



U. S. Coral Reef Task Force Partnership Initiative 2011 – Funded Projects

Organizational Capacity Building for Guanica Watershed (PR), *Cafi Cultura Puertorriquena, Inc. (Cafiesencia)*

U. S. Coral Reef Task Force Partnership Initiative 2011 Grant: \$39,000 Partner Contributions: \$8,000
Cafi Cultura Puertorriquena, Inc. (Cafiesencia) will support the continued restoration and protection of the Guánica watershed and nearshore coral reefs through support and establishment of a new grassroots nongovernmental organization. Community leaders from industry, agency and community sectors that have already proven their commitment and success in work working within the Guanica watershed will come together to create a new organization dedicated to the implimentation and sustained conservation goals of the Guanica Watershed Management Plan. The project will stabilized up to 5 acres of exposed soils along roadways in the mountain areas and along mountain farms to reduce erosion. With this project the project team will help improve drinking and irrigation water, expand the life of the water reservoirs in the Guanica watershed, help improve farmers income and reduce the amount of sediments inhibiting coral growth in the Guanica Bay.

Río Loco/Guánica Bay Watershed Educational video (PR), *Efrain O. Figueroa*

U. S. Coral Reef Task Force Partnership Initiative 2011 Grant: \$30,000 Partner Contributions: \$5,000
Efrain O. Figueroa will produce an educational video of the conservation practices being implemented in the Río Loco/Guánica Bay watershed and the impacts on the coral reefs of the Guánica Bay and Puerto Rico's southwest coast. The video will include at least five conservation practices in the watershed, with a focus on on-going projects on farmlands, and will document the health conditions of the coral reefs and other marine resources in the coastal area. The video will be distributed across several educational sectors but specifically targeting upland farmers, community officials and mainstream media outlets. The goal of this production is to demonstrate the variety of conservation practices available to this region and the importance of these measures to preserving coral habitat downstream.

Techniques to Reduce Farm Soil and Nutrient Run-off (PR), *Joaquin Chong*

U. S. Coral Reef Task Force Partnership Initiative 2011 Grant: \$20,000 Partner Contributions: \$3,000
Joaquin Chong will target soil erosion control and reduction of nutrient run-off through on-farm-farmer consultation, demonstration activities and small community meetings. Soil erosion in farms it is partially associated with the use of herbicides and industrial agriculture practices that have been used on farms for more than half a century. Thus, reversing this mode of farming requires a transition that does not affect the farms economy, but that mutually benefits the production and the environment. This proposal will demonstrate the use of a transition from controlling weeds with herbicide to controlling weeds with the use of seed cover crops followed with perennial cover crops in some locations. Nutrient reduction will be address by tailoring compost specific techniques and methods of plant material application and by soil analysis interpretation.



Empowering Women in Sustainable Agribusiness (PR), *Cafi Cultura Puertorriquena, Inc. (Cafiesencia)*

U. S. Coral Reef Task Force Partnership Initiative 2011 Grant: \$50,000 Partner Contributions: \$97,159

The Cafi Cultura Puertorriquena, Inc. (Cafiesencia) will target and train women from the upper regions of Río Loco/Guánica Bay watershed on how to develop a sustainable agricultural activity. Census statistics from 2010 show low participation of working age women in production activities in this region. To reverse this trend, the project team will show the participants how to incorporate conservation practices into enterprises and the community. Classes will include sustainable agribusiness planning, branding, local and federal government incentives programs, community leadership, and field visits. A Mentoring Panel of businessmen, conservationists and academics will advise participants during their implementation phase. Outcomes include increased awareness about conservation practices, sustainable agribusiness by women and new environmental stewardship leaders. The project team will hold radio programs about environmental issues such as impacts on coral reefs, ecosystems conservation values and sustainable agribusiness practices to raise awareness through the region as to the benefit of implementing best management practices on the coral reefs.

Rio Loco Waterway Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Project (PR), *Instituto de Agricultura Tropical y Ambiente Inc.*

U. S. Coral Reef Task Force Partnership Initiative 2011 Grant: \$60,000 Partner Contributions: \$60,000

The Instituto de Agricultura Tropical y Ambiente Inc. will establish a vetiver grass system to control soil erosion and improve water quality from ongoing activities inland that cause direct and/or indirect negative effects on water quality in the Guanica watershed. In addition to planting vetiver grass along stream banks, the project will implement a water quality monitoring program at several points along streams to establish baseline sediment transport conditions in streams. The project team will also conduct community outreach through educational training on vetiver grass planting, plant maintenance and water quality monitoring. This project's goals are to reduce sediment flow leaving the sediment basin, reduce nitrogen levels in stream due to runoff, reduce phosphorus levels in stream due to runoff and increase community involvement in natural conservation practices through water quality monitoring.