

ANGUILLA

INTRODUCTION

Little information was received on the current situation in Anguilla. The following account is based on material provided by Edouard Benito-Espinal and the literature, principally Towle (1979), Putney (1982) and Goodwin *et al* (1984).

Anguilla is a low-lying limestone island with several small offshore islets, situated in the northern Leeward Islands of the Lesser Antilles, 8 km north of Saint Martin. It has an area of about 90 km² and a maximum elevation of about 65m. Formerly associated with St. Kitts and Nevis, Anguilla seceded in 1969 and is now a Dependent Territory of the United Kingdom; it has a population of about 8,000.

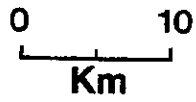
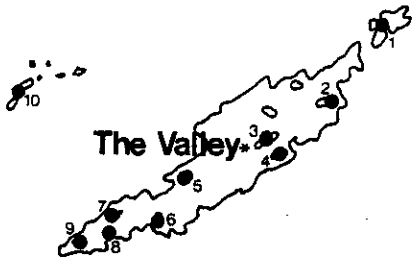
The island lies in the Northeast Trade Winds, and has a dry tropical climate. The average annual rainfall is about 1,000 mm, almost half of this falling in the wet season from August to November. The predominant natural vegetation is dry woodland and scrub with some cacti, but most of this has now been modified by shifting agriculture and grazing, or lost to urban development. The island has about fifteen saline ponds and many small mangroves swamps of considerable importance for both resident and migratory waterfowl, but there are no freshwater wetlands of any significance. There are many sandy beaches with nesting sea turtles, several islets with breeding colonies of sea-birds, and extensive offshore coral reefs.

Waterfowl recorded by Edouard Benito-Espinal during a brief survey of five saline ponds in November 1984 included *Pelecanus occidentalis*, *Nyctanassa violacea*, *Bubulcus ibis*, *Egretta thula*, *E. alba*, *Anas bahamensis*, *A. discors*, *Porzana carolina*, *Himantopus himantopus* and over 650 Nearctic shorebirds of eleven species.

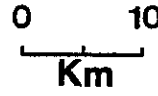
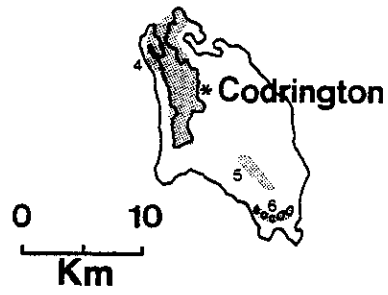
The Ministry of Tourism and Natural Resources is responsible for environmental conservation in the island. Considerable attention is being given to the establishment of a system of marine parks to combat the depletion of coral reef fauna and marine species caused by heavy commercial fishing and spear fishing, but little interest has been shown in the preservation of terrestrial systems. According to Putney (1982), no protected areas had been established prior to 1982, but five areas had been proposed for protection. Only one of these, a reserve in the Prickly Pear Cays, included any wetland habitat.

Many of the island's salt ponds offer potential as part of an expanded salt industry, or for the culture of brine shrimps (*Artemia* sp), and a study has been conducted in relation to the latter (Goodwin *et al*, 1984). However, some of the smaller ponds are being used for the disposal of solid waste, several ponds are under pressure from the development of nearby tourist resorts, and at least one pond is being considered for the development of a marina. In addition, the government permits dredging of sand at three ponds for construction purposes, this being regarded locally as a conservationist policy, since sand was previously mined from the beaches.

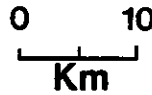
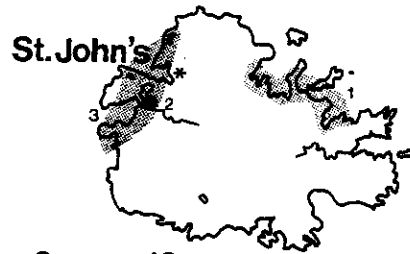
ANGUILLA



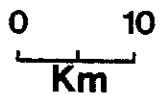
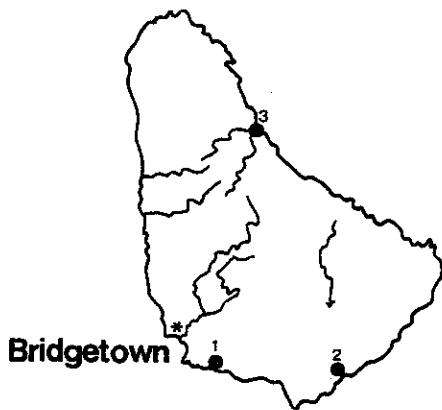
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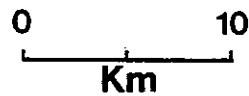
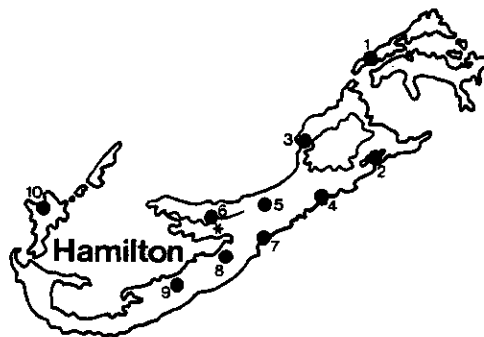
ANTIGUA



BARBADOS



BERMUDA



WETLANDS

Site descriptions based on Towle (1979), Putney (1982), Goodwin *et al* (1984) and some waterfowl counts made by Edouard Benito-Espinal in November 1984.

Wetlands on Scrub Island (1)

Location: 18°17'N, 62°57'W; on Scrub Island, off the eastern tip of Anguilla.
Area: c.30 ha.
Altitude: Near sea level.
Province and type: 8.41.13; 05, 07 & 08.
Site description: Three small salt ponds with some associated mangrove swamps and adjacent sand beaches.
Principal vegetation: Mangroves; cactus scrub in surrounding areas.
Land tenure: Privately owned.
Protection: None.
Land use: None, other than a little tourism.
Waterfowl: An important area for Ardeidae, Anatidae and migratory shorebirds.
Other fauna: There are some coral reefs offshore.
Threats: None known.
References: Putney (1982).
Source: See references.
Criteria for inclusion: 0.

Savannah Pond (2)

Location: 18°15'N, 62°59'W; near Savannah Bay, at the east end of Anguilla.
Area: 20 ha.
Altitude: Near sea level.
Province and type: 8.41.13; 05, 07 & 08.
Site description: A small saline lagoon, up to 70 cm deep, with fringing mangrove swamps; behind the sandy beaches of Savannah Bay. Salinities of 81-87 p.p.t. were recorded in December 1983.
Principal vegetation: Mangroves; low scrub in surrounding areas.
Land tenure: Privately owned.
Protection: None.
Land use: Some tourist development to the west, and livestock grazing to the south. The area is sparsely populated and little disturbed.
Waterfowl: An important area for Ardeidae, including *Nyctanassa violacea*, passage *Anas discors*, migratory shorebirds and *Himantopus himantopus*.
Other fauna: There are extensive coral reefs in Savannah Bay.
Threats: None known. The nearby Mt. Fortune Pond is being filled.
References: Putney (1982); Goodwin *et al* (1984).
Source: Edouard Benito-Espinal.
Criteria for inclusion: 3a.

Cauls Pond (3)

Location: 18°13'N, 63°02'W; in the centre of the island, 4 km east of Crocus Bay.
Area: 60 ha.
Altitude: Near sea level.
Province and type: 8.41.13; 07 & 08.
Site description: A large saline lagoon with fringing mangrove swamps; the largest lagoon on Anguilla.

Anguilla

Principal vegetation: Mangroves; cactus scrub in surrounding areas.

Land tenure: Privately owned.

Protection: None.

Land use: Some grazing of domestic livestock in surrounding areas.

Waterfowl: An important area for Ardeidae, Anatidae and migratory shorebirds.

Other fauna: No information.

Threats: No information.

Research and conservation: Identified by Putney as one of the largest saline lagoons in relatively unaltered condition in the Lesser Antilles.

References: Putney (1982).

Source: See references.

Criteria for inclusion: 3a.

Long Salt Pond (4)

Location: 18°13'N, 63°01'W; near Sandy Hill Bay on the south coast.

Area: 23 ha.

Altitude: Near sea level.

Province and type: 8.41.13; 05, 07 & 08.

Site description: A saline lagoon, less than 50 cm deep, with brackish marshes and some mangroves to the west, and sandy beaches to the east. Salinities of 110-112 p.p.t. were recorded in December 1983.

Principal vegetation: Mangroves and brackish marshes; low scrub and dune vegetation in surrounding areas.

Land tenure: Privately owned.

Protection: None.

Land use: Formerly used for salt production and shrimp farming. There is some grazing in surrounding areas and urban development nearby.

Waterfowl: An important area for Ardeidae and migratory shorebirds.

Other fauna: The brine shrimp *Artemia* sp occurs.

Threats: None known.

References: Putney (1982); Goodwin *et al* (1984).

Source: See references.

Criteria for inclusion: 0.

Road Salt Pond (5)

Location: 18°12'N, 63°06'W; near Road Bay, on the north shore of the island.

Area: 45 ha.

Altitude: Near sea level.

Province and type: 8.41.13; 07.

Site description: A saline lagoon, up to 1m deep, with muddy shoreline, behind a sea beach. An intake ditch is opened once yearly to allow sea water to enter for salt production, and a diked trench encircles the pond to prevent rainwater run-off from entering.

Principal vegetation: Cactus scrub and dry woodland in surrounding areas.

Land tenure: The pond is state owned and leased for salt production; surrounding areas are privately owned.

Protection: None.

Land use: Salt production. There is some grazing in surrounding areas, and urban and tourist development nearby.

Waterfowl: An important area for Ardeidae and migratory shorebirds. About 200 shorebirds were present in November 1984, mainly *Tringa flavipes*, *Arenaria interpres*, *Calidris pusilla* and *Micropalama himantopus*.

Other fauna: The brine shrimp *Artemia* sp occurs.

Threats: The pond has been greatly modified for salt production, and is being encroached upon by a nearby residential area.

References: Putney (1982); Goodwin *et al* (1984).

Source: Edouard Benito-Espinal.

Criteria for inclusion: 3a.

Rendezvous Pond (6)

Location: 18°11'N, 63°07'W; at Rendezvous Bay, on the south coast.

Area: 25 ha.

Altitude: 0m.

Province and type: 8.41.13; 05, 07 & 08.

Site description: A saline lagoon, up to 40 cm deep, with fringing mangroves, behind a sea beach. The pond dries out periodically. A salinity of 131 p.p.t. was recorded in December 1983.

Principal vegetation: Mangroves; dry scrub in surrounding areas.

Land tenure: The pond is state owned; surrounding areas are privately owned.

Protection: None.

Land use: Tourism along the coast. The pond was once leased from the government for salt production.

Waterfowl: An important area for Ardeidae, Anatidae and migratory shorebirds.

Other fauna: No information.

Threats: Residential development is taking place to the north of the pond.

References: Putney (1982); Goodwin *et al* (1984).

Source: See references.

Criteria for inclusion: 0.

Meads Bay Pond (7)

Location: 18°11'N, 63°08'W; at Meads Bay, on the north coast.

Area: 20 ha.

Altitude: 0m.

Province and type: 8.41.13; 05, 07 & 08.

Site description: A saline lagoon over 1m deep, with fringing mangroves and adjacent sandy beach. Run-off from nearby hills enters through a culvert. Salinities of 100-116 p.p.t. were recorded in December 1983.

Principal vegetation: Mangroves; dry scrub inland and sea-grass beds offshore.

Land tenure: The pond is state owned; surrounding areas are privately owned.

Protection: None.

Land use: Sand mining; tourism along the coast and urban development inland.

Waterfowl: An important area for Ardeidae and migratory shorebirds.

Other fauna: The brine shrimp *Artemia* sp occurs.

Threats: Sand is being dredged from the pond for resort construction.

References: Putney (1982); Goodwin *et al* (1984).

Source: See references.

Criteria for inclusion: 0.

Cove Pond (8)

Location: 18°11'N, 63°09'W; at Cove Bay, on the southwest coast.

Area: 75 ha.

Altitude: 0m.

Province and type: 8.41.13; 05, 07 & 08.

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Site description: A saline lagoon over 4m deep, with fringing mangroves and an adjacent sandy beach. Salinities of 125-130 p.p.t. were recorded in December 1983.

Principal vegetation: Mangroves; low woodland and scrub to the north.

Land tenure: The pond and land to the north are state owned; the adjacent coast is privately owned.

Protection: None.

Land use: Sand mining; tourism along the coast.

Waterfowl: An important area for Ardeidae and migratory shorebirds. 160 shorebirds were present in November 1984, mainly *Tringa flavipes*, *Arenaria interpres*, *Calidris pusilla*, *Micropalama himantopus* and *Himantopus himantopus*. *Anas bahamensis* also occurs.

Other fauna: No information.

Threats: Sand is being dredged from the pond for construction purposes, tourist resorts are being developed to the east and southeast, and the Government is considering the site for the development of a marina.

References: Putney (1982); Goodwin *et al* (1984).

k06HSource: Edouard Benito-Espinal.

Criteria for inclusion: 3a.

West End Salt Pond (9)

Location: 18°10'N, 63°10'W; near the western tip of the island.

Area: 18 ha.

Altitude: Near sea level.

Province and type: 8.41.13; 05, 07 & 08.

Site description: A saline lagoon, less than 1m deep, with fringing mangroves; behind a sea beach. A dike on the west shore retards infiltration from a nearby fresh water spring, and remnants of a sea water control system used in salt production still exist. Salinities of 134-138 p.p.t. were recorded in December 1983.

Principal vegetation: Mangroves; low forest and scrub in surrounding areas.

Land tenure: Privately owned.

Protection: None.

Land use: The pond was used for salt production until 1976, and more recently, an aquaculture project for lobsters was established, but this is no longer in operation. There is tourism along the coast.

Waterfowl: An important feeding area for Ardeidae and migratory shorebirds. Over 280 shorebirds were present in November 1984, mainly *Tringa flavipes*, *Arenaria interpres* and *Calidris pusilla*.

Other fauna: The brine shrimp *Artemia* sp occurs.

Threats: No information.

References: Putney (1982); Goodwin *et al* (1984).

Source: Edouard Benito-Espinal.

Criteria for inclusion: 3a.

Wetlands on Dog Island (10)

Location: 18°17'N, 63°15'W; on Dog Island, 15 km northwest of the western tip of Anguilla.

Area: c.10 ha.

Altitude: Near sea level.

Province and type: 8.41.13; 05 & 07.

Site description: Two small saline lagoons with adjacent sandy beaches.

Principal vegetation: Dry scrub in surrounding areas.

Land tenure: Privately owned.

Protection: None.

Land use: None; the island is uninhabited.

Waterfowl: An important area for Ardeidae, Anatidae and migratory shorebirds.

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Other fauna: Sea turtles use the beaches for nesting and there are important sea-bird colonies on several tiny offshore islets.

Threats: Negotiations have taken place between the Anguilla Government and the U.S. Navy for the possible use of the island as a gunnery and bombing range.

References: Towle (1979); Putney (1982).

Source: See references.

Criteria for inclusion: 3a.