

BLUE IGUANAS ARE BECOMING EXTINCT

People think they are a threat, they are not. They help plants grow! When there habitat is getting destroyed, They are getting destroyed with it. THERE MUST BE A WAY TO HELP!!!

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You may be wondering why blue iguanas are becoming extinct. Native snakes easily harm hatchlings. Loose cats and dogs kill them on the order of their master, a farmer. They think the blue iguanas are a threat to there crops. Also there have been cars that run over them because they wander off because of other threats, commercial development. The major threat is the snake that roams around silently then they pop out and eat them. Some other threats include the destruction of their natural habitat, including an increase in fruit and illegal killing or capture. Their habitat is gone because of fruit farms for cattle and cities being built.



The blue iguana lies in Grand Cayman in the Caribbean. The blue iguana is a symbol of great pride for the islands people. They live in rain forests and bush land. It is a good habitat for the blue iguana because they can have nests, food, predator pressure and human interference. But it can only be found in the high rock-battle hill area to the east and south of the Queen's highway. It likes sunlight in open areas of rain forest. Sometimes blue iguanas live in zoos, aquariums and conservation centers.

Fast Facts:
when the Blue iguana poops it helps the plants grow. A bad thing is that when there habitat gets destroyed they wander off and get hit with a car.

Biology

It has a bluish-grey skin color with a bluish cast that is more understandable with males in breeding season. It is large and heavy and a spin from the base of neck to the tail. They normally possess a blue-grey complexion when resting but are better know for the stunning azure blue they turn during the breeding season and when excited. Males are larger than females. They can grow over 5 feet long and sometimes weigh more than 25 pounds. Males get even bluer during the mating season. Blue iguanas can change the color of their body. IN the morning, after a cool night, it can darken the shade of its body to absorb more sunlight. During mating season it becomes it's most vibrant blue.

Description

Females live a single life. They warn others to stay away from their small territory with head bobbing gestures. Males and females come together only to breed. The female lays 1-22 eggs depending on her age and size. It will hatch 66-88 days. They dig holes about 5 feet deep in order to get the correct temperature and humidity to bury the eggs. Females bury the eggs in June and July. A possible second clutch is laid in September. They are the longest living species of lizards; they can live as long as 70 years. However, most wild blue iguanas do not live that long due to predators and other threats. Its diet is plants, fruits and flowers.

Human Help

A lot of people have started programs to save them. They have held them captive until they are ready. The recovery program has made progress but the blue iguana is still endangered. In 2005 there were only 5 iguanas left in the wild. Now there are over 200. Most recovery programs breeds the lizards in captivity and releases them into the wild at the ages of 2 or 3 when they are large enough to be safe from predators including snakes and feral cats.



Conclusion

There are organization that want to help the blue iguana; For example, someone on Kickstart started a project to raise money. www.kickstart.com
 If people don't get involved, there is a chance that the blue iguana will become extinct.

