

Southeast Conservation Blueprint Summary

for Puerto Rico

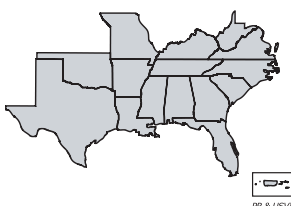
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**The Southeast
Conservation
Adaptation Strategy**

SECAS



The Southeast Conservation Blueprint 2022

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About the Southeast Blueprint

The Southeast Conservation Blueprint is the primary product of the [Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy](#) (SECAS). It is a living, spatial plan to achieve the SECAS vision of a connected network of lands and waters across the Southeast and Caribbean. The Blueprint is regularly updated to incorporate new data, partner input, and information about on-the-ground conditions.

Across 15 states of the Southeast, the Blueprint identifies priority areas based on a suite of natural and cultural resource indicators representing terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems. A connectivity analysis identifies corridors that link coastal and inland areas and span climate gradients. This portion of the Southeast Blueprint is referred to as the "Base Blueprint".

To provide more complete coverage of the SECAS geography, the Blueprint incorporates two additional input plans: the Florida Marine Blueprint for marine areas in Florida and the Caribbean Landscape Conservation Design for inland areas in Puerto Rico.

For more information:

- Visit the [Blueprint webpage](#)
- Review the [Blueprint 2022 Development Process](#)
- View and download the Blueprint data and make maps on the [Blueprint page of the SECAS Atlas](#)

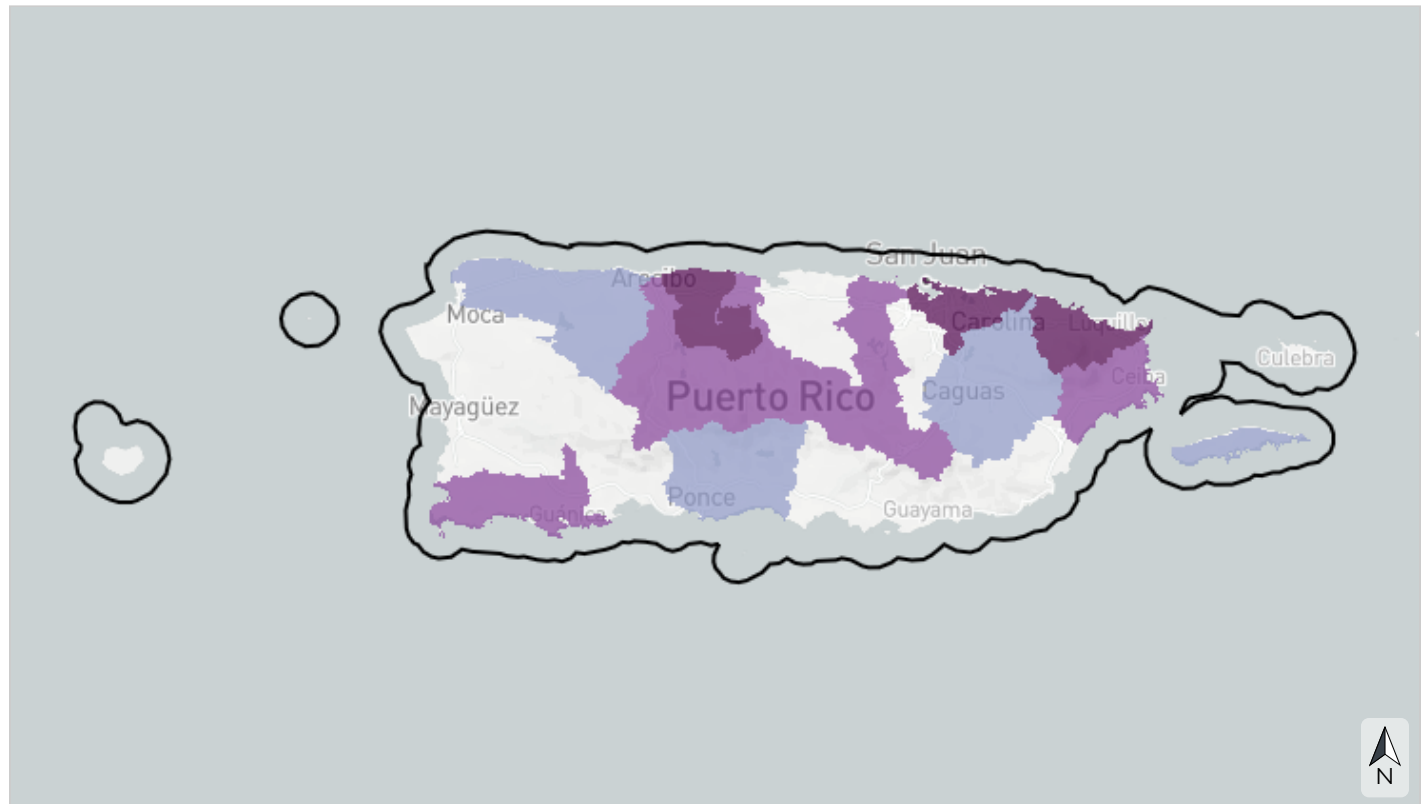
We're here to help!

- Do you have a question about the Blueprint?
- Would you like help using the Blueprint to support a proposal or inform a decision?
- Do you have a suggestion on how to improve the Blueprint? The Blueprint and its inputs are regularly revised based on input from people like you.
- Do you have feedback on how to improve the Simple Viewer interface?

If you need help or have questions, [contact Southeast Blueprint staff](#) by reaching out to a member of the user support team.

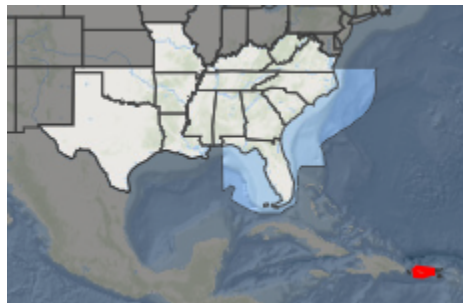
We're here to support you. We really mean it. It's what we do!

Southeast Blueprint Priorities



Basemap credits: Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community

18 35 70 miles



Priorities for a connected network of lands and waters

- Highest priority
- High priority
- Medium priority
- Priority connections

Priority Categories

For a connected network of lands and waters

In total, Blueprint priorities and priority connections cover roughly 50% of the Southeast Blueprint geography.

Highest priority

Areas where conservation action would make the biggest impact, based on a suite of natural and cultural resource indicators. This class covers roughly 10% of the Southeast Blueprint geography.

High priority

Areas where conservation action would make a big impact, based on a suite of natural and cultural resource indicators. This class covers roughly 15% of the Southeast Blueprint geography.

Medium priority

Areas where conservation action would make an above-average impact, based on a suite of natural and cultural resource indicators. This class covers roughly 20% of the Southeast Blueprint geography.

Priority connections

Connections between priority areas that cover the shortest distance possible while routing through as much Blueprint priority as possible. This class covers roughly 5% of the Southeast Blueprint geography.

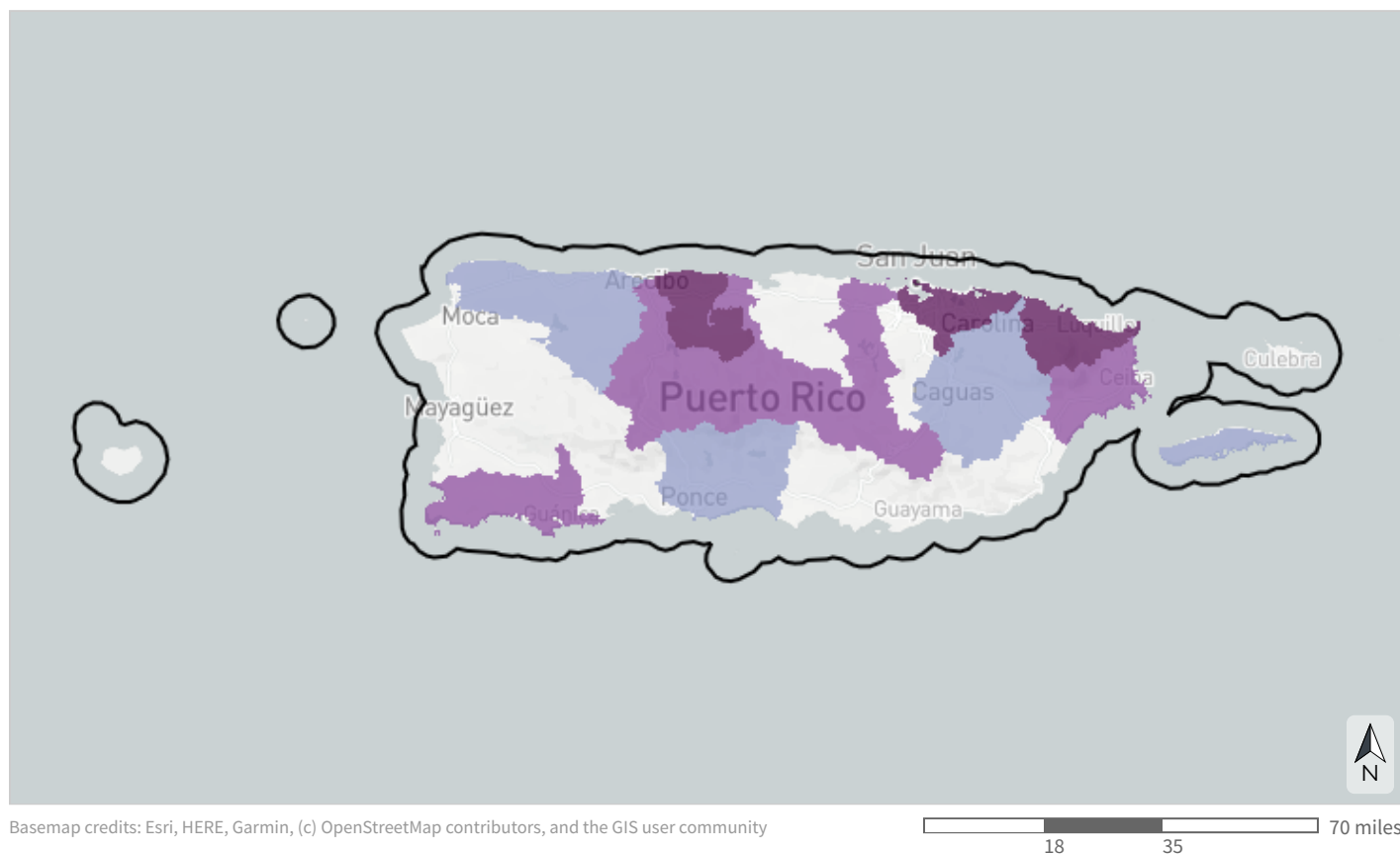
Table 1: Extent of each Blueprint priority category.

Priority Category	Acres	Percent of Area
Highest priority	197,676	5.8%
High priority	607,898	17.8%
Medium priority	552,725	16.2%
Priority connections	0	0%
Lower priority	847,850	24.9%
<i>Outside Southeast Blueprint</i>	<i>1,201,742</i>	<i>35.3%</i>
Total area	3,407,890	100%

Caribbean Landscape Conservation Design

(64.7% of area)

The Caribbean Landscape Conservation Design is a pilot project to facilitate collaborative, large landscape conservation and to help address multiple shared partner objectives (i.e. ecosystem integrity, human well-being, and preservation of cultural and historical resources). Watershed ranks were assigned based on a mix of expert opinion and quantitative criteria. [Learn more](#) about the Caribbean Landscape Conservation Design. [Access and download data](#).



Caribbean Priority Watershed Rank
(1=highest, 24=lowest)

- Rank 1-3: highest priority
- Rank 4-8: high priority
- Rank 9-12: medium priority
- Rank 13-24: not a priority

Table 2: Extent of each Blueprint input priority category.

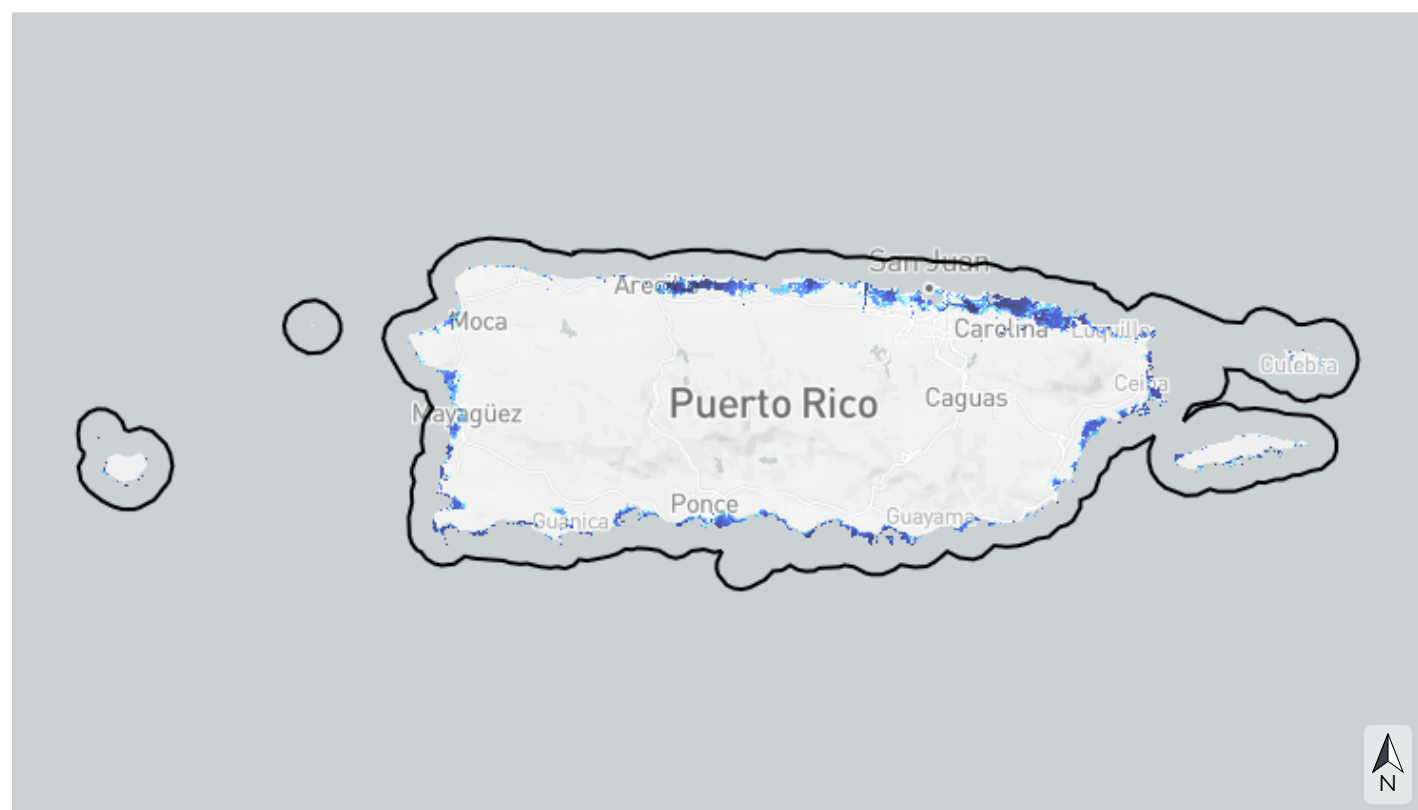
Caribbean Priority Watershed Rank (1=highest, 24=lowest)	Acres	Percent of Area
2: highest priority	56,316	1.7%
3: highest priority	66,375	1.9%
4: high priority	74,982	2.2%
5: high priority	107,498	3.2%
6: high priority	77,432	2.3%
7: high priority	116,416	3.4%
8: high priority	152,164	4.5%
9: medium priority	154,379	4.5%
10: medium priority	185,578	5.4%
11: medium priority	184,284	5.4%
12: medium priority	32,792	1.0%
13: not a priority	150,061	4.4%
14: not a priority	7,553	0.2%
15: not a priority	133,093	3.9%
16: not a priority	70,053	2.1%
17: not a priority	87,328	2.6%
18: not a priority	134,327	3.9%
19: not a priority	82,326	2.4%
20: not a priority	14,047	0.4%
21: not a priority	95,947	2.8%
22: not a priority	99,533	2.9%
23: not a priority	57,521	1.7%
24: not a priority	55,739	1.6%
<i>Outside Caribbean Landscape Conservation Design input area</i>	29	<0.1%
<i>Outside Southeast Blueprint</i>	1,201,742	35.3%
Total area	3,407,890	100%

Threats

Sea-level rise

NOAA's sea-level rise (SLR) inundation models represent areas likely to experience flooding at high tide based on each foot of inundation depth above current levels. These inundation depth models are not linked to a future timeframe; see the projections below. NOAA calculates the inundation depth at "mean higher high water", or the average highest daily tide. The area covered by each inundation depth level includes areas projected to be inundated at lower levels. For example, areas inundated by 4 ft of SLR also includes areas inundated by 3 ft, 2 ft, 1 ft, and current inundation levels.

To explore additional SLR information, please see NOAA's [Sea Level Rise Viewer](#).



Flooding extent by projected sea-level rise (ft)



Table 3: Extent of flooding by projected average highest daily tide due to sea level rise in this area. Values from the [NOAA sea-level rise inundation data](#).

Feet of sea-level rise	Acres	Percent of Area
0 feet	13,043	0.4%
1 foot	33,203	1.0%
2 feet	47,950	1.4%
3 feet	59,398	1.7%
4 feet	70,912	2.1%
5 feet	83,493	2.4%
6 feet	93,945	2.8%
7 feet	104,762	3.1%
8 feet	115,652	3.4%
9 feet	124,759	3.7%
10 feet	132,670	3.9%
Not projected to be inundated by up to 10 feet	2,073,479	60.8%
Outside Southeast Blueprint	1,201,742	35.3%
Total area	3,407,890	100%

Table 4: Projected sea level rise by decade in this area. Values are based on area-weighted averages of decadal projections for 1-degree grid cells that overlap this area based on [NOAA's 2022 Sea Level Rise Report](#). 2060 corresponds to the [SECAS goal](#): a 10% or greater improvement in the health, function, and connectivity of Southeastern ecosystems by 2060.

SLR Scenario	2020 (ft)	2030 (ft)	2040 (ft)	2050 (ft)	2060 (ft)	2070 (ft)	2080 (ft)	2090 (ft)	2100 (ft)
Low	0.23	0.36	0.49	0.62	0.75	0.88	0.98	1.1	1.2
Intermediate-low	0.26	0.41	0.59	0.77	0.98	1.1	1.3	1.6	1.8
Intermediate	0.26	0.43	0.62	0.89	1.2	1.5	2	2.6	3.3
Intermediate-high	0.26	0.46	0.72	1.1	1.6	2.3	3.1	4	5
High	0.26	0.49	0.82	1.3	2	3	4.2	5.4	6.8

Urban growth

Projected future urbanization data is not currently available for this area.

Ownership and Partners

Conserved lands ownership



Basemap credits: Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community

18 35 70 miles



- | | |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Federal | Joint |
| State/province | Private non-profit conserved lands |
| Territorial | Private conservation land |
| Regional | Tribal |
| Local | Designation |
| | Ownership unknown |

Table 5: Extent of ownership class in this area. Protected areas are derived from the [Protected Areas Database of the United States](#) (PAD-US v3.0). Note: areas are based on the polygon boundary of this area compared to protected area polygons, rather than pixel-level analyses used elsewhere in this report.

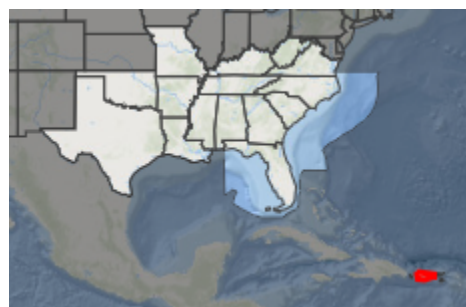
Ownership	Acres	Percent of Area
Federal	50,012	1.5%
State/province	102,033	3.0%
Private non-profit conserved lands	10,979	0.3%
Private conservation land	777	<0.1%
Designation	329,148	9.7%
<i>Not conserved</i>	2,914,946	85.5%
Total area	3,407,894	100%

Land protection status



Basemap credits: Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community

18 35 70 miles



- Managed for biodiversity (disturbance events proceed or are mimicked)
- Managed for biodiversity (disturbance events suppressed)
- Managed for multiple uses (subject to extractive uses such as mining or logging, or OHV use)
- No known mandate for biodiversity protection

Table 6: Extent of land protection status in this area. Protected areas are derived from the [Protected Areas Database of the United States](#) (PAD-US v3.0). Note: areas are based on the polygon boundary of this area compared to protected area polygons, rather than pixel-level analyses used elsewhere in this report.

Land Protection Status	Acres	Percent of Area
Managed for biodiversity (disturbance events proceed or are mimicked)	25,589	0.8%
Managed for biodiversity (disturbance events suppressed)	390,818	11.5%
Managed for multiple uses (subject to extractive uses such as mining or logging, or OHV use)	57,549	1.7%
No known mandate for biodiversity protection	18,991	0.6%
<i>Not conserved</i>	2,914,946	85.5%
Total area	3,407,894	100%

Protected Areas

- Isla de Mona Natural Reserve (Unknown; 93,478 acres)
- La Parguera Natural Reserve (Unknown; 35,993 acres)
- Cabezas de San Juan Natural Reserve (Unknown; 32,576 acres)
- El Yunque National Forest (USDA FOREST SERVICE; 28,892 acres)
- VIEQUES NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (Fee; 17,500 acres)
- Vieques National Wildlife Refuge (Unknown; 17,500 acres)
- Bosque Natural de Boquerón Natural Reserve (Unknown; 17,072 acres)
- Reserva Natural de Isla de Mona (State Department of Natural Resources; 14,014 acres)
- Bosque Estatal de Guánica Natural Reserve (Unknown; 12,890 acres)
- NG MTA Camp Santiago (12,649 acres)
- El Toro Area (12,584 acres)
- Mameyes Area (11,150 acres)
- Río Espíritu Santo Natural Reserve (Unknown; 10,882 acres)
- Punta Yegüas Natural Reserve (Unknown; 10,519 acres)
- El Toro Wilderness (10,477 acres)
- Bosque Estatal de Maricao (State Department of Natural Resources; 10,300 acres)
- Bosque Estatal de Guánica (State Department of Natural Resources; 9,468 acres)

- Bahías Bioluminiscentes de Vieques Natural Reserve (Unknown; 8,609 acres)
- Punta Petrona Natural Reserve (Unknown; 8,040 acres)
- Bosque Estatal de Toro Negro (State Department of Natural Resources; 6,827 acres)
- Bosque Estatal de Carite (State Department of Natural Resources; 6,671 acres)
- Bosque Estatal de Río Abajo (State Department of Natural Resources; 5,643 acres)
- Bosque Estatal de Tres Picachos (State Department of Natural Resources; 5,183 acres)
- Reserva Natural Caño Tiburones de Arecibo (State Department of Natural Resources; 4,777 acres)
- Hacienda La Esperanza Natural Reserve (Unknown; 4,258 acres)
- ... and 94 more protected areas ...

Nearby land trusts

[Click here](#) to search for land trusts within 250 miles of this area on the Land Trust Alliance website.

Credits

This report was generated by the Southeast Conservation Blueprint Explorer, which was developed by [Astute Spruce, LLC](#) in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the [Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy](#).

Data credits

Sea level rise data are derived from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's [Sea Level Rise Inundation Depth Data](#) and the [2022 Sea Level Rise Technical Report](#).

Land ownership and conservation status is derived from the [Protected Areas Database of the United States](#) (PAD-US v3.0).