



1 *Introduction to CRCP Grants Programs*

As authorized by the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 (the Act), the CRCP includes two grant programs that provide funding opportunities to non-NOAA entities for projects supporting coral reef conservation: (1) the Coral Reef Conservation Grants Program, and (2) the Coral Reef Conservation Fund. These two programs are summarized below. More detailed summaries of each program's components are provided in the following chapters.

Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program

The Coral Reef Conservation Grant Program, as authorized by Section 6403 of the Act, has issued \$28.1M in Federal funds from 2002-2006 to a broad array of applicants to meet the objectives of Act. These funds have been matched by \$11.9M in non-Federal funds, as shown in Exhibit IV-1-1 (see foldout at end of this section).

Funds are awarded under the following six program categories, and distributed as shown in Exhibit IV-1-2.

- **State and Territory Coral Reef Management** (*Applicants: State and Territory Management Agencies*)
- **State and Territory Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring** (*Applicants: State and Territory Management Agencies*)
- **Projects to Improve or Amend Coral Reef Fishery Management Plans** (*Applicants: South Atlantic, Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Councils*)
- **General Coral Reef Conservation** (*Applicants: Academia, NGOs, others*)
- **Coral Reef Ecosystem Research** (*Applicants: Academia, NGOs, others*)
- **International Coral Reef Conservation** (*Applicants: International governments, NGOs, others*)

The Act requires that Federal funds for any coral conservation project funded under this Program not exceed 50% of the total cost of the projects, i.e., a 1:1 Federal to non-Federal match. Matching funds must be from non-Federal sources and can include in-kind contributions and other non-cash support. NOAA strongly encourages applicants to leverage as much investment as possible. Federal funds may not be considered as matching funds.

Under Section 6403(b) (2) of the Act, the NOAA Administrator may waive all or part of the matching requirement if the NOAA Administrator determines that the project meets the following two requirements: (1) No reasonable means are available through which an applicant





can meet the matching requirement, and (2) The probable benefit of such project outweighs the public interest in such matching requirement.

The Act also requires that funds be awarded to meet certain geographic goals, specifically:

- (1) No less than 40% of funds available shall be awarded for coral reef conservation projects in the Pacific Ocean within the maritime areas and zones subject to the jurisdiction or control of the United States.
- (2) No less than 40% of the funds available shall be awarded for coral reef conservation projects in the Atlantic Ocean, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Caribbean Sea within the maritime areas and zones subject to the jurisdiction or control of the United States.
- (3) Remaining funds shall be awarded for projects that address emerging priorities or threats, including international priorities or threats, identified by the NOAA Administrator. When identifying emerging threats or priorities, the NOAA Administrator may consult with the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force.

Coral Reef Conservation Fund

The Coral Reef Conservation Fund (the Fund), a partnership between NOAA and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, provides competitive grants to projects that build community-based, public-private partnerships to reduce and prevent degradation of coral reefs and associated reef habitats. Through the Fund, since 2002, the CRCP has provided \$4.9M to 144 projects throughout the U.S. and in over thirty countries. This support has been further leveraged with \$345K from partner agencies and \$8.5M in non-Federal matching funds provided by grantees, resulting in a total of \$13.7M in support, as shown in Exhibits IV-1-1 and -2.

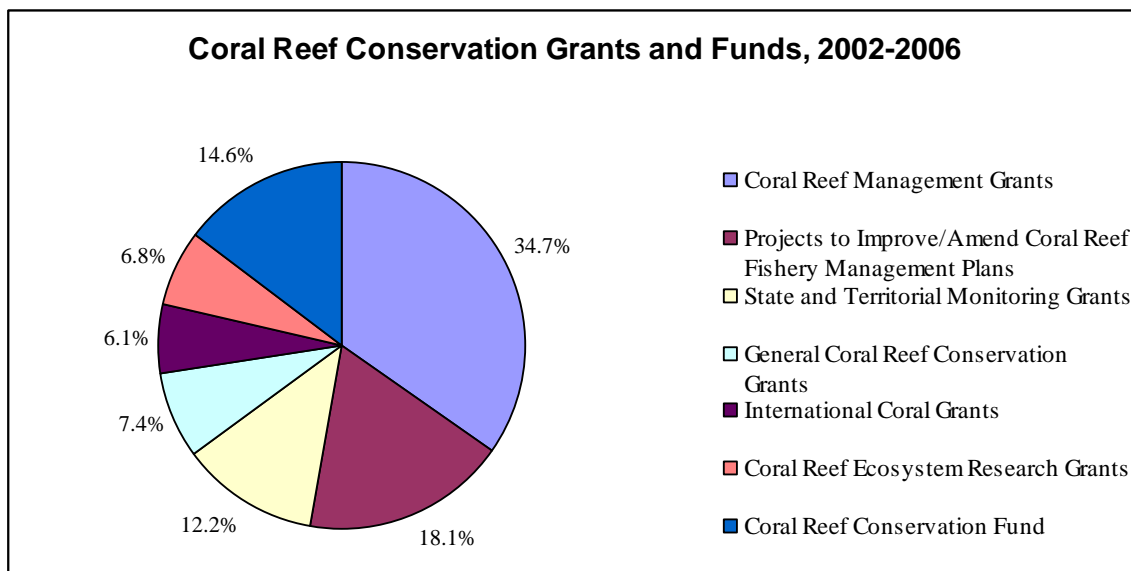


Exhibit IV-1-2. Distribution of Coral Reef Conservation Grants and Funds, 2002-2006

