

Local Action Strategy Update to the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force

Federal Agency Support for the LAS Initiative

Kacky Andrews
November 3, 2009



Executive Order 13089

“ All federal agencies whose actions may affect coral reef ecosystems shall: (a) identify their actions that may affect U.S. coral reef ecosystems; (b) utilize their programs and authorities to protect and enhance the conditions of such ecosystems... ”

(Section 2)



Executive Order 13089

“ Federal agencies whose actions affect U.S. coral reef ecosystems, shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, provide for implementation of measures need to research, monitor, manage and restore affected ecosystems including, but not limited to, measures reducing impacts from pollution, sedimentation and fishing. ”

(Section 3)



Executive Order 13089

“ All federal agencies whose actions may affect U.S. coral reef ecosystems shall review their participation in the CRI and the strategies developed under it, including strategies and plans of State, territorial, commonwealth and local governments, and, to the extent feasible, shall enhance Federal participation and support of such strategies and plans. ”

(Section 4)



The Puerto Rico Resolution, 2002

“The Task Force has identified the need to:

- 1) Improve NAP implementation by identifying threats-based priorities and key actions developed from the 13 goal areas;
- 2) Increase coordination to implement the NAP among government agencies, and across local, regional, and national levels;
- 3) Develop a system to track progress toward achievement of the NAP's goals and objectives; and
- 4) Increase human resources supporting the Task Force, All Islands Committee, State, Territory, and Commonwealth coral reef conservation efforts to implement the proposed process.”



The Puerto Rico Resolution, 2002

“it is recommended that each state/territory and its federal partners work cooperatively to develop, locally focused, 3-year action strategies for applicable Focus Areas giving due consideration to local priorities, federal agency mandates and contribution toward the goals of the NAP.”



LAS Background

- LAS Initiative started by USCRTF at October 2002 Meeting in Puerto Rico with the passage of The Puerto Rico Resolution
- Locally-led action plans developed in all 7 states and territories- outlining goals, objectives and specific projects to address key threats to coral reef ecosystems
- Of 760 projects developed more than 500 have been completed
- Secured \$25 million in funding, \$36.8 million in unfunded projects



Issues addressed through LAS initiative

	AS	CNMI	GU	HI	FL	USVI	PR
Land Pollution							
Fishing							
Recreation Overuse					*		
Lack of Awareness	*						
Disease, Bleaching and Climate							
Other							

* Issue addressed in different LAS focus area

- “Other” LAS include: Population pressure (AS), Marine Industry and Coastal Construction (FL), and Aquatic Invasive Species (HI)

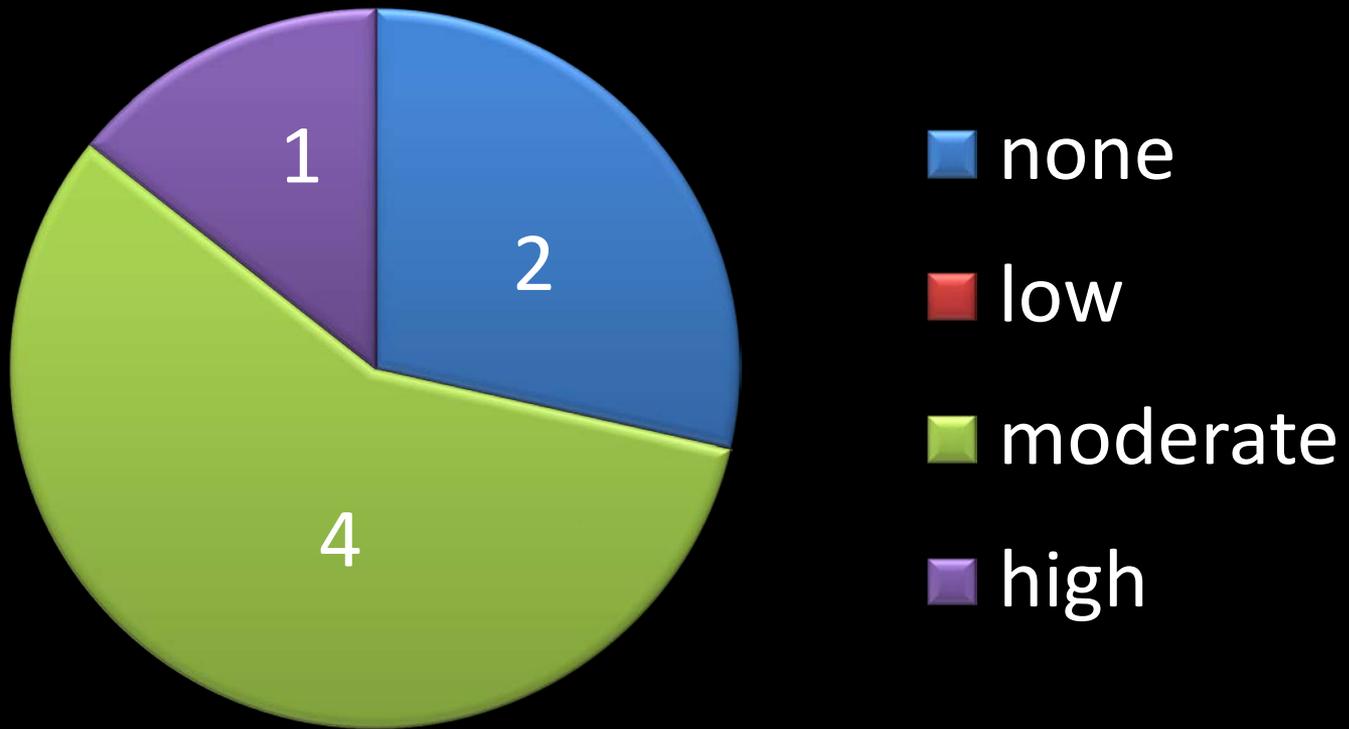
Update on Federal Agency Support for LAS

- February 2009 - USCRTF requested an update on LAS focused on federal agency involvement and support
- 10 question survey provided to federal agency members on USCRTF steering committee
- 7 responses received
- Survey objectives:
 - to understand how federal agency support and involvement occurred
 - to understand federal agency perspectives on how the USCRTF should support local initiatives
 - to clarify impediments to federal agency support for local initiatives
 - to explore opportunities for increased support in the future

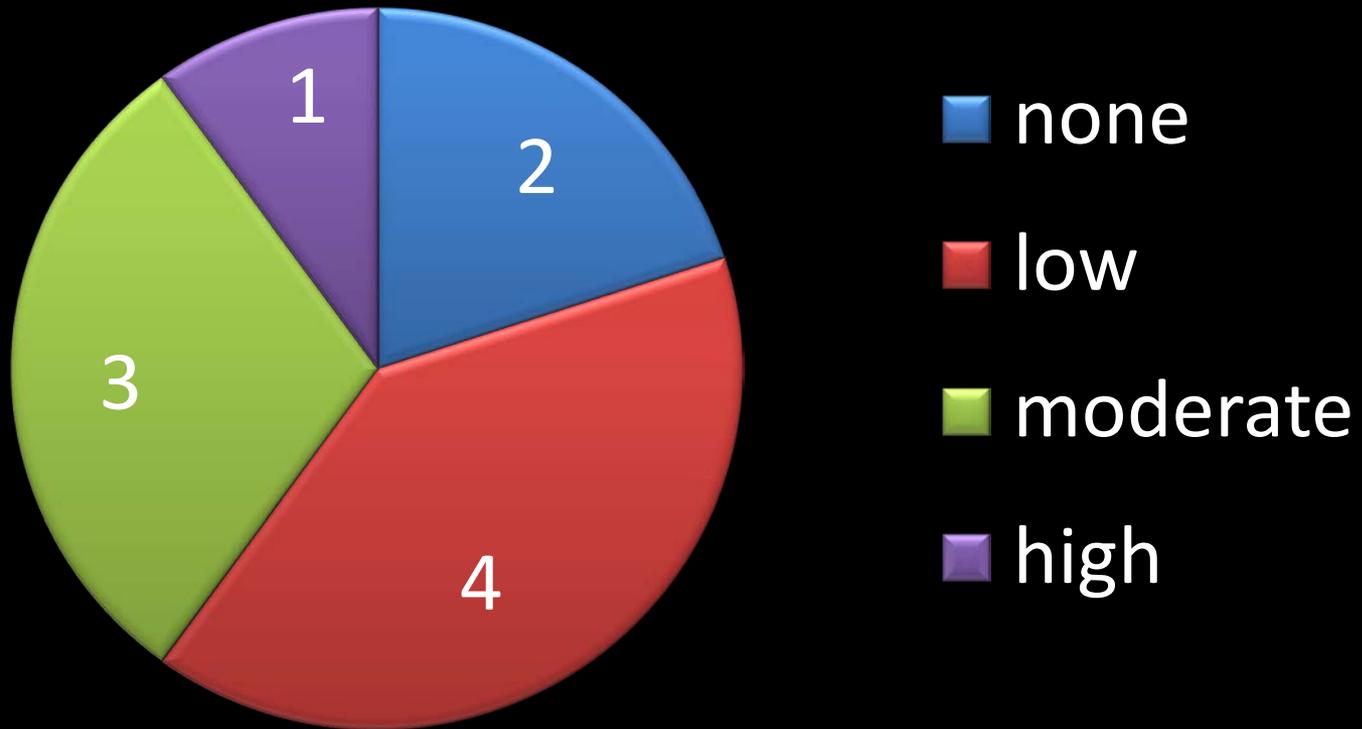
Survey Results



Overall federal support for LAS: Federal Perspective



Overall support for LAS: State and Territory Perspective

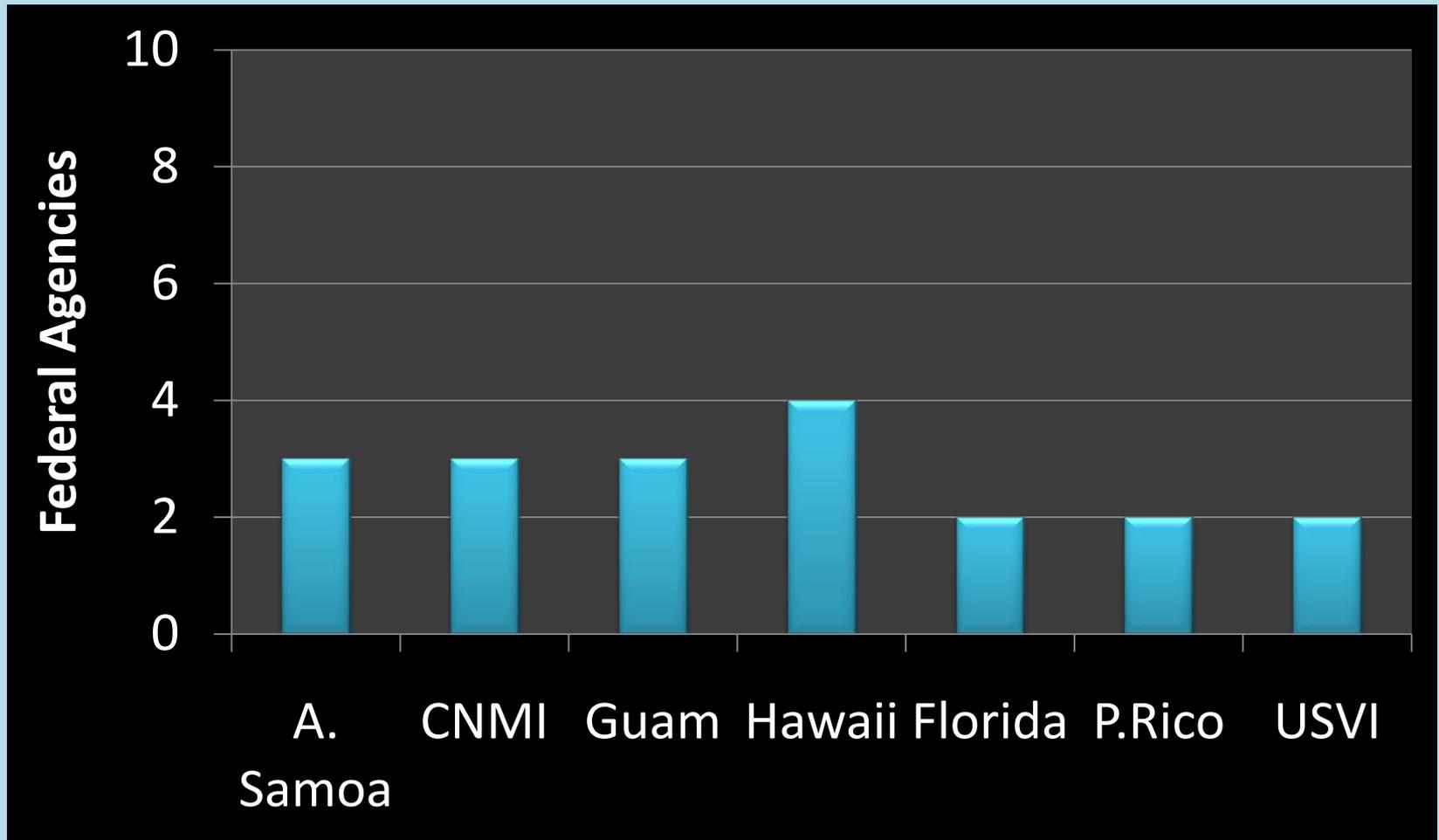


What should your agency's role be?



- direct funding
- technical assistance
- project implementation
- coordination

Federal Perspective: In which jurisdictions do you feel that your agency provided significant support?



Federal perspectives on main successes of LAS initiative

- improved collaboration and coordination among partners
- development of new partnerships
- identification of local priorities
- leveraging of resources
- federal support for on-the-ground conservation
- increased federal agency and congressional awareness
- identification of common issues and challenges across jurisdictions
- capacity building

Federal perspectives on main impediments to federal agency support

- coral reefs not a high priority for all agencies
- difficult to obtain funds for coral reefs
- perception by some that NOAA is taking care of reefs
- lack of mandates and authority to address coral reef issues and fund coral reef efforts

Impediments continued....

- lack of awareness of needs by senior agency officials
- lack of coordination among federal agency members of USCRTF
- failure to create federal agency programs focused on coral reef conservation
- belief by some that local capacity building in jurisdictions is not a federal agency responsibility

What can federal members do to increase support for locally driven initiatives?

- participate in LAS development and actively identify areas where they can contribute
- adjust agency priorities for each jurisdiction to complement LAS
- identify LAS as priorities in competitive grant programs and present LAS teams with grant opportunities
- provide more direct funding

Ideas for increased federal support continued....

- place more Federal agency staff in all 7 jurisdictions
- provide more technical assistance
- ensure that staff already assigned to specific jurisdictions incorporate LAS into their efforts
- partner in providing funding support for specific priority watershed areas
- provide funding to fill key gaps in state and territory staff

New efforts and opportunities

- Several jurisdictions developing new LAS's
- Coral reef management priority setting in all 7 jurisdictions (Fall 2009-Spring 2010)
- Assessments of management capacity to address priorities – will result in specific capacity needs for each jurisdiction (2010-11)

