

Guam Habitat Conservation Plan (Guam HCP)



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Else Demeulenaere, Caley Chargualaf
Jay Gutierrez, Jeff Quitugua
Lily Sweikert, Lydia Dadd



Endangered Species Act



- 23 new Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed species in Mariana Islands in 2015
- Listed species on Guam:
 - 14 plants
 - Mariana eight-spot butterfly
 - Slevin's skink (Cocos Island, SW coast)
 - Guam tree snail
 - Fragile tree snail
 - Fadang – Cycad



PC: Tom Schils



PC: Scott Vogt



PC: Curt Fiedler



Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act



- For non-Federal activities, an **Incidental Take Permit (ITP)** under Section 10 of the ESA is required if a project will **take** ESA-listed species
- “Take” is **killing and harming endangered species = illegal**
- To obtain an ITP, a **Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)** must be prepared:
 - An HCP is a **document** that describes activities, species, impacts, and conservation
 - HCPs must **fully offset impacts** (take) of covered species

Covered Species



Basic Building Blocks Guam HCP

Guam HCP (Programmatic)

Permit area = all non-federal land on Guam

ITP covers the whole permit area

Permit term = 30 years

Covered activities in Guam HCP include new public and private development projects; maintenance and operations activities by utilities, GovGuam agencies

17 covered species

Conservation strategy covers all 17 species

Conservation must be permanent because impacts are permanent

Benefits of the Guam HCP

Benefits to Landowners	Benefits to Developers	Benefits to Environment
▪ Streamlines local and federal permit process ▪ Improves predictability of the permit process ▪ No need for individual ITP from USFWS ▪ Provides certainty in timeline and mitigation costs ▪ Creates market for fee title or conservation easement	▪ Streamlined local and federal permitting process ▪ Improves predictability of the permit process ▪ Less costly more efficient process to receive ESA permits ▪ ESA permit applications occur in tandem with other building, clearing, & grading permits through DPW	▪ Protection of covered species and their habitats in perpetuity ▪ HCP Reserve Network ▪ Comprehensive approach to land conservation ▪ Protect listed plant species



Conservation Strategy



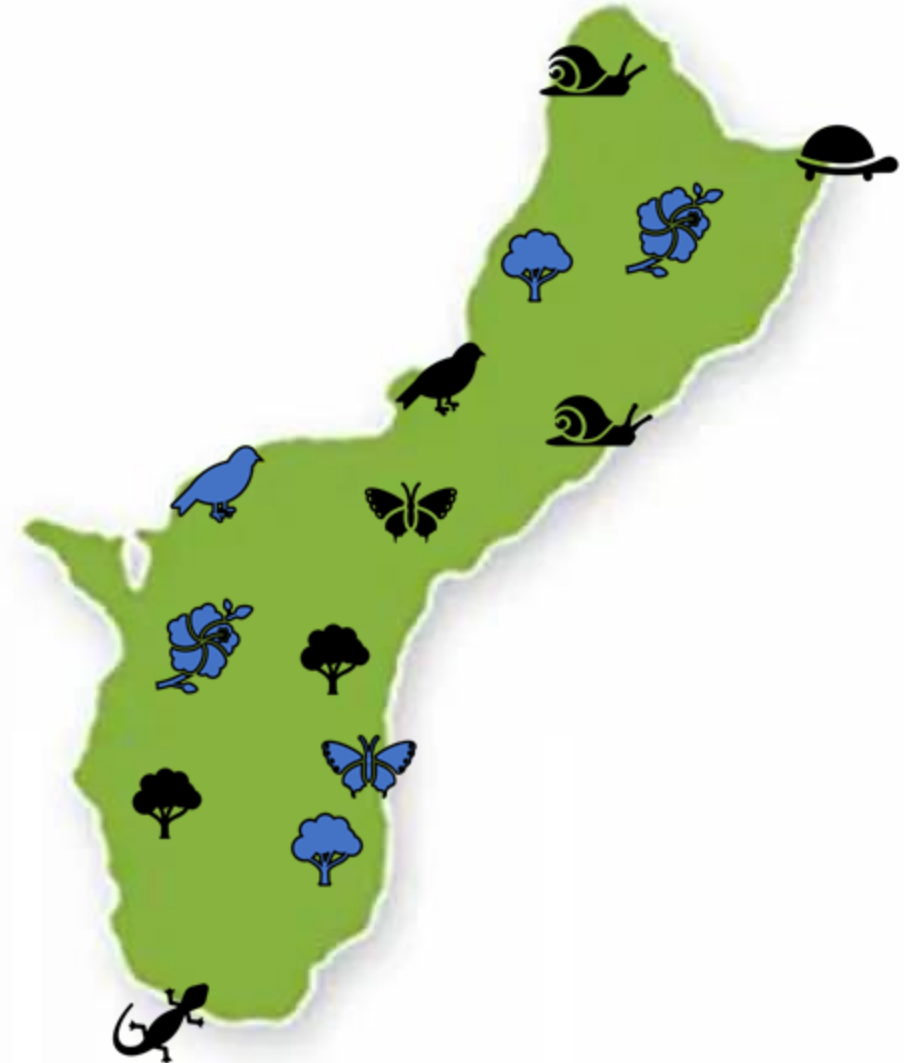
Zooming in on Mitigation: Conservation

- Reserve Network Protection
- Reserve Network Management
- Other Plan-Area Wide Actions
- Conservation must stay ahead of impacts
 - Land acquisition
 - Impacts are offset at different mitigation ratios, depending on value to the covered species

Limestone
Forest



Mixed Introduced
Forest



Guam HCP Reserve Network

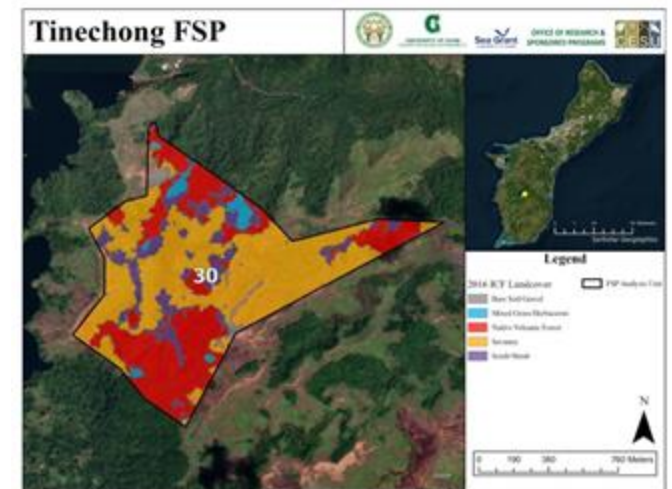
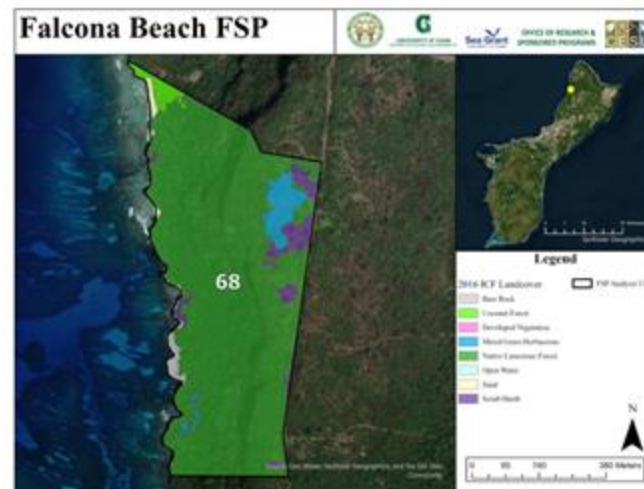
Occupied habitat with covered species + **Non-occupied** suitable habitat for covered species



Guam HCP Reserve Network

- Forest System Plan (identified parcels)
- Sentinel Landscape (conservation easements, old bullock cart trails)
 - These parcels can connect FSP parcels, or make them accessible
- Willing sellers
- Donations

Methods: Surveys of FSP



Accessibility



- Protect and conserve:
 - Endemic species and their habitats
 - **Cultural** heritage: healers can collect *āmot*
- Hiking on designated trails
- Do not disturb wildlife

PC: Scott Vogt



Updated Permitting Process for receiving Take Coverage

PROPOSED PROCESS

Applicant Submits Application for HCP Coverage to DOAG

Screening Criteria
The project must be:

- ✓ In the permit area
- ✓ Proposed by an applicant that qualifies for take coverage
- ✓ A covered activity

DOAG inspects:

- Effects on key land cover types
- Effects on covered species habitat
- Proximity to no-take species
- Concurrence with HCP maps

ADDITIONAL EFFECTS

- DOAG determines surveys (depending on location, proposed projects may require surveys for no-take species, covered snails, and covered plants)
- Applicant pays for surveys (via qualified biologist) and submits survey results to DOAG
- DOAG determines conditions on covered activities
- DOAG determines fees, which are greater in key land cover types and covered species habitat
- Applicant must pay the assigned fees

NO ADDITIONAL EFFECTS OR

Applicant modifies the project to avoid such impacts:

- DOAG assigns general conditions on covered activities
- DOAG determines fees
- Applicant must pay the assigned fees

DOAG signs application.
With permit conditions,
application is submitted to
DPW for final approval.

* DOAG must ensure that there is sufficient area conserved in the HCP Reserve Network to offset the impacts of each proposed project and stay ahead of total impacts covered by the HCP.

How can you be involved with Guam HCP development?

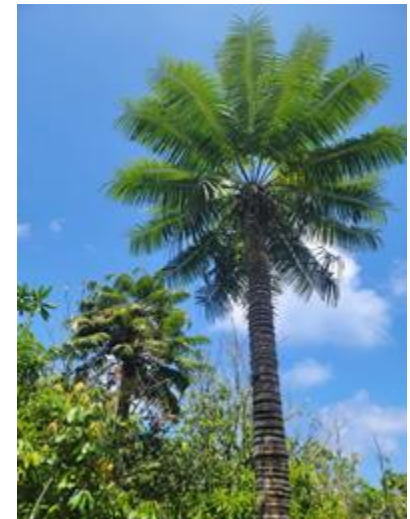
- Participate in the stakeholder groups
- Engage in the conversation
- Involve other members of the community
- Support the HCP Reserve Network to protect land in perpetuity



PC: Vince Fabian

Progress and Next Steps

- Started engagement with Steering Committee and stakeholder groups in 2021; public Meeting in October 2023
- **Public Information Fairs in August 2025 - ask Else for details!**
- Next milestones:
 - Preparation of the Revised Administrative Draft HCP
 - Public Draft HCP
 - Public Draft National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document



GUAM HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN



Planning Guam's Future: Your Voice Matters

Join us & share your thoughts!

August 27 Hågat Mayor's Office 5:30-7 PM

August 28 Dededo Senior Center 5:30-7 PM

Outreach stations, light refreshments, native
plant giveaway, posters, stickers, & more!



For more information: 671-735-2918

guamhcp.com

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