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

Hawks Nest

BVITIPA010

Country: **British Virgin Islands**
Administrative region: **Tortola (Province)**
Central co-ordinates: **18.45725 N, -64.56772 E**
Area: **0.37km²**

Qualifying IPA criteria

A(i), A(iv), B(ii)

IPA assessment rationale

This TIPA has a concentration of 12 species of global and national conservation importance, including regional endemic and range restricted endemic species. The area did not qualify under sub-criterion C(iii) despite having two of the BVI's threatened habitats, i.e. Mangroves and Coastal shrubland, as there are more significant areas of these habitats in other locations in the BVI.

Site description

This TIPA is in the north eastern coast of Tortola between Little Bay and Hawks Nest beach, from sea level to 181m on the lower hills of Daley Mountain. The TIPA is mostly undeveloped, with only one paved road cutting through its centre and no houses.

Botanical significance

Several globally threatened species are found growing in the Seasonally deciduous forests and woodlands in this TIPA. The BVI endemic Pitcairnia jareckii (EN) is only found on Tortola within this TIPA and on the islands of Great Camanoe and Guana. The only island in the BVI where the Virgin Islands endemic Pilea sanctae-crucis (EN) grows is on Tortola and this TIPA contains >5% of its national population. Also, growing at middle elevations of Balsam Ghut is the rare and globally threatened Puerto Rican Bank endemic Erythrina eggersii (EN), which is also found on Great Thatch and Jost van Dyke. South of the road, at higher elevations, the Puerto Rican Bank endemic Agave missionum (VU) has been recorded. The site also qualified under sub-criterion A(iii) for having significant national percentage of the highly Restricted Range Endemic (RRE) Tillandsia x lineatispica. This bromeliad is only found in the BVI at a few locations on Tortola, Beef Island and Virgin Gorda; it also occurs on Puerto Rico and St. John in the USVI.

Habitat and geology

Main habitats are Seasonally deciduous forest and woodland, Mangroves and Coastal shrubland.

Conservation issues

The main threats to the TIPA are future development of the area, feral animal grazing and invasive plant species. There is evidence of feral goat grazing and illegal farming in the area. Roads have been cut and new developments proposed for the private parcels within and adjacent to the TIPA.

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)	–	–	✓	–	–	
Erythrina eggersii Krukoff & Moldenke	A(i)	–	✓	–	–	–	
Pilea sanctae-crucis Liebm.	A(i)	–	✓	–	–	–	
Pitcairnia jareckii Proctor & Cedeño-Mald.	A(i)	✓	–	–	–	–	
Tillandsia × lineatispica Mez	A(iv)	–	✓	–	–	–	
Peperomia wheeleri Britton	A(i)	–	–	–	–	–	
Zanthoxylum thomasianum Krug & Urb.	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

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.**