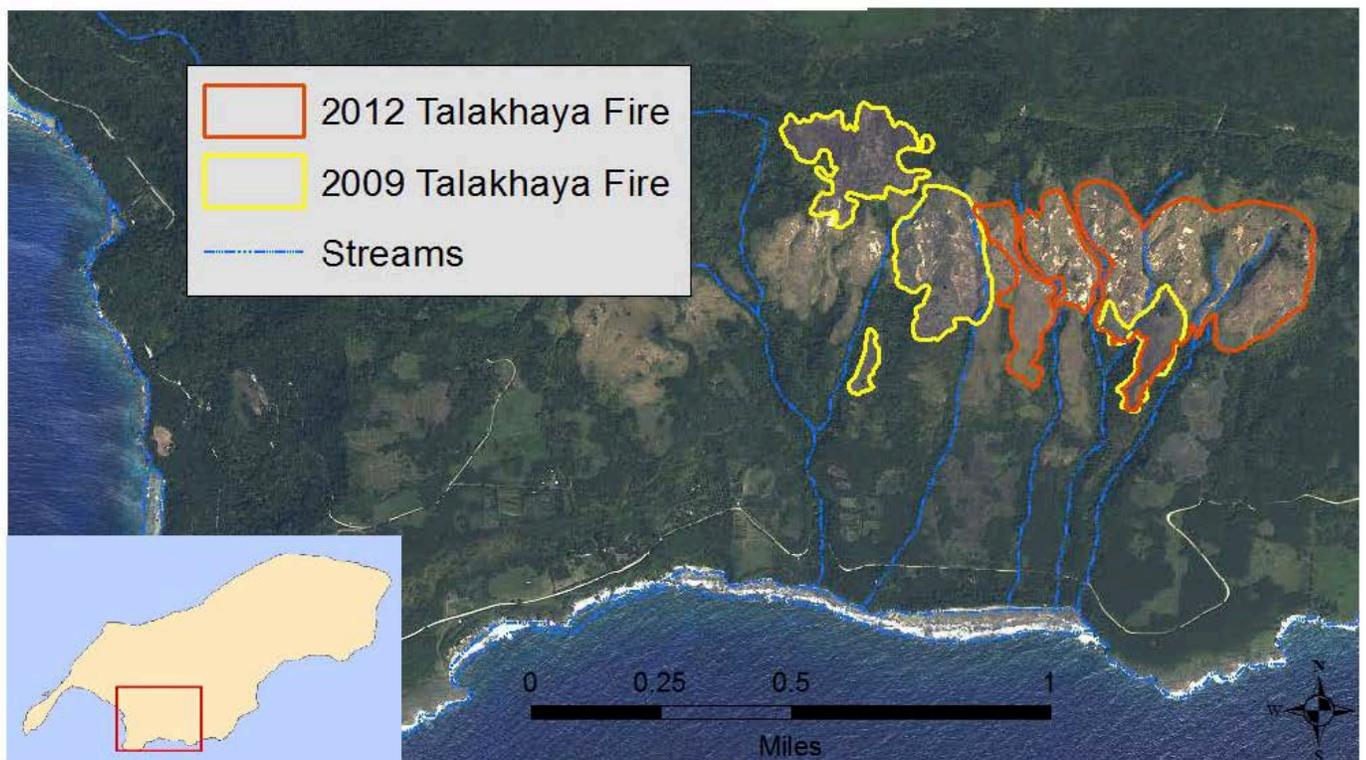


The Talakhaya Revegetation Project



Where is Talakhaya?

The Talakhaya Conservation Area is located in the south of Rota, just below the Sabana. Talakhaya was set aside in 2007 as part of the Sabana Conservation Area by Rota Local Law 15-8. The purpose of the conservation area is to provide protection for the watershed, wildlife, forest, medicinal plants and the communities who depend on these resources to survive. Hunting and disturbing wildlife and plants, removing sand or soil, or setting fires of any kind are illegal activities within the conservation area. Unfortunately, not everyone follows these rules. The Talakhaya area commonly experiences intense fires that destroy vegetation and wildlife habitat and cause valuable soil to get washed by rainfall down the mountain, out into the ocean and onto the reef.



What is the Revegetation Project?

Since 2007, volunteers have been helping Rota Forestry and the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality to prevent wildfires and replant the Talakhaya area to keep the soil on land where it belongs. The goal of the project is to restore ecosystem health to the area for the benefit of the people of Rota. Volunteers work during the summer rainy season to dig holes in the hard rock in Talakhaya where they then plant grasses with good roots that will hold the soil in place. Volunteers also plant native trees and create natural rock barriers to slow down rainwater and keep it from causing erosion as it flows towards the ocean. Due to increased interest in the area and the efforts of the Talakhaya volunteers and community, only two major fires have been observed in the conservation area since 2008. Before the project started, fires happened several times a year.



How can I help support the Talakhaya Project?

- Take time to enjoy the conservation area by hiking the hills or swimming on the reef
- Volunteer to help plant trees by contacting
DLNR Rota Forestry at 532-0528
- Do not hunt in the Conservation Area
- Do not set fires in the area, including campfires. Be careful when lighting cigarettes. Do not burn trash.
- To report fires or illegal hunting, contact:
Fire Department: 532-3736
Div. of Fish and Wildlife : 532-9495

Year	# of Plants Planted
2007	27,498
2008	29,151
2009	18,765
2010	24,330
2011	22,089
2012	27,931
2013	26,581
2014 Goal is 30,000 plants!	



This project is supported by:

