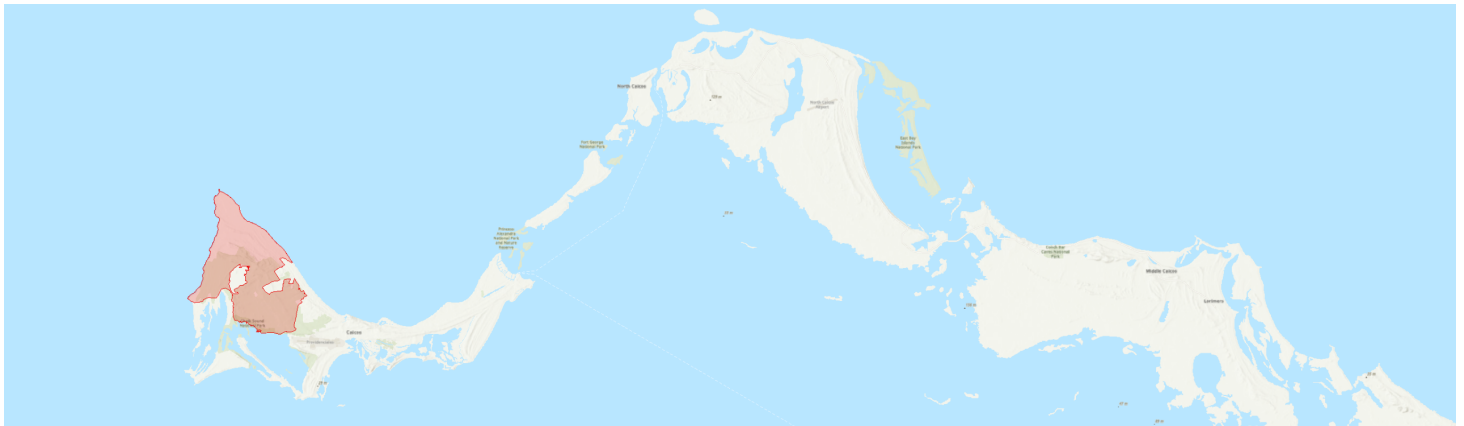


# Pigeon Pond and Northwest Point

TCL\_02



Country: **Turks and Caicos Islands**

Administrative region: **Providenciales (Island)**

Central co-ordinates: **21.81011 N, -72.31485 E**

Area: **34.39km<sup>2</sup>**

## Qualifying IPA criteria

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

## IPA assessment rationale

This site is one of the five best sites in Turks and Caicos for populations of two globally threatened species, thus qualifying it under criterion A(i): *Chamaecrista caribaea* and *Pseudophoenix sargentii*, which both occur around Pigeon Pond. The site also meets thresholds for B(iii), by supporting 16 (equal to or greater than 15%) of species from the list of socially, economically or culturally important species. Areas of four threatened habitats found here are also each considered as one of the five best sites in the country, further qualifying this site under C(iii). These habitats are coastal coppice, herbaceous dune, limestone thicket and tropical dry forest.

## Site description

This TIPA is situated in the northwest of Providenciales and includes the protected areas of Northwest Point National Park at the extreme north-western point of the site, and also part of Frenchman's Creek and Pigeon Pond Nature Reserve in the south-western part of the TIPA. Combined, the site supports the second largest contiguous terrestrial protected area in TCI. The western and northern boundaries follow the coastline, whilst the southern boundary delimits the extent of solid ground. It excludes a large area of saline wetland (Pigeon Pond) at the center of the site,

## Botanical significance

This site is one of the five best sites for the threatened Buccaneer Palm *Pseudophoenix sargentii* which is very rare within Turks and Caicos, with the population in this TIPA representing a genetically isolated population from the other small populations found on the other islands. However, this population was significantly reduced following poaching of hundreds of juvenile and mature trees in 2017. This site is also one of the best sites for Popcorn *Chamaecrista caribaea*, a shrub endemic to the Lucayan archipelago and Tortue in Haiti. There is high botanical richness here, with large numbers of socio-economically important species including many groves of the timber and medicinal tree *Lignum vitae* *Guaiaecum sanctum*. Rare species including the purple mistletoe *Dendropemon purpurea* and *Maytenus phyllanthoides* (recently found here for the first time in TCI) can be found at this site.

## Habitat and geology

This TIPA represents the largest extent of undisturbed natural habitats remaining on Providenciales, due to the extensive urbanization of the central and eastern parts of the island. This makes it an important reservoir for biodiversity. The dominant habitat across this site, making up more than 10% of the national resource, is limestone thicket, which forms on limestone sands with organic material on top of fragmented limestone. At Northwest Point, nationally important areas of herbaceous dune and coastal coppice habitats can be found. The diverse range of undisturbed habitats found within this TIPA make it a crucial breeding site for a range of marine and terrestrial animals including turtles, reptiles and birds.

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## Conservation issues

In general, this area is threatened by development. In particular the north-east coast is zoned for tourism and hospitality and future development is to be expected. A privately owned area of land within Frenchman's Creek and Pigeon Pond Nature Reserve is threatened by proposals to remove it from the designation, thus reducing the size of the nature reserve. Land clearance for other developments is already known to have taken place. Other threats come from slash and burn practices for charcoal production and also quarrying.

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## Site assessor(s)

### Assessed by:

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### Date of first assessment:

14th Feb 2025

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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>Pseudophoenix sargentii</i>	A(i)	—	—	✓	—	✓	
<i>Chamaecrista caribaea</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)	—	—	✓	
Herbaceous dune	C(iii)	—	—	✓	
Limestone thicket	C(iii)	—	—	✓	
Tropical dry forest	C(iii)	—	—	✓	

General site habitats

GENERAL SITE HABITAT	PERCENT COVERAGE	IMPORTANCE
Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Dry Forest	—	
Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Coastal Sand Dunes	—	
Shrubland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry Shrubland	—	

Land use types

LAND USE TYPE	PERCENT COVERAGE	IMPORTANCE
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Threats

THREAT	SEVERITY	TIMING
Residential & commercial development - Tourism & recreation areas	Medium	Future - planned activity
Energy production & mining - Mining & quarrying	Medium	Ongoing - stable
Energy production & mining - Renewable energy	Medium	Ongoing - stable
Residential & commercial development - Tourism & recreation areas	Medium	Ongoing - increasing
Climate change & severe weather - Storms & flooding	High	Ongoing - increasing