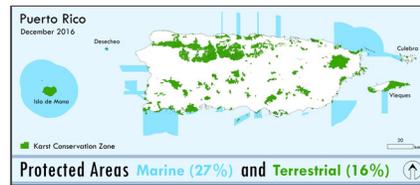


Puerto Rico Protected Natural Areas

Shapefile



Tags

Conservation, Protected Areas, Puerto Rico, 2016

Summary

This dataset includes the terrestrial and marine protected natural areas of Puerto Rico compiled by the Protected Areas Conservation Action Team (PACAT) as of December 2018. The PACAT is an interagency team with members from the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, Puerto Rico Planning Board, Para la Naturaleza, USDA Forest Service, and US Fish and Wildlife Service. The team is dedicated to maintain, improve, and disseminate the data about Puerto Rico's protected areas network. Protected area boundaries in this file do not represent legal property boundaries. However, every protected area included in this data set has a long-term special designation by the appropriate laws, mandates, and/or other mechanisms, which comply with the PACAT definition of protected areas. For more information about individual protected areas please contact the managing entity directly.

Suggested citation: Protected Areas Conservation Action Team. 2018. Puerto Rico Protected Areas Database [version of December, 2018]. GIS data. San Juan, PR.

Description

This GIS file provides the latest compilation (as of December 2018) of the natural protected areas of Puerto Rico. Natural protected areas are geographic spaces clearly defined and delimited through legal or other effective means for the long-term conservation of their natural resources, biodiversity, ecosystem services and associated cultural values. This dataset includes all protected areas owned and managed or co-managed for the conservation of nature and natural resources by the following agencies and organizations: Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER), Para la Naturaleza, USDA Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Fundación Casa Pueblo, Tropic Ventures Education and Research Foundation, Ciudadanos del Karso, University of Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico National Parks Program, Luis Muñoz Marin Foundation, Mayagüez Municipality, and Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña.

Puerto Rico's protected areas are a mix of public and private lands with special designations, laws, and mandates that ensure the long term conservation of the natural resources in the region. The PACAT, through its research and team collaboration, documents these areas using the geospatial data provided by each management agency and geospatial data used within official Plans and Regulations.

While many protected areas differ in the conservation mechanisms used to establish their designations, the Karst Conservation Zone is currently the only protected area based on a Special Zoning Plan in Puerto Rico. The Karst Conservation Zone is an area of high ecological value with a strong legal foundation to protect the natural resources inside public and private lands within this zone. The protection and conservation of the Puerto Rico's karstic area is mandated by Act 292 of August 21 of 1999, Law to Protect the Karst Physiography of Puerto Rico (*Ley para la Protección y Conservación de la Fisiografía Cársica de Puerto Rico*), which commissions the identification of lands that should be restricted from commercial mining activities and other intensive uses. The restricted area was identified in DNER 2008 Karst Study and is also a DNER Priority Conservation Area, which prioritizes the acquisition of high

ecological value land through mitigations, donations and land transfers from other government agencies. The Karst Conservation Zone included in this file is within the restricted area and represents land zoned for conservation purposes within the Plan and Rules for the Karst Special Planning Area (PRAPEC) from 2013. Established land use rules explicitly prohibit mining and landfills within public and private lands, promote terrace cultivation and other sustainable agricultural practices as well as reforestation projects in order to protect and conserve the natural resources, water quality, and the delivery of ecosystem services within the karst restricted zone.

The 2018 Protected Areas of Puerto Rico inventory includes the following updates:

New protected areas from Para La Naturaleza:

Área Natural Protegida Cerro Feliz

Área Natural Protegida Quebrada Janer

Área Natural Protegida Río Jacaboa

Culebrita Lighthouse—Management area within the Culebra National Wildlife Refuge that was not included in previous PACAT protected areas datasets.

New from Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources:

Arboretum de Cupey—component of the San Juan Ecological Corridor that was not mapped in previous PACAT protected areas datasets.

Bosque Los Capuchinos—component of the San Juan Ecological Corridor that was not mapped in previous PACAT protected areas datasets.

New from Mayagüez Municipality in collaboration with USDA Forest Service and Proyecto Agro Eco Turístico del Barrio Río Hondo Inc.:

Río Hondo Community Forest

Other updates:

Department of Natural Resources:

Updates to the boundary of Boquerón State Forest based on the original forest plan maps. Some protected areas or parts of protected areas are within the Boquerón State Forest, having double designation. This information is included in the attribute table.

Updates to the boundary of the San Juan Ecological Corridor based on the official extent used in the plan and regulation for the area. The new boundary is included in this dataset. Some protected areas or parts of protected areas are within the San Juan Ecological Corridor. This has been documented in the attribute table.

Para la Naturaleza:

Some boundaries were updated.

Para la Naturaleza's official data is in the projection State Plane NAD 83 (2011). There is a displacement of less than one meter in distance between the 2018 Para la Naturaleza boundaries and the 2016 protected areas dataset. This discrepancy produced small overlaps with some adjacent protected areas. This dataset has been adjusted to present the best complete dataset for Puerto Rico and corrections were made to account for these differences. Polygons in this dataset do not represent legal property boundaries. For additional information please contact the managing agencies.

USDA Forest Service:

Finca Colón, previously owned by Para la Naturaleza, was transferred to USDA Forest Service El Yunque National Forest. This land is now owned and managed by El Yunque National Forest.

Overlap conflicts were identified by the PACAT and reported to the agencies for revision. They are identified as overlap areas in this dataset and are not double counted. These are:

Área Natural Protegida Hacienda Pellejas and Bosque del Pueblo de Adjuntas

Planadas Yeyesa and Piedras del Collado

Laguna Cartagena National Wildlife Refuge and Servidumbre de Conservación Finca María Luisa

The attribute table provides the following information about each protected area: name of the protected areas, management agency(s) or entity, land ownership, year established or acquired, local designation(s), whether the protected area is terrestrial or marine, GIS calculated area in hectares and acres, source of the data, and additional notes.

The polygons in this file may not represent legal boundaries or may not be up to date. Protected areas are very dynamic, with new areas in the process of designation and/or delimitation. This file will be regularly updated as new protected areas emerge and old boundaries are updated. The boundaries represent the most recent information available as of December of 2018. This version of the protected areas shapefile was last updated on the 7 of December of 2018. This file is the product of a collaborative effort through the Protected Areas Conservation Action Team (PACAT), which aims to compile, analyze and improve protected areas data for Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands, identifying actions to improve the protected areas network and data sharing protocols of both countries.

Credits

This file is the product of a collaborative effort through the Protected Areas Conservation Action Team (PACAT).

Suggested citation: Protected Areas Conservation Action Team. 2018. Puerto Rico Protected Areas Database [version of December, 2018]. GIS data. San Juan, PR.

Use limitations

The polygons in this file do not represent legal boundaries and may not be up to date. Protected areas are very dynamic and new areas are continually in the process of consideration, designation or delimitation. The boundaries in this file represent the most recent information available as of December of 2018. The dataset is not for use in litigation. While efforts have been made to ensure that these data are accurate and reliable within the state of the art, the agencies and entities involved, the PACAT, or its members, cannot assume liability

for any damages, or misrepresentations, caused by any inaccuracies in the data, or as a result of the data to be used on a particular system. The team makes no warranty, expressed or implied, nor does the fact of distribution constitute such a warranty.

Extent

West -68.116266 **East** -65.218649
North 18.645883 **South** 17.775740

Scale Range

Maximum (zoomed in) 1:5,000
Minimum (zoomed out) 1:625,000