FY 2023 CITIZEN-CENTRIC REPORT

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

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

OPD's Mission–

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:

Create and maintain the CNMI Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan (CNMI CSDP);

Establish and maintain a data library for the continual collection and storage of public information needed or utilized in the development planning process; and

Institute an interagency framework within which OPD can support the development of policies and collection of data to achieve its mission and mandates.

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.

PDAC Members

April 2023– the CNMI Infrastructure and Recovery Program is placed under OPD

In April 2023, the CNMI Infrastructure and Recovery Program (IRP)and its Archaeology, Biology, and Engineering Divisions were integrated into OPD. Through IRP, OPD now also oversees "in-house" local and federal compliance inspections of over 60 active government infrastructure projects managed by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Department of Finance, Department of Public Lands, Department of Public Works, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, and OPD, among others.

Our team continues to support CSDP-driven data collection, project implementation, and ongoing planning efforts informed by CNMI's vision for more sustainable growth and reflected in our "right-sized" sustainable development goals.

Resource Report Updates are underway and anticipated for circulation for public comment in FY24 to support the next CSDP update in 2025.

Updates are provided at quarterly meetings that are calendared at opd.gov.mp/.

PERFORMANCE

CNMI Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan (CSDP) Updates

- Resource Report Updates are underway and anticipated for circulation for public comment in FY24 to support the next CSDP update in 2025.

Coordinated Economic Development Projects

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

- **Oleai Sports Complex and Cultural Events Center Development Project:** The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) awarded the CNMI $21.2 million for this project in June 2021. Notices to Proceed on the architecture and engineering design for both the Sports Complex and the Cultural Events Center were issued in March 2023. Initial 30% design drawings for the Cultural Center were received by OPD in July 2023. Stakeholder meetings for feedback are under way.

- **Garapan Revitalization Project:** This $11 million EDA-funded project broke ground in November 2022 and remains on track for its expected completion date of November 2024. OPD coordinates with CUC and DPW as they work on their own improvement projects in the Garapan area.

CNMI Solid Waste Infrastructure Projects

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

- **CNMI Comprehensive Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan (CISWMP):** OPD and the Inter-Island Solid Waste Management Taskforce (ISWMT) are currently developing the draft of the CNMI's 10-year CISWMP to support sustainable waste management systems. Submission to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is anticipated in December 2023.

- **Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grant Funding:** The ISWMT secured $612,441 in grant funding from EPA to support critical equipment purchase and repairs and staffing to jumpstart recycling initiatives in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota starting in FY24.

- **Marpi Landfill Cell 2 Rehabilitation Project:** The project has been completed, and the final project site inspection was conducted in September 2023 to improve operations and ensure environmental compliance at Marpi.

- **Marpi Backup Power Project**: Final report on Backup Power Feasibility Study was submitted in May 2023. Phase II of this project to support necessary operations and assess pollution reduction opportunities starts in October 2023.

- **Emergency Cleanup of Super Typhoon Yutu debris site on Tinian:** Site cleanup was completed in December 2022. A draft final sampling analysis report was submitted to OPD in June 2023 and is undergoing updates to support close-out.

IRP: Archaeology, Biology, and Engineering Technical Assistance

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

- The CNMI government's ability to conduct local and federal compliance inspections "in-house" through IRP has saved the government an estimated $13.6 million in costs that would have otherwise gone to contracting inspectors. IRP's divisions currently monitor over 60 active government infrastructure projects managed by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Department of Finance, Department of Public Lands, Department of Public Works, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, and OPD, among others.

FINANCIALS

Under Public Law 23-04, the Office of Planning and Development (OPD) was appropriated **$234,691** in FY 2023.

FISCAL YEAR 2023 APPROPRIATION		
Total Personnel	Total All Others	TOTAL
$ 232,367.00	$ 2,324.00	$ 234,691.00

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

NATIONAL FISH & WILDLIFE FOUNDATION (NFWF)

- **Coastal Resilience Project, $1,679,215—** To build community resilience in Saipan's most populated priority management watershed through wetland and coral reef restoration.

U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (EDA)

- **Oleai Sports and Cultural Tourism Enhancement Project, $21,160,000—** Construction of buildings and associated infrastructure for use as a sports complex and cultural events center.
- **Garapan Revitalization Project, $11,177,918.00—** A&E design and construction of improvements to the street infrastructure of the Garapan Core.

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

- **Hazardous Waste Management Program, Disaster Relief Act, $22,233,078—** 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 and a comprehensive integrated waste management plan for CNMI.
- **Garapan Brownfields Assessment, -$300,000—** In coordination with DPL and Zoning, this project supports environmental assessments in Garapan Core that will inform revitalization planning.

U.S. FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)

- **Flood Risk Mapping and Communications, $210,000—** Working with DPW, BECQ, and others, OPD is supporting FEMA in data collection and forthcoming updates of flood insurance rate maps to identify and reduce risk of flooding to the built environment and our community.

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. Long-term sustainable development planning and implementation support continues to be facilitated through local and federal funding in FY24.

BUILDING RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITIES (BRIC)

- **Micro Beach Project, $145,000—** In March 2023, FEMA awarded OPD $145,000 to conduct a scoping of Micro Beach's shoreline protection and stabilization. In addition, this grant allows for the planning and designing of risk reduction efforts in this high-value tourist site, which align with the priority mitigation goals identified in the approved 2018 CNMI Standard State Mitigation Plan (2018 SSMP).
- **Blighted Buildings Project, $200,000—** In March 2023, FEMA awarded OPD $200,000 to assist the Zoning Office in implementing the Nuisance Abatement and Blight Property Maintenance Act of 2018, by conducting an assessment of blighted buildings, including mapping of structures, blight classification, hazard identification, property ownership and recommended remediation measures & estimate remediation costs.

STATEWIDE PLANNING GRANT

- **CNMI Economic Recovery and Feasibility Carry Capacity Study, $999,755—** In FY 2023, EDA awarded the CNMI $999,755 to conduct the CNMI Economic Recovery and Feasibility Carry Capacity Study. This study is anticipated to be completed by June 2024.

CURRENT CHALLENGES & NEXT STEPS

Achieving Comprehensive Sustainable Development

OPD will continue to request local funding and seek other funding opportunities to support current operations and will request additional funds to fill capacity gaps as needed to implement and update the Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan and forthcoming 2024 Resources Report. 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 additional administrative staff, project managers, and planners will be a challenge, however, OPD is optimistic that support for this office will remain robust as we continue to support implementation and updates of CNMI's first Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan.

Together, we can build a more sustainable CNMI.

VISIT HTTPS://WWW.OPD.GOV.MP TO VIEW:

OPD's Annual Reports will be presented Jan. 30, 2024— *Archived reports are posted*

CNMI plans and reports compiled to date— *Plans include the 2021 CNMI Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan (CSDP) and the 2019-2020 CNMI Resources Report (update coming ~2024)*

Coastal Resilience Evaluation and Siting Tool (CREST) and Data Library

...and announcements, calendar, a contact form, and more!

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS