

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

NFWF/Legacy Grant Project ID: 0311.10.023649

U. S. Coral Reef Task Force Partnership Initiative 2010 - Submit Final Programmatic Report (Activities and Outcomes)

Grantee Organization: Puerto Rico Conservation Trust Fund

Project Title: Education and Clean-Up at Punta Ballenas, Puerto Rico

<b>Project Period</b>	08/02/2010 - 08/31/2014
<b>Award Amount</b>	\$47,523.27
<b>Matching Contributions</b>	\$68,544.00
<b>Project Location Description (from Proposal)</b>	DNRE ownership and Conservation Trust management of 172.7 acres located at longitude -66.8662, latitude 17.9537. Not adjacent to federal lands. Primarily dry forest, mangroves, lagoons and beach.

**Project Summary (from Proposal)** Implement two-tiered 18-month program that seeks to provide on-going educational training on the importance of the Guanica/Rio Loco watershed and lead continuous clean-up activities at the project site.

**Summary of Accomplishments** The Education and Clean-Up Project at Punta Ballenas (ECUPPB) has provided on-going educational training on the importance of the Guanica/Rio Loco watershed and continuous cleanup activities at the project site. The Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico (the Trust) targeted seven schools, three Girl Scout troops, four NGOs and community groups for a total of 409 participants in the cleanup activities, collecting 4,909 pounds of junkyard waste, debris and garbage at the Guanica watershed area.

On August 2013, The Trust was granted a one-year no cost extension to perform Map of Life activities throughout the Guanica/Rio Loco watershed coastal area. Specifically, the Trust was to implement the sandy beach protocol with Guanica and surrounding community members. For this second phase of the project the Trust performed 12 Map of Life sandy beach protocol activities on 10 beaches along the Guanica Rio Loco watershed coastal area with 130 volunteers totalling 529 volunteer hours.

**Lessons Learned** Through our work with the schools and NGOs we have been able to engage in collaboration efforts with other organizations and/or agencies. Such collaborations include waste disposal of the cleanup activities through Puerto Rico's National Parks Company. Project participants' word-of-mouth has also led other communities and community members to request participation in the Project, be it through the educational talks, the cleanup activities or both. In summary, we have learned that the Guanica community is interested in the watershed and is eager and willing to join efforts with organizations such as ours to protect the area and its resources.

We have also learned that establishing a permanent monitoring program at the coastal area helps in the development of management plans for Punta Ballenas in Guanica and the surrounding beaches that interact with it.

Conservation Activities	Educational training on the importance of the Guanica/Rio Loco watershed.
90% of participants are from or live near the	Guanica/Rio Loco Watershed
Progress Measures	Other (# of individuals that receive formal educational training)
Value at Grant Completion	409
Conservation Activities	Cleanup activities at project site. 90% of participants are from or live near the
Guanica/Rio Loco Watershed	
Progress Measures	Other (# of individuals that participate in clean up activities)
Value at Grant Completion	409

Conservation Activities	Map of Life activities
Progress Measures	Other (# of volunteers that performed the protocols)
Value at Grant Completion	130

Conservation Outcome(s)	Participants will become spokespersons for and stewards of the Guanica/Rio Loco watershed
Conservation Indicator Metric(s)	Other (# of spokespersons for and stewards of the Guanica/Rio Loco watershed)
Baseline Metric Value	0
Metric Value at Grant Completion	409
Long-term Goal Metric Value	2008
Year in which Long Term Metric Value is Anticipated	2016

Conservation Outcome(s)	safeguarding of endangered, vulnerable and special concern species that live within the Guanica/Rio Loco watershed
Conservation Indicator Metric(s)	Other (# of species safeguarded)
Baseline Metric Value	0
Metric Value at Grant Completion	11
Long-term Goal Metric Value	11
Year in which Long Term Metric Value is Anticipated	2016

Conservation Outcome(s)	reduced adverse human impact on Guanica/Rio Loco watershed and its coral reef
Conservation Indicator Metric(s)	% live coral cover
Baseline Metric Value	0
Metric Value at Grant Completion	1%
Long-term Goal Metric Value	4%
Year in which Long Term Metric Value is Anticipated	2016



## Final Programmatic Report Narrative

**Instructions:** Save this document on your computer and complete the narrative in the format provided. The final narrative should not exceed ten (10) pages; do not delete the text provided below. Once complete, upload this document into the on-line final programmatic report task as instructed.

### 1. Summary of Accomplishments

In four to five sentences, provide a brief summary of the project’s key accomplishments and outcomes that were observed or measured.

The first phase of this project provided educational training on the importance of the Guanica/Rio Loco watershed and lead continuous clean-up activities at the project site. For this first phase the Trust targeted seven schools, three Girl Scout troops and four NGO, with 562 participants in the cleanup activities, collecting 6,014 pounds of junkyard waste, debris and garbage at the Guanica watershed area. On August 2013, The Trust was granted a one-year no cost extension to perform Map of Life activities throughout the Guanica/Rio Loco watershed coastal area. The Trust performed 12 Map of Life sandy beach protocol activities on 10 beaches along the Guanica/Rio Loco watershed coastal area with 130 volunteers totaling 529 volunteer hours.

### 2. Project Activities & Outcomes

#### Activities

- Describe and quantify (using the approved metrics referenced in your grant agreement) the primary activities conducted during this grant.
- Briefly explain discrepancies between the activities conducted during the grant and the activities agreed upon in your grant agreement.

The Education and Clean-Up Project at Punta Ballenas (ECUPPB) has provided on-going educational training on the importance of the Guanica/Rio Loco watershed and continuous cleanup activities at the project site. The Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico (The Trust) targeted seven schools, three Girl Scout troops and four NGOs. A total of 562 participants in the 21 educational and cleanup activities collected 6,014 pounds of junkyard waste, debris and garbage at the Guanica watershed area. Among these participants, we include the 153 volunteers that worked as part of the International Coastal Cleanup Day on September 15, 2012. Table 1 provides a breakdown of the activities for the first phase of this project.

**Table 1. Cleanup Activities for first phase of ECUPPB project**

Activity Date	Audience	Participants	Lbs. of Waste Collected
February 4, 2011	Guanica's Teresita Nazario School	23 students & 1 teacher	291
March 18, 2011	Guanica's Teresita Nazario School	21 students & 1 teacher	453
April 8, 2011	Aurea Quiles Claudio School	24 students & 1 teacher	269
May 6, 2011	Jose Rodriguez de Soto School	26 students & 1 teacher	178
June 4, 2011	Girl Scouts Troop 366	16 girl scouts & 6 adults	283

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June 17, 2011	InBoSec (Interpreters of Guanica's Dry Forest)	9 adults	251
July 9, 2011	ACEDMA (Association of Citizens Educating and Advocating for the Environment)	3 students & 7 adults	331
January 28, 2012	Girl Scouts Troop 366 and Troop 358	17 students & 3 adults	90
February 10, 2012	Municipality of Guanica	29 individuals	280
February 25, 2012	Students from Escuela Teresita Nazario, Escuela José Rodríguez Soto y Tropa and Boy Scouts Troop 785	13 students & 7 adults	210
<b>September 15, 2012</b>	<b>International Coastal Cleanup Day with Scuba Dogs Society</b>	<b>153 participants</b>	<b>1,105</b>
November 17, 2012	Caribbean School of Ponce	16 students & 3 adults	260
December 8, 2012	Girl Scouts Troop 426	10 students & 2 adults	103
January 26, 2013	Girl Scouts Troop 366	18 students & 9 adults	271
February 15, 2013	Ana Maria Negron School (Yauco)	28 students & 1 adults	227
March 8, 2013	Luis Negron Lopez School (Sabana Grande)	22 students & 2 adults	325
April 20, 2013	Arturo Grant Pardo School (Lajas)	24 students & 6 adults	193
May 10, 2013	Ecology Group; Interamerican University, Ponce	17 students & 1 professor	449
May 24, 2013	Israel Roman & Family (Juana Diaz)	5 children & 8 adults	179
June 8, 2013	Community Group "Grupo de los seis"	7 students & 5 adults	197
June 27, 2013	Para la Naturaleza's Summer Workshop Immersion participants	14 students & 3 adults	69
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>562 participants</b>	<b>6,014</b>

The Map of Life program is an initiative led by the Trust that focuses on preserving biological diversity on Puerto Rico. The program integrates various databases and maps, in order to provide a broad view of the state of ecosystems. The information generated through the program supports decision-making processes related to conservation, land use and development in Puerto Rico. Using geographic information systems, the program shows how our decisions regarding land use, development and public policy can affect our long-term environmental sustainability. Trust staff, together with community members, collects ecological data that feeds the Map of Life program. In addition to growing the program's electronic database, the ground truthing activities develop and strengthen the connection between the participants and their natural environment. Implementation of the protocol is detailed in a manual prepared and validated by the Trust. The Sandy beach manual contains the procedures to assess the characteristics of the beach environment. The protocol used by the Trust is an adapted version of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Guardarenas protocol. Its objective is to modify life styles and habits of children and adults as they relate to coastal

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environment.

As of August 31, 2014, The Trust performed 12 Map of Life sandy beach protocol activities on 10 beaches along the Guanica/Rio Loco watershed coastal area. Table 2 provides a breakdown of these Map of Life activities.

**Table 2. Map of Life Protocols for ECUPPB project**

Activity Date	Beach	Total Volunteers	Total Volunteer Hours
September 21, 2013	Bahia Ballena	8	48
November 23, 2013	Punta Cuchara	13	78
February 28, 2014	Tamarindo	17	68
March 7, 2014	Los Congres	3	12
April 12, 2014	Ballena II	4	16
May 9, 2014	Atolladora	4	12
June 6, 2014	Playa Santa	26	104
June 13, 2014	Bahia Ballena	9	36
June 24, 2014	Bahia Ballena	10	30
July 6, 2014	Tamarindo II	19	57
July 18, 2014	Jaboncillo	5	20
August 15, 2014	Balneario Caña Gorda	12	48
<b>Totals</b>		<b>130</b>	<b>529</b>

The Map of Life program will continue to expand the impact that the project has had on the Guanica target audience. So far participants have engaged and benefited from education and beach clean up activities, nature immersion summer camps, and teacher workshops. The Trust expects the Map of Life program to continue creating awareness on the importance of protecting the watershed and on creating additional stewards of nature, while contributing valuable scientific data that will be used in decision-making processes related to the land use and public policy of the Guanica Rio Loco watershed.

### Outcomes

- Describe and quantify progress towards achieving the project outcomes described in your grant agreement. (Quantify using the approved metrics referenced in your grant agreement or by using more relevant metrics not included in the application.)
- Briefly explain discrepancies between what actually happened compared to what was anticipated to happen.
- Provide any further information (such as unexpected outcomes) important for understanding project activities and outcome results.

#### Outcome 1: Participants will become spokespersons for and stewards of the Guanica/Rio Loco watershed

The Trust expected a total of 502 participants for this project. We achieved a total of 692 participants and volunteer that worked on the activities conducted throughout this project. All of them have become spokespersons for and stewards of the Guanica/Rio Loco watershed. By participating in our activities they immediately become part of a whole community of citizens who are passionate and committed to take action in favor of the protection of our natural resources.

#### Outcome 2: Safeguarding of endangered, vulnerable and special concern species that live within the Guanica/Rio Loco watershed

The data recollected during the Map of Life protocols at the Guanica/Rio Loco watershed will continue to help the Trust with the conservation and protection of habitats associated with 8 endangered, 2 vulnerable and 1 special concern species that live within this area. We also believe that the experiences shared with all the participants in this project will make them capable of helping us continue to protect such important habitats and of spreading their knowledge to their peers.

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### Outcome 3: Reduced adverse human impact on Guanica/Rio Loco watershed and its coral reef

The Trust will continue to offer formal educational talks and materials at the Trust's natural protected areas in order to achieve a higher percentage of live coral cover on the Guanica/Rio Loco watershed. The multiplier factor of educated individuals on the importance of the watershed and coral reef will lead to reduced coastal development, improved land-use and watershed management, and reduced sewage discharge, pollution from agrochemicals, coral mining and overfishing.

### **3. Lessons Learned**

Describe the key lessons learned from this project, such as the least and most effective conservation practices or notable aspects of the project's methods, monitoring, or results. How could other conservation organizations adapt their projects to build upon some of these key lessons about what worked best and what did not?

Through our work with the schools and NGOs we have been able to engage in collaboration efforts with other organizations and/or agencies. Such collaborations include waste disposal of the cleanup activities through Puerto Rico's National Parks Company. Project participants' word-of-mouth has also led other communities and community members to request participation in the Project, be it through the educational talks, the cleanup activities or both. In summary, we have learned that the Guanica community is interested in the watershed and is eager and willing to join efforts with organizations such as ours to protect the area and its resources.

We have also learned that establishing a permanent monitoring program at the coastal area helps in the development of management plans for Punta Ballenas in Guanica and the surrounding beaches that interact with it.

### **4. Dissemination**

Briefly identify any dissemination of lessons learned or other project results to external audiences, such as the public or other conservation organizations.

The Trust continues to offer tours for volunteers on the Punta Ballenas project site providing educational training on the importance of the Guanica/Rio Loco watershed. We also lead continuous cleanup activities with volunteers at the project site.

The Trust created a brochure in Spanish with educational material including descriptions and explanations of physiographic and climatologic characteristics of watersheds. This brochure contains a comparison of a sustainable watershed versus an unsustainable one, related threatened and endangered coastal species, beneficial services provided by watersheds, adverse impacts on watersheds and a list of activities that individuals can partake to protect watersheds and coastal areas. Attached please find a copy of this brochure.

All activities are publicized in the Trust's activities calendar (printed and website [www.paralanaturaleza.org](http://www.paralanaturaleza.org)). The information gathered is used by the Trust to raise public engagement in the conservation value of this type of ecosystem. This information is available to the conservation community through periodic publications in our social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, etc.) and will be made available to local land managers through field reports. This type of information is and will be used by the Trust to make land management decisions regarding habitat enhancement and public policy.

### **5. Project Documents**

Include in your final programmatic report, via the Uploads section of this task, the following:

- 2-10 representative photos from the project. Photos need to have a minimum resolution of 300 dpi and must be accompanied with a legend or caption describing the file name and content of the photos;
- report publications, GIS data, brochures, videos, outreach tools, press releases, media coverage;
- any project deliverables per the terms of your grant agreement.

**POSTING OF FINAL REPORT:** *This report and attached project documents may be shared by the Foundation and any Funding Source for the Project via their respective websites. In the event that the Recipient intends to claim that its final report or project documents contains material that does not have to be posted on such websites because it is protected from disclosure by statutory or regulatory provisions, the Recipient shall clearly mark all such potentially protected materials as "PROTECTED" and provide an explanation and complete citation to the statutory or regulatory source for such protection.*