



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL
RESOURCES

Florida 2011 USCRTF Meeting

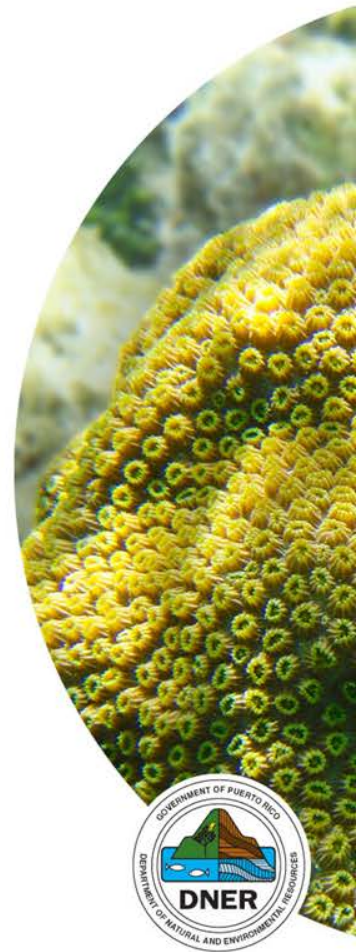
PUERTO RICO'S REPORT ON RECENT EFFORTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS ON CORAL REEF CONSERVATION

Daniel Galán Kercadó
Secretary



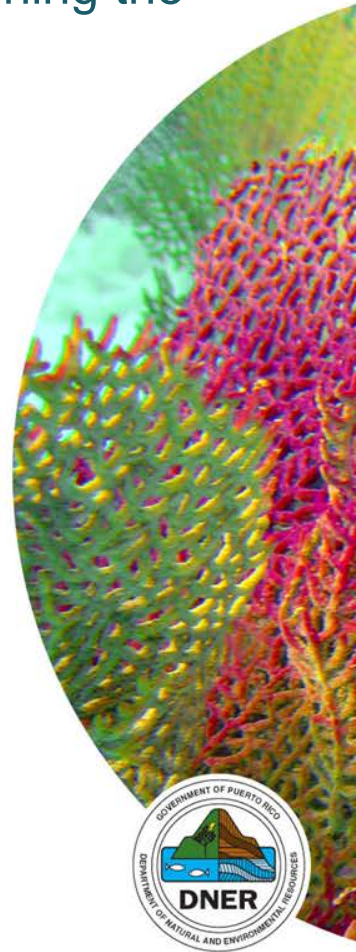
Strategic Sector Integration

- Held a **Coral Reef Town Hall Meeting**
 - Participation of local and federal government agencies, academics, local and international NGOs, and local community members.
- Held **participatory workshops** at the top 4 coral reef geographic priority areas (Culebra, North East Reserves, Cabo Rojo and Guánica) to update the Puerto Rico Coral Reef Local Action Strategies.
- A **Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning** document was prepared by the PR CZMP and shared with coastal municipalities and interested stakeholders.



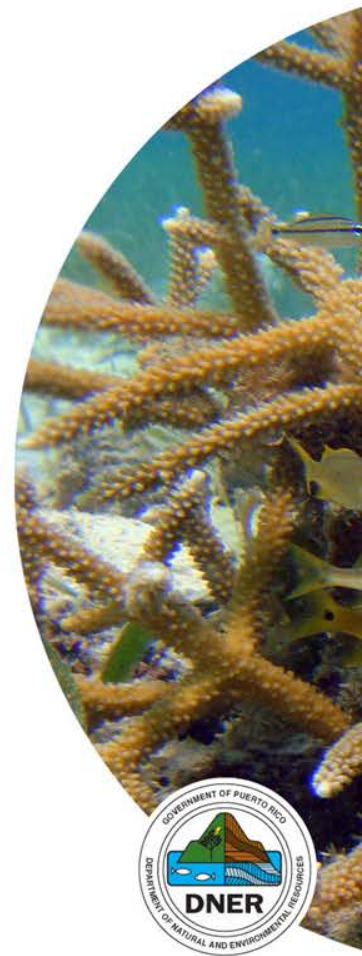
Regional Colaboration

- **Strengthen** other regional conservation **efforts**
 - Under the National Ocean Policy Task Force, the Governments of Puerto Rico and the USVI have made progress in creating and establishing the **Caribbean Regional Ocean Partnership**.
 - MOU to be signed
 - Partnership with TNC
- PR is an active member of the **Caribbean Biological Corridor**.
 - Soon will make the transition into a full participant
 - Caribbean Challenge
 - Currently exploring the opportunity of fully endorsing initiative.
- MOU with the Dominican Republic on natural resources conservation
- Cooperative agreement with The Nature Conservancy



Increased Natural Protected Areas

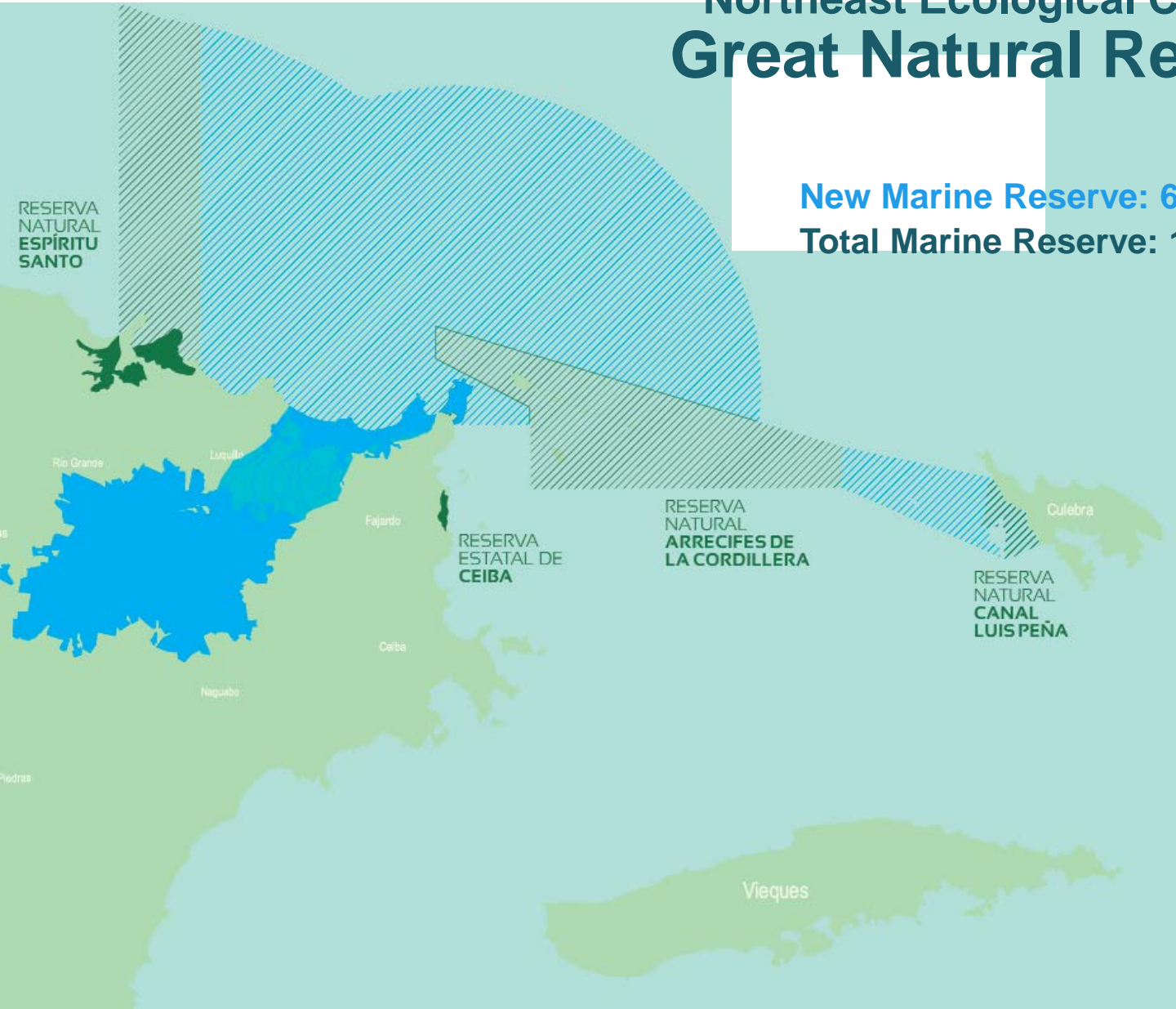
- 21% of Puerto Rico's near shore environment (up to 200m depth) is under protection.
- Since 2009, DNER has acquired around 16,000 acres of land, for conservation purposes, including watershed protection.
- Recent designation of the Northeastern Ecological Corridor Great Natural Reserve which encompasses 9,647 terrestrial acres and 65,582 marine acres).
 - The whole watershed, rivers and riparian zones are protected as part of this effort.
- Efforts to designate a new marine reserve at the Isla Verde touristic zone.
- Supporting the designation of the Vega Baja-Manatí Acroporids Submarine Gardens Natural Reserve.



Northeast Ecological Corridor Great Natural Reserve

New Marine Reserve: 65,582

Total Marine Reserve: 183,713



Regulatory Actions

- **Fisheries Regulations**

- Established the first recreational fishing license
 - Will create a reliable data bank
- Stricter regulations on some MPAs
 - No take zones in Mona and Caja de Muertos Natural Reserves

- **Phosphate Detergent Control Act**

- Bans laundry detergents in Puerto Rico with a phosphate content higher than 0.05%.
- Phosphate concentrations at monitoring sites appear to be more than 50% lower a few months after the Act became effective.
- PR Watershed Stewardship Program initiative
 - Interagency partnership, driven by EPA, and where PRASA, DNER, EQB, DOH, the PR Manufacturers Association, Department of Consumers Affairs, some municipalities and other stakeholders are active members.

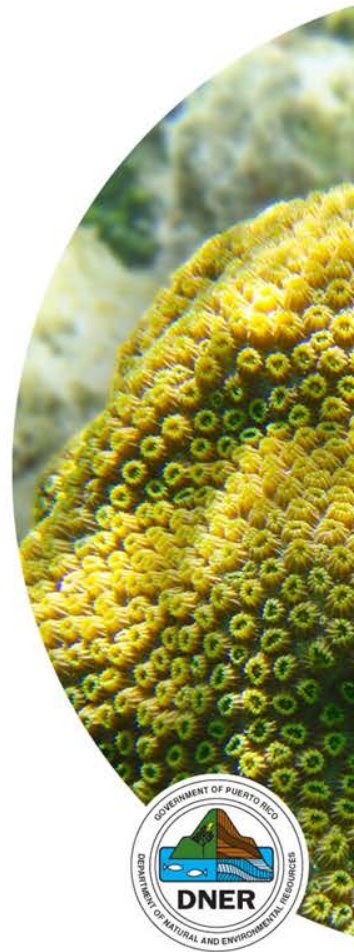


Academia Collaboration

- **The UPR**

- Center for Applied Tropical Ecology and Conservation
- The Caribbean Coral Reef Institute
- Responsible for assessment of resources through long term monitoring, advanced work in understanding reef processes, enhancing the MPA management, monitor impacts of water quality on coral reef health, as well as the dynamics of coral diseases and syndromes.

- **UMET - MOU**

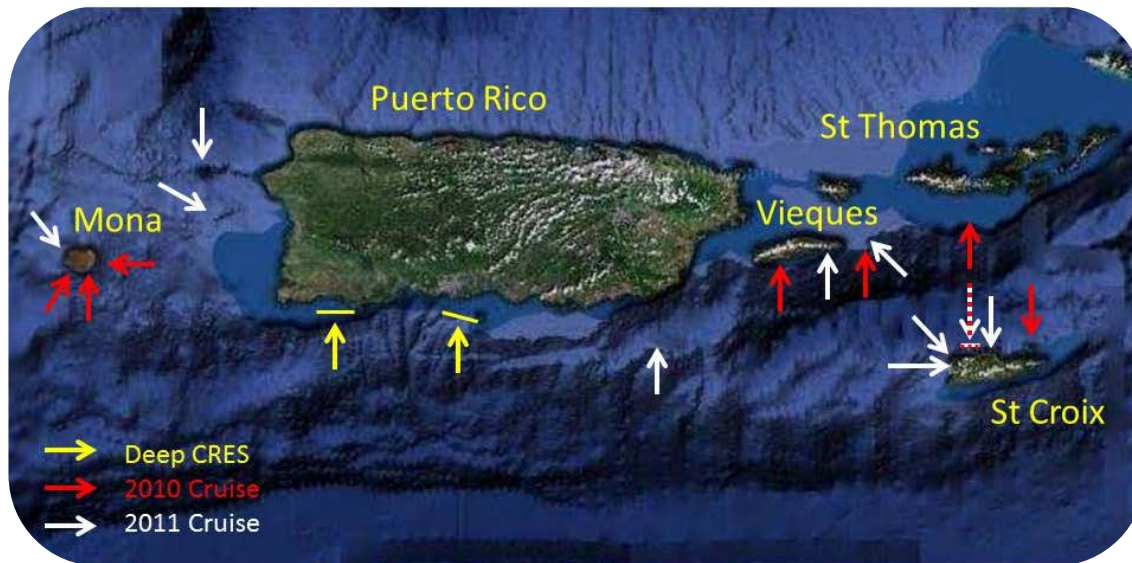


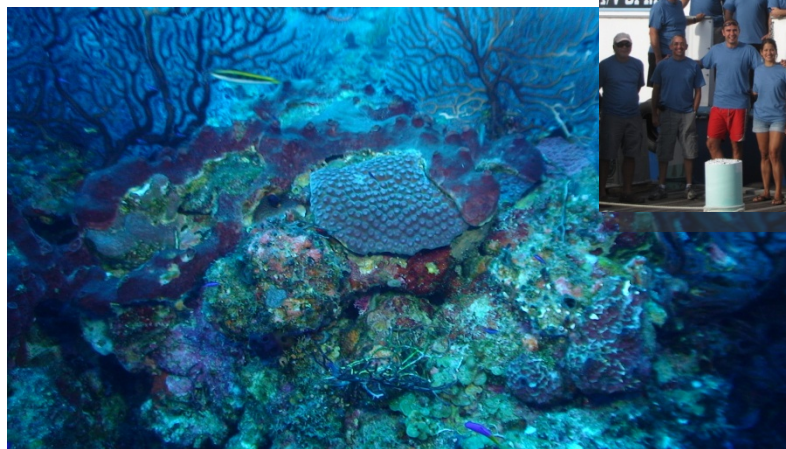
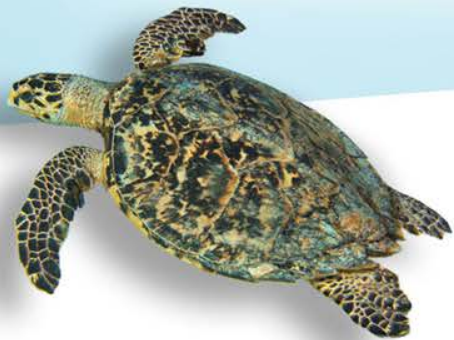


University of Puerto Rico CCRI: Mesophotic Coral Ecosystem Efforts

- **2011 Mesophotic Cruise**

- April 15 – May 4
- 14 Scientists, 10 sites from Mona Island to St. Croix
- Mixed-gas rebreather diving at 165 and 270 ft
- ROV Operations for up to 330+ ft
- Quantitative benthic and fish surveys, specimen collection





Pathway to Coral Reef Protection

- Research
- Community Integration & Planning
- Sound Policies
- Active Management

