



Coral Reef Management Fellowship 2011-2012 Project Summaries



American Samoa



Carolyn Doherty, 2011-2012

Carolyn Doherty worked with a variety of local agencies to ensure that American Samoa continues to pursue progressive actions in terms of climate change education and adaptation. Among other projects, she is completed a Territorial Climate Change Framework and developed a Community Resilience Planning Guide as a result of mandates generated from the recent, and very successful, Climate Change Summit in February, 2011, as well as finalizing Climate Change curriculum for local educators.



Clare Shelton, 2010-2011

Clare Shelton worked with the Coral Reef Advisory Group (CRAG) at the Department of Commerce in American Samoa where she assisted in the coordination and implementation of the Climate Change [Local Action Strategy](#) (LAS). This LAS addresses climate change impacts on the island. Clare also developed education and outreach materials aimed at increasing American Samoa's climate literacy. Outreach activities included school visits, public presentations, and a media campaign. In addition, Clare assisted in socioeconomic research efforts on climate change perceptions and threats. She also assisted with other CRAG projects, such as a school recycling campaign and promoting reusable cloth bags in the community.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Aric Bickel, 2010-2012



Aric Bickel was stationed in the non-point source pollution department of the Division of Environmental Quality in Saipan where he led the Conservation Action Planning (CAP) work being done in conjunction with The Nature Conservancy in the CNMI. This includes aiding in the implementation of the Laolao Bay CAP, for which planning was completed in 2008, as well as developing new CAPs to be completed on the island of Rota and in the Saipan lagoon watershed - Worked with the Rota Watershed group to designate a priority watershed for management. Organizing and facilitating CAP meetings with stakeholders.

Aric also headed the revegetation efforts in the Talakhaya watershed, with over 25,000 grass and tree seedling planted. Assisted in the development of a bleaching response plan for the CNMI. In addition, he worked with agency partners on a number of education and outreach projects promoting proper storm water drainage, recommended fish catch size, and community ocean watch groups.

Florida

Lauren Waters, 2010-2012



Lauren Waters worked with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Coral Reef Conservation Program. In her position, she reviewed and commented on permit applications for coastal construction projects, such as beach nourishment, that may have an adverse impact on coral reefs. Additionally, she led various working groups to complete projects that are part of the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative Maritime Industry and Coastal Construction Impacts Local Action Strategy. Projects included developing a permit database to track the application review and comment process, developing training tools for permit reviewers and compliance personnel in various agencies, standardizing baseline monitoring requirements for construction permits, and exploring current agency protocols for responding to citizen reports of possible resource impacts or permit condition violations.

Guam

Tammy Jo A. Taft, 2010-2012



Tammy Jo A. Taft worked as the Education and Outreach Coordinator with the Guam Coastal Management Program. As part of the Coastal Management Team, Tammy Jo helped educate the island's youth about the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the pending military buildup on Guam.

In addition, Tammy Jo continued implementing the Guardians of the Reef Program. The Guardians are high school students that prepare and present lesson plans in every third grade classroom on Guam: This annual program expanded during 2011 to include three high schools, 32 elementary schools, 60 high school students and more than 5,000 third and fifth grade students. Tammy Jo created materials that take scientific information about corals and make it digestible for the general public. She also coordinated the Environmental Education Committee and created a program that sends biologists and naturalists to teach guests at beach barbecues.

Hawai`i

Lunalilo Kekoa, 2010-2012



Kahekili, located on the leeward side of the island of Maui, has been designated as one of two Priority Coral Sites by the Hawaii [Local Action Strategy](#) coordinators. Working with the Division of Aquatic Resources, Lunalilo Kekoa helped to coordinate community-based projects in the area. Luna worked with the Makai Watch, a program where Hawaii's coastal communities work directly with resource managers to conduct monitoring, outreach, and voluntary compliance activities. He assisted with other projects, including fishermen creel surveys, which are conducted by local fishermen from the West Maui community to estimate anglers' catches via sampling and interviews. Luna also led outreach and education about the Kahekili Herbivore Enhancement Area; a project that aims to decrease the growing issue of invasive algae by prohibiting the harvest of three families of herbivores.

Puerto Rico

Rina Hauptfeld, 2010-2012



Rina Hauptfeld worked as a field agent with the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources in Rincón, western Puerto Rico. As the Education Coordinator for the Tres Palmas Marine Reserve, she partnered with several territorial and local agencies to implement the Tres Palmas Management Plan. Her efforts focused on developing and coordinating education and social marketing programs intended to increase interest in the status of the Reserve and local coral, the threats coral faces, as well as local opportunities to foster coral health. Programs focused on addressing threats posed by land-based sources of pollution and physical damage from recreational use. Rina also conducted socio-economic surveys and coordinated several campaigns, including a single-use plastics reduction campaign, and an environmental film-shorts competition.

U.S. Virgin Islands

Marija Micuda, 201-2012



Marija Micuda was the Sustainable Tourism Specialist for the St Croix East End Marine Park (STXEEMP) and St Thomas East End Reserve (STEER). Marija worked on developing sustainable tourism products and implementing marketing activities for the two areas.

STXEEMP and STEER are at different stages of developing sustainable tourism and therefore have different needs. While STEER has tourism operators already active within its territories, it is looking for minor products to be added for generating additional revenue. STXEEMP; however, does not have many tour operators within its waters. This may allow for more elaborate long-term products to be implemented, engaging both locals and tourists. Common for both areas is that sustainable products should satisfy the triple bottom line (environmentally friendly, locally beneficial, and economically viable for STXEEMP and STEER). Therefore, the first steps towards implementing and launching such products includes engaging and educating local stakeholders and forming new partnerships. Marija organized annual fundraising events, including a standup paddleboard race, and increased engagement with park operators and concessionaires.