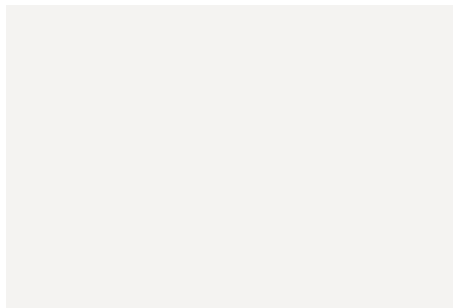


Greenwich and Tattyland Down Pond

TCL_06



Country: **Turks and Caicos Islands**

Administrative region: **North Caicos (Island)**

Central co-ordinates: **21.94069 N, -71.93097 E**

Area: **4.35km²**

Qualifying IPA criteria

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

IPA assessment rationale

This site qualifies as a TIPA under criterion A(i) as it is one of the five best sites for the globally threatened orchid, *Encyclia caicensis*. Eight species from the list of species of high conservation importance are also found here, qualifying it under criterion B(ii). Additionally it qualifies under B(iii), with 15 species of social, cultural or national importance occurring within the site. It also qualifies under criterion C(iii) as being one of the five best sites for two threatened habitat types: coastal coppice and palustrine marsh.

Site description

This site is situated at the north-eastern end of North Caicos. The western boundary is with the Kings Road and the site includes the

northern coastline at Horstable Beach and Greenwich Creek.

Botanical significance

This site supports large populations of the orchids *Encyclia caicensis* and *Encyclia altissima*, which have large populations in coastal coppice habitat along the northern coast of the TIPA. Three further threatened species occur here, *Argythamnia argentea*, *Chamaecrista caribaea* and *Stenandrium caroliniae*.

In addition, the site contains several species of high conservation importance such as *Coccothrinax inaguensis*, *Euphorbia gymnonota* and *Argythamnia lucayana*, all of which are endemic to the Lucayan archipelago. The site has historically been an important area for harvesting of plants of socio-economic importance, in particular Cat's Tails *Typha domingensis*. This is a pantropical aquatic reed, which is rare in Turks and Caicos due to the limited availability of freshwater habitats. The seed head fluff of this plant was harvested to use as 'down' for pillow stuffing, whilst the stems were used for making mats and baskets.

Habitat and geology

This TIPA is one of the five best sites in Turks and Caicos for the coastal coppice and palustrine marsh habitats. The coastal coppice

habitat is formed on limestone sands and is dominated by Coccothrinax palms which are a critical phorophyte for orchids such as Encyclia caicensis. Palustrine marshes are also interspersed in this TIPA alongside smaller areas of tropical dry forest, scrub and coastal scrub, palustrine swamp and ponds. The mosaic of wetland and karstic habitats here include caves permanently filled with water, which support interesting endemic aquatic invertebrates and crustaceans.

Conservation issues

This TIPA is threatened by fire, development (especially along the northern coast at Crab Farm), sand mining, storm surges and proliferation of invasive species.

Site assessor(s)

Assessed by:

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Date of first assessment:

14th Feb 2025

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
<i>Argythamnia argentea</i>	A(i)	—	—	—	—	✓	
<i>Chamaecrista caribaea</i>	A(i)	—	—	—	—	✓	
<i>Encyclia caicensis</i>	A(i)	—	—	✓	—	✓	
<i>Stenandrium caroliniae</i>	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 coppice	C(iii)	—	—	✓	

General site habitats

GENERAL SITE HABITAT	PERCENT COVERAGE	IMPORTANCE
Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Coastal Caves/Karst	—	
Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Dry Forest	—	
Shrubland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry Shrubland	—	
Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Coastal Brackish/Saline Lagoons/Marine Lakes	—	

Land use types

LAND USE TYPE	PERCENT COVERAGE	IMPORTANCE
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Threats

THREAT	SEVERITY	TIMING
Natural system modifications - Fire & fire suppression - Increase in fire frequency/intensity	Medium	Ongoing - increasing
Residential & commercial development - Tourism & recreation areas	High	Ongoing - increasing
Energy production & mining - Mining & quarrying	Medium	Ongoing - increasing
Climate change & severe weather - Storms & flooding	Medium	Ongoing - increasing
Invasive & other problematic species, genes & diseases - Invasive non-native/alien species/diseases - Unspecified	Medium	Ongoing - increasing

THREAT	SEVERITY	TIMING
species		