



Leaders in Environmental Conservation and Restoration

ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

DUNS
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NAICS
54160 -

Environmental Consulting Services

Founded: 2012

Classification: 501(c)3

Protectores de Cuencas Inc. (PDC) is a science and community-based non-profit organization dedicated to restoring and protecting watersheds across Puerto Rico. PDC has an island-wide scope and maintains a growing network of collaborative interagency support, including various Puerto Rico government agencies and municipalities, as well as federal agencies such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Many of PDC projects focus on addressing land-based sources of pollution and erosion through the use of a combination of proven best management practices and green infrastructure, including permeable parking lots, bioswales, rain gardens, and hydroseeding, among others.

CAPABILITIES OVERVIEW



WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

- Watershed characterization
- Erosion and sediment control
- Soil stabilization
- Wetland restoration and hydrological connectivity
- Invasive species removal

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

- Dirt road stabilization
- Hydroseeding
- Rain gardens
- Sand dune restoration
- Permeable parking lots
- Bioswales
- Treatment wetlands



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING

- Pluvial drainage management
- Stormwater management
- Educational workshops
- Pollutant discharge elimination

Our Partners Include:



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PDC HIGHLIGHTS

- PDC's plant nursery facilities, located in Yauco, have produced more than 100,000 coastal forest native trees and more than 40,000 vetiver grass plants, which have been used in restoration projects around Puerto Rico.
- Since 2015, PDC and the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources have co-managed the Guánica State Forest and have implemented various projects aimed at reforestation and land-based pollution reduction.
- PDC has worked with collaborators to stabilize 30% (15 miles) of the dirt roads on Culebra Island to reduce sediment loadings to nearshore coastal waters.
- PDC led and/or collaborated on the development and implementation of detailed watershed management plans in Guánica, Culebra, the Northeast Ecological Corridor, and Cabo Rojo.
- PDC is the only non-profit organization in Puerto Rico that owns all of the equipment needed to implement effective hydroseeding.

SELECT PAST PERFORMANCE

Expanding Efforts on Building Resiliency in the Puerto Rico Northeast Reserves by Addressing Land-Based Sources of Pollution (LBSP) and Restoring Coral Reef Habitat

Funding Source: NOAA (2017- 2021)

Through this project, PDC stabilized a one-mile section of dirt road and used green infrastructure to address runoff from areas with bare soil and reduce LBSP impacts to the marine environment. In addition, coral restoration efforts were continued and expanded through coral nursery maintenance, outplanting and the development of new coral nurseries in the Puerto Rico Northeastern Ecological Corridor.

Re-establishment of Wetland Hydrological Connectivity at the Jobs Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Puerto Rico

Funding Sources: USFWS, DNER (2020-2023)

In Phase I of this project, PDC restored 1.24 acres of mangrove forest and reestablished hydrological connectivity between these wetlands and Jobs Bay. PDC is continuing efforts in Phase II of this project, which will involve a continuation of restoration efforts in the area including solid waste removal, soil regrading, delimitation of coastal wetland forest with native vegetative barriers and delineation of areas for public access.

Addressing land-based sources of pollution affecting enlisted coral species in La Jungla, Guánica

Funding Source: NOAA (2018 - 2020)

La Jungla Beach, located in the Guánica State Forest, is a popular visitor spot threatened by land-based sources of pollution (LBSP), wetland and coastal habitat degradation, and human disturbance. In order to reduce LBSP threats to nearshore coral reefs, PDC stabilized one mile of dirt road on the main access road, permanently closed illegal roads, constructed sediment retention ponds, and constructed a parking area and elevated boardwalks to prevent impacts on restore areas. In addition, PDC assisted in the reestablishment of hydrological connectivity by restoring a channel that connects the lagoon with the bay.

Invasive Species Eradication and Reforestation in Fire-Prone Landscapes

Over the past few years, PDC successfully completed over five collaborative agreements with federal agencies for invasive species eradication and reforestation in fire-prone landscapes within the Guánica State Forest and the Laguna Cartagena National Wildlife Refuge. Nearly 50,000 trees were planted and over 3,000 volunteers were engaged in hands-on education workshops and reforestation activities.

