GUADALOUPE

LAND AREA 1,713 km²  ALTITUDE 0–1,467 m
HUMAN POPULATION 453,000  CAPITAL Basse-Terre
IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS 9, totalling 505 km²
IMPORTANT BIRD AREA PROTECTION 19%
BIRD SPECIES 251
THREATENED BIRDS 7  RESTRICTED-RANGE BIRDS 17

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INTRODUCTION

Guadeloupe is an archipelago consisting of six groups of islands in the Lesser Antilles. Grande-Terre and Basse-Terre (1,520 km²) are the two largest islands separated from each other by the narrow Salt River sea-channel, although they are connected by road. These are located 55 km south-east of Montserrat, 40 km north of Dominica and 100 km south of Antigua and Barbuda. The other five groups of islands consist of Marie-Galante (152 km²), La Désirade (22 km²), Petite-Terre (Terre de Haut and Terre de Bas, 2 km²), Les Saintes (five main islands Terre de Bas, Terre de Haut, Cabrit Islet, Grand Islet and la Coche, 19 km²) and the final group contains all the small islets. The islands of St Barthélemy (24 km²) and the French part of Saint Martin (92 km²) are situated 300 km to the north of Guadeloupe. These latter two islands were under the jurisdiction of Guadeloupe until February 2007 when they were officially detached (see the appropriate chapters for details of their current status). Guadeloupe is a départment d’outre-mer (DOM, overseas department) of France (and an outermost region of the European Union).

Basse-Terre has a rugged volcanic relief while Grande-Terre features rolling hills and flat plains. The highest point of Guadeloupe is La Soufrière, an active volcano rising to 1,467 m in the south of Basse-Terre. Wet tropical forest has developed on its slopes, replaced by wet grasslands towards the summit, both benefiting from abundant rains. In contrast, Grande-Terre and its dependencies (Marie-Galante, Désirade, and Petite-Terre) are limestone islands influenced by the trade winds. The precipitation is significantly lower and vegetation is consequently xerophytic, with mangroves on the coast. Historically, large areas of land were cleared for sugarcane plantations and livestock (cattle and goats) grazing. Secondary dry woodland has developed in abandoned areas.

Hurricanes hit the islands periodically and can devastate the economy, which depends mostly on tourism and agriculture, as well as light industry and services. Guadeloupe is also highly dependent on large subsidies and imports from France and the European Union. Unemployment is high, particularly amongst the younger generation.

Conservation

The National Park of Guadeloupe covers 33,500 ha (20% of Guadeloupe’s land area) of forested habitat on Basse-Terre (IBA GP002). It is the only national park in the archipelago. Combined with the Grand Cul-de-Sac Marin (IBA GP005) they have been designated as part of a 72,380-ha biosphere reserve. Grand Cul-de-Sac Marin (3,706 ha) and Petite-Terre...
Islets (990 ha) are the only two national nature reserves, and Grand Cul-de-Sac Marin is also recognised as a Ramsar site (for its internationally important coastal wetlands and coral reefs).

The Regional Department of Environment (the DIREN) is the representative in Guadeloupe of the Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development. Most of the forests are under the jurisdiction of and managed by the Office National des Forêts (French National Forest Office) and Conservatoire du Littoral (Coastal Protection Agency). No institutions are currently focused on bird ecology or biology research work across the archipelago, although a 3-year study of the Guadeloupe Woodpecker *Melanerpes herminieri* was conducted in the 1990s, and in 2006, AMAZONA establish a bird research program including ringing (banding), specific terrestrial studies and shorebird monitoring in Grande-Terre.

Humans are the main cause of the decline of certain birds in Guadeloupe. Activities specifically threatening the birds include of poaching of adults, eggs and chicks, and habitat destruction and degradation as a result of urban and agricultural expansion. Introduced species such as rats *Rattus rattus*, mongoose *Herpestes auropunctatus* and domestic cats *Felis catus* are also a threat to birds. Hunting was introduced by law in 1953. It remains a priority to develop the effective regulation of hunting through rigorous monitoring of the activity. This is the responsibility of the rangers of the Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage (the National Hunting and Wildlife Agency). Hunting is a particular issue for the globally threatened Forest Thrush *Cichlherminia lherminieri* and the island’s only extant endemic bird, the Near Threatened Guadeloupe Woodpecker *Melanerpes herminieri*. Plumbeous Warbler *Dendroica plumbea* is restricted to Guadeloupe and neighbouring Dominica.

**Birds**

Of Guadeloupe’s 251 recorded bird species, 72 breed and over 180 species are Neotropical migrants occurring as winter visitors, transients or vagrants. There are 17 restricted-range birds (see Table 1) of the 38 occurring in the Lesser Antilles Endemic Bird Area (EBA), including the Vulnerable Forest Thrush *Cichlherminia lherminieri* and the island’s only extant endemic bird, the Near Threatened Guadeloupe Woodpecker *Melanerpes herminieri*. Plumbeous Warbler *Dendroica plumbea* is restricted to Guadeloupe and neighbouring Dominica.

BROWN TREMBLER—one of 17 restricted-range birds occurring in Guadeloupe. (PHOTO: ANTHONY LEVESQUE)
Important Bird Areas in the Caribbean – Guadeloupe

Most of these restricted-range species are found in Basse-Terre as they are forest-dependent birds. An endemic subspecies of House Wren *Troglodytes aedon guadelupensis* was last recorded in 1973, and may represent the latest of a number of island extinctions—three species of Psittacids (*Guadeloupe Amazon* *Amazona violacea*, *Guadeloupe Parakeet* *Aratinga labati* and Lesser Antillean Macaw *Ara guadeloupensis*) were extinct by the end of the eighteenth century. Black-capped Petrel *Pterodroma hasitata*, Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia*, Caribbean Flamingo *Phoenicopterus ruber* and Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens* all used to breed in Guadeloupe.

Only two globally threatened species have been considered in the IBA analysis (see Table 1). However, seven species have been recorded: White-crowned Pigeon *Patagioenas leucocephala*, Caribbean Coot *Fulica caribaea*, Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* and Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus* (all Near Threatened) are all considered passage migrants or vagrants to the island. The Vulnerable West Indian Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna arborea* is trying to colonise but some are hunted when arriving from neighbouring islands. Due to the small numbers currently involved this species is not considered in the IBA analyses (although see IBA GP008 below). *Cichlherminia herminieri*, which is restricted to Montserrat, Guadeloupe, Dominica and St Lucia, is principally found within woodland and swamp-forest. A new regulation forbids the hunting of *C. herminieri* on Grande-Terre, and for Basse-Terre has set a bag limit of eight birds per day (only on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays) between October and December. Surveys to establish a robust population estimate for the species throughout Guadeloupe will be essential to determine its status set appropriate conservation measures. The island-endemic *Melanerpes herminieri* is Guadeloupe’s national and is confined to the same IBAs as *C. herminieri*. It inhabits semi-deciduous forest on igneous and clay soils, and evergreen forest, mangroves and swamp forests. It occurs from sea-level to the tree-line at 1,000 m, but is most common between 100–700 m. Clear-cutting and the removal of dead trees are the main threats, but damage from hurricanes, road construction, airport enlargement and land development are all threats. Introduced rats may also be a problem. The global population of *M. herminieri* has been estimated at 19,527 breeding pairs in 2007.

Guadeloupe supports a diverse range of waterbirds including 14 regular breeding species and six that breed occasionally. There are 42 regular Neotropical migrant waterbirds and another 25 occurring less frequently). The main waterbird sites on the islands are: Grand Cul-de-Sac Marin (IBA GP005), Marais de Port-Louis, Pointe des Châteaux (IBA GP007), Petite-Terre Islets (IBA GP008) and Barrage de Gaschet (IBA GP004).

In February 2008, the first breeding report for Guadeloupe of the Vulnerable West Indian Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna arborea* (with nine ducklings) was documented from Petite-Terre Islets National Nature Reserve (IBA GP008). Seabirds are also an important component of Guadeloupe’s avifauna. Seven species are abundant, regular breeders, namely: Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus* (245–445 pairs), White-tailed Tropicbird *P. lepturus* (50–90 pairs), Sooty Tern *Sterna fuscata* (2,450–3,300 pairs), Bridled Tern *S. anaethetus* (205–275 pairs), Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus* (435–525 pairs), Least Tern *S. antillarum* (50–75 pairs) and Roseate Tern *S. dougallii* (20–30 pairs). An additional three species breed rarely, namely: Audubon’s Shearwater *Puffinus lherminieri*, Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster* and Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*. The most important sites for breeding seabirds are Tête à l’Anglais Islet (IBA GP001), Pointe des Châteaux (IBA GP007), north cliffs of Grande-Terre (IBA GP003), la Désirade, Marie-Galante (IBA GP009) and Les Saintes. There is an important migratory corridor for Procellariidae located between Petite-Terre (IBA GP008), Désirade islets and Pointe

**Plumbeous Warbler—endemic to Guadeloupe and Dominica.** (PHOTO: FRANTZ DUZONT)

**Barrage de Gaschet IBA, one of Guadeloupe’s main waterbird sites.** (PHOTO: ANTHONY LEVESQUE)

**Sooty Terns at Tête à l’Anglais Islet IBA, one of the most important sites for seabirds in Guadeloupe.** (PHOTO: PASCAL VILARD)
Important Bird Areas in the Caribbean – Guadeloupe

Guadeloupe’s nine IBAs—the country’s international priorities sites for bird conservation—cover 505 km² (including marine areas) and about 19% of Guadeloupe’s land area. Most of the IBAs lack formal protective designation. Only the central areas of the forest habitat of Basse-Terre (IBA GP002) are protected by the National Park of Guadeloupe. Portions of Grand Cul-de-Sac (IBA GP005) and Petite-Terre Islets (IBA GP008) are protected within the Grand Cul-de-Sac marin National Nature Reserve (Réserve Naturelle) and the îlets de la Petite-Terre National Nature Reserve, respectively. North cliffs of Grande-Terre (IBA GP003), Pointe des Châteaux (IBA GP007) and Marie-Galante North Cliffs and Îlet de Vieux-Fort (IBA GP009) are Littoral Conservation Areas belonging to the Conservatoire du littoral where lands up to 15 m from the coast (the littoral zone) are protected by law. The protection of most of these IBAs is part of the

### Important Bird Areas

Table 1. Key bird species at Important Bird Areas in Guadeloupe.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key bird species</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>National population</th>
<th>Guadeloupe IBAs</th>
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<td>GP001 GP002 GP003 GP004 GP005 GP006 GP007 GP008 GP009</td>
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<td>Masked Duck <em>Nomonyx dominicus</em></td>
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<td>Red-billed Tropicbird <em>Phaethon aethereus</em></td>
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<td>Least Tern <em>Sterna antillarum</em></td>
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<td>Bridled Tern <em>Sterna anaethetus</em></td>
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<td>Sooty Tern <em>Sterna fuscata</em></td>
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<td>Brown Noddy <em>Anous stolidus</em></td>
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<td>600-660</td>
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<td>Bridled Quail-dove <em>Coturnix chinensis</em></td>
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<td>Lesser Antillean Swift <em>Chaetura martinica</em></td>
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<td>Purple-throated Carib <em>Eulamps jugularis</em></td>
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<td>Green-throated Carib <em>Eulamps bolivianus</em></td>
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<td>Antillean Crested Hummingbird <em>Orthorhyncus cristatus</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Guadeloupe Woodpecker <em>Melanerpes hemmneri</em></td>
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<td>54,581</td>
<td>2,310</td>
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<td>Caribbean Elaenia <em>Elaenia martinica</em></td>
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<td>Lesser Antillean Power <em>Contopus lateralis</em></td>
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<td>Lesser Antillean Flycatcher <em>Myiarchus oberi</em></td>
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<td>Scaly-breasted Thrasher <em>Margarops fuscatus</em></td>
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<td>Pearly-eyed Thrasher <em>Margarops fuscatus</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Brown Trembler <em>Cinclocerthia ruficauda</em></td>
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<td>Forest Thrush <em>Catharhina inornata</em></td>
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<td>Plumbeous Warbler <em>Dendroica plumbea</em></td>
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<td>Lesser Antillean Bullfinch <em>Loxigilla noctis</em></td>
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<td>Antillean Euphonia <em>Euphonia musica</em></td>
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<td>Lesser Antillean Saltator <em>Saltator albilabris</em></td>
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All population figures = numbers of individuals.

**Threatened birds:** Vulnerable ■ Near Threatened ■ Restricted-range birds ■ Congregatory birds ■
commitments and responsibilities of the French government under the 1976 Nature Protection Law, and to the international conventions (e.g. 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity, and the 1971 Ramsar Convention). These international commitments are particularly important since the European Union Birds (409/79/EC) and Habitats (43/92/EC) directives do not currently apply to the French Overseas Departments.

The IBAs have been identified on the basis of 23 key bird species (listed in Table 1) that variously meet the IBA criteria. These 23 species include two (of the seven) globally threatened birds (see “Birds” above), all 17 restricted-range bird species, and six congregatory waterbirds/seabirds. The IBAs of Basse-Terre (GP002) and Grand Cul-de-Sac (GP003) are critical for maintaining the country’s seabird populations. Marais de Port-Louis was proposed as an IBA, but less than 30% of the Lesser Antilles restricted-range species were present, and no globally threatened birds occur, so it has not met the criteria for international significance.

It is clear that a coherent monitoring program is urgently needed for some species (such as the Forest Thrush Cichlherminia lherminieri, other hunted species, the seabirds and waterbirds). The results from such future monitoring efforts (and any monitoring currently being undertaken) should be used to inform the annual assessment of state, pressure and response variables at each of Guadeloupe’s IBAs which will provide an objective status assessment for these internationally important biodiversity sites and highlight management interventions required to maintain their integrity.

**KEY REFERENCES**


**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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**GP001 Tête à l’Anglais Islet**

**Site description**
Tête à l’Anglais IBA is an oval shaped islet situated 3 km off the north-coast of Basse-Terre Island. The 1.5-ha islet is rocky with cliffs and steep slopes that reach 44 m in altitude. The vegetation is xerophytic and dominated by succulent plants including Royen’s tree cactus Pilosocereus royenii and Spanish lady Opuntia triancantha. There is no habitation on the islet, but occasionally boats anchor by the island to fish, picnic or collect eggs.

**Birds**
This IBA is regionally significant for its breeding colony of Sooty Tern Sterna fuscata. Surveys in 2007 estimated a population of 6,156 (± 518) nesting pairs. The site is suitable for breeding and roosting by other seabirds, with 15 pairs of Roseate Tern Sterna dougalli and 50 individual Brown Noddy Anous stolidus known to breed. A small group of Brown Booby Sula leucogaster has been seen flying to roost on the islet.

**Other biodiversity**
Nothing recorded. A complete inventory of reptiles and mammals is needed.

**Conservation**
Tête à l’Anglais islet IBA has no legal protection. The island is owned by the state and managed by the French National Forest Office. In 1995, the site was recognised as a (Type 1) Zone Naturelles d’Intérêt Ecologique Faunistique et Floristique (ZNIEFF). Every year, until the end of the 1990s, poachers burnt the islet’s vegetation to provider easy access for collecting seabird eggs. This practice is believed to have ceased. Rats Rattus spp. have not been detected on the island but an accidental introduction poses a potential threat to the nesting terns. The importance of the site for breeding terns deserves the implementation of research and conservation actions.

**GP002 Basse-Terre Forest Massif**

**Site description**
The Basse-Terre Forest Massif IBA encompasses almost all the central land mass of Basse-Terre island from nearly sea-level to the top of Soufrière volcano (the highest mountain in Guadeloupe). The boundary of this IBA follow those of the Departmental and State Forest as defined (and managed) by the French National Forests Office. The IBA embraces the Guadeloupe National Park which covers 60% of this IBA. Basse-Terre’s cities and towns are located outside the IBA but are expanding towards the forest edge. Different types of vegetation exist due to diverse altitudes, wind exposure and volcanic soils.

**Birds**
This IBA supports populations of all 17 Lesser Antilles EBA restricted-range birds including c.50% of the known population of the Near Threatened (island-endemic) Guadeloupe Woodpecker Melanerpes herminieri. The Vulnerable Forest Thrush Citharhimina herminieri is also commonly found within the IBA. The Lesser Antilles subspecies of Ringed Kingfisher Ceryle torquatus stictipennis is found in Guadeloupe only this IBA (and has a population of less than 70 pairs). The endemic subspecies of House Wren Troglodytes aedon guadeloupensis was last recorded in 1973, from this IBA.

**Other biodiversity**
The Endangered Guadeloupe big brown bat Eptesicus guadeloupensis and Thomas’s yellow-shouldered bat Sternopteryx thomasi, and Vulnerable Dominican myotis Myotis dominicensis occur. The Endangered frogs Eleutherodactylus pinchoni and E. barlagnei are endemic to Basse-Terre. This IBA is rich in rare plants, 25 of which are endemic to Guadeloupe.

**Conservation**
The Basse-Terre Forest Massif IBA has mixed ownership. The total central zone includes all 17,300 ha of the National Park of Guadeloupe. This forest is protected by a 1948 ministerial decree that confers permission of usage to the French National Forests Office. Almost all the IBA is recognised as biosphere reserve. The lands managed by the French National Forests Office and the National Park of Guadeloupe are well protected. Threats are directly related to the presence of introduced mammals such as black rat Rattus rattus and mongoose Herpestes auropunctatus. Poaching is more common in areas surrounding the national park. The uncontrolled use of pesticides in banana plantations is also threat. A study of Melanerpes herminieri was carried out in the National Park of Guadeloupe which represents the most studied site for this endemic species.
Site description
The North Cliffs of Grande-Terre IBA covers a 25-km stretch of cliffs from Pointe de la Petite Vigie (Anse-Bertrand) to Pointe Bellacaty (Petit-Canal). The cliffs rise abruptly from the sea and range in height from 25 to 75 m. Vegetation is limited to xerophytic grassland, low shrubs and cacti (due to the lack of rain during 4 to 9 months of the year). The cliffs are important in providing nesting crevices for seabirds. The IBA extends 250 m inland from the cliff edge, and includes marine areas up to 1 km from the cliffs.

Birds
This IBA is globally important for its breeding population of 40–70 pairs of Red-billed Tropicbird. Other seabirds breeding are White-tailed Tropicbird P. leucogaster (5–10 pairs), Bridled Tern Sterna anaethetus (10–20 pairs), Brown Noddy Anous stolidus (30–60 pairs) and a group of Brown Booby Sula leucogaster. Seabirds are distributed all along the cliffs. However, the section with the largest number is situated between Piton and Pointe Grand Rempart. Audubon’s Shearwater Puffinus lherminieri has not been confirmed breeding in Guadeloupe but this IBA presents suitable nesting habitat.

Other biodiversity
The cliffs support several rare, Lesser Antilles endemic herb species such as Chamaesyce balbisii.

Conservation
The North Cliffs of Grande-Terre IBA is owned by the state and is protected by the coastline law that prohibits construction within 15 m of the littoral zone. The site is recognised as a Zone Naturelles d’Intérêt Ecologique Faunistique et Floristique (ZNIEFF). The cliffs are threatened due to the proximity of agricultural activities (and heavy machinery) that are causing soil erosion and cliff degradation. The development of a wind farm has generated disturbance during the construction period and warrants monitoring after construction. Fishermen access the cliffs and disturb impact the seabird nesting areas. Introduce mammals such as black rat Rattus rattus and mongoose Herpestes auropunctatus prey on the seabird breeding colony. A survey of seabird colonies was undertaken in 2002.

Site description
Barrage de Gaschet IBA is the largest artificial area of fresh water in Guadeloupe and is situated in northern Grand-Terre. It is the property of the Conseil Général (County Council) and was created at the beginning of the 1990s for agricultural irrigation. The reservoir is 4 km long and is surrounded by extensive cattle pastures. In certain areas, particularly the shallower parts, it has been colonised by water plants such as cattails Typha sp. Scattered shrubland also surround the area.

Birds
This IBA supports a wide diversity of waterbirds. It is regionally important for the population of Masked Duck Nomonyx dominicus (1–5 pairs), occasionally holding up to 80 individuals. Other waterbirds recorded are the Near Threatened Caribbean Coot Fulica caribaea (4–5 pairs) and 10–20 pairs of Pied-billed Grebe Podilymbus podiceps. In July 2006, a population of 129 P. podiceps was observed in the reservoir. Common Moorhen Gallinula chloropus has also been seen in high numbers, with up to 1,250 individuals noted. The Near Threatened Buff-breasted Sandpiper Tryngites subruficollis has also been recorded in the IBA as a vagrant. In 2007, seven Vulnerable West Indian Whistling-duck Dendrocygna arborea arrived on the reservoir—five of them were shot by hunters.

Other biodiversity
Twenty rare species and several threatened flowering plants such as Byrsonima lucida, Sideroxylon salicifolium, Cordia collococca, and Bacta buceras occur.

Conservation
Barrage de Gaschet IBA is state owned. The site was recognised as a (Type 1) Zone Naturelles d’Intérêt Ecologique Faunistique et Floristique (ZNIEFF) in 2000. Since its creation, the reservoir has been surrounded by fences prohibiting access, and therefore hunting. In recent years the fences have been damaged and opened, leading to increasing hunting pressure on the waterbirds. Hundreds of birds are present before mid-July but this does not compare with the large numbers arriving after the hunting season closes. Fulica caribaea is severely threatened by hunting even during the breeding season, despite the fact that hunting this species is prohibited by law. Mongoose Herpestes auropunctatus are abundant and prey on the eggs of waterbirds that nest on the ground. Traditional activities such as grazing and arable farming favour the expansion of invasive leguminous plant species such as aroma Dichrostachys cinerea. AMAZONA coordinates regular waterbird counts in this IBA.
Site description

East Coast of Grand Cul-de-Sac Marin IBA supports the most extensive mangrove and swamp forest of Guadeloupe. It lies on the west coast of Grand-Terre and is bounded to the north by Port-Louis Fishing Harbour and to the south by the Bridge of the Alliance. This massive forest is divided in two, separated by the town of Vieux-Bourg. The north-eastern section covers 1,675 ha and the south-east is 1,331 ha. It is bordered by the maritime division of Grand Cul-de-Sac Marin on the west and to the east by pastures and housing. The IBA embraces three herbaceous marshes (at Lambi, Choisy and Vieux-Bourg). All four species of mangrove are represented and the swamp forest is dominated by dragonsblood tree *Pterocarpus officinalis*.

Birds

This IBA is significant for supporting 12 (of the 17) of the Lesser Antilles EBA restricted-range birds including two globally threatened species, namely the Vulnerable Forest Thrush *Cithaerinina herminieri* (which is very rare in the IBA) and Near Threatened Guadeloupe Woodpecker *Melanerpes herminieri* (which has a population of 770 pairs). The Near Threatened White-crowned Pigeon *Patagioenas leucocephala* is occasionally seen in the IBA, but breeding is uncertain and it is hunted without any control. Numerous Neotropical migratory warblers are recorded in the IBA.

Other biodiversity

The Near Threatened insular single leaf bat *Monophyllum plethodon* and tree bat *Ardops nichollsi* annectens occur.

Conservation

East Coast of Grand Cul-de-Sac Marin IBA is state owned. The southern part of the IBA is classified as a National Nature Reserve by a 1987 ministerial decree. This reserve is managed by the National Park of Guadeloupe. Bird ringing (banding) is conducted irregularly (notably along Lambi’s Marsh trail). The whole IBA is classified as coastal state forest, a biosphere reserve and Ramsar site. AMAZONA regularly monitors (and occasionally rings) the birds in the northern section, and a regular ringing program will be established soon. The main threat is conversion of land (including forest) for cattle pasture or agriculture, and urban expansion. A proposed deep-water harbour at Port-Louis would have a serious impact on the mangroves. Other threats include introduced mammalian predators and the discharge of pollution into the Grand Cul-de-Sac Marin Nature Reserve. Hunting *C. herminieri* is forbidden on Grande-Terre.

Site description

The Saint-François Fishing Harbour IBA is on the south-east coast of Grand-Terre and comprises a sea wall of limestone, rocks and concrete built on a small coral reef. The sea wall, built in the late 1990s to protect the harbour, is 500 m long and 20 m wide, and connects a number of patches of emergent reef. There is very little vegetation on the sea wall (although seapurslane *Sesuvium portulacastrum*, seagrape *Coccoloba uvifera*, portia tree *Thespesia populnea*, goat’s foot *Ipomoea pes-caprae* and various herbaceous species are present), and the land is not currently utilised. The IBA includes marine areas up to 1 km from the harbour.

Birds

This IBA supports a regionally significant breeding population of Least Tern *Sterna antillarum* with 20–50 pairs present along the sea wall. The population has been stable since the terns first colonised in 2002. Migratory shorebirds frequenting the IBA in small numbers include Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*, Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*, Sanderling *Calidris alba* and Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*.

Other biodiversity

No threatened or endemic species have been recorded.

Conservation

Saint-François Fishing Harbour IBA is state owned. AMAZONA is pursuing measures for the protection of this IBA through its designation as a Regional Nature Reserve. Since the discovery of the *S. antillarum* breeding colony, AMAZONA has monitored the population every year. During 2008 a bridge was built connecting the tern colony to the mainland. The resulting human disturbance prevented the terns from nesting. The status of this IBA will need to be reviewed if the terns fail to breed in subsequent years. The bridge will also expose the terns to the threat of predator from invasive mammals. The biggest threat to the colony prior to the construction of the bridge was the presence of Laughing Gulls *Larus atricilla* attracted by fish remnants thrown in the harbour by fishermen.
**GP007 Pointe des Châteaux**

**Site description**
Pointe des Châteaux IBA comprises a peninsula at the southeasternmost tip of Grande-Terre. The peninsula is limestone and supports coastal dry zone (xerophytic) vegetation. It includes limestone cliffs (at the west of Anse to Plume), two rocky islets (La Roche and L’Eperon) and Pointe Colibri (at the extreme eastern tip). Six saline lagoons and several beaches separate these formations. Grande Saline is the largest lagoon at 15 ha. The others are all smaller than 1 ha. This IBA includes marine areas up to 1 km from the coast.

**Birds**
This IBA supports populations of eight (of the 17) Lesser Antilles EBA restricted-range birds. It is globally significant for Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus* (25–35 pairs breed) and regionally so for Least Tern *Sternula antillarum* (10–24 pairs) and Bridled Tern *S. anaethetus* (50–60 pairs). It is the second most important nesting site for Sooty Tern *Sterna fuscata* (1,500–2,000 pairs) in Guadeloupe. Other notable seabirds are Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus* (10–20 pairs) and White-tailed Tropicbird *Phaethon lepturus* (5–10 pairs). Birds like Wilson’s Plover *Charadrius wilsonia* (3–5 pairs), the Near Threatened piping Plover *Charadrius melodus*, Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* and White-crowned Pigeon *Ptilogonatous leucocephala* are observed occasionally in the salinas.

**Other biodiversity**
The restricted-range least gecko *Sphaerodactylus fantasticus* occurs. The xerophytic vegetation includes the Endangered guaiac tree *Guaiacum officinale*.

**Conservation**
Pointe des Châteaux IBA is state owned and classified as a Littoral Conservation Area, belonging to the Conservatoire du littoral. The site was recognised as a (Type 2) Zone Naturelles d’Intérêt Ecologique Faunistique et Floristique (ZNIEFF). It is the most visited touristic site in Guadeloupe receiving c.500,000 people per year. Regulations on tourism, access to the beaches and dunes, and off-road vehicle use are enforced to minimise the impact on the site. Information panels are also displayed throughout the IBA. However, disturbance is causing a decrease in breeding success in the salinas. Another significant threat is the predation of ground nesting birds by feral cats, dogs, mongoose *Herpestes auropunctatus* and black rat *Rattus rattus*. AMAZONA conducts monthly ringing (banding) of shorebirds and terrestrial birds, and Mr Leblond has conducted a seabird census.

**GP008 Petite-Terre Islets**

**Site description**
Petite-Terre Islets IBA is situated 12 km to the south of Désirade and 9.5 km to the south-east of Pointe des Châteaux (IBA GP007). The IBA comprises two uninhabited islets—the 31-ha Terre de Haut to the north and 118-ha Terre de Bas to the south—separated by a narrow channel but both surrounded by coral reefs. Terre de Haut is bordered by white sand beaches while terre de Bas has low rocky cliffs. The islets are limestone and support dune vegetation with xerophytic vegetation on the limestone, and mangroves in some sections. The IBA includes marine areas up to 1 km from the islets.

**Birds**
This IBA supports populations of six (of the 17) Lesser Antilles EBA restricted-range birds. A breeding population of 100 pairs of Least Tern *Sternula antillarum* is regionally significant. The first breeding record for Guadeloupe of the Vulnerable Western antillean iguana *Iguana delicatissima*. The Endangered guaiac tree *Guaiacum officinale* and lesser Antillean endemic trumpet tree *Tabebuia pallida* occur. The Critically Endangered hawksbill *Eretmochelys imbricata* and Endangered green *Chelonia mydas* turtles nest on the beaches each year in the Nature Reserve.

**Other biodiversity**
Petite-Terre holds 30–50% of the global population of the Vulnerable Lesser Antillean iguana *Iguana delicatissima*. The Endangered guaiac tree *Guaiacum officinale* and lesser Antillean endemic trumpet tree *Tabebuia pallida* occur. The Critically Endangered hawksbill *Eretmochelys imbricata* and Endangered green *Chelonia mydas* turtles nest on the beaches each year in the Nature Reserve.

**Conservation**
Petite-Terre Islets IBA is state owned and a designated National Nature Reserve (Réserve Naturelle) under a 1998 ministerial decree. The whole IBA is recognised as a Zone Naturelles d’Intérêt Ecologique Faunistique et Floristique (ZNIEFF). Rangers continuously monitor the national nature reserve. The main threats to the seabirds are disturbance from the numerous visitors and predation of *S. antillarum* by black rat *Rattus rattus*. A five-year management plan was prepared in 2003. A permanent bird ringing program gathers information on Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola*. Breeding shorebirds, terns and migratory seabirds are counted monthly.
Mari-Galante Northern Cliffs and Vieux-Fort Islet IBA is located in the north-west coast of Marie-Galante Island. The cliffs extend (taking in 250 m of cliff-top land) for 14 km along the coast of Ménard Point to Anse Peak. The 0.29-ha Vieux-Fort islet is 600 m from Marie-Galante and has a maximum height of 6 m. Semi-deciduous vegetation predominates on the cliffs and is subjected to constraints of drought and wind, resulting in low stature “dwarf” shrubland. The Vieux-Fort Islet is covered primarily with herbaceous vegetation favoured by the nesting of Sooty Tern *Sterna fuscata*.

This IBA is important for its breeding seabirds. It supports a globally significant colony of Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus* (up to 300 pairs) and regionally important numbers of Brown Noddy *Anous stolidus* (200–220 pairs) and Bridled Tern *Sterna anaethetus* (60–70 pairs). The site holds the third largest colony of Sooty Tern *S. fuscata* (900–1,000 pairs) in Guadeloupe. Audubon’s Shearwater *Puffinus lherminieri* are heard calling at night suggesting breeding behaviour but it has not been possible to estimate the size of the population.

The Endangered guaiac tree *Guaiacum officinale* occurs along with range of other trees and thorny shrubs.

Marie-Galante Northern Cliffs and Vieux-Fort Islet IBA are state-owned. The area is a coastal state forest, and the cliffs are protected by the coastline law that prohibits construction within 15 m of the littoral zone. It also designated as a “Classified Site” and recognised as a Zone Naturelles d’Intérêt Ecologique Faunistique et Floristique (ZNIEFF). Vieux-Fort Islet has easy access along its flat shore. Landings and visits should be forbidden during the nesting season to minimise human disturbance which can harm the colony by over-exposing the eggs and chicks to the sun when the adults are forced to leave their nests. The cliffs are not visited often because access is difficult, but erosion could be caused by clearance of vegetation for agricultural activities (e.g. allotments). A seabird count was carried out in 2002.