



FY2020 CITIZEN-CENTRIC REPORT **Table of Contents** **OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

Planning for a sustainable future...

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Mission

To increase the effectiveness of government and private actions, to improve coordination among different agencies and levels of government, and to provide for the wise use of resources and future development of the CNMI.

As further mandated by the Governor and the Legislature, OPD aims to:

- (i) create the “CNMI Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan”;
- (ii) establish and maintain a data library for the continual collection and storage of public information needed or utilized in the development planning process; and
- (iii) institute an interagency framework within which OPD can support the development of policies and collection of data to achieve its mission and mandates.

Objectives and outcomes to achieve these goals are outlined in the 2018 and 2019 Annual Reports that are available at opd.gov.mp

OPD and PDAC

OPD works with the **Planning and Development Advisory Council (PDAC)** to fulfill the planning, project prioritization, and data centralization mandates of Public Law 20-20. The image below shows members of the PDAC, CRM Board, and support staff from the September information exchange and training workshop held by DCRM and OPD.

PDAC Members

The PDAC is comprised of the following members:

- Director, Office of Planning and Development
- Administrator, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
- Secretary, Dept. of Public Works;
- Secretary, Dept. of Public Lands;
- Secretary, Dept. of Lands and Natural Resources;
- Secretary, Dept. of Commerce (current PDAC Chair);
- Administrator, Saipan Zoning Office;
- Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation;
- Managing Director, Marianas Visitors Authority;
- Representative from the Office of the Mayor of Rota;
- Representative from the Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan;
- Representative from the Office of the Mayor of Saipan;
- Representative from the Office of the Mayor of the Northern Islands;
- President, Saipan Chamber of Commerce

A bill to include other agencies and representatives from the public and private sectors is currently in the Senate.



PERFORMANCE

Accomplishments

- **Dec. 2019** - Shared draft Resources Report with PDAC and Partners for review, comment, and additional edits, with revised version re-shared in February and June (post-Covid shut-down recap) and Final endorsed by PDAC in July
- **May - June, 2020** - Supported emergency Covid response planning and projects
- **July 2020** - Submitted Solid Waste Management Phase I application to USEPA to support comprehensive inter-island waste management planning and project implementation; notified of NFWF Grant Award
- **Aug. 2020** - Facilitated RiskMAP kick-off with Resiliency Office and FEMA
- **Sept. 2019 - 2020** - Held six PDAC and six Taskforce meetings including Zoom and Facebook interagency live stream 9/16-18/2020

Garapan Revitalization Project

The Garapan Revitalization Project aims to transform Garapan into a premier destination featuring a wide range of shopping, dining, entertainment, civic and commercial options in a world-class beach resort setting that is attractive for visitors and residents. The Project aims to reestablish the Garapan Revitalization Task Force (GRTF), composed of businesses, residents, and relevant government agencies, collaborating to alleviate some of the many challenges facing the area.

Next Steps

Winter 2020 - Continue engagement with leadership, PDAC, and community to draft and work to finalized shared vision, objectives, and goals for CNMI's Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan (CSDP)

Jan. 2021 - Goal for final plan submission. Upon approval by PDAC, Legislature, and Governor, CSDP will guide next steps and adaptive management efforts until next 5-year update.



PLANNING MILESTONES

Timeline of planning next steps

SUMMER 2019

Community visioning and information updates are compiled into an updated "Resources Report" highlighting baseline information and recommendations from leadership, subject matter experts, and the community at large

FALL – WINTER 2019

PDAC and Partners review and finalize SOR and make recommendations regarding vision and next steps

WINTER – SUMMER 2020

Community engagement resumes to identify shared vision, objectives, and goals for the CNMI's comprehensive sustainable development plan; Timeline extended and approach modified due to Covid-19 challenges.

FALL 2020 (NOW)

Draft plan shared with PDAC and Partners for rounds of review, edits, and updates with continued community engagement

WE ARE SEEKING YOUR FEEDBACK – PLEASE SHARE YOUR COMMENTS OR VISIT OPD.GOV.MP TO LEARN MORE

WINTER 2020

Plan adoption process initiated with support of PDAC, Partners, the Office of the Governor, and the stakeholders of the CNMI

There will be an official public notice and comment period when submitted to the Planning & Development Advisory Council (PDAC)

FINANCES



Building Sustainable Capacity

The Office of Planning and Development's Director, administrative, and planning staff are 100% locally funded through legislative appropriations. Although \$400,000 was requested for FY19 (P.L. 20-67), \$317,805 was allocated as detailed below:

Fiscal Year	Total Personnel	Total All Other Expenses	Total
FY18	\$241,666	\$178,334	\$420,000
FY19	\$108,010	\$209,795	\$317,805

The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Office is funded by U.S. Financial Assistance allocations through the Office of Insular Affairs pursuant to 48 U.S.C. 1803 through the grants listed below:

Fiscal Year	Budget	Period of Performance
FY18	\$8,124,000	April 9, 2018 - September 30, 2022

The CIP Office is authorized five (5) positions: One (1) CIP Administrator, two (2) Technical Analysts with a cost share of 75% CIP and 25% Public Assistance Office (PAO) and 25% Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), one (1) Contracting Officer Technical Representative (COTR), and one (1) Project Coordinator with a cost share of 50% CIP and 50% Office of Planning & Development (OPD). The number of positions currently in place is efficiently operating without the need to increase its size.

The CIP Office solicits for project managers with engineering disciplines or environmental expertise for Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) type contracts and are hired as independent consultants. Although projects typically focus on supporting critical infrastructure (including power, water, and wastewater deployment) solid waste and education, in the wake of the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu and Typhoon Mangkhut, CNMI is leveraging CIP funding to support recovery related projects.

OPD is pursuing competitive grants to obtain additional financial support to build internal capacity to support planning, data management, and project coordination mandates of Public Law 20-20.

CHALLENGES & NEXT STEPS

Achieving Comprehensive Sustainable Development

OPD will continue to request local funding to support current operations and will request additional funds to fill capacity gaps as needed to create the Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan. Additional project-specific and planning capacity support funding and partnerships will be sought and leveraged as opportunities arise. Area- and resource-specific studies and technical assistance are being and will continue to be pursued to incorporate vulnerability assessments and disaster risk reduction guidance into key planning efforts such as the Garapan Revitalization Plan Update and creation of "Community Improvement Districts".

Planning tool development such as build-out of "Safe, Smart Growth" scoping guidance and resilience assessment maps and models will further support streamlined planning and project implementation dialogs in the public and private sectors. Ensuring sustained funding levels to support existing staffing and operations and to fill key positions including a Technology Information Officer and additional planners will be a challenge, however, OPD is optimistic that support for this office will remain robust as the leadership has made the importance of these planning mandates well known.

Together we can achieve a sustainable future...

Please visit our website to view:

- 2019 OPD Annual Report
- CNMI plans compiled to date, including the 2020 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
- Coastal Resilience Evaluation and Siting Tool (CREST)
- 2019 CNMI Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Update
- CNMI Resources Report and Draft Comprehensive Plan Visioning Document

PLEASE TAKE THE COMMUNITY SURVEY!

