

Mitigating threats of Invasive alien species in Saint Lucia



Guadeloupe 23th - 26 November 2009



Potential Threats To The Island

Coccinia grandis

Ivy Gourd



Spathodea campanulata

African Tulip





The Saint Lucia iguana

- Currently classified as *Iguana iguana*
- Probably better as *Iguana cf iguana*
- **cf** means: similar to this species (*Iguana iguana*) but not confirmed as the same
- Taxonomy needs clarifying but *I. iguana* is probably made up of several species



photo © S Brooker



The Saint Lucia iguana – threatened status

- No global assessment because of taxonomic uncertainty
- Using red list criteria for national population → **critically endangered**
- based on very small population size (< 1,000 adults) and very restricted range (N. E. coast of Saint Lucia)





The alien iguana in Saint Lucia

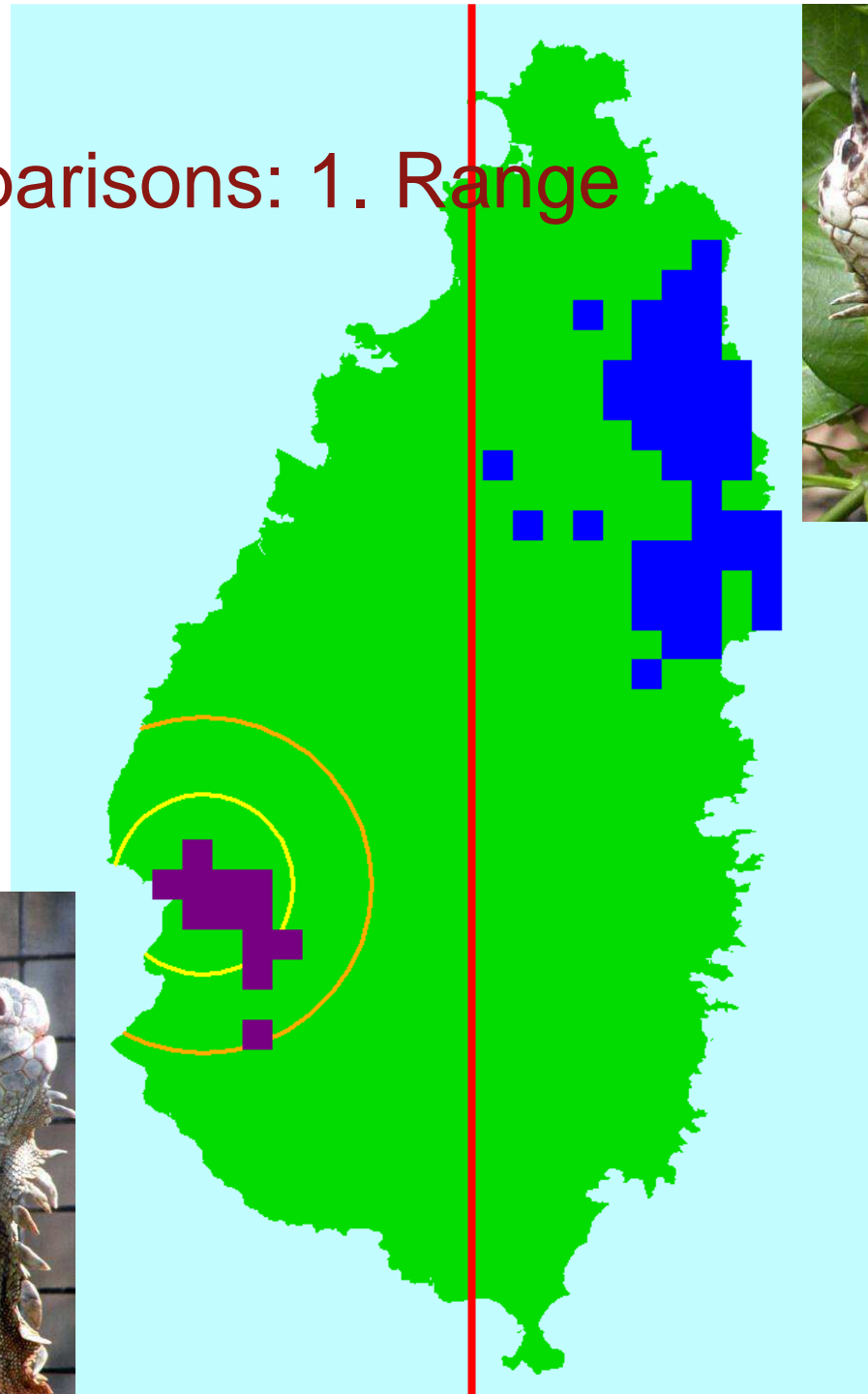
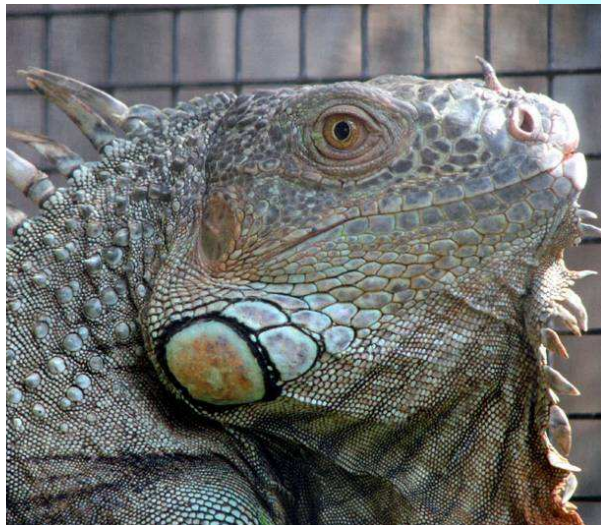
- Imported to The Still, Soufriere, from pet shop, Canada
- Species:
Iguana iguana
- Number imported ?
- Multiple escapes
- Hatchlings in the wild – first reported 2007





Comparisons: 1. Range

alien

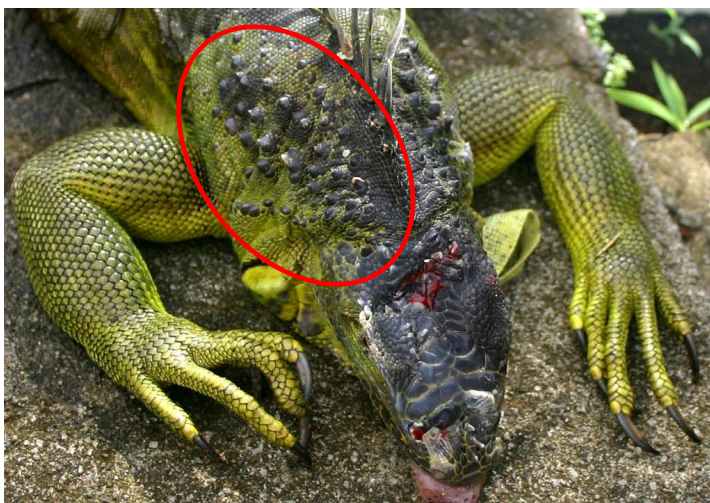
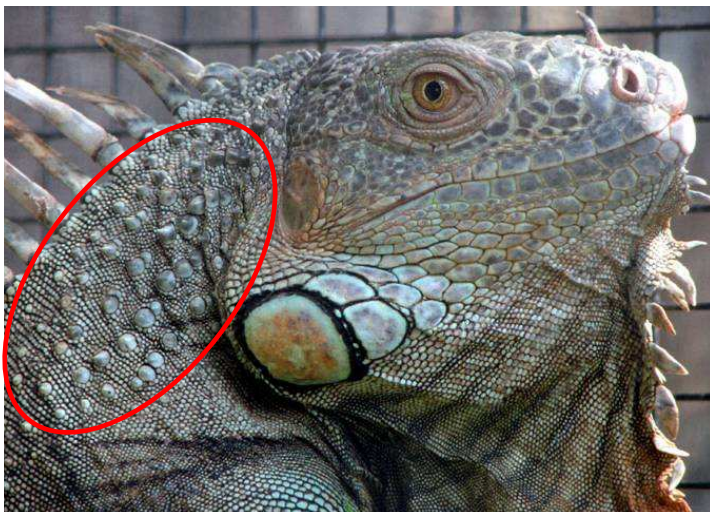


Saint
Lucian

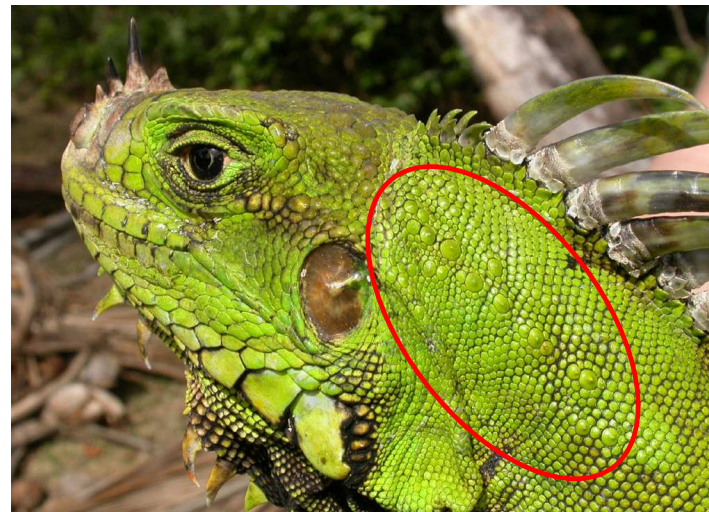


Comparisons: 2. Appearance - neck

alien



Saint Lucian





Comparisons: 3. Appearance - head shape

Alien



Saint Lucian



but head shape can vary with age and sex

Comparisons: 4. Breeding



alien

40-80
eggs

Saint Lucian



the alien iguana population can grow faster than the native one

Comparisons: 5. Nesting



alien

same?

Saint Lucian

- Feb-May
- Hot sand
- Near cover
- In groups



Comparisons: 6. Hatchlings



alien

similar in
appearance but
with the same
spines on the side
of the neck as
adult aliens

Saint Lucian



Comparisons: 7. Dispersal



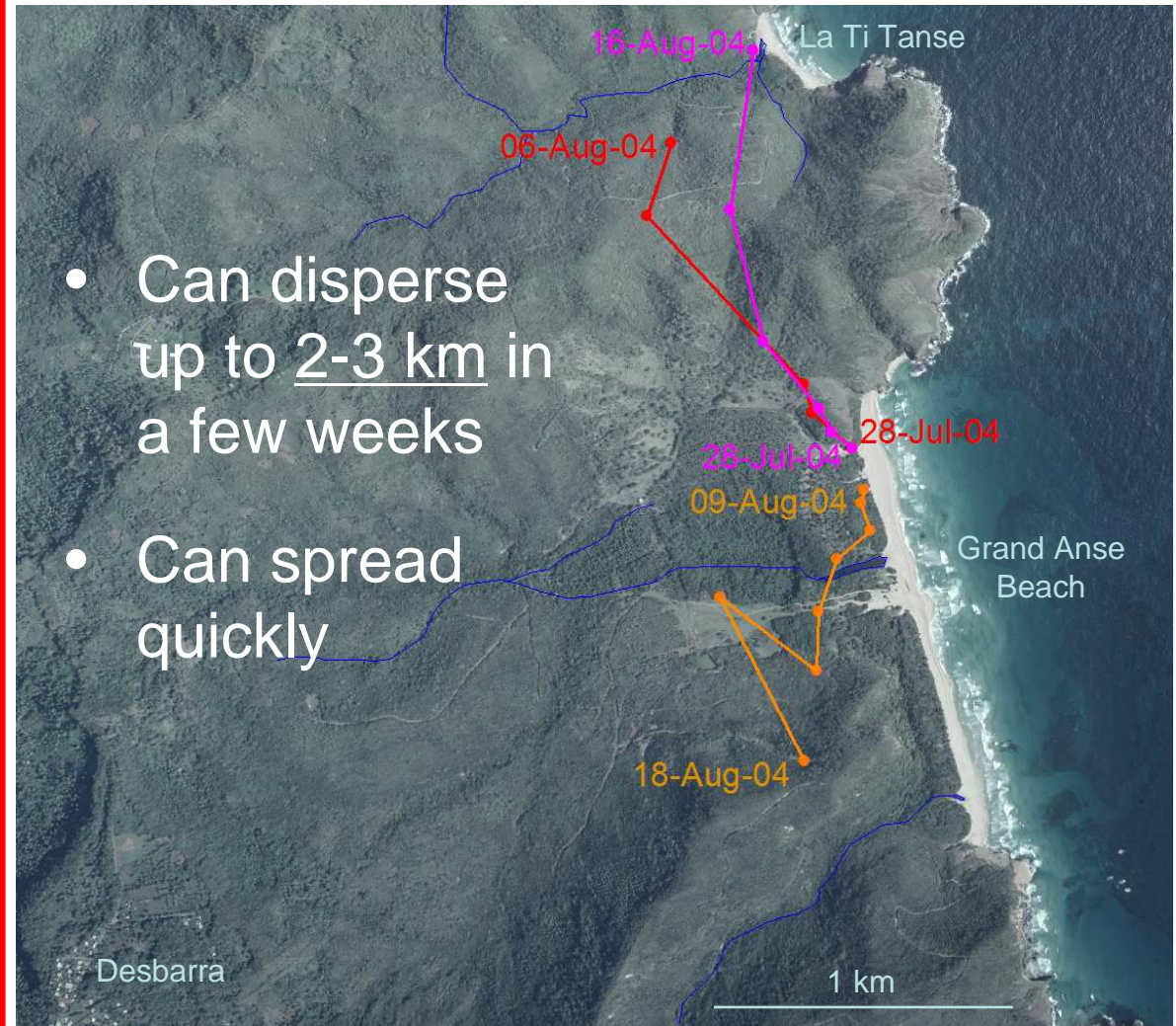
alien

same?

Saint Lucian

- Can disperse up to 2-3 km in a few weeks

- Can spread quickly





Finding solutions to the problem of alien iguanas on Saint Lucia





Objectives and activities

- **Objectives:** **what** needs to be achieved.
- **Activities:** **how** it can be achieved
- Example: “*put more people into the field to catch alien iguanas*” is **how** you’re going to achieve something not **what** you’re trying to achieve
- Identify the Objectives first
- Identify **Indicators** – how can you tell if the objective was achieved?
- Objectives can be thought of as **solutions** to **problems**



Methods of catching Iguanas





Live Traps

- Used extensively + effectively in Florida
 - also researchers
- Pre-bait then bait with aromatic fruits
 - or red cloth
- Variety of triggers
- By catch issues
- Size issues
- Humane (24hr check)





Visual Searches in suspected areas

Searches for signs (e.g consumed Lyenn dous)

Day searches

Night searches

(Harlow & Biciloa, 2001)

HR hungry

Humane

- Target not trapped for several hours

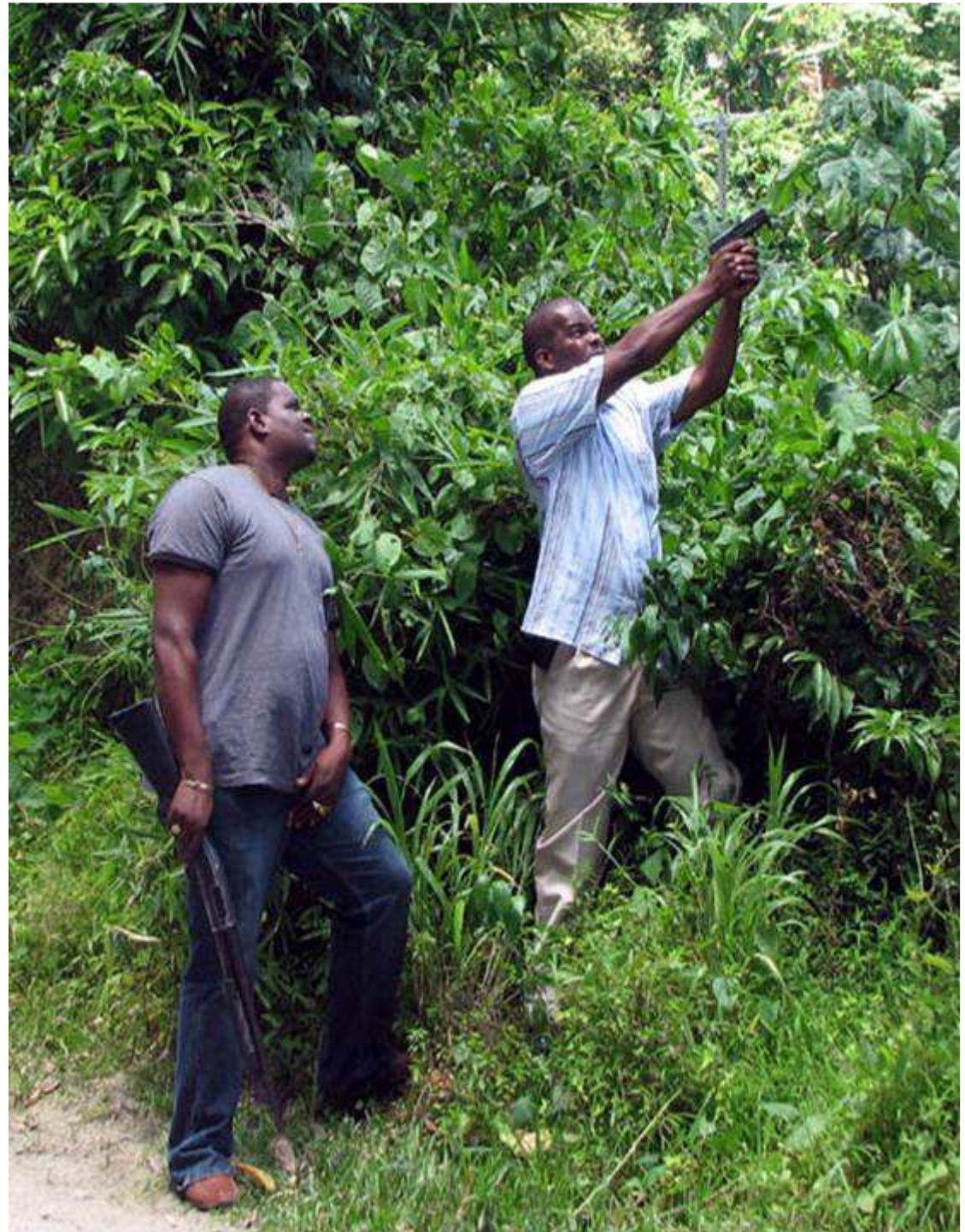




Shooting

Used
effectively to
harvest food in
Central and
South America

Still requires
visual search
Safety issues



Saving the Saint Lucia iguana

Thank You !!!

