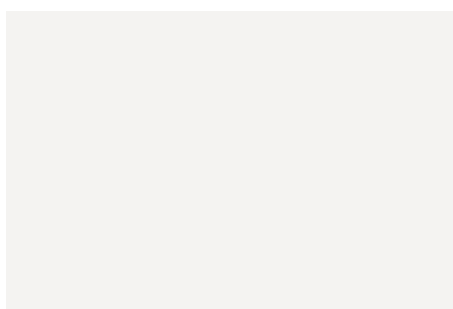
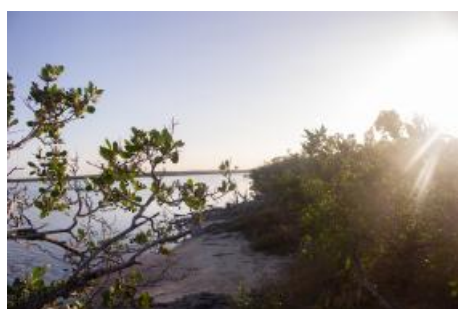
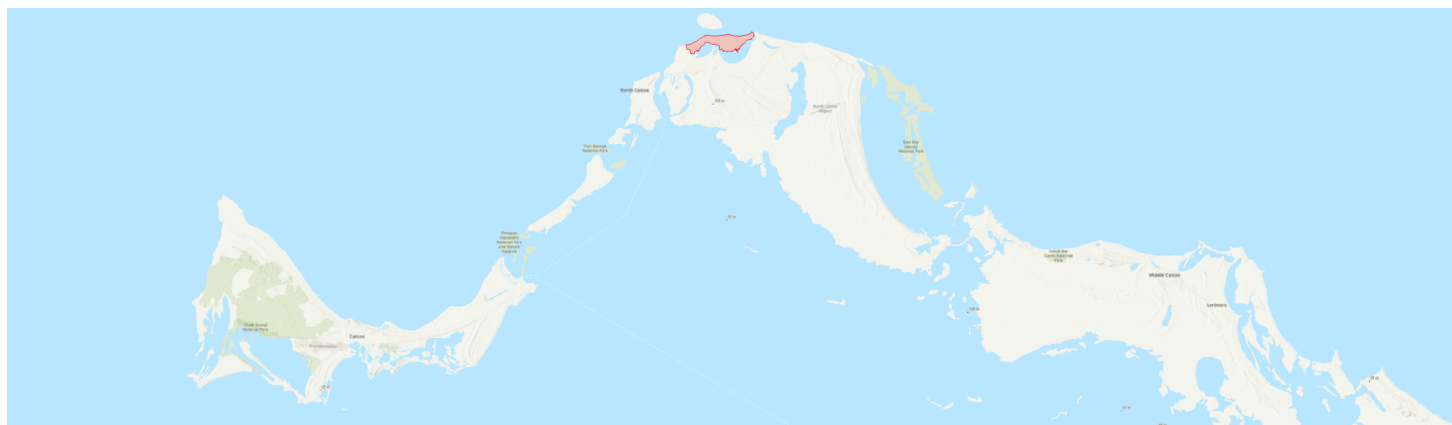


# Pumpkin Bluff and Three Mary Cays

TCI\_04



Country: **Turks and Caicos Islands**

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

Central co-ordinates: **21.95543 N, -72.01063 E**

Area: **0.95km²**

## 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 in Turks and Caicos for the threatened orchid *Encyclia caicensis* and the shrub *Chamaecrista caribaea*. The site supports 9 species of high conservation importance and 18 species from the list of social, culturally or economically important species, meeting the criteria for B(ii) and B(iii). This TIPA is also one of the five best sites for the coastal coppice habitat which occurs along the northern boundary of this site, meeting criterion C(iii).

## Site description

This site is situated on the north-western coast of North Caicos and encompasses the area immediately surrounding the northern side of

Mud Hole Pond and Pumpkin Bluff Pond, extending as far as Whitby.

## Botanical significance

This site is one of the most important sites for the threatened orchid *Encyclia caicensis* and *Chamaecrista caribaea*. A third threatened species, *Argythamnia argentea* also grows here. Species of high conservation importance include *Coccothrinax inaguensis*, which is the dominant tree of the coastal coppice habitat and a critical phorophyte for *Encyclia caicensis*.

## Habitat and geology

This site is predominantly coastal coppice and is one of the best sites for this threatened habitat in TCI. Coastal scrub is the second largest habitat within this TIPA and supports salt and drought adapted plant species. Also found at this site are small areas of limestone thicket and palustrine swamp, also nationally threatened habitats.

## Conservation issues

This site is vulnerable to development, as its location is very desirable for tourism. Some development has already taken place

around Three Mary Cays, though has largely remained sympathetic to natural vegetation. Fire is also a significant threat here, and a fire at Whitby Haven in 2022 destroyed some of the coastal coppice. This habitat is highly sensitive to disturbance and fires.

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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>Argythamnia argentea</i>	A(i)	—	—	—	—	✓	
<i>Chamaecrista caribaea</i>	A(i)	—	—	✓	—	✓	
<i>Encyclia caicensis</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
Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Dry Forest	—	
Wetlands (inland) - Permanent Saline, Brackish or Alkaline Marshes/Pools	—	
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	Ongoing - increasing
Natural system modifications - Fire & fire suppression - Increase in fire frequency/intensity	High	Ongoing - increasing
Climate change & severe weather - Storms & flooding	High	Ongoing - increasing