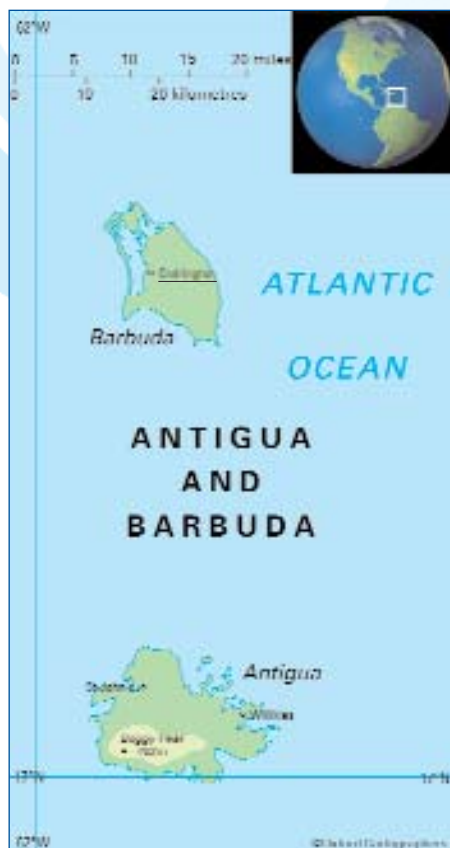


AN OUTLINE OF THE GOVERNMENT SYSTEM IN

# ANTIGUA & BARBUDA



administrative units, namely: St George, St John, St Mary, St Paul, St Peter and St Philip. Barbuda has an island-wide local authority.

## 2 POLITICAL AND ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

The most recent general elections were held in March 2004, and the next election is due no later than 2009.

In order to address secessionist sentiments in Barbuda, the 1981 Constitution includes constitutional protection for the Barbuda Local Government Act.

### 2.1 Position of local government

There is no local government on Antigua.

The Barbuda Council is the island-wide authority of local self-government. It deals with community and domestic affairs. Its council comprises the Barbudan representatives to the national Parliament, nine elected members and a government-appointed member. Elections are held every two years to this council.

In 2005 there were an estimated 20,000 internet users.<sup>2</sup>

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Antigua and Barbuda is a unitary state situated at the northern end of the Leeward islands in the eastern Caribbean. Its population is 64,481<sup>1</sup> on a land area of 342 sq km.

Antigua and Barbuda is a constitutional monarchy. The head of state is HM Queen Elizabeth II represented by a governor-general appointed on the advice of the prime minister.

The head of government is the prime minister. The Council of Ministers is appointed by the governor-general on the advice of the prime minister.

Parliament is bicameral, comprising the House of Representatives and the Senate. The 17 members of the House of Representatives are elected by universal suffrage for a term of up to five years. The Senate is appointed by the governor-general as follows: 11 – one of whom must be a resident of Barbuda – on the advice of the prime minister; four on the advice of the leader of the opposition; one on the advice of the Barbuda Council; and one at the discretion of the governor-general.

On Antigua there are six parishes that act as

### References

1 & 2 CIA World Factbook 2007.