



Guam National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 8134, MOU-3
Dededo, Guam 96912

Change of address requested.

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The CCP is
completed!

How Can I Help?

Implementing the plan will require continued citizen and community support. We will need volunteers and partners to help with new and expanded environmental education, interpretation, outreach, habitat restoration, and wildlife and habitat monitoring. You can help by:

- Becoming a volunteer.
- Assisting the Refuge with projects and programs.
- Helping us promote the Refuge in the community as a place for wildlife and people.

Points of Contact

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Visit the Refuge's Web site at <http://www.fws.gov/guam/>

Visit the planning Web site at <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/planning> and select the link for "Projects Online" then select "Guam NWR" to view the final CCP, Draft CCP/EA, and planning updates.

General information about Refuges and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available at <http://www.fws.gov>.



Greetings from Guam National Wildlife Refuge

This is the final Planning Update in a series of updates distributed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to keep you informed about the progress of the Guam National Wildlife Refuge's (Refuge) Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP). This update provides a summary of our responses to comments on the draft document and our decision for managing the Refuge.



Niyon (Cordia subcordata) at Ritidian Point / © Daniel Clark

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Guam National Wildlife Refuge

Planning Update 4, May 2010

The Comprehensive Conservation Plan is Complete

We are pleased to announce that the Refuge's CCP is completed. We have selected Alternative B. We thank all the individuals and organizations who participated in our planning process and provided valuable comments. The CCP planning team has responded to

substantive public comments to develop the final CCP, which will guide Refuge management for the next 15 years. You can obtain a copy of the CCP on the Internet at <http://pacific.fws.gov/> or by contacting the Refuge at (671) 355-5096.

What Happens Next?

The following projects, identified in the CCP, will be implemented as funding becomes available.

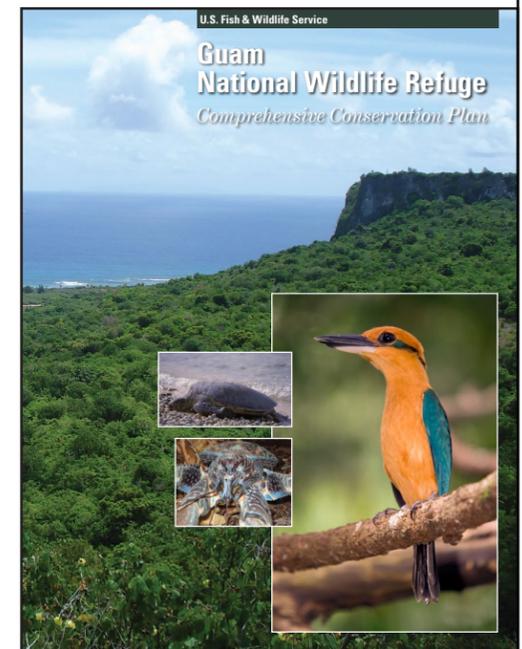
Habitat Management.

Construction of a predator-proof barrier; restoration of limestone forest and beach strand habitats; and control of pest plants and animals are high priorities under the CCP.

Public Uses. Priority projects include developing observation and photography trails (see map on page 3), and increasing outreach and environmental education opportunities.

Threatened and Endangered Species.

The Service will work with Federal and Territorial agencies to develop captive rearing and soft release sites to aid in re-establishing populations of federally listed threatened and endangered species on the Refuge. In addition, Refuge staff will



Cover of the CCP / USFWS

continue to seasonally monitor beach areas for turtle nests.

Cultural Resources. Preservation and protection of Guam's tangible cultural resources and Guam's native heritage practices will be given additional consideration. Sites such as caves, latte stones, and middens will be cataloged and mapped.

Summary of Public Involvement and Outreach

We are grateful for the public interest expressed during the 30-day public review and comment period for the draft CCP and Environmental Assessment. The draft was released on July 20, 2009. It was available in book form, compact disk, and posted on the Service's Web

site. During the public comment period, we held two open houses on August 4 and 6, 2009, in Dededo and Hagatna, respectively. We distributed Planning Updates to approximately 300 individuals, including Refuge neighbors; nonprofit organizations; local, Territorial, and Federal agencies;

and elected officials. In the update we provided a summary of Draft CCP/EA actions. We received 15 comments from agencies and individuals. The comments and our responses are presented in the final CCP. Major comments are summarized in the following table.

Summary of Comments, Responses, and Changes to the CCP

Subject	Comments	Responses and Changes to CCP
Uranao Right-of-Way	A number of individuals expressed concern about the proposal to relocate an established right-of-way. Concerns included the grade of the access, materials that would be used to develop it, and clearing undisturbed forest for such a small habitat gain.	We removed this proposal from the final CCP. The cost, effort, and habitat disturbance would likely not have commensurate benefits to wildlife in the long run.
Original Land Acquisition	Adjacent and former landowners of Ritidian Point attended the public open houses to express their desire for the Refuge to return lands acquired in fee-title to the original owners. One individual requested a disposition alternative be considered.	Guam National Wildlife Refuge is an important natural resource for the Territory of Guam and the United States. The conservation priorities and strategies outlined in the CCP could result in repatriating extirpated bird and bat species to Guam. We are committed to managing the land for the benefit of native wildlife and their habitats. Given the benefit to native birds, we did not consider disposition of the Refuge.
Refuge Hours of Operation	A number of individuals expressed concern about the limited hours for public access. Access for fishing earlier in the morning and on Federal holidays is desired.	At this time, increasing the number of hours the Refuge is open is not possible because the number of staff members working on the Refuge is very small. We will reconsider increasing the open hours when staff levels increase.
Coordination with Andersen AFB	One comment requested that the Refuge work more proactively on Andersen Air Force Base (AFB) lands.	Refuge staff continue to work with environmental staff at Andersen AFB, Naval Base Guam, and the Service's Ecological Services Division to develop habitat management and enhancement opportunities.
Fishing	Guam's Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources suggested requiring permits or licenses to fish on the Refuge. This could be a way to monitor sale or trade of fish caught on the Refuge.	In addition to the specific requirements and restrictions listed in the Code of Federal Regulations, Territorial regulations apply in Refuge waters. Requiring a Refuge-specific fishing license or permit would require changing the Code of Federal Regulations. There are a number of items in the CCP that will require such a change, such as eliminating take of humphead wrasse and humphead parrotfish. We will evaluate the necessity of requiring a permit to fish in conjunction with the other changes. As outlined in the CCP, we will continue to collect data during creel surveys, and hope to track the amount of fish taken off the Refuge to refine additional Refuge-specific regulations in the future, if necessary.

