



Guam

CORAL REEF LOCAL ACTION STRATEGIES



Guam's coral reefs are the essence of the economic, cultural, political, and social viability of the island. There are approximately 5000 species of marine organisms recorded in Guam. Guam's coral reefs are under stress and being degraded from natural and anthropogenic causes. In 1997, the Government of Guam established the Coral Reef Initiative (CRI) to address threats to the reefs. The Bureau of Statistics and Plans, Guam Coastal Management Program, Department of Agriculture, Division of Aquatics and Wildlife Resources, and Guam Environmental Protection Agency lead most of the efforts of the CRI.

Land Based Sources of Pollution

- Restoring targeted watersheds (e.g. Piti and Asan watersheds) by re-vegetating upland, barren areas with native forest species in an effort to reduce erosion and sedimentation.
- Codifying best management practices to reduce storm-water runoff to regulate future development projects.

Fishery Management

- Hiring additional conservation officers, conducting training, purchasing additional vehicles, and providing technical assistance for DAWR.
- Distributing user-friendly pamphlets on fishing regulations and the value of Guam's marine preserves.
- Monitoring seagrass communities.
- Assessing SCUBA spearfishing and its impact on reef fish assemblages
- Assessing fish functional diversity inside and outside the marine preserves in order to determine which functional groups are missing from reefs outside of preserves.

Public Outreach and Awareness

- Publishing "Man, Land, and Sea", an educational publication on the island's natural resources, each quarter in a local newspaper.
- Developing marine science curriculum in collaboration with the Guam Department of Education.
- Providing funding to hire additional faculty members for the University of Guam Marine Lab.
- Developing a field guide of marine plants of Guam.
- Partnering with local and federal government agencies, NGOs, and educational institutions to approach environmental education through an ecosystem based approach (e.g., Ridge to Reef).
- Coordinating a RARE Pride Campaign in order to stop the illegal burning of Southern Watersheds.

Recreational Use and Misuse

- Studied the effects of Motorized Personal Watercraft in Hagatña Bay.
- Conducting a feasibility study for instituting a user fee for recreational activities.

Coral Bleaching and Global Climate Change

- Conducting an island-wide baseline survey of Guam's reefs to quantify disease, bleaching, and coral predator impacts.
- Developing a response plan to coral bleaching events.

Department of Defense (DoD) Expansion and Related Impacts

- Hiring specialized personnel for a project specific, short term basis to review documents associated with the DoD military build-up.

For more information, please visit:

www.allislandscorals.org

www.guamcri.com