

NATIONAL PRIORITIES SECTION
(New section or addendum to Forest Action Plan)
Actions taken 2010-2015 toward U.S. national priorities
Island of Guam

Background: The 2010 Statewide Assessment and Resource Strategy (SWARS) document was completed to meet the requirements of the 2008 Farm Bill and the redesign objectives of the USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry (S&PF) programs. This State-wide Assessment and Resource Strategy (SWARS) provided the Guam Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Soil Resources Division (Guam Forestry) an opportunity to identify the highest priorities for forest resource management and a vision for the future of our forestry program in line with the three national priorities

- Conserve and Manage Working Forest Landscapes for Multiple Values and Uses
- Protect Forests from Threats
- Enhance Public Benefits from Trees and Forests

This document was developed with input from members of the Forest Stewardship and Urban & Community Forestry advisory council, Soil and Water Conservation districts, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and other pertinent local Government utility agencies addressing issues of concern in their respective area of responsibilities.

This 2015 “National Priorities” addendum serves as a record of activities taken by all Guam partners to address strategic actions taken as part of the Guam Forest Action Plan (FAP) (2010-2015), and will be updated annually as appropriate.

1. Conserve and Manage Working Forest Landscapes for Multiple Values and Uses

Issue(s) Addressed:

- a. Wildfire and Public Safety
- b. Water Quality and Water Supply
- c. Population Growth and Urbanization
- d. Deforestation of Native Forest
- e. Urban Forest Sustainability
- f. Degraded Lands

Long-term strategy 1 (FAP): Implement Highest Priority Plantings that meet multiple objectives

Actions taken 2010-2015:

- a. Conducted numerous tree planting events in rural and urban areas identified as high priorities in FAP.
- b. Conducted Education and Outreach events in public and private schools, provided service learning opportunities, and community events on tree care, fire prevention, and Smokey Bear presentations.
- c. Wildland fire suppression, pre-suppression work including fuel load reduction projects and firebreak maintenance.

- d. Reforestation on high priority landscapes known to contribute to wildland fires, soil erosion and forest fragmentation.
- e. Conducted re-measure of FIA plots in 2013.
- f. Maintained nursery operations which included collection, propagation and maintenance of seeds and saplings for private and public lands. Plants were utilized to support reforestation efforts.
- g. Collaborated with the University of Guam on implementing a Plant Extinction Prevention Program funded via the SPF Western Competitive grant process.

Long-term Strategy 2 (FAP): Protect, Conserve and Restore Forests on State, Private and other Non-Military Lands

Actions taken 2010-2015:

- a. Provided technical assistance to private landowners on Forest Stewardship program benefits.
- b. Provided native tree saplings to cooperators to address conservation issues such as soil erosion/enrichment, windbreaks, fire breaks, agroforestry operations, and wildlife habitat.
- c. Worked in existing forest landscapes to reintroduce native plants.
- d. Reforested previously burned sites.
- e. Initiated the Guam Plant Extinction Prevention Program via a Western States Competitive Grant.
- f. Legislation to set aside state lands for conservation.
- g. Continue efforts to monitor native cycads in response to the Asian Cycad Scale invasion and also implemented genetic conservation efforts for cycads.
- h. Participated in efforts to eradicate coconut rhinoceros beetle and little fire ant.
- i. Developed several integrated pest management tools for coconut rhinoceros beetle and little fire ant.
- j. Initiated studies to determine the decline off casuarina trees on Guam.
- k. Initiated studies to determine what forest pathogens exist on Guam.

Long-term Strategy 3 (FAP) Work with Military to avoid Deforestation and Develop Tree Ordinance laws for new and old development zones

Action taken 2010-2015:

- a. Met with stakeholders and created a Tree Ordinance working group comprised of utility agencies, Guam Visitors Bureau, Parks and Recreation, Senator's office, University of Guam, Military officials, and Land Management agency and Soil Water Conservation District.
- b. Drafted Tree Ordinance for review.
- c. Met with Senators during a round table discussion to provide an update on the status of draft ordinance.
- d. Arborist certification (5 certified arborists).
- e. Tree worker training.
- f. Issued tree trimming permits to various Government utility companies.

2. Protect Forest from Threats

Issue(s) Addressed:

- a. Wild fire and Public Safety
- b. Water quality and Water supply
- c. Urban Forest sustainability
- d. Degraded Lands

Long-term strategy 4 (FAP): Improve Fire Prevention, control, suppression and Prescribed fire activities through organizing, training and equipping staff and Resources

Actions taken 2010-2015:

- e. Fuel load reduction projects.
- f. Fire break maintenance.
- g. Fire suppression efforts.
- h. Acquired firefighting equipment via the Federal Excess Personal Property program and provided to the local fire department on loan to support our wild land fire suppression operations.
- i. Planted greenbelts in existing conservation areas to protect trees.
- j. Provided standby services for burning permit requests.
- k. Collaborated with partners on fire prevention workshops.
- l. Produced outreach PSA, “Munnga Ma Sonnge Guahan” which was recently revised to read, “Munga masongge Guahan, Don’t burn Guam!” Which was a collaborative effort between the Bureau of Statistics and Plans, Guam Coastal Management Program.
- m. Conducted fire patrols during fire season.
- n. Purchased and maintained fire equipment.
- o. Hired a Cooperative Fire Program Manager to oversee the Fire Program. In addition, eight Forestry Aides were hired to support all four Forestry Programs.
- p. Cooperative Fire Program Manager has begun drafting the “Fire Management Plan for Guam,” a five year plan, which will coincide with the priorities detailed in the State Action Plan.

Long-term strategy 6 (FAP): Implement a Forest Health Program to unify interagency efforts to prepare for military buildup

Actions taken 2010-2015:

- a. Worked collaboratively with the University of Guam on staff development.

- b. Participated in local meetings addressing invasive species issues.
- c. Installed monitoring/detection traps throughout the island.
- d. Collected specimens were identified and reporting system is being develop.
- e. Trapping site/lures and collection dates were reported in the US Forest Service National EDRR database.
- f. Conducted invasive plant removal in conservation areas.
- g. Collaborated with partners including the University of Guam (UOG) in forest and green waste management efforts to prevent the spread of invasive species throughout the island.

3. Enhance Public Benefits from Trees and Forests

Issue(s) Addressed:

- a. Water Quality and Water supply
- b. Population Growth and Urbanization
- c. Urban Forest Sustainability

Long-term strategy 5 (FAP): Implement Tree Planting and Monitoring projects in developed areas, open spaces, and park in communities (Urban Forestry)

Actions taken 2010-2015:

- d. Worked with local and federal government agencies to implement tree planting projects within their landscapes.
- e. Worked with public and private schools on tree planting events.
- f. Provided tree trimming permits and provided guidance on proper pruning techniques.
- g. Assisted Island-wide Beautification Task Force (IBTF) on landscaping iconic urban site.
- h. Coordinated with federal counterpart to train local resource agencies on Tree Worker workshop, and Arborist Certification workshop.
- i. Lead numerous education and outreach events.
- j. Spearheaded all Arbor Day events supported by local politicians, students, agency partners and various members of the community. The entire month of October was celebrated as Arbor Month, and included numerous planting events and service learning opportunities (more than 2100 trees were planted). This event has grown to celebrating Arbor Day to now Arbor Month
- k. Assisted partners in establishing rain gardens in parks and commercial buildings

- l. Propagation incorporated the use of a variety of native and non-native tree species to support agroforestry related projects.
- m. Approximately 3000 trees were grown in the nursery for outplanting activities.

4. Challenges:

- a. Funding – Increase funded needed to effectively implement action plan.
- b. Reporting – Online reporting constantly change/upgraded, it would be beneficial to have one standardize reporting system to address all programmatic requirement(s).
- c. Technical assistance – More onsite assistance from technical specialists and grant program managers would be beneficial to keep up-to-date with policies, procedures, technology transfer and program development and implementation.

5. Focus next 5 years:

- a. Continue to work with partners to leverage resources that meet multi-agency objectives.
- b. Work with partners on developing Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) proposals to assist in the implementation of the FAP.
- c. Invasive species: Trapping, collecting, reporting and identifying also implementing surveys for plant injury.
- d. Development of an invasive plants strategic plan.
- e. Increase data collection for forest and urban tree pest to include baseline data for future comparisons.
- f. Decrease forest fragments, conversion of grassland to forest.
- g. Maintain Forestry's Nursery operations.
- h. Education and outreach on natural resource management, wild land fire, soil erosion, invasive species, proper tree care and maintenance, Implement Tree ordinance, Develop rules and regulations and management plan for Guam Forest System law.
- i. Succession planning and increased training opportunities for recently hired personnel
- j. Recruitment of additional personnel.
- k. Work collaboratively with newly established Biosecurity Division within the Guam Department of Agriculture.

6. Data Needs or New issues:

a. Update maps

i. Vegetation Maps

ii. Fire Prone Sites / Historical Mapping of Burned Areas

iii. Invasive Species Mapping (hotspots)

iv. Priority Site Map

v. Include Cocos Island as part of priority sites

b. Build an Agroforestry program

c. Include Historic preservation section 106 requirements into FAP

7. Append attached “Important Forest Resource Areas” (IFRA) map.



Site preparations in a High Priority Area.



Outplanting of *Acacia auriculiformis* with Service Learning students.



Arbor planting with partners: Sen. Rory Respicio, Natural Resource Committee Chair; Director Of Agriculture; Director of Parks and Recreation



Outreach and education during Fire Prevention Week



Fire suppression activities.



Funnel trap installed to monitor for insects and test early detection tools.



Production of plants in the Guam Forestry Nursery

Appendix: Important Forest Resource Areas map for Guam.

