

Jamaican Initiative

The International Iguana Society began its Jamaican Initiative on March 31, 1991, by hiring Edwin Duffas, a hog hunter who rediscovered *Cyclura collei*, to survey iguana localities in the Hellshire Hills. Mr. Duffas will record sightings of the Jamaican Rock Iguana as well as monitor the feral hog population. This information will help I.I.S. determine the course of action necessary to protect and rehabilitate the iguana population. *Cyclura collei*, Jamaica's largest terrestrial vertebrate, is on the verge of extinction and the dry forest habitat of the Hellshire area is threatened by charcoal burners. I.I.S. is working to build support for conservation programs vital to the survival of *Cyclura collei* and the multitude of plant and animal species that share its starkly beautiful, primeval world. I.I.S. is presently seeking long-term funding sources, through other conservation organizations, to employ local Jamaicans for active conservation programs to protect their ecologically unique Caribbean wilderness. Any member is welcome to contribute any amount directly to the I.I.S. program fund. Contributions are tax deductible. Write to: I.I.S., Finca Cyclura, Rt. 3, Box 328, Big Pine Key, FL 33043.



Jamaican Rock Iguana, *Cyclura collei*. Peter Vogel photo.

Cover Photo of Last Issue: Curtis Kruer on the morning of October 14, 1990, at 600 ft. elevation looking to the west in the Hellshire Hills, Jamaica. This West Indian Dry Forest wilderness which has remained virtually unchanged for hundreds of thousands of years now faces destruction. See update in this issue. Robert Ehrig photo.