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## **IFRC Review of Emergency Decrees: BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY (BIOT)**

### **Overview**

BIOT is an archipelago of 58 islands covering some 640,000 sq km of ocean. It is administered from London and is located approximately halfway between East Africa and Indonesia.

The only occupied island is Diego Garcia which is leased to the United States Government.

It is not known if any cases of COVID-19 are present on Diego Garcia.

Access is restricted and a permit is required in advance of travel. The BIOT Administration has announced that due to COVID-19 it will not be issuing visiting vessel permits until further notice.<sup>1</sup>

There is no local emergency or disaster legislation. In the event of an emergency, measures would need to be taken under the Emergency Powers Order 2017.

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.biot.gov.io>