

Coral Reef Management Fellowship 2005-2007 Project Summaries



American Samoa:

Sharon Gulick worked in American Samoa with the Coral Reef Advisory Group (CRAG), a group of territorial and federal agencies that coordinates all of American Samoa's coral reef management activities. Sharon lead CRAG's Population Pressure Working Group in the development and implementation of projects. She also helped develop and participate in CRAG's education and outreach efforts, including a year-long RARE Pride Campaign focusing on protecting sea turtles and their coral reef habitats.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Lihla Noori worked at the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Division of Environmental Quality on the island of Rota, in cooperation with CNMI Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife, and the Coastal Resources Management office. Lihla was responsible for the coordination of a Local Action Strategy project to restore the Talakhaya watershed, assisting with marine monitoring efforts, and promoting community involvement in the management of a local marine protected area. Lihla also conducted outreach and education projects, with a focus on building natural resource management capacity in the CNMI. She partnered with the Northern Marianas College to develop an environmental education day camp and worked with Rota High School to establish and facilitate the Rota Environmental Action and Leadership group.



Guam:

Romina King worked at the Guam Bureau of Statistics and Plans Coastal Management Program. She developed the Guardians of the Reef—an organization of high school students in Guam dedicated to creating sustainable solutions to local environmental issues through community action projects. The Guardians of the Reef program is an attempt to build management capacity in Guam by engaging and empowering Guam's youth as active stewards for present and future generations. Guardians of the Reef is also working to increase public awareness and understanding of environmental issues and resources. Romina also conducted a plastic bag reduction campaign through use of reality television contest "Guamazing Race". Lastly, she assisted with the development of Guam Environmental Education Partners, Inc., a local nonprofit organization dedicated to environmental education.



Puerto Rico:

Maria del Mar Lopez Rivera worked in the Puerto Rico Natural Reserves and Wildlife Refuges Division within the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER), where she oversaw all issues pertaining to the Coral Reef Initiative and the management plan development initiative. Maria coordinated a workshop on marine species identification for the DNER rangers, the law enforcers of the DNER. She also developed a guide for marine species identification to aid the rangers in their work; it will be used as an educational tool throughout the island. Additionally, she worked on the final management plan for the Bioluminescent Bay Natural Reserve in Vieques—probably the only pristine bioluminescent bay left in the world. Throughout the fellowship, Maria worked to revise and prepare management plans for several high-priority natural reserves in the territory. She also collaborated with NOAA to incorporate Puerto Rico's conservation and management data into the *Report on the Status of Marine Protected Areas of Coral Reef Ecosystems of the United States*.