

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

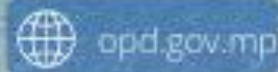
“Building a more sustainable CNMI for current and future generations”





CNMI Office of Planning and Development

*"Building a sustainable CNMI for current
and future generations."*



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OPD 2022 Annual Report

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Photos Thanks to MVA / Junji Takasago and OPD Contributors.

2022 Annual Report – Director’s Note

Hafa Adai yan Tirow,

The Office of Planning and Development (OPD) is pleased to present our fourth annual report to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Leadership outlining our efforts to plan and achieve increased sustainability outcomes over the past year. As we all know, 2022 continued to present unprecedented challenges due to health and socio-economic impacts of COVID-19. Despite unprecedented challenges, as detailed further here, 2022 was a year of tremendous success in strengthening partnerships to support priority project implementation. Public Law 20-20, which established OPD in October, 2017, outlined agency mandates including the presentation of a written report to the Governor and the Legislature on the last Monday of every January. This report represents a summary of our accomplishments in 2022 in compliance with this reporting requirement. This document is further intended to provide leadership and the public of the CNMI an update on OPD's activities throughout the preceding year. As reflected in CNMI's first Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan (CSDP), which was adopted last year, our Commonwealth has identified and is working towards a unifying vision of building a more sustainable community now and for future generations.

The CSDP is the CNMI's ten-year strategic guiding document for sustainable planning. It reflects one shared vision for sustainable growth, is built upon four guiding themes, and incorporates the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals which are "right-sized" to identify specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-bound priority action items. These short-, mid-, and long-range "S.M.A.R.T." objectives and action items are detailed in Appendix I of the CSDP, which is a living document that can be regularly reviewed and updated as needed and according to the five-year adaptive management cycle. Despite the ongoing challenges COVID-19 presented, in 2022, OPD has furthered progress on key priorities identified by the Planning and Development Advisory Council (PDAC) and our Planning Taskforces. As outlined further here and reflected in the CSDP itself, OPD will continue to support the ongoing data collection, development of guidance, supporting policies, and legislation, and implementation efforts to ensure continuing progress towards our sustainable growth goals.

2022 Annual Report – Director’s Note

This year was also a year of transition, and this report will be submitted to a new Governor Elect. As such, this report emphasizes the importance of continued support and continuity to maintain our path towards a more sustainable CNMI. In the year to come, in addition to on-boarding a new PDAC, OPD will continue to focus on implementation of identified priorities through alignment of complementary planning efforts, allocation of existing funds, and support of collaborative grant proposals to achieve priority objectives outlined in the CSDP Implementation Plan. Additionally, the CSDP and supporting plan components will continue to be developed. OPD is committed to working with the PDAC, our Planning Taskforces, and the community at large to continue to facilitate island-, village-, and resource-specific planning dialogs.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as OPD Director for the past five years. I encourage and ask for your continued engagement, support, and flexibility as we strive to engage our elected officials, public servants, and the community at large to help CNMI envision and achieve sustainable development in the year and the decade ahead.

Si Yu'os Ma'ase, Oloomway, and Thanks,

~ A. Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong

Director, Office of Planning and Development



Executive Summary

OVERVIEW

This fifth annual report outlines the Office of Planning and Development's (OPD) mission and objectives currently being pursued to achieve these and related mandates, as well as highlighting accomplishments, challenges, and opportunities and next steps as we work to achieve sustainable planning mandates and OPD's mission, established by Public Law 20-20.

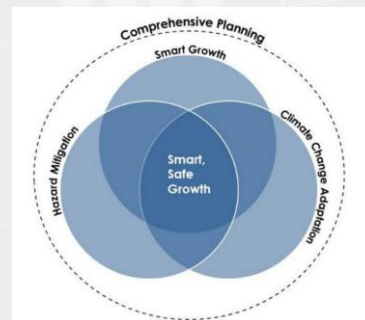
This includes the mandate to create a Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan (CSDP) for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). CNMI's 2021-2030 CSDP is guided by "sustainable development" and "smart, safe growth" principles across planning elements and goals.

"SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT"

"Sustainable Development" planning emphasizes the intersection between environmental and ecological sustainability, economic prosperity, and social equity.



"SMART, SAFE GROWTH"



"Smart, Safe Growth" (SSG) reflects principles of smart growth, hazard mitigation, and climate adaptation to more sustainable and safe comprehensive planning and project implementation.

OPD MISSION

To increase the effectiveness of government and private actions, to improve coordination among different agencies and levels of government, and to provide for wise use of resources and future development of the CNMI.

MANDATE

Public Law 20-20 mandates OPD to:

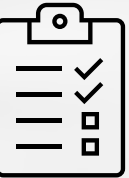
- Improve planning in the CNMI to increase the effectiveness of government and private actions as well as coordination among different agencies and levels of government to guide growth of the CNMI;
- Establish a CNMI Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan (CSDP) that shall serve as a guide for future long-range development using and improving on existing plans, maps, and other resources;
- Serve as a clearinghouse for all information related to development, planning, and resource use in CNMI; to identify objectives, policies, and priorities for the CNMI;
- Provide a basis for determining priorities and allocating resources; and
- Establish a system for plan formulation and program coordination to provide for an integration of all major CNMI and individual island activities.

OPD'S GOALS

- (1) Create the “CNMI Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan”;
- (2) Establish and maintain a “data library” for the continual collection and storage of public information needed or utilized in the development planning process; and
- (3) Institute an interagency framework within which OPD can support the development of policies and collection of data to achieve its mission and mandates.

PROGRESS TOWARDS THE GOALS

1. The CSDP was adopted in 2021 – implementation is ongoing.
2. The data library was published on the OPD website in 2019. Data collection and updates continue.
3. The PDAC and Planning Taskforces and the CSDP provide a framework to achieve CNMI’s sustainability mission.



CSDP MISSION

**“Building a sustainable CNMI
for current and future generations.”**

OPD is working in partnership with the Planning and Development Advisory Council (PDAC) and the Planning Taskforces to ensure timely achievement of the mandates of Public Law 20-20 and its goal to support wise resource use and development throughout CNMI.

FOCUSED PLANNING PROGRAMS

SUSTAINABILITY AND REVITALIZATION PLANNING

- *Revitalization and Community Improvement Districts*
- *Implementing Smart, Safe Growth*
- *Complete Streets*
- *Resource Use Maximization – Working Towards Zero Waste*
- *Integrated Watershed Management and Resiliency Projects*

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

- *Build and maintain online “data library”*
- *Enhancing geospatial information systems data and capabilities*
- *Institute Interagency Coordination Frameworks*

PRIORITY PROJECTS

- Garapan Revitalization Planning
- Building Coastal Resiliency
- Brownfields and Revitalization Planning
- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities – Micro Beach Shoreline Planning
- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities – Blighted Buildings Planning
- Applying SSG for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resiliency
- Mainstreaming SSG with DPW’s Building Code Section
- Enhancing International Building Code Enforcement
- Mapping and Addressing Road Flood Hazards
- Oleai Sports and Cultural Center
- Tyler EnerGov Permit Streamlining Broadband Deployment
- Integrated Watershed Management Planning
- Zero Waste Planning for Sustainable Waste Management
- ARPA Statewide Planning and Tourism Planning

These projects are organized by funding source and summarized with deliverables detailed further in the “priority projects” section of this report.

OPD was able to expand our small team and continue to build on existing partnerships to further these planning themes and priority projects – and more – in 2022. Detailed project summaries and deliverables follow in this report. Based on PDAC meetings and planning taskforce and working group discussions held over the last year, recommendations to support the CNMI’s CSDP are outlined further here.

Priority projects are identified and implemented in coordination with the PDAC and numerous planning partners, in alignment with applicable visions, themes, goals, and objectives detailed in the CSDP.



PDAC Membership is established by Public Law 20-20.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS & NEXT STEPS

Recommendation Summary	Next Steps / Needs
Allocate resources to support ongoing adaptive management planning and project implementation consistent with P.L. 20-20 and the CSDP.	Local funding requests, position creation, ongoing coordination; Improve data sharing by publishing monthly agency reports on the Office of the Governor’s website and OPD’s publications page
Invest in grant and project management support.	Leverage EnerGov and SSG Assessment Tool for coordinated project planning and tracking; Consider amendments of IRP enabling legislation to include project management and grant management training tasks
SSG “mainstreaming” through planning and permit review requirements and ongoing allocation of resources for updates and tool development.	SSG Endorsement, inter-agency regulatory review and SSG updates, funding to support contract or staff time to conduct guidance updates periodically, ideally corresponding with the 5-year Resources Report updates
The ongoing FEMA-funded Hazard Mitigation Roads Mapping and Assessment project include easement details as road infrastructure layers are updated and that this information be used to inform easement acquisition planning and funding efforts.	RFP issuance or re-scoping and rebid of project with DPW, update of GIS layers to support creation of revised built environmental layers for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota
Collaborative planning efforts are recommended to establish road design guidelines for primary and secondary roads to provide a safe transport of motorized and non-motorized road users.	Staff time or planning support funding to develop and adopt road design guidelines
Attendance of planning and project management staff in the upcoming “Walkability Institute” is recommended to support multidisciplinary planning initiatives that will enhance sustainability outcomes for the built and natural environment and improve equity, well-being, and socio-economic outcomes of the CNMI community.	Staff time and support of identified next steps for walkability planning that are identified
Continue “Zero Waste” planning and project implementation support with a focus on composting facilities for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota as well as the Northern Islands.	Complete comprehensive integrated waste management plan (in progress); resubmit the FY22 TAP and MAP applications for Zero Waste program support

Recommendation Summary	Next Steps / Needs
Support equity in program deployment including supporting island- and village-specific redevelopment plans in close coordination with community stakeholders and developing a priority watershed management plan for Tinian.	Obtain dedicated funding for a Tinian Watershed Planner, support USGS groundwater analysis, develop and implement priority watershed plan
Incorporate key policies and principles of disaster recovery and risk reduction into all relevant planning documents.	Support incorporation of CSDP themes, goals, objectives, and guiding standards into forthcoming plans and plan updates including watershed management plans, the forthcoming CEDS, SSMP, and CBDG updates with emphasis on ongoing coordination and project prioritization efforts
Conduct a desk audit and adjust programs such as continuing education and funding levels where appropriate to support equity in resource allocation and staff retention.	Conduct a CNMI agency-wide desk audit; implement recommendations and continue to reassess and track progress in staff retention and continuing education engagement
To achieve data collection and sharing goals, mechanisms to ensure consistent reporting and compliance with the plan review and incorporation protocols established in Public Law 20-20 should be pursued.	Executive Order or P.L. 20-20 amendments to further empower OPD to fulfill its mandates
Create and fund Technology Information Coordination Officer position to expand and maintain OPD's Information Clearinghouse and build interagency planning and GIS capabilities.	Create and fund Technology Information Coordination Officer position, work with the Marianas Mappers Group to revising the standard Lands and Surveys datum to the current NAD83 MA11 and revise legislation to use the currently adopted national datum, and making allowances for use of the pending 2022/23 revision
It is essential that CNMI continue to complete and improve on the Single State Audit.	Retain a single audit coordinator and revive the Single Audit Committee established to address the audit's findings and take necessary corrective actions
Ensure regulatory compliance with federal and CNMI environmental and financial requirements.	Establish civil service positions for key regulatory agency positions as a way to encourage uniform enforcement of development requirements and policies

Sustainable Development Goal 17 focuses on the importance of partnerships to achieve more sustainable growth. Ongoing support of the government and non-government planning partners is critical to furthering the shared visions reflected in the CNMI's CSDP. Working together, we can support progress towards the positive outcomes that are the focus of these recommendations and continue to achieve meaningfully coordinated project planning and implementation this year and in the years ahead.





OPD ANNUAL REPORT – 2022 IN REVIEW



INTRODUCTION

This Annual Report is produced in compliance with requirements of Public Law 20-20 § 20173 (g). It is a yearly briefing document that builds on the performance-based standards put into place when the Office of Planning and Development (OPD) began its annual reporting in 2018.

Each Annual Report contains an overview of OPD, challenges and successes across thematic planning areas, provides project details, includes updated financial data, and offers an overview of future plans as well as pending next steps.






You can learn more at opd.gov.mp/



Successful strategic planning requires objectives that are “SMART”: specific, measurable, audience- or issue-directed, realistic and ambitious, and time-bound. Short- and mid-term objectives of OPD to support the achievement of our mission are outlined according to three main goals of:

- (i) creating the “CNMI Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan” (CSDP);
- (ii) establishing and maintaining a “data library;” and
- (iii) instituting interagency coordination frameworks.

SMART CRITERIA

	<i>Specific</i>
	<i>Measurable</i>
	<i>Assignable</i>
	<i>Relevant</i>
	<i>Time-based</i>

OPD has been making progress on these goals, as detailed further here. To support these efforts, the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) further aims to continue implementing Section 702 funding to initiate and manage critical public projects and will work closely with OPD’s planning section to incorporate project planning into CNMI’s Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan and related planning and project implementation efforts.

As reflected in the updates on key objectives and action items detailed here, OPD’s 2023 objectives will build on the successes of prior years. We will continue to implement priority projects of the 2021-2030 CSDP, continue to build and maintain the data library available at opd.gov.mp/, re-initiate plan and report review to support the 2023-2024 update of the CNMI’s Resources Report to support the 2025 CSDP reassessment, and continue quarterly Taskforces meeting as well as support opportunistic meetings as needed to achieve these objectives this year and in the years ahead.

Challenges - Ongoing Recovery

While the CNMI was still in a state of recovery from Super Typhoon Yutu that devastated our islands in 2018, the economy suffered the most significant disruption in our history in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The tourism industry, long the most critical of industries, came to a grinding halt in the first half of 2020 with the cancellation of all international flights beginning with China in January 2020, and Japan and South Korea in March 2020. This continued into 2021 and 2022 brought only minor improvements.

Economic recovery shall remain a priority for the remainder of fiscal year 2023 and beyond. The CNMI remains vulnerable to natural disasters, global pandemics, tourism market volatility, increasing regional and international competition, and over-reliance upon a single industry. The CNMI has yet to take a meaningful approach to new industry development and persistent structural hurdles impede access to new markets.

High utility rates, limited available development land, access to labor, and complex permitting processes present challenges to increased business development and economic security. An updated strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats analysis will be developed to incorporate currently available trends analysis to support ongoing economic recovery and diversification planning efforts in the forthcoming update of the CNMI's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy in partnership with the Department of Commerce, the PDAC, and other planning partners. Critical next steps for this initiative are the execution of ARPA-supported RFP for CNMI's Economic Recovery and Feasibility Carry Capacity Study and the appointment or re-appointment of the CEDS Commission to further support the plan update process.

Successes - Ongoing Progress and Partnerships

Despite the challenges presented by impacts to and ongoing recovery efforts focused on our socio-economic, built, and natural resources, 2022 was also a year of great successes. Progress continued on critical projects.

- \$21M EDA Oleai Sports Complex and Cultural Center is in A&E with procurement ongoing
- \$11M Garapan Revitalization Project initiated permitting and phased construction Broadband planning is promoting equitable access and affordability
- \$5.2M ASADRA Work-plans approved through USEPA enabling the initiation of Integrated Solid Waste Management Planning, the Tinian Zero Waste Pilot Project, and the Emergency Yutu Debris Cleanup
- FEMA-supported data collection is underway for flood zone risk map updates and built infrastructure layers
- One week of “Smart, Safe Growth” Trainings were held, certifying 90 participants
- Geospatial Information Systems Training is planned with accreditation efforts pending
- OPD-supported FEMA-funded BRIC and Hazard Mitigation projects are moving forward
- Technical staff supported launch of CBMA website and environmental security planning
- In partnership with the Department of Finance, the EnerGov permitting system was launched
- \$1.6M NFWF Coastal Resiliency Project is supporting coral and wetland plant nurseries and data collection
- Quarterly PDAC, Planning Taskforces, Complete Streets, and Marianas Mappers meetings continue

OPD is grateful for the tremendous support from hard working public servants who are helping to plan and implement these priority sustainability projects.



ABOUT OPD

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PROGRESS TOWARDS THE GOALS

1. The CSDP was adopted in 2021 – implementation is ongoing.
2. The data library was published on the OPD website in 2019. Data collection and updates continue.
3. The PDAC and Planning Taskforces and the CSDP provide a framework to achieve CNMI’s sustainability mission.



CSDP MISSION

**“Building a sustainable CNMI
for current and future generations.”**

MEET THE TEAM



Plan and Develop.

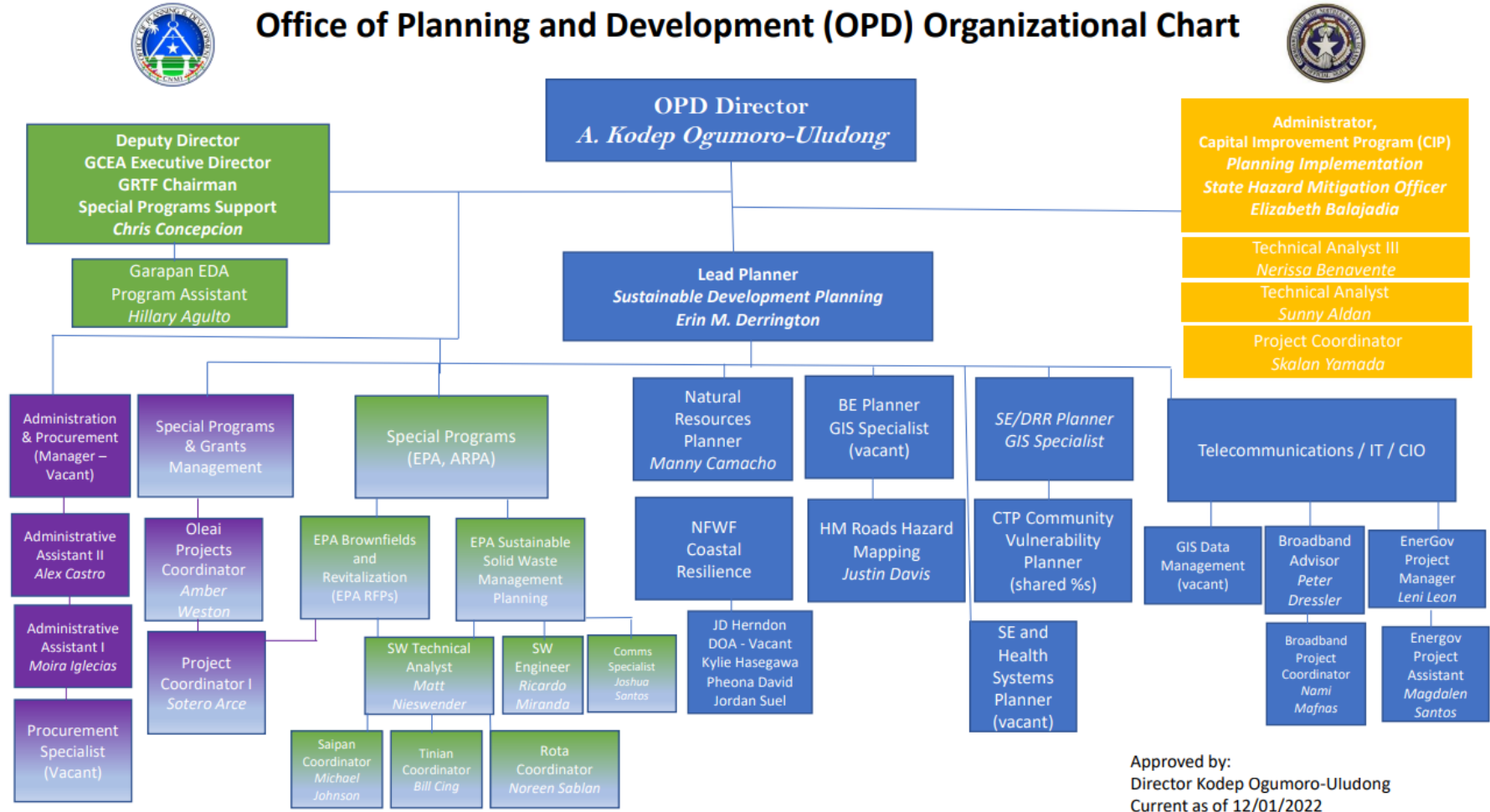
CREATING A SUSTAINABLE PLAN TO GROW OUR ISLANDS.



Team OPD grew substantially in 2022. We thank our staff and our numerous governmental and non-governmental partners and stakeholders for helping to chart and make progress towards a more sustainable CNMI!

OPD ORGANIZATION

As depicted in the organizational chart at right, the Office of Planning and Development is led by Director A. Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong. Christopher A. Concepcion serves as Deputy Director. Capital Improvement Program (CIP) activities are overseen by Administrator Elizabeth Salas-Balajadia. Planning and grant management activities are coordinated by Lead Planner Erin M. Derrington. Our core team grew significantly in 2022, and we continue to work with our local and federal partners to leverage existing resources and fund new positions as needed to further comprehensive planning and project implementation efforts.



FINANCIALS

The OPD’s Director, administrative, and planning staff are partially funded through federal grants with the remainder funded through legislative appropriations. The CNMI Legislature allocated \$295,307 to OPD in FY22 (P.L. 22-08). Local allocations are further detailed here:

Fiscal Year	Total Personnel	Total All Other Expenses	Total
FY19	\$108,010	\$209,795	\$317,805
FY20	\$267,916	\$2,679	\$270,595
FY21	\$171,415	\$1,713	\$173,128
FY22	\$194,383	\$100,924	\$295,307

The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Office is funded by U.S. Financial Assistance allocations through the Office of Insular Affairs pursuant to 48 U.S.C. 1803 through the grants listed below:

Fiscal Year	Budget	Period of Performance
FY18	\$8,124,000	April 9, 2018 - September 30, 2023
FY19	\$9,665,000	May 15, 2019- September 30, 2024
FY20	\$9,208,000	February 6, 2020- September 30, 2025
FY21	\$9,082,000	March 23, 2021- September 30, 2026



CSDP & PDAC OVERVIEW

CSDP

“Building a sustainable CNMI
for current and future generations.”

STRATEGIC PLAN

The Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan is a strategic plan supported by area- and resource-specific action plans and development strategies, supported by prioritized funding and project alignment. It is a living document that aims to identify and work towards a share community vision more improved sustainability and resiliency outcomes, now and for the future.

PRIORITY ACTIONS

Priority actions are identified in “Appendix I” of the CSDP and inform coordinated planning efforts to further progress towards the CNMI’s “right sized” sustainable development goals. The CSDP includes a 5-year review and update process to reflect leading practices in adaptive management planning.



CSDP

2021 Adoption
Implementation Ongoing



Resources Report

Data Collection Ongoing
Update by 2024



CSDP Update

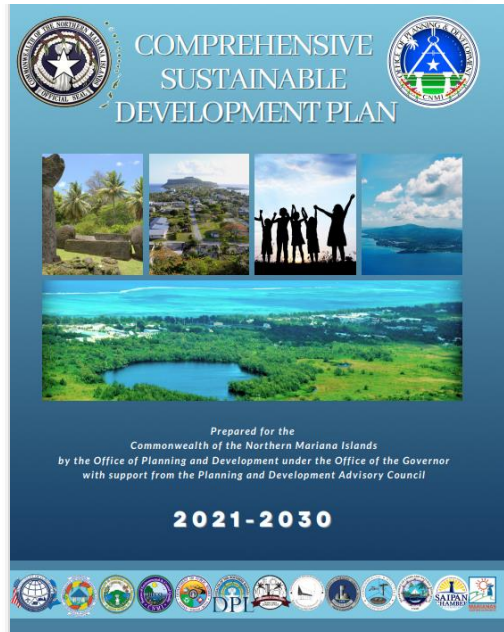
5yr Update
Include New Data, Plans,
Priorities etc.



**THEME 1:
SUSTAINABLE SYSTEMS**



**THEME 2:
Networks of Care**



Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan

“Building a sustainable CNMI for current and future generations”



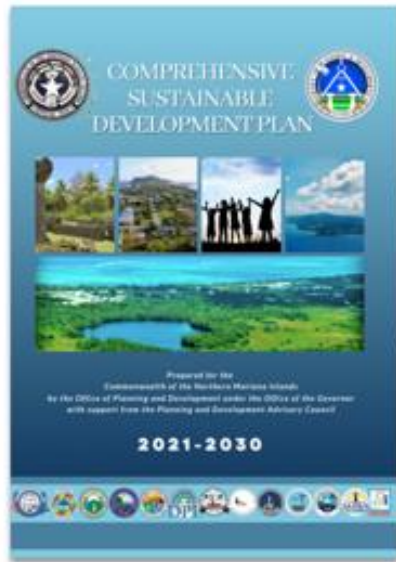
**THEME 3:
Inclusive and Equitable
Communities**



**THEME 4:
Partnerships**



- Ongoing visioning and plan expansion
- Data collection and incorporation into Resources Report updates
- Coordination in planning and implementation efforts across agencies and sectors
- Key Recommendations in Annual Report!



The “CSDP” is a strategic plan. Short-, mid-, and long-range objectives are periodically reviewed so progress can be tracked and adjustments made as conditions change.

The Planning and Development Advisory Council's (PDAC) membership is established by Public Law 20-20. Members and proxies have been meeting quarterly to support the mandates of PL20-20 and make progress towards our shared vision of a more sustainable CNMII.

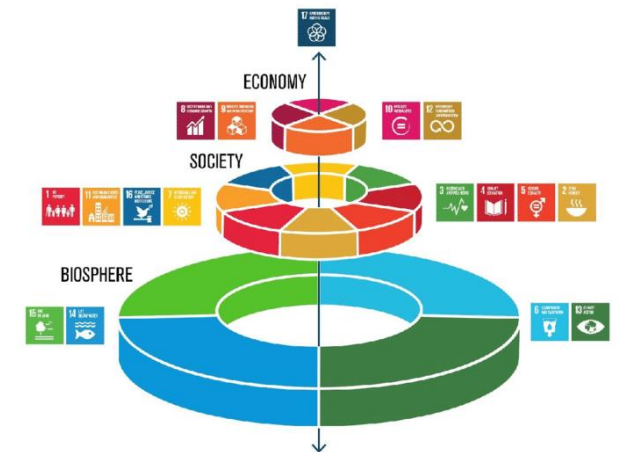


ZONING

Partnership is the foundation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The PDAC and Planning Taskforces worked to “right-size” SDGs and identify metrics to track progress and align priorities to work towards the shared vision of the CSDP.

OPD is supporting cooperative interagency projects that are furthering implementation.



Planning Area Public Law 20-20 § 20176	Resource Element Resources Report Category	Taskforce(s) (Primary Section Bold)	Description
(A) Land Use		BE NR SE DRR Edu	
(B) Community Design			
(C) Transportation			
(D) Regulations			
(E) Public Facilities			
(F) Public Lands			
(G) Public Buildings			
(H) Housing			
(I) Redevelopment			
(J) Conservation			
(K) Recreation			
(L) Safety			
(M) Tourism			
(N) Development Policy			
(O) Capital Improvements			
(P) Labor Work Force			
(Q) Policy Statements			
(R) Other Elements:			
i. Education			
ii. Healthcare			
iii. Comprehensive Resiliency			

SOCIO-ECONOMIC TASKFORCE

Vision Statement: CNMI is a healthy and sustainable place to live, work, recreate, and weather a storm

BUILT ENVIRONMENT TASKFORCE

Vision Statement: Supporting and expanding capital improvements to serve the infrastructure needs of CNMI and support sustainable growth

NATURAL RESOURCES TASKFORCE

Vision Statement: Preserving CNMI's natural capital while balancing economic growth and equitable opportunities for all



“Building a sustainable CNMI for current and future generations” – Overall CSDP Vision

PRIORITY PROJECTS

- Garapan Revitalization Planning
- Building Coastal Resiliency
- Brownfields and Revitalization Planning
- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities – Micro Beach Shoreline Planning
- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities – Blighted Buildings Planning
- Applying SSG for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resiliency
- Mainstreaming SSG with DPW’s Building Code Section
- Enhancing International Building Code Enforcement
- Mapping and Addressing Road Flood Hazards
- Oleai Sports and Cultural Center
- Tyler EnerGov Permit Streamlining
- ARPA Statewide Planning and Tourism Planning
- Broadband Deployment
- Integrated Watershed Management Planning
- Zero Waste Planning for Sustainable Waste Management with “ISWMTF”

These projects are organized by funding source and summarized with deliverables detailed further in the “priority projects” section of this report that follows.

The “PDAC” and Planning Taskforces – Built Environment, Natural Resources, and Socio-Economic / Disaster Risk Reduction support ongoing collection and sharing of data and work to align needs to improve coordination and achieve priority sustainability outcomes. Priority projects, listed at right above and summarized in the next section, are identified and implemented further through this framework.



PRIORITY PROJECTS – 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

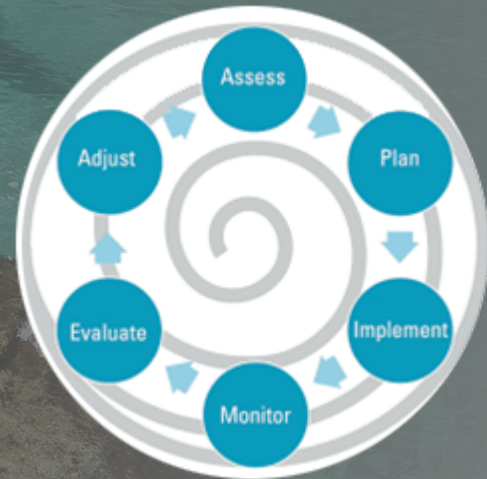
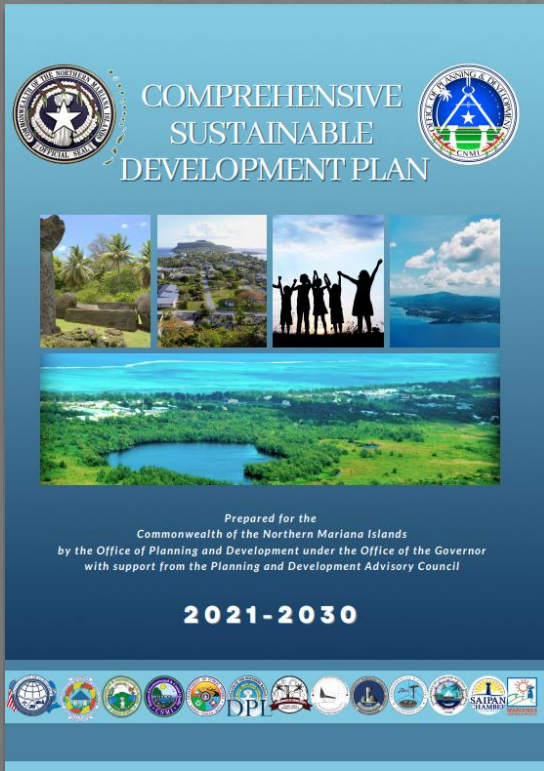
LOCALLY FUNDED:

Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan (CSDP) & Resources Reporting

Status: Ongoing

Summary: As mandated by Public Law 20-20, OPD and the PDAC created the Resources Report and CSDP to support ongoing sustainable growth planning. The 2021-2030 CSDP was adopted in October 2021. The Resources Report and CSDP will be reviewed and revised at least every five years in alignment with the vision, themes, and objectives and following the adaptive management approach outlined in the document in coordination with the PDAC.

Deliverables: Regular updates of Resources Report and CSDP and related plans



LOCALLY FUNDED:

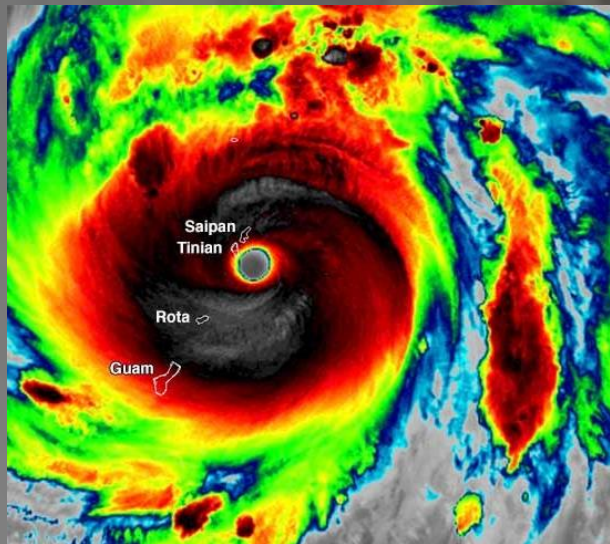
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Support

Status: Ongoing

Summary: Supporting plan consistency and integration of CSDP principles into mitigation planning and projects. This includes supporting grant development, project scoping, implementation, and education and outreach.

Deliverables: HMGP applications, project support, Standard State Mitigation Plan update support (pending – anticipated completion 2024);

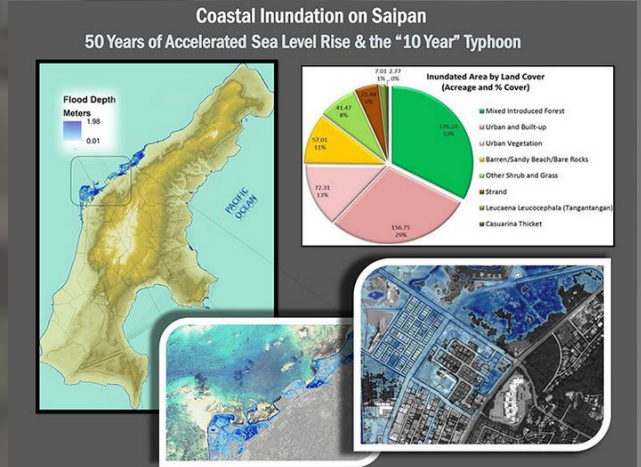
- Reviewed and supported scoping that obtained 100% match waiver for DR-4404-MP projects in coordination with HMGP using Smart Safe Growth evaluation criteria
- HM 4404-51 Roads Mitigation Project with DPW – in progress
- Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities Proposals
 - o BRIC Blighted Buildings Hazard Mitigation – in review (drafting and project support in coordination with Zoning and DPL - approved and HM Acceptance pending)
 - o BRIC Dandan Flood and Stormwater Improvement – in review (drafting and project support in coordination with DPW - approved and HM Acceptance pending)
 - o Micro Beach Assessment Scoping in review (drafting and project support in coordination w/ BECQ – approved and HM Acceptance pending)
 - o FY23 Application for Building Code Training with DPW in progress
 - o Gagpag Climate Resilience and Risk Mitigation Planning Project (drafting and project support in coordination w/ DPW if approved)



SMART, SAFE GROWTH (SSG) IN CNMI: GOALS

Goals of SSG Include:

- **Healthy people, economies, and environment**
- **Good ROI with reduced costs for public infrastructure and services**
- **Early community engagement, scoping, and adaptive management planning**
- **Improved resiliency and recovery of natural and built environments**
- **Maximize protection of public health, safety, and welfare (Supporting FEMA Lifelines)**
- **Minimize disruption of public services**
- **Resilient and sustainable growth**



LOCALLY & FEDERALLY FUNDED:

NFWF - Enhancing Wetlands and Corals Resilience in Saipan's Priority Management Watershed

Status: Ongoing

Summary: Ongoing marine and terrestrial restoration project, \$1.6M funded through 3/2024; amendment and reprogramming in progress to support reallocation of funds from unfilled DoAg position and request no cost extension to continue to support staffing as budget allows, likely through 09/2024. Expanded partnerships and restoration activities already in progress.

\$200,000 CIP match for A&E support pending OIA approval for processing of RFP.

Deliverables:

- Marine habitat restoration – increase diversity and outplanting for corals – in progress in coordination with BECQ & DLNR
- Wetland habitat restoration (AMP & MIHA sites) – pending RFP / contract and permits; in progress in coordination with BECQ & DLNR (2.5 acres goal)
- Outreach and Education – in progress



LOCALLY & FEDERALLY FUNDED:

EPA-ASADRA Solid Waste

Status: Ongoing – no expiration on \$56 ASADRA funds allocated to USEPA, annual work plans and budgets required for allocation – in Phase II, Phase III application pending

Summary: Supplemental emergency funding for Yutu disaster recovery and to support environmentally compliant solid waste management planning and sustainable project implementation including adoption of CNMI's first integrated waste management plan

Deliverables:

- Comprehensive Integrated Inter-island Solid Waste Management Plan (CISWMP) – in progress with expected completion by May 2024;
- Tinian Zero Waste Study and Pilot Project – in progress with expected completion by October 2023;
- Yutu Emergency Debris Cleanup – in progress (final report / invoice 4 pending)
- Marpi Backup Power – being supported with NREL, in progress
- Training and capacity building – in progress / ongoing
- Draft emergency response plan for solid waste – complete, to be included in CISWMP



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

5 STEPS TO ACHIEVE ZERO WASTE

- REFUSE**
Say no to nonessentials
- REDUCE**
Adopt minimalist tendencies
- REUSE**
Give items a second life
- RECYCLE**
Choose recyclable packaging
- ROT**
Compost all organic waste

Solid Waste Management Updates

- Comprehensive Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan & Tinian Zero Waste Project pending
- Working to permit and build the necessary facilities accompanied with necessary equipment and trained personnel from all four municipalities
- Green Waste Processing/Compositing Site and Recycling Center permitted on Tinian, and additional site applications pending and across municipalities
- Ongoing trainings to support planning and implementation objectives



By 2030, 50% of the recyclable waste stream will be diverted from CNMI's landfill or RCRA-compliant waste management facilities on Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands with diverted waste composted, reused, or sold to support sustainable waste management systems.



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Brownfields & Land Revitalization Program

Environmental Challenges



Economic Challenges



Social Challenges



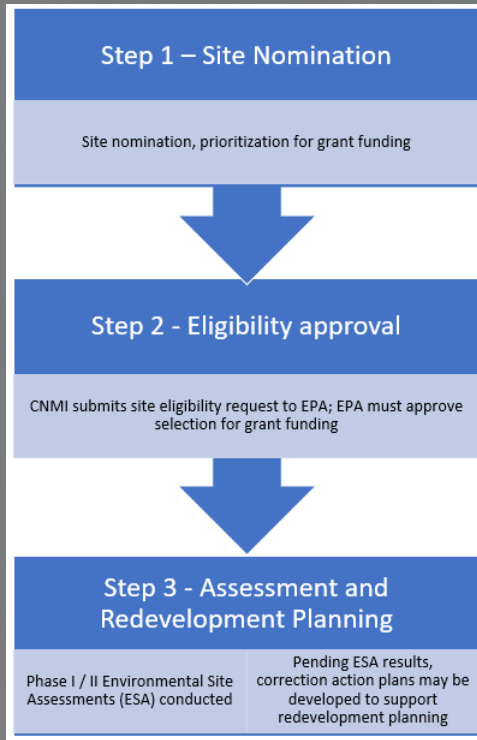
LOCALLY & FEDERALLY FUNDED:

EPA-Brownfields (Garapan) – BF-98T23601

Status: Ongoing, funded through 10/31/2024

Summary: Ongoing, \$300,000 100% federally funded cooperative agreement to inventory, characterize, assess, and conduct cleanup planning and community involvement related activities for brownfield sites in CNMI with a focus on Garapan – Lower-Base area.

Deliverables: RFP for professional services under review with Committee, rescoping likely needed to meet project budget unless supplemental local funding is / becomes available to support assessment and planning tasks which could otherwise be pursued in supplemental phases.



EPA Supports Brownfields Revitalization

- Grants and technical assistance to promote:
 - community-driven planning, assessment, clean up and reuse of brownfield sites
 - training for brownfield jobs and workforce development
 - building local capacity to manage brownfield projects and successfully revitalization targeted areas.
- Liability protections to encourage acquisition and investment in brownfield reuse
- Establishing and enhancing state and tribal response programs

<https://www.epa.gov/brownfields/overview-epas-brownfields-program>

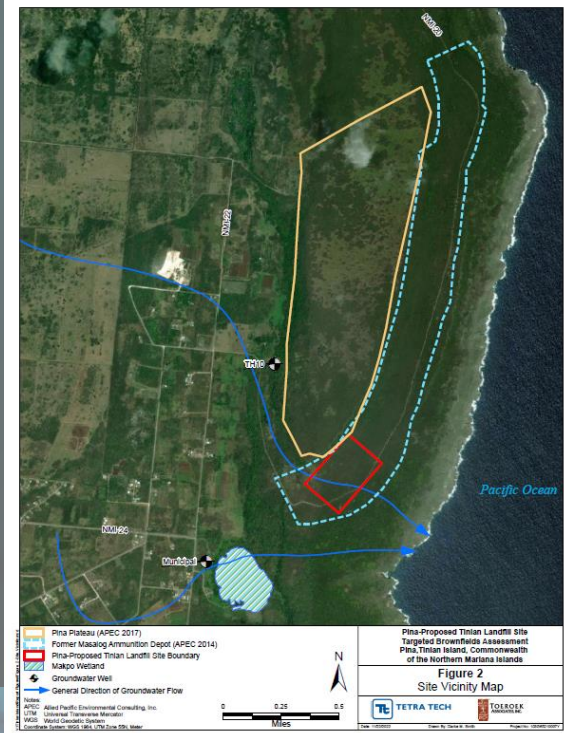
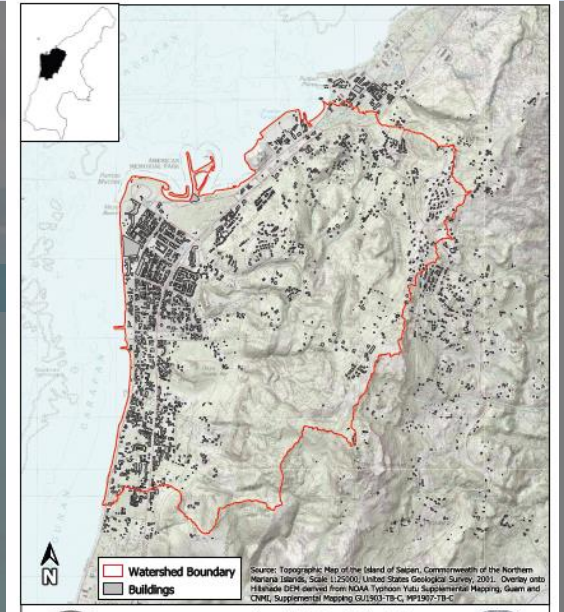
EPA-Brownfields (Tinian - Pina)

Status: Ongoing, supporting Mayor of Tinian / EPA in brownfields assessment

Summary: Supporting completion of Phase II assessment for Pina, Tinian, for area designated as potential alternate landfill location – 100% Federally funded with in-kind local support

Deliverables: Final Phase II assessment for Pina – to be incorporated into Tinian Dump Closure Feasibility Assessment and Report under SW project to inform remediation costs

Lower West Takpochao Planning Area (LWTPA)



LOCALLY & FEDERALLY FUNDED:

FEMA Community Technical Partners - FY21 CTP EMF-2021-CA-00013

Status: Ongoing – rescoping / FEMA FIRM update reassessment – funded through 9/2023

Summary: Ongoing \$210,000 100% federally funded with local in-kind match for flood risk identification and mapping project. Rescoping to address data needs in progress – we have discussed a no-cost extension with FEMA to allow for expanded data analysis which has been requested in coordination with CNMI's SMHO, DCRM, and DPW Floodplain Administrator.

Deliverables: FIRM updates mapped by FEMA, community outreach and engagement including flood risk FAQ (drafted), community survey (drafted), and public meetings regarding flood risk data (on hold pending mapping updates),

NEEDS AND NEXT STEPS

- Updating coastal and terrestrial flood maps – will then update GIS analysis & FIRMS
- Also working on groundwater updates with USGS to support comprehensive watershed management planning and projects
- Community engagement – validating experience and discussing future impacts
- Mapping and vulnerability updates, FAQs
- Resiliency and Adaptation Pathways Planning



KEY DELIVERABLES

- Flooding Literature Review
- Flood Hazards Working Group
- Flooding GIS analysis
- Community Fact Sheets
- Flood vulnerable community meetings
- Recommendations for adaptive planning pathways
- Incorporation into CSDP & SSMP updates
- And more?



The map displays Saipan Island with various flood zones: Zone AE (EL 7), Zone AE (EL 6), Zone VE (EL 9), and Zone AO (DEPTH 1). A legend indicates 'Selected Flood Map Boundary' and 'Digital Data Availability' (Digital Data Available, No Digital Data Available, Unknown). The map is titled 'LIMIT OF STUDY SAIPAN ISLAND COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS 690110'. SDG icons are positioned around the map: 1 NO POVERTY, 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING, 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES, 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES, 13 CLIMATE ACTION, 15 LIFE ON LAND, and 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS.

FEDERALLY FUNDED:

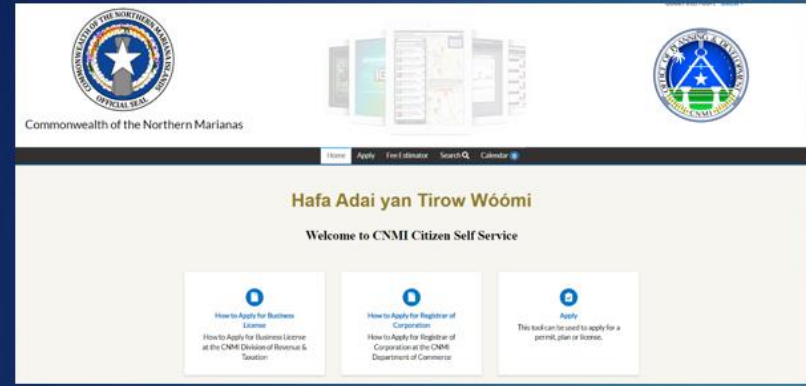
EnerGov

Status: Ongoing

Summary: By the end of October 2023, the OPD's EnerGov Support Team ("EGST"), in partnership with the CNMI Department of Finance, will have successfully provided technical and workflow consultation and support for seven permitting and licensing agencies within the CNMI government, one hundred subject matter experts, over three thousand business licenses, and over ten thousand permits. The EGST which consists of a project management role a project implementation support positions aimed at ensuring that the CNMI's newly implemented e-government platform continues to successfully provide businesses and residents in the CNMI transparent and ease of license/permitting application experience.

Deliverables: EnerGov platform launched, roll-out and ongoing O&M pending

Live as of December 06, 2022



Citizen Self Service: https://egov.dof.gov.mp/EnerGov_Prod/SelfService#/home

IMPROVE PERMIT AND LICENSE PROCESS

Transparency – Clients and collaborating agencies can track application status and pending processing needs

Collaboration – Allows for remote real-time collaborative review

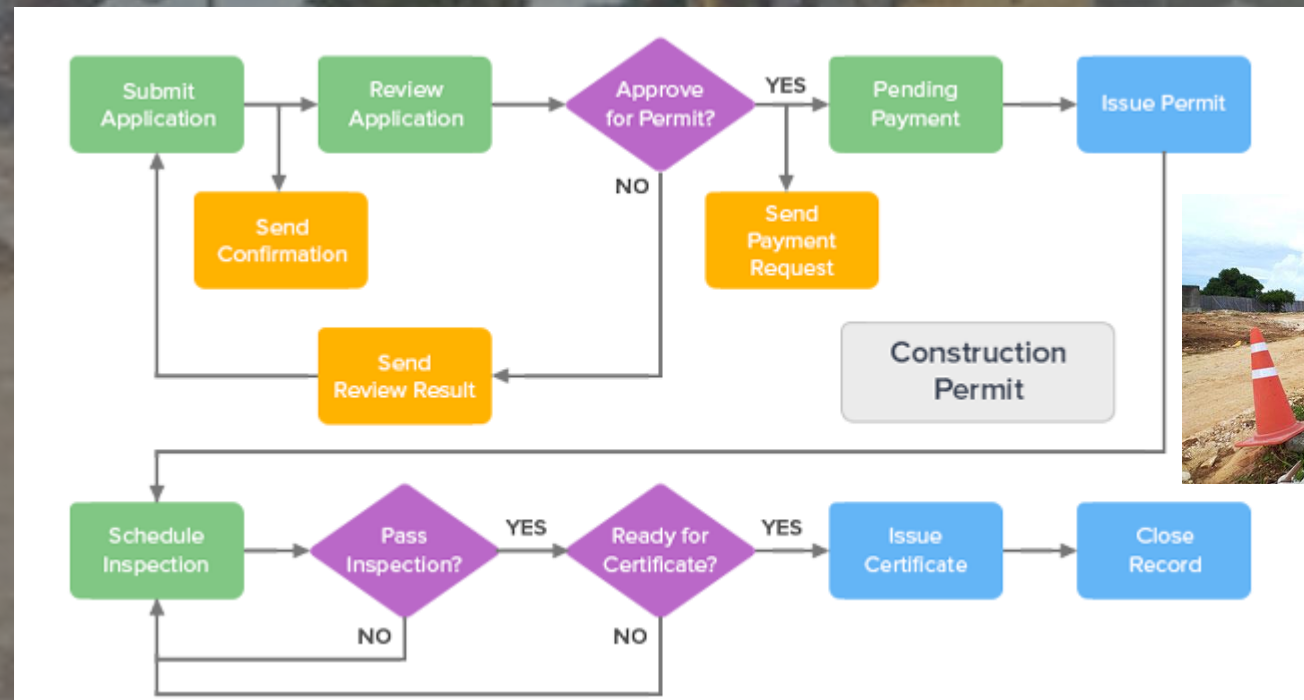
CODE ENFORCEMENT

Enable Code Inspectors and Enforcement agents to conduct field work and produce reports on the spot

Provides a solution, or a platform for agencies that have needed an inspection software for years

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

- Division of Coastal Resource Management
- Division of Environmental Quality
- Department of Public Works
- Zoning Office
- Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services
- Department of Commerce
- Historic Preservation Office



FEDERALLY FUNDED:

EDA-Garapan Revitalization

Status: Ongoing

Summary: Ongoing \$11M Garapan beautification in progress. Permitting is ongoing. Project phasing proposed to coordinate utility improvements with CUC and DPW.

Deliverables: Realign and beautify Garapan Core project area and support six months of maintenance for newly installed landscaping with 11/2024 anticipated completion.



- ▶ **Permitting Ongoing**
 - ▶ Phase I – PDM, S. Royal Palm, S. Coffee Tree Mall, S. Ginger & Plumeria Ave
 - ▶ Phase II – Beach Road East section, Coconut Street, Date Street, Royal Palm Ave. Mid section, Coffee Tree Mall (mid section)
 - ▶ Phase III – Palm Street, Micro Beach Road south section, Beach Road (west section)
 - ▶ Phase IV – N. Royal Palm Ave., N. Ginger Ave., N. Coffee Tree Mall N
- ▶ Survey ground-truthing
- ▶ Project complete by Nov. 2024
- ▶ Brownfields assessments and revitalization planning anticipated to re-start w/ GRTF in FY23



FEDERALLY FUNDED:

EDA-Oleai Sports Complex and Cultural Center

Status: Ongoing

Summary: Ongoing \$21M Sports & Cultural renovation in progress. A&E contracts for both sides of the project, Oleai Sports Complex & Cultural Events Center Facilities, are moving forward.

Deliverables: Enhancements to Oleai Sports Complex include equipment acquisitions and facilities upgrades including construction of an Olympic-sized swimming pool; cultural center construction will provide enhanced space for vendors and activities.



- KEY**
- ① North Parking Lot
 - ② Exhibit Space, Admin Office, 500 Sails
 - ③ ⑩ ⑪ Restrooms
 - ④ Stage
 - ⑤ Stage Seating area
 - ⑥ Display/Vendor Booths
 - ⑦ Chamorro Village Activity Structures
 - ⑧ Medicinal Plant Garden
 - ⑨ Main House
 - ⑫ Seafaring Traditions Program Traditional Canoe Houses (existing)
 - ⑬ South Parking Lot



FEDERALLY FUNDED:

Broadband

Status: Ongoing

Summary: \$125,000 NTIA Planning support for Broadband and Digital Equity Strategy. Planning support includes conducting a study to identify the optimal operational structure for new middle-mile including potential options for Municipal organization, partnering with existing utilities, public auction/Indefeasible Rights of Use etc., efforts to ensure that “Middle Mile” installations have open access for consuming last mile operators, including expedited non-discriminatory pole attachment agreements and permitting for easements and rights of way, and, in the medium term (2022-2029) consider flexible options for supplementing existing subsidy programs such as FCC Affordable Connectivity Program and e-Rate Program.

Deliverables: Broadband strategic plan and deployment in coordination with the Department of Finance, PDAC, and “Community Pillar Institutions”.

Learn more about OPD Broadband here: opd.gov.mp/internet



FEDERALLY FUNDED:



AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021

ARPA – Statewide Planning Support – Grant Administration Program

Status: Ongoing

Summary: In coordination with the Department of Commerce and CEDA, the Statewide Planning proposal will support long-term sustainability planning efforts that align with EDA investment priorities through implementation of the following three planning support components, (i) economic recovery and feasibility carry capacity study; (ii) economic recovery planning education assessment, training, and incubator integration, and (iii) socio-economic planning liaison for project management, coordination, and capacity building.

Deliverables: 1. The CNMI Economic Recovery and Feasibility Carry Capacity Study; and 2. “The Technology in Schools Training Development Plan” and “Technology in the Community Training Development Plan”

ARPA – Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation Planning Support

Status: Ongoing

Summary: In coordination with the Marianas Visitors Authority, this \$1,440,352 ARPA-supported planning and implementation update will build from the CSDP and MVA’s Sustainable Tourism Plan. Tasks include (i) implementing prioritized tourism site infrastructure and enhancement projects throughout the CNMI, incorporating renewable energy and low impact development features where feasible, as well as (ii) workforce training with a “train the trainers” design that will put severely impacted tourism industry workers back to work and provide opportunities for new graduates to earn stipends and develop a self-sustaining tourism site management and maintenance program, and (iii) that integration with CSDP goals and EDA investment priorities will be ensured through ongoing coordination and inclusion of products of this grant within outcomes of the State Planning Proposal.

Deliverables: 1. Accessibility and Maintenance Investments at High Priority Tourism Sites; 2. Workforce Training Program; and 3. Tourism Diversification Liaison supports project implementation and plan integration





“Building a sustainable CNMI for current and future generations.”

FY22 Successes

PRIORITY ACTIONS

In summary, in FY22 OPD support of six major planning projects in addition to ongoing coordination and implementation support of the CSDP as previously outlined included: (i) Tyler EnerGov Project Development and Permit Streamlining; (ii) American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Statewide Planning and Tourism Planning grant development; (iii) Broadband deployment coordination; (iv) ongoing integrated watershed management planning being led by BECQ; (v) comprehensive solid waste management planning in coordination with DPW, BECQ, and the Offices of the Mayors of Tinian and Rota; and (vi) the Energy Plan update as a member of the Governor’s Energy Taskforce. OPD is also working with the Office of Grants Management and EDA grant recipients to further coordinate EDA-supported investment projects that include the Oleai Sports and Cultural Center, the Financial Resiliency Center, and the Garapan revitalization project detailed above.

Highlights of integrated planning efforts initiated in 2022 included supporting CNMI’s endorsement of and membership in the Climate Strong Islands Network, an information sharing network focused on U.S.-affiliated island jurisdictions, co-hosted by The Ocean Foundation and the Global Island Partnership. In coordination with the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs, OPD also joined INDOPACOM meetings to further environmental security planning at the regional level in Summer 2022. Through this effort CNMI submitted proposed project listings for implementation projects, focusing renewable energy deployment at military installations as well as coral restoration and shoreline management support initiatives that would benefit the Marianas and the region as a whole. OPD welcomes the opportunity to continue to support comprehensive regional environmental security planning and implementation efforts.

STRATEGIC ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Priority actions are identified in “Appendix I” of the CSDP and continue to inform coordinated planning efforts to further progress towards the CNMI’s “right sized” sustainable development goals. The CSDP includes a 5-year review and update process to reflect leading practices in adaptive management planning that will be priorities to support ongoing implementation in the years ahead.

✓
CSDP
2021 Adoption
Implementation Ongoing

☑
Resources Report
Data Collection Ongoing
Update by 2024

↻
CSDP Update
5yr Update
Include New Data, Plans,
Priorities etc.



FUTURE PLANS / NEXT STEPS



PRIORITY NEXT STEPS FOR OPD GOALS

IMPLEMENT AND UPDATE CSDP

- Allocation of resources to continue to support adaptive management planning and project implementation is recommended.
- Investment in grant and project management capacity building in coordination with a permitting support institution such as the Infrastructure Recovery Program is encouraged to further ensure successful implementation of priority projects.
- Resources Report updates to be initiated in 2023 to support CSDP update timeline.

MAINTAIN AND EXPAND DATA LIBRARY

- OPD will continue to coordinate with existing support services with OIT and recommends the creation of a “Technology Information Coordination Officer” (TICO) position to lead data digitization and compilation efforts. The centralization of CNMI agency reports and plans and the creation of public-facing and internal geospatial information databases will help streamline project scoping and implementation efforts. It is further encouraged that the scope of the TICO position include supporting geospatial information system development and maintenance and website updates including coordinating cross-posting of RFP/RFQ/ITBs and job postings.

INTERAGENCY COORDINATION

- Ongoing interagency planning and project implementation support will enable progress towards CNMI’s CSDP and SDGs.

FUTURE PLANS / NEXT STEPS

2023

2024

2025

Resources Report Update

Ongoing implementation /
planning and project support

Resources Report –

Revision and recommendations
inform CSDP review and update
planning

Ongoing implementation /
planning and project support

CSDP Update

Ongoing implementation /
planning and project support

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

CONTINUITY

The CSDP is a living plan. Continued support from the CNMI's leadership and community at large are necessary to make progress towards sustainable growth goals and objectives.

FUNDING

Ongoing local support is necessary to meet federal grant match commitments and continue to grow cross-cutting planning and implementation efforts for CNMI.

SUCCESSION PLANNING

A CNMI-wide desk audit would support assessment and adjustment training and succession planning programs such as continuing education and funding levels where appropriate to support equity in resource allocation and staff retention.

CAPACITY BUILDING

It is essential to create, fund, fill, and continue to build capacity for critical planning, project management, and financial management positions. This includes creating island-specific planning positions, a "Technology Information Coordinator" position to support data library management, and retaining a single audit coordinator to support the Single Audit Committee to address audit findings and take corrective actions where they are needed. OPD will continue to support capacity building through training, skill-sharing, and ongoing coordination through the PDAC and All Planning Taskforces and working groups.

PARTNERSHIP

SDG 17 focuses on the importance of partnerships to achieve more sustainable growth. Ongoing support of the government and non-government planning partners is critical to furthering the shared visions reflected in the CNMI's CSDP. Working together, we can support progress towards the positive outcomes that are the focus of these recommendations and continue to achieve meaningfully coordinated project planning and implementation this year and in the years ahead.



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS & NEXT STEPS

Recommendation Summary	Next Steps / Needs
Allocate resources to support ongoing adaptive management planning and project implementation consistent with P.L. 20-20 and the CSDP.	Local funding requests, position creation, ongoing coordination; Improve data sharing by publishing monthly agency reports on the Office of the Governor’s website and OPD’s publications page
Invest in grant and project management support.	Leverage EnerGov and SSG Assessment Tool for coordinated project planning and tracking; Consider amendments of IRP enabling legislation to include project management and grant management training tasks
SSG “mainstreaming” through planning and permit review requirements and ongoing allocation of resources for updates and tool development.	SSG Endorsement, inter-agency regulatory review and SSG updates, funding to support contract or staff time to conduct guidance updates periodically, ideally corresponding with the 5-year Resources Report updates
The ongoing FEMA-funded Hazard Mitigation Roads Mapping and Assessment project include easement details as road infrastructure layers are updated and that this information be used to inform easement acquisition planning and funding efforts.	RFP issuance or re-scoping and rebid of project with DPW, update of GIS layers to support creation of revised built environmental layers for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota
Collaborative planning efforts are recommended to establish road design guidelines for primary and secondary roads to provide a safe transport of motorized and non-motorized road users.	Staff time or planning support funding to develop and adopt road design guidelines
Attendance of planning and project management staff in the upcoming “Walkability Institute” is recommended to support multidisciplinary planning initiatives that will enhance sustainability outcomes for the built and natural environment and improve equity, well-being, and socio-economic outcomes of the CNMI community.	Staff time and support of identified next steps for walkability planning that are identified
Continue “Zero Waste” planning and project implementation support with a focus on composting facilities for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota as well as the Northern Islands.	Complete comprehensive integrated waste management plan (in progress); resubmit the FY22 TAP and MAP applications for Zero Waste program support

Recommendation Summary	Next Steps / Needs
Support equity in program deployment including supporting island- and village-specific redevelopment plans in close coordination with community stakeholders and developing a priority watershed management plan for Tinian.	Obtain dedicated funding for a Tinian Watershed Planner, support USGS groundwater analysis, develop and implement priority watershed plan
Incorporate key policies and principles of disaster recovery and risk reduction into all relevant planning documents.	Support incorporation of CSDP themes, goals, objectives, and guiding standards into forthcoming plans and plan updates including watershed management plans, the forthcoming CEDS, SSMP, and CBDG updates with emphasis on ongoing coordination and project prioritization efforts
Conduct a desk audit and adjust programs such as continuing education and funding levels where appropriate to support equity in resource allocation and staff retention.	Conduct a CNMI agency-wide desk audit; implement recommendations and continue to reassess and track progress in staff retention and continuing education engagement
To achieve data collection and sharing goals, mechanisms to ensure consistent reporting and compliance with the plan review and incorporation protocols established in Public Law 20-20 should be pursued.	Executive Order or P.L. 20-20 amendments to further empower OPD to fulfill its mandates
Create and fund Technology Information Coordination Officer position to expand and maintain OPD's Information Clearinghouse and build interagency planning and GIS capabilities.	Create and fund Technology Information Coordination Officer position, work with the Marianas Mappers Group to revising the standard Lands and Surveys datum to the current NAD83 MA11 and revise legislation to use the currently adopted national datum, and making allowances for use of the pending 2022/23 revision
It is essential that CNMI continue to complete and improve on the Single State Audit.	Retain a single audit coordinator and revive the Single Audit Committee established to address the audit's findings and take necessary corrective actions
Ensure regulatory compliance with federal and CNMI environmental and financial requirements.	Establish civil service positions for key regulatory agency positions as a way to encourage uniform enforcement of development requirements and policies

These recommendations and supporting rationale are discussed in more detail in the full narrative of the 2022 Annual Report, available at opd.gov.mp/. Ongoing support of leadership and our many stakeholders is critical to achieving the ambitious goals outlined in the CSDP, but much progress has already been made, and OPD looks forward to continuing to support collaborative interagency and CNMI-wide planning efforts in the years ahead!





Here's to 2023!

#SustainableCNMI

