

## GP008 Petite-Terre Islets

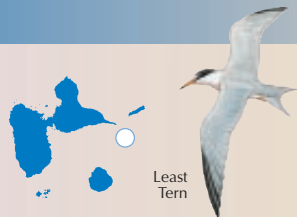
COORDINATES 16°11'N 61°06'W

ADMIN REGION La Désirade

AREA 1,385 ha

ALTITUDE 0–8 m

HABITAT Coastline, coral reef, mangrove,  
beach, dunes



## National Nature Reserve

THREATENED BIRDS

RESTRICTED-RANGE BIRDS

6

BIOME-RESTRICTED BIRDS

CONGREGATORY BIRDS



### ■ Site description

Petite-Terre Islets IBA is situated 12 km to the south of Désirade and 9.5 km to the south-east of Pointe des Châteaux (IBA GP007). The IBA comprises two uninhabited islets—the 31-ha Terre de Haut to the north and 118-ha Terre de Bas to the south—separated by a narrow channel but both surrounded by coral reefs. Terre de Haut is bordered by white sand beaches while terre de Bas has low rocky cliffs. The islets are limestone and support dune vegetation with xerophytic vegetation on the limestone, and mangroves in some sections. The IBA includes marine areas up to 1 km from the islets.

### ■ Birds

This IBA supports populations of six (of the 17) Lesser Antilles IBA restricted-range birds. A breeding population of 100 pairs of Least Tern *Sterna antillarum* is regionally significant. The first breeding record for Guadeloupe of the Vulnerable West Indian Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna arborea* was from the IBA. Near Threatened Piping Plover *Charadrius melodus* (observed in consecutive years), Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis* and White-crowned Pigeon *Patagioenas leucocephala* (both seen “occasionally”) have been recorded. American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus* and Wilson’s Plover *Charadrius wilsonia* breed. Large numbers of passage

seabirds have been noted from this IBA including the Endangered Black-capped Petrel *Pterodroma hasitata*.

### ■ Other biodiversity

Petite-Terre holds 30–50% of the global population of the Vulnerable Lesser Antillean iguana *Iguana delicatissima*. The Endangered guaiac tree *Guaiacum officinale* and lesser Antillean endemic trumpet tree *Tabebuia pallida* occur. The Critically Endangered hawksbill *Eretmochelys imbricata* and Endangered green *Chelonia mydas* turtles nest on the beaches each year in the Nature Reserve.

### ■ Conservation

Petite-Terre Islets IBA is state owned and a designated National Nature Reserve (Réserve Naturelle) under a 1998 ministerial decree. The whole IBA is recognised as a Zone Naturelles d’Intérêt Ecologique Faunistique et Floristique (ZNIEFF). Rangers continuously monitor the national nature reserve. The main threats to the seabirds are disturbance from the numerous visitors and predation of *S. antillarum* by black rat *Rattus rattus*. A five-year management plan was prepared in 2003. A permanent bird ringing program gathers information on Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola*. Breeding shorebirds, terns and migratory seabirds are counted monthly.