

# THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Puerto Rico

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#### THE NATURE CONSERVANCY MISSION & VISION

#### **OUR MISSION**

is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends.



### **OUR VISION**

is a world where the diversity of life thrives, and people act to conserve nature for its own sake and its ability to fulfill our needs and enrich our lives.



## Snapshot - TNC



- The Nature Conservancy is a global environmental nonprofit founded in the U.S. through grassroots action in 1951.
- We are working in over 76 countries and territories around the world.
- In Puerto Rico, we are working since 2011.
- In the island we are focused in working in four main pillars:
   Marine Management, Sustainable Fisheries, Climate
   Mitigation and Adaptation, Coral Conservation

HEALTHY OCEANS, FRESHWATER, AND LANDS	CARIBBEAN OUTCOMES
MARINE MANAGEMENT	
Increased marine protected area coverage	From 32M to 41M Ha
Improved management capacity for marine and coastal areas based on formal management effectiveness assessments (protected areas)	2M Ha
Ocean areas with improved management <sup>6</sup>	106M Ha
SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES 7	
Achieve sustainability of key fisheries, resulting in improved biodiversity protection and conservation	≥60% of the sustainable fisheries benchmarking tool <sup>8</sup>

#### **CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION**

CLIMATE	
Reduce climate impacts to people	≥ 4.8 M people
Natural systems employed to reduce climate impacts	≥ 117K Ha
CORAL	
Coral reef areas with improved management (i.e. protection, restoration and/or monitoring using improved scientific methodologies) <sup>9</sup>	118K Ha
Improved coral reef ecosystem area providing climate risk reduction	96K Ha
People benefitting from coral reef ecosystem risk reduction	5.7M people
People with increased connection to place and/or increased ability to meaningfully participate in coral reef conservation	791K people



North Atlantic Ocean





Caribbean Sea

## WHERE WE WORK

17 countries and territories

★ Caribbean Division Offices



DOMINICA











## Strengthen local capacity to better address landbased sources of pollution by supporting ridge to reef planning for marine protected areas

NOAA CRCP Cooperative Agreement







## Introduction

- Puerto Rico has 134 watersheds, of these the DNER has identified 54 that supply water to a river as primary, ten that supply water to a ravine as minor, and 70 that have an undefined hydrography pattern as coastal areas.
- In Puerto Rico, inland activities produce several contaminants associated with agriculture runoff, deforestation, and waste disposal that affect coral growth and the surrounding marine ecosystem.
- Every watershed has its own history, anthropogenic pressures, and legal jurisdictions.
- Strengthening local capacity to better address land-based sources of pollution is one of the ways to implement best management practices, protect corals from these effects, and understand watershed complexities.
- A learning exchange network is needed to organize key partners and put in place more effective management to protect coral reef ecosystems.

## Task Objective

The objective of this task is to strengthen local capacity to better address land-based sources of pollution by:

- Establishing a learning exchange network to share effective management approaches and lessons learned across watersheds.
- Synthesize monitoring data to inform management decisions and education and outreach efforts.
- Support installation of best management practices prioritized in existing watershed management plans.

## **Outcomes and Products**

#### 2 years

- Learning exchange network structure developed
- Five events Associated to PR DNER and NOAA Coral Priorities (2010)
- After each event, educational materials of the results for the general public and scientists will be created.
- Development of a website completed to gather, organize and provide access to effective watershed management approaches and lessons learned across watersheds, including synthesized local monitoring data to inform management decisions.
- At least two best management practices designed and implemented





**Upcoming event:** 

**April 4th (Culebra Island)** 









## ¡GRACIAS!









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