



Coral Reef Stewardship Fund

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PARTNERS

- NOAA
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Aramco

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 6,800 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of more than \$10 billion. NFWF is an equal opportunity provider.

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Coral reef in American Samoa

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Aramco announced a 2024-year round of funding for Coral Reef Stewardship Fund projects. Nine new coral reef conservation grants totaling \$2 million were awarded. The nine awards announced leveraged more than \$1.8 million in matching contributions from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of more than \$3.8 million.

The Coral Reef Stewardship Fund, formerly known as the Coral Reef Conservation Fund, seeks to provide catalytic funding for innovation in management and science, as well as foundational capacity at the local level. The 2024 project slate addresses the three priorities of the coral conservation program, including:

- Threat reduction to priority reef sites
- Coral reef emergency response preparation and restoration
- Increase management capacity in coral conservation

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Ivory bush coral in the Gulf of Mexico

Building a Community of Divers to Assist with Coral Restoration in the Florida Keys

Grantee: I.CARE Corporation
 Grant Amount:..... \$105,200
 Matching Funds:..... \$130,000
 Total Project Amount: \$235,200
 Educate and incorporate recreational divers living in the Florida Keys in coral restoration and maintenance activities. Project will support 840 divers as they outplant coral fragments, perform maintenance on previously outplanted coral to increase survival, and monitor the reef community.

Building Early Detection and Response Capacity to Protect Against Threats to Coral Reef Health (HI)

Grantee: University of Hawai'i
 Grant Amount:..... \$79,700
 Matching Funds:..... \$80,600
 Total Project Amount: \$160,300
 Build early detection and response capacity to protect the coral reefs of the Hawaiian archipelago from high-risk aquatic invasive species and coral disease. Project will develop and implement a training program on the identification and response to priority invasive species (i.e., *Unomia stolonifera*), update Hawai'i's Rapid Response Contingency Plan to include invasives and coral disease and begin work on a molecular reference barcode library for priority species.

Coral Nursery Capacity-Building for Emergency Response and Conservation on Kauai (HI)

Grantee: State of Hawai'i, Department of Land and Natural Resources
 Grant Amount:..... \$191,400
 Matching Funds:..... \$193,000
 Total Project Amount: \$384,400
 Expand land-based nursery facility capacity for emergency coral reef restoration on the island of Kauai. Project will leverage established restorative aquaculture infrastructure, local partnerships and volunteer networks, and the state resource agency's subject matter expertise to establish Kauai's first coral nursery and draft protocols for emergency response to coral impact events.

Engaging Landowners and Communities in Riparian Restoration in Western Puerto Rico

Grantee: Protectores de Cuencas
 Grant Amount:..... \$559,400
 Matching Funds:..... \$716,400
 Total Project Amount: \$1,275,800
 Establish riparian forest buffers on 60 acres of working lands along Río Loco as recommended in the Guánica Bay Watershed Management Plan. Project will engage local management partners with the goal of 5-10 landowners and 400 volunteers planting 18,000 trees.

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Coral in Hawai'i

Establishing Co-Managed Fisheries to Enhance Coral Reefs and Support Subsistence Fisheries (AS)

Grantee: American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources

Grant Amount:..... \$259,960
 Matching Funds:..... \$0
 Total Project Amount: \$259,960

Develop fishery management plans and strengthen village councils in managing their fishery reserves. Project will coordinate meetings with village stakeholders, increase local knowledge on the state of coral reefs and watersheds, develop size limits for targeted fish species, and assess stream and nearshore water quality to update and develop fisheries management plans.

Planning and Capacity-Building for Coral Reef Disturbance Response and Recovery (USVI, PR)

Grantee: University of Florida

Grant Amount:..... \$176,900
 Matching Funds:..... \$180,400
 Total Project Amount: \$357,300

Provide capacity for coral rescue planning and develop a coral rescue network to support coral reef disturbance recovery in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Project will create a roadmap to enhance coral genetic diversity improve adaptation, sustain ecosystem function and bolster resilience.

Planning for Rapid Restoration Response to Vessel Groundings for Coral Reefs on Maui (HI)

Grantee: Maui Ocean Center Marine Institute

Grant Amount:..... \$170,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$50,000
 Total Project Amount: \$220,000

Create a framework and build capacity on Maui to respond,

assess and mitigate coral reef disturbances caused by vessel groundings. Project will aid in the development of Maui's capacity to respond to coral reef disturbance events, promote genetic diversity and thermally resilient coral stocks, and develop a community-led framework to address the source of these disturbances.

Siting and Sizing Runoff Treatment Practices in Priority Urban and Agricultural Areas (FL)

Grantee: Florida International University

Grant Amount:..... \$370,000
 Matching Funds:..... \$400,600
 Total Project Amount: \$770,600

Delineate and prioritize hot spots for land-based sources of pollution in Little River and Central Lake Worth Lagoon watersheds by combining modeling, field investigations and spatial analyses. Project will present optimal type, location and drainage area of stormwater infrastructure and agricultural runoff treatment practices, support action items in local watershed management plans, and provide a transferable methodology for other urban and agricultural watersheds.

Training Young Scientists for Careers in Coral Conservation and Restoration (FL)

Grantee: Junior Scientists in the Sea

Grant Amount:..... \$94,800
 Matching Funds:..... \$102,300
 Total Project Amount: \$197,100

Dive training for at-risk youth to participate in ongoing coral reef restoration and health monitoring projects in Miami-Dade County, Florida. Project will increase the current and future trained workforce for coral restoration while educating and inspiring the next generation of reef stewards.