

Scientific name: *Iguana iguana*

Common name: Green Iguana

Organism type: reptile

Description

Green Iguanas grow to around 1.5m, although a few have grown more than 2m in length and weigh up to 9kg. Green Iguanas are, not surprisingly, green in colour, but can also be found in many different shades ranging from bright green to a dull grayish-green. Their skin is rough, with a set of pointed scales along their backs. Green Iguanas have long claws.

Behavior and Reproduction

Green Iguanas are diurnal (active during the day), arboreal (live in trees) and are often found near water. Reaching maturity may take 3 to 4 years but Green Iguanas can live for up to 30 years. A female Green Iguana can produce many clutches of eggs for many years.

Occurs in

Coastland, estuarine habitats, riparian zones, water courses and wetlands.

General impacts

Green Iguanas disrupt native bird nests or even destroy native bird nestlings and eggs. Native iguana species are at risk of contracting diseases from exotic reptiles. Keeping or exposure to exotic reptiles as pets (including iguana) has been cited as the source of several cases of human salmonellosis. The Green Iguana is a hazard to aircraft operations as they bask in the sun on the tarmac and is a pest to the hotel industry as they feed on and destroy landscape plants and bask in tourist spots.

Management Information

Education: In some places awareness activities are used to educate the general public not to release unwanted Green Iguana pets into the wild.

Physical: Trapping is commonly used especially in areas with native iguana populations.

Range

Native range: The native range of the Green Iguana extends from southern Mexico to central Brazil, Paraguay, Bolivia and the Caribbean (specifically Grenada, Curacao, Trinidad and Tobago, St Lucia, St Vincent and Utila)

Pacific range: The Green Iguana has become established on Oahu and Maui, Hawai'i. **On November 16 2009 an unknown iguana was reported to be causing fear to the villagers of Qamea Island in Fiji. Herpetologists Dr. Robert Fisher and Dr. Peter Harlow confirmed the presence of Green Iguana breeding populations on Quamea Island and Matagi Island. They are also present on the islands of Taveuni and Lucala.**

This information was taken from the Global Invasives Species Database. For more information relating to this species and other invasive species please visit:

<http://www.issg.org/database/welcome/>



Green Iguana (*Iguana iguana*)



<http://www.issg.org/cii/PII/>

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