



## **Puerto Rico Coral Reef Management Fellowship 2013-2014 Position Description**

### **Project Location**

The host agency for the 2013-2014 Puerto Rico Coral Management Fellowship is the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) under its Coasts, Reserves and Refuges Bureau (CRRB) in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The Puerto Rico Coral Reef Program (PRCRP) administers coral reef management and monitoring projects. The PRCRP oversees the development and implementation of the Local Action Strategies (LAS) developed in 2011, which are targeted plans of action for the protection of Puerto Rico's coral reefs, as well as the development of an island-wide long-term coral reef management plan. As a part of the LAS effort, several priority stressors on Puerto Rico's coral reefs were identified: overfishing, recreational overuse, lack of awareness and land-based sources of pollution.

### **Program/Agency Background**

DNER was created on June 20, 1972. Its mission is to protect natural resources to guarantee their enjoyment by current and future generations. The agency administers more than 20 laws and regulations, including the Coral Reef Protection, Conservation and Management Act, Number 147 of July 15, 1999.

### **Project Description**

The Fellowship will provide support to specific conservation projects in the North East Reserves and Cabo Rojo, two of Puerto Rico's coral priority areas. The position will also provide support to the Puerto Rico USCRTF Point of Contact (POC) in specific tasks identified by the POC.

#### **Task 1: Cabo Rojo Conservation Business Planning Support and Implementation (40 percent of time)**

Cabo Rojo is one of Puerto Rico's coral priority areas. It's an area rich in coral reefs and with an important fisheries sector. The Fellow will be a team member of the Conservation Business Planning (CBP) team that will be carried out by TNC in the Cabo Rojo area, working in close collaboration with manager of the Boquerón Refuge and Puerto Rico's Coordinator for TNC. After the CBP has been completed, the Fellow will carry out actions or projects identified in the plan, in close collaboration with staff and the POC. The projects will be related to overfishing, recreational overuse, lack of awareness and/or land-based sources of pollution.

#### **Outcomes/Deliverables:**

- Provide support in the CBP as a team member
- Carry out at least one project identified in the CBP

#### **Task 2: Northeast Reserve Management Support (40 percent of time)**

The North East Reserve, established in 2011, is the first marine ecological corridor protected area in Puerto Rico, as well as a priority area. It's an area of biological importance with a vast array of

recreational and commercial uses. The Fellow will work in close collaboration with agency staff and the POC in implementing and carrying out specific projects related to the management of the Reserve. The efforts in the North East Reserve will be focused on several tasks outlined below.

**Outcomes/Deliverables**

- Development and design, together with DNER staff, of educational signage to be placed in the reserve
- Create maps of uses within the reserve, identifying areas where different activities should be carried out (diving, anchoring, boating, etc.)
- Create visitor rules (code of conduct) for the Reserve
- Design educational program for visitors in Icacos Island
- Assist PR's Coral Management Liaison in the start of, or preparations for, the CBP of the North East Reserve area

***POC Support (20 percent of time)***

The fellow will provide support to the POC in tasks related to the USCRTF collaboration efforts as well as other tasks identified by the POC in support of Puerto Rico's coral conservation efforts.

**Outcomes/Deliverables**

- Bi-annual report of jurisdictional accomplishments on coral reef conservation
- Assistance in the completion of USCRTF and AIC related tasks for Puerto Rico
- Update and manage the DNER Coral Program web page