



# FY2021 CITIZEN-CENTRIC REPORT OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

*Planning for a sustainable future...*

## Table of Contents

About OPD .....	1
Performance.....	2
Finances .....	3
Challenges & Next Steps .....	4

## Mission

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

As further mandated by Public Law 20-20, OPD aims to:

- (i) create the “CNMI Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan” (CSDP);
- (ii) establish and maintain a data library for the continual collection and storage of public information needed or utilized in the development planning process; and
- (iii) institute an interagency framework within which OPD can support the development of policies and collection of data to achieve its mission and mandates.

Objectives and outcomes to achieve these goals are outlined in the 2018 and 2019 Annual Reports that are available at [opd.gov.mp](http://opd.gov.mp)

## OPD and PDAC

OPD works with the **Planning and Development Advisory Council (PDAC)** to fulfill the planning, project prioritization, and data centralization mandates of Public Law 20-20. Despite numerous challenges presented by COVID019, our team more than doubled in FY21. Our team is continuing to support CSDP-driven data collection, project implementation, and ongoing planning efforts. Updates are provided at quarterly meetings that are calendared at [opd.gov.mp/](http://opd.gov.mp/)

## PDAC Members

The PDAC is comprised of the following members:

- Director, Office of Planning and Development
- Administrator, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
- Secretary, Dept. of Public Works;
- Secretary, Dept. of Public Lands;
- Secretary, Dept. of Lands and Natural Resources;
- Secretary, Dept. of Commerce (current PDAC Chair);
- Administrator, Saipan Zoning Office;
- Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation;
- Managing Director, Marianas Visitors Authority;
- Representative from the Office of the Mayor of Rota;
- Representative from the Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan;
- Representative from the Office of the Mayor of Saipan;
- Representative from the Office of the Mayor of the Northern Islands;
- President, Saipan Chamber of Commerce

A bill to include other agencies and representatives from the public and private sectors is currently in the Senate.



# PERFORMANCE



## Accomplishments

- **Summer 2020** - Developed Draft Vision and Objectives for Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan (CSDP) based on Resources Report recommendations and community feedback;
- **Fall 2020** - Draft CSDP shared with PDAC and Partners at Taskforces Meeting; Initial feedback and updates incorporated into updated Draft, shared for community review and comment;
- **Winter 2020-21** - Continued Public Hearings and CSDP updates with support from PDAC and Partners;
- Supporting grant applications with Hazard Mitigation Program, EPA Brownfields, and EDA
- **Spring 2021** -Additional public meetings and revisions to CSDP conducted, PDAC endorsed revised draft
- **Summer 2021** - EDA, EPA, and FEMA grants awarded; CSDP submitted to Governor Torres for review

## CSDP- Charting Sustainable Path Ahead

The CNMI's first Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan was created over a three-year drafting process with over twenty community meetings. Feedback from the PDAC and community members was received and incorporated, and over 200 written comments and statements provided during the three rounds of draft review are included in an appendix to the final draft plan that was submitted to Governor Torres.

The 2021-2031 CSDP is pending review with Governor Torres, who will endorse the plan or instruct OPD and the PDAC to revise if needed.

## Next Steps

Plan implementation support is ongoing through targeted grant tasks and planning updates.

Upon approval by Governor and the PDAC, CNMI's first CSDP will guide next steps and adaptive management efforts until next 5-year update.



## CSDP PLANNING MILESTONES

### Timeline of planning next steps

#### SUMMER 2019

Community visioning and information updates are compiled into an updated "Resources Report"(RR) highlighting baseline information and recommendations from leadership, subject matter experts, and the community at large. RR informs discussion

#### FALL 2019 – SUMMER 2020

PDAC and Partners review and finalize RR and make recommendations regarding vision and next steps; identify shared vision, objectives, and goals for the CNMI's comprehensive sustainable development plan; Timeline extended and approach modified due to COVID-19 challenges.

#### FALL 2020

Draft plan shared with PDAC and Partners for rounds of review, edits, and updates with continued community engagement. Comments received 10/1 included in revised draft CSDP which was shared online and at virtual meetings for additional public comment.

#### WINTER '20 – SPRING '21

Draft CSDP published and public meetings held requesting community feedback. Agency and special interest group follow-ups held, updates provided to PDAC and plan revision made. Revised draft published for public comment in January 2021. PDAC Review and endorsement for publication Spring 2021.

#### SUMMER 2021

Plan adoption process initiated with support of PDAC, Partners, the Office of the Governor, and the stakeholders of the CNMI. Public hearings held June – July. August – incorporated comments received for submission of updated CSDP to Governor for review



# FINANCES

## Building Sustainable Capacity

Under Public Law 21-35, the Office of Planning and Development was appropriated \$173,128.00 through Public Law 21-35.

FISCAL YEAR 2021 LOCAL APPROPRIATION		
Total Personnel	Total All Others	TOTAL
\$ 171,415.00	\$ 1,713.00	\$173,128.00

OPD, in partnership with various local agencies, was awarded several multi-year grants for conservation, infrastructure improvement, planning, and capacity building projects.

### **National Fish & Wildlife Foundation**

\$1,679,214.58

To build community resilience in Saipan's most populated priority management watershed through wetland and coral reef restoration.

### **Economic Development Administration**

Oleai Sports and Cultural Tourism Enhancement Project

\$21,160,000.00

Construction of buildings and associated infrastructure for use as a sports complex and cultural events center park.

### **Economic Development Administration**

Garapan Revitalization Project

\$11,177,918.00

The project will involve A/E design and construction of improvements to the street infrastructure of the Garapan Core.

### **Environmental Protection Agency**

Hazardous Waste Management Program - Disaster Relief Act

\$5,733,078.00

The goal of this project is to increase solid waste management capacity to address post-storm solid waste issues including the cleanup of disaster debris from Typhoon Yutu, and develop long-term sustainable solid and zero waste programs.

*OPD continues to pursue competitive grants to obtain additional financial support to build internal capacity to support planning, data management, and project coordination mandates of Public Law 20-20.*

# CHALLENGES & NEXT STEPS



## Achieving Comprehensive Sustainable Development

OPD will continue to request local funding to support current operations and will request additional funds to fill capacity gaps as needed to implement and update the Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan. Additional project-specific and planning capacity support funding and partnerships will be sought and leveraged as opportunities arise. Area- and resource-specific studies and technical assistance are being and will continue to be pursued to incorporate vulnerability assessments and disaster risk reduction guidance into key planning efforts such as the Garapan Revitalization Plan Update and creation of "Community Improvement Districts".

Planning tool development such as build-out of "Safe, Smart Growth" scoping guidance and resilience assessment maps and models will further support streamlined planning and project implementation dialogs in the public and private sectors. Ensuring sustained funding levels to support existing staffing and operations and to fill key positions including a Technology Information Officer and additional planners will be a challenge, however, OPD is optimistic that support for this office will remain robust as the leadership has made the importance of these planning mandates well known.

*Together we can achieve a sustainable future...*

Please visit our website to view:

- 2019 and 2020 OPD Annual Reports (2021 will be presented Jan. 24, 2022)
- CNMI plans compiled to date, including the 2021 Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan
- Coastal Resilience Evaluation and Siting Tool (CREST) and Data Library
- And announcements, calendar, contact form and more!

[opd.gov.mp](http://opd.gov.mp)

