



The Local Action Strategies (LAS) of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI) were developed through a coordinated effort amongst three natural resources management agencies: Coastal Resources Management (CRM), Division of Fish and Wildlife, and Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Stakeholder meetings and input also contributed to the development of the strategies. CNMI's strategies serve as tools to encourage stewardship towards coastal resource protection and restoration.

#### **Land Based Sources of Pollution**

- Conducting intensive near shore assessments of water quality impairment and likely sources of pollution.
- Collaborating on road and drainage improvements in the Laolao Bay Watershed. CNMI's Conservation Action Plan (CAP) will address road and drainage improvements in Laolao Bay to reduce erosion and sediment.
- Re-vegetation in the Talakhaya Watershed minimizing soil erosion and runoff into nearby coastal waters. Every summer since 2006, thousands of seedlings are being broadcasted in badlands areas by volunteers in the Rota community.

#### **Fishery Management**

- Banned gillnet and SCUBA spear fishing.
- Conducting inshore creel surveys in the Saipan Lagoon since 2005.
- Increasing enforcement in marine protected areas.

#### **Recreational Use**

- Developed a 30 minute video called "Dive, Snorkel, Protect" highlighting local children introducing our beautiful and fragile coral reefs. The video has been airing continuously on a local TV channel catering to tourists and has been shown to over 15,000 people.
- Edited "Dive, Snorkel, Protect" into a set of three 30 second Public Service Announcements that are played during a weekly local TV show.

#### **Public Outreach and Awareness**

- Facilitating education and outreach activities through the CNMI Organization for Conservation Outreach (Co-co).
- Hosting a summer internship program to introduce post-secondary students to hands-on natural resource and coral reef management.
- Annually hold a summer camp for teachers to raise coral reef awareness since 2007. Teachers create lesson plans and set up field trips, educating thousands of young students.
- Providing a recreational use booklet for "reef friendly" dive instructor training.
- Distributing a fishing regulations booklet to fishermen.

#### **Coral Resources Management**

- Holding interagency Watershed Planning Meetings two to three times per year.
- Developed a long term CNMI marine management plan and marine monitoring and research plan, entitled, "Marine and Water Quality Monitoring Plan for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands". Find it at: [www.cnmicoralreef.net/rp/publications/MMT\\_Plan\\_2008.pdf](http://www.cnmicoralreef.net/rp/publications/MMT_Plan_2008.pdf)
- Developing a Conservation Action Plan (CAP) via a multi-agency planning process in conjunction with The Nature Conservancy for Laolao Bay Watershed. It will be part of the next round of Local Actions Strategies for CNMI.

For more information, please visit:

[www.allislandscorals.org](http://www.allislandscorals.org)

[www.cnmicoralreef.net](http://www.cnmicoralreef.net)