

# CNMI Wildlife Action Plan

Conserving fish and wildlife resources for this and future generations



# What is the Wildlife Action Plan?

All states and territories are required by the US Fish and Wildlife to come up with a Wildlife Action Plan that covers a 10 year period and outlines conservation goals, objectives and actions that will be taken within that state to conserve fish and wildlife populations.

The wildlife action plan allows each state and territory to be eligible for certain funding sources that are NOT available if they don't have a plan. The plan is useful for coordinating conservation efforts across agencies and between the government and private groups who conduct conservation projects within the Marianas. The first CNMI WAP was drafted in 2005, it was revised in 2015, and we are revising it again now - the revisions we are working on now are due late 2025.

## 2015 CNMI WAP





# The WAP has Broad Objectives and Actions:

Includes objectives/actions on these topics:

Invasive species

Enforcement and regulations

Outreach and education

Marine Protected Areas

Coral reef restoration

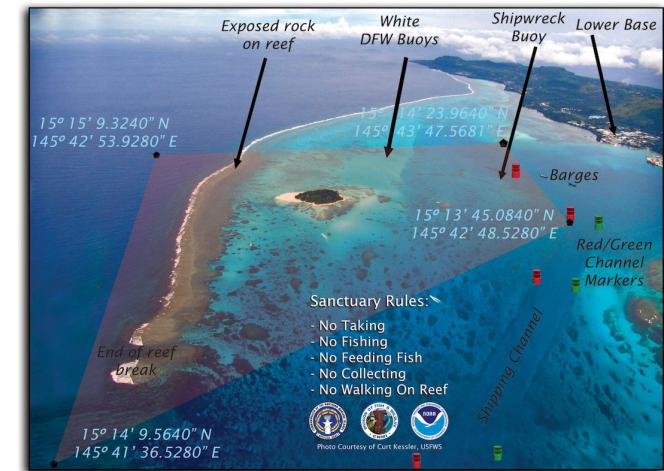
Reduction of trash pollution

Qualified and stable workforce in conservation

Strategic implementation

Recovery of endangered species

## Mañagaha Marine Conservation Area A Fully Protected No-take Area



CNMI's Marine Protected Areas  
Protecting our reefs and fish so they  
can be enjoyed today and tomorrow.

Call 664-6000/30/31 to report violations.



# The WAP Identifies Species of Greatest Conservation Need:

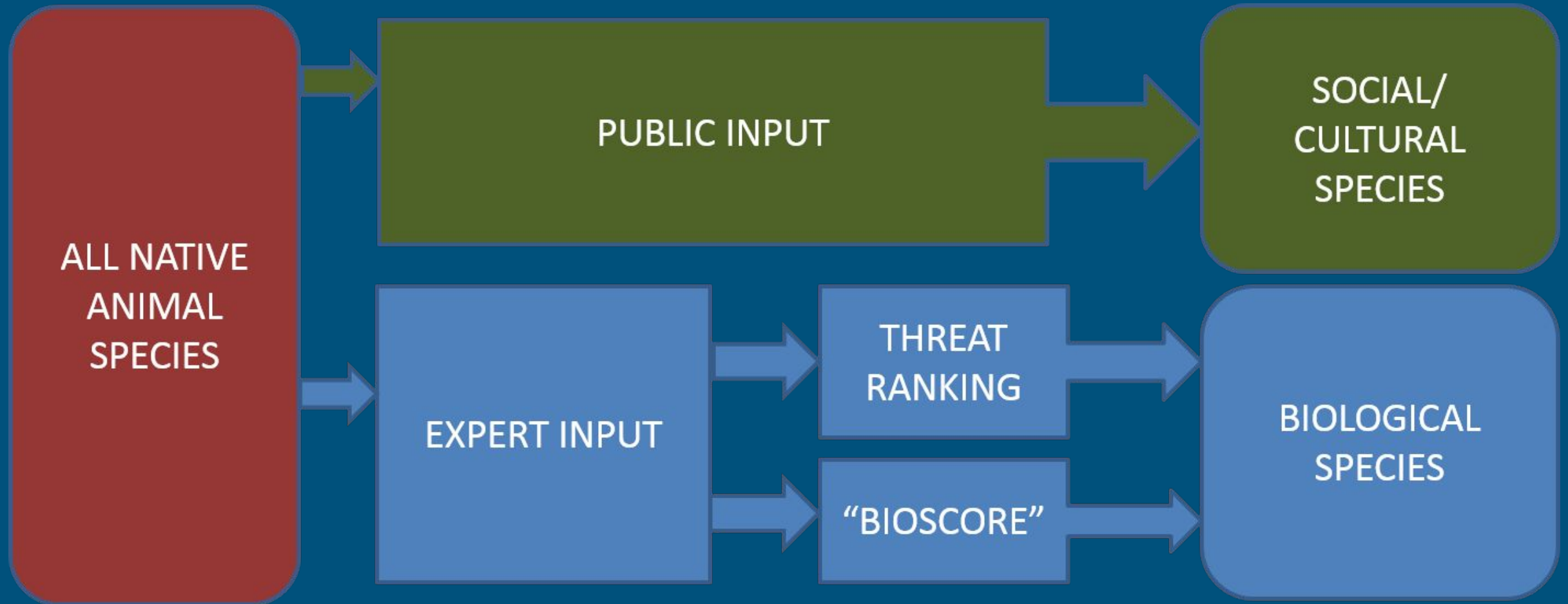
“Species of Greatest Conservation Need” (SGCN) are those animal species or groups of particular importance to the people of the CNMI for biological, cultural, or economic reasons. These species are selected using a rigorous selection process.



James Herndon

SGCN *Acropora* coral in Saipan

# Selection of Species of Greatest Conservation Need





Full list of Species of Greatest Conservation Need can be found on the DLNR website.

<https://dlnr.cnmi.gov/conservation-planning.html>



# Limits of the Wildlife Action Plan:

- The plan is NOT an endangered species list involving regulations and restrictions.
- It is not a regulatory document - some species on the SGCN list are endangered and are locally and federally protected - however, not all species that are important to the CNMI are endangered. Species that are important culturally or economically are a management priority to ensure persistence of their populations.
- The plan is NOT a rule book, the document should be used to guide and plan; should be fluid and flexible.

# Review of 2015 WAP

Highlights from the last 10 years from the 2015 WAP goals and actions:

- ★ Two coral nurseries established on Saipan which outplant and rehabilitate threatened corals
- ★ New conservation laws including coral reef protection law of 2017 and greater monitoring of fish markets
- ★ Continued marine monitoring in Saipan lagoon to determine presence and distribution of important marine species
- ★ Research projects aimed at answering key questions about the life history, population status and distribution patterns for our endangered species including Chichirikan Tinian, Ga' ga' karisu, and akale'ha
- ★ Åga captive rear and release program successfully established on Rota
- ★ Increase in education and on-the-job training opportunities ensuring a consistent local workforce within conservation



This is not an exhaustive list, many agencies have completed projects outlined in the 2015 WAP that are not featured in this highlight reel. There are too many fantastic conservation projects to mention here. Please visit our website and facebook page for more information on conservation projects in the CNMI.

<https://www.facebook.com/CNMI.DLNR> <https://www.facebook.com/cnmidfz> <https://dlr.cnmi.gov/>



## Highlights from the last 10 years from the 2015 WAP goals and actions:

- ★ Coral reef nurseries and coral reef monitoring on Saipan ensure our reefs are healthy and resilient to changing conditions.



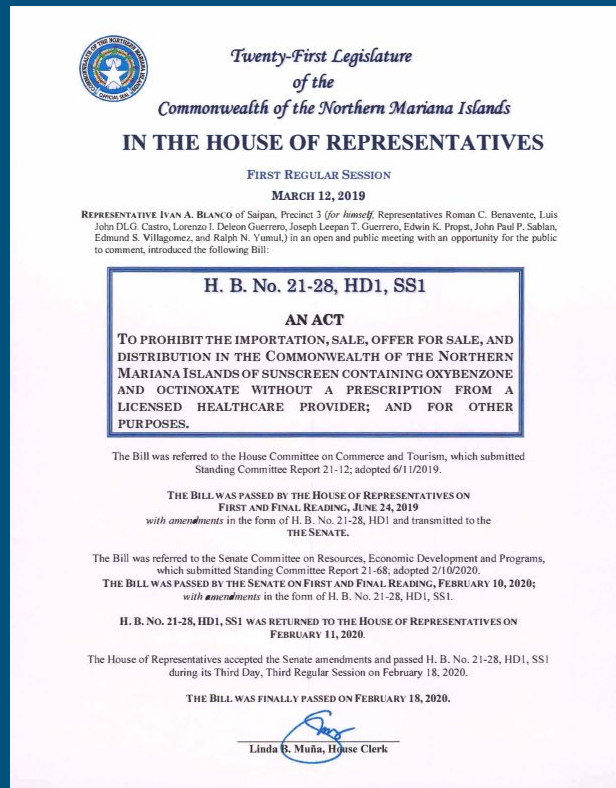
Johnston Applied Marine Sciences coral nursery  
<https://jamssaipan.com/>



DCRM Marine Monitoring program  
<https://dcrm.gov.mp/our-programs/marine-monitoring-program/>

# Highlights from the last 10 years from the 2015 WAP goals and actions:

- ★ New conservation laws including coral reef protection law of 2017 and greater monitoring of fish markets



2017  
sunscreen law



Fish market  
data  
collection





## Highlights from the last 10 years from the 2015 WAP goals and actions:

- ★ Research projects aimed at answering key questions about the life history, population status and distribution patterns for our SGCN including but limited to: Chichirikan Tinian, Ga' ga' karisu, and Akale'ha





## Highlights from the last 10 years from the 2015 WAP goals and actions:

- ★ Åga captive rear and release program successfully established on Rota to bolster species recovery goals. <https://www.facebook.com/MarianaCrowRecoveryProject>



Children interacting with captive åga at outreach event on Rota



Captive reared åga being released into the wild on Rota



Hand reared åga chick



# Highlights from the last 10 years from the 2015 WAP goals and actions:

- ★ Increased education and on-the-job training opportunities ensuring a consistent local workforce within conservation.



# CNMI Wildlife Action Plan Revisions

The WAP is revised every 10 years. Minor revisions can be made at any time, however, major revisions are required every 10 years. Major revisions include:

- Reassessing status of all current and candidate Species of Greatest Conservation Need
- Public and stakeholder participation
- Updated goals, objectives, and planned actions





Which species should receive more conservation attention?

What kind of conservation actions would you like to see in the CNMI?

What are some of our greatest  
conservation challenges in the CNMI?





# Look for future drafts and opportunities to provide input



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[conservation.planner.dfw@gmail.com](mailto:conservation.planner.dfw@gmail.com)

