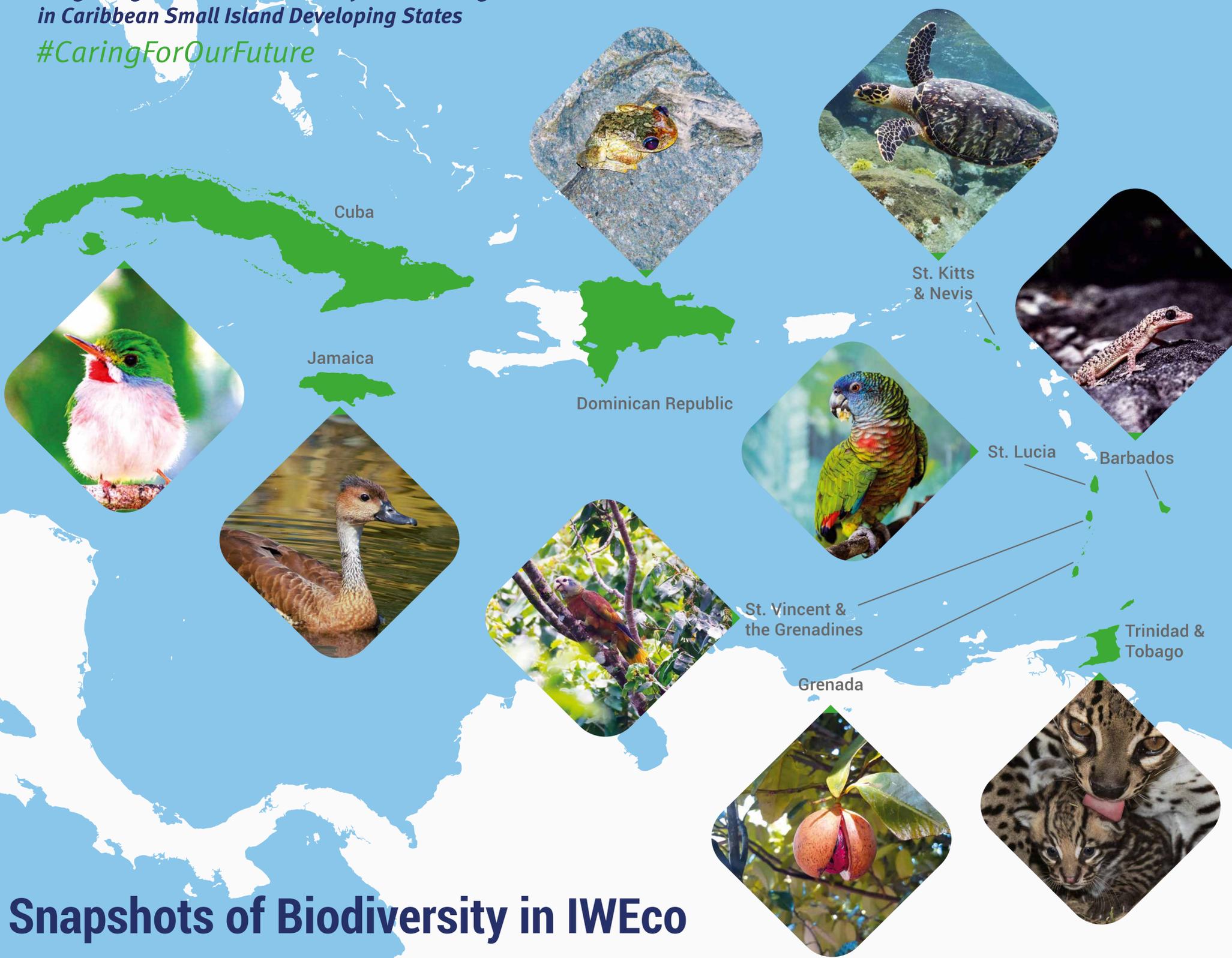




# IWEco

**Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management  
in Caribbean Small Island Developing States**

**#CaringForOurFuture**



## Snapshots of Biodiversity in IWEco

**The Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWEco Project)** is a multi-focal regional project that addresses water, land and biodiversity resource management as well as climate change. Project implementation began in 2017 and will end in 2023. It is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) is the lead Implementing Agency. The Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention, UNEP CAR/RCU is the lead Executing Agency. Partnership is a central tenet of the project which is being implemented through a network of international, regional and national partners. A total of 10 countries are participating in the project and several of these have national sub-projects which target water, land and ecosystem issues at specific sites.

**IWEco's objective** is to contribute to the preservation of Caribbean ecosystems that are of global significance and the sustainability of livelihoods through the application of existing proven technologies and approaches that are appropriate for small island developing states through improved fresh and coastal water resources management, sustainable land management and sustainable forest management that also seek to enhance resilience of socio-ecological systems to the impacts of climate change.

**Biological Diversity in the Caribbean.** The Caribbean Sea Basin is globally significant, having been designated as one of the 36 biodiversity hotspots in the world due to its high endemism and threat risk (Ecosystem Profile - The Caribbean Island Biodiversity Hotspot - CEPF 2019). According to Conservation International (CI), the Caribbean Islands' 'hotspot' supports exceptionally diverse ecosystems.

**Threats to Biodiversity.** Conversions of forest and coastal/aquatic ecosystems have triggered loss of species richness and diversity in all the countries of the Caribbean. As lands and coastal ecosystems have been cleared for development, habitat fragmentation results in diminished ecological viability of remaining forest fragments, often left without connecting biological corridors.

In many of the islands, fragmented populations survive only in pockets within inaccessible high-elevation forests, or in areas that remain isolated due to lack of development investments. The rich biodiversity of the Caribbean consists of both native and introduced species. The uncontrolled expansion of exotic species is a significant issue that affects both land and biodiversity.

Based on reliable records, at least 38 Caribbean species have been declared extinct (CI). This underscores the global importance of Caribbean ecosystems and the need for critical conservation interventions.



**Barbados**  
Name: Barbados Leaf Toed Gecko  
Scientific name: *Phyllodactylus pulcher*  
Photo credit: Barbados Marketing Solutions Ltd.



**Cuba**  
Name: Cuban Tody  
Scientific name: *Todus multicolor*  
Photo credit: Idania Garcia Castillo



**Dominican Republic**  
Name: Hispaniolan Giant tree Frog  
Scientific name: *Osteopilus vastus*  
Photo credit: Dario Flores



**Grenada**  
Name: Nutmeg  
Scientific name: *Myristica fragrans*  
Photo credit: Dillon Palmer



**Jamaica**  
Name: West Indian Whistling Duck  
Scientific name: *Dendrocygna arborea*  
Photo credit: Ricardo Miller



**Saint Kitts & Nevis**  
Name: Hawksbill turtle  
Scientific name: *Eretmochelys imbricata*  
Photo credit: Jason Hanley



**Saint Lucia**  
Name: Saint Lucia Parrot  
Scientific name: *Amazona versicolor*  
Photo credit: Johnathan Cornibert & Nerius Mitchel



**St. Vincent & the Grenadines**  
Name: St. Vincent Parrot  
Scientific name: *Amazona guildingii*  
Photo credit: St. Vincent & the Grenadines Forestry Department



**Trinidad & Tobago**  
Name: Ocelot  
Scientific name: *Leopardus pardalis*  
Photo credit: Quentin Questel

For more information on IWEco



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