



Implementation of South Kohala Conservation Action Plan

2014

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The coral reef ecosystems of South Kohala, Hawaii Island have been identified as a high priority management site for the Hawaii Coral Reef Strategy. The major threats identified in this area include:

- Land based sources of pollution,
- Invasive species and,
- Unsustainable fishing practices.

Through the guidance and collaboration of community members, organizations, resource managers as well as State and Federal agencies in the region, the South Kohala Conservation Action Plan (SKCAP) was developed and the South Kohala Coastal Partnership was formed. The strategies include Community partnerships, Community Co-managed Areas, Fisheries Management, Sediment Reduction, Invasive Species, and Additional threat analysis. There are also two watershed management plans: Wai'ula'ula Watershed Management Plan and Pelekane Bay Watershed Management Plan that include strategies for the South Kohala area.

The management strategies in this area include a ridge to reef approach, recognizing that the lands in the 15 ahupua'a located upland of the coral reef ecosystems site are ecologically and culturally connected to the coastal waters.

APPROACH

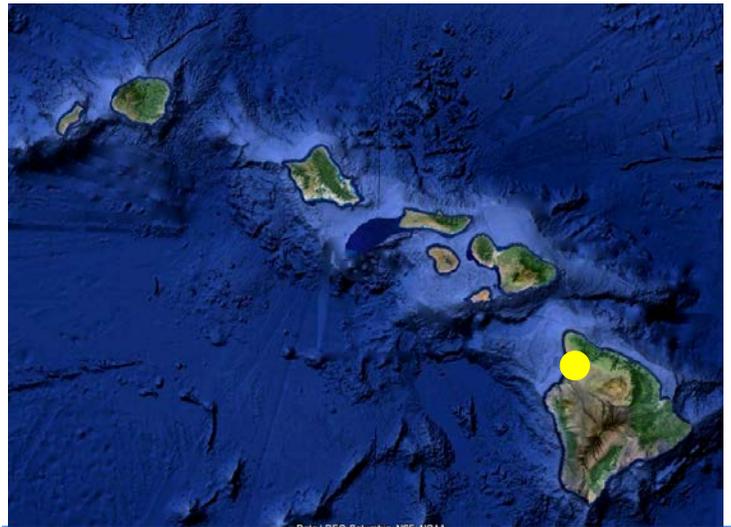
Through a partnership established between Hawai'i Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) and the University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (UH Sea Grant), an extension agent position was established to serve as the project coordinator. Ms. Sierra Tobiason was hired on July 1, 2013 and is responsible for coordinating activities associated with the implementation of the South Kohala Conservation Action Plan.

The South Kohala Coastal Partnership was able to implement five projects with the support from NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program under awards #NA11NOS4820006 and #NA13NOS4820014 to DAR.

MOST IMPORTANT RESULTS

- *South Kohala Coastal Partnership participation and support from over 100 organizations and agencies and 215 participants*
- *6 coastal communities actively engaged in organized ecosystem based stewardship activities*
- *58 monitoring stations established*

SITE LOCATION



South Kohala Coastal Partnership Projects: 7/1/13-9/30/14

- Ungulate Exclusion and Sediment Reduction - Kailapa Community Association
- Coral Health and Land Based Sources of Pollution - The Nature Conservancy
- Stream Corridor Assessment - Sustainable Resources Group International Inc. (SRGII)
- Community Based Fishing Moon Calendar - UH Manoa
- Coral Settlement and Environmental Conditions - HIMB



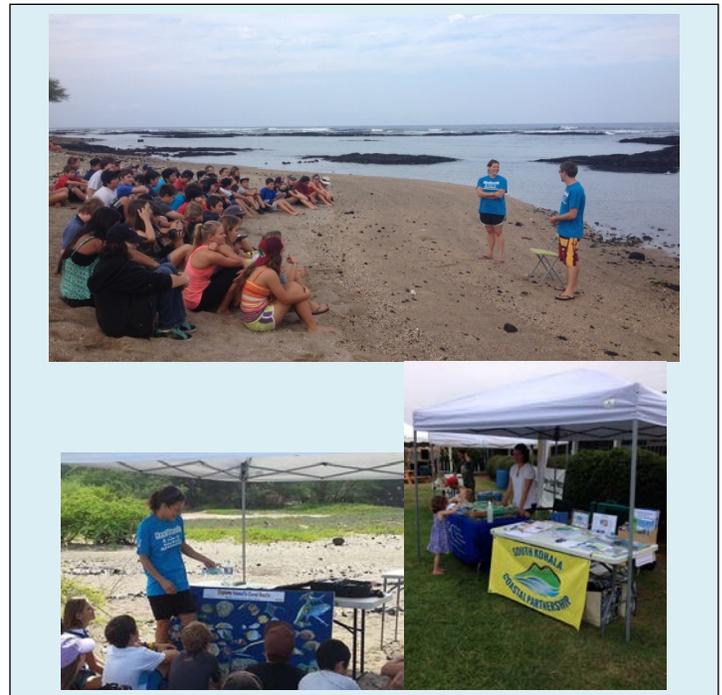
The South Kohala Coastal Partnership is a dynamic partnership committed to the implementation of the SKCAP guided by the shared vision. The vision of the South Kohala Coastal Partnership is to achieve: A restored, healthy, abundant and resilient South Kohala coastal system cared for and cherished by an island community guided by the values and traditions of South Kohala.

HAWAII
~coral reef~
STRATEGY

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The projects contributed to:

- 13 acres fenced off to exclude invasive ungulates (goats), one sediment check dam was built and over 1,200 native dry land forest species planted with the Kailapa community in Kawaihae to reduce sediment runoff.
- 12 monitoring sites were established to track coral health and nutrients in Puakō with The Nature Conservancy team
- 8 monitoring sites along the Wai'ula'ula watershed installed by SRGII and as a result 5 of those sites were selected for the Wai'ula'ula watershed implementation funding from the Department of Health Clean Water Branch.
- Over 480 samples from 38 reef fishes collected by West Hawaii fishermen for the Hawaiian Fishing Moon Calendar.
- 38 coral recruitment monitoring stations installed
- A total of 6 coastal communities actively engaged in organized ecosystem based stewardship activities.
- Over 3,392 residents and visitors reached and informed about these projects and coastal and marine management efforts through participation in meetings, education and outreach events and communication plan strategies.



South Kohala Coastal Partnership Education & Outreach Top & bottom left: Puakō Reef Teach lesson with students, Bottom right: NRCS and Mauna Kea Soil and Water Conservation District watershed activities.

MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Over the course of this project the coordinator worked with partners to identify and develop additional projects and facilitate the establishment of new collaborations. The coordinator was able to utilize the data from these projects to leverage and secure funding for two additional projects. A \$15,000 NOAA PIRO Fisheries Marine Education and Training grant for the development of a "Coastal Community Monitoring Tool Kit (C-Water Kit)" includes water quality monitoring, training and educational programs for both coastal communities and students. Also awarded was a \$427,218 grant from the Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH) Clean Water Branch for the "Implementation of Best Management Practices to reduce non-point source pollution and storm water runoff in Wai'ula'ula Watershed."

The results and recommended management actions, to reduce land based sources of pollution will available on the website to help inform and prioritize future management efforts.

The South Kohala Coastal Partnership working group is composed of representatives from The Nature Conservancy (TNC), UH Sea Grant, United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Hawaiian Island Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, National Park Service, Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail, Mauna Kea Soil and Water Conservation District, Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources, and Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR).



South Kohala Coastal Partnership working group and project managers

More Information

Sierra Tobiason
 tobiason@hawaii.edu
www.southkhalacoastalpartnership.com
www.hawaiicoralreefstrategy.com
www.facebook.com/SouthKohalaCoastalPartnership

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