Available from https://tipas.kew.org/site/anegada-island/
[Accessed 16 June 2026]

Anegada Island

BVITIPA001

Country: **British Virgin Islands**
Administrative region: **Anegada (Province)**
Central co-ordinates: **18.72751 N, -64.33798 E**
Area: **38km²**

Qualifying IPA criteria

A(i), B(ii), C(iii)

IPA assessment rationale

The entire island of Anegada qualified as a TIPA as it contains 11 globally threatened species widespread across the island, it is nationally species-rich and was identified by the BVI TIPAs National Team as the best site for three of the threatened terrestrial habitats, i.e. Coastal shrubland, Dry salt flats and Mangroves. It also has high percentages of the national resources for these habitats.

Site description

Anegada has an area of 38 km2 and is the most northern and easterly island of the BVI archipelago.

Botanical significance

Anegada Island has a rich flora, with 288 native species recorded so far, and three of the four BVI endemic plants grow there. It contains 11 globally threatened species widespread across the island, being nationally species-rich. Anegada also holds the whole population in the BVI of the Puerto Rican Bank endemics Varronia rupicola (EN), Leptocereus quadricostatus (EN) and Mitracarpus polycladus (EN).

Habitat and geology

It is the only island comprised entirely of limestone and a unique example of dry forests on limestone in the territory. This island holds most of the Dry salt flats and Salt ponds national resource for the BVI. The xerophytic low-growing vegetation found on most of the limestone and coastal dunes is a result of the constant winds sweeping across this low-lying island and limited resources derived from its poor substrate. Remaining pockets of limestone forests are mainly found in the eastern half of the island and the cays of the Western Ponds.

Conservation issues

The many threats to the Anegada Island TIPA include grazing by feral livestock, sand mining, habitat degradation and fragmentation, urban development and invasive species.

Site assessor(s)

BVI TIPAs National Team, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew - National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands - BVI Ministry of Natural Resources, Labour and Immigration

IPA criterion A species

SPECIES	QUALIFYING SUB-CRITERION	≥ 1% OF GLOBAL POPULATION	≥ 5% OF NATIONAL POPULATION	1 OF 5 BEST SITES NATIONALLY	ENTIRE GLOBAL POPULATION	SOCIO-ECONOMICALLY IMPORTANT	ABUNDANCE AT SITE
Agave missionum Trel.	A(i)	–	–	✓	–	–	
Argythamnia stahlii Urb.	A(i)	–	✓	–	–	–	
Guaiacum officinale L.	A(i)	–	✓	–	–	–	
Leptocereus quadricostatus (Bello) Britton & Rose	A(i)	–	✓	–	–	–	
Malpighia woodburyana Vivaldi	A(i)	–	–	✓	–	–	
Metastelma anegadense Britton	A(i)	✓	–	–	–	–	
Mitracarpus polycladus Urb.	A(i)	–	✓	–	–	–	
Senna polyphylla var. neglecta H.S.Irwin & Barneby	A(i)	✓	–	–	✓	–	
Vachellia anegadensis (Britton) Seigler & Ebinger	A(i)	✓	–	–	–	–	
Zanthoxylum flavum Vahl	A(i)	–	✓	–	–	–	
Sabal causiarum (O.F.Cook) Becc.	A(i)	–	–	–	–	–	
Varronia rupicola (Urb.) Britton	A(i)	✓	–	–	–	–	

IPA criterion C qualifying habitats

HABITAT	QUALIFYING SUB-CRITERION	≥ 5% OF NATIONAL RESOURCE	≥ 10% OF NATIONAL RESOURCE	1 OF 5 BEST SITES NATIONALLY	AREAL COVERAGE AT SITE
Coastal Shrubland	C(iii)	–	–	✓	
Dry Salt Flats	C(iii)	–	–	✓	
Mangroves	C(iii)	–	–	✓	

General site habitats

GENERAL SITE HABITAT	PERCENT COVERAGE	IMPORTANCE

Land use types

LAND USE TYPE	PERCENT COVERAGE	IMPORTANCE

Threats

THREAT	SEVERITY	TIMING

Bibliography

The BVI TIPAs National Team 2019. **Identifying and Conserving Tropical Important Plant Areas in the British Virgin Islands (2016-2019): Final Technical Report.**