



Coral Reef Stewardship Fund

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PARTNERS

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Aramco

ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) works with partners to foster sustainable and impactful conservation solutions so that people and nature thrive together. Chartered by Congress in 1984, NFWF has grown to become the nation's largest conservation foundation. Since its founding, NFWF has funded more than 23,300 projects that have generated a total conservation impact of \$11.3 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

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An award to Malama Kai Foundation will work with boating industry to conduct a state-wide assessment of mooring needs. | Photo credit: Malama Kai Foundation

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Aramco announced a 2025-year round of funding for Coral Reef Stewardship Fund projects. Eleven new coral reef conservation and management grants totaling \$2.3 million were awarded. The 11 awards announced leveraged \$2.2 million in matching contributions from the grantees, providing a total conservation impact of \$4.5 million.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Coral Reef Stewardship Fund is the principal public-private partnership established in the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000. The fund supports reef resiliency by reducing negative impacts from unsustainable fishing and land-based pollution and provides catalytic funding for innovation and capacity for reef restoration and management.

Since 2000, the program has awarded \$27.4 million across 437 projects, leveraging more than \$35.2 million in conservation resources. Grants have assisted broad-scale coral reef management by establishing new techniques for assessing and monitoring reef health and new fishery management models. Site-specific initiatives have developed and implemented watershed management plans, reduced sediment erosion through stream bank stabilization, provided incentives or best management practices on agricultural lands, and supported capacity building of management and conservation organizations to sustain outcomes.

Looking forward to the next 20 years, NFWF has updated its investment strategy, in cooperation with NOAA, to incorporate new thinking and breakthroughs in resilience and restoration science, and to increase the scale of projects to magnify its collective impact. The Coral Reef Stewardship Fund is NFWF's primary funding arm under the broader Coral Reefs program, and the funding opportunity that exclusively funds coral reefs. NFWF manages the Coral Reef Stewardship Fund in partnership with NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program, with additional support from NRCS and Aramco. In addition to providing a common framework for coral reef conservation strategies and monitoring for NFWF, the Coral Reef Stewardship Fund is an incubator for innovation, development and dissemination of best practices for coral management and threat reduction.

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Photo Credit: Marty Snyderman

Divers install commercial grade anchor moorings. | Photo credit: Malama Kai Foundation

FLORIDA**Expanding Aquaculture Training to Support Coral Propagation and Restoration (FL)**

Grantee: The College of the Florida Keys

Grant Amount: \$64,700

Matching Funds: \$64,700

Total Project Amount: \$129,400

Increase the capacity for coral propagation, research and restoration by converting available laboratory space in the Florida Keys. Project will support the development of the tools and systems necessary to train future coral restoration practitioners in coral husbandry.

Producing, Transporting and Stocking Diadema Urchins for Mission: Iconic Reefs (FL)

Grantee: University of Florida

Grant Amount: \$199,200

Matching Funds: \$200,800

Total Project Amount: \$400,000

Scale propagation and reef deployment of Diadema antillarum to support herbivore restoration at Mission: Iconic Reefs in the Florida Keys. Project will demonstrate the viability of a sea urchin stocking program that can be implemented at the scale needed to support large-scale coral reef restoration.

GUAM**Establishing and Supporting a Nonprofit in the Piti Bomb Holes Marine Preserve (GU)**

Grantee: Pacific Underwater Observatories

Grant Amount: \$72,900

Matching Funds: \$72,800

Total Project Amount: \$145,700

Establish the Friends of Fisheye nonprofit to support marine management and coral reef conservation in Guam's Piti Bomb Holes Marine Protected Area. Project will address a gap in capacity and assist local agencies and academic institutions with outreach, education and in-water management activities.

Increasing Agricultural Stewardship to Promote Coral Reef and Aquifer Health (GU)

Grantee: Northern Guam Soil & Water Conservation District

Grant Amount: \$113,900

Matching Funds: \$107,100

Total Project Amount: \$221,000

Pilot a program focused on soil testing around common dumpsites, facilitate cleanups, and assist agricultural producers and land owners to implement conservation practices. Project will engage agricultural producers in Guam to improve soil health and reduce land-based sources of pollution affecting nearshore coral reef systems.

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Nature-based Solutions for Healthy Reefs and Coastal Waters in Manell-Geus Watershed (GU)

Grantee: Bureau of Statistics and Plans

Grant Amount: \$225,000

Matching Funds: \$0

Total Project Amount: \$225,000

Install and monitor nature-based stormwater infrastructure and build capacity for long-term coral reef conservation.

Project will reduce threats to coral reefs in Guam by improving nearshore water quality.

HAWAII

Establish a Statewide Mooring Plan to Preserve Hawai'i's Coral Reefs

Grantee: Malama Kai Foundation

Grant Amount: \$367,900

Matching Funds: \$409,700

Total Project Amount: \$777,600

Develop a strategic mooring plan for the state of Hawai'i and install moorings in high use areas to reduce impacts to coral reefs. Project will conduct an environmental assessment to streamline the permitting process and install new day-use mooring buoys in Maui Nui to reduce anchor damage.

Increase Implementation Success of New Fisheries Management Area in Maunalua Bay (HI)

Grantee: Malama Maunalua

Grant Amount: \$129,800

Matching Funds: \$100,000

Total Project Amount: \$229,800

Increase engagement of fishers in the implementation of a new Fisheries Management Area. Project will work with stakeholders to increase fish species data collection and rule compliance and enforcement across coral reef restoration areas.

Partner with Ranchers to Reduce Sedimentation to Coral Reefs in Kihei (HI)

Grantee: Maui Nui Marine Resource Council

Grant Amount: \$230,100

Matching Funds: \$230,100

Total Project Amount: \$460,200

Reduce land-based pollution caused by ungulates from reaching coral reefs and evaluate nearshore reef recovery along Kihei. Project will work with ranchers to install fencing and provide data on the health of the reef to verify impact of these mitigation efforts for the state.

Capacity to Manage the Guánica Bay Watershed and Reduce Land-Based Pollution to Coral Reefs (PR)

Grantee: Protectores de Cuencas

Grant Amount: \$475,400

Matching Funds: \$551,300

Total Project Amount: \$1,026,700

Expand management capacity for the Guánica Bay watershed and implement a water quality program. Project will provide a feedback loop to local management and stakeholders to identify priorities for further mitigation efforts.

PUERTO RICO AND U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

Installation of a Floating Treatment Wetland to Reduce Land-based Threats to Coral Reefs in Culebra (PR)

Grantee: Protectores de Cuencas

Grant Amount: \$250,000

Matching Funds: \$250,000

Total Project Amount: \$500,000

Partner with the local wastewater facility to reduce inputs downstream to priority coral reefs. Project will install treatment wetlands as a low-cost solution to reduce sewage waste and associated nutrients from reaching coral reef habitats in Puerto Rico.

Reducing Land-based Pollution to Coral Reefs on the Northwestern Shore of St. Thomas (USVI)

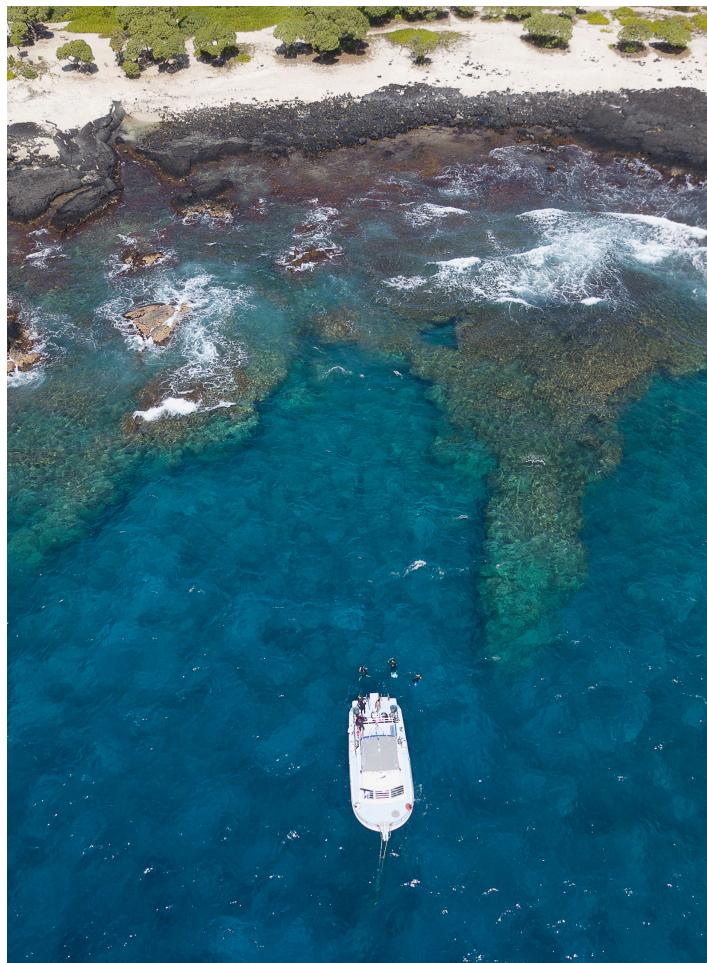
Grantee: Protectores de Cuencas

Grant Amount: \$200,000

Matching Funds: \$200,000

Total Project Amount: \$400,000

Establish riparian herbaceous buffers using vetiver grass and native plants to reduce land-based pollution reaching coral reefs. Project will engage farmers and the USDA to provide demonstration sites using vetiver to control sediment runoff and absorb nutrients.



Anchor moorings provide a safe place for boaters to tie their boats without damaging coral reefs. | Photo credit: Malama Kai Foundation