



Puerto Rico

CORAL REEF LOCAL ACTION STRATEGIES



The Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) is the main agency responsible for coral reef management. Puerto Rico's Local Action Strategies (LAS) builds on the experience of many different stakeholders. Coral reef management efforts are strengthened through increased coordination between state and federal partners and local agencies.

Public Outreach and Awareness

- Completed an economic valuation study of coral reefs and related resources in Eastern Puerto Rico in December 2007.
- Utilizing an interactive CD on coral reefs as educational material for outreach activities in schools and the community.
- Installing several signs in certain coastal areas to educate users on the different marine ecosystems and ways to protect them.
- Distributing educational information to coastal businesses, navigation course students, and the public about the importance of coral reefs to Puerto Rico's economy. Outreach activities, including user surveys, are conducted.

Land-Based Sources of Pollution

- Increasing public awareness and reaching farmers to encourage them to implement best management practices to reduce pollution from agriculture through an effort made by the DNER, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Agricultural Extension Program (NRCS).
- Conducting training workshops for marina operators, the agriculture community and agencies on ways to reduce coastal pollution and promote watershed protection.

Overfishing

- Conducting educational workshops explaining current fisheries regulations to Rangers, fishers and other stakeholders.
- Assessing fishing resources that are of commercial and recreational importance using fish catch data and reproduction studies taken from the Fisheries Research Laboratory.

Recreational Misuse/Overuse

- Assessing damage by anchoring or trampling at target coral reef and seagrass sites within priority natural reserves around the island.
- Completing and implementing management plans for the Cordillera Reefs, Canal Luis Peña, Tres Palmas, Mosquito Bioluminescent Bay Natural Reserves, La Parguera, Caja de Muertos and Isla de Mona Natural Reserves.
- Installing hundreds of buoys at target sites listed above.

For more information, please visit:

www.allislandscorals.org

www.drna.gobierno.pr <http://www.drna.gobierno.pr/oficinas/arn/recursosvivos/costasreservasrefugios/coral/programa-de-conservacion-y-manejo-de-arrecifes-de-coral>