

The Southeast Blueprint - Caribbean Indicators

In the Caribbean, the draft of Southeast Blueprint 2023 is based on 15 natural and cultural resource indicators that represent terrestrial, freshwater, and coastal/marine ecosystems in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.



Terrestrial

- **Caribbean greenways & trails:** Assesses the natural condition and connected length of recreational paths (*data source: OpenStreetMap, NOAA Coastal Change Analysis Program “CCAP” landcover*).
- **Caribbean habitat patch size:** Measures the size of natural habitat patches that are unfragmented by roads, urban development, or agriculture (*data source: LANDFIRE Existing Vegetation Type “EVT” and roads*).
- **Caribbean island habitat:** Assesses the importance of island habitat for federally listed and other imperiled species (*data source: U.S. FWS critical habitat, PR and USVI GAP, Island Conservation Threatened Island Biodiversity Database*).
- **Caribbean landscape condition:** Assesses the degree of human alteration of natural habitat at multiple scales, from a specific site to the surrounding landscape (*data source: LANDFIRE EVT*).
- **Caribbean low-urban historic landscapes:** Assesses the degree of urban development surrounding sites on the National Register of Historic Places and other historic places (*data source: several historic sites layers, LANDFIRE EVT*).
- **Caribbean reforestation potential:** Prioritizes areas for reforestation based on compatibility of existing landcover and benefits to drinking water supplies (*data source: LANDFIRE EVT*).
- **Caribbean urban park size:** Measures the size of parks in the urban environment (*data source: several protected areas and beach layers, 2020 Census urban areas*).



Coastal & Marine

- **Caribbean coastal shoreline condition:** Assesses the extent of shoreline armoring in coastal areas (*data source: NOAA Continuously Updated Shoreline Product*).
- **Caribbean fish hotspots:** Predicts levels of fish density and diversity based on the proximity of mangroves, seagrass, and coral (*data source: NOAA CCAP landcover, TNC benthic habitat map*).
- **Caribbean fish nursery habitat:** Identifies fish nursery, spawning, and concentration areas like lagoons, bays, estuaries, and reefs (*data source: NOAA Environmental Sensitivity Index*).
- **Caribbean seagrass:** Identifies the presence and density of seagrass at various depths (*data source: TNC benthic habitat map, NOAA bathymetry*).
- **Caribbean shallow hardbottom & coral:** Identifies the presence of hardbottom habitat and coral and assesses the resilience of coral to climate change (*data source: TNC benthic habitat map, TNC coral climate refugia*).



Freshwater

- **Caribbean natural landcover in floodplains:** Measures the average percent of natural landcover in the estimated floodplain by catchment (*data source: LANDFIRE EVT, FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer*).
- **Caribbean network complexity:** Measures the number of stream size classes in a river network not separated by dams or waterfalls (*data source: SARP aquatic barriers, FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer*).
- **Caribbean permeable surface:** Measures the average percent of non-imperious landcover by catchment (*data source: NOAA CCAP landcover, NHDPlus HR catchments*).