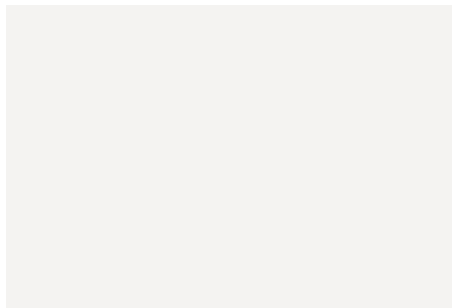
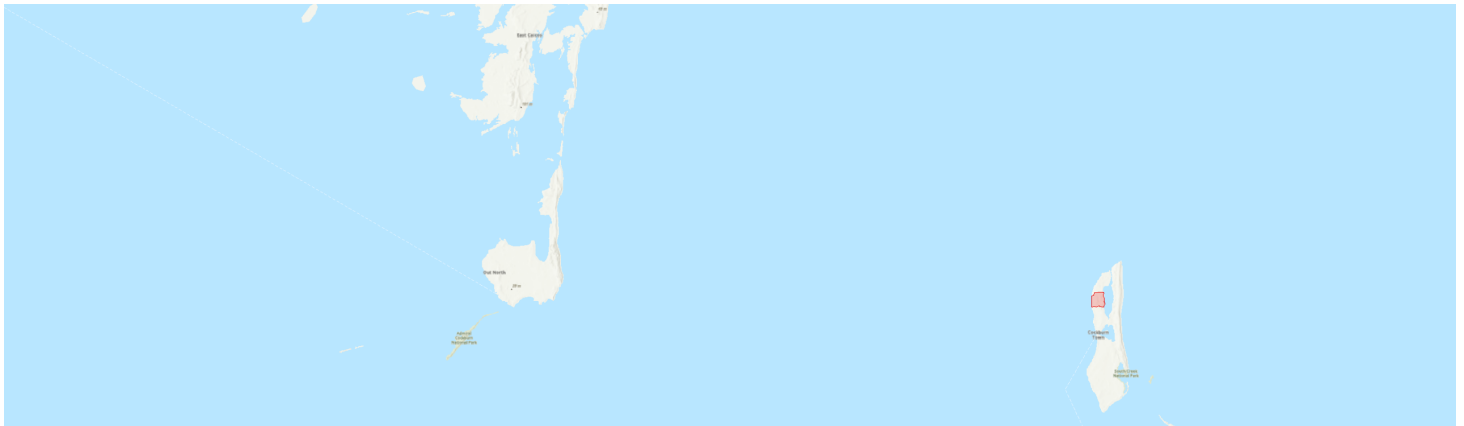


North Wells

TCL17



Country: **Turks and Caicos Islands**

Administrative region: **Grand Turk (Island)**

Central co-ordinates: **21.48958 N, -71.14638 E**

Area: **0.76km²**

Qualifying IPA criteria

A(i)

IPA assessment rationale

This site qualifies under criterion A(i) as it is inferred to support more than 1% of the global population of the threatened endemic herb *Lepidium filicaule*.

Site description

This TIPA is situated to the north-west of Grand Turk. To the east it is bordered by North Creek. It encompasses the quarry site and former livestock drinking wells that is currently in use by the feral livestock. The area contains a shallow ephemeral brackish lens that is recharged by rainfall.

Botanical significance

This site supports an important population of *Lepidium filicaule*. *Argythamnia argentea*, a threatened shrub also grows here. Four species of high conservation importance occur here, including the Hatpin Sedge *Eleocharis bahamensis*. It is home to some rare aquatic plants, including the fern *Marsilea nashii* and *Sesuvium humifusum*. Towards the south of this TIPA is a single, very large *Terminalia buceras* tree, with a fused multi-trunk base. In the scrubland along the western coast, a very rare bromeliad in TCI can be found, *Tillandsia recurvata*.

Habitat and geology

This TIPA contains large areas of anthropogenic disturbed and altered habitats such as grasslands. Palustrine marsh is dominant around the ponds at North Wells, whilst the wider area is predominantly scrubland. This site also includes the only Oakbottom habitat outside of North Caicos and is where the single *Terminalia* tree grows.

Conservation issues

Grazing by donkeys may be influencing the botanical composition of the area, but they also help some native plants but eating the

competitive grass species. Other invasive species that may be an issue in the area include the invasive Malagasy vine *Cryptostegia grandiflora*. Quarrying remains active in the area. Development on the coastal side of the TIPA is likely, but should be low density.

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>Lepidium filicaule</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
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General site habitats

GENERAL SITE HABITAT	PERCENT COVERAGE	IMPORTANCE
Artificial - Terrestrial	—	
Grassland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry Lowland Grassland	—	
Wetlands (inland) - Seasonal/Intermittent Saline, Brackish or Alkaline Marshes/Pools	—	

Land use types

LAND USE TYPE	PERCENT COVERAGE	IMPORTANCE
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Threats

THREAT	SEVERITY	TIMING
Agriculture & aquaculture - Livestock farming & ranching - Small-holder grazing, ranching or farming	Medium	Ongoing - increasing
Invasive & other problematic species, genes & diseases - Invasive non-native/alien species/diseases - Named species	Medium	Ongoing - increasing
Energy production & mining - Mining & quarrying	Medium	Ongoing - increasing
Residential & commercial development - Tourism & recreation areas	Low	Future - planned activity
Climate change & severe weather - Storms & flooding	High	Ongoing - increasing