

Geography

(dependent territory of the UK)

Location: Southern Asia, archipelago in the Indian Ocean, about one-half the way from Africa to Indonesia

Map references: World

Area:

total area: 60 sq km

land area: 60 sq km

comparative area: about 0.3 times the size of Washington, DC

note: includes the island of Diego Garcia

Land boundaries: 0 km

Coastline: 698 km

Maritime claims:

exclusive fishing zone: 200 nm

territorial sea: 3 nm

International disputes: the entire Chagos Archipelago is claimed by Mauritius

Climate: tropical marine; hot, humid, moderated by trade winds

Terrain: flat and low (up to 4 meters in elevation)

Natural resources: coconuts, fish

Land use:

arable land: 0%

permanent crops: 0%

meadows and pastures: 0%

forest and woodland: 0%

other: 100%

Irrigated land: 0 sq km

Environment:

current issues: NA

natural hazards: NA

international agreements: NA

Note: archipelago of 2,300 islands; Diego Garcia, largest and southernmost island, occupies strategic location in central Indian Ocean; island is site of joint US-UK military facility