

In 2002, the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force identified the need for more focused action at the local level to reduce key threats to coral reefs and called for the development of Local Action Strategies (LAS) in each of the seven states and territories that possess significant coral reef resources.

## GUAM Local Action Strategy

In August 2002, the Guam Coral Reef Initiative Coordinating Committee (GCRICC) began the process of selecting and prioritizing the main threats to local coral reefs on which to focus LAS efforts for the next three years. By February 2003, the GCRICC had identified local navigators and drafted Local Action Strategies (LAS) for four of the five chosen focus areas. Among the numerous benefits realized through these efforts, the LAS process significantly expanded and enhanced the network of stakeholder groups working on coral reef issues. Members of the Guam Watershed Planning Committee (WPC), a group of local, federal, and non-governmental agencies involved primarily with watershed restoration, have become involved in the LAS development and members of the GCRICC now participate in the WPC. In addition, the University of Guam Marine Laboratory and Water and Environmental Research Institute, guided by the needs of the local natural resource agencies, have shifted much of their focus toward management-driven research. Recently, another crucial stakeholder group has become engaged. The Guam Visitors Bureau and the tourism industry are now working with the natural resources agencies to market Guam's coral reefs, and in particular Guam's marine preserves, to the one million visitors that come to our island yearly. A new awareness of the economic value of our coral reef resources is beginning to create a sense of stewardship in the industry, absent during the economic boom of the 1980s and recession of the 1990s. Ultimately these new partnerships and increased support for improving the health of Guam's coral reefs have resulted in the following LAS development.

### LAND-BASED SOURCES OF POLLUTION...

This LAS addresses the various sources of land based pollution that can have harmful effects on the health of Guam's coral reefs including sediments, fertilizers, sewage, car oil, pesticides, litter, and household hazardous waste.

#### Goals and Objectives

- Reduce sediment runoff in two of Guam's watersheds
- Manage the impacts of non-point source pollution through the Guam Nonpoint Pollution Control Program

#### Project Examples

- Restore badland areas in the targeted watersheds by planting fire-resistant tree species and installing erosion control cloth
- Develop a comprehensive watershed planning process to identify pollution sources and restore impaired water quality

#### Anticipated Outcomes

- Improved land use practices that employ best management practices
- Enhancement and reestablishment of the Guam Watershed Planning Committee as per Governor Camacho's Executive Order



### ESTIMATED LAS PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION COSTS

Land-based Sources of Pollution  
\$1,071,823

Fisheries Management  
\$1,200,963

Lack of Public Awareness  
\$462,134

Recreational Misuse/Overuse  
\$364,500

*Estimated costs derived from projects for which cost information is presently available*



## STAKEHOLDERS

DOI, National Park Service

DOI, Office of Insular Affairs

Guam Canoe and Kayak Federation

Guam Chamber of Commerce

Guam Coastal Management Program

Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources

Guam Department of Education

Guam Division of Forestry and Soil Resources

Guam Environmental Protection Agency

Guam Fishermen's Co-op

Guam Hotel and Restaurant Association

Guam Visitors Bureau

NOAA

University of Guam

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Western Pacific Fishery Management Council

**contacts**

## FISHERIES MANAGEMENT...

The main goal of this local action strategy is to increase the effectiveness of Guam's five marine preserves in restoring reef fish stocks around the island by increasing funding for law enforcement, prosecution, and studies on the spillover effect around the MPAs. **Goals and Objectives**

- *Increase education and outreach on the effectiveness of Guam's five marine preserves in restoring coral reef fish stocks*
- *Improved effectiveness of enforcement of fishing and marine preserve regulations*

### Project Examples

- *Hire conservation officers, conduct training, provide technical assistance, and purchase equipment for law enforcement section of DAWR*
- *Create user-friendly pamphlets on fishing regulations and the value of Guam's marine preserves*

### Anticipated Outcomes

- *Enhanced community involvement in fisheries management through regular participation in public meetings*
- *Increase in coral reef fish stocks within marine preserves and adjacent areas*

## LACK OF PUBLIC AWARENESS...

Without the help and desire of the people, implementation and progress on Guam's LAS efforts will be stalled to the point that protection and conservation efforts may be too little, too late. This LAS focuses on improving awareness of and support for coral reef conservation efforts by the community, in the classroom, and with policy makers.

### Goals and Objectives

- *Increase environmental education through curricula developed specifically to include the value of coral reefs*
- *Create a coordinated public awareness and outreach plan*

### Project Examples

- *Hire a specialist to design environmental curriculum in collaboration with the Guam Department of Education for all levels of instruction*
- *Develop a coordinated public awareness and outreach plan to identify the strengths and weakness of existing programs and produce effective outreach plans for targeted groups*

### Anticipated Outcomes

- *Improved knowledge of Guam's environment in students at all levels as a result of established environmental curricula*
- *Increased community involvement in environmental issues and understanding of the link between humans and the environment*

## RECREATIONAL MISUSE/OVERUSE...

Tourism is the cornerstone of Guam's economy and local people enjoy a variety of types of recreation as well. This local action strategy is currently being developed to address the impacts to Guam's coral reefs by recreational misuse and overuse.

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