

FEATURES

Bioblitzers to explore Icacos

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Normally for a bioblitz a 5km-radius circle is used to identify the area that will be surveyed, but this year the teams will add a little extra. As well as surveying the Icacos peninsula, bioblitzers will also travel to Soldado Rock, a wildlife sanctuary 10km off the west coast.

This one-hectare island is home to many seabirds, such as the sooty tern, brown booby and the magnificent frigatebird. Terrestrial animals, including a subspecies of the common cane mouse, only found on Soldado, also live there. In the seas around the islands there are rocky reefs which are home to a myriad of fish species.

Sampling will continue through the night



Soldado Rock, a wildlife sanctuary, will also be surveyed as part of the Icacos bioblitz by the Field Naturalists Club.

and into the following morning and will stop at noon on Sunday. At this point the teams will have about an hour to finalise their species lists before the total number of species found is announced around 1 pm.

While some bioblitzers are exploring outdoors, others will be at the base camp interacting with the public. There will displays by the TTFNC, exhibits of preserved animals by the zoological museum and the Serpentarium

will have terrariums with live reptiles and amphibians found during the surveying.

Once again the bioblitz is being generously sponsored by First Citizens, with help from Bermudez with snack supplies.

The Department of Life Sciences at the University of the West Indies, St Augustine will also be contributing vehicles and equipment.

The public part of this free event will run from 7 am to 2 pm on Sunday

at the Icacos Government Primary School. For more information, e-mail ttbioblitz@gmail.com or like the Facebook page T&T Bioblitz.

For more information on the environment, you can also contact the Field Naturalists' Club at admin@ttnfnc.org or visit our website at www.ttnfnc.org and its Facebook or YouTube pages.

Photos courtesy
**MIKE G
RUTHERFORD**



Some of the bioblitz team members on reconnaissance at a mud volcano near Icacos.