



NFWF

Coral Reef Conservation Fund 2017 Grant Slate

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ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores our nation's fish and wildlife and their habitats. Created by Congress in 1984, NFWF directs public conservation dollars to the most pressing environmental needs and matches those investments with private funds. Learn more at www.nfwf.org

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Orange cup coral, Puerto Rico

OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are pleased to announce the 2017 Coral Reef Conservation Fund grant program recipients. The goal of the program is to provide catalytic funding for innovation in management and science, as well as foundational capacity at the local level, both domestically and abroad. This year's Request for Proposals improved watershed planning and management on select priority domestic reefs and specific goals in understanding and increasing reef fish species that play a critical role in coral reef resilience. In the international portfolio, priorities focused on implementing regional coral reef marine protected area initiatives in the Caribbean, Micronesia and the Coral Triangle, as well as local capacity support for implementation of skills acquired from recent training workshops.

The following 21 projects address three key strategies in coral reef conservation that are prioritized in the NOAA/NFWF partnership:

- Targeted watershed planning and runoff abatement
- Increasing herbivorous fish biomass
- Increasing capacity for management

The project slate represents a total recommended award amount of \$1.75 million, which will be further leveraged by \$1.82 million in grantee matching contributions for a total on-the-ground impact of \$3.57 million.

(continued)



Coral reef, Indonesia

Expand Community-Based Coral Reef Conservation to 100 Additional Communities in Eastern Indonesia

Grantee: Indonesia Locally Managed Marine Area Foundation

Coral Award:..... \$45,000

Matching Funds: \$50,000

Total Project:\$95,000

Indonesia Locally Managed Marine Area Foundation will expand and strengthen the Locally Managed Marine Areas network in Eastern Indonesia through outreach, training and coordination with the District government. The project will expand community-based coral reef management to 100 new communities, bringing an estimated 450,000 acres of coral reef into the network for sustainable management.

Establish a Learning Network to Build Capacity for Coral Reef Management in the Wider Caribbean

Grantee: Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute

Coral Award:.....\$129,360

Matching Funds: \$35,705

Total Project: \$165,065

Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute will establish a peer-to-peer learning exchange network for marine protected area managers in 10 countries within the Wider Caribbean. The project will provide training as well as the peer-to-peer learning exchanges, and support site-specific follow-up projects to address management capacity needs identified in the 2017 management capacity assessment.

Enhance Mangrove Resilience and Protection through Adaptive Management Strategies in Grenada

Grantee: Sandy Island/Oyster Bed Marine Protected Area

Coral Award:..... \$45,000

Matching Funds: \$45,000

Total:.....\$90,000

Sandy Island/Oyster Bed Marine Protected Area will develop a robust protocol for the effective management of mangrove habitats at the Sandy Island/Oyster Bed Marine Protected Area in Grenada Grenadines. The project will secure the protection of the largest mangrove system in the Eastern Caribbean.

Enhancing Enforcement Capacity for Coral Reef Management and Protection in the Turks & Caicos Islands

Grantee: MPA Enforcement International LLC

Coral Award:..... \$75,000

Matching Funds: \$75,000

Total Project: \$150,000

MPA Enforcement International LLC will provide tailored enforcement training for park, law enforcement and management personnel working in marine protected areas of the Turks and Caicos Islands. The project will include a country-specific assessment of enforcement needs, followed by a customized training workshop with participation from relevant enforcement agencies.

Integrating Ecology and Population Connectivity into Marine Area Management for the Mesoamerican Reef

Grantee: Smithsonian Institution, Natural History Museum

Coral Award:..... \$119,601

Matching Funds: \$119,601

Total Project: \$239,202

Smithsonian Institution, Natural History Museum will support coral reef regional planning across 12 priority reefs in Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and Honduras by building local capacity to interpret ecological and genetic data and using available models to manage important reef fish stocks beyond protected area borders. The project will provide training for at least two management organizations in each of the four countries to develop targeted conservation strategies and monitor changes in coral reef ecosystems resulting from management.

Implement Sediment and Erosion Control Practices in Guánica Watershed to Benefit Coral Reefs (PR)

Grantee: Protectores de Cuencas

Coral Award:..... \$148,465

Matching Funds: \$155,325

Total Project: \$303,790

Protectores de Cuencas will employ and evaluate the effectiveness of different methods to stabilize erosion from dirt roads throughout upland farms with highly erodible steep slopes in the Guánica Watershed. The project will develop guidance for farmers and the National Resource Conservation Service regarding the most suitable methods to be implemented and will stabilize at least 20 acres along eroded roadways.

Establish a Monitoring Program for the Guánica Watershed Management Plan (PR)

Grantee: Villanova University

Coral Award:..... \$84,965

Matching Funds: \$128,467

Total Project: \$213,432

Villanova University will deploy new wireless remote

sensors to measure water quality characteristics like sediment and nutrient runoff from the Lajas Valley agricultural area in the greater Guánica Watershed. The project will inform management of threat sources and peak periods from the Lajas Valley and determine whether the health of the Guánica Bay reefs is changing over time as a result of restoration efforts within the watershed.

Reducing Coral Reef Fish Bycatch and Mortality in Spiny Lobster Traps (FL)

Grantee: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Fish and Wildlife Research Institute

Coral Award:..... \$81,826

Matching Funds: \$81,826

Total Project: \$163,652

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Fish and Wildlife Research Institute will engage commercial fishermen in testing whether escape gaps can reduce coral reef fish bycatch and improve or maintain lobster catch at the same time. The project will reduce the impact of the Florida spiny lobster fishery to coral reef fish species by evaluating different size and placement combinations of escape gaps minimize bycatch and mortality.

Setting Hawaii's Coral Reef Fisheries on a Path to Sustainability through Community-Based Management

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy – Hawaii

Coral Award:..... \$100,000

Matching Funds: \$100,000

Total Project: \$200,000

The Nature Conservancy – Hawaii will develop a data-limited stock assessment and fisheries management plan for key coral reef species in Hawaii, with a focus on the Maui Nui island complex. The project will improve the sustainable management of nearshore fish stocks through improved scientific and decision-making capacity that directly engages state/federal agencies and local fishing communities in co-management efforts.

Online Tool to Provide Access to Baseline Information on Coral Reef Condition in the United States

Grantee: Marine Applied Research Center

Coral Award:..... \$149,968

Matching Funds: \$150,000

Total Project: \$299,968

Marine Applied Research Center will develop an on-line interface that allows the annual coral reef monitoring data in United States to be readily merged into reports for easy analysis and adaptive management. The project will produce a State of Coral Reefs report for the United States coral jurisdictions and develop a process that ensures that similar reports can be created efficiently in the future.

Sustainably Managing Coral Reefs

and Fisheries in Milolii, South Kona Hawaii

Grantee: Conservation International Foundation

Coral Award:..... \$59,384

Matching Funds: \$59,416

Total Project: \$118,800

Conservation International Foundation will develop a management plan for the Milolii Community-based Subsistence Fishing Area on Hawaii island, approved as a co-management area by the state in 2008, to effectively manage its coral reef fisheries. The project will assist community leaders in establishing a management plan for sustainable fisheries and establish a monitoring program to understand the long-term ecosystems impacts of the selected management strategies.

Decrease Sedimentation in Honokowai Watershed in West Maui to Benefit Nearshore Coral Reefs (HI)

Grantee: Ridge to Reefs

Coral Award:..... \$80,000

Matching Funds: \$80,000

Total Project: \$160,000

Ridge to Reefs will stabilize soil through vegetation planting to prevent runoff from dirt roads and abandoned agricultural lands from being transported into the gulches and out to the coral reefs in West Maui. The project will mitigate sedimentation runoff at eight previously prioritized sites and prioritize opportunities to reduce nutrient loading from nearshore development such as golf courses and hotels in the Honokowai and Wahikuli watersheds.

Advancing New Molecular Tools to Identify Thresholds of Key Stressors to Coral Reefs (HI)

University of Hawaii – Manoa

Coral Award:..... \$75,128

Matching Funds: \$75,498

Total Project: \$150,626

University of Hawaii – Manoa will establish tools to provide qualitative and quantitative analyses of common threats to coral health to aid in building reduction targets and monitoring metrics for assessing ecosystem response to management interventions. The project will build on successful tests in the field to further refine and reduce the costs of application to meet the needs of local managers.

Using Social Marketing Strategies to Address Polluted Stormwater Runoff in West Maui (HI)

Grantee: Project S.E.A. Link

Coral Award:..... \$30,000

Matching Funds: \$50,000

Total Project: \$80,000

Project S.E.A. Link will engage the communities and local business of West Maui, Hawaii through a storm drain

stenciling program. The project will raise awareness around the harmful impact of land-based pollution upon coral reefs and promote green practices by local property owners through partnering local property manager's community groups, youth and County of Maui personnel in a stewardship activity.

Community Based Watershed Action Plan to Increase Resilience for Coral Reefs in Vatia (AS)

Grantee: Ridge to Reefs

Coral Award:..... \$85,000

Matching Funds: \$85,000

Total Project: \$170,000

Ridge to Reefs will assist the American Samoa Coral Reef Advisory Group and other local partners in creating a community based watershed plan for Vatia, American Samoa and engage the community in one project to address water quality. The project will identify sources of pollution, restoration projects and estimated costs, as well as provide a roadmap for implementation to achieve identified goals in threat reduction and nearshore coral reef improvements.

Reducing Reef-Damaging Sediment Runoff by Restoring Native Taro Farming in West Maui, Hawaii

Grantee: The Coral Reef Alliance

Coral Award:..... \$120,001

Matching Funds: \$122,765

Total Project: \$242,766

The Coral Reef Alliance will restore historical taro (lo'i) beds in the Honokowai watershed to reduce land-based runoff to coral reefs and produce a guidebook on how to effectively employ this practice as a stream restoration tool across Hawaii. The project will provide a demonstration site for using traditional agriculture to provide filtration for excess sediment and nutrients and to quantify the load reduction benefits of this practice for consideration in future projects.

Evaluate Herbivore Management for Supporting Recovery and Resiliency in Hawaii's Coral Reefs

Grantee: University of Hawaii

Coral Award:..... \$48,454

Matching Funds: \$48,454

Total Project: \$96,908

University of Hawaii will work with state managers to evaluate the role of herbivorous fish in the resiliency of coral reefs and to identify management strategies that are both practical and ecologically effective to reach management goals. The project will address the threat of unsustainable extraction of key reef fish (particularly herbivores) in Hawaii through the co-development of a decision-support tool that combines coral resiliency science with fishery management data.



Parrotfish

South Maui Community Coastal Water Quality Monitoring Program (HI)

Grantee: Maui Nui Marine Resources Council

Coral Award:..... \$75,190

Matching Funds: \$75,190

Total Project: \$150,380

Maui Nui Marine Resources Council will expand federally accredited community water quality monitoring program to South Maui to help understand areas of land-based runoff to nearshore coral reefs. The project will outfit a laboratory in South Maui, Hawaii with water quality monitoring supplies and equipment, train leads and volunteers and begin coastal water quality sampling in a region with biologically important coral reefs.

Invasive Lionfish Control and Management in the Coral Reef Systems of Southeast Florida

Grantee: Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida

Coral Award:..... \$89,500

Matching Funds: \$174,500

Total Project: \$264,000

Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida will coordinate an education, research and management initiative to reduce the population growth and spread of the invasive lionfish species across southeast Florida. The project will coordinate removal derbies to remove thousands of non-native lionfish in one-day events, research attractants to increase their capture and conduct collection, handling and culinary workshops.

Use Fish DNA to Create a New Predictative Fisheries Management Tool for Micronesia

Grantee: The University of Guam

Coral Award:..... \$48,445

Matching Funds: \$50,000

Total Project: \$98,445

The University of Guam will create a new tool that combines fisheries-dependent data with genetic markers to predict how important reef fish families such as parrotfishes, surgeonfishes, snappers and emperorfishes will respond to different types of fishing pressure.

Expanding the Reach of Community-Based Resource Management for Coral Reefs in the Solomon Islands

Grantee: Conservation International Foundation

Coral Award:..... \$60,856

Matching Funds: \$61,000

Total Project: \$121,856

Conservation International Foundation will empower communities in the Solomon Islands to select strategies, such as the prohibition on the use of cyanide, protection of spawning areas and limits on mangrove harvesting, to meet their management goals for the coral reef and fish resources under their control. The project will work with ten communities overseeing an estimated 700 square miles of coral reef habitat to establish conservation measures and sustainably manage their marine resources.