

T	A	A	C	I	I	G	U	A	N	A	N	A	P
A	H	E	L	L	S	H	I	R	E	A	I	L	I
I	E	L	C	E	H	R	E	E	A	T	I	E	G
E	E	L	C	V	E	A	E	T	P	L	L	I	G
N	G	S	I	I	L	T	C	T	R	L	L	Z	I
D	O	N	A	T	I	V	E	A	O	I	A	W	O
E	A	H	T	E	T	L	D	C	T	Z	Z	I	D
M	T	T	I	R	A	O	A	R	E	A	O	L	O
I	I	A	V	C	A	R	O	T	C	R	O	D	G
C	S	I	E	L	U	P	G	E	T	D	T	L	D
N	L	N	C	L	C	I	G	L	E	O	O	I	T
A	A	O	C	T	V	C	A	O	D	A	A	L	T
T	N	Y	V	M	O	N	G	O	O	S	E	E	
I	D	E	X	T	I	N	C	T	I	O	N	A	P
V	A	T	J	A	M	A	I	C	A	N	L	I	Z

Find A Word

1. Protected
2. Wildlife
3. Pig
4. Extinction
5. Hellshire
6. Native
7. Mongoose
8. Endemic
9. Iguana
10. Lizard
11. Taino
12. Dog
13. *Cyclura collei*
14. Jamaican
15. European
16. Goat Island

The Jamaican Iguana.

Protected

Endangered

Endemic

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The Jamaican Iguana (*Cyclura collei*)

Cyclura collei or the Jamaican Iguana is endemic to Jamaica and can be found only in the Hellshire Hills of St Catherine. This lizard's diet consists mostly of plants. It can attain a very large body size of up to 150 cm, making it the island's largest native land animal.

Historical records suggest that the animal was once so populous that it was a food source for both the Tainos and the Europeans. The animal's population has drastically decreased from many thousands to a little over a hundred, due largely to the actions of



humans and other animals. The mongoose and the feral pig prey on the eggs and destroy the nesting sites. Whilst, dogs of pig hunters are responsible for many adult deaths, the encroachment of charcoal burners, human settlement and mining are other factors that are responsible for the destruction of their natural habitat.

In fact, the Jamaican Iguana was once thought to be extinct after the disappearance of a population on Goat Island in the 1940s. However, in the 1970s its continued survival in the Hellshire Hills was certified after a dead specimen was found in the area. In June 1990, its survival was confirmed after a pig hunter retrieved a live specimen and took it to the Hope Zoo. This discovery led to the foundation of a local Jamaican Iguana Research and Conservation Group. Its aims are to establish a viable

population of the iguana in its natural habitat and to educate the wider Jamaican population about this special Jamaican lizard.

To facilitate this, a captive-breeding program was implemented at the Hope Zoo in order to safeguard the species against extinction and to encourage the restoration of the population to its former glory.

The Jamaican Iguana is therefore listed as one of Jamaica's endangered species and as such is protected by the Wildlife Act of 1945.

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- **DO NOT CAPTURE**
 - **DO NOT KILL**
 - **IT IS HARMLESS**
 - **IT IS SPECIAL**
 - **IT IS JAMAICAN**