

West Nile Virus Meeting
Guadeloupe
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Introduction

Dominica is a small, mountainous island located in that part of the Caribbean known as the Lesser Antilles.

Situated between the French islands of Guadeloupe to the north and Martinique to the south), the island, with a landmass of 751 km², is the northernmost and largest of the Windward Islands. The island prides itself of an abundant dense forest cover, crystal clear flowing mountain streams and waterfalls, the great diversity of flora and fauna,

West Nile Surveillance in Dominica

Surveillance for West Nile is conducted by both the Ministry of Agriculture and Health.

The Ministry of Health conducts passive surveillance. Every patient presenting with neurological signs is screened and further testing is done using the facilities of the Caribbean Epidemiological Centre (CAREC)

.....Surveillance continued

The Ministry of Agriculture, Veterinary Services conducted a surveillance programme with the assistance of CIRAD-EMVT. The programme involved the serological testing of the equine population on island.

A total of 19 horses out of the 20 known horses on island(95%) were sampled involving the collection of serum which was sent to Dr. Thierry Lefrancois CIRAD-EMVT, Guadeloupe, using the Epitope Blocking ELISA for the detection of the specific West Nile Virus.

Discussions were also held to send 100-200 one year old chicken samples also to CIRAD pending the outcome of the analysis of the Equine samples

■ Dominica's Bird life

- Approx. 176 species recorded for Dominica
- 59 native species are "resident breeders"
- 2 of every 3 birds recorded for Dominica migratory
- New breeders: Bare-eyed Robin, Nutmeg Mannikin, Eurasian Collared Dove

■ Examples of Migrant Birds into Dominica

- Sandpipers, Plovers,
- Several Warblers, e.g. Black-poll Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Prothonitory Warbler
- Some Herons
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo
- Osprey

