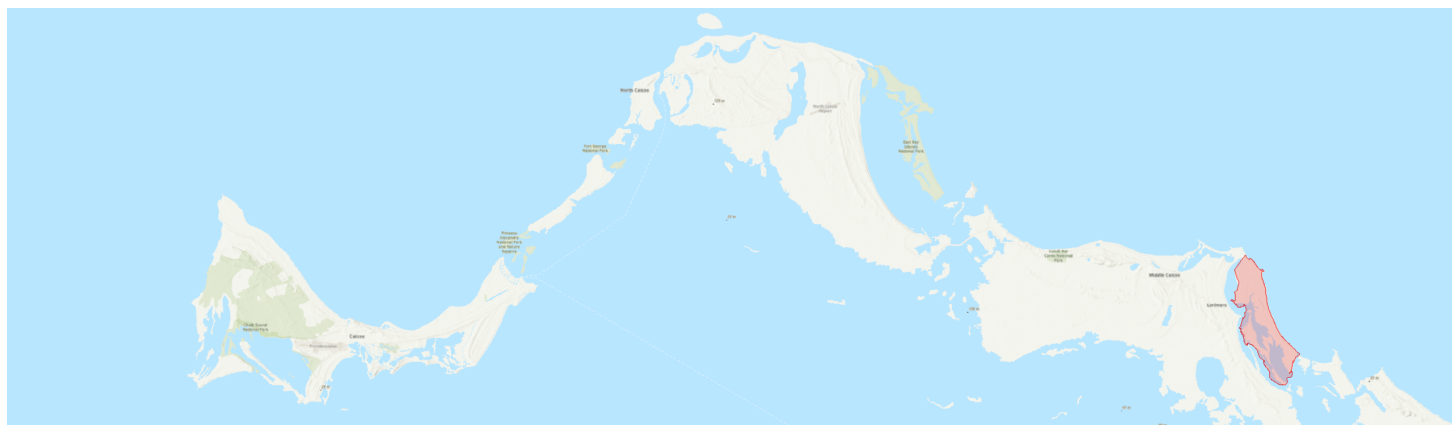


# Wild Cow Run

TCL12



Country: **Turks and Caicos Islands**

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

Central co-ordinates: **21.78689 N, 71.65995 E**

Area: **16.22km<sup>2</sup>**

Wild Cow Run is a 3 mile long, low lying peninsula situated on the north-eastern side of Middle Caicos. At its north-western end it is bounded by Haulover Point and south-eastern end by Cedar Point. It is separated on its western shore from the mainland of Middle Caicos by Lorimers and Increase Creek.

## Qualifying IPA criteria

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

## IPA assessment rationale

This site qualifies as a TIPA under all three criteria. Under A(i), it qualifies due to being one of the five best sites for the threatened species *Encyclia caicensis* and is estimated to support more than 1% of the global population and more than 5% of the national population of *Spermocoe brittonii*. Under B(ii), this site qualifies by supporting 10 species (greater than or equal to 20%) from the list of species of high conservation importance and under B(iii) it qualifies by supporting 14 species of social, cultural or economic importance. It also meets criterion C(iii) by being one of the five best sites for three nationally threatened habitats: coastal coppice, coastal scrub and herbaceous dune.

## Botanical significance

The Lucayan endemic palm *Coccolrinax inaguensis* dominates the area to the west of the main road. Also found in this TIPA is one of the largest populations of *Encyclia caicensis*, which flowers here in the summer months, differing from other populations of the species which only flower between January and April. This, along with other morphological features such as flower colour, distinguishes this population from others of its species. The small endemic and threatened shrub, *Spermocoe brittonii* is also found scattered here, growing in areas where it is exposed to the sun. Four further threatened species grow here; the endemic threatened herb *Lepidium filicaule* was recently discovered here- the first record of it outside of Grand Turk and Salt Cay; the tree *Zanthoxylum flavum*; and the shrubs *Argythamnia argentea* and *Chamaecrista caribaea*. Several species of social, cultural or economic importance also grow here, such as *Pilosocereus millspaughii*, *Reynosa septentrionalis* and *Turnera ulmifolia*.

## Site description

## Habitat and geology

The majority of this site is dominated by coastal coppice and scrub, key habitats for *Coccothrinax inaguensis* which provides the only canopy cover for the area. The site is mainly compacted sand with large limestone pavements and is exposed, particularly on the shore-side. Mangrove habitat can be found on the western side of Wild Cow Run bordering Lorimers Creek and Increase Creek. The site also contains important areas of herbaceous dune habitat.

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## Conservation issues

The invasive pine tree *Casuarina equisetifolia* dominates the coastal border of Wild Cow Run, presenting a major fire hazard due to the accumulation of large quantities of pine needles. Development of the area is an upcoming threat and may result in the bulldozing of sand dunes. Severe storm surges, as a consequence of climate change may also impact this area.

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## Site assessor(s)

### Assessed by:

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Tim Wilkinson, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

### 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)	—	—	✓	—	✓	
<i>Lepidium filicaule</i>	A(i)	—	—	—	—	✓	
<i>Spermacoce brittonii</i>	A(i)	✓	✓	—	—	—	
<i>Zanthoxylum flavum</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)	—	—	✓	

General site habitats

GENERAL SITE HABITAT	PERCENT COVERAGE	IMPORTANCE
Shrubland - Subtropical/Tropical Dry Shrubland	—	
Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Dry Forest	—	
Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Mangrove Forest Vegetation Above High Tide Level	—	
Marine Coastal/Supratidal - Coastal Sand Dunes	—	

Land use types

LAND USE TYPE	PERCENT COVERAGE	IMPORTANCE
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Threats

THREAT	SEVERITY	TIMING
Invasive & other problematic species, genes & diseases - Invasive non-native/alien species/diseases - Named species	High	Ongoing - increasing

THREAT	SEVERITY	TIMING
Natural system modifications - Fire & fire suppression - Increase in fire frequency/intensity	High	Ongoing - increasing
Residential & commercial development - Tourism & recreation areas	Medium	Future - planned activity
Climate change & severe weather - Storms & flooding	High	Ongoing - increasing