Coral Reef Conservation Fund

NFWF CONTACTS

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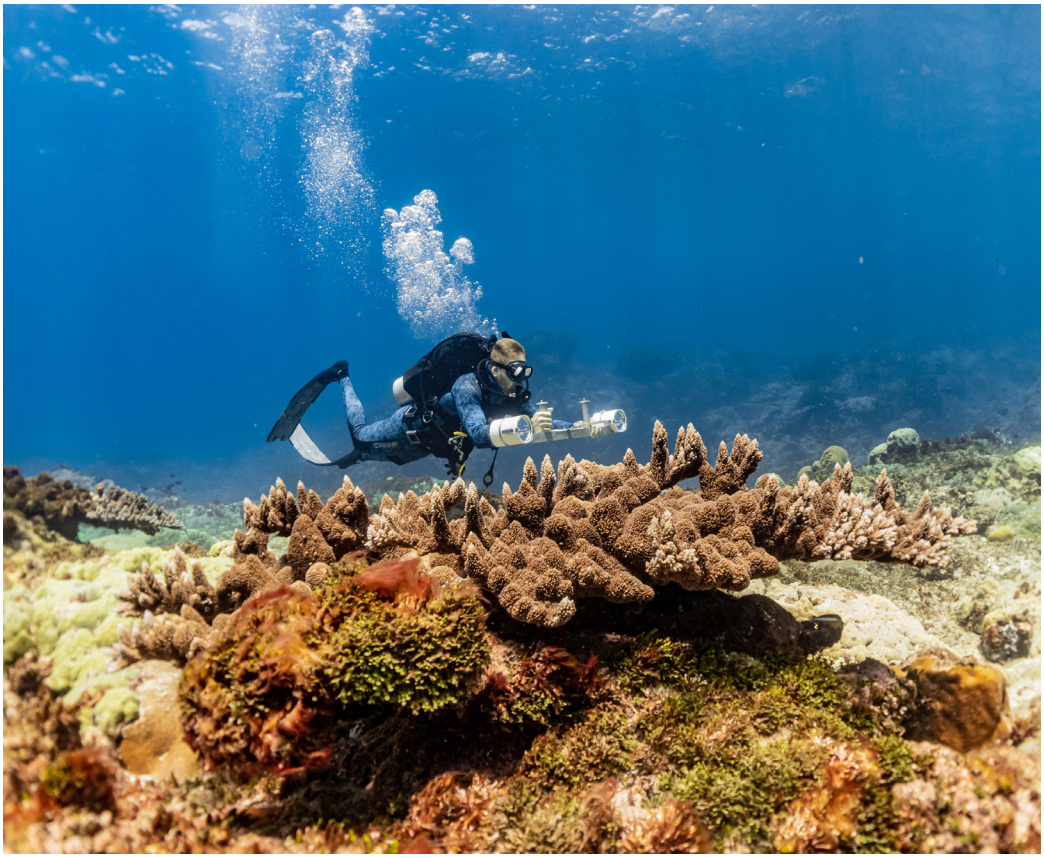
PARTNERS

- NOAA
- Aramco
- USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service



Diver conducting reef survey | Photo credit: University of Guam

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) and Aramco announced a 2022 round of funding for Coral Reef Conservation Fund projects. Nine new grants totaling nearly $1.3 million were awarded. These awards leveraged $1.3 million in grantee matching contributions, generating a total conservation impact of $2.6 million.

The Coral Reef Conservation Fund seeks to provide catalytic funding for innovation in management and science, and foundational capacity at the local level. The 2023 project slate addresses four key categories for coral reef conservation:

1. Prioritizing critical reefs for conservation in light of increasing environmental stressors
2. Reducing primary threats such as land-based sources of pollution from agricultural runoff, sewage outfall, and erosion from bare soils, and reducing unsustainable harvesting of functional reef species
3. Increasing effective management of coral reefs through applied research, management training and tools, and community engagement, and
4. Increase capacity for large-scale restoration efforts.

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ABOUT NFWF

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 6,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of $8.1 billion. NFWF is an equal opportunity provider.

Learn more at **www.nfwf.org**

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Coral growing in in-water nursery | Photo credit: Guam Department of Agriculture

AMERICAN SAMOA

Increase Coral Restoration Capacity in American Samoa Through Training

Grantee: Coral Restoration Foundation
Grant Amount:. $103,200
Matching Funds:. $103,200
Total Project Amount: $206,400
Provide coral restoration education to practitioners in American Samoa. Project will provide theoretical and practical skills in restoration techniques and infrastructure needs to start and sustain programs including planning, fundraising and outreach.

FLORIDA

Creating Genetic Diversity of Corals and Diadema Sea Urchins for Restoration Efforts (FL)

Grantee: University of Florida
Grant Amount:. $200,000
Matching Funds:. $299,800
Total Project Amount: $499,800
Increase genetic diversity and number of Acropora corals and Diadema sea urchins available for restoration efforts. Project will increase the supply of genetic combinations of Acropora corals to manage breeding efforts and establish partnerships to expand available capacity for Diadema propagation.

Datasystems Support for In-situ and Ex-situ Coral Nursery Rearing and Restoration Coordination (FL)

Grantee: Mote Marine Laboratory
Grant Amount:. $254,300
Matching Funds:. $254,300
Total Project Amount: $508,600
Integrate digital tools for large-scale coral restoration. Project will identify key data and metrics for tracking within and among coral nurseries and post outplanting efforts to facilitate coordination among the restoration community.

GUAM

Supporting Fisheries Management Plans for Surgeonfishes and Parrotfishes on Guam

Grantee: The University of Guam
Grant Amount:. $124,800
Matching Funds:. $124,900
Total Project Amount: $249,700
Assess the vulnerability and status of surgeonfishes and parrotfishes on Guam. Project will combine life-history data, fishery-dependent data, and fishery-independent surveys to support local managers in the ongoing development of fishery management plans.

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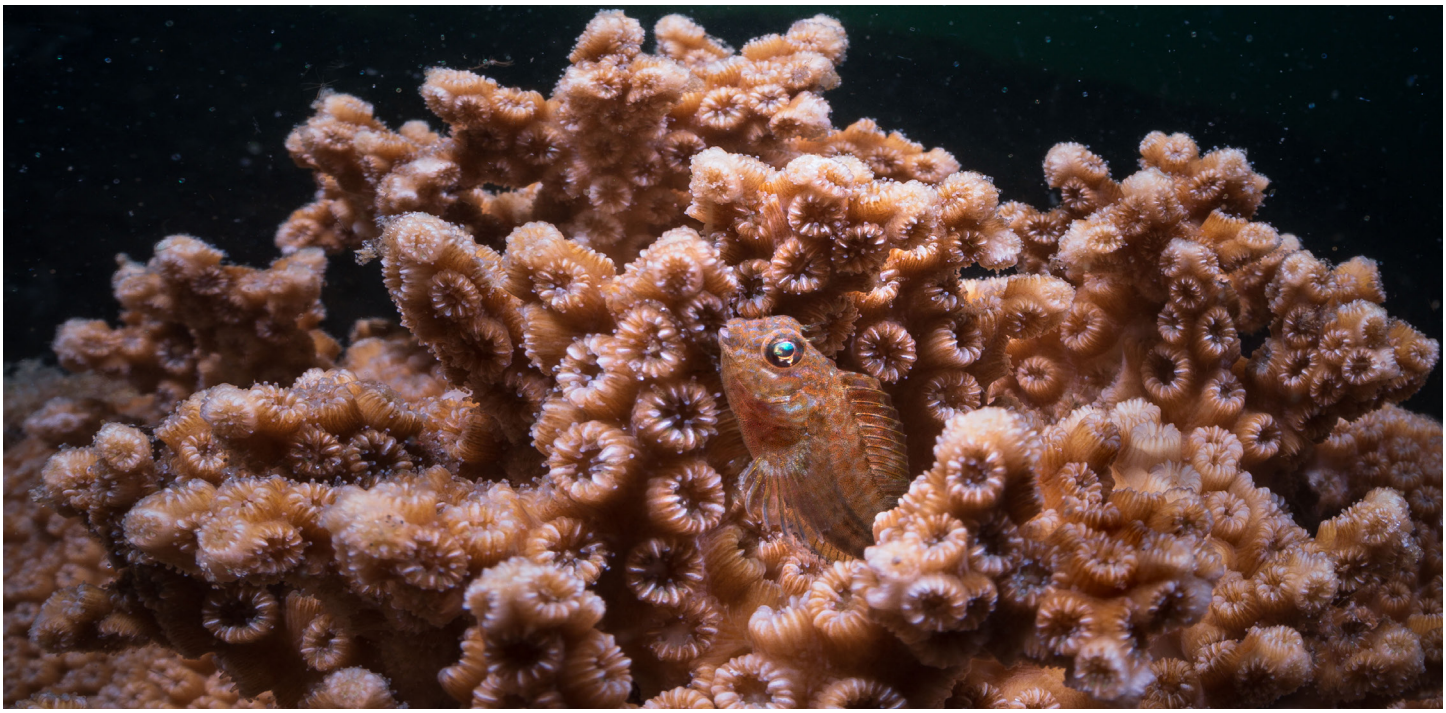

Blenny in coral

Updating the Watershed Management Plan for Piti-Asan Watershed to Prioritize Restoration (GU)
Grantee: Guam Department of Agriculture
Grant Amount:..... $149,000
Matching Funds:..... $0
Total Project Amount: $149,000
Produce an updated Asan-Piti Watershed Management Plan to establish water quality targets, best management practices, and proposed actions. Project will update the watershed management plan to support Guam coral reef restoration and fisheries in the Piti Bomb Holes Marine Protected Area.

HAWAIʻI

Analyzing Coral Restoration and Recovery Success from Mitigation Efforts (HI)
Grantee: University of Hawaiʻi
Grant Amount:..... $78,400
Matching Funds:..... $81,300
Total Project Amount: $159,700
Evaluate recent emergency coral restoration response to improve effectiveness and efficiency of emergency activities. Project will monitor and evaluate restoration response of the transfer of 5,000 coral colonies transplanted as mitigation of a dredging event.

Reduce Erosion and Restore Vegetation Using Reclaimed Wastewater for Clearer Nearshore Waters (HI)
Grantee: Malama Haleakala Foundation
Grant Amount:..... $119,900
Matching Funds:..... $119,900
Total Project Amount: $239,800
Utilize reclaimed wastewater to reestablish groundcover and mitigate for axis deer damage and subsequent erosion. Project will prevent an estimated 722,371 pounds of sediment and 18,245 pounds of nutrients from entering coastal waters annually.

Using Acoustic Enrichment to Enhance Coral Larvae Settlement in Hawaiʻi
Grantee: Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Grant Amount:..... $194,500
Matching Funds:..... $219,600
Total Project Amount: $414,100
Optimize the acoustic environment as sound like a healthy coral reef to attract coral larvae settlement as a restoration tool. Project will conduct lab and field tests to replicate a successful pilot in the Caribbean on Pacific coral species. establish a field station for ongoing projects.

Educating Aquarists to Expand Land-Based Nursery Capacity (FL, GA, NE)
Grantee: Association of Zoos and Aquarium
Grant Amount:..... $75,000
Matching Funds:..... $236,000
Total Project Amount: $311,000
Train aquarium managers interested in participating in the coral rescue program on stony coral tissue loss disease and coral restoration practices. Project will work to grow the land-based nursery management capacity of the coral conservation community within and outside of the US.