

THE OCEAN FOUNDATION



The Latest in SeaGrass Grow



Last month, a 4-day workshop was held at our SeaGrass Grow planting site in Jobos Bay, Puerto Rico to educate local participants about long-term monitoring best practices, which will help to ensure the success of this project and future projects taken on by the community. There were 40 participants altogether coming from universities, the Puerto Rican government, and local non-profits.

Two days were lecture-based and two days were field work at our established restoration sites. Participants learned how to develop monitoring and restoration plans, including selecting nursery stock, assembling equipment, and conducting monitoring assessments.

Participants also initiated planting at our pilot mangrove restoration sites, pictured below. The restored mangroves will sequester carbon and help protect the local community against increasing storms and flooding due to climate change.



More About This Project

The Ocean Foundation selected this planting site in Jobos Bay because it was one of the most damaged areas we surveyed in Puerto Rico in terms of seagrass beds, mangroves, and coral reef. The local community and government was also prepared to assist the project and partner with The Ocean Foundation.

In 2017, the Jobos Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve's seagrass and mangrove forests were heavily disturbed by Hurricanes Irma and Maria. In addition to mangrove restoration, this project focuses on initially re-grading scars and blowholes in seagrass beds, followed by transplantation of fast-growing seagrass species to accelerate natural recovery of large areas. Restoration and conservation is necessary for all of the marine organisms that depend on these critical habitats to survive, and will restore the local communities' natural defense against hurricanes.

We are extremely grateful to our partners for their support of this workshop!

The Commission on Environmental Cooperation, the workshop's primary funder, and Peak Design donated their time and resources to document the training and interview our partners and staff.



More from the Blue Resilience Initiative

- Read the blog "[Invest in a Healthy Ecosystem](#)" about blue carbon by the President of The Ocean Foundation, Mark J. Spalding
- Visit [SeaGrassGrow.org](#) to learn about the benefits of offsetting your carbon footprint with blue carbon
- Read the [Islands Strong Declaration](#) to understand how island communities are agreeing to protect themselves against the threats of climate change
- Explore our [SeaGrass Research Page](#) and our [Blue Carbon Research Page](#)

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