



Changes in Caribbean Listed Species and Critical Habitats



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Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office

Endangered Species Program Overview

79 listed species of plants (67%) and animals (33%)

- 4 amphibians
- 10 reptiles
- 11 birds
- 1 mammal (Antillean manatee)
- 1 insect (Puerto Rican harlequin butterfly)
- 51 plants





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Endangered Species Program Species Delisting

The Service is in the process of delisting the PR boa from the Endangered Species List and is currently evaluating the public comments.





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Endangered Species Program Species Delisting

Monito gecko (*Sphaerodactylus micropithecus*) -
delisted due to recovery 2019

(no common name) *Adiantum vivesii*- delisted due to
error in listing 2022

(no common name) *Lepanthes eltoroensis* - delisted
due to recovery 2021



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Endangered Species Program Critical Habitat Listing

Listed species and/ Critical Habitat Designations:

Puerto Rican Harlequin butterfly (*Atlantea tulita*)- listed as Threatened species with CH 2022

Marron bacora (*Solanum conocarpum*)- listed as Endangered species with CH 2022

Elfin Woods Warbler (*Setophaga angelae*) -designated CH 2020



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Critical Habitat

Critical habitat is habitat needed to support recovery of listed species. Designated Critical habitat does not mean that is the only place where the species is found. Both NOAA and FWS can designate Critical Habitat. Sometimes they overlap as with sea turtles.



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Critical Habitat



Some places like
Mona Island have
several Critical
Habitat Designations



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Critical Habitat



Mona Island is designated
Critical Habitat for the
following:

Yellow-shouldered black bird

Mona iguana

Mona boa

Hawksbill sea turtle sand
beaches, FWS, surrounding
waters to 3nm out NMFS.



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Critical Habitat

Other existing sea turtle Critical Habitat:

Green sea turtle; Culebra Island waters to 3nm out (NMFS)

Hawksbill sea turtle; Culebra Island north beaches, Culebrita and Cayo Norte beaches (FWS)

Leatherback sea turtle; Sandy Point, St. Croix, USVI, beaches (FWS) waters around Sandy Point 3nm out (NMFS)



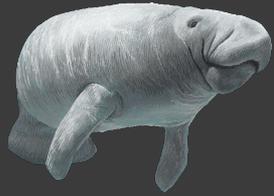
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New Critical Habitat

The Service is in the process of designating certain beaches in Puerto Rico, St. Croix, Florida and the Pacific as green sea turtle Critical Habitat. In the Caribbean some may overlap with existing CH designation for other sea turtle species. Maybe by late 2023.



Further into the future, the Service is considering designating CH for the Manatee Potential Focal Regions or Manatee Protection Areas. It is thought that some 300-500 manatees are found around Puerto Rico. Manatees have been known to swim to Culebra, Vieques and even St. Thomas.



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Adverse Modification of Critical Habitat

The Endangered Species Act consultation requirements extend to designated CH, Federal Actions need to ensure that they will not destroy or adversely modify critical habitat. In areas with CH you consult on the impacts to the species and on the impacts to the habitat.



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What Does This Mean

The various committees of the CRRT and ACP need to be aware that they may have to update response plans, and possibly re-initiate consultation regarding the new CH designations



MORE TO COME.....STAY TUNED



Photo credit: Alejandro Avampini