



January 2025

Sint Eustatius National Parks Foundation (STENAPA) Internship (Paid) DESCRIPTION

Job Title	Iguana Intern (Internship position)
Reporting to	Terrestrial Park Manager
Working hours	40 hours/week (Period of 6-8 months)

Position overview

We are seeking a highly motivated Iguana Intern to assist with the 2025 Lesser Antillean Iguana conservation program on St. Eustatius. This is a unique opportunity to gain more international work experience in the field, living and working on a small island in the Caribbean. Upon arrival, full training will be provided.

The intern will be provided with a Stipend and flights, and shared accommodation for the duration of the internship will be covered for the right applicants. Preference is given to persons holding a Dutch or US passport, due to immigration regulations. Previous relevant iguana or herpetology working experience would be beneficial. A driver's license is required.

Background information:

STENAPA has been monitoring Lesser Antillean iguana activities on St. Eustatius (Statia) since 2015. Now critically endangered, the Lesser Antillean iguana (*Iguana delicatissima*) is the only native iguana species found on St. Eustatius. Lesser Antillean iguana range historically included 13 Caribbean islands, but primarily due to the rapid spread of the invasive green iguana (*Iguana iguana*) this has now been reduced to six. Of these six, St. Eustatius is the only remaining island where the green iguana is not also found in significant numbers with sightings being rare on St. Eustatius, and only one known hybridization event.

The main threats facing iguanas on Statia include: Green iguanas (competition and hybridization), habitat loss, erosion, climate change, road kills and novel disease. It is therefore essential to increase monitoring efforts, carry out patrols of the harbor area after ship landings and collect data including sightings, photo identification and population estimates. This data provides us with critical information about population trends and status and habitat use. The data is used to inform management decisions for improved iguana conservation on Statia.

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+599 318 2884 (phone); info@statiapark.org (email); www.statiapark.org (web)



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The Iguana Intern will be predominantly responsible for organizing, conducting and supervising day / night patrols of the harbor, iguana habitats and areas of green and/or hybrid sightings. The intern will survey for suitable areas in Boven National Park, working with ReforeStatia to establish suitable areas for habitat restoration and future reintroduction of Iguanas to the Park. Other tasks that the Iguana Intern will be responsible for include: data collection and entry, volunteer training, environmental education and awareness and other general activities.

The Iguana Intern will also be a member of the Terrestrial Team Staff and will participate in other activities of the organization (such as National Park Maintenance, Reforestation Project activities, Land Restoration Project activities and Botanical Garden activities)

Principal duties

As an Iguana Intern, you will be assisting the National Parks staff in managing the Iguana monitoring program and carrying out the following duties:

Fieldwork:

- Assist with morning and / or night patrols of the harbor and nearby areas, including leading night patrols
- Monitor iguana hotspots
- Respond to potential invasive iguana sightings
- Coordinate and supervise the activities of volunteers and interns
- Carry out and supervise iguana nest excavations
- Conduct monitoring on other reptiles on St. Eustatius, such as the *Anolis* species
- Data collection

Administration:

- Develop and improve existing protocols on the subject of iguana monitoring and conservation
- Data organization, entry and analysis
- Assist with the setup and running of the Iguana ID project
- Train new volunteers and interns on iguana monitoring protocols and fieldwork techniques
- Prepare and deliver presentations to disseminate important iguana related information to local stakeholders, staff and volunteers

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- Assist in the gathering of content for digital publications
- Support the development of education and outreach materials to raise awareness for the project

General

- Assist Park Managers and Rangers with other activities, as required.

Personal Specification

Interns are expected to stay at the project site for the entire period for which they are selected. Preference will be given to potential applicants that meet the following requirements:

- BSc in biological sciences or related fields
- Fluency in English
- Previous experience working with iguanas, other reptiles or conducting field research
- Independent, reliable and motivated
- Has a positive attitude and the ability to accept and give feedback
- Willingness to work during unsociable hours (nights and weekends)
- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Strong IT skills
- Ability to work outdoors conducting physical labor, in all weather, for long periods whilst maintaining energy and stamina.
- Able to adapt to unexpected situations and unfamiliar cultures
- Full, clean drivers license (required)

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