

Jurisdictional Management Priority Activities for the NFWF Coral Reef Stewardship Fund 2026 Request for Proposals

The following activities were identified as priorities for coral reef conservation activities in fiscal years 2024-2026 by the NOAA CRCP and local management agencies during 2022 workshops to align jurisdictional needs with the [NOAA CRCP Strategic Plan](#). Many of these priorities are continuing needs that are expected to extend beyond 2026.

I. Threat Reduction to Priority Reef Sites

Reduce land-based pollution inputs to coral reefs:

- Implementation of sediment and nutrient threat reduction activities outlined in existing watershed management plans that meet the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency nine elements for a watershed management plan (Guam; CNMI; Florida; Hawaii; Puerto Rico; and USVI)
- Training and technical assistance on green/gray infrastructure (including permitting and environmental compliance); knowledge exchanges and/or technical assistance for stormwater compliance monitoring and enforcement (American Samoa, CNMI, Guam, Hawaii, and USVI)
- Consistent site-specific analyses of water quality and the efficacy of watershed restoration actions (CNMI, Guam, Florida, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, USVI)
- Baseline monitoring of water quality and benthic community composition near watershed restoration sites (Achugao, CNMI; Piti-Asan, Guam; and Salt River, USVI).

Increase fish stocks of key species along priority reefs:

- Support the enhancement of citizen science and community monitoring programs (CNMI, Guam, Hawaii)
- Training and/or other capacity building activities (e.g., gap analysis, tools, mentoring, etc.) for effective fisheries enforcement (CNMI, Florida, Guam, Puerto Rico, USVI)
- Technical assistance with management planning efforts, especially place-based management (CNMI, Hawaii, Guam)
- Evaluate performance of place-based marine managed areas (Florida, Guam, Puerto Rico, USVI)

II. Coral Reef Response and Restoration Capacity

Disturbance Response:

- Research into the causes and potential treatments of coral diseases (Guam)
- Increase capacity to prevent the spread of invasive soft corals and research into methods for controlling or eradicating invasive or nuisance species (Florida, Guam, Puerto Rico)
- Develop and test novel intervention techniques to reduce coral bleaching prevalence and/or severity (Florida)



- Develop and/or update disturbance response plans or expand rapid response protocols for both natural disturbances and man-made events (CNMI and Guam)
- Research on the transmission of marine diseases at local and regional scales (Puerto Rico and USVI).

Support Coral Out-planting Success:

- Data analyses of existing state-sponsored coral restoration efforts to review performance and identify lessons learned in the context of disease; and assessments of settlement suitability of crustose coralline algae (CCA) substrate and their status on priority reefs (Florida)
- Evaluate effectiveness of rescue and rehabilitation back to the reef for highly-susceptible reef builders; Development for probiotics or other prophylactic treatments for corals prior to or during outplanting for increased resistance or resilience to coral disease (USVI)

Increase Capacity for Coral Restoration at Scale:

- Increase capacity to plan and implement coral reef rescue efforts to support future restoration, including from the impacts of stony coral tissue loss disease (SCTLD). (Puerto Rico, USVI)
- Increase resilience of coral outplants and coral nurseries to impacts from thermal stress events (Florida, Puerto Rico, USVI).

Friend Groups and Similar NGO Support:

- Develop creative solutions to address local capacity needs, including staffing, grant-writing, project oversight, etc. (All U.S. coral jurisdictions)
- Support capacity-building to shift towards ecosystem based management, including improved communication approaches and tools, such as social media, to convey the benefits of coral reef management and the value of an ecosystem approach to coral reef management (All U.S. coral jurisdictions)

For specific questions regarding these priorities please contact the relevant NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program Regional Federal Program Officer:

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