

**JOB PROGRESS REPORT  
INFORMATION/EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**STATE:** Territory of Guam

**PROJECT NO.:** FW-3C-8

**SUB-PROJECT NO.:** C-3

**JOB NO.:** 1

**JOB TITLE:** Public Information and Education on Guam's Fish and Wildlife  
Restoration and Endangered Species Programs (2520, 2530, 1630)

**PERIOD COVERED:** October 1, 1999 to September 30, 2000

**SUMMARY**

The Natural Resource Information and Education Officer position approved by the Governor and the Civil Service Commission during FY97 remained unfilled in FY00. The Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources (DAWR) continued public and education outreach in FY00 with the following: distribution of posters, flyers, pamphlets, coloring books and videos; classroom presentations (K-12 to University); project and activity press releases; static public displays; press conferences; feature articles to the print media; radio and television appearances; and general information requests.

**BACKGROUND**

The Public Awareness and Conservation Education (PACE) program was established to support the mission of DAWR, which entails the protection, preservation, development and enhancement of Guam's aquatic and wildlife resources. The PACE program consists of aquatic and wildlife conservation presentations, kids' fishing derbies, news releases, static public displays, public service announcements, press conferences, feature articles, production of resource materials for classroom use including, coloring books, activity guides, posters, and informational flyers.

Until FY90, the PACE program was facilitated by the DAWR Public Information Officer (PIO) and periodically by biologist and technical staff. During FY90, Conservation Officers (COs) began providing direct support to the PACE effort by conducting classroom visits. Unfortunately, the PIO position was vacated in late FY96 and has not been filled to date. Since FY96, COs, fisheries, and wildlife staff have been involved with the PACE program.

The effectiveness of PACE programs and related activities can best be measured by the community's continued response in reporting suspected poachers and poaching activities to COs and police, the growing interest and demand for resource conservation materials, and the

increase in teacher and student requests for fish and wildlife presentations. As in the past, residents continue to report bird sightings, bring in injured birds or birds presumed to be endangered species, and generally to encourage the institution of more intensive management programs for Guam's fish and wildlife resources.

## **PROCEDURES AND RESULTS**

Activities and efforts by DAWR during FY00 included the following:

- 1) Endangered species, coral reef ecology (esp. toxic marine sea creatures), fish, and wildlife conservation presentations were delivered to: public and private elementary schools; middle schools; high schools; University of Guam (UOG) classes; 4-H Club; Cub Scouts; and Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Summer Camp. Presentations incorporated one or more of the following live animals: Guam rail; Marianas fruit bat; Brown treesnake (BTS); Monitor lizard; marine invertebrates and fish. Numbers of school presentations in FY00 included the following: CO Enforcement = 14; Fisheries = 31; and Wildlife = 12; Hunter Safety briefings (AAB) = 6.
- 7) Distribution of color posters on the reef and pelagic fishes of Guam to public upon request at the main office, especially to fishermen during inshore and offshore surveys. The Sport Fish Restoration Program funded the development and production of the posters. Wildlife conducted a poster presentation at Fort Collins, CO, entitled, Multiple Invasive Species Control as support of Guam Rail Recovery.
- 3) Distribution of colored flyers on the flora, fauna, and habitats of Guam, to the schools and public upon request. The PACE program funded the development and production of the flyers and the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) program funded the printing.
- 7) Distribution of Mariana fruit bat (*Pteropus mariannus*) posters to the public upon request and replenish the posters previously supplied to every school classroom. The development and production of the posters were funded by the Wildlife Restoration Program; printing funds originated from the Bureau of Planning's (BOP) Coastal Management Program through a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
- 5) Distribution of the CD-rom (set of 10) on "Coral Reefs of the Mariana Islands an Educational Exploration" to all public and private schools on Guam. In addition, scientific supplies included: aquariums; microscopes; chemical/water test kits; and waterproof disposable cameras, which were distributed to the Department of Education (DOE) for distribution to the public schools. The Coral Reef Initiative funded the production and supplies of the CD-rom sets and scientific supplies.

- 6) Displays on the BTS, Guam rail, and various other fish and wildlife conservation programs, were set up during AAFB open house, Earth Week, UOG Charter Day, and other similar events.
- 7) Extensive media coverage of division programs and activities. Newspaper and television feature articles on Guam rail, Micronesian kingfisher and Mariana crow recovery efforts were periodically done, as are hunting and fishing activities and the enforcement of wildlife laws and the Marine Preserve Areas. Wildlife Biologists: Tino Aguon was involved with the BBC Discovery Channel production of Mark O'Shea's Big Adventure; Wildlife Biologists (4) featured articles with Man, Land and Sea; and Wildlife staff (3) were interviewed for a Kid's Science TV program in FY00.
- 8) Development of press releases and feature articles and participation in media conferences on various conservation topics. Fisheries staff participated in the annual G.W.H.S. Marine biology class mentor program. Students were given a presentation on the variety of subjects and the logistic difficulties to be expected.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1) Fill vacant Natural Resource Information and Education Officer position as soon as possible in FY01.
- 2) Develop and implement a Hunter Education program to complement the existing PACE program with DAWR biologists, COs, and community volunteers as instructors.
- 3) Develop and implement specific public education programs on the BTS and the recovery programs for the following: Mariana crow; Micronesian kingfisher; Guam rail; and other indigenous plant and animal species. Incorporate the importance of cultural pride and concern for the recovery of indigenous wildlife in the presentations.
- 4) Develop a teacher-training program for aquatic education and implement workshops on various natural resource conservation topics for public and private school teachers.
- 5) Explore the possibilities of corporate sponsorship for specific endangered species recovery, conservation, and public awareness programs.
- 6) Continue aquatic and wildlife presentations at public and private schools, libraries, summer camps, after-school programs, and civic organizations.
- 7) Continue to hold freshwater and marine fishing derbies and clinics for children. In addition, develop a new series of freshwater and marine fishing derbies, clinics, and other events for older youths, ages 13 through 17, and for adults.

- 8) Continue the public awareness program through press releases, news articles, press conferences and other media to keep the public informed of the progress and accomplishments of DAWR fish, wildlife and endangered species programs. Update existing and develop new public service announcements for television and radio.
- 9) Coordinate participation in mutual programs and projects with Guam's: DOE; CZM; Sea Grant; UOG Extension Service; DPR; Environmental Protection Agency; US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); US National Park Service; and USFWS National Wildlife Refuge.
- 10) Develop a traveling exhibit program to present information on the DAWR fish and wildlife, conservation and management programs, and natural resource conservation educational materials in village community centers.

### **PROGRAM COST**

The estimated cost of the PACE project is \$20,000.

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