



# Invasive Species Compendium Caribbean News

**July 2013**

*Produced for users of the open access knowledge base, the Invasive Species Compendium (ISC, [www.cabi.org/isc](http://www.cabi.org/isc)).*

## Caribbean Voice to Guide the Invasive Species Compendium



Signing the agreement; Ryan Anselm, Deputy Chair, CPHD, and Andrea Powell, Executive Director, Publishing, CABI

Boosting the potential of the ISC to address the problems caused by invasives in the Caribbean, the most recent member of the ISC Development Consortium is the Caribbean Plant Health Directors Forum. The Forum provides a regional mechanism for sharing of information, collaborating, guiding policies, and addressing relevant plant health issues, and will now represent the interests of the Region in the further development of the Compendium. Adding a voice from the Caribbean region will be a significant development in the maturation of the governance of the ISC project. The [ISC Development Consortium](#) now has over 30 member organizations, providing worldwide representation and governance.

The agreement was signed at the 6th Edition of the Caribbean Plant Health Directors Forum, St. Maarten, 17-19 July.

## New Datasheets of Relevance to the Caribbean

The ISC is a very active programme with a continual stream of new information published to its website with almost 100 new full datasheets on invasive species added so far this year, many of which are relevant to the Caribbean.

Since the training and content development workshops held in Cuba and Grenada last year, 10 datasheets that were specifically identified during the gap analysis for the Caribbean have been added to the ISC, plus a further 24 invasive plant datasheets written by Julissa Rojas-Sandoval and Pedro Acevedo-Rodríguez at the Smithsonian Institution. More are on their way!

Examples of our new datasheets include:

- [Aleurites moluccana](#)
- [Agave sisalana](#)
- [Alocasia macrorrhizos](#)
- [Alpinia purpurata](#)
- [Antigonon leptopus](#)
- [Asystasia gangetica](#)
- [Callisia fragrans](#) – contributed by Saint Lucia MTIASC team
- [Callisia repens](#)
- [Clerodendrum chinense](#)
- [Clerodendrum quadriloculare](#)
- [Cryptostegia madagascariensis](#)
- [Dioscorea bulbifera](#)
- [Dioscorea alata](#)
- [Epipremnum pinnatum](#)
- [Haematoxylum campechianum](#)
- [Heliconia bihai](#)
- [Jasminum fluminense](#)



[Mimosa casta](#)  
[Mimosa ceratonia](#)  
[Oeceoclades maculata](#)  
[Sansevieria hyacinthoides](#)  
[Sansevieria trifasciata](#)  
[Scaevola taccada](#)  
[Schefflera actinophylla](#)  
[Sesbania sericea](#)  
[Spathoglottis plicata](#)  
[Thunbergia grandiflora](#)  
[Tradescantia zebrina](#) – contributed by Saint Lucia MTIASC team  
[Triphasia trifolia](#)  
[Urena sinuata](#)



[Tradescantia zebrina](#), invasive on Gros Piton, Saint Lucia. Copyright Roger Graveson

## Country Datasheets and improving distribution data in the ISC through feedback

Country datasheets are available under the Basic datasheets tab in the ISC. They show full details of the species and animal diseases recorded for a country, whether present or absent, native or introduced, and invasive. See datasheets for:

[Antigua and Barbuda](#)  
[Bahamas](#)  
[Barbados](#)  
[British Virgin Islands](#)  
[Cayman Islands](#)  
[Cuba](#)  
[Dominica](#)  
[Dominican Republic](#)  
[Grenada](#)

[Guyana](#)  
[Jamaica](#)  
[Saint Kitts](#)  
[Saint Lucia](#)  
[Saint Vincent and the Grenadines](#)  
[Trinidad and Tobago](#)

These are useful in the development of national IAS lists for your country and for providing feedback to CABI. You can select and copy all or part of the distribution table into Excel or Word for annotation or list comparisons.

## Gap analysis of Caribbean invasive species

Analysis of invasive species lists from the Bahamas, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago have so far indicated that 152 species were either missing from the ISC or were present as 'Basic' datasheets only. This information has been used to prioritise the commissioning of new datasheets. Feedback from additional countries would further strengthen our focus on this region and can be sent to [compend@cabi.org](mailto:compend@cabi.org) at any time.

## Datasheet Reviews

The updating of existing datasheets is addressed under ISC sustainability activities and benefits greatly from user feedback. At the workshops last year, some priorities for datasheet reviews were highlighted and these are being tackled by a combination of commissioning experts, review by the Smithsonian Institution, and editorial updating by CABI editors using CAB ABSTRACTS and other resources.

At the moment we are focussing specifically on updating distribution records for countries participating in the workshops. If you are aware of a good source of distribution data for your country, please contact us – it would really speed up this activity.

[Iguana iguana](#) – reviewed by Saint Lucia MTIASC team



Although native to the Americas, the green iguana (*Iguana iguana*) is expanding its range across the Caribbean. Almost all individuals are introduced to new locations via the pet trade. *I. iguana* seems to be most severely affecting other iguana populations, such as the Lesser Antillean iguana (*I. delicatissima*) and native *I. iguana* populations on Saint Lucia, but it can also impact a range of native flora and fauna.



A female green iguana. Like many individuals, this was thought to be an escaped pet. Copyright Elizabeth A. Roznik.

The following datasheets have also been recently reviewed by experts:

[Achyranthes aspera](#)

[Adenanthera pavonina](#)

[Cryptostegia grandiflora](#)

[Dioscorea alata](#)

[Kalanchoe pinnata](#)

[Monilophthora roreri](#) – reviewed by Saint

Lucia MTIASC team

[Pinus caribaea](#)

[Psidium guajava](#)

[Solanum viarum](#)

[Urena lobata](#)

In another ISC project called ‘Invasives Causing Extinction’ or (‘ICE’), CABI is working with the US Department of Agriculture, the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to include information on the invasive species impacting on the listed threatened species in the US. For

this, new datasheets are being commissioned and existing datasheets updated.

One such datasheet is on the [shiny cowbird](#) (*Molothrus bonariensis*), a brood parasite of many bird species. Though it is native to some areas of the Caribbean, such as Trinidad and Tobago and the Lesser Antilles, *M. bonariensis* has expanded its range and is now invasive in Puerto Rico, the Bahamas, Barbados, Hispaniola and Cuba. Species directly impacted by *M. bonariensis* include the endangered yellow-shouldered blackbird (*Agelaius xanthomus*) and the Puerto Rican vireo (*Vireo latimeri*).

Would you be willing to contribute to the Compendium by reviewing datasheets? With prior agreement, a fee is offered for a full review of an existing datasheet.

## We need your help!

1. We would be grateful for your input, particularly if you could give some information on how you have been using the Compendium; has it been useful as a source of information, or for repurposing to produce training materials, etc.?
2. Have you circulated information about the Compendium to work colleagues or associates? Let us know. How was it received? If you would like promotional or training material to help with this, we can provide it.
3. Would you be able contribute to the Compendium by reviewing any species datasheets? Get in touch!
4. Do you have any ideas for this newsletter? How could it be more useful, or interesting to you?

**Please send your comments, ideas and feedback to**

[compend@cabi.org](mailto:compend@cabi.org)