

Glossary of Key Terms

CHamoru

The Indigenous people of Guam and the Mariana Islands, who have inhabited the archipelago for over 4,000 years. The CHamoru worldview emphasizes harmony with nature, communal land stewardship, and the cultural identity of the taotao tano’ —“people of the land.”

CHamoru Land Trust Commission (CLTC)

Established by Public Law 22-18 in 1975, the CLTC manages public lands designated as CHamoru homelands, leasing parcels for residential, agricultural, and commercial uses to promote cultural and economic self-sufficiency for CHamoru beneficiaries.

Eco-Cultural Tourism

A sustainable form of tourism that integrates environmental stewardship with the celebration of CHamoru and Pacific heritage. It supports education, local economies, and preservation of natural and historic sites while preventing overdevelopment.

Guåhan

The CHamoru name for Guam, used to emphasize Indigenous identity, stewardship, and connection to land and sea. The Guåhan 2050 Sustainability Plan adopts this name to reflect cultural grounding in planning practice.

Guam Hazard Mitigation Plan (GHMP)

Guam’s territorial framework for assessing and reducing risks from natural hazards, including typhoons, flooding, and sea-level rise. It supports disaster resilience through coordinated infrastructure and community planning.

Håfa Adai Spirit

The cultural ethos of hospitality and friendliness that defines Guam’s social character and tourism branding. It embodies respect, generosity, and a welcoming attitude toward residents and visitors.

Inafa’maolek

A central CHamoru value meaning “to make good.” It reflects harmony, interdependence, and mutual respect among individuals and within the community—an ethical foundation for social and environmental balance.

Land Access and Readiness Overlay Zone

A proposed zoning designation to expedite rezoning, rights-of-way, and infrastructure access for ancestral and trust lands while ensuring that development maintains cultural integrity and stewardship values.

Latte Stones

Megalithic stone pillars unique to the Marianas Islands that served as foundations for ancient CHamoru houses. They symbolize strength, ancestry, and the enduring cultural presence of the CHamoru people.

Northern Guam Lens Aquifer (NGLA)

The island's principal source of fresh groundwater, located beneath the northern limestone plateau. Protected through land-use controls and wastewater regulations to maintain long-term water quality.

Resource Conservation Zone (RC)

A zoning category for sensitive lands and waters designated for permanent protection under conservation management, often overlapping with federal holdings such as USFWS refuges or National Park Service lands.

Sustainable Communities

Urban and village developments that integrate housing, infrastructure, mobility, and open space in a way that promotes resilience, equity, environmental health, and community cohesion.

Sustainability

The balanced integration of economic growth, environmental protection, and cultural preservation to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising those of future generations.

Village Centers

Mixed-use community hubs that reflect traditional CHamoru settlement patterns by clustering housing, commerce, public facilities, and cultural spaces to strengthen social ties and reduce sprawl.

Village Sustainability Policies (VS)

Localized planning directives within each village that guide sustainable land use, infrastructure, housing, and environmental stewardship consistent with the island-wide sustainability goals.