

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

NFWF/Legacy Grant Project ID: 0302.11.026841

Coral Reef Conservation Fund 2011 - Submit Final Programmatic Report (Activities and Outcomes)

Grantee Organization: CORALations, Inc.

Project Title: Educational Products in Support of Culebra's No Take Marine Protected Area in Puerto Rico

Project Period 08/01/2011 - 02/28/2013
Award Amount \$10,140.00
Matching Contributions \$10,144.00
Project Location Description (from Proposal) The Eastern Caribbean island archipelago of Culebra, is located almost equidistant between Puerto Rico and the USVI's at 18° 19'00 N, 65° 18'00 W.

Project Summary (from Proposal) Update interpretive signs along the park with new results from ongoing research inside the marine protected area and results from management actions.

Summary of Accomplishments As of February 2012, initial meetings were accomplished with graphic artist, sign artist, local fish association and school administrator. Began compilation of new photos and artwork for signs, with purchase of sign restoration materials. Meetings still pending with other coral farming orgs, newly appointed Mayor of Culebra, the Culebra Conservation and Development Association and the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources.

Lessons Learned In the future, allocate as many associated tasks to sub-contracting artists as possible (e.g. painting materials to paint wooden signs.)

Conservation Activities signage at Culebra MPA	update draft graphics for 3 different inlaid posters for wooden interpretive
Progress Measures	Other (completion of draft artwork)
Value at Grant Completion	3 draft posters
Conservation Activities	project partner approval and recommended changes to draft art
Progress Measures	Other (development of draft for partner approval)
Value at Grant Completion	changes/comments page with partner signatures
Conservation Activities	production of final draft artwork for three posters
Progress Measures	Other (final draft graphics produced)
Value at Grant Completion	final drafts 3 posters
Conservation Activities	printing
Progress Measures	Other (production of three inlaid posters)
Value at Grant Completion	three posters
Conservation Activities	installing new posters and repainting sign at Playa Melones
Progress Measures	Other (sign updated)
Value at Grant Completion	photo of completed sign
Conservation Activities	installing new posters and repainting sign at Playa Tamarindo
Progress Measures	Other (sign updated)
Value at Grant Completion	photo of completed sign
Conservation Activities	installing new posters and repainting sign at Playa Carlos Rosario
Progress Measures	Other (sign updated)
Value at Grant Completion	photo of completed sign

Conservation Outcome(s)	update educational materials on three terrestrial interpretive signs
Conservation Indicator Metric(s)	Other (quantifiable product produced)
Baseline Metric Value	0 signs updated
Metric Value at Grant Completion	3 signs updated
Long-term Goal Metric Value	2012
Year in which Long Term Metric Value is Anticipated	2012



CORALATIONS

conserve • nurture • educate
conservar • cuidar • educar

www.coralations.org  

P. O. Box 750

Isla de Culebra, PR 00775

(o) 787-556-6234 SKYPE: coralations

YouTube: CORALations Culebra

email: info@coralations.org

Final Programmatic Report Narrative

Project Name: Educational Product in Support of Culebra No Take MPA

Easygrants ID: 26841

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 three, ten year old wooden interpretive signs located at the terrestrial access sites to Culebra's marine protected area (MPA) were updated with new research points of interest, enforcement contact numbers, and social links so visitors can share their experiences. The hand painted parts of the sign were redesigned and painted with much more concise and eye catching messages with attention given to non-imperialistic approach, focused on garnishing compliance to fishing restrictions and better behaviors to protect corals and sea turtles. These signs have been maintained by local students to foster a sense of ownership and stewardship for the no take reserve area. This process meaningfully engaged agency and community leaders and garnished non-federal match in the form of volunteerism/community service from local students and a local captain.

2. Project Activities & Outcomes

Activities

- Describe the primary activities conducted during this grant and explain any discrepancies between the activities conducted from those that were proposed.

Primary activities involved 1) the creation of drafts of the new artwork for the inlaid poster and hand painted parts of the signs. 2) Sign preparation and repair by local students. 3) Printing inlaid drafts on a plastic cloth and final inserts on aluminum. An additional activity was added from those proposed which was to allow time for agency personnel, public and project partners to review and provide input on a draft version of completed sign, before final inlays were completed. The method for soliciting meaningful public participation was changed because it became evident a complete perspective was needed for people to provide meaningful comments. An extension was requested because the timing of soliciting input fell during election year and a transition of government, making participation difficult.

Outcomes

- Describe progress towards achieving the project outcomes as proposed. and briefly explain any discrepancies between your results compared to what was anticipated.
- Provide any further information (such as unexpected outcomes) important for understanding project activities and outcome results.

The outcome was the three wooden interpretive signs updated and restored as proposed, with the help of local students and other community volunteers. A new approach was developed to solicit meaningful public and agency participation described above. This participation included DRNA Reserve Manager, Humberto Fuerora, the Hon. Mayor Ivan Solis, Community Leader, Mario Albert, Community Leader Sylvia Nieves Feliciano, Student assistant Yeisha Alvarado, Sociadad Ambiente Marinos Frances Candela, Dr. Edwin Hernandez Delgado of the University of Puerto Rico and CATEC, and Juan Monserrate, NOAA's Alejandro Torres and Geigel Medina, and visiting group leader of the Sierra Club all contributed to the new information displayed on these signs. Student volunteers included Steven Alvarez Aquilina, Antonio Almodovar Cruz, Juan Navarro Camacho on February 9, 2013. Fernando Alicia Llanos, Yailyn Fontenez, Lesliabel Ortiz, Karina Garcia, Dennis Carreras, Yeisha Alvarado and Captain Jean Francois Callum on October 28th 2012.

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 similar strategies to build upon some of these key lessons about what worked best and what did not?

Two major lessons learned included establishing the draft version of these signs so agency heads, group and community leaders could comment while viewing the entire product at the site. It was difficult to solicit input in office without the perspective of the entire sign. The second lesson learned is never to expect to complete projects requiring government input or approval during election year and transition of government.

4. Dissemination

Briefly identify any dissemination of project results and/or lessons learned to external audiences, such as the public or other conservation organizations. Specifically outline any management uptake and/or actions resulting from the project and describe the direct impacts of any capacity building activities.

Emails were sent describing the approach of the signs (community centric – bottom up) and soliciting opinions, but no locals responded to this email request. The most meaningful input came from agency and public gathered for a community beach clean up in the area where one of the signs was on display with the draft inlaid graphics.

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;

Photo 1: Seniors- Fernando Alicia Llanos, Yailyn Fontenez, Lesliabel Ortiz, Karina Garcia, Dennis Carreras, Yeisha Alvarado and Captain Jean Francois Callum on October 28th 2012.

Seniors community service documentation letters:

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/144544282/CORALations-Servicio-Comunitario-2012-2013>

Photo 2: Explorers Tamarindo Sign Prep

Steven Alvarez Aquilina, Antonio Almodovar Cruz, Juan Navarro Camacho with coordinator Sam Daley on February 9, 2013

Photo 3: Local artists with Capt. Jean Fancois Callum (center) finish Carlos Rosario Sign

Photo 4: Melones sign finished, tourists photographing – common occurrence at all signs.

Photo 5: Back of Melones sign facing water

Photo 6: Back of Tamarindo facing water

Photo 7: Front of Tamarindo sign

Photo 8: Inlaid print graphic Carlos Rosario

Photo 9: Inlaid print graphic Melones

Photo 10. Inlaid print graphic Tamarindo

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.*