

## Vision

That Jamaica's natural resources are used in a sustainable way and that there is broad understanding of environment, planning and development issues, with extensive participation amongst citizens and a high level of compliance with relevant legislation.

## Mission

To promote Sustainable Development by ensuring protection of the environment and orderly development in Jamaica through highly motivated staff performing at the highest standard.



Managing & protecting  
Jamaica's Land, Wood & Water

For more information on Jamaica's Protected Species and the laws protecting them contact:

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Create an Environment  
for Clean Living

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in association with the Biodiversity Branch

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## THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING AGENCY

### Jamaica's Protected species

Learn more

*About Our Land Animals*



Jamaican Iguana



Jamaican Boa/ Yellow Snake  
(*Epicrates subflavus*)

## Which of Jamaica's land animals are protected?

When an animal is protected it means that the state has legislated that these animals are to be kept safe at all times and no harm should be done to them. Jamaica's land animals that are protected are; the Jamaican Boa (*Epicrates subflavus*) otherwise called the Yellow Snake, the Jamaican Iguana (*Cylura collei*) and the Indian Coney or Jamaican Hutia (*Geocapromys brownii*). These three land animals are protected under the Wild Life Protection Act of Jamaica and should not be killed.

## The Indian Coney

The Indian Coney is similar to the Guinea Pig but grows significantly larger (up to 2.5 kilograms). It has short ears, neck, legs and tail. It is reddish brown in colour with a tail clad in stiff black hair. The Coney is found in very remote mountain regions of Jamaica and shelters in rock holes where it also nests. It emerges at night to feed on a wide variety of fruits, plants and seeds including Spanish Needle, Guinea Grass, Cow Itch, Banana and Orange.



## The Jamaican Iguana



This Iguana is considered to be one of the rarest animals in the world. The Jamaican Iguana has scales and spiny ridges with a muscular tapered body. It has a predominant rock gray colour. The adult may grow to as much as 1.5 metres in length. It is found only in the dry limestone forest of the Hellshire Hills of St. Catherine where it shelters in the rock crevices. The Iguana feeds on plants, flowers, fruits and berries. It occasionally eats insects and snails. Its major threats are from mongoose, dogs, wild pig hunters and habitat destruction by local forest exploiters.



Iguana Digging Nest

## The Jamaican Boa



The Boa's oval, scaled body has yellow and black colouration with its tail predominantly black. Its head is small and tapered. This animal is widely distributed throughout the island, occurring mainly in cool remote areas (wetland, Hellshire hills and dry scrub forest of the south coast.) The Boa feeds on birds, rats, bats and other small animals and a variety of species of eggs. Destruction of its habitat occurs through deforestation and development, predation by dogs, feral cats and the mongoose, which feeds on the young. It reproduces by laying live offsprings and displays nocturnal behaviors. The Jamaican Boa is the largest of eight species. It is rare and non-poisonous.

