

Wildlife Restoration Grant Program Final Performance Report

**Wildlife Technical Guidance and Disaster Readiness
F21AF03871**

**Submitted by
The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Lands and Natural Resources
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Manny Pangelinan, Director**



**Period Covered:
October 01, 2021 – September 30, 2022**

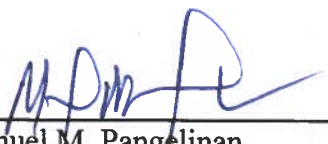
FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2022
Pittman and Robertson Wildlife Restoration

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Department of Lands and Natural Resources

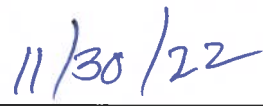
Prepared By:
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Reviewed By:
Steve Mullin, Wildlife Section Supervisor

Approved by:



Manuel M. Pangelinan
Director, Division of Fish and Wildlife



Date

Annual Performance Report

1. State: Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Federal Grant Identifier: F21AF03871 (Final Performance Report)

Grant Name: Wildlife Technical Guidance and Disaster Readiness FY2022

Project Name: Wildlife Technical Guidance and Disaster Readiness FY2022

2. Report Period: October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022

3. Location of work: Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, CNMI

4. Costs:

SOURCE	BUDGETED	ESTIMATED COST
Federal:	\$ [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
State:	0	0
Other:	0	0
Total Federal:	\$ [REDACTED]	\$ [REDACTED]
Total Match:	0	0
TOTAL PROJECT:	\$ [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

5. Objectives and Target Activities:

1. Review 400 projects and plans by September 30, 2022. (TRACS Strategy-Environmental Review)
2. Participate on 3 technical committees by September 30, 2022. (TRACS Strategy-Planning)
3. Directly manage 1 species by September 30, 2022 to alleviate impacts of new predation threats. (TRACS Strategy-Direct Habitat and Species Management)
4. Directly manage restoration and recovery of 200 individuals by September 30, 2022 through recovery and rehabilitation of wildlife following catastrophes. (TRACS Strategy-Direct Habitat and Species Management)
5. Develop 1 plan by September 30, 2022. (TRACS Strategy- Planning)

6. If the work in this grant or project was part of a larger undertaking with other components and funding, present a brief overview of the larger activity and the role of this project.

N/A

7. Accounting of Accomplishments:

Objective 1: Review 400 projects and plans by September 30, 2022.

During FY22, we reviewed 150 (132 on Saipan, 13 on Rota, 5 on Tinian) land use and development projects for impacts to wildlife and their associated habitats. On-site wildlife surveys were conducted as part of the review process, along with providing applications with project-specific strategies to avoid or minimize impacts to wildlife and habitat. Conservation recommendations were provided to the DFW Director in the form of a report. Each report contained information and data collected from each site, along with conservation recommendations, to assist the DFW Director in his final project determination.

The number of land use and development projects submitted to DFW for review has decreased by about 40% (Figure 1) compared to FY21. This decrease may be a result of supply chain issues and inflation likely caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Approximately 84% of all projects reviewed for the past 10 years occurred on Saipan. Tinian had 11% and Rota had 6% of the projects. Special status species were detected at 30 of the project sites on Saipan. No special status species were detected on project sites in Rota or Tinian.

There was a slight increase in the number of information requests received this fiscal year. We responded to 46 information requests pertaining to individuals', groups', and agencies' site and project review that did not require an on-the-ground wildlife survey. Information provided highlighted potential wildlife concerns and stipulations associated with the use and development of a property, conservation program, or wildlife policy.

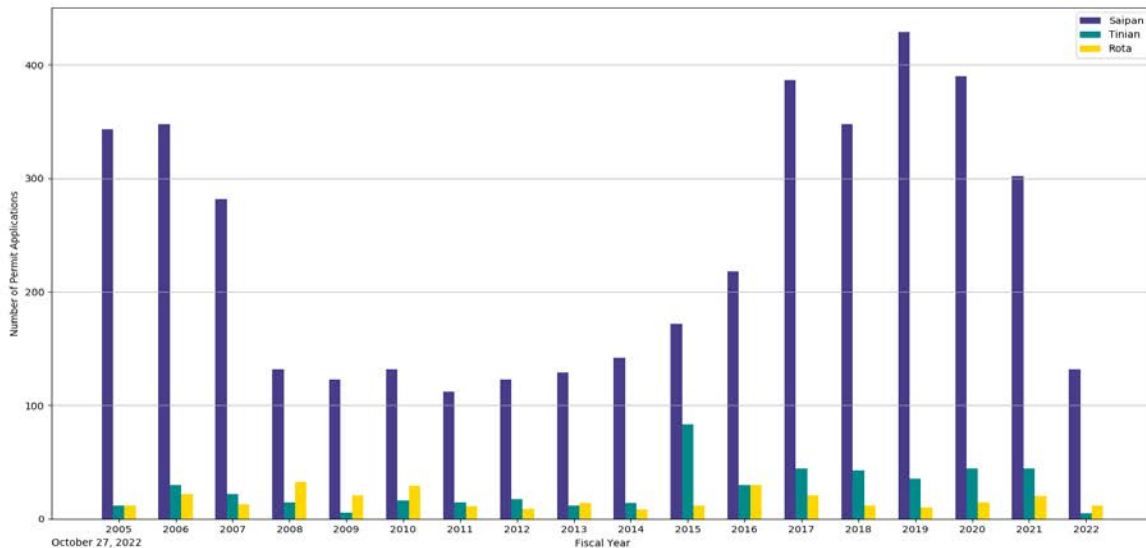


Figure 1. Total applications reviewed per fiscal year FY05-FY22. FEMA pre-application reviews are included for FY19 and FY20.

Objective 2: Participate on 3 technical committees by September 30, 2022.

DFW staff participated in multiple technical committees during FY2022.

- Staff engaged in the annual Joint Region Marianas Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) metrics meetings on September 2022.
- Staff engaged in a week-long technical working group for the Tinian Divert Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement in May 2022.
- Staff reviewed 22 scientific research proposals in FY2022 as part of DFW's Scientific Research Committee. We made recommendations to ensure that study site selection and methods would minimize impacts to natural resources and wildlife. We also made recommendations to ensure that their research would provide information useful for future conservation decisions within the CNMI.

Objective 3 & 4: Directly manage 1 species to alleviate impacts of new predation threats; directly manage restoration and recovery of 200 individuals through recovery and rehabilitation of wildlife following catastrophes by September 30, 2022.

The CNMI did not experience any wildlife disasters throughout FY2022 and therefore, large-scale recovery and rehabilitation efforts were not required. DFW periodically receives phone calls concerning a single injured bird. Staff responds to each call to recover injured birds. Rehabilitated birds are released back into the area where they were recovered.

Objective 5: Develop 1 plan by September 30, 2022.

DFW was not successful at hiring a biologist in FY2022 to manage the Technical Guidance Program and develop the CNMI Habitat Management Plan. We were, however, successful in hiring a biologist at the end of FY2022 and expect the start date to be in February 2023.

8. Project outputs and outcomes:

Reports for each of the 150 proposed land use and development projects were produced with project-specific wildlife impact avoidance and conservation recommendations. We wrote responses or recommendation letters for each of the 22 extra-agency scientific research proposals and 46 information requests. There were no credible sightings of Brown tree snakes or wildlife disasters in FY22. The USGS was not able to recruit enough attendees for the full course Brown Tree Snake Rapid Response training that was slated for October 2021. DFW hired a biologist to manage the Technical Guidance Program with expected start date in February 2022.

9. Evaluation of project implementation:

Implementation generally followed the proposed approach and timeline. Wildlife staff were able to complete all needed tasks within the grant period.

10. Project Staff:

Frances G. Sablan, Steve Mullin, Emilie Kohler, Robert Ulloa, Amanda Santos, Lee Roy Sablan, Bronson Curry, Charles Mendiola, Chicko Arurang.

11. Name, title, phone number, and e-mail address of person compiling this report:

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