

Cocos (Keeling) Islands

(territory of Australia)

Geography

Location: Southeastern Asia, group of islands in the Indian Ocean, south of Indonesia, about one-half of the way from Australia to Sri Lanka

Map references: Southeast Asia

Area:

total area: 14 sq km

land area: 14 sq km

note: includes the two main islands of West Island and Home Island

Land boundaries: 0 km

Coastline: 2.6 km

Maritime claims:

exclusive fishing zone: 200 nm

territorial sea: 3 nm

Climate: pleasant, modified by the southeast trade wind for about nine months of the year; moderate rain fall

Terrain: flat, low-lying coral atolls

Natural resources: fish

Environment:

current issues: there are no natural fresh water resources on the island, groundwater does accumulate in natural underground reservoirs

natural hazards: cyclones may occur in the early months of the year

international agreements: NA

Note: two coral atolls thickly covered with coconut palms and other vegetation

People

Population: 604 (July 1995 est.)

Population growth rate: 0.98% (1995 est.)

Nationality:

noun: Cocos Islander(s)

adjective: Cocos Islander

Ethnic divisions:

West Island: Europeans

Home Island: Cocos Malays

Religions: Sunni Muslims

Languages: English

Government

Names:

conventional long form: Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands

conventional short form: Cocos (Keeling) Islands

Type: territory of Australia

Capital: West Island

Administrative divisions: none (territory of Australia)

Independence: none (territory of Australia)

Constitution: Cocos (Keeling) Islands Act of 1955

Legal system: based upon the laws of Australia and local laws

Flag: the flag of Australia is used

Economy

Overview: Grown throughout the islands, coconuts are the sole cash crop. Copra and fresh coconuts are the major export earners. Small local gardens and fishing contribute to the food supply, but additional food and most other necessities must be imported from Australia.

Industries: copra products

Agriculture: gardens provide vegetables, bananas, pawpaws, coconuts

Airports:
total: 1