



# Open Ocean Restoration Area

## Predator Removal and Seabird Nesting Colony Restoration at Mona Island (*preferred*)



Photo by Jan Zegarra, USFWS



Magnificent frigatebird  
NPS



Sooty tern  
Photo by S. Cotrell, NPS

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project would increase seabird nesting success and productivity by enhancing seabird colonies on Mona Island, Puerto Rico, through vegetation management, predator eradication and management, expansion and creation of new nesting colonies, and enhancement of existing biosecurity measures. Mona Island is a Natural Reserve managed by the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources. The island is a haven of biodiversity and is home to several endemic species including the threatened Mona ground iguana, endangered yellow-shouldered blackbird, threatened Mona boa, and threatened higo chumbo cactus.

This project, estimated to cost approximately \$13.8 million, would be implemented over approximately 8 to 10 years, with up to 5 years of additional post-implementation monitoring.

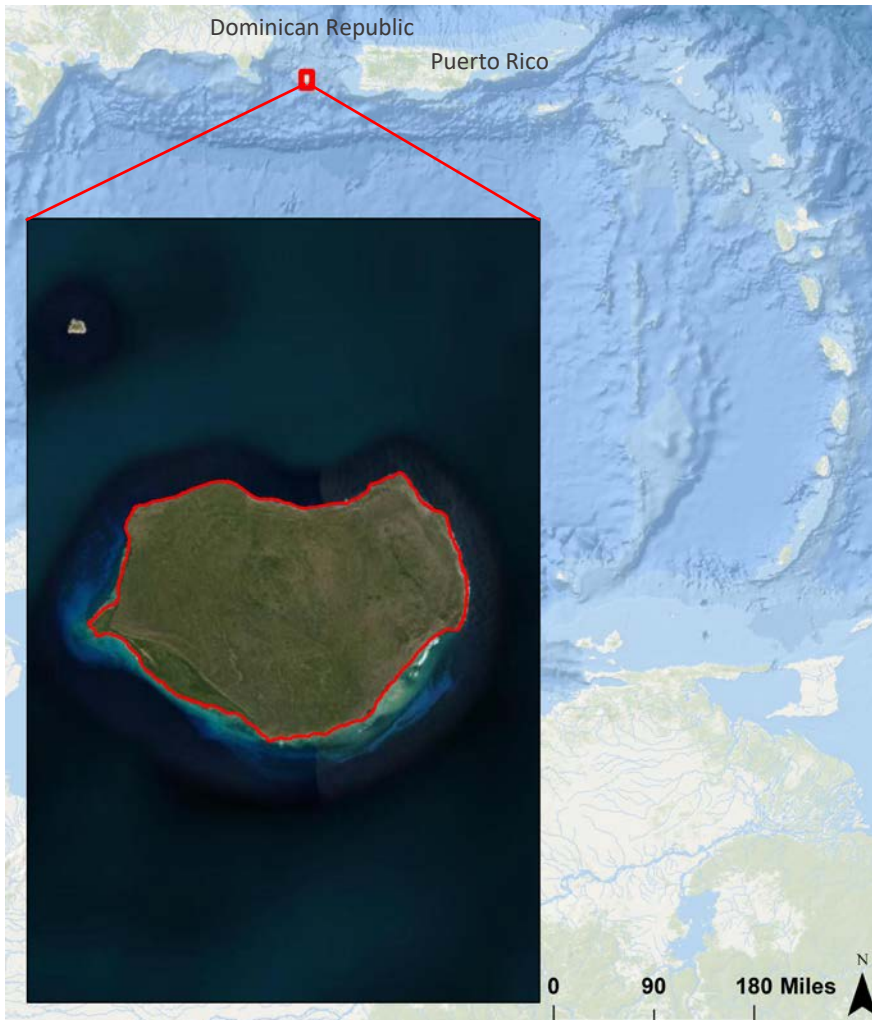
**RESTORATION TYPE:** Birds

### Project Benefits

- Increase seabird nesting success, productivity, and survivorship
- Enhance biodiversity and overall habitat conditions
- Target species:
  - Audubon's shearwater
  - Bridled tern
  - Brown booby
  - Brown noddy
  - Magnificent frigatebird
  - Masked booby
  - Sooty tern
  - White-tailed tropicbird



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### RESTORATION TECHNIQUES



Vegetation Management



Predator Management



Social Attraction



Biosecurity



Rodent Removal

**Implementing Trustee:**  
U.S. Department of the Interior, in partnership with several entities

Predator management would include the eradication of invasive rodents through large-scale rodenticide application, and feral cats and pigs through trapping and hunting by trained personnel. Vegetation management activities would include removing invasive plants and planting native species. Existing seabird nesting colonies would be enhanced, and new colonies may be established, by attracting breeding adults to the restoration sites using social attraction tools (e.g., bird and egg decoys, mirrors, and sound systems). Finally, biosecurity measures such as monitoring, vessel inspections, education and outreach, and the use of surveillance cameras near high-use areas would prevent the (re)introduction of invasive species.

### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Contact the Open Ocean TIG  
[openocean.TIG@noaa.gov](mailto:openocean.TIG@noaa.gov)  
or visit

[www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/open-ocean](http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration-areas/open-ocean)

