

# Coral Reef Management Fellowship 2008-2010 Project Summaries

## American Samoa

*Alyssa Edwards, 2008-2010*



American Samoa is the only jurisdiction to identify population pressure as a key threat to local coral reefs. Rapid growth has been followed by increased coastal development and land-based pollution, both threats to coral reefs. Alyssa Edwards worked with the Coral Reef Advisory Group's Population Pressure Local Action Strategy team, which consists of representatives from several local agencies. Alyssa assisted in the coordination of this body to tackle the issue of population pressure in American Samoa.

Over the course of her fellowship Alyssa assisted with the preparation and coordination of a summit on population pressure which raised the profile of the issue to the highest level of government in advance of local elections.

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## Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

*Kathleen Herrmann, 2008-2010*



One of the biggest threats to the coral reefs in the CNMI is land based pollution. Kathleen Herrmann took on several watershed planning activities in partnership with local agencies. She worked to strengthen local watershed efforts, such as the Talakahaya Watershed Project on the island of Rota and assisted in developing a Conservation Action Plan for Laolao Bay which led to \$2.9million in Recovery Act funds to protect coral reefs and address sources of sedimentation in CNMI.

Kathleen also participated in a number of education and outreach efforts, including assisting with developing public service announcements, editing articles for the local newspaper, helping plan a marine science high school summer course, and judging the Talakhaya Watershed Science Fair. She also coordinated an education and outreach capacity-building effort with Conservation International and served as a mentor for two interns.

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## Guam

*Elaina Todd, 2008-2010*



Guam's Coastal Management Program partnered with Rare Pride to conduct a campaign focused on reducing the impacts of sedimentation on near shore reefs. Elaina Todd was selected to be the campaign manager to coordinate the planning and implementation of this campaign. Elaina attended a rigorous training program in Arlington, VA to learn how to prepare a project plan for a threat-specific, targeted, social marketing campaign that would support the efforts of local agencies in reducing threats to the reef. The plan was created with input from community members, resource users, stakeholders and local and regional experts. Key threats were identified as well as the behaviors associated with these threats. Key audiences were identified and targeted messages and alternative options were devised to spur behavior change. Elaina launched her campaign in 2010.

# 2008-2010 Project Summaries Continued

## Hawai`i

*Petra MacGowan, 2006-2009*



Petra MacGowan managed several different projects for Hawai`i's Division of Aquatic Resources. In addition to processing management grants and coordinating Hawai`i's Local Action Strategies, she served as coordinator for the Coral Reef Outreach Network (CRON). CRON works to raise general public awareness of the importance and interconnectedness of the coral reef ecosystems to Hawai`i's lifestyle, and to teach and encourage positive behaviors that will protect and nurture this life-giving natural resource.

Petra also worked with state partners to coordinate Makai Watch, a program that encourages Hawai`i's coastal communities to work directly with resource managers to conduct monitoring, outreach and voluntary compliance activities.

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## Puerto Rico

*Raimundo Espinoza, 2008-2010*



Raimundo Espinoza worked with the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) of Puerto Rico where he focused his efforts on Puerto Rico's Local Action Strategies to reduce identified ecosystems stressors. He concentrated on land-based sources of pollution and lack of awareness in Puerto Rico. He collaborated with the Center for Watershed Protection and other key DNER personnel in the implementation of a watershed management plan for the Guánica State Forest.

Raimundo assisted in the development of a much needed education program for the Guánica State Forest and has started a reusable bag campaign. He also found time to maintain the DNER Coral Reef Program's website. In addition, Raimundo played an active role in addressing recreational overuse and misuse in mangroves and on coral reefs. Projects include the construction of a boat ramp in Las Crayolas to reduce illegal unloading and docking of small vessels, and a mooring buoy installment program in Cayos de Caña Gorda.

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## U.S. Virgin Islands

*Karlyn Langjahr, 2006-2009*



Karlyn Langjahr served as the Education & Outreach Coordinator for the St. Croix East End Marine Park (EEMP). Her enthusiasm and sincere desire to promote ocean conservation made her an excellent spokesperson for the park. One of her many duties included coordinating the Virgin Islands Network of Environmental Educators (VINE). VINE strives to build capacity for environmental and cultural education within the Virgin Islands. Karlyn planned and conducted two well-attended workshops with participants from both the U.S. Virgin Islands and the British Virgin Islands. These workshops helped to strengthen the partnership between VINE and the Virgin Islands Department of Education.

Karlyn also served as the Committee Chair for the International Year of the Reef (IYOR) efforts in St. Croix. The committee planned monthly IYOR activities within the community, such as a fish fry with local fishermen to promote healthy reefs and a community concert known as Reef Jam. IYOR efforts in St. Croix were honored by the EPA with an Environmental Quality Award.