

Geography

Location: Caribbean, islands between the Caribbean Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean, east-southeast of Puerto Rico

Map references: Central America and the Caribbean

Area:

total area: 440 sq km

land area: 440 sq km

comparative area: slightly less than 2.5 times the size of Washington, DC

note: includes Redonda

Land boundaries: 0 km

Coastline: 153 km

Maritime claims:

contiguous zone: 24 nm

continental shelf: 200 nm or to the edge of the continental margin

exclusive economic zone: 200 nm

territorial sea: 12 nm

International disputes: none

Climate: tropical marine; little seasonal temperature variation

Terrain: mostly low-lying limestone and coral islands with some higher volcanic areas

Natural resources: negligible; pleasant climate fosters tourism

Land use:

arable land: 18%

permanent crops: 0%

meadows and pastures: 7%

forest and woodland: 16%

other: 59%

Irrigated land: NA sq km

Environment:

current issues: water management - a major concern because of limited natural fresh water resources - is further hampered by the clearing of trees to increase crop production, causing rainfall to run off quickly

natural hazards: hurricanes and tropical storms (July to October); periodic droughts

international agreements: party to - Biodiversity, Climate Change, Environmental Modification, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping, Nuclear Test Ban, Ozone Layer Protection, Ship Pollution, Whaling