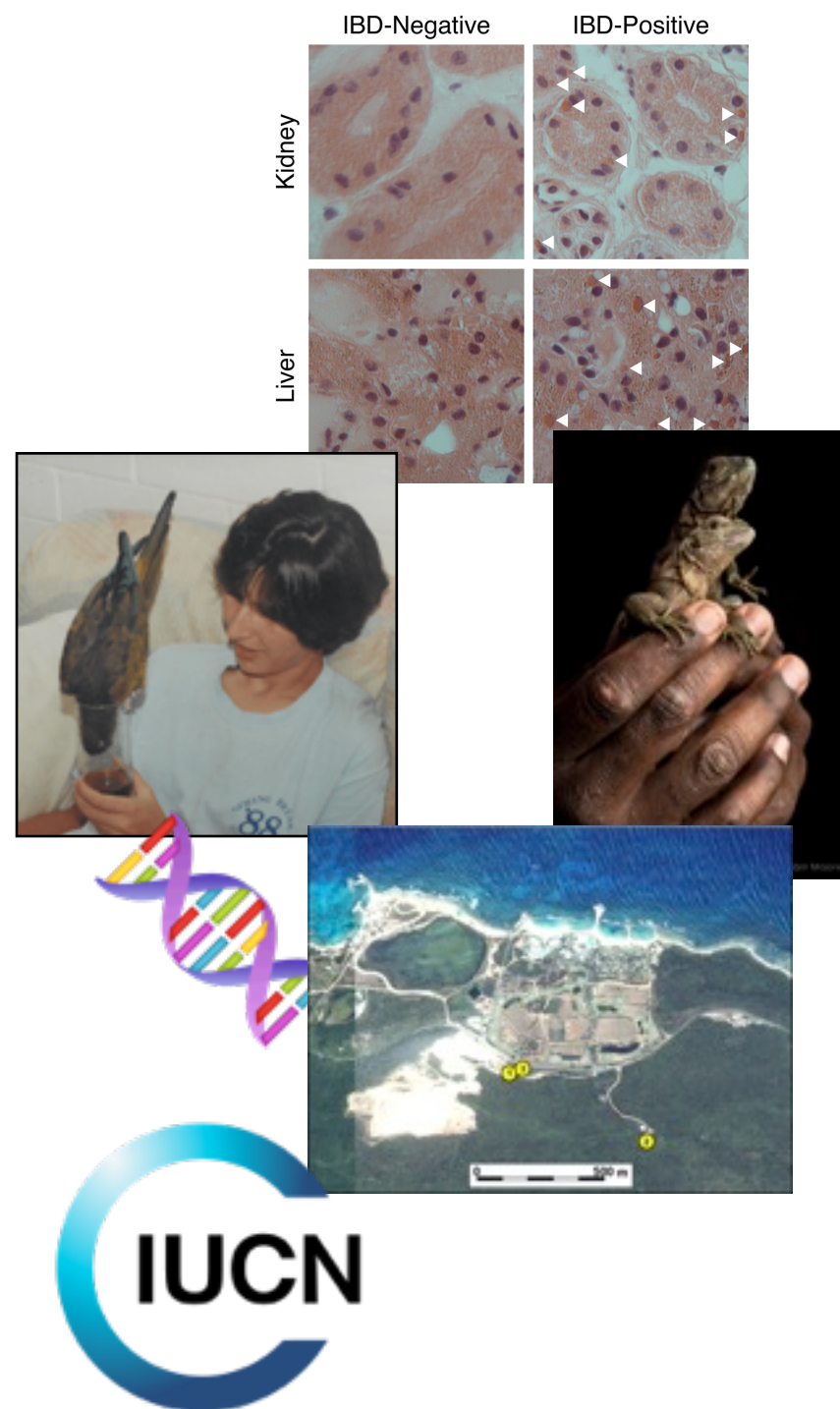
The police were called in to render assistance. They, in turn, summoned experts from NEPA (National Environment and Planning Agency) who, along with the Montego Bay Marine Park, removed the reptile which the residents deemed very dangerous.

Their fears and anxiety were put to rest when a quick assessment by a team of Park Rangers and Science Officer from the Montego Bay Marine Park - led by

Senior Ranger Wrenford Whittingham, Athol Monteith and Xavier Shim, Science Officer - indicated that the snake was a Jamaican Yellow Boa which is not poisonous.

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- 09:00 – 09:15** Welcome & Overview (Susan Koenig, DFES)
- 09:15 – 10:00** The Role of Disease in Avian Ecology and Conservation (Darrel K. Styles, DVM, PhD)
- 10:00 – 10:45** Ecology and Evolution of the Infectious Diseases of Snakes (James F. Wellehan, DVM, PhD)
- 10:45 – 11:00** Coffee Break
- 11:00 – 11:30** Jamaican Iguana Headstart Program: Pre-release health screening (Nancy Lung, VMD, MS)
- 11:30 – 11:50** Thick-billed Parrot Reintroduction Programme in Arizona: Case study on behavioural deficiencies and disease problems in captive-reared psittacines (Susan Koenig, DFES)
- 11:50 – 12:00** Jamaican Boa Genetics: Three recognized haplogroups. Status report on Jamaican parrot genetics (Susan Koenig, DFES)
- 12:00 – 1:00 PM** Lunch
- 1:00 – 1:20 PM** Jamaican Boa Translocations (Brent Newman)
- 1:20 – 1:45 PM** IUCN Guidelines for the Placement of Confiscated Animals (Susan Koenig, DFES).
- 1:45 – 3:00 PM** Working Session
- 3:00 – 3:15 PM** Coffee Break
- 3:15 – 4:30 PM** Working Session (cont'd) & Conclusions

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## OBJECTIVES:

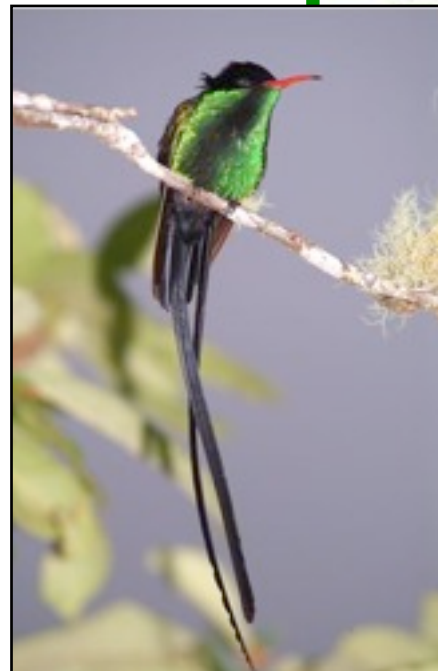
1. “Up-to-date” screening list for infectious diseases in psittacines and reptiles.
2. Guidelines for the translocation of wildlife and for the placement of confiscated wildlife
3. Sensitizing the public to issues associated with translocating wildlife.

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## ECOLOGY

Restriction in range



## EPIDEMIOLOGY

Area in which a particular disease is found regularly

Reported polio cases in 2013<sup>[78][79]</sup>



Country	Wild cases	Circulating vaccine-derived cases	Transmission status
Somalia	189	1	importation
Pakistan	91	44	endemic
Nigeria	53	3	endemic
Syria	16	0	importation
Kenya	14	0	importation

