



## Endangered Species Lists Using Web-based Tools

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office (CESFO) provides technical assistance to private individuals and organizations, as well as Federal, state, and local agencies pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). To assist project sponsors or applicants with the process of determining whether a Federally-listed species and/or "critical habitat" may occur within their proposed project area, we have developed Web-based tools. These tools were developed primarily to assist Federal agencies that are consulting with us under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

**IPaC.** The US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) has a tool named IPaC. IPaC stands for Information, Planning, and Conservation. This system is designed for easy, public access to the natural resources information for which the USFWS has trust or regulatory responsibility. Examples include Threatened and Endangered species, migratory birds, National Refuge lands, Coastal Barrier Resource Units, and the management of invasive species. One of the primary goals of the IPaC system is to provide information in a manner that assists individuals in planning their activities within the context of natural resource conservation. The IPaC system also assists people through the various regulatory consultation, permitting and approval processes administered by the USFWS, helping achieve more effective and efficient results for both the project proponents and natural resources. Through IPaC, you can get a preliminary USFWS species list in addition to links to species life history information, the USFWS Migratory Bird program, and more. You can access IPaC at: <http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac>

**CESFO List of Threatened & Endangered Species and Critical Habitat Designations:** CESFO has developed another tool (Species Map) that can be used as a quick reference to find out where the Federally-listed species



are known to occur, as well as those likely to occur, in any given municipality in Puerto Rico and island in the

U.S. Virgin islands. It identifies general areas where the species may be located. However, it does not represent the absolute distribution of the species and does not constitute a recommendation or comment issued by our agency in reference to a proposed project. This list represents the best available information regarding known or likely occurrences of Federally-listed species and is subject to change as new information becomes available. You can access this database at <http://www.fws.gov/caribbean/es/PDF/Map/pdf>



Be aware that Section 9 of the ESA prohibits unauthorized taking of listed species and applies to Federal and non-Federal activities. Under the Act, it is illegal for any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to take (includes harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect; or to attempt any of these), import or export, ship in interstate or foreign commerce in the course of commercial activity, or sell or offer for sale in interstate or foreign commerce any endangered fish or wildlife species and most threatened fish and wildlife species. It is also illegal to possess, sell, deliver, carry, transport, or ship any such wildlife that has been taken illegally. "Harm" includes any act which actually kills or injures fish or wildlife, and case law has clarified that such acts may include significant habitat modification or degradation that significantly impairs

essential behavioral patterns of fish or wildlife. For projects not authorized, funded, or carried out by a Federal agency, consultation with the Service pursuant to Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA is not required. However, no person is authorized to “take<sup>1</sup>” any listed species without appropriate authorizations from the Service. Therefore, we provide technical assistance to individuals and agencies to assist with project planning to avoid the potential for “take,” or when appropriate, to provide assistance with their application for an incidental take permit pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the ESA.

If the project is within the distribution of the species, additional information may be needed to determine the presence of habitat. In some cases, specialized surveys may be needed to determine the presence or absence of the species in a particular area.

For additional information on fish and wildlife resources or State-listed species, we suggest contacting the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources and the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources.

For further assistance, please feel free to contact us at (787) 851-7297 or visit our Web page at [www.fws.gov/caribbean/es](http://www.fws.gov/caribbean/es) if you need further assistance.

For further information visit our national websites at:

<http://www.fws.gov>

<http://ecos.fws.gov>