

## Comprehensive Sustainable Development Planning – Values, Visions, Goals and Objectives

This document reflects the draft values, visions, goals, and objectives to support sustainable development in CNMI across agencies and sectors. They have been developed through review of existing plans and guidance as well as over twenty interagency planning meetings and scoping meetings with community stakeholders of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

*These guiding values, vision statements, goals, and supporting objectives are currently in draft form. Additional feedback is being sought to ensure that they (i) align with existing agency and CNMI-wide visions and mandates; (ii) are realistic and achievable; and (iii) support overarching community aspirations for the CNMI. Please email [planning@opd.gov.mp](mailto:planning@opd.gov.mp) to share your feedback including additional edits or suggestions for inclusion in the next round of goal and objective updates **by October 1, 2020** so these visions, goals, and objectives can be included in the CNMI's draft Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan for further review and comment. **Your input is much appreciated as we work to envision a resilient and sustainable CNMI.***

### Guiding Values

The *guiding values* or *core values* are those characteristics that we commit to as individuals and as an organization so we develop a culture that achieves our mission. The *guiding values* are a way that we deliver on our mission and execute our vision – they describe or define the culture. These are broad, subjective concepts that are intended to provide a sense of direction for planning efforts.

## What three "core values" do you want to see reflected in the CNMI's CSDP?



The “values” shown here are a result comments received on initial survey efforts. Please [visit this REVISED survey](#) if you would like to rank your top three value “themes” or suggest other values for consideration in future surveys. These terms will be used to help develop policies for planning themes in the revised draft plan.



## Sustainability Visioning

The following “vision” statements were created in coordination with the Planning and Development Advisory Council’s Natural Resources, Built Environment, and Socio-Economic/Disaster Risk Reduction Taskforces. They build from and connect to “functional plans” and cross-cutting sustainability priorities as informed by the “planning elements” identified for inclusion in the Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan by Public Law 20-20. These vision statements help us chart our course to the future we hope to achieve by 2030. Ongoing interagency and inter-sectoral adaptive management planning efforts will help the CNMI leverage our resources to work towards the visions and supporting goals and objectives outlined here in the Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan. Special area and resource management plans and functional plans for infrastructure development combined with development standards will reinforce the “Sustainable Development Goals” and “Planning Policy Crosswalks” outlined further here. Together these efforts will enable the CNMI’s public, private, non-profit sectors and our stakeholders at large to achieve progress towards shared sustainable development objectives.

Please visit our [Visioning Survey here](#) to submit additional feedback, email [planning@opd.gov.mp](mailto:planning@opd.gov.mp), or call (670) 488-1221 and your comments will be included in our next revision.

### Planning Elements Visions

#### Development Policy to Mainstream Smart, Safe Growth in Public Facilities, Public Buildings, and Capital Improvement Projects

Vision: Ensure application of Smart, Safe Growth (SSG) principles across planning elements to support development and conservation strategies to improve communities, strengthen economies, protect the natural environment, and improve resilience and recoverability of the built environment. (SSG Mainstreaming Vision)

Vision (CIP): CNMI’s Capital Improvements Program supports the implementation of priority projects to achieve the visions, goals, and objectives of CNMI’s Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan, including special area, resource, and functional plans, to implement infrastructure, health, and education investments that ensure strategic and resilient outcomes (Drafting in progress).

#### Public Land Use

Vision: Provide for the efficient and effective services in the management, use, disposition and development of public lands for the economic and social betterment of individuals of Northern Marianas Descent and to implement the Strategic Public Land Use Plan to promote cultural and economic growth for the benefit of our present and future generations. (2019 PLUP)

#### Transportation, Community Design, and Design Regulations

Vision: Transportation infrastructure in CNMI is built & maintained to provide inviting, accessible, safe, convenient, and comfortable routes for walking, bicycling, and public transportation that encourage increased use of these modes of transportation, enable convenient travel as part of daily activities, improve the public welfare by addressing a wide array of health and environmental problems, and meet the needs of all users of the streets, including children, older adults, and people with disabilities. (Complete Streets Working Group)

#### Economy and Work Force

*Draft for Review – CNMI’s Sustainable Development Visions, Goals, and Objectives, July 30, 2020 Update  
Comments as of 8/31/2020*



Vision: CNMI will leverage its assets of cultural and natural resources to grow a diverse economy grounded in a sustainable workforce and resiliency in our built environment to assure a safe, healthy, and vibrant community for all. (2019 CEDS)

#### Housing and Redevelopment

Vision: Support affordable, fair, equal opportunity of efficient and responsive delivery of housing, mortgage and community development programs to increase ownership of safe, resilient, sanitary, and affordable homes and promote economic independence, self-sufficiency, and upward mobility to the people of the Commonwealth and address the growing and future needs and economic viability. (NMHC)

#### Conservation – Natural Resources

Vision: To sustainably conserve and use natural resources to support the development needs of today without compromising the needs of future generations. (NR Taskforce)

- Sustainable Use. To promote sustainable use and conservation of the CNMI's natural resources on land and in water that can meet development needs sustainably and preserves the integrity of these natural resources for future generations.
- Research, Education, and Preservation. To promote research and education about the CNMI's natural resources to acknowledge and support local stewardship, conservation management, and cultural practices that are integral to the CNMI community.
- Support Ecosystem Services and Nature-Based Solutions. Sustainable use, management, and conservation of natural systems will protect and promote the delivery of ecosystem services and implementation of green infrastructure and nature-based solutions to economically and efficiently mitigate the impacts of extreme weather events and maintain critical functions that support people, prosperity, and our healthy environment.

#### Conservation – Cultural Resources

Vision: Through survey, research, education, and stewardship historic preservation management planning conserves and enhances important historic, archaeological, architectural and cultural resources on public and private lands throughout the Commonwealth improving the quality of life for all residents of the CNMI. (HPO 2015 Vision, updated)

#### Recreation

Vision: To provide world-class outdoor recreation experiences with high-quality facilities and diverse activities and access opportunities for CNMI residents and visitors. (2020 SCORP, *Draft in progress*)

#### Tourism and the Visitor Industry

Vision: The Marianas are as one of the most preferred destinations to experience happiness, excursions, harmony, strength, and celebration in the global tourism market, offering choice and diversity for visitors and residents alike. Through integrated resource planning and management efforts our islands support a modern, sustainable, and successful tourism industry that provides jobs, a good tax base, and diverse customer base that provides a healthy level of profit for businesses, supported by convenient, affordable transportation that promotes inter-island travel, and opportunities to enhance, preserve, and share CNMI's culture with the outside world. The tourism and visitor industry are well-integrated with all



aspects of community planning and development to result in less vulnerability to external events and a level of visitor arrivals that can support a good quality of life for the community, without adversely impacting the beautiful natural environment. (2020 MVA Tourism Plan, in development)

Note, comments received suggesting tightening this vision statement; flagging for follow-up and further discussion and upcoming Planning Taskforce Meeting.

#### Public Safety and Disaster Risk Reduction

Vision: Maintain and enhance community safety in the Commonwealth and work across sectors to identify and manage risks to ensure populations have adequate access to evacuation routes, food, water and subsequent medical services during and after a disaster and that preparations are in place to reduce risks and make CNMI a safe place to weather a storm. (SE-DRR Taskforce)

#### Health Systems

Vision: Improving CNMI health and well-being through excellence and innovation in services. (2015 CHCC Strategic Plan Plan)

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation's (CHCC) 2015-2020 Strategic Plan aims to improve the standard of services to the people of the CNMI as well as overall health and wellbeing of its populace. To achieve this goal, CHCC has been working to implement eight (8) operating strategies which include organizational and facilities objectives. Outcomes include obtaining full accreditation from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) for the hospital (recently surveyed in May 2019), public health, behavioral health, as well as decrease the incidence of the top six (6) major causes of death and debilitation in the CNMI: cancer, diabetes, hypertension/heart disease, teen pregnancy, HIV/STI, and substance abuse. These goals are aimed to address community health system needs and support achievement and maintenance of numerous targets of Sustainable Development Goal 3 – Good Health and Well Being.

#### Education Systems

Vision: CNMI will provide high quality, affordable and accessible educational programs and services to drive economic growth and the social and cultural vitality of the Commonwealth. (Edu Partners)

#### Partnerships

Vision: OPD and Planning Partners will Support Coordination for Comprehensive Planning (§ 20177)



## Sustainable Development Goals – Planning Across PDAC Taskforces

The following list represents the proposed “right-sized” sustainable development goals (SDG) and supporting objectives developed by the Office of Planning and Development (OPD), the Planning and Development Advisory Council (PDAC), and the Planning Taskforces on Socio-Economics / Disaster Risk Reduction, the Built Environment, and the Natural Environment. These dialogs were initiated by the endorsement of the Sustainable Development Goals as a planning framework by the PDAC over several meetings in 2018-2019 and Taskforce planning meetings held in February and June, 2020. The ten-year SDG statements are intentionally ambitious – the aim of this planning exercise is to implement realistic objectives that help move the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) closer to its vision of sustainability for each of these sectors.

### Socio-economics and Disaster Risk Reduction (SE / DRR) Taskforce

**Taskforce Vision:** CNMI is a healthy and safe place to live, work, recreate, and weather a storm

*The Socio-Economic and Disaster Risk Reduction (SE/DRR) Taskforce focuses on SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 16, and 17. Draft updated goal statements and objectives are outlined here.*

- SDG #1 - End poverty in all its forms
  - By 2024, OPD, PDAC, and the Socio-Economics (SE) Taskforce will work together with Commerce, OMB, and OGM to formalize a capital improvements plan and project prioritization proposal for inclusion in 2025 CSDP and CEDS planning updates
  - By 2025, Department of Commerce will work with the SE Taskforce to establish a baseline for “living wages” for localized poverty assessment to track progress towards poverty reduction and support of basic quality of life for all people in the CNMI;
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  - By 2025, the Socio-Economic Taskforce will work with the Department of Labor to (i) improve access to paid sick leave for all participating in the CNMI workforce, with the aim to ensure that at least 75% of full-time CNMI workers have paid sick leave and (ii) reduce the proportion of community members with no health insurance from 32% in 2010 to 25%;
  - By 2023, CUC, BECQ-DEQ, DPW, and DPL will integrate geospatial utilities data to identify areas of wastewater services to support utility, capital improvement program, and land use planning updates, and by 2025, CUC will work with OPD/PDAC to include prioritized wastewater management community projects in capital improvement funding requests to achieve 100% inside flush toilets with compliant wastewater management by 2030; and
  - By 2023, CUC, BECQ-DEQ, DPW, and DPL will integrate geospatial utilities data to identify areas of water services to support utility, capital improvement program, and land use planning updates, and by 2025, CUC will work with OPD/PDAC to include prioritized water management community projects in capital improvement funding requests to achieve 100% 24-hr plateable water services by 2030.





- SDG #2 - End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable localized agriculture

- Ensure a more affordable supply of healthy local foods and reduce accessibility to unhealthy food by: (i) working with CNMI Forestry and partners to launch community gardens in every village and senatorial district by 2025; (ii) working with CDA, NMC-CREES, and partners to expand agroforestry programs and demonstration projects with the goal of implementing at least one demonstration project or workshop annually between 2022 – 2025 to provide tools and knowledge to increase GDP from agriculture to over 2.5% by 2030; and (iii) supporting CHCC's inclusion of assessment of local food choices in periodic non-communicable disease surveys to provide data to further track these efforts by 2025.
- Support home gardening and agroforestry initiatives in partnership with CDA and NMC-CREES with through development of formal outreach plan and prioritized actions by 2022 for inclusion in future planning updates; include designated community gardens in DPL's 2030 Public Land Use Plan update;
- By 2025, CHCC in partnership with the CNMI Nutrition Council will work to improve access to strengthen local farmer livelihoods, increase food security, and improve nutrition through expansion of the Biba program to support a public food procurement policy which favors food produced locally and meets or exceeds nutrition standards;
- By 2025, CHCC in partnership with PSS and DCCA will establish nutrition guidelines and standards for meals, snacks, and beverages served to children on a regular basis by institutions and businesses in the CNMI, including all public facilities which serve meals to children, all daycares, and all schools to improve health, food related knowledge, and food consumption patterns of children, their families, and staff; and
- By 2025, CHCC, CNMI Nutrition Council, and the Nutrition Assistance Program will develop policies and incentives to ensure that 20% of stores registered with the Nutrition Assistance Program adopt the Healthy Stores Initiative administered jointly by the CHCC and CNMI Nutrition Council.



- SDG #3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all people at all ages

- Reduce mortality and morbidity and maintain the WHO goal of stable incidence rates of diabetes cases annually with a focus on preventing chronic disease through active transportation, increased availability of healthy locally-sourced food, and healthy community design and planning. CHCC will work with OPD, the PDAC, and SE Planning Taskforce, and NCD Taskforce to integrate healthy community planning across all sectors by 2025;
- By 2025 CHCC, PSS, NMC-CREES, and supporting partners will implement plans to increase access to healthy, local, affordable food choices in all CNMI schools so that, by 2030, at least one "locally-sourced lunch" option can be made available to meet once-a-week serving demand for all students in primary and secondary schools and NMC;
- By 2025, the CNMI Department of Finance, Division of Procurement and Supply, in partnership with Socio-Economic Taskforce including CHCC and the CNMI Nutrition Council





- will develop policies to ensure that all public procurement from restaurants and caterers are from those businesses which meet or exceed BIBA Initiative standards which supports nutrition standards to promote healthy lives and well-being; and
- By 2030, CHCC leads interagency health and wellness planning efforts to ensure continued metric monitoring and progress towards achieving WHO goals and SDG Targets including:
    - SDG 3.1.1 - By 2030, continue to maintain a maternal mortality ratio of less than 1 per 100,000 live births;
    - SDG 3.1.2 - By 2030, continue to maintain a proportion of births attended by a skilled health professional at no less than 99%;
    - SDG 3.2.1 - By 2030, continue to maintain deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age to less than 1 per 1,000 live births;
    - SDG 3.2.2 - By 2030, reduce neonatal mortality rate to 1 per 1,000 live births;
    - SDG 3.3.1 - By 2030, reduce the number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations to 0;
    - SDG 3.3.2 - a. 2030, reduce the incidence of tuberculosis per 100,000 from 90.4 to 75; b. % of patient population who are tested using Xpert MTB/RIF as the initial diagnostic test with a target of 95% of culture positive TB cases who receive a complete drug susceptibility examination within 60 days of MTB confirmation; and c. % of culture positive TB cases who receive a complete drug susceptibility examination within 60 days of MTB confirmation with a target of 95%;
    - SDG 3.3.3 - By 2030, maintain a malaria incidence rate of 0 per 1,000;
    - SDG 3.3.4 - By 2030, reduce the Hepatitis B incidence rate per 1,000 to 40;
    - SDG 3.3.5 - By 2030, maintain a number of zero people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases;
    - SDG 3.4.1 - By 2030, reduce the mortality rate per 100,000 between the ages of 30 and 70 years from cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, or chronic respiratory diseases to 14,110 or less;
    - SDG 3.4.2 - By 2030, reduce the suicide mortality rate per 100,000 from 15.4 to 14 or less and maintain or increase suicide prevention outreach services
    - SDG 3.4.2.a - By 2030, reduce the percentage of high school students who actually attempted suicide in the past year by 10% of the rate reported in 2017;
    - SDG 3.4.3 - By 2030, show no increase in diabetes prevalence among adults;
    - SDG 3.4.4 - By 2030, show no increase in hypertension prevalence among adults;
    - SDG 3.5.1 - By 2030, the CNMI will have evidence-based treatment interventions across the continuum of care for substance use disorders. Partnership between the CHCC, the Substance Abuse, Addictions, and Rehabilitation (SAAR) Program under the Office of the Governor, Drug Court Program under the CNMI Superior Court, and other treatment and support facilities and organizations will work toward achievement of this goal;
    - SDG 3.5.2 - By 2030, the CNMI will aim for a 15% reduction in harmful use of alcohol in each of the following areas: underage drinking, binge drinking, and drinking and driving. Partnership between the CHCC, the Department of Commerce, and the Department of Public Safety will support work toward achievement of these goals



- SDG 3.6.1 - By 2030, reduce the death rate due to road traffic injuries per 100,000 to 4 or less annually;
  - 3.7.2 - By 2030, reduce the adolescent birth rate per 1,000 (ages 10 to 19) to 6.
  - 3.8.2 - By 2030, reduce household expenditure on health to <15% of total income;
  - 3.8.3 - By 2030, increase the proportion of adults who have visited a medical provider for a general physical exam in the last year to 45%;
  - 3.8.4 - By 2030, decrease the prevalence of dental caries (tooth decay) in school aged children by 20%;
  - 3.8.5 - By 2030, increase the percentage of adults who have received a dental exam in the past year to 32%;
  - 3.9.1 - By 2030, continue to maintain a mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution of fewer than 1 per 100,000;
  - 3.9.2 - By 2030, continue to maintain a mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation, and lack of hygiene of fewer than 1 per 100,000;
  - 3.9.3 - By 2030, continue to maintain a mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning of fewer than 1 per 100,000;
  - 3.a.1 - By 2030, reduce age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years or older to 20% or less;
  - 3.c.1 – By 2030, data is collected and regularly updated to assess the density of physicians per 1,000, nursing and midwifery personnel per 1,000, dentistry personnel per 1,000, and pharmaceutical personnel per 1,000.
  - 3.d.1 – Percentage of attributes of 13 core capacities that have been attained at a specific point in time and planning efforts are implemented to ensure that CHCC meets or exceeds 70% percentage value based on 13 core capacities. The 13 core capacities are: (1) National legislation, policy and financing; (2) Coordination and National Focal Point communications; (3) Surveillance; (4) Response; (5) Preparedness; (6) Risk communication; (7) Human resources; (8) Laboratory; (9) Points of entry; (10) Zoonotic events; (11) Food safety; (12) Chemical events; and (13) Radionuclear emergencies
- SDG #4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- By 2022, NMC and PSS will re-evaluate and update their MOU to support student readiness and incorporates program priorities into an integrated education plan for lifelong learning opportunities in CNMI by 2025; and
  - By 2025, NMC and PSS planning updates will detail efforts to support the goal to decrease the percentage of incoming NMC freshmen in need of placement in remedial classes by 10% or more by 2030.





- SDG #5 - Achieve gender equality and equity to empower all people
  - By 2022, OPD will work with the Women’s Affairs Office, PDAC, and planning taskforce partners as well as active community groups to establish a community meeting schedule for refining objectives and developing a gender equality, equity, and empowerment planning component for inclusion in 2025 CSDP planning update.
- SDG #8 - Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth supported by expanded educational and employment opportunities for all
  - By 2023, Commerce, Finance, OMB, and OPD, with support of the PDAC and planning partners, will work to draft guiding policies to address poverty reduction;
  - By 2025, Commerce, OPD, PDAC, and partners will work to ensure that the CEDS update includes an unemployment and poverty reduction planning component to identify priority projects that support economic diversification and growth; and
  - By 2025 MVA Tourism Plan will be updated to address sustainability recommendations, track progress, and assess successes and opportunities of tourism contributions to CNMI economy with the goal of achieving at least 65% GDP contribution over a ten-year average between 2020 and 2030.
- SDG #10 - Eliminate inequality and support diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice
  - By 2023, Commerce, Finance, OMB, and OPD with support of the PDAC and planning partners, will work to draft guiding policies that address poverty reduction; and
  - By 2025, Commerce, OPD, PDAC, and partners will work to ensure that the CEDS update includes unemployment and poverty reduction planning component to identify priority projects to support economic diversification, equality, equity, and growth.
- SDG #16 - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
  - By 2023, DPS and OPD, with support of the PDAC, CHCC, and other planning partners, will work to draft guiding policies that support reduction of physical, psychological, and sexual violence in the CNMI; and
  - By 2025, OPD, PDAC, and partners will work with DPS and the Judiciary to ensure that the CSDP update includes violence reduction policy recommendations and identifies priority projects to support this goal, with a target of 10% reduction in violent crimes by 2030.





- SDG #17 - Strengthen the means of implementation and support partnerships for sustainable development
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  - By the end of 2020, OPD, Commerce, and PDAC, and other planning partners will endorse the sustainable development planning component and Smart, Safe Growth integration recommendations to identify priority projects to support economic diversification and growth for inclusion in the 2021-2025 CEDS update and future plan revisions;
  - By 2023 Commerce, Finance, OMB, and OPD with support of the PDAC and planning partners, will work to draft guiding policies that address poverty reduction and track changes in annual GDP;
  - By 2025, led by OPD and facilitated through partnerships with planning agencies and other stakeholders, scheduled planning updates detailed further in the CSDP (plan inventory in Appendix I here), will be completed and incorporated into the five-year planning update; and
  - By 2030, led by OPD and facilitated through partnerships with planning agencies and other stakeholders, scheduled planning updates detailed further in Appendix I of this CSDP, will be completed and incorporated into a 2030+ planning update.
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## Built Environment (BE) Taskforce

**Taskforce Vision:** Supporting and expanding Smart, Safe Growth and strategic investment in capital improvements to serve the infrastructure needs of the CNMI and ensure sustainable and resilient growth

*The Built Environment (BE) Taskforce focuses on SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, and 17. Draft updated goal statements and objectives are outlined here.*

- SDG #6 - Ensure availability and sustainable management of safe and environmentally compliant water and sanitation for all
  - By 2022, CUC's Master Plan will be updated to include details that address what steps are necessary and sufficient to reduce the salinity of the water in Saipan to the secondary standard of 250 ppm by 2030, including consideration of future precipitation patterns and potential impacts to the water system;
  - By 2023, CUC, BECQ-DEQ, DPW, and DPL will integrate geospatial utilities data to identify areas of water and wastewater services to support utility, capital improvement program, and land use planning updates to achieve 100% inside flush toilets with compliant wastewater management and 100% 24-hr palatable water services by 2030;
  - By 2025, CUC will update and implement priority action items for their service areas plan for unsewered areas, including consideration of actions to address changing environmental conditions to the wastewater management system; and
  - Led by the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, watershed management and restoration efforts will result in: (i) Reduction of saltwater intrusion into Saipan's freshwater lens by 20% by 2025 (as measured by reduced chloride levels in CUC managed assets); and (ii) Reduction of stormwater runoff by maintaining and increasing wetland, green infrastructure, and stormwater management processes including aquifer recharge by achieving a 50% reduction in water impairment ratings for the coastal waters of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota by 2030;
  - Led by DPW and supported by the Built Environment Taskforce, (i) by 2023 DPW will implement updated guidelines for the MS4 stormwater permit to ensure environmentally compliant and sustainable management of nonpoint source pollution conveyed by stormwater infrastructure; and (ii) by 2025 DPW will draft a stormwater management plan with interagency support that considers "Smart, Safe Growth" principles including projected changes to precipitation patterns and sea level rise to further enable these efforts; and
  - By 2021 CUC will work with BECQ-DEQ and CHCC to assess health-protective safe drinking water standards and include resulting recommendations in the CUC Water Master Plan by 2022 and subsequent CEDS update by 2025.
- SDG #7 - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all





- By 2022, CUC will endorse a Comprehensive Energy Plan detailing the steps necessary and sufficient to diversify the CNMI's energy portfolio and make progress towards renewable energy standards;
- By 2025, the CUC-led and OPD, DPW, and CBMA supported Energy Feasibility Assessment will be completed to inform and update public laws and pursue grants to facilitate incorporation of renewable energy into the grid and incentivize distributed deployment;
- By 2025, CUC will have identified pilot projects to support a phased Comprehensive Energy Plan and a plan is in place to address existing and future community needs; and
- By 2030, CUC and planning partners have implemented an integrated utility scale photovoltaic system to meet 20% of the respective peak demand for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.



- SDG #9 - Build climate adaptive and resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation

- By 2025, OPD ensures robust, integrated transportation planning is formalized and integrated into CNMI's CSDP. This effort includes implementing and measuring progress towards objectives where:
  - (i) By 2022, CUC installs LED lighting at pilot area sites and works with DPW and CHCC to support safe road lighting deployment planning elements;
  - (ii) By 2023 CHCC's Walkability Plan is incorporated into DPW and COTA plans to support implementation of "safe and accessible" roads for active, and accessible transportation; and
  - (iii) By 2024, DPW, CPA, COTA, CPA, and CHCC, with support of other relevant partners, will endorse a comprehensive transportation planning vision, with supporting objectives, and goals for inclusion of a robust transportation planning element for the whole of CNMI in the 2025 CSDP update led by OPD;
- By 2022, OPD obtains complete coverage maps for cell and broadband coverage and works with Commerce to update HIES survey data specific to internet accessibility to support planning efforts that include subsidy programs or community connection hubs to ensuring that all residents of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota have in-home access to the internet through broadband or wireless connection by 2030;
- By 2022, DPW works with OPD and Transportation Planning partners including COTA and CPA as well as CHCC to update the 20-year Highway Master Plan to include walkability and accessibility recommendations identified by this group in 2020 scoping discussions; and
- Promote sustainable watershed and stormwater management planning through data-driven collaboration where (i) DPW with support of OPD, the Hazard Mitigation Office, and the Mayors Offices map all primary and secondary road infrastructure by 2023 to support the development of flood hazard mitigation and stormwater management planning guidance with support from DEQ that includes consideration of projected future changes in precipitation patterns and sea level rise by 2025; and (ii) DPW works with DEQ and partners to revise the 2005 Stormwater Management Plan for CNMI by 2025 to further support integration of land based pollution management across planning sectors and projects; and





- By 2030, integrated watershed resource management considerations are incorporated into land management and community development elements of Zoning regulations, vulnerability assessments and risk reduction planning (SSMP, NMHC), and Public Land Use Plan updates.
- SDG #11 - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable
  - By 2025, CNMI's State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) will be updated to include the conservation status of cultural, natural, and mixed-designation sites with area- and resource-specific plans and data collection, including the number of cultural and historical sites that are recorded and inventoried, with at least 50% annual preservation of newly discovered cultural heritage resources; public annual expenditures remain constant; private preservation data is collected to support full integration of SCORP into public land use and transportation planning by 2030; and
  - By 2025, SCORP, PLUP, Zoning, and Watershed Plans are aligned to identify publicly managed "open space" areas and ADA accessible areas with goal of at least 85% open space or pervious surface maintained in each sub-watershed and this alignment and cross-cutting priorities are identified with supporting action and implementation plans included in the 2030 CSDP update.
- SDG # 12 - Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
  - By 2022, DEQ with support from DPW and OPD will obtain centralized data and statistics on hazardous waste and CNMI-wide import / export stream for integrated waste management plan to be finalized by 2023 and included in 2025 CDSP update;
  - By 2025, OPD and DEQ will support DPW in the development and incorporation of the integrated waste management plan that incorporates Smart, Safe Growth principles with recycling stream tracking and reporting protocols in place to support future updates and the PDAC, Legislature, and CNMI Governor adopt the plan update;
  - By 2025, OPD, the CEDS Committee, and the Socio-Economic Planning Taskforce will include data collection and consideration of programs to support exportation of local produce in economic planning and development to enhance economic growth and sustainability;
  - By 2030, 50% of the recyclable waste stream will be diverted from CNMI's landfill or RCRA-compliant waste management facilities on Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands with diverted waste composted, reused, or sold to support sustainable waste management systems.





- SDG #17 - Strengthen the means of implementation and support partnerships for sustainable development
  - By 2022, OPD will facilitate “Smart, Safe Growth” training programs and provide supplemental guidance for planning and project reviews to build partnerships and strengthen mainstreaming of these critical principles across agencies and resource management efforts;
  - By 2023, Commerce, Finance, OMB, and OPD will work with PDAC and planning partners to draft guiding policies that address poverty reduction and track changes in annual GDP including tracking and data reporting protocols for exports and imported goods; and
  - By 2024, Commerce HIES surveys will provide data on internet access and use these data points to address remaining deployment gaps, if any, in the 2025 CEDS update with support from OPD, PDAC, and Planning Partners; and
  - The 2030 CSDP and corresponding 2030 CEDS update will include a detailed assessment of GDP expenditures, imports, and exports trends, and other economic data identified by the PDAC and SE/DRR Planning Taskforce.
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Note: Suggestion received to combine Goal 17 in one final section (received, noted, and being discussed for CSDP drafting purposes).



## Natural Resources (NR) Taskforce

**Taskforce Vision:** Preserving CNMI's natural capital while balancing economic growth and equitable opportunities for all

*The Natural Resources (NR) Taskforce focuses on SDGs 13, 14, and 15. Draft updated goal statements and objectives are outlined here.*

- SDG #13 - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
  - By 2023, the Office of Planning and Development (OPD) has launched a “Smart Safe Growth” (SSG) toolkit on the OPD website to support integration of climate impacts and adaptation opportunities into early planning and project scoping activities with at least three SSG trainings held for CNMI agencies and stakeholders by 2025;
  - By 2025, resource management specialists across sectors will work with the Hazard Mitigation program and OPD to update and integrate climate data and sector-specific planning recommendations across sectors;
  - By 2025, BECQ-DCRM will work with PSS and partners to establish Marianas-wide educational programs or institutions to enable continued education in natural resources studies in CNMI;
  - By 2030, OPD and the PDAC have incorporated cross-cutting climate action planning needs across resource management sectors for the next full CSDP update; and
  - By 2030, BECQ and PSS have climate considerations integrated into public school science and social studies curriculum
- SDG #14 - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development
  - By 2025, OPD and the Natural Resources Taskforce reassess and revise priorities to ensure that by 2030 there are interagency programs to support active management of prioritized in water resources and management areas reflected in the CSDP update;
  - By 2025, Coral Restoration Management Team comprised of DCRM and DFW support implementation of and regular updates to the Coral Reef Restoration Management Plan;
  - By 2025, the Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) will work with partners to promote a sustainable fishing industry throughout the Marianas by creating a CNMI fisheries management program that includes expanded in-house capacity to conduct resource assessments of fish and invertebrates in CNMI to support sustainable fisheries management through improved monitoring, data analysis, regulation assessment, and enforcement while factoring in fishing industry, development, and tourism needs;
  - By 2025, the Division of Fish and Wildlife, supported by resource management partners at BECQ and others, will conduct and complete recruitment studies from marine protected areas (MPAs) to document benefits and to establish sustainable management program;





- Led by DFW and supported by resource management partners at BECQ and DPL, a Fish and Coral Restoration Program will be established by 2025 to create a fish and coral conservation action plan to enhance resource biodiversity and reef health;
  - DFW will work with partners to conduct life history studies on targeted food fish in the CNMI to determine growth rates, longevity, reproduction, and mortality. The information generated will be used for sustainable management of fisheries by 2025;
  - The Department of Lands & Natural Resources (DLNR) - DFW will work on improving boating infrastructure by 2025 to minimize environmental impacts on nearshore resources and to allow for safe boating access;
  - DLNR/DFW will work with regional partners to improve fishery data collection efforts in the CNMI and generate information needed to sustainably manage fishery resources by 2025;
  - DLNR/DFW continues to work with state and federal partners in conducting nearshore fish, invertebrate and benthic assessments throughout the CNMI to better document resource abundance and diversity. Information generated from this work will be used to sustainably manage nearshore fishery resources;
  - By 2025, DLNR/DFW will work with partners to improve enforcement capacity by evaluating existing fishery regulations and policies to determine validity within current concerns. Revisions will be made to ensure that these regulations meet current and future management needs; and
  - DLNR/DFW will work with partners to develop sustainable fishing access programs such as Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) to promote alternative fishing opportunities that help reduce fishing impacts in nearshore waters.
- SDG #15 - Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial and nearshore ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, and preserve and halt degradation of biodiversity and resources of particular concern in the CNMI
- By 2025, OPD and the Natural Resources Taskforce reassess and revise priorities to ensure that by 2030 there are interagency programs to support active management of prioritized resources and management areas on land and in nearshore waters reflected in the CSDP update;
  - By 2025 the Department of Lands and Natural Resources will update the State Wildlife Action Plan and continue periodic updates every ten years with data and input included from natural resource management partners at BECQ as appropriate;
  - By 2025, and in all periodic updates, Statewide Forestry Assessment and Resource Strategy includes management provisions for limestone forests and wetlands as well as considerations to support nearshore conservation efforts and implementation of nature-based solutions;
  - CNMI Forestry will work with management partners to monitor, maintain, and restore at least 10% land cover to native and endemic forest communities by 2030;
  - CNMI's Department of Land and Natural Resources and Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality work together to ensure no net loss of limestone forest, coral reefs, sea grass, and wetlands to protect ecosystems and biodiversity and support habitat connectivity, with meetings held at least quarterly with the Natural Resources Planning Taskforce to identify





- planning and project alignment opportunities and share out updates on progress and challenges as needed to support this effort;
- By 2022, BECQ develops a Wildfire Management Plan that addresses planning, response and mitigation of wildfires to support efforts to reduce human induced wildfire, reduce fire risk, and restore fire-impacted sites to support healthy watersheds and communities; and by 2025 the amount of man-made wildfires is reduced by 50% in area from 2020 numbers;
  - By 2021, BECQ-DCRM will reconvene the Wetlands Restoration and Management Team including DLNR, DPL, OPD, and members of the Natural Resources Planning Taskforce to collaborate develop, adopt, and begin implementation of a Comprehensive Wetlands Management and Restoration Plan by 2025; and
  - Led by the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, watershed management and restoration efforts will result in:
    - Reduction of saltwater intrusion into Saipan's freshwater lens by 20% by 2025 as measured by reduced chloride levels in CUC managed assets;
    - Reduction of stormwater runoff by maintaining and increasing wetland, green infrastructure, and stormwater management processes including aquifer recharge by achieving a 50% reduction in water impairment ratings for coastal waters of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota by 2030.

*Together, the Sustainable Development Goals and their objectives aim to support communities, people, the economy, and the environment. These goals and management areas are in many ways interconnected, as the image below attempts to help visualize. Sustainable management of these resource areas in turn supports better outcomes across management sectors.*





## Comprehensive Planning, Special Resource / Area / Functional Plans, and Projects

The CNMI CSDP incorporates by reference the most current approved Community, Special Area, and Functional Plans as well as relevant development standards and their implementing policies and regulations. These planning efforts inform and are executed by targeted capital improvements and action plans that result in projects, capacity building, and other efforts to address identified needs, gaps, and opportunities throughout these iterative and interconnected efforts.





## Planning Elements Policy Statements / Crosswalks:

The policy elements outlined below reflect the “Crosswalk” of sustainable development planning areas. These efforts are supported by the “Special Area” and “Community Plans” which are typically geographically or issue focused, as well as “Functional Plans” that address resource management needs. Development standards are often project-specific but further inform best practices to support sustainability outcomes.

- Socio-economic development:
  - Investing in critical lifelines and human resources
- Workforce and consumption patterns:
  - Improving sustainability, supply chain resilience, and economic diversification
- Environmental Stewardship
  - Maintaining and enhancing environmental and cultural resources
- Partnerships
  - Expanding planning to support partnerships across sectors to support community well-being



Resource, area, and agency-specific planning efforts support achievement of the visions, goals, and objectives detailed in the Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan. The most current approved version of the plans listed below is incorporated by reference and OPD will work with the PDAC and planning partners to continue to support timely updates.

- Special Area / Community Action Plans
  - CEDS
  - CHCC – Strategic Plan
  - COTA & DPW – Transportation Improvement Plan
  - CPA Harbor and Airport Plans
  - DCRM – SLUMP, Mooring Buoys Management
  - DLNR-DFW – SWAP, Marina Management
  - DLNR-Forestry - Wildland Fire Plan; Statewide Assessment and Resource Strategy
  - DFW/DoD – Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan for Range Operations Areas
  - HPO/DoD – Integrated Culture Resources Management Plan for Range Operations Areas (*update pending publication*)
  - HSEM / HMGP – Hazard Mitigation Plan
    - Catastrophic Typhoon Plan
    - Tsunami Evacuation Plan
      - *Hazard Map Revisions for FY20 Update*
  - MVA – Tourism Sustainability Plan
  - NMHC – Strategic Plan, Disaster Action Plan
  - NPS – American Memorial Park Management Plan
  - Priority Watersheds:
    - Achugao (*publication pending*)
    - West Garapan (*update pending*)
    - Laolao (*update pending*)
    - Talakhaya, Rota (*update pending*)
  - SCORP (*publication pending, final draft expected by Sept. 2020*)



- Garapan Revitalization
- Functional Plans
  - CUC – Power, Water, Wastewater Plans
  - DPL – Public Land Use Plan
  - DPW – Highways Management Plan, Solid Waste Management, Nonpoint source pollution and stormwater management plan
  - Wetlands Advisory Council – Comprehensive Wetlands Management Plan
- Development Guidelines & Standards
  - Saipan Zoning Regulations
  - Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality Development Regulations - BECQ-DEQ One Start; BECQ-DCRM APC/Major Siting
  - Commonwealth Utilities Corporation – Power, Water, Wastewater connections
  - Department of Natural Resources – Fish & Wildlife, Forestry, Invasives & Quarantine
  - Department of Public Works – Building Code Division (IBC 2018)
  - Department of Public Works – Floodplains Management
  - Historic Preservation Office – Historic Preservation Plan (Public Laws 3-39, 10-71, and Administrative Code 55-10)
  - Smart, Safe Growth
- Prioritizing Actions with SSG
  - Endorsed for application by PDAC, OMB-SA/GAR, SMHO +
  - Supports scoping and coordinated project development for resiliency outcomes
  - Matrix update and development standard implementation training / BMPs underway with support from FEMA/EPA

#### Planning Next Steps and Policy Recommendations

- Continue development, adoption, alignment, and implementation of resource- and sector-specific planning updates – See Planning Update Schedule in Appendix I (updates pending)
- Support information sharing and iterative planning including leading the development of community plans at the precinct level for inclusion in the 2025 CSDP Update
- Enable financial transparency and accountability through online information sharing and involvement of stakeholders early in planning and project scoping
- Next steps: Work towards 3-5 year goals, continued data collection, integration of existing and new plans with these guiding principles, visions, goals, and objectives.



## Planning Elements and Policy Recommendations

Planning Area Element Public Law 20-20 § 20176	Relevant Plans and Standards	Planning and Policy Recommendations ...
(A) Land Use	2019 DPL Public Land Use Plan  Saipan Zoning Plan & Regulations  BECQ-DCRM & DEQ Management Standards and Requirements  DLNR-DFW State Wildlife Action Plan  HPO – Management Plan and Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue using watershed management planning to integrate development policies and identify priority actions with incorporation of these plans by reference as they are completed</li> <li>- Incorporate updated HPO plan and regulatory requirements into cultural resources section by 2022</li> <li>- Include OPD as Ad Hoc member for Zoning Board and CRM Agency Board to support consistency across planning mandates</li> <li>- Add SSG policy connections and complete streets considerations to support comprehensive planning efforts that are protective of community health and public safety now and considering future conditions</li> </ul>
(B) Community Design	CNMI Smart Safe Growth Guidance  NMHC Disaster Action Plan  State Standard Mitigation Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Incorporate SSG policy throughout planning, project prioritization, and implementation across sectors</li> <li>- Include updated asset vulnerability assessments to be produced in 2020 PDM grant task into geospatially reference “Resilience Hubs” data set to support planning, project scoping, and early issue identification</li> </ul>
(C) Transportation	DPW Territorial Highways Plan (THP) and Implementation Plan  COTA – Territorial Implementation Plan  CPA	Projects are listed in THP as well as COTA and CPA planning documents – by 2025 unified comprehensive transportation planning element for endorsement with decadal updates starting in 2030
(D) Regulations	See SSG recommendations	Line agencies include planning periods in ongoing regulation updates to solidify planning horizons and coordination with OPD and partners
(E) Public Facilities	SSG, CEDS	OMB/CIP have endorsed use of SSG in project planning; by 2025 work with OGM, NMHC, and CEDS Commission to update public buildings and utilities plan with inclusion of prioritized projects list



Planning Area Element Public Law 20-20 § 20176	Relevant Plans and Standards	Planning and Policy Recommendations ...
(F) Public Lands	PLUP, CEDS	Work with DPL to incorporate watershed management plan components into 2030 update of PLUP
(G) Public Buildings	SSG, CEDS	OMB/CIP have endorsed use of SSG in project planning; by 2025 work with OGM, NMHC, and CEDS Commission to update public buildings and utilities plan with inclusion of prioritized projects list
(H) Housing	NMHC	NMHC to include SSG in planning principles and project review and will incorporate plan updates in CEDS project listings and CSDP goals and objectives by 2030
(I) Redevelopment	NMHC, Zoning, DPL, Garapan CID*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Include SSG in redevelopment planning and projects including development and incorporation of revised risk mapping data to encourage revitalization and discourage incompatible redevelopment in mapped high risk or repetitive loss areas;</li> <li>- Incorporate CIDs into CSDP by reference as they are adopted</li> <li>- Work with Zoning, DPL, and NMHC to create and fund revitalization incentives and requirements under the Blighted Buildings Zoning Law to support reuse of existing resources</li> <li>- Identify and fund brownfield remediation on public lands and in identified redevelopment opportunity areas (in and in proximity to CIDs)</li> <li>- By 2025 include expanded, targeted redevelopment planning elements in CSDP</li> </ul>
(J) Conservation	SWAP, SLUMP, SCORP, HPO	Work with BECQ, DLNR, DPL, HPO, and other partners to align planning priorities and implement SMART Objectives
(K) Recreation	SCORP, SLUMP	
(L) Safety	CHCC	CHCC planning updates are incorporated by reference into CSDP



Planning Area Element Public Law 20-20 § 20176	Relevant Plans and Standards	Planning and Policy Recommendations ...
(M) Tourism	MVA	MVA updates and incorporates Tourism Sustainability Plan by 2025
(N) Development Policy	CSDP, CEDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Incorporate CIDs into CSDP by reference as they are adopted</li> <li>- Include SSG principles and prioritized projects in CEDS updates every five years</li> </ul>
(O) Capital Improvements		<p>OMB/CIP have endorsed use of SSG in project planning; by 2025 work with OGM, NMHC, and CEDS Commission to update public buildings and utilities plan with inclusion of prioritized projects list and regularly updated strategic plan</p> <p>Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan for Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands is drafted and approved by PDAC for incorporation into CSDP by 2023</p>
(P) Labor Work Force	CEDS	DOL and DOC to work with OPD and CEDS commission to develop Labor Work Force plan with contingencies for CW expiration addressed and included by 2025
(Q) Policy Statements		Policy statements are regularly reviewed and updated on a five-year planning cycle with changes incorporated by reference and explicitly into decadal CSDP updates
(R) Other Elements:		
i. Education		
ii. Healthcare		Mainstream SSG policies across planning sectors
iii. Comprehensive Resiliency		



## Appendix I – Updated Planning Schedule

Agency / Lead POC	Plan Name	Plan Duration/Update Frequency	Update Status
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality Division of Coastal Resources Management	<a href="#">2008 Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan for The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands</a>	2008-2020	No update specifics found
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality Division of Coastal Resources Management	<a href="#">2017 Saipan Lagoon Use Management Plan</a>	Created on 1985; revised and updated on 1997, 2012, and 2017	Created on 1985; updated on 2017
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality Division of Coastal Resources Management	<a href="#">1990/91 Saipan Comprehensive Wetlands Management Plan</a>	Not specified	No update specifics found
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality Division of Coastal Resources Management	<a href="#">2009 Laolao Bay Conservation Action Plan</a>	2009-2018	Updated on 2012, 2020 update pending
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality Division of Coastal Resources Management	<a href="#">2012 Talakhaya / Sabana Conservation Action Plan</a>	Upon funding availability	2020 update underway
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality Division of Coastal Resources Management	<a href="#">2013 Garapan Conservation Action Plan</a>	The CAP will be reviewed and updated by the advisory group every five years to track improvements and initiate new conservation projects and programs. Associated with the CAP is a workplan that will be updated by the advisory group every two years to provide guidance when implementing actions to improve our natural resources.	2020 update underway
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality Division of Coastal Resources Management Division of Environmental Quality	<a href="#">2002 Watershed Restoration Action Strategy</a>	2002-2014	No update specifics found



Agency / Lead POC	Plan Name	Plan Duration/Update Frequency	Update Status
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation	<a href="#">2007-2012 Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan</a>	Plan is a living document and will be reviewed annually. Updates are made when needed	Last updated on 2007
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation	<a href="#">2015-2020 Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation Strategic Plan</a>	Five (5) year plan	Current until end of 2020 fiscal year, update pending
Commonwealth Ports Authority	<a href="#">2018 Rota West Harbor Master Plan</a>	Not specified	Has not been updated since 2018
Commonwealth Ports Authority	<a href="#">2018 Tinian Harbor Master Plan</a>	Over 20 years later in since 1997, the stated harbor conditions and vision for Tinian Harbor remain unchanged with the following updates based on information provided during the October 28, 2014 stakeholder meeting	The current Tinian Harbor Master Plan was prepared in 1997 and it has not been updated significantly since its original preparation.
Commonwealth Ports Authority	<a href="#">Pagan Airfield Master Plan</a>	Not specified	No current updates
Commonwealth Ports Authority	<a href="#">2017 Tarmac Delay Emergency Contingency Plan (Saipan)</a>	Not specified	Unknown
Commonwealth Ports Authority	<a href="#">TARMAC DELAY EMERGENCY CONTINGENCY PLAN (Rota)</a>	Not specified	Created on June 2012; Revised in May 2017
Commonwealth Ports Authority	<a href="#">TARMAC DELAY EMERGENCY CONTINGENCY PLAN (Tinian)</a>	Not specified	Unknown
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation	<a href="#">2015 Drinking Water and Wastewater Master Plan – Rota (Final Draft)</a>	Based on the projected funding available from EPA State Revolving Fund (SRF) grants, one project for the Rota water system will be implemented during the first 5-year CIP period from 2016 through	CUC reports updates pending



Agency / Lead POC	Plan Name	Plan Duration/Update Frequency	Update Status
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation	<a href="#">2015 Drinking Water and Wastewater Master Plan – Tinian (Final Draft)</a>	Upgrade HMT (FY 2016-2020) Improvements to Maui Well & Upgrade QMT Tank (FY 2021-2025)	Plan is based on Stipulated Order requirements; CUC reports updates are pending
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation	<a href="#">2015 Wastewater Master Plan – Saipan (Final Draft)</a>	Based on Stipulated Order requirements, goals that CUC has for its wastewater system on Saipan, and information collected as part to the 20-year Master Plan (2016-2035)	No current updates
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation	<a href="#">Groundwater Management and Protection Plan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands</a>	Duration is determined based on Section B4 of the Stipulated Order that addresses development and implementation of a required Groundwater Management and Protection Plan over a 20-year planning horizon	No current updates
Department of Commerce	<a href="#">2009-2014 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy</a>	Updated every (5) years	See current CEDS update 2016-2021
Department of Interior Office of Insular Affairs/ NREL	<a href="#">2013 CNMI Energy Action Plan</a>	The CNMI Energy Action Plan is a living document that will be regularly updated by the taskforce	Created on 2013; Graph Wedge analysis performed covers a period from 2010 projected out to 2025; CUC reports update pending
Department of Lands and Natural Resources	<a href="#">Action Plan for Oryctes rhinoceros 2018 – 2023</a>	Five (5) Years	Current through 2025
Department of Lands and Natural Resources Western Fishery Regional Fishery Management Council	<a href="#">2009 Fishery Ecosystem Plan for the Mariana Archipelago (Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council)</a>	Updates provided annually based on new information	Created on June 2009
Department of Lands and Natural Resources Division of Agriculture Forestry Section	<a href="#">Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands State Wildland Fire Plan</a>	Based on funding availability from USFS State Fire Assistance Grant Program	Updated on 2015; current through 2024



Agency / Lead POC	Plan Name	Plan Duration/Update Frequency	Update Status
Department of Lands and Natural Resources Division of Agriculture Forestry Section	<a href="#">COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI) STATEWIDE ASSESSMENT AND RESOURCE STRATEGY 2010-2015+</a>	Created on 2010; Updates provided based on new information	Forestry notes plan update pending
Department of Lands and Natural Resources Division of Fish & Wildlife	<a href="#">2005 Management Plan for the Managaha Marine Conservation Area</a>	Non-Specified	No updates since creation
Department of Lands and Natural Resources Division of Fish & Wildlife	<a href="#">Wildlife Action Plan for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands 2015-2025</a>	Ten (10) Years	Current through 2025
Department of Lands and Natural Resources Division of Parks and Recreation	<a href="#">Five-year strategic plan for Parks and Recreation, CNMI 2019-2024</a>	Five (5) Years	Updated on 2014; current through 2024
Department of Public Lands	<a href="#">2019 DPL Land Use Plan</a>	Created in 1989; Updated in 2019 for 5- year plan	Updated on 2019; current through 2024
Department of Public Works	<a href="#">2009 Highway Master Plan</a>	Ten (10) year plan; Next update will be for a 20-year duration	Updates ongoing
Department of Public Works and Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority	<a href="#">CNMI Territorial Highway Implementation Plan &amp; Commonwealth Office of Transportation Authority Transportation Improvement Plan</a>	Four (4) year plan	Updating ongoing
FEMA, Homeland Security Emergency Management, and supporting partner agencies	<a href="#">2017 CNMI Catastrophic Typhoon Plan</a>	This plan will undergo periodic reviews to incorporate policy updates, new guidance, lessons learned from exercises and actual incidents in order to best protect the lives, property, and environment of communities and jurisdictions within the CNMI	No updates currently underway
Guam/CNMI Maritime Transportation System Advisory Group	<a href="#">Maritime transport system 2014 RECOVERY PLAN (The Mariana Islands Transportation System Recovery Plan)</a>	MTS Recovery Plan is a living document and will continue to evolve, reflecting lessons learned from application, training, actual operations and exercises.	Created on June 2014; Updates unknown



Agency / Lead POC	Plan Name	Plan Duration/Update Frequency	Update Status
Hazard Mitigation	<a href="#">2018 CNMI Standard State Mitigation Plan</a>	Updates follow the 5-year HMGP planning cycle	Updated on 2018; current through 2024
Historic Preservation Office	<a href="#">CNMI State Plan 2011-2015 (Preservation CNMI Caring for the past in an uncertain future)</a>	Four (4) Year Plan	No current update
Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Service (CREES)	<a href="#">2011-2015 Aquaculture Development Plan</a>	Five (5) Year Plan	No current update
Marianas Visitors Authority	<a href="#">2012-2016 Northern Mariana Tourism Master Plan</a>	Four (4) year plan	Update pending with MVA
Office of the Mayor of Rota	<a href="#">1995-2015 The Rota Master Plan-Alternative Vision Report</a>	Not specified	Has not been updated
Office of Planning and Development	<a href="#">2007 Garapan and Beach Road Revitalization Plan</a>	Ten (10) Year Plan	Updates currently in progress



## Appendix II – Community Comments

This section includes plan-related and substantive community comments submitted during the July 25 – August 25, 2020 comment period through emails (three comments and two questions received), phone calls (two received), and online survey results (149 received as of 8/28/20, to be included upon close of the survey).

*Email Received August 3, 2020*

Thanks for sending the visions document out. I just had a few comments on there. I think it's a great idea to incorporate the reef priorities for the comprehensive plan.

For NR Taskforce Vision, can this be fleshed out more because natural resources is such a big part of the culture and identity for the CNMI. Something like:

To promote sustainable use and conservation of the CNMI's natural resources on land and in water that can meet development needs sustainably and preserves the integrity of these natural resources for future generations. To promote research and education about the CNMI's natural resources to acknowledge and support local stewardship, conservation management, and cultural practices that are integral to the CNMI community.

For SDG 14, specify regarding recruitment studies – are these for fish? For coral? Both? Can something be added on developing a data management plan for sharing fisheries data?

For SDG 15, can marine ecosystems be included here since reefs and seagrass are also listed?

Regarding "no net loss" Is this goal realistic? There is already net loss of coral and seagrass cover documented and it will happen again, much of which is climate change related, COTS, or storms. Coral and seagrass cover fluctuates due to those disturbances. Some of the mortality can be alleviated by local action to help improve reef resiliency and natural recovery. I think the "no net loss" can be reworded.

*Attached comments on Visioning Document suggested adding coral restoration management outcomes to SDG #14 and include nearshore environment in SDG #15, summarized in text above. Suggestions to expand the Natural Resources Conservation Vision are included in tracked changes in this updated visioning document. Questions were also raised regarding the viability and framing of "no net loss".*

*These tracked changes additions and questions have been flagged in tracked changes in the visioning document for further discussion with the PDAC and Planning Taskforces.*

*Email Received August 7, 2020*

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this impressive draft.

Page 1: I think "integrity" and "innovation" are great core values for the CNMI. The concept of integrity brings together many positive connotations of thoughtfulness, use of evidence for decision-making, being fair/balanced, and the quality of behaving ethically. Innovation is essential for the CNMI which has very little resources and an operating environment unique from most other places on the planet.

While I think the values of the CNMI should reflect the values of the culture here, I don't think a core value of the specific word "cultural" fits. Perhaps "culture" would be a better way of expressing it, but "culture" is a very broad term, especially in reference to the CNMI which is culturally heterogeneous.

*Draft for Review – CNMI's Sustainable Development Visions, Goals, and Objectives, July 30, 2020 Update  
Comments as of 8/31/2020*



Page 2: Planning elements visions - Development policy: I think it's important that development policy for infrastructure projects prioritize environmental health as well (environmental health as in the field which deals with water and sanitation, air pollution, waste management, safe housing, transportation etc.)

Page 3: The tourism and visitor industry vision is long, and unnecessarily cumbersome. This should probably be edited to be more clear and succinct.

Thank you!

*Email Received August 18, 2020*

#### Guiding Values Section:

Resiliency did not show on the word map even though it was a choice in the survey. The under-representation of resiliency can be interpreted as people not valuing this concept, perhaps due to other more pressing immediate or short-term concerns, or that people may not know what resiliency means/encompasses. Recommend this term be unpacked and more information be provided so people have a better idea of what the term represents. Perhaps "Disaster-Resilient Communities and Economies".

#### Sustainability Visioning Section:

Define SSG here - a set of development strategies focused on improving the resiliency of the built environment (Guidance Manual for SSG, p.4). Put (SSG) behind the words since it is the first use of the term.

Regarding the Public Land Use Plan - The PLUP is an excellent plan to help mainstream SSG principles into CNMI planning efforts and to align the PLUP with the Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan (CSDP). Recommend adding language that the PLUP will also promote safe, resilient communities.

#### Regarding Transportation, Community Design, and Design Regulations:

Complete streets is an element of the EPA's Smart Growth program and is a component of SSG. Not only does Complete Streets work towards improving community health by encouraging walking and bike riding, but it also helps reduce emissions and fuel/energy consumption which align with SSG. It is recommended that the Complete Streets Working Groups attend SSG training and become familiar with the principles to incorporate additional measures for healthy, safe, resilient communities during planning and project development phases.

#### Regarding Housing and Redevelopment:

Natural disasters disproportionately affect low income people and the cycle of disaster rebuild can have significant negative consequences for these households (SAMHSA, 2017). The current vision does not include concepts of natural hazard mitigation or resiliency. Add resiliency to the vision. Perhaps - "...to increase ownership of safe, resilient, sanitary, and affordable homes".

#### Regarding Conservation – Natural Resources

The vision statement does not include the concept of green infrastructure or ecosystem services. Conserving natural features such as reefs, watersheds, and wetlands provides significant services including protecting and buffering the built environment from extreme weather events. Add to the vision



statement the concept that conservation helps protect/promote ecosystem services and green infrastructure and helps to mitigate the impacts from extreme weather events.

#### Regarding Public Safety and Disaster Risk Reduction

The vision as stated focuses on public safety during and post disaster. There are no elements that speak to disaster risk reduction in this vision statement. Disaster risk reduction, specifically under future climate conditions, is a cornerstone of SSG. The Guidance Manual for SSG discusses how to incorporate disaster risk reduction into planning and regulations in Chapters 4 & 5. Expand the vision statement to include language that address actions for disaster risk reduction.

#### Sustainable Development Goals:

##### SE/DRR Taskforce - SDG#1

The impacts of natural disasters and the disaster-rebuild cycle disproportionately affect low income households and perpetuate poverty (SAMHSA, 2017). The Guidance Manual for SSG points out that every \$1 spent on hazard mitigation today saves \$6 in future costs (p. 10). When considering the factors that contribute to poverty, the disaster-rebuild cycle should be acknowledged and considered.

Incorporate concepts that the disaster-rebuild cycle helps perpetuate poverty and consider actions/steps to break the cycle by incorporating SSG into capital improvement and other building projects. Additionally, investigate programs via the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy to assist low income households recover following disasters. Third bullet is about prioritized wastewater management, seems out of place. Connect wastewater projects to poverty reduction.

##### SE/DRR Taskforce - SDG#17

Switch the position of the bullets to put the 2020 objective regarding SSG integration first.

##### BE Taskforce – Taskforce Vision

The current vision statement includes sustainability but does not clearly mention SSG or the concept of building to meet future climate conditions and to withstand future extreme weather events. Per the Guidance Manual for SSG, projected future conditions will likely tax some existing infrastructure and new CIP projects should be planned with future hazards in mind. Expand the vision to include planning/building to withstand future climate conditions to achieve sustainability and resiliency. Having these concepts in the vision statement will further help to mainstream SSG into planning and building practices.

##### BE Taskforce - SDG#6

Current goals to update the CUC Master Plan and to develop the Master Water Plan do not mention SSG or future climate conditions. Per the Guidance Manual for SSG, precipitation patterns for CNMI are expected to change and less frequent, but more intense rainfall events are projected (p. 16). These changes will likely affect the recharge rate of the fresh water lens and affect drinking water salinity. It is recommended that you include wording in the goals/objectives to address climate change and projected changes in future precipitation patterns.



It is unclear if the proposed plans to manage stormwater runoff are considering future climate conditions or are being planned/built to current weather conditions. Include wording in the goals/objectives to address climate change and projected future precipitation patterns and increased stormwater runoff due to extreme rainfall events.

#### BE Taskforce - SDG#9

The wording does not clearly state that the infrastructure will be built to withstand anticipated future climate conditions. Infrastructure can be built to be resilient to today's weather extremes, but this same infrastructure may be vulnerable as weather changes over time due to climate change. The difference between hazard mitigation and SSG is that hazard mitigation primarily focuses on the hazards of today while SSG attempts to mitigate the hazards of tomorrow. Include wording in the goals/objectives include wording to address climate change and anticipated future extreme weather.

Same comment as above regarding planning toward future projected precipitation patterns. Include wording in the goals/objectives to address climate change and projected future conditions of increased runoff due to extreme rainfall events.

#### BE Taskforce - SDG#12

Building resilient buildings/infrastructure based on SSG principles can help reduce waste needing to be landfilled following severe weather events (Guidance Manual for SSG, p. 11). Highlight connection between SSG and waste management.

#### BE Taskforce - SDG#17

There is no mention of training or educating partners regarding SSG. Add SSG training for the Built Environment task force and their planning partners to the goals.

#### NR Taskforce: SDGs 13, 14, & 15

Many of the objectives of these goals promote natural protective features (e.g., reefs, watersheds, etc.) as well as ecosystem services. These activities naturally link to SSG. The connection between conservation activities and community benefits should be highlighted in plans and messaging.

Promoting natural protective features is addressed in the Guidance Manual for SSG (p. 20) and tools to promote green infrastructure are provided in Chapter 7.2. Recommended that the task force continue to connect conservation actions with community benefits via green infrastructure and ecosystem services in plans and messaging to the community.

Visioning Document: pg. 15

"Image" to visualize SDGs does not include goals #1, #9, and #11. Image is fuzzy and hard to read. Ensure all SDGs are included in the figure and improve the graphic quality/resolution.

#### Planning Elements: (A) Land Use

SSG is not included under the Planning and Policy Recommendations. The Guidance Manual for SSG stresses the importance of using zoning plans and regulations to ensure development is sited in less risky areas. The manual offers land planning tools in Chapter 7.2. Clearly link SSG to zoning plans and



regulations. It is through zoning and regulations that development can be driven by government action towards less risky areas.

#### Planning Elements: (H) Housing

Ensuring housing follows SSG principles to increase resiliency towards future climate conditions is essential to breaking the disaster-rebuild cycle and to lessening economic hardship to people in lower income classes (SAMHSA, 2017). Clearly link SSG to housing plans/designs. See US Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) (2017). Greater Impact: How Disasters Affect People of Low Socioeconomic Status. SAMHSA Disaster Technical Assistance Center Supplemental Bulletin, US Department of Health and Human Services.

#### Planning Elements: (I) Redevelopment

SSG is not included under Redevelopment. The Guidance Manual for SSG stresses the importance of using zoning plans and regulations to ensure development is sited in less risky areas. The manual offers land planning tools in Chapter 7.2. Clearly link SSG to redevelopment especially for housing and Garapan revitalization. It is through zoning and regulations that development can be driven by government action towards less risky areas.

#### Call Received August 5, 2020

Caller requested clarification on planning process and was informed of timeline for this initial notice and comment period, followed by community meetings scheduled for September 15-17, sharing of draft Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan with PDAC and then public hearing after 45 days of official draft submission. Commenter noted OPD was doing a good job and encouraged continued efforts to interconnect and clarify overlapping plan components.

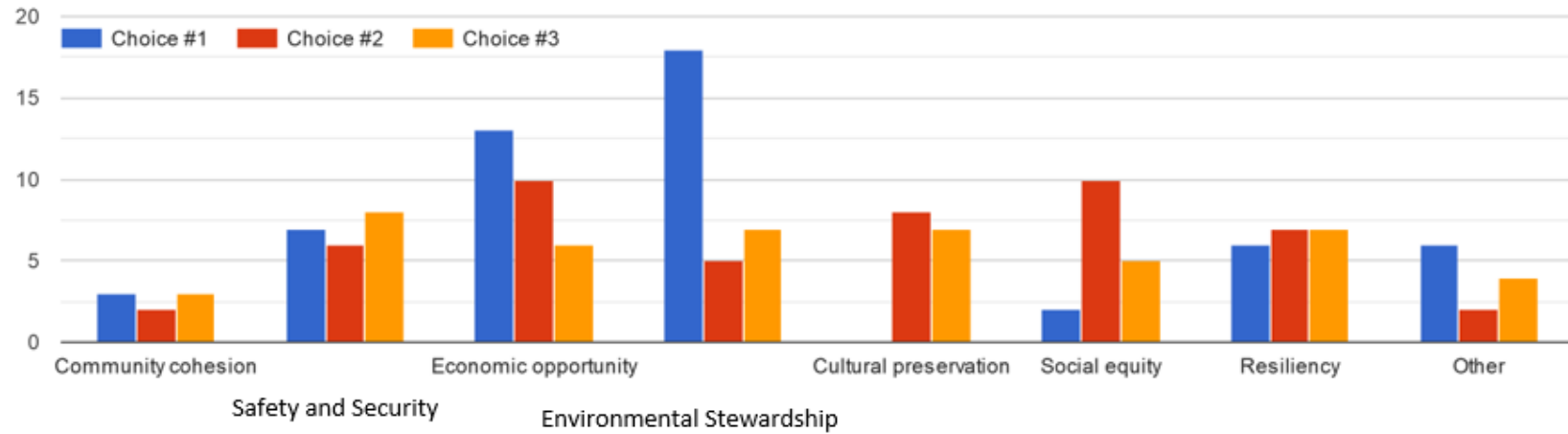
#### Call Received August 19, 2020

Caller noted BECQ-DEQ would need to be involved in water management systems planning and suggested water system management plans should be developed to consider current population and growth trends as well as projected climate impacts. Low impact development isn't well represented in guidance and recommendations and should be included along with required stormwater standards.



## Guiding Values Survey Results, 8/28/2020

What core values do you hope to see guide development planning in the CNMI? Please pick three from this list or add new values under "other" for inclusion in updated surveys.





If you answered "other" please list other values you would like to see emphasized in planning efforts here.

10 responses

Preventive Health Care--Primary, Secondary and Tertiary

Why not combined all of the above into one whole otherwise your so called sustainable plan will not go far in the real world.

Physical and mental health

Honesty, Trust, Commitment, and Courage.

Health promotion and physical fitness through sports

Economic "independence" instead of "opportunity"

Preference for NMDs and NMD-owned businesses and developments.

decentralization

Expand "Resiliency" to "Disaster-Resilient Communities and Economies"

All are important. Not focusing on aspect will effect the other