



1.0 Executive Summary

1.1 Introduction

The purpose of this document [2005 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP)] is to update and expand the 1997 Natural Resources Management Plan (NRMP). It has been prepared by Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pacific (NAVFAC Pacific), for United States (U.S.) Navy Support Facility (NSF) Diego Garcia. See Appendices A & B for all applicable laws, regulations, directives, and guidelines for this document.

- The INRMP's primary purpose is to ensure that natural resources conservation measures and military operations on the installation are integrated and consistent with stewardship and legal requirements.
- It provides a long term planning document to guide the installation commander in the management of natural resources. It supports the installation's mission while protecting and enhancing installation resources for multiple use, sustainable yield, and biological integrity.
- The Navy is required to provide plans and programs to ensure proper protection, enhancement, and management of applicable natural resources and any biological species formally protected, or declared threatened or endangered by either the U.S. or the United Kingdom (U.K.) (see Chapter 13, Natural Resources and Endangered Species Final Governing Standards (FGS)).

1.2 INRMP Information

This document provides Navy planners, managers, and others with sufficient biological and related data and natural resource management guidance to enable them to:

- know what significant natural resources are present on/around Diego Garcia;
- understand why, and under what legislation and/or Navy policy, those resources are to be managed;
- be familiar with management options that are available to enhance those resources; and

- ensure that mission goals are met with no, or a minimum of, adverse impacts on the land, near shore areas and natural resources of Diego Garcia.

Surveys undertaken for the 2005 update significantly increased the amount of information included in Chapter 4, Natural Resources (Plants, Fish & Wildlife). New information includes:

- Vegetation maps for the entire island (Pages 4-9 through 4-13)
- Plant list of the Barrier Islands (Appendix E2)
- Maps showing the nesting locations of red-tailed tropicbird and wedge-tailed shearwaters (Pages 4-20 & 4-21)
- Description of bird surveys conducted on the Barrier Islands
- Coconut crab population demographics and density estimates
- Donkey population estimate
- Rat population estimate in the Restricted Area
- Discussion of the recently introduced garden lizard
- Expanded marine turtle description and nesting locations maps (Pages 4-35 through 4-46).
- In-water marine survey data and discussion, including corals, fish, and other species and habitats observed.

The list of threatened and endangered species is on page 4-70. Chapter 6 proposes a natural resources management and implementation program that supports the Navy's military missions while protecting and enhancing the natural resources themselves. That chapter identifies planned management and monitoring actions and provides the installation's overall conservation priorities.

The appendices include individual natural resources survey reports and select references used in creating this document. Printed "thumbnail" copies of all photographs are included as Appendix U for quick reference, and digital images of all of these are included on a compact disk (CD). The CD also includes a full digital copy of this document and associated appendices.

The next comprehensive update should be scheduled and funded in/about calendar year 2010.