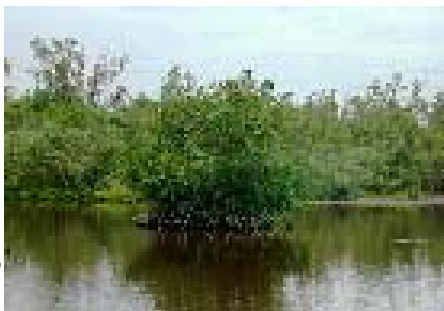
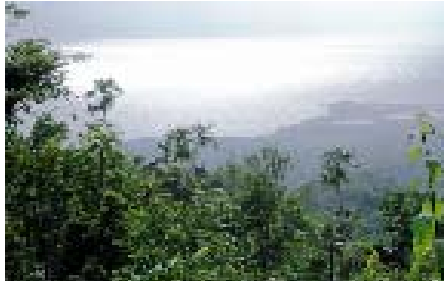


Vieques

National Wildlife Refuge



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Refuge Facts

- Established May 1, 2001.
- Acres: 3,100.
- Location: the refuge lands are located on the western end of the island.
- Administered under Caribbean Island NWR complex.

Natural History

- The refuge contains several ecologically distinct habitats including; beaches, coastal lagoons, mangrove wetlands, and upland forested areas. Some of the best examples of sub-tropical dry forest in the Caribbean can be found on refuge lands.
- The marine environment surrounding the refuge contains coral reefs and sea grass beds. The refuge and its surrounding waters are home to at least two plants and eight animals on the Federal endangered species list including; the West Indian manatee, the brown pelican, and four species of sea turtles.
- In addition to its ecological value, the refuge contains important resources of archeological and historic significance, legacy of the Taino culture and sugar cane era.

Financial Impact

- Four-person staff.
- Visitation seasonal.

Refuge Objectives

- To maintain this rare local sub-tropical dry forest habitat and wetlands ecosystem for resident and migratory birds and rare and endangered species.
- Protection of historical and archeological resource sites.

Management Tools

- Education/interpretation.
- Plant inventory.
- Restoration.
- Water management.
- Wildlife surveys.
- Law enforcement.

Public Use Opportunities

- Visitor center/contact station.
- Wildlife observation.
- Nature photography.
- Hiking.

Questions and Answers

Does the Refuge have an office for visitors?

Yes. An office/visitors center is located in Vieques Office Park on road 200, km 0.4 Please call in advance to arrange a visit as we are frequently working in the field.

Are sea turtles found in the vicinity of the refuge?

Yes, leatherback and hawksbill sea turtles nest on Vieques beaches as the white coral sand beaches provide warm sand for hawksbill and leatherback turtle eggs while adjacent seagrass beds shelter and feed green turtles.

What other endangered species can be found on the refuge?

Some other species that may be seen on the refuge are the brown pelican, West Indian manatee and green sea turtle.

Is the refuge open to the public?

Yes, the refuge is open during daylight hours, seven days a week.