



Open Ocean Restoration Area

Invasive Goat Removal to Restore Seabird Nesting Habitat in St. Vincent and the Grenadines (*preferred*)



Red-billed tropicbird
Photo by Doug Greenberg

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project would increase seabird nesting success and productivity through conservation actions to improve and restore available nesting habitat on Battowia and the Pillories Islands in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the Caribbean. Islands in this region support high concentrations of nesting seabirds, leading to designations of multiple globally- and regionally-Important Bird Areas. Conservation in these areas are vital for Caribbean seabird restoration.

This project involves eradicating invasive goats through hunting. Goats have eliminated much of the vegetation on the islands, increasing erosion and disturbance, which has affected seabirds and their habitat. Other restoration activities include compiling baseline biodiversity information; monitoring for rodent presence; and conducting public outreach.

This project, estimated to cost \$231,000, would be implemented over approximately 5 years, with up to 3 years of post-implementation monitoring.

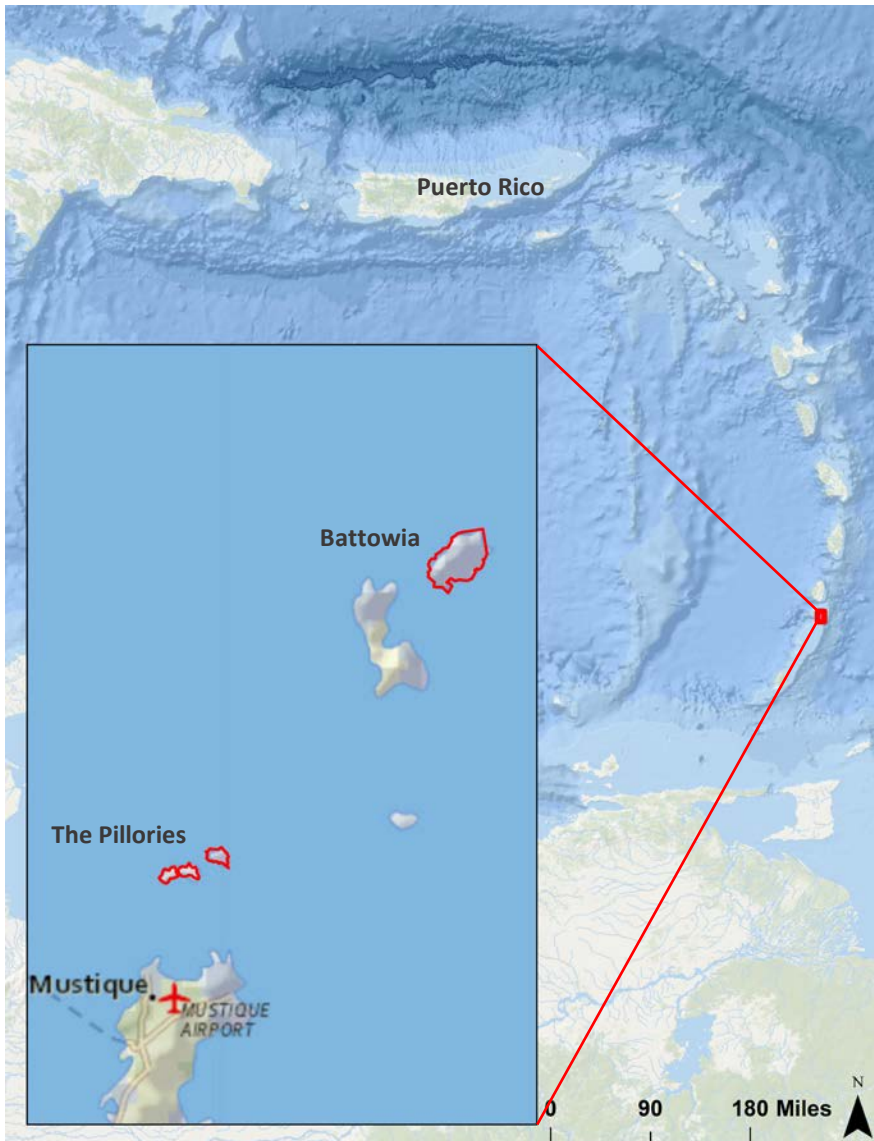
RESTORATION TYPE: Birds

Project Benefits

- Increase nesting success and productivity for bridled terns, brown booby, brown noddy, magnificent frigatebirds, sooty terns, and red-billed tropicbirds
- Enhance habitat quality through goat eradication, monitoring, and encouraging environmental stewardship through public outreach activities



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RESTORATION TECHNIQUE



Invasive Goat Removal

Public outreach campaigns, including government communications, community meetings, and/or posters would provide information about the project goals and activities, outcomes, and environmental stewardship. Public outreach activities would be an opportunity to continue dialogue with the community about conservation threats and receive feedback on the project. The public would be given the opportunity to claim free-ranging goats prior to their eradication and would be offered meat from the removed goats.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Contact the Open Ocean TIG
openocean.TIG@noaa.gov

or visit

www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/open-ocean



Implementing Trustee: U.S. Department of the Interior, in partnership with several entities