

# Anguilla

18° 15' N, 63° 10' W

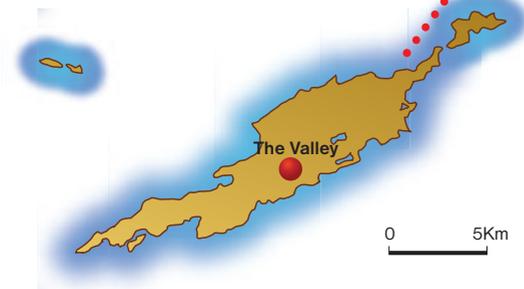
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# Anguilla

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## Basic facts and Figures

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Location</b>              | The island of Anguilla is about 16 miles long and 3.5 miles at its widest. The island is located at 18° 15' N, 63° 10' W.  |
| <b>Area</b>                  | 35 square miles (91km <sup>2</sup> ) or approximately 22,400 sq acres.   |
| <b>Number of islands</b>     | The main island of Anguilla also has several off-shore cays and uninhabited islets, the largest of which are Prickly Pear East, Prickly Pear West, Dog Island, Scrub Island, Little Scrub Island, Sandy Island, Seal Island, Anguillita and Sombrero Island.   |
| <b>Population</b>            | Anguilla had an estimated population of 15,962 persons (2010).   |
| <b>Topography</b>            | The island is relatively flat and undulating with its highest point at Crocus Hill recorded at 213 feet above sea level. Coastal cliffs are common on the northern side of the island and flatter areas are found towards the south and southeast. Most of the islands are composed of hard crystalline limestone; hard and softer non-crystalline limestone; and clayey marls. These over lie volcanic rocks which are exposed in a small part of the island at Pelican Point, Crocus Bay, Road Bay and Little Bay. Reddish brown patches of soil can be found in pockets of the limestone rock in several areas across the island. |
| <b>Main economic sectors</b> | Tourism is the main driver of the economy and has direct links to areas and ancillary industries such as restaurants, construction and vehicle rentals.  |

## Legislative and Policy Framework

### Multilateral environmental agreements

Anguilla has been included in the ratification of eight multilateral environmental agreements (MEA). Status of ratification of key MEAs:

| Multilateral Environmental Agreement                    | Included in ratification? |
|---|---------------------------|
| Convention on Biological Diversity                      | x                         |
| Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species | x                         |
| Convention on Migratory Species                         | ✓                         |
| Ramsar Convention on Wetlands                           | ✓                         |
| World Heritage Convention                               | ✓                         |

### National environmental legislation

Anguilla has approximately 18 pieces of legislation related to biodiversity conservation, and the environment (Acts and Regulations) that are used by the Department of Environment, Department of Agriculture, Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources, the Land and Surveys Department, HM Customs and Excise Department and the Physical Planning Department. See Appendix 1.

### National environmental strategies

Anguilla has several policy documents produced and adopted within the past few years that provide broad guidance for the sustainable use of natural resources in Anguilla, including its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and related sector studies (see: Gardner 2008, Homer 2008, Lum Kong 2008 and Lumsden 2008). See Appendix 2 for more information.

### Protected Areas

The East End Pond Conservation Area (vested to the Anguilla National Trust in 2001) is the only terrestrial protected area set up specifically to protect vegetation or ecosystem types. There are six marine protected areas (MPAs) designated under the Marine Parks Ordinance. Five of the six sites have been designated to protect the coral reefs at those sites. See Appendix 3 for further discussion on protected areas.

## Research Priorities

- General inventory (active research and literature reviews) of the terrestrial and marine environment, with a focus on development of ecosystems and species conservation action plans.
- National assessment for establishment of protected areas (marine and terrestrial) management and island restoration initiatives (removal of feral and invasives).
- Research focussed on coastal zone planning and management, awareness and education and the comparative studies of the biological diversity and stable communities on the Offshore Keys and Rocks of Anguilla.

## Institutional Arrangements

**Government:** The Department of Environment is the coordinating agency for environmental management in Anguilla. Other agencies such as the Department of Physical Planning; Department of Agriculture; Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources and the Environmental Health Department are also responsible for environmental and biodiversity related management, monitoring and conservation. See Appendix 4 for further information.

**Non-Governmental Organisation:** The Anguilla National Trust also manages lands and sites vested to it for natural, historic or cultural preservation.

## Ecosystems and Habitats

The surrounding waters of the island contain the least damaged coral reefs of the Eastern Caribbean (Petit and Prudent 2008). On the main island, a number of ponds of great biological importance are fed by the water table.

## Species

The island of Anguilla is very rich in biodiversity. It includes 321 native plants, 130 species of birds and 21 species of reptiles, including two endemic lizards: the *Ameiva corvina*, native to Sombrero Island and the *Ameiva corax*, native to Little Scrub Island (Hodge *et al.* 2003). The endemic plant, Anguilla Bush *Rondelitia anguillensis* is mainly concentrated on the northern and eastern side of the island (Samuel 2009). Many of the white sandy beaches of Anguilla and its islets are important egg-laying grounds for Hawksbill, Leatherback and Green turtles.

### Summary of the 2008 IUCN red listed species for Anguilla

| Critically endangered | Endangered | Vulnerable | Near Threatened | Extinct (Extinct in the wild) | Lower risk/conservation dependent | Data Deficient |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| 3                     | 8          | 20         | 12              | 0                             | 1                                 | 16             |



Brown Booby © Anguilla National Trust

## Threats

**Invasive species:** A number of invasive species have had a negative impact on Anguilla's biodiversity. The Lionfish *Pterois volitans*, the Cuban Tree Frog *Osteopilus septentrionalis* and the Giant African Snail *Achatina fulica* which have been particularly destructive, are thought to have been introduced by the importation of containers containing exotic plants or other building materials to supply the development of the tourism industry (Petit and Prudent 2008).

**Climate change:** Rising sea temperatures and the threat of more frequent and intense hurricanes have already caused a degradation in the health of coral reefs and coastal mangrove vegetation.

**Land use and human impacts:** The main threats to native ecosystems and biodiversity in Anguilla is the growing pressure from physical development, which has impacted the island's terrestrial and marine ecosystems. Dry scrub and mangroves have been particularly vulnerable to habitat fragmentation and loss. Research done by the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources indicates that Anguilla's new shore reefs (less than 10 metres of water) are not threatened, they are endangered and may even become extinct by 2050. The reefs of Anguilla are also threatened by over-fishing and coastal development (Petit and Prudent 2008). Potential pollution and pollution prevention and control is also a growing concern.

## Projects

In addition to its core work on: (i) biodiversity conservation, management and heritage protection (sustainable resource utilization, and protection), (ii) environmental protection, and (iii) participation of the private sector and NGOs in the environmental management process, the Department of Environment has undertaken a number of projects such as:

### Case Study: The ACRAMAM (Anguilla Coastal Resource Assessment, Monitoring and Management) project

Maintaining Anguilla's "tourism product" of white beaches, turquoise water and coral reefs is essential to attract and retain the levels of high income visitors. The coast and nearshore waters of Anguilla are an important livelihood resource for islanders and biodiversity habitat. Quality information is needed about (1) the nature of development pressures on land and from storm surges and overfishing, (2) the extent of the impact and (3) their intensity in order to make sensible management interventions.

The ACRAMAM (Anguilla Coastal Resource Assessment, Monitoring and Management) project was designed to build an information system to link field collected data to the desks of key government decision makers so that decision-makers could make informed development choices in the coastal zone.

#### Main outcomes:

- Mapping of coastal resources and quantification of resource changes between 1991 and 2004.
- Development of an integrated GIS combining data from the field with planning, administrative and management information.
- Training provided to key stakeholders in methods to assess the extent of resources, as well as in field work techniques, monitoring regimes and data management.



Monitoring at Little Scrub  
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## Contacts

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See Appendix 5 for more contacts.

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See Appendix 6 for additional bibliography.

## Appendices

All appendices referred to in this chapter are available at

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5743>