



CNMI CITIZEN CENTRIC REPORT 2023

Department of Lands & Natural Resources



DLNR was established by Public Law 10-57 on April 18, 1997.

DLNR has (4) divisions and (3) programs, each lead by a director or program manager who reports to the Secretary of DLNR:

DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE: Promotes agricultural programs, animal industry, and health; and prevent the introduction and spread of plant and animal diseases, including invasive species.

DIVISION OF LAND REGISTRATION AND SURVEY: To conduct surveys of public lands; To preserve and protect land documents and maps.

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION: In charge of landscaping and beautification projects for all Commonwealth parks. This Division was temporarily transferred to the Department of Public Lands to prevent furlough of staff.

DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE: To protect the natural resources of the islands, the marine environment, the endangered species, and prevent the spread of invasive species.

INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM: The Invasive Species Program serves as a frontline which provides the necessary support to properly manage prevention and eradication efforts. Managing the protection of our borders from the threat of invading invasive species in collaboration of multiple agencies.

ENDANGERED SPECIES PROGRAM: The DLNR Endangered Species Program's mission is 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.

CORAL RESTORATION PROGRAM: To sustain and advance coral reef restoration efforts for the benefit of our lands, ocean, and Marianas communities.

PROGRAM FUNDING:

1. Division of Agriculture: \$532,305.00 (Local Budget)
2. Division of Land Registration and Survey: \$252,834.00 (Local)
3. Division of Parks and Recreation: \$1,100,000.00
4. Division of Fish and Wildlife: \$7,216,971.63 (Federal) & \$413,166.00 (Local)
5. Invasive Species Program: Total: \$675,477.00 (Federal)
 - Invasive Species Coordinator & Entomologist
 - Mucuna Pruriens Eradication Project
 - Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Detection, Prevention, and Eradication Project
6. Endangered Species Program: \$760,000.00 (Federal)
7. Coral Restoration Program: \$67,033.00 (Federal - Annual Salary Only)

STAFFING:

TOTAL:

- | | |
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| a) Division of Agriculture: | 21 |
| b) Division of Land Registration and Survey: | 11 |
| c) Division of Parks and Recreation: | 35 |
| d) Division of Fish and Wildlife: | 59 |
| e) Invasive Species Program: | 10 |
| f) Endangered Species Program: | 06 |
| g) Coral Restoration Program: | 01 |

EXTERNAL PROJECTS:

SUSTAINABLE FISHERY FUND: Marine Conservation Plan (MCP) for the Northern Mariana Islands. Magnuson-Stevens Act Section 204(e) authorizes the Secretary of State, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Commerce, and in consultation with the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), to negotiate and enter into a Pacific Insular Area fishery agreement (PIAFA). Before entering into a PIAFA, the applicable Governor, with concurrence of the Council, must develop and submit to the Secretary of Commerce a 3-year MCP providing details on uses for any funds collected by the Secretary of Commerce under the PIAFA. NMFS is the designee of the Secretary of Commerce for MCP review and approval.

On-going and Pending Projects (*Funds under SFF are reimbursable*)

SFF- 09: Garapan Fishing Base Revetment Project (Est. Completion: 10/2023)

SFF- 12: (Quota) August 1, 2020 - July 30, 2022; Extended 12/31/23 Status.

- CNMI Projects Garapan fishing Base Improvement - Parking Platform \$160,000 to be initiated
- Improving Fishery Resource Monitoring \$40,000 to be initiated
- SFF Project Coordinator \$54,437 to be initiated

SFF – 13: (Quota) August 1, 2021 - July 30, 2023 Status

- CNMI Projects Capacity Building Scholarship Program - \$50,000 Ongoing
- Smiling Cove Transient Dock Repairs \$73,287 to be initiated
- Vessel Support: Operations and Maintenance \$72,000 to be initiated
- SFF/MCP Coordinator \$57,400 to be initiated

SFF – 2022: (Quota) August 1, 2022 - July 30, 2024 Status

- CNMI Projects Capacity Building Scholarship Program \$50,000 Ongoing
- Rota and Tinian Data Support \$48,000 to be initiated
- Palapala Open Market \$167,554 to be initiated
- Northern Island Mooring \$67,000 to be initiated
- SFF/MCP Coordinator \$58,000 to be initiated

SFF – 2023:

- Funds to support Phase 3 of the Garapan Fishing Base Revetment. - \$211,129.50
- Funds to support the *Kirida* Vessel and Crew as well as support training programs and activities to include Bottomfishing, Coral Reef Monitoring, Fishery Data Collection, and In-water turtle monitoring. - \$183,400.00

CHALLENGES:

- Outer Cove Marina Repairs: audit requirements and lack of funding.
- Staffing shortages
- Lack of local funding for programs, in the process of identifying federal funds to assist.