

Paraquita Bay and Bar Bay

BVITIPA015



Country: **British Virgin Islands**

Administrative region: **Tortola (Province)**

Central co-ordinates: **18.41797 N, -64.57421 E**

Area: **0.43km²**

Qualifying IPA criteria

C(iii)

IPA assessment rationale

The area qualified as a TIPA under sub-criterion C(iii) for being the third-best site in the BVI for the nationally threatened Mangroves habitat. Coastal shrubland and Dry salt flats are nationally threatened habitats, but they did not qualify under sub-criterion C(iii) for this TIPA as other locations were more significant at a national level. No globally threatened or national high conservation importance species have been recorded within this TIPA.

Site description

This TIPA runs from Bar Bay to Paraquita Bay along the coastal wetlands of south eastern Tortola, excluding urban developments and buildings. Both Paraquita Bay and Bar Bay are proposed terrestrial Habitat Management Areas in the BVI protected areas system plan 2007-2017.

Botanical significance

No globally threatened or national high conservation importance species have been recorded within this TIPA.

Habitat and geology

This is an important area for Mangroves habitat on Tortola and in

the BVI. This is one of the nationally threatened habitats in the BVI, covering only 1.76km² (1.13%) of the BVI's land mass. Mangrove forest loss due to coastal development has been a problem not only in the BVI, but globally. A survey carried out by the BVI Conservation and Fisheries Department in 1990 identified 17 mangrove sites in the BVI that are of ecological and socioeconomic importance, and this included Paraquita Bay as a site of critical importance.

Conservation issues

The main threats to the TIPA are grazing by feral animals, pollution, climate change and future development. Problems that have been reported for Paraquita Bay and Paraquita Lagoon are garbage dumping, reclamation, pollution, development and logging. Storm surge and physical damage by winds and boats blown over during Hurricane Irma in 2017 caused extensive mangrove die off in the area, but recruitment is present and the area has been recovering naturally.

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
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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
Mangroves	C(iii)	—	—	✓	

General site habitats

GENERAL SITE HABITAT	PERCENT COVERAGE	IMPORTANCE
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Land use types

LAND USE TYPE	PERCENT COVERAGE	IMPORTANCE
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Threats

THREAT	SEVERITY	TIMING
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Bibliography

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