

Vital Sign: Reptiles- United States Virgin Islands
[shortened name: Reptiles-USVI]

Parks Where Vital Sign will be Implemented:
BUIS, SARI, VIIS - deferred

Justification/Issues being addressed: Reptile-USVI ranked 37th among the 44 SFCN vital signs. Reptiles are important top predators in the USVI. Reptiles as a group are not as transient as birds, the other top island predators; therefore, understanding the status of the island reptiles should indicate if overall terrestrial island management is appropriate for the higher trophic species. Additionally, the St. Croix Ground Lizard is a federally listed endangered species due to habitat destruction and BUIS is targeted as a site for establishing a new population in 2008.

General Monitoring Questions to be Addressed by the Vital Sign:

- What are the status and trends in the distribution and abundance (or proportion of area occupied) by native and non-native reptile species at VIIS and SARI? What will be the status and trends of the St. Croix Ground Lizard, *Ameiva polops*, once the population is introduced to BUIS in 2008?

Measures:

Population size & structure, mortality, recruitment, proportion of habitat occupied.

Basic Approach:

Deferred due to insufficient funds/staff time . SFCN will provide some assistance in protocol development, data analysis and management to BUIS for relocation of St. Croix Ground Lizard, *Ameiva polops*. BUIS will be responsible for monitoring re-introduction success.

Principal Investigators/Key Contacts and NPS Lead: N/A

Development Schedule, Budget, and Expected Interim Products: N/A