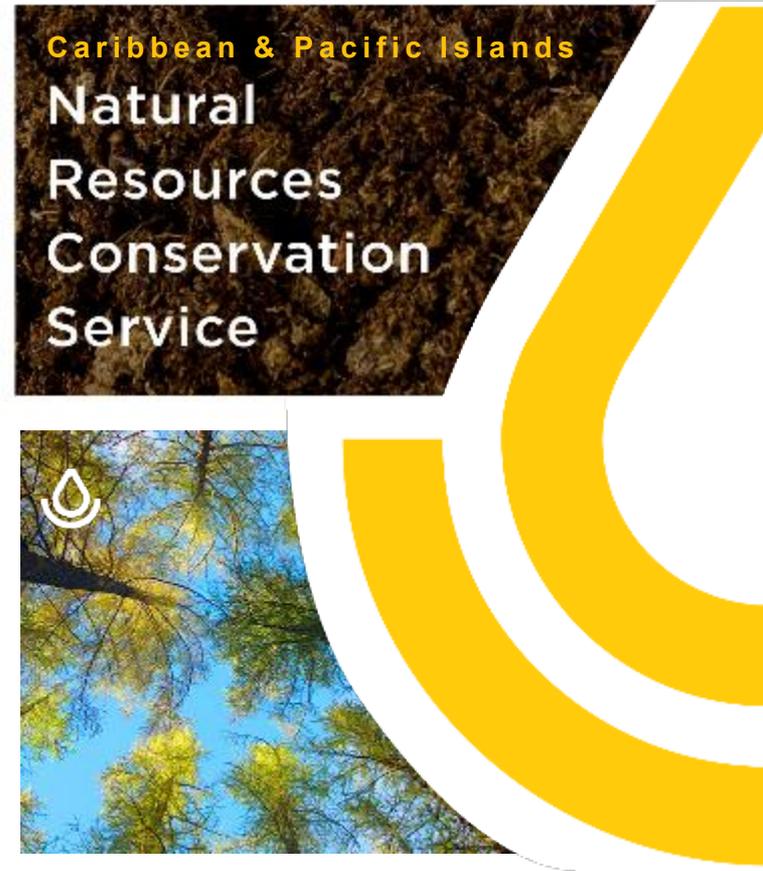




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NRCS: The Role of Conservation Planning in Climate Mitigation and Social Equity



Caribbean & Pacific Islands

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service



Luis Cruz-Arroyo, USDA-NRCS Caribbean Area Director
luis.cruz-arroyo@usda.gov

Amy Koch, Assistant Director for Soil Science, Pacific Islands Area
amy.koch@usda.gov

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Who We Are

**An Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture
with offices in every state & territory.**



Mission: We deliver conservation solutions so agricultural producers can protect natural resources and feed a growing world.



Vision: A world of clean and abundant water, healthy soils, resilient landscapes and thriving agricultural communities through voluntary conservation.



What We Do



NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to voluntarily put conservation on the ground to help the environment and benefit farmers.

Soil, Water, Air, Plants, Animals & Energy



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9-Step Planning Process

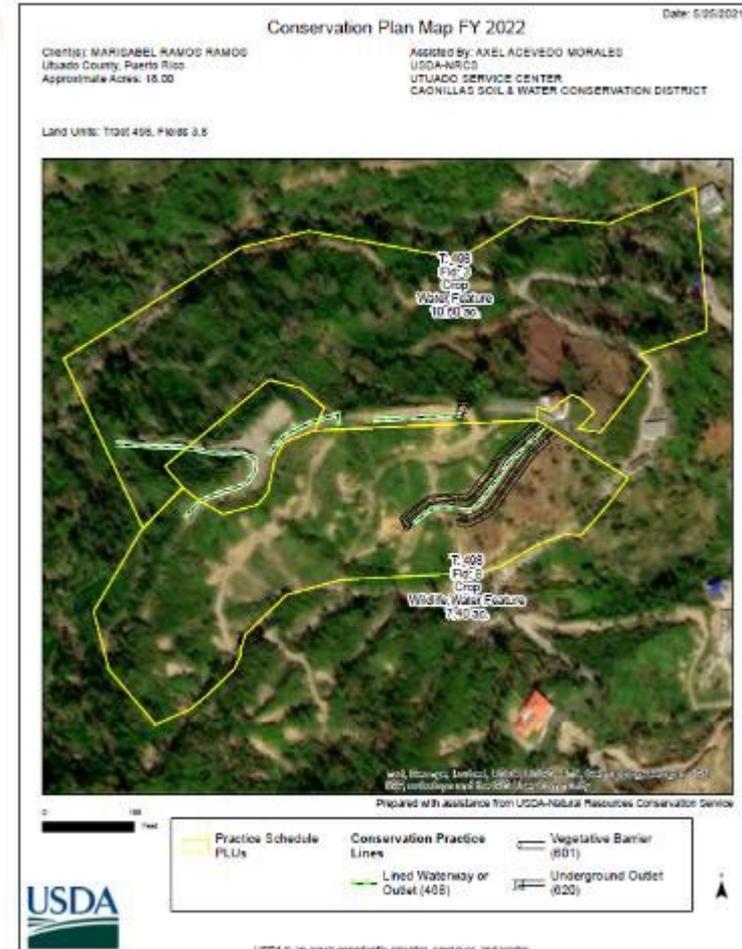
1. Identify Problems and Opportunities
2. Determine Objectives
3. Inventory Resources
4. Analyze Resource Data
5. Formulate Alternatives
6. Evaluate Alternatives
7. Make Decisions
8. Implement the Plan
9. Evaluate the Plan

HOW CONSERVATION PLANNING WORKS A NINE-STEP PROCESS



NRCS Products

- Conservation Plan for your Farm



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Recommended Practices

- **Reduced Tillage (329)**
- **Contour Farming (330)**
- **Cover Crops (340)**
- **Nutrient Management (590)**
- **Pest Management (595)**
- **Vegetative Barriers (601)**
- **Filter Strips (393)**
- **Hedgerow Planting (422)**
- **Obstruction Removal (500)**
- **Water and Sediment Control Basin (638)**
- **Pond (378)**
- **Irrigation Water Management**
- **Heavy Use Area (561)**
- **Riparian Forest Buffer (391)**





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Priorities:

National:

- Racial Justice and Equity
- Climate Smart Conservation

Local:

- Healthy and productive soils
- Improve water quality
- Sustainable farm operations





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Racial Justice and Equity



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USDA to Invest \$50 Million in New Cooperative Agreements for Racial Justice and Equity

Supporting Historically Underserved Farmers & Ranchers



Projects to expand conservation assistance delivery to beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers to implement natural resources conservation practices that:

- Improve soil health;
- Improve water quality;
- Provide habitat for local wildlife species of concern;
- Improve environmental and economic performance agricultural land
- Build and strengthen local food projects.



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Climate Smart



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Adapting to Climate Change

- Maximize water capture
- Maximize irrigation efficiency
- Interconnect systems like a tool to manage risk.



Adapting with Soil Health

- Minimize Soil Disturbance
- Maximize Soil Cover
- Maximize Biodiversity
- Maximize Living Roots



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Benefits of Soil Health

- Increase Organic Matter in Soil
- Increase Microbiological Activity
- Increase Nutrient Recycling
- Increase Water Retention in Soils
- Improves Water Quality
- Minimizes Energy Consumption
- Reduce Soil Erosion

USDA-NRCS SOIL HEALTH INFOGRAPHIC SERIES #002

what's underneath

unlock the
SECRETS
OF SOIL

healthy soil has amazing water-retention capacity.



Every

1%

increase in organic
matter results in
as much as



25,000

gal of available
soil water per acre.

Source: Kansas State Extension Agronomy • Updated, November 2011, July 6, 2012



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Want more soil secrets?

Check out www.nrcs.usda.gov

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Water Quality



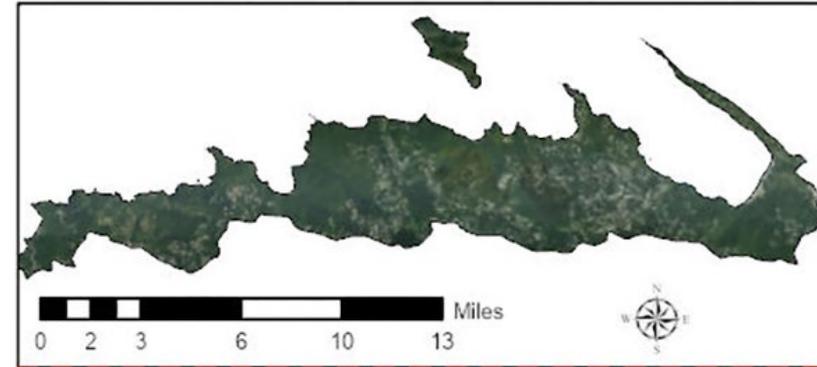
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Watershed level projects

National Water Quality Initiative: NW St. Thomas

- Targeted watershed conservation planning and resource assessment.
- Partnership with Horsley-Witten, Protectores de Cuentas, UVI Extension, VI Ag Dept.
- 4,883-acre watershed comprising 6 basins that include most St. Thomas farms.
- 2nd largest concentration of livestock in USVI.
- Turbidity, bacteria, pH & dissolve oxygen water quality issues.



Emergency Watershed Protection Program



Island	No. of Sites
St. Croix	13
St. John	9
St. Thomas	11



Dorian – USVI

- Letter from USVI DPW received
- 3 Sites **Approved**



U.S. Virgin Islands

- **Practices**
 - Fencing
 - Prescribed Grazing
 - High Tunnel
 - Microirrigation
- **Program**
 - Environmental Quality Incentives Program
 - Conservation Technical Assistance
 - Conservation Stewardship Program



Some of our Results

➤ 2019-2021:

- **553** acres of conservation applied
 - **19** acres improving soil health
 - **339** acres improving water quality
 - **459** acres improving grazing land
- **24** acres improving irrigation efficiency
 - **74** acres improving habitat

Legend

- 2020
- 2019
- 2018



Fiscal Year	Contracts	Obligation	Acres
2020	9	\$ 183,427.75	23.6
2019	16	\$ 290,991.19	194.7
2018	55	\$ 521,710.15	684.3



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Pacific Islands Area



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Natural Resources Conservation Service
Pacific Islands Area**



Who We Are

Farm Bill Eligible

- American Samoa*
- Guam*
- Northern Mariana Islands*

Technical Assistance

- Palau*
- Micronesia*
- Marshall Islands*



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, © OpenStreetMap Community

PACIFIC ISLANDS AREA

Mission

*We deliver
conservation solutions
so
agricultural producers
can
conserve natural
resources
and
feed a growing world.*

Vision

*Resilient islands
with
clean and abundant
water, healthy soils,
and
thriving agricultural
communities.*

What We Do



Administer Farm Bill Programs

EQIP
Environmental Quality Incentives Program



CSP
Conservation Stewardship Program

Provide Conservation Technical Assistance

CTA
Conservation Technical Assistance



How we can help – Climate Mitigation

NRCS can help landowners and managers:

- Address vulnerabilities,
- Adapt to a changing climate,
- Develop more resilient soils, and
- Enhance food production

Through conservation planning



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American Samoa

Enhancing agroforestry

Practices

- Vegetative Barrier
- Tree/Shrub establishment
- Native or Fruit-producing trees
- Cultural Plantings

Program

- Conservation Technical Assistance
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- Conservation Stewardship Program

Agroforestry = Soil Health Success

- Minimal soil disturbance
- Maximum living roots, plant diversity and ground cover
- Increased organic matter
- Decreased erosion



Taro



Taro + Banana



Agroforest with vegetative barrier



Guam – Farming with Nature

Striving to conserve the land, fauna, and flora *and* to farm using the natural landscape as a guide

Practices

- Tree/Shrub establishment
- Pollinator/wildlife habitat

Program

- Conservation Stewardship Program

Diversity Feeds Humans and Nourishes Nature

- Protect indigenous plants
- Attract beneficial insects
- Plant wildlife-friendly vegetation
- Plant a combination of native trees and indigenous fruits



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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Celebrating the first Gothic Style High Tunnel built in the CNMI by a minority woman using NRCS approved specifications

Practices

- High Tunnel System

Program

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program

High Tunnel Builds Crop Resilience

- Extends growing season in dragon fruit operation
- Protects plants from excess moisture
- Reduces pest pressure



Freely Associated States Palau, Micronesia, and Marshall Islands



We support building soil health and protecting water quality through

- **Capacity Building**
- **Technology Transfer**
- **Brief Technical Assistance**

In close coordination with local Embassy and partners (federal, NGO, local)



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Get Involved

- Local Working Groups
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Partnership Opportunities



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Caribbean Area Website - www.pr.nrcs.usda.gov

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Bee-Friend Pollinators for National Pollinator Week June 22-28!

Did you know 75% of the world's flowering plants & more than 30% of the world's food crops depend on pollinators to reproduce? Find out how **YOU** can help our pollinators! *¡Descubre cómo TÚ puedes ayudar a nuestros polinizadores!*



¡Feliz Semana Nacional de los Polinizadores!

2 / 5

Popular Topics

- > [Financial Assistance](#)
- > [Technical Resources](#)
- > [Caribbean Area Soils](#)
- > [Caribbean Area Plants](#)
- > [Caribbean Area Publications](#)

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In the News

Events & Deadlines

- OP ED: Caribbean Area Farmers Use Conservation Practices to Protect Pollinator Habitat, Boost Crop Production

Highlights

- Caribbean Landscape Initiatives
- Climate & Drought in the Caribbean Area
- Hurricane Recovery
- Soil Health



Conservation Compliance



United States Department of Agriculture

Pacific Islands Area website www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
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USDA Service Centers Reopen to Limited Visitors

Service Centers in American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are now open to limited visitors by appointment only. To make an in-person or phone appointment, call your local Service Center.



3 / 3

Popular Topics

- [> Civil Rights](#)
- [> National Resources Inventory](#)
- [> Soils](#)



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In the News

Events & Deadlines

- NRCS Announces Conservation Funding Opportunities for FY2022
- USDA Unveils New Climate Partnership Initiative, Requests Public Input

Highlights

- Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG)
- Find Your Local NRCS Office
- NRCS PIA Strategic Plan
- Targeted Conservation Delivery



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