

CNMI CITIZEN CENTRIC REPORT 2024

Department of Lands & Natural Resources



DLNR was established by CNMI Public Law 1-08, as amended.

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources contains four (4) divisions and two (2) programs, each led by a respective director or program manager who reports to the Secretary of the DLNR. These divisions are the Division of Agriculture, Division of Land Registration and Survey, Division of Parks and Recreation, and the Division of Wildlife. The programs are the Invasive Species Program and the Coral Restoration Program. The Endangered Species Program was transferred under the Division of Fish and Wildlife as of August 2024.

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: to serve 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.

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

PROGRAM FUNDING: (Local: CNMI Public Law 23-09; Federal: Based on Governor’s Submittal of Fiscal Year 2024)

1. Office of the Secretary of DLNR: \$326,330.00 (Local)
 - (a) Personnel: \$323,012.00
 - (b) Operations: \$3,318.00
 - (c) Utilities: \$0
2. Division of Agriculture: \$494,450.00 (Local)
 - (a) Personnel: \$489,416.00
 - (b) Operations: \$5,034.00
 - (c) Utilities: \$0
3. Division of Land Registration and Survey: \$266,917.00 (Local)
 - (d) Personnel: \$264,200.00
 - (e) Operations: \$2,717.00
 - (f) Utilities: \$0
4. Division of Parks and Recreation: \$542,404.00 (Local)
 - (g) Personnel: \$536,897.00
 - (h) Operations: \$5,507.00
 - (i) Utilities: \$0
5. Division of Fish and Wildlife: \$409,008.00 (Local)
 - (j) Personnel: \$182,867.00
 - (k) Operations: \$2,268.00
 - (l) Utilities: \$0
6. Invasive Species Program: Total: \$554,103.00 (Federal)
8. Coral Restoration Program: \$234,498.00 (Federal)

** The Department of Lands and Natural (DLNR) has been awarded more than 110 federal grants, totaling in more than \$14.87 million in federal funds. Such funds are utilized to cover 81 NOPs and numerous projects.*

STAFFING:	TOTAL:
Office of the Secretary of DLNR	6 (Local)
Division of Agriculture	18 (Local)
Division of Lands Registration and Survey	11 (Local)
Division of Parks and Recreation	40 (Local)

Division of Fish and Wildlife	14 (Local)
Invasive Species Program	5 (Federal)
Coral Reef Conservation	1 (Federal)

EXTERNAL PROJECTS:

SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES 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.

CORAL RESTORATION PROGRAM: May 2024: The Restoration Coordinator presented the first *CNMI Coral Restoration: Overview and Introduction* half-day Training to the DFW Enforcement Section in May 2024 in order to familiarize the DFW’s Conservation Officers with enforcing the Coral Reef Protection Act law.

CHALLENGES:

- Resolution of audit findings at Outer Cove Marina due to lack of funding.
- Lack of local funding to cover operations and utilities.
- Lack of local funding for programs, in the process of identifying local funds to assist.
- Lack of equipment needed to efficiently and effectively carry out operations.
- Staffing shortages
- Trying to cover personnel salaries with federal funds
- Paul Russ Restoration - Devising plans to address the damage caused by the Paul Russ Shipwreck.



2024 CENTRIC REPORT DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE

WHO WE ARE: The Division of Agriculture is mandated under Public Law 10-57 section 2653 (j), through the Department of Lands and Natural Resources to promote, develop, and administer agricultural programs including but not limited to plant industry, agricultural extension services, forestry and animal health industry.

The Division of Agriculture (DOA) has four functional sections or branches which operate under the auspices and direction of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources headed by the Secretary of DLNR. The Division's Director of Agriculture is responsible in managing and overseeing the functions of these sections.

- **ANIMAL HEALTH:**

To act as the housing of all imported animals under *public law 4-55, section 5321 sub section A thru D* as established was defined as a system of animal quarantine, inspection procedure and disease control activities to provide for the sound protection of domestic animals, poultry and birds as well as livestock animals.

- **FORESTRY:**

Forestry is to promote best management practice while sustaining a healthy, diversity and pro productivity on our limited and fragile forest and grassland resources and ecosystem for present and future generations. Such objectives will be carried through conservation, protection and the enhancement practices, while keeping the islands landscape provision. This program is also Federally funded under the USDA Forest Service.

- **HEMP PROGRAM:**

Local PL 21-25, which was signed into law on May 18 of this year, designates DOA to regulate hemp in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Although regulation is still being developed, any producer can apply to operate a hemp industry from the federal government.

- **PLANT INDUSTRY SECTION:**

The Plant Industry Section continues to serve as the distribution center for seedlings, cuttings and other plant propagative materials sold or donated to farmers as well as the general public. Variety testing of different seedlings of vegetables, fruit trees and other plants are being conducted and passed on to interested farmers.



*Students learning to plant trees at their schools
(Kagman High School)*

DOA also administers the **Specialty Crop Block Grant Program** from USDA Agricultural Marketing Services, which enhances the competitiveness of specialty crops, which are defined as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried

fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops, including floriculture. Other programs from the USDA Agricultural Marketing Services include the **Micro Grants for Food Security Program** and the **H.R. 133 Stimulus funding**, which states are encouraged to prioritize projects that respond to COVID-19 impacts.

DOA is also a recipient of funds under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to rehabilitate the nursery facilities on Saipan and Rota, which were damaged as a result of Super Typhoon Utu. In addition to the cost of construction, funds were also used to purchase a pickup truck for the facility in Rota.

Furthermore, DOA manages the Kagman Farm Plot Program consisting of forty-eight farm plots. Each farm plot having an area of 10,000 square meters is available for interested individuals to learn how to plant, harvest and consume or sell their crops and vegetables.

Finally, DOA manages the federally funded **Zero Waste Initiative** – A program designed to reduce the burden placed on the Marpi Landfill by delivering green waste, yard waste and food scrapes into organic matter that will eventually be decomposed and recycled as a soil fertilizer and soil amendment, among which are key ingredients in organic farming.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

- Applied and awarded under FY24 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program the amount of \$244,562.69. The SCBGP funding supports farmers growing specialty crops, including fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, and nursery crops.
- Applied and awarded FY24 Mini-Grant for Food Security Program award in the amount of \$139,701.24. The program will award grants to eligible applicants and organizations to increase the quantity of locally grown food through small scale farming, herding, and livestock operations in communities that have significant levels of food insecurity.
- Applied and awarded under the new USDA-AMS RFSI program in the amount of \$2,038,278.00. The program conducted an RFA workshops and received a total of 20 application that will be reviewed and recommend for funding.
- Forestry nursery propagated over 2,000 native seedlings, such as Plumeria, Arcia Confusa, Desert rose, Langit, Vetiver grass, crotons, I-fit, Nonak, Achoti, Gulos, Da;ok, Hibiscus, Fox Tail, Flame tree yellow and red, Gulus, Paipai, snake plant, Talsai, Banalo, Fish Tail,

Yellow bells, Pandanus, Monkey Pods, Banyon.



Epipremnum aureum-Golden

- Established crop trials under the SCBGP FY22 projects at the DOA compound and invited farmers, students, and senior citizens from the Aging Office to experience various farming techniques and also learn proper harvesting techniques. Crops tested includes eggplant, cucumber, chili pepper, corn, watermelons, taro, and tomatoes.
- Awarded a total of \$150,000 under the FY22 and FY23 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) for the renovation and rehabilitation of the

nursery facilities on Saipan and Rota and for smart trees workers.

- Under Forest Stewardship Program, 40 landowners given technical assistance, 25 educational assistance, 8,254 seeds produced or distributed, and 562.11 pounds of improved seeds collected on three inhabited islands.
- Recently installed 2 high tunnel nursery systems in Tinian and Rota for local community farmers to implement various farming techniques that can possibly improve crop production. The systems were installed at the local DLNR offices for the purpose of demonstration plots.
- As a result of the establishment of crop trial and a farm plot demonstration plot at the DOA compound, the SCBGP program was able to supply the market with an overall harvest of 640 pounds of various crops, including tomatoes, watermelons, eggplant, chili peppers, and corns.



*Students learning to plant trees at their schools
(Da'ok High School)*

- Animal Health Services issued 97 entry permits for various types of animals and poultry, and issued 18 licenses for veterinarians to practice their profession in the CNMI.
- DOA also provides assistance to the Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District, and together with NRCS, are working diligently to complete the Kagman

Watershed Project. The project is designed to prevent flooding in the Kagman area, provide irrigation systems to the government owned farm plots and prevent runoffs from entering the ocean and killing the precious reefs and fishes. Because the project has been idle for some time, a firm has been selected and will be doing another Environmental Impact Statement as required by law for the project to continue moving forward. The remaining 7 to 9 phases to complete the project will cost around \$2,640,000.00, with \$1,440,000.00 from the federal government and \$1,200,000.00 from the CNMI.

- Applied and awarded \$46,000 of federal funds under FY24 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) for Forest Health program to address the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle, *Macuna puriens* the little red fire ants and other new existing invasive vines and plants.
- 12,374 customers visited the Garapan Farmers Market, which made \$131,655.01 sales
- Over three hundred applications were received under the FY23 solicitation for funding assistance under the Micro grant for food Security program. Of this number, seventy-four projects will be awarded for the applicants to either plant vegetables and crops, or raise animals such as ducks, pigs, goats and cows.
- 82 tractor services were performed for farmers, which included 32 mowers, 4 plows, 27 disk, 8 rotovators, 5 augurs and 6 land clearing.

REVENUES & EXPENSES

Division's local budget: \$563,305.00

- Personnel: \$563,305.00
- Operation: \$0

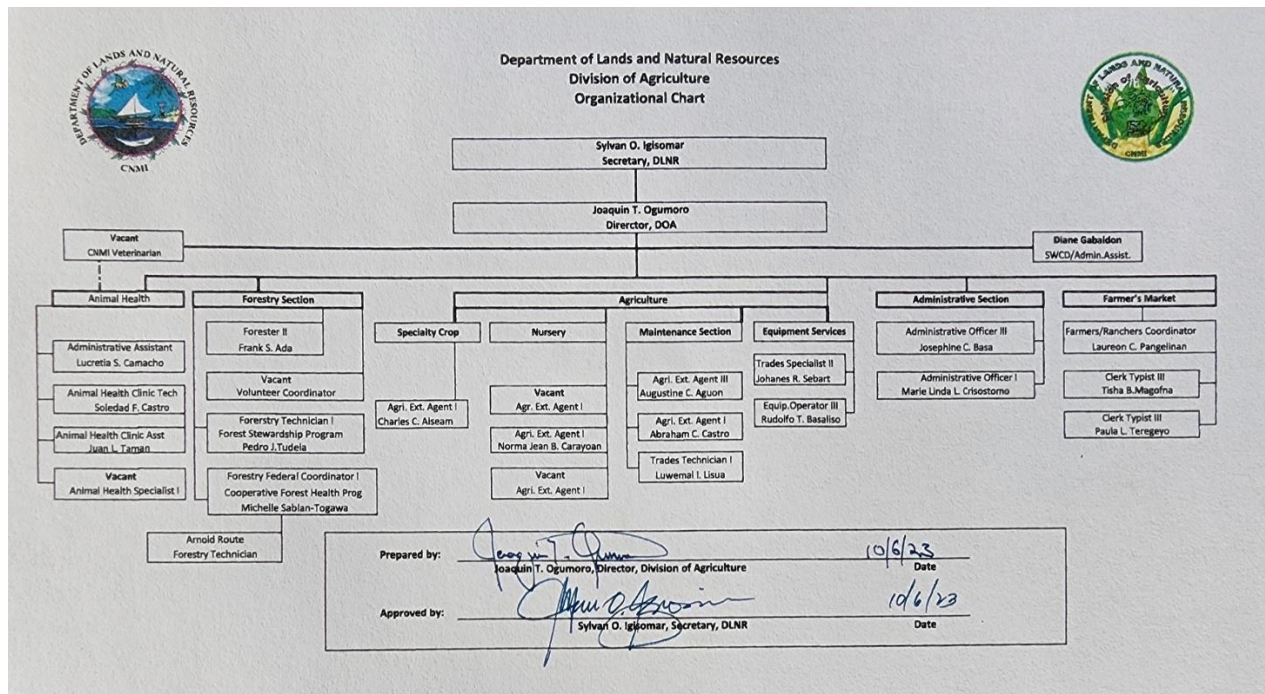
Federal Grant:

- USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program: \$244,560.90
- USDA Micro Grant for Food Security Program: \$223,529.41
- Resiliency Food Security Infrastructure: \$2,038,277.82
- USDA Forest Health Program: \$85,000.00
BIL Forest Health: \$46,000.00
- USDA Urban & Community Forest Program: \$24,000.00
- USDA Forest Stewardship Program: \$20,426.00
- BIL UCF/FSP: \$75,000.00

WHAT'S NEXT?

DOA will be performing the following activities in the coming fiscal year:

1. Distribute awards to successful applicants under FY23 MGFSP
2. Announce availability of funds under FY24 MGFSP
3. Revise farm plot permits to incorporate agroforestry farming techniques
4. Convene Forest Action Plan Committee meeting
5. Move into new office building
6. Renovate forest nursery facility
7. Renovate DOA nursery facility
8. Invest in automated filing system
9. Distribute available farm plots
10. Build mulching facility



Department of Lands & Natural Resources
Division of Agriculture
P.O. Box 10,000 CHRB
Tel: 670.256.3318/19/20

DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

2024 Citizen Centric Report



ENABLING AUTHORITY

The Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) is established by Public Law 2-51 and further amended by Public 10-57. The Division falls under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Division mission is to conserve, protect, and enhance wildlife resources, including fish, game, threatened or endangered species.

VISION STATEMENT

Through best conservation management practice research, monitoring, and enforcement, the Division seeks to ensure the long-term survival and sustainability of the CNMI's natural resources for present and future generations.

DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE PROGRAMS

- Management and Compliance of Federal Grants Program
- Wildlife Research & Monitoring Program
- Recreation Boating Access Program
- Aquatic Education and Outreach Program
- Fisheries Research & Development Program
- Fisheries Data Collection Program
- Conservation Enforcement Program
- Brown Tree Snake Interdiction Program
- Technical Guidance Program

ADDRESS

Department of Lands and Natural Resources
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Caller Box 10007, Lower Base
Saipan, MP 96950

CONTACT

Tel: (670) 664-6000



CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife

WILDLIFE SECTION

Wildlife Research and Management Program:

DFW's Wildlife Section studies and manages terrestrial wildlife and wildlife habitats within the CNMI with a special focus on threatened and endangered species. The section's activities utilize responsible science to generate data that informs policy and regulatory compliance on both local and federal levels.

In FY2024, the Wildlife Section presented at a total of 19 outreach events, conferences, and workshops. Under the Technical Guidance and Disaster Risk Management project, staff completed over 540 site surveys and provided recommendations to the Director for 484 technical guidance assessments. The Wildlife Section continued long-term monitoring and management programs for CNMI bird and bat populations. These programs involve a variety of surveys across Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Managaha. In collaboration with DFW's partner organizations the Northern Islands Mayor's Office and Pacific Bird Conservation, the Wildlife Section furthered recovery objectives for the Nightingale Reed-warbler by laying groundwork for future translocations and collecting data on bird populations in the Northern Islands. Species-specific projects completed by the Wildlife Section include a remote-sensing



survey for Micronesian Megapode in the Saipan Upland Mitigation Bank, a prey availability study for the Nightingale Reed-warbler.

Lastly, Wildlife Section staff conducted auditory surveys for the Mariana Common Moorhen and studied the bird's breeding ecology at Lake Hagoi and Bateha wetlands on Tinian. Data was collected on eleven vegetation plots to characterize habitat for the species, and staff deployed trail cameras to characterize nest success and document factors limiting reproduction.



GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS) & SPATIAL DATA MANAGEMENT



DFW's GIS and Spatial Data Management Section provides technical and analytical support to the Division by creating databases, developing data collection applications, providing conservation planning, and conducting spatial analyses. In 2024, the GIS Section launched a drone/unmanned aerial systems (UAS) program to assist in monitoring wildlife populations and collecting habitat information. Two GIS staff were certified as Remote Pilots under the Federal Aviation Administration and the GIS program procured a federally approved UAS with a thermal imaging camera to track heat signatures of wildlife during surveys. The GIS section created spatial

databases for fisheries surveys and prototyped workflows for collecting site location data both in-water using GPS-enabled dive watches and onboard survey vessels using GPS-enabled field tablets.

The GIS Section's Conservation Planner is currently updating the 2025 Wildlife Action Plan (WAP), which identifies priority conservation actions needed over the next 10 years to conserve our fish and wildlife resources for the benefit of CNMI citizens. The plan also identifies priority "Species of Greatest Conservation Need" (SGCN) based on their biological, social, economic, or cultural value. To date, there have been over 30 outreach and engagement workshops to receive feedback on the WAP with government agencies, non-government organizations, and the CNMI public. If you wish to provide feedback, please visit the Conservation Planning website at:

<https://dlnr.cnmi.gov/conservation-planning.html>

CONSERVATION ENFORCEMENT

The Enforcement Section of the Division of Fish and Wildlife is vital in safeguarding the CNMI's natural resources, enforcing laws for sustainable wildlife, fisheries, and marine conservation. Regarding conservation, the Enforcement Section administers fishing and hunting permits to regulate sustainable harvesting. They conduct patrols to combat poaching, safeguarding against illegal activities, thereby ensuring wildlife protection and environmental stability.



The Enforcement Section safeguards marine sanctuaries around the CNMI, through monitoring and enforcing regulations. Enforcement duties are carried out using various methods, including patrols, surveillance, and collaboration with law enforcement. These efforts protect biodiversity, promote resource sustainability, and benefit the environment and community.

ENDANGERED SPECIES

The mission of the Endangered Species Program 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. Current on-going projects include:

1. Sea Turtle Research, Monitoring, and Outreach: The sea turtle program conducts daily beach monitoring for turtle tracks, nests, or illegal harvesting incidents, nest inventories, rapid response and



rehabilitation for injured turtles, and educational outreach in schools, public events, and public/social media.

2. Conservation of Endangered Plants on Rota: The endangered plants program conducts rare plant surveys, monitors outplantings, and propagates seedlings at our nursery.
3. Mariana Crow Conservation Research: The Mariana Crow, also called “Åga” in Chamorro, is an endangered bird now only found in Rota, CNMI. DLNR DFW, in partnership with the University of Washington and the San Diego Zoo, has been conducting a long-term research and conservation program of the Åga on Rota. This program conducts population assessments, monitors nest success, rears and releases chicks, and studies other threats the Åga may face.



FISHERIES RESEARCH SECTION

Program Management and Technical Guidance Support:

In FY2024 the program provided assistance towards various research, marine recreation, development and management activities in the CNMI. The Division of Fish and Wildlife works in collaboration with resource stakeholders to discuss marine resource issues, activities, and plans for the CNMI. Other activities associated with this project are the review and commenting on federal, state, military, research and commercial activities which affect the marine environment or its natural resources. In addition to these activities, technical guidance is provided for reviewing, assessing and providing biological recommendations to proposed nearshore fishery regulations.

Fish Habitat Surveys and Monitoring Program:

This Fish Habitat Surveys and Monitoring Program aims to collect data that can be linked to local fish population dynamics (e.g., recruitment, growth, distribution, and abundance) and essential fish habitat quality (benthic and water quality). Such information can help differentiate the potential impacts to fish and essential fish habitats from natural variation in mortality, land-based sources of pollution, and fishing. During FY2024, DFW has completed 305 of 320 fishery independent diver surveys since starting the Saipan Lagoon campaign in 2023. As part of this effort, DFW has developed and published an updated standard operating procedures and drafted two technical reports with more on the way.



DFW Fish Life History Program:

For FY 2024, FRS staff have focused efforts on target species collections around Saipan as well as gonad histology and age reading of *Kyphosus cinerascens* and plans to continue age reading of *Scarus ghobban*. Staff completed a Fish Life History Methods workshop in Guam and are being applied to process and read samples in the FRS lab. Life history data collections have been conducted on a monthly basis depending on weather and vessel availability. The information generated from this research project will be used to guide managers in addressing fishery issues in the CNMI.

FISHERIES DATA COLLECTION PROGRAM:

The Fisheries Data Collection Program collects and analyzes data from commercial and non-commercial fisheries in the CNMI through creel surveys, commercial catch reports, and fishing tournament recordings. These projects are continually improved for accuracy and ease of participation, with CNMI staff and volunteers gaining experience. The program promotes responsible fisheries stewardship. Our goal is to involve and recognize those who benefit most from this information, ensuring responsible stewardship of our fisheries.



AQUATIC EDUCATION

The Aquatic Education Program aims to increase awareness and knowledge about the importance of preserving aquatic habitats, promoting sustainable fishing practices, and fostering a sense of stewardship towards aquatic environments. This is achieved by actively engaging with the community through a variety of outreach initiatives, offering educational materials, conducting or participating in workshops/clinics, and examining the impact of human activities on marine ecosystems.



BOATING ACCESS

Smiling Cove Marine Program:

As part of on-going maintenance and up-keeping of the marina facilities, the following projects were completed at Smiling Cove Marina in Saipan.

1. Installation of the beacon light pole; replaced the dilapidated concrete pole; The BA manager coordinated with DPW and USCG on the light pole and beacon light repair.
2. Installation of a new 28' aluminum gangway with a built-in ADA railings at marina entrance gate #2.
3. Installed 30 new aluminum concrete piling signages.
4. Replacement of Rusty Fencing to new plastic-coated fence at gate entrance #1, #2 and #3.



Boating Access Program:

The Boating access program focused its effort on addressing the sand accretion issues at the Sugar Dock launching ramp on Saipan. On-going maintenance and up-keeping of the Marina Facilities on Tinian and Rota are being performed. As for the Tinian Docking System, DFW is currently waiting for the approval of the Project Worksheet 104 extension request from FEMA.

BROWN TREESNAKE INTERDICTION PROGRAM

The Brown Treesnake (BTS) Program's mission is to prevent the introduction and spread of the invasive brown treesnake (*Boiga irregularis*) into the CNMI. The primary goals of the BTS Program are to:

1. Prevent Snake Introductions: The program's most important goal is to stop the brown tree snake from entering CNMI.
2. Rapid Response and Containment: In case of a snake sighting or capture, the program has a rapid response protocol to confirm the sighting and contain the snake.
3. Raise Public Awareness: Raising awareness helps the community become part of the detection network, improving the chances of early detection.



In the past year, the BTS Program successfully conducted 3368 inspections at the seaport, airport, and import vendors' warehouses on containers, cargo, vehicles, or equipment to ensure the CNMI remains snake-free. The BTS Saipan-based canine handlers also provided manpower on Tinian for cargo coming directly from Guam, especially associated with the military build-up projects. The program has recently acquired two new canines. Three staff members, including a newly recruited team member from Tinian, are currently undergoing training as canine handlers. New training-aid snakes were procured from Guam to keep the BTS canines continuously training.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

DFW managed 60 federal awards and 2 special accounts. In FY24, DFW was awarded \$5,547,272 in new monies and managed \$7,364,125 in carryover funds for multi-year research projects. The DFW expended \$7,533,583 in FY24, leaving the balance of unused funds for ongoing projects. While the largest federal awarding agency was the Office of Conservation Investment (formally WSFR), DFW also received funds from USFWS Section 6, OIA, NOAA, and DOD.

CITIZEN 2024 Centric Report



DLNR-DLRS FY'24

**Department of Lands & Natural Resources
Division of Land Registration & Survey**



Division of Land Registration & Survey.

MISSION

The Division of Land Registration & Survey is mandated by 3 Pubic Law in the CNMI.

Public Law 3-79 To establish an independent Land Registration & Survey (Land Commission) for the registration of land, to provide procedures for disputed claims, to repeal sections 101 through 120 title 67 of the Trust Territory Code, and for other purposes on Pre-War Properties.

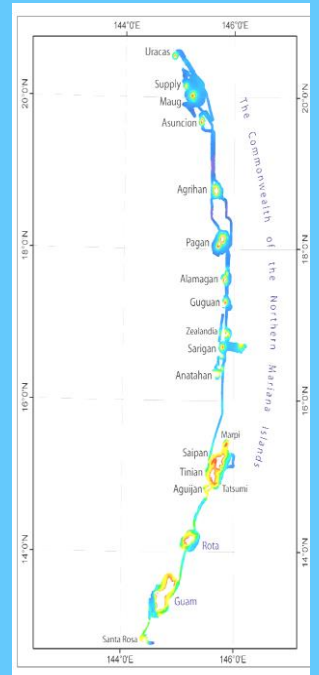
Public Law 1-8 Regulations governing land surveys in Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Public law 3-74 To provide for the transfer of title in real property homesteaded during a marriage to surviving spouse, and for other purpose.

- ✦ Survey of Pre-War Properties, Government Lands;
- ✦ Issuing certificates of Titles;
- ✦ Hold a hearing on disputed land claims;
- ✦ Review all maps for clearance and approval;
- ✦ Provide Land documents, Map Information
- ✦ Input Land Data into the Auto-Cad/CPI (Mapping) & Scanning
- ✦ Preserve all land documents & Maps.

The Division of Land Registration and Survey shall proceed on a systematic geographical basis in; promptly accomplish the registration of all and with the Commonwealth giving priority to the surveying pre-war properties to which the Trust Territory government issued title determination of ownership without actual surveys; resolve pending land claims; accomplish scanning and digitizing of all original land records and maps and continue maintain and upgrading of the CNMI land parcels.

Division of Land Registration & Survey has 4 (section) DLRS Director & Administration, LRT Team Chairperson, Research Section, Survey Section. Our Division Team works on a daily schedule with austerity measures is always ready in providing services to our Community or Public, Government Agency, Private Companies and CNMI Private Surveyors.



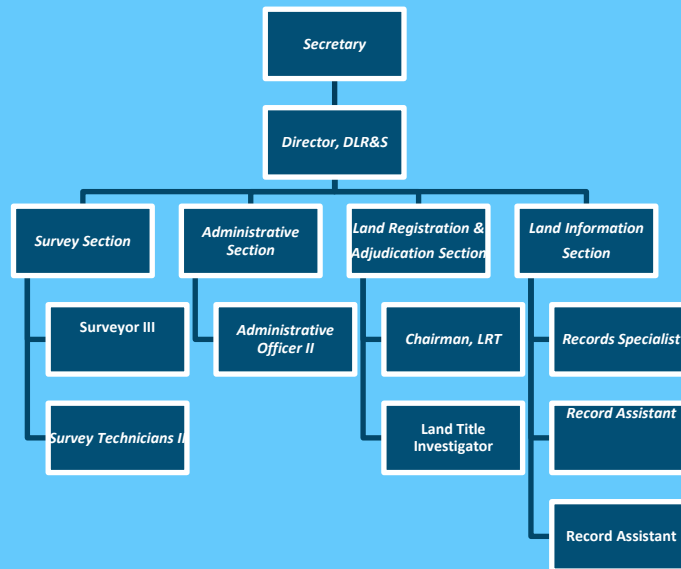
DLRS DOCUMENTS AND MAPS (CNMI)

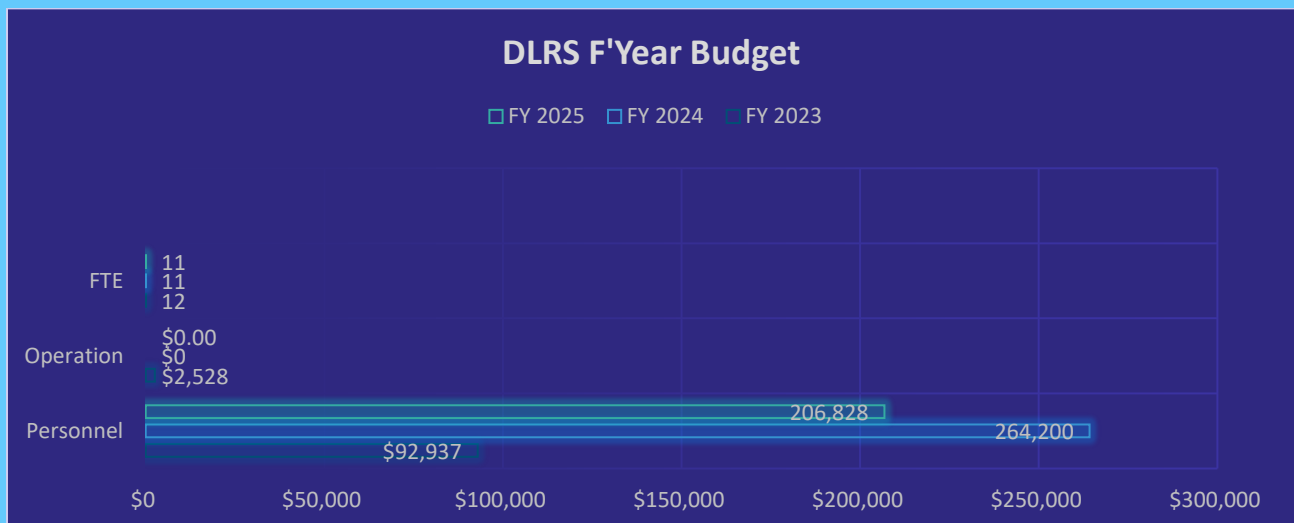
MAPPING	10, 445
<i>LAND DOCUMENTS</i>	
SAIPAN	
TITLE DETERMINATION	684
AGRICULTURAL HOMESTEAD	870
EXCHANGE AGREEMENT	585
CADASTRAL	5,926
YELLOW BOOK	604
BROWN BOOK	12

The Division visualize the digitizing upgrading system of land data & Mapping for Saipan, Tinian and Rota. Saving all important land documents that dated back from 1953. we plan to expand the filing System in a more convenient and safer place.



The Divisions of Land Registration and Survey is subdivided by four Sections, Surveying Section prioritizing the surveying of pre-war properties that begun in 1969 during the inception of the Land Commission and as the priority of the divisions Pursuant to Public Law 3-79, Land Registration & Adjudication Section proceeds to accomplish the registration & title of all Pre War lands in the Commonwealth & resolving all new and late land claims Pursuant to Public Law 3-79, Land Information Section holds land documents and maps, organizing and updating land information data, records and files all incoming land document, server to store all record data and formatted to furnish the Public a convenient records reproduction services and an area for self-research, Administration Section has the responsibility of ensuring that the administrative activities within an organization run efficiently, by providing structure to other employees throughout the division. These activities can range from being responsible for the management of human resource, budgets and records, to undertaking the role of supervising other employees.





DLRS FUTURE PLANNING



Support & Funding

- + To acquire high powered computers and plotters to back up all land Data.
- + Create website for DLRS to provide services to make date available to clients on island and off island.
- + Collaborating with agency that does Land matters into one date system for all incoming updates in land deed and mapping.
- + Collaborating with Turn Key Solution Company to design imagery for Saipan Land Parcel and Data to be implemented for the use of a more advance and organize land Information System in the CNMI.
- + Create a revolving fund for Research Section on charges of all land information requested.
- + Relocating or New spacious office for DLRS, safe workplace and cleaner environment.

OTHER ESSENTIALS TO THE OPERATION LINE OF THE DIVISION:

- + Auto Cad Advance Training,
- + DATA & MAPPING,
- + Research Upgrades, and
- + Networking with all CNMI

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS & NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF LAND REGISTRATION & SURVEY

Location: Garapan, Building next to CAO

Contact : (670) 234-7405

Email : dlrs.cnmi@gmail.com

Website: dlnr.cnmi.gov





Division of Parks and Recreation
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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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2024 CITIZEN-CENTRIC REPORT

DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Who We Are: The Division of Parks and Recreation is under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources with mandated duties to upkeep public parks, recreational facilities and tourist sites. Division of Parks and Recreation was established through the passage of Public Law 11-106, 14-17 authorizing and enabling the division to continue promoting sound management practices while complying CNMI's Local and Federal laws where it's applicable. The division guided by the established and approved regulation chapter 85-50.1 implement fee collections and enforcement throughout its identified jurisdiction.

Our Vision

To avail the public full access to enjoy nature at its best, granting opportunities to visit historical sites, structures and beaches that are significant to the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (Saipan).

Our Goals

To improve Live/Work/Recreation/Health/Diversity/Customer Service and Environmental Sustainability.

Parks and Recreation Values

Integrity, Community, Collaboration, Safety, Leadership, Positive Attitude.

Our Mission

To enhance the quality of life in the CNMI by providing exceptional parks and recreation experiences while preserving significant natural and cultural resources and its economic stability.

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT FOR THE DIVISION WITHIN THIS REPORTING PERIOD/FISCAL YEAR

- Capitol Hill Baseball field renovation (Chain-link Fence and Restroom)
- Solar lights installation at the Gualo Rai and Capitol hill basketball court
- Adoption of the Capital Hill basketball and pickleball court
- Kili Beach restroom renovation
- Solar light replacement at the Inos Peace Park
- Grotto restroom renovation
- Collection of data and fees for entrance at the Grotto Dive Site
- Maintaining Parks and Recreation jurisdiction as mandated by law, including tourist sites in Marpi
- Assist other government agencies with their immediate repair and maintenance needs

Competing Interests

Parks and Recreational areas have been established by constitutional mandate and public laws to ensure that prime spaces under public lands; are maintained for community purposes and activities. Along with such acres developed exclusively for public recreational purposes, the neighboring vicinities have increased its land value by 100%, causing developers to race and retain private acres for hotels and other developments.

Public input and analysis also identified several challenges to completion of individual projects as well as general direction about where the community would like to see action. The primary challenges of CNMI faces is the financial balance of moving projects forward and committing operations and maintenance resources to sustain the division once they were built.

There is a strong community support for completing projects in the CNMI is currently engaged expansion of greenways and the joint facility with the tourism district. At the same time the recognition limited operating resources challenges the division to find new partnerships and commit additional operating resources prior to initiating new projects. However, with the division current partnership with the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA), continues to remain strong and vibrant throughout these challenging times.



Division of Parks and Recreation
 Department of Lands and Natural Resources
 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
 Garapan, Saipan
 Caller Box 10007
 Saipan, MP 96950
 Tel: 670-234-7405
 Fax: 670-234-6480

Another challenge that the community in indicated strong interest is in “how to increase access” to and use the parks in the most useful beneficial purposes. In addition, safety and security are included in the concern increase due to the current population and popularity of Parks and Recreation.

Operation Expense

Division’s Budget and Personnel

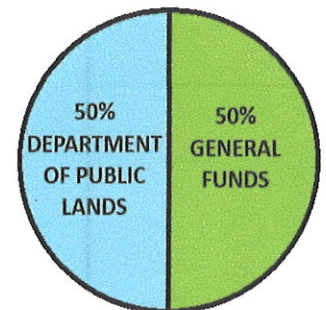
- Personnel Funding
 - 50% CNMI General Funds
 - 50% Department of Public Lands
 - \$945,026 – Civil Service Employees/Personnel
 - \$60,537- Ungraded Employees/Personnel
 - \$136,499 – Fringe Benefits

- Revolving Account
 - \$121,000.00

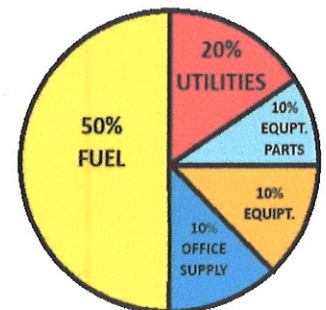
- Monthly Collection of Park Fees
 - \$2,800.00
 - Grotto Collection - \$12,000.00

- Expenses on Utilities
 - \$33,000.00 per year
 - Grotto
 - Water \$5,760.00
 - Sewer - \$3,840.00
 - Central Park
 - Power - \$3,600.00
 - Water - \$300.00
 - Garapan Office
 - \$850.00 per month (\$10,200.00 per year)
 - AsPerdido Shop
 - Power - \$60.00
 - Water - \$400.00

- Monthly Billing for Communication



PERSONNEL FUNDING

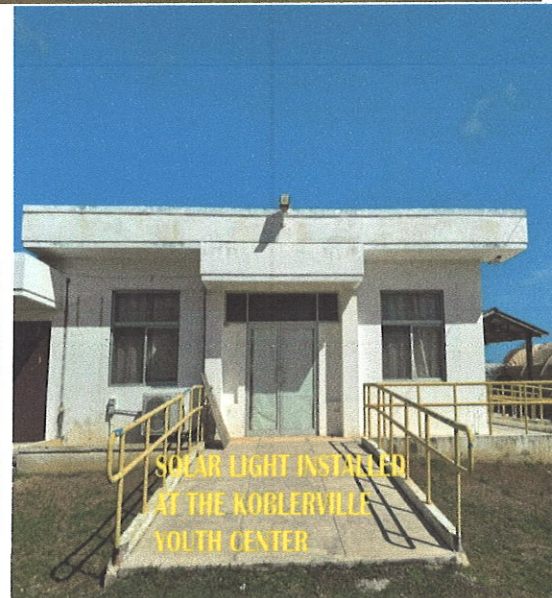
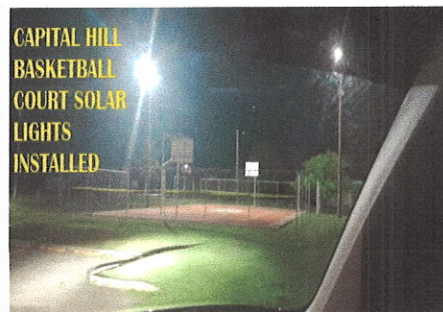
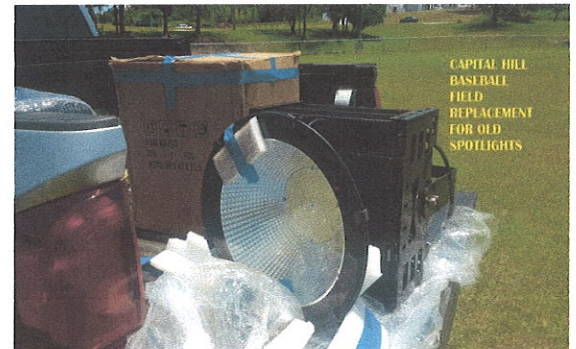


UTILITIES COST

- \$300.00 (\$3,600.00 yearly)
- Monthly Billing for Fuel
 - \$5,500.00 (\$66,00.00 yearly)
- Monthly Billing for Operation Repair
 - \$1,000.00 (\$12,000.00 yearly)
- Operational Vehicles – 13 operational
- Operational Equipment's, Machinery, and Tools
 - All small engines are working except for one John Deere Zero Turn Mower
 - John Deere Mower – 2 units operational, 1 brand new
 - Bush Cutters – 10 units operational, 16 brand new
 - Blowers – 8 units operational, 3 brand new
 - Chain saw – 2 operational (20 inch), 4 brand new (16 inch)
- Dera Grant for tractor mower

Saipan Local Delegation appropriation

- Saipan Local Laws
 - 23-8
 - 23-10
 - 23-18
 - 23-20



CNMI DLNR Invasive Species Program



2024 CITIZEN CENTRIC REPORT



The Vision

To establish a resilient biosecurity framework that safeguards the people and natural resources of the CNMI, preventing and eliminating invasive threats with unwavering commitment and proactive measures.






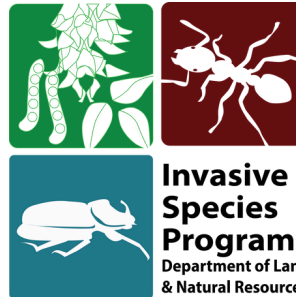
The Mission

To lead proactive and effective measures to prevent, control, and eliminate invasive species, ensuring the protection and preservation of the CNMI's natural resources and communities.



Contact Us

 (670) 322-9830/34
(670) 989-7378
 CNMIInvasiveSpecies@gmail.com
 <https://dlnr.cnmi.gov/invasive-species-program.html>



About the Program

First funded in 2018 through grants from the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs (OIA)

The CNMI faces persistent threats from invasive species, which have the potential to severely impact our natural environment, native wildlife, public health, and way of life. These invasive species could devastate our food crops, harm pets and livestock, erode cultural traditions, and diminish the quality of life for our residents, including our vital tourism industry. It is crucial to detect and eradicate invasive species at the earliest stages before they have a chance to spread and cause widespread damage.

Our strategy centers on Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR)—a coordinated effort to confront and control the threat of invasive species before they gain a foothold. The CNMI upholds a strict zero-tolerance policy toward any invasive species; any pests discovered at our borders are immediately eliminated.

Under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, the Invasive Species Program actively manages two high-priority projects: the *Mucuna Pruriens* Eradication Project on Saipan and the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) Detection, Prevention, and Eradication Program in Rota. Both initiatives are funded by the Department of Interior Office of Insular Affairs, reflecting our steadfast commitment to safeguarding our islands from invasive threats.

Meet the Team

PROGRAM ADMIN

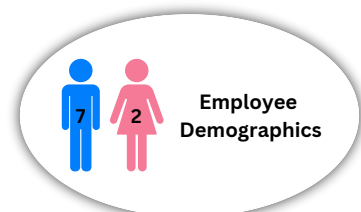
Natashia N. Tomokane - *Invasive Species Coordinator*
Renee Celis - *Administrative Assistant*

MUCUNA PRURIENS PROJECT

Jesse Deleon Guerrero, *Invasive Species Technician*
Andrew Lizama, *Invasive Species Technician*

COCONUT RHINOCEROS BEETLE PROJECT

Mark Manglona - *CRB Field Supervisor*
Frankie Muna - *CRB Technician*
Nickolas Songsong - *CRB Technician*
Kirido Manglona - *CRB Technician*
Raphael Quitugua - *CRB Technician*



PROJECT DETAILS

What is the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle?

The Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) is a highly invasive and destructive species, known for its glossy brown or black shell and distinctive horn-like structure. This aggressive pest primarily targets coconut trees, a crucial component of island ecosystems. By burrowing into the crown of a palm, the CRB chews on fronds and feeds on the tree's nutrient-rich sap. This behavior causes significant damage over time, weakening the palm, stunting its growth, compromising its structure, and ultimately leading to its death.

The situation is especially concerning on the island of Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), where the CRB has become a serious threat. With no natural predators in the Pacific, the CRB has been able to spread across the island, endangering Rota's iconic coconut trees. Coconut trees are vital for Rota's coastal protection, soil stability, and cultural identity, making the beetle's presence particularly alarming. The loss of coconut trees not only affects the local ecosystem but also has far-reaching economic consequences, given the significance of these trees to Rota's tourism-based economy.

In regions like the CNMI, and particularly on Rota, coconut palms are more than just trees—they are a cornerstone of the island's natural and cultural landscape. The widespread destruction caused by the CRB could undermine the island's tourism industry, leading to substantial financial losses. The aesthetic appeal and ecological health of the region are closely tied to the survival of these palms.

The presence of the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle in the CNMI highlights the urgent need for comprehensive monitoring, early detection, and effective response strategies to prevent further damage. Implementing robust management measures is critical to protecting the biodiversity, natural beauty, and economic stability of Rota and other vulnerable island communities in the Pacific.

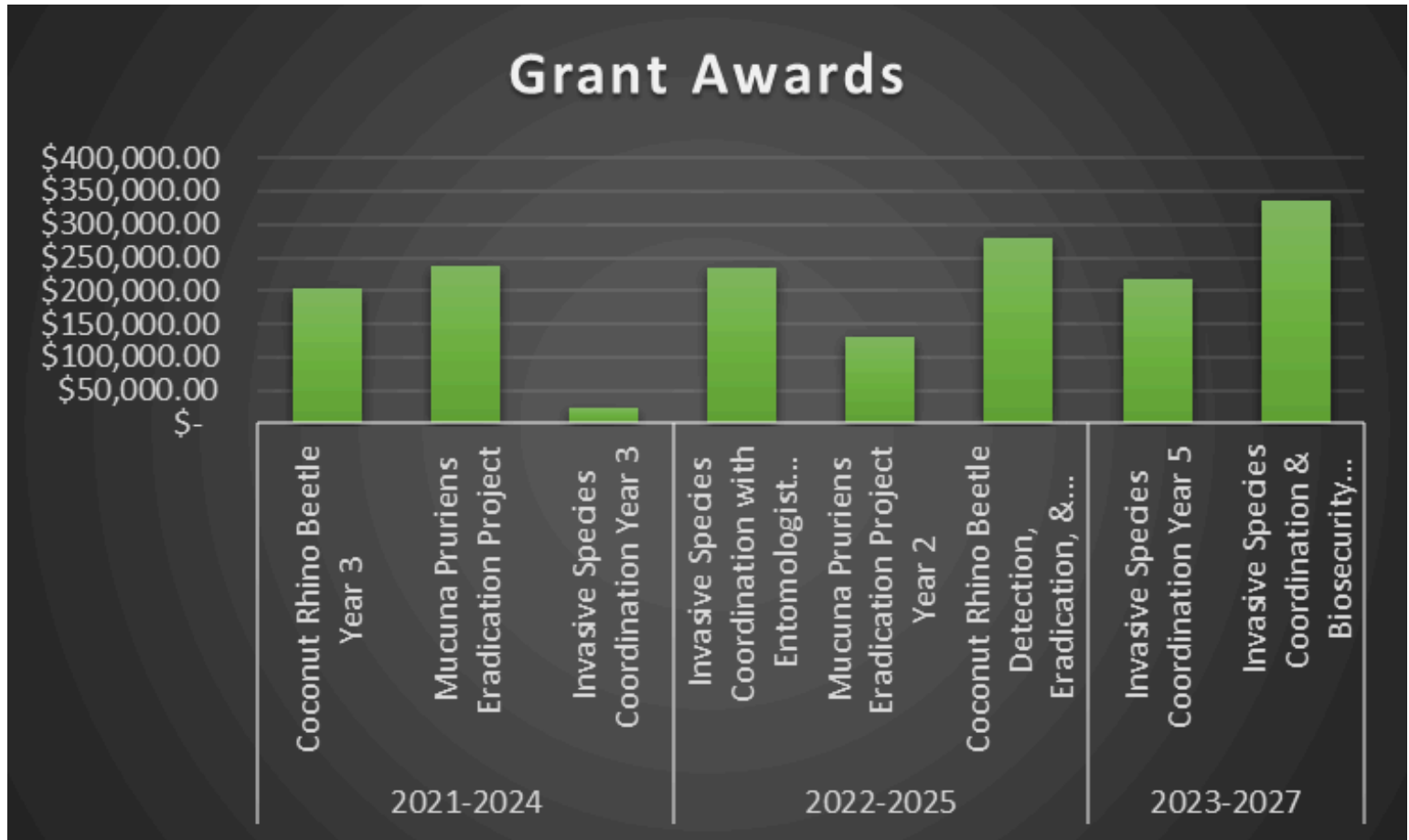


What is Mucuna Pruriens?

Mucuna pruriens, a non-native and highly invasive vine species, was unintentionally introduced to Saipan approximately 30 years ago, and it has since spread rapidly across the island. Known for its aggressive growth, *Mucuna pruriens* poses serious threats to Saipan's environment, infrastructure, and public health. This invasive plant thrives in tropical climates, often forming dense canopies that smother native vegetation and alter local ecosystems. The vine's rapid proliferation not only disrupts biodiversity by outcompeting native flora but also threatens agricultural lands, increases the risk of fire by contributing to a build-up of dry plant matter, and burdens infrastructure with its extensive, clinging growth.

One of the most concerning aspects of *Mucuna pruriens* is its production of toxic compounds—namely, serotonin and mucunain—upon maturation. These compounds can cause intense itching, severe skin irritation, and allergic reactions in humans. For those with preexisting skin conditions, such as eczema or psoriasis, exposure to the vine's tiny, barbed hairs (known as trichomes) can lead to severe reactions, with some cases even requiring hospitalization. This health hazard has led to widespread concern, particularly in populated areas and places where community members frequently interact with vegetation, like parks, hiking trails, and agricultural zones.

PROGRAM FUNDING



The CNMI faces a persistent challenge in managing invasive species that threaten its unique ecosystems, agricultural productivity, and public health. Recognizing the gravity of this issue, the CNMI has launched a series of invasive species management and eradication projects aimed at addressing the most pressing threats, including *Mucuna pruriens*, the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle, and other harmful non-native species.

These crucial initiatives are made possible through generous grant funding provided by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs (OIA). The OIA has designated a portion of its resources to specifically support the CNMI's invasive species efforts under its Invasive Species Coordination Grant program. This grant is pivotal in helping local teams coordinate eradication efforts, increase community engagement, and monitor invasive populations effectively.

Further, the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Eradication Grant targets the beetle's devastating impact on coconut palms and agricultural stability. Coconut palms are central to both CNMI's ecosystem and economy, and the beetle's presence has created severe ecological and economic strain. This grant enables focused eradication and containment efforts, protecting one of the island's most valuable natural resources.

Lastly, the *Mucuna Pruriens* Eradication Grant is directed at controlling the spread of this hazardous vine species, which has proliferated across Saipan. The funds provided through this grant support the manual and chemical removal efforts of *Mucuna pruriens*, as well as ongoing public education and preventative measures to curb its future spread.

Together, these grants from the Office of Insular Affairs have fortified CNMI's ability to respond proactively to the threats posed by invasive species, enhancing the resilience of local ecosystems, promoting biodiversity, and supporting public health. Through the continuous partnership with OIA, CNMI remains committed to safeguarding its environment and community from invasive threats, building a foundation for a sustainable and thriving future.

BIOSECURITY & PUBLIC AWARENESS EFFORTS



Biosecurity Training Planning



Regional Invasive Species Council



Partnership Meeting with CNMI Customs



Debriefing & Update Meeting with Rota Mayor Aubry Hocog



OIA Visit to the CNMI



Outreach Program with Rota PSS Students



26th Annual Micronesian Islands Forum



RISC Stakeholder Debriefing Meeting