Introduction

Iguanas can be found mostly in Central and South America, from Costa Rica and Venezuela, Mexico, south to the Tropic of Capricorn in Paraguay and southwest Brazil. This large lizard is also found in many islands throughout the Caribbean region and Florida. They have a green or brown body with blue or black markings. Green iguanas live in the trees mostly for protection and sun.

Most green iguanas reach sexual maturity between three and four years of age. Upon hatching, the length of green iguanas range from 17 to 25 cm. The average weight in the iguana is about 4 to 6 kg, depending on the iguana diet; some can reach 15 kg. These lizards can reach head to tail lengths of around 2 m. Iguanas can live for more than 30 years in captivity, although wild iguanas are thought to live only about 8 years.

These lizards came to the island as a pet, later on, they were abandoned or escaped and breed with great velocity. Notably, most of them are found on the island because they don’t have a natural predator.

It is very important to mention that this type of lizard is concerned in many countries in Central and South America. Their meat tastes very similar to that of the chicken, and it is believed to be very healthy.

Study Site

Caguas Botanical & Cultural Garden

The Botanical and Cultural Garden is located in Caguas, Caguas. Landscape on sixty acres, the garden site decorates the land that was once home to Leonardo Mendez et al. farm. It occupies a sector of the municipal road and plants that have taken over to add to the beauty and diversity of this new garden, which is a wonderful addition to the natural attractions in Caguas.

This park opened its gates in 2007 and was created to re-establish the public’s interest in the conservation and how humans affect nature. It also highlights the culture of Puerto Rico and its close relation to the tropical agriculture. This remarkable attraction brings some of the beauty and wonder of plants from around the world to Puerto Rico.

GEO Explorers at Universidad del Turabo

Other features that make the Caguas Botanical and Cultural Garden so unique are the rural farm house, artisan shop, indigenous species, and a large range of bird species, fruit trees and fowl breeds.

Materials and Methods

- GPS Equipment
- Maps
- Satellite Brochures
- Camera
- Notebooks and Tables
- Pens

In order to quantify the distribution of the iguana iguana we segmented the Botanical Garden in 11 areas, depending on the presence of two main species of trees, which are: Tepung Africans and Espino Rubal.

The counting was performed during the day and during the afternoon, in order to tabulate their presence and behavior.

Conclusion

The Caguas Botanical and Cultural Garden have contact the University of Turabo because they have a problem with green iguanas. The invasion of the iguanas is real; we have counted great quantities of these animals.

These lizards are also damaging the gardens of the park, eating the flowers and leaves of the trees. The iguanas are also causing erosion along the rivers’ bank, as well as in other areas around the garden, by laying eggs or by rambling up vertical areas. But these iguanas are multiplying so fast and there are so many in the park they have become a big problem in the park.

The team created different ideas to try to control the population of these animals, the team suggested that the park could build an “iguana processing plant”. This plant could be sold in Puerto Rico, to feed animals.

There is going to be a hunting season and the iguanas that are going to be hunted will end up in the processing plant. People can also bring their iguanas, from all over the island to the processing plant.

Finaly, the processing plant will export the processed iguanas to Central and South America. This type of business could improve our economy, by creating new jobs, publicly to the park, and at the same time will control the population of the iguanas in the Garden and Puerto Rico.

References


