



# CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources

## Endangered Species Program

### Citizen Centric Report for FY 2023

## OUR MISSION

to conserve endangered and threatened species and their ecosystems through science-based research, recovery planning, and community-based collaboration with the public and our partners

## FY 23' PROJECTS

- Sea Turtle Research, Monitoring, Outreach and Education
- Mariana Crow Conservation Research
- Conservation of Endangered Plants on Rota
- Endangered Species Program Management



### Sea Turtle Research, Monitoring, Outreach and Education

The DLNR Sea Turtle Program aims to conserve and protect green and hawksbill sea turtles in the Mariana Islands. Currently, staff conduct nightly beach monitoring for turtle tracks, nests, or illegal harvesting incidents, educational outreach in schools, public events, and social media, and research the impacts of global warming on turtle nest temperatures.

### Mariana Crow Conservation Research

The Mariana Crow, also called "Åga" in Chamorro, is an endangered bird now only found in Rota, CNMI. DLNR, in cooperation with the University of Washington and the San Diego Zoo, has been conducting a long-term research and conservation program on Rota. This program conducts population assessments, monitors nest success, rears and releases chicks, and studies other threats the Åga may face.



All programs are federally funded through grants provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the US Fish and Wildlife Service

## FY 23 AWARD \$759,921

### Budget Breakdown:

**Personnel: \$263,715**

**All others: \$453,232**

**Indirect Costs: \$42,973**

# CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources Endangered Species Program

## Citizen Centric Report for FY 2023

### Conservation of Endangered Plants on Rota

The endangered plants program focuses on three endangered plant species: *Nesogenes rotensis*, *Serianthes nelsonii*, and *Osmoxylon mariannense*. We conduct quarterly surveys to estimate population sizes, search for new occurrences, monitor plants that were outplanted, and collect seeds for nursery propagation. At our nursery, seeds are germinated and grown to a sufficient size before being outplanted in the wild.



### Endangered Species Program Management

This project/account is mainly used to fund the program manager position to supervise all staff, submits reports, review budgets, conduct administrative tasks, write grants, and address all endangered species inquires.

The Northern Mariana Islands is home to 21 federally protected mammals, birds, reptiles, and invertebrates, as well as 14 plant species. The purpose of the endangered species program is to protect endangered and threatened species and contribute data needed for population monitoring and management actions. The main challenges the program faces are the uncertainty of funds due to competitive grants and reduced federal funding allocations to the territories.

