



Jost van Dykes

Preservation Society

August 14, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jost van Dyke, British Virgin Islands

Jost van Dyke Environmental Field Research Identifies Resident Bats, Snakes and Plants

Three species of bats and five species of frogs have been recorded on Jost van Dyke.

During a recent environmental survey, researchers Jean Pierre Bacle and Kevel Lindsay of the Island Resources Foundation recorded three species of bats and five species of frogs on Jost van Dyke.

The species of bats recorded were the Cave Bat (*Brachyphylla cavernum*), the Jamaican Fruit Bat (*Artibeus jamaicensis*) and Pallas' Mastiff Bat (*Molossus molossus*). The five species of frogs identified were the Antillean Frog (*Eleutherodactylus antillensis*), the Mute Frog (*E. lentus*), Schwartz's Eleutherodactylus (*E. Schwartzi*), Cocranes's Eleutherodactylus (*E. Cochrane*) and the White-lipped Frog (*Leptodactylus albilaris*).

Other interesting findings were the presence of two species of harmless endemic snake – the Virgin Islands Tree Boa (*Epicrates monensis granti*) and the Virgin Islands Worm Snake (*Typhlops richardi*). Three species of rare plants *Bastardiopsis eggersii*, the Ramgoat Cherry (*Malpighia woodburyana*) and Cockspur (*Erythrina eggersii*) were also identified. Two of these plants were observed on Jost van Dyke for the first time.

These findings are an initial output of an environmental project on Jost van Dyke which focuses on advancing environmental protection and sustainable development on that island. The project started in April 2008, and is expected to be completed in December 2009. The project is being coordinated by the Jost van Dykes (BVI) Preservation Society (JVDPS), a local, non-profit corporation dedicated to the preservation of the island of Jost van Dyke i.e. its land, the surrounding sea, its living creatures and its culture. Funding for the project comes from the Overseas Territories Environmental Programme,(OTEP) and is disbursed through the Governor's Office.



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Research on the natural and historical environment of Jost van Dyke will continue over the next six months, after which an environmental profile of Jost van Dyke will be prepared.

Community input will be sought throughout the project and the community will be kept up to date on the progress of the project. Several of the Jost van Dyke residents who were present at a community meeting held on May 6th 2008 to introduce the project, voiced their support for the project and for any efforts to conserve the natural environment of Jost van Dyke. District Officer Mrs. Carmen Blyden fully supports the initiative. Mrs. Blyden indicated that at present the children of Jost van Dyke study the natural environment of Tortola and Anegada, in her words “a project such as this gives us our own identity”.

Further information on the project may be found at www.jvdgreen.org, or by calling (284)540 0861 or (284) 540-7428. Further information on the Jost van Dykes Preservation Society may be found at www.jvdps.org #####