Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program
FY23 & FY24 Base Funding
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Overview

The University of New Orleans Research and Technology Foundation (UNORTF) seeks written proposals for restoration projects and related scientific and public education projects for the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program (PRP). This funding opportunity is made through FY23 & FY24 Base program funds allocation from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Announcement Date:	September 30, 2025
Federal Funding:	**$4,398,000**
Project Length:	12-36 months
Project Cost Guidelines:	Base project costs may range between $25,000 and $350,000. *Some projects may be outside the recommended range and may be negotiated on a case-by-case basis. PRP anticipates awarding most of the funding (up to 70%) to implementation related activities (which may include habitat restoration, recreation projects, septic tank maintenance, or any type of construction projects) and the remaining (up to 30%) of the funding for other approved project activities (monitoring, research, planning, design, and education & outreach). The total amount awarded for education & outreach projects may not exceed 15% of the total amount awarded on the grant, therefore awards made to education & outreach related projects may be limited.
Local Match Requirement:	**25% (minimum)**
Eligibility:	Federal, state, interstate, local governments, Tribal governments (must be federally recognized), regional water pollution control agencies, and other public or nonprofit private agencies, institutions, and organizations, public and private institutions of higher education. Eligible applicants may be located outside of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, but projects must be located inside the Lake Pontchartrain geographic focus areas (Section II). Private profit-making entities, and individuals are not eligible. Non-profit organizations described in Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that engage in lobbying activities as defined in Section 3 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 are not eligible.
Proposal Format:	Proposals must use the proper workplan template, follow the RFP guidelines, and be submitted electronically.
Delivery Format:	Email proposals to prpgrant@thebeachuno.org
Receipt Deadline:	Friday, October 31, 2025 (by 11:59 PM, CST) **Late proposals will not be accepted.**
Please Direct Inquiries To:	Blair Bourgeois bbourgeois@thebeachuno.org

Table 1. General Information

Table of Contents

Section I: Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program Information

Purpose of the Program

The purpose of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program (PRP) is to restore the ecological health of the Basin by developing and funding restoration projects and related scientific and public education projects to reduce the risk of pollution. Program activities vary, but typically include ecosystem and habitat restoration, water quality improvements, nutrient reduction, increased resiliency to environmental changes, environmental education & outreach, and local capacity building to address environmental concerns. For more information, please see the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program Website.

Statutory Authority

The PRP program is authorized by the Clean Water Act Section 121 (33 U.S.C. 1273). The PRP program is authorized by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as amended under Section 121 (33 U.S.C. 1273) of the Estuaries and Clean Waters Act of 2000, and the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Act of 2000, 2 CFR 200, 2 CFR 1500, and 40 CFR 33. The program is codified under CFDA Number 66.125.

Section II: Geographic Focus

All project activities must be within the PRP geographic focus boundary (henceforth will be referred to as 'the Basin' *Figure 1*, *Table 1*).

Figure 1. United States, Louisiana and Mississippi: Lake Pontchartrain Basin Watershed

Louisiana Parishes							
Ascension		St. James		East Baton Rouge		St. John the Baptist	
Iberville		St. Tammany		Jefferson		Tangipahoa	
Livingston		Washington		Plaquemines		St. Helena	
St. Bernard		Orleans		St. Charles		East Feliciana	
Mississippi Counties							
Lincoln		Pike		Amite		Wilkinson	

Table 2. Parishes/Counties Eligible for PRP Funding

Section III: Programmatic Investment Areas

The PRP's *Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan* (CCMP) provides recommendations and strategies for project implementation to address environmental challenges **within** the Basin and help guide program investments. The CCMP identifies three key challenges: 1) Sewage and Agricultural Runoff, 2) Stormwater Runoff, and 3) Saltwater Intrusion/Wetland Loss. In addition, PRP has developed an Annual Implementation Plan (AIP; Section IX. Appendices - *see separate attachment* – Appendix A) that identified priority issues within the Basin. Applicants should address **one or more challenges/priority issues** described in the CCMP and/or the AIP (Section IX. Appendices - *see separate attachment* – Appendix A) in their proposals.

A. CCMP Investment Areas

The 1995 CCMP grouped the major environmental challenges in the Basin into three categories:

1. **Sewage and Agricultural Runoff***: Sewage and agricultural runoff are major sources of pollution within the Basin. These sources are known to contribute to elevated levels of fecal coliform bacteria, resulting in water quality impairments. Potential sources of high bacteria count in these waterbodies include community sewage treatment plants, stormwater runoff from urbanized areas, sewage by-passes, broken sewer lines, dairy and cattle farms, and wildlife.*

2. **Stormwater Runoff:** *Stormwater runoff, a form of non-point source (NPS) pollution, is the largest single source of pollution in Lake Pontchartrain. Stormwater runoff occurs when rainfall--which can scour litter, animal droppings, particulates, and other contaminants that have settled on the ground, roofs or paved areas and carry them into the drainage system-is pumped into Lake Pontchartrain. Major pollutants in stormwater include sediments, nutrients, bacteria (pathogens), organics, metals, and pesticides.*

3. **Saltwater Intrusion and Wetland Loss***: Saltwater intrusion and wetland loss are usually the result of a combination of natural and human-induced causes. Some of the natural causes include subsidence, or "settling," of wetlands; sea level rise; the Mississippi River levee network; and natural abandonment of former deltas of the Mississippi. Human-*

induced causes include canal construction, alterations to the natural surface hydrology, and dredging.

In 2006, the PRP developed the Comprehensive Habitat Management Plan (CHMP) as an addendum to the CCMP, which helps expand on habitat management concerns and recommendations for the Basin. Please reference the CHMP for more information regarding habitat management. For purposes of this RFP, the CCMP and CHMP will be identified as the "CCMP."

See below for project examples that were recommended for funding in the CCMP:

(a) Infrastructure improvements to un- and poorly-sewered communities along both the north and south shores of Lake Pontchartrain.
(b) Expansion of household waste education programs and projects that will evaluate individual home sewage system performance.
(c) Technical assistance to rural agricultural communities (e.g., dairy farmers, cattle ranches).
(d) Expand programs to eliminate inflow, overflows, and bypasses to stormwater drainage systems.
(e) Implement bioremediation practices to reduce pollution (particularly pathogens) in urban stormwater.
(f) Conservation of critical ecosystem elements to sustain wetland habitat.
(g) Evaluate accelerated and sustained programs to reduce invasive species.

Please see Appendix C for additional project examples.

B. Addressing the 2025 PRP Annual Implementation Plan

The 2025 PRP Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) highlights PRPs latest priorities for funding. Priority Issues and Focus Areas were identified by the PRP CCMP Workgroups and were approved by the PRP Executive Committee and the PRP Management Conference. Proposed projects must address **at least one priority issue** identified in the AIP (Section IX. Appendices - *see separate attachment* - Appendix A), but it is highly encouraged that projects address multiple priority issues to strengthen the competitiveness of their proposal.

C. Increased Resiliency

Extreme weather events pose risks to human health, the environment, cultural resources, the economy, and quality of life. These changes are expected to create further challenges to protecting human health, welfare and the environment. Adaptive investments (Section IX. Appendices - *see separate attachment* – Appendix B) are projects that incorporate current and future environmental change risks to address these challenges while reducing vulnerability of communities to extreme weather events and enhancing the operational efficiency of built infrastructure.

PRP projects working to promote increased resiliency and to construct infrastructure, or plan to do so, should account for the observed and expected changes in environmental conditions within the Basin and perform reliably over time, and ideally beyond their intended service life. Under this announcement, eligible entities should describe how they will address the current and anticipated impacts of environmental changes and extreme weather events to their proposed project and surrounding communities.

Section IV: Key Proposal Elements

A. Proposal Details

Project workplans should include the following elements:

- **Project Name**
- **Organization Name**
- **Points of Contact**
- **Amount of Funds Requested**: The total amount requested from UNORTF. Individual awards are expected to range from $25,000 and $350,000. Proposals above or below the ranges listed will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. All funding decisions are subject to funding availability, quality of applications, and other applicable considerations. PRP anticipates awarding most of the funding (up to 70%) to implementation related activities (which may include habitat restoration, recreation projects, septic tank maintenance, or any type of construction projects*)* and the remaining (up to 30%) of the funding for other approved project activities – monitoring, research, planning, design, and education & outreach (limited to 15% of total funds).
- **Expected Project Period:** Provide start and end dates, up to three (3) years.
- **Specific Project Location**: Provide physical address, latitude and longitude coordinates, service area, HUC 12 watershed and other relevant location information as needed. Project activities must occur within the Basin (*Figure 1*, *Table 1*). For projects with multiple locations, list all coordinates and identify one central location representative of the project.
- **Project Narrative and Objectives:** Describe with specificity the nature of the proposed project including:
    a. **What and why:** Describe what the project will do and why it is necessary.
    b. **How:** Describe activities and steps to be taken to accomplish the project's goal(s) and objective(s). Project activities must include:
        i. Description of activities;
        ii. Estimated milestones for tasks;
        iii. Environmental results with anticipated outputs, outcomes and metrics;
        iv. Cost per task

- **Past Performance:** Please describe previous grants you have completed through funds from UNORTF or other assistance agreements, if applicable, including:
    a. Significant outputs and outcomes.
    b. Key environmental and programmatic accomplishments.
    c. Description of whether project activities were adequately and timely reported and if acceptable final reports were submitted under the agreements.
- **Project Leads, Partners, and Roles**
- **Detailed Budget:** Please use EPA budget class categories.

  **For projects engaging in education & outreach activities, distinguish the funds going towards education & outreach specifically (please itemize it separately).*

B. CCMP and Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) Linkage

The activities to be funded under this RFP must be identified in the CCMP and address one or more of these priority issues identified in the CCMP: Sewage and Agricultural Runoff, Stormwater Runoff and Saltwater Intrusion/Wetland loss (habitat management). Applicants are also encouraged to develop projects that will increase community capacity and/or address community resilience.

In addition, projects must address at least one priority issue identified in the AIP (Appendix A), but it is highly encouraged that projects address multiple priority issues to strengthen the competitiveness of the proposal.

C. Powering the Great American Comeback Initiative

The activities to be funded under this solicitation must support the EPA's "Powering the Great American Comeback" Initiative. Awards made under this solicitation will support one or both Pillars:

- Pillar 1: "Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American."
- Pillar 3: "Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership."

D. Environmental Results

Describe anticipated results (outputs and outcomes) accomplished as a result of project activities. Applicants should describe the metrics that will be used to track project tasks/activities.

Output – The term "*output*" means an environmental activity, effort, and/or associated work product related to an environmental goal or objective that will be produced or provided over a period of time or by a specified date. Outputs may be quantitative or qualitative but must be measurable over the term of the grant funding period.

Outcome – The term "*outcome*" means the result, effect, or consequence that will be achieved by carrying out an environmental activity, effort, and/or associated work product

that is related to an environmental or programmatic goal or objective. Outcomes may be environmental, behavioral, health-related, or programmatic in nature, and must be quantitative. For this RFP, outcomes describe the project metrics and conditions that the recipient aims to achieve for the Basin as it relates to priorities discussed in the CCMP, and AIP.

Metrics – The term "*metrics*" refers to specific, trackable measures specified in Section IX. Appendices - *see separate attachment* (see Appendix D for a list of potential project metrics). Applicants must incorporate metrics reporting into their workplan. Please note, selected recipients shall work with UNORTF to determine final metrics for the recipient to track and report on through the life of the grant.

Please see Section IX. Appendices - *see separate attachment* - Appendix D for examples of outputs, outcomes, and metrics.

Section V: Selection Criteria

Application Review: Applications meeting the threshold eligibility criteria in Section VI: Application Review and Selection Process – Subsection C. will be evaluated based on the quality and extent to which they address the criteria set forth below. Failure to provide applicable information in the application will affect the ranking of the application.

Criterion	Description
Project Narrative	Applicants will be evaluated based on the extent and quality of the description of the proposed project approach, rationale and plans for project execution. Demonstration of a strong commitment to undertake well-defined activities to ensure long-term success.
Increased Resiliency	Applicants will be evaluated based on the extent and quality of the description of how the project will help communities and ecosystems become more resilient and adapt to changes in environmental conditions and/or extreme weather events.
Linkage to CCMP, AIP, and EPA Initiative	Applicants will be evaluated based on the extent and quality of the description of how the project meets the PRP's Statutory Authority, the PRP's CCMP/CHMP, the PRP's FY2025 Annual Implementation Plan, AND how the results will support the EPA's "Powering the Great American Comeback" Initiative Pillar 1: Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American and/or Pillar 2: Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership.
Environmental Results	Applications will be evaluated based on the quality and extent to which it demonstrates anticipated results (outputs and outcomes). This will include evaluating

	whether they described specific outputs and outcomes, including target numbers. Quantitative targets must be included.
Milestone Schedule	Applications will be evaluated based on the extent and quality to which they provide a clearly articulated milestone schedule for project activities, tasks, and deliverables. The table should include reporting to UNORTF (Semi-Annual and Final Reports).
Programmatic Capability / Technical Experience / Qualifications	Applications will be evaluated based on the applicant's ability to successfully manage and complete the proposed project considering their: History of meeting the reporting requirements including whether the applicant submitted acceptable final technical reports under those agreements and the extent to which the applicant adequately and timely reported on their progress towards achieving the expected outputs and outcomes, and if such progress was not being made, whether the applicant adequately reported why not. Organizational experience related to the proposed project: infrastructure, training, relevant codes, ordinances, permits, design plans, and team building, and other related attributes that help implement the proposed project in a successful way, within the approved deadline, and Staff expertise/qualifications, staff knowledge and resources or the ability to obtain them to successfully achieve the goals of the proposed project. Supporting documentation (e.g., resumes, curricula vitae for key staff) should be included as part of your application package and can be referred to in this section.
Budget	Applications will be evaluated based on the reasonableness, necessity and allowability (of costs) of the proposed budget for the level of work proposed and for the expected benefits to be achieved. This section will be evaluated based on two items: 1) budget table and 2) budget narrative. The budget table should be easy to understand and link the expenses to the tasks and deliverables. The budget narrative should be used to provide a description of costs not easily understood in the budget table. Note: *For projects engaging in education & outreach activities, distinguish the funds going towards education & outreach specifically (please itemize it separately).*

Table 3. Selection Criteria

Section VI: Application Review and Selection Process

A. How to Apply

Submit fully completed applications electronically to prpgrant@thebeachuno.org by 11:59 PM (CST) on October 31, 2025. Incomplete and late applications will not be considered for funding.

B. Review and Selection Schedule

The schedule below is subject to change. Please check the program page of the UNORTF website for the most current dates and information.

Proposal Due Date	October 31, 2025, 11:59 PM (CST)
Review Period	Up to 60 days after Submission Deadline
Announcements Made	30-45 days after the Review Period

Table 4. Important Timelines and Deadlines

C. Threshold Eligibility Criteria

These are requirements that, if not met by the applicant by the time of application submission, will result in elimination of the application from consideration for funding. Only applications from eligible entities listed below that meet these criteria by the time of application submission will be evaluated against the ranking factors in Section IV: Key Proposal Elements of this RFP. Applications deemed ineligible for funding consideration as a result of the threshold eligibility review will be notified by e-mail within 15 calendar days of the ineligibility determination.

- Eligible Entities: Federal, state, interstate, local governments, Tribal governments (must be federally recognized), regional water pollution control agencies, and other public or nonprofit private agencies, institutions, and organizations; public and private institutions of higher education. Eligible applicants may be located outside of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin, but projects must be located inside the Lake Pontchartrain geographic focus area (Section II: Geographic Focus).
    a. Private profit-making entities, and individuals are not eligible.
    b. Non-profit organizations described in Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that engage in lobbying activities as defined in Section 3 of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 are not eligible.
- Application Deadline: Applications submitted after the submission deadline will be deemed ineligible without further consideration.
- Project Narrative: Applications must address how the applicant will address challenges identified in the PRP CCMP and AIP (Section V: Selection Criteria). In addition, projects must support the "*Powering the Great American Comeback*" Initiative (Section IV: Key Proposal Elements – Subsection C).
- Project Results: Applicants must identify anticipated project results in their application (Section V: Selection Criteria).

- Project Location: For an application to be considered eligible for funding, projects must be located within the PRP Basin (Section II: Geographic Focus). For projects with multiple locations, list all coordinates and identify one central location representative of the project.

D. Review and Selection Process

Applications will first be evaluated against the threshold factors (Section VI: Application Review and Selection Process – Subsection C). Only eligible applications meeting threshold criteria will advance and be evaluated by the review panel, composed of Management Conference members, using the criteria listed in Section V: Selection Criteria. Upon completion of this evaluation, UNORTF will compile together preliminary recommendations, based on the top ranked proposals, for consideration by the PRP Executive Committee. Once selected and approved by the PRP Executive Committee, UNORTF will draft a list of selected projects to be reviewed and voted on by the Management Conference through virtual vote or at a future meeting. UNORTF will work with the selected applicants to ensure that the applications contain all necessary information. For reference, the "application" is one in the same with the project workplan, therefore, once projects are selected, their applications are therein referred to as and become their workplans.

Section VII: Award Notice

A. Award Notice: PRP anticipates that notification to successful applicants will be made via email to the applicant within 90-120 days after the closing date of this RFP. The notification will advise them that their proposed project has been evaluated and forwarded to the PRP Management Conference for further consideration and possible award. This notification, which advises finalists that their proposed project has been forwarded to the Management Conference, **is not and should not be considered as** an authorization to begin work.

B. Issuance of Awards: PRP reserves the right to negotiate appropriate changes in project terms and amounts (i.e., changes that do not affect the integrity of the competition or materially change the application). PRP reserves the right to reject all applications and make no awards. Applicants may be asked to include greater detail and specificity for their work plans before final awards are issued. Applicants may also be requested to satisfy data quality or peer review requirements before or shortly after the awarding of grants.

C. Commencement of Work: Project activities should not begin until a subaward agreement is fully executed between the PRP/UNORTF and the applicant. If applicable, sampling may not begin without an approved Quality Assurance Project Plan (Section VIII. Post-Award Requirements and Administration – Subsection C. I.).

Section VIII. Post-Award Requirements and Administration

A. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

The recipient and any sub-recipient must comply with the applicable General Terms and Conditions. These terms and conditions are in addition to the assurances and certifications made as part of the award, terms and conditions, and restrictions reflected on the official assistance award document. Awards issued as a result of this funding opportunity are subject to the requirements of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards; Title 2 CFR Part 200 and 2 CFR Part 1500.

B. Reporting

The grantee must submit semiannual reports to the PRP/UNORTF for review every six (6) months after the contract execution date. The grantee must submit a final report to PRP/UNORTF within 30 days following the project's completion. At a minimum, the report should include the following:

- Project/activity name and location (latitude/longitude). If project includes multiple locations, please list all coordinates but specify a single main location (latitude/longitude).
- Brief project description and project category from: sewerage, stormwater, agricultural, or habitat
- Lead implementer, partners, and their roles
- Progress towards deliverables and completed activities.
    - Include narrative with accompanying photographs, websites, newsletters, maps, etc.
    - Uploading monitoring data to EPA's Water Quality eXchange (WQX)
- Status of funds spent on project implementation.
- Discussion of how workplan tasks support PRP's AIP, implementing CCMP priorities, and EPA's *Powering the Great American Comeback Initiatives*.
- If applicable, any external factors causing delays or constraints and how the subrecipient resolved those problems.
- Important environmental and programmatic accomplishments, completed workplan activities, and lessons learned.

C. Other Information

a. Quality Assurance / Quality Control

Quality Assurance (QA) Project Plan (QAPP) requirements may be applicable to these assistance agreements (see 2 CFR § 1500.12). QAPP requirements apply to the collection of environmental data. Environmental data are any measurements or information that describe environmental processes, location, or conditions; ecological or health effects and consequences; or the performance of environmental technology. Environmental data includes information collected directly from measurements, produced from models, and compiled from other sources such as

databases or literature. Applicants should allow sufficient time and resources for this process. UNORTF can assist applicants in determining whether a QAPP is required for the proposed project. If a QAPP is required for the project, the applicant is encouraged to work with UNORTF to determine the appropriate QAPP practices for the project; please direct inquiries to bbourgeois@thebeachuno.org. A QAPP must be submitted to PRP/UNORTF before related project activities can commence.

To learn more about QAPPs, please visit the EPA page on Quality Assurance Planning for Region 6.

Successful applicants must ensure that all water quality data generated is in accordance with an EPA-approved QAPP, either directly or by subaward, and are transmitted into the Agency's Water Quality Exchange (WQX) data system (formerly known as STORET) annually or by project completion. When uploading data through WQX or WQXweb, data should be identified as "PRP" - related by providing project ID as "PRP" in the data submission. More information about WQX and WQXweb, including tutorials, can be found at https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/water-quality-data-wqx.

I. Invasive Species Control

Pursuant to Executive Order 13112 (https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/index.shtml), the recipient of EPA funds and all subcontractors shall monitor the project to ensure it does not facilitate the introduction or spread of invasive species. If invasive species are detected or populations promoted in any way, the recipient will respond rapidly to control populations in an environmentally sound manner, as approved by UNORTF.

II. Adherence to the EPA National Geospatial Data Policy

The National Geospatial Data Policy (NGDP) establishes principles, responsibilities, and requirements for collecting and managing geospatial data used by Federal environmental programs and projects within the jurisdiction of the EPA. This Policy also establishes the requirement of collecting and managing geospatial metadata describing the Agency's geospatial assets to underscore EPA's commitment to data sharing, promoting secondary data use, and supporting the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). This Policy applies to all EPA organizations, grantees, agents working on behalf of EPA, tribes, localities territories, and partner states of EPA who design, develop directly or indirectly, compile, operate, or maintain EPA information collections developed for environmental program support and can be found at: https://www.epa.gov/geospatial/epa-national-geospatial-data-policy.

III. Build America, Buy America (BABA) PRP Implementation

BABA is applicable for projects that involve the construction of permanent fixtures, and it pertains to both base and IIJA funded sub-awards. BABA requires that recipients of federal financial assistance ensure that "all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials permanently incorporated into an infrastructure project subject to the BABA requirements must be produced in the United States." See the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Made in America Office BABA implementation guide.

The PRP grantee will submit certification that BABA requirements are being met. This notification can be in the form of a memorandum letter or a certifying statement and will be done for every PRP funding recommendation that will fund BABA-applicable projects.

The sub-grantees with projects subject to BABA requirements will submit a certifying statement to the grantee within 30 days of being awarded a sub-award, certifying that their projects are implementing BABA requirements and will keep adequate project documentation.

In addition:

a. The grantee is required to hold any project documentation proving BABA implementation.
b. The sub-grantees will be the only party responsible for keeping and having project documentation proving BABA requirements are being met, when applicable.

When and if required, the sub-grantees may need to provide project documentation confirming BABA compliance.

Section IX. Appendices - *see separate attachments*

Appendix A – Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program Annual Implementation Plan
Appendix B – Terms & Definitions
Appendix C – Examples of Project Activities
Appendix D – Examples of Project Outputs, Outcomes and Metrics

Appendix A: Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program 2025 Annual Implementation Plan Outline

The PRP 2025 Annual Implementation Plan Outline

Background

Establishment of Program and Statutory Authority.

The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program (PRP) was established by congress in 2002 (33 U.S.C. § 1273, Clean Water Act § 121) as one of EPA's 12 Geographic Programs.

Past Funding Opportunities and Projects.

PRP funding has been used to address challenges identified in the Program's Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (consisting of the 1995 Conservation Management Plan and the 2006 Comprehensive Habitat Management Plan). A variety of issues are identified within the CCMP, including agricultural runoff, sewerage, stormwater (urban) runoff, and habitat management. Funded projects have focused on implementation (minor construction projects and updates to infrastructure), planning, design, research, mapping, education & outreach, and monitoring. Some examples of projects funded include inspection of resident septic tank systems, reforestation projects, and water quality monitoring.

CCMP Revision and November 4th Workshop

The PRP's CCMP is currently under the process of revision and is anticipated to be completed by summer 2026. The program has initiated and planned multiple workgroup sessions to help identify priority issues within the Basin. The first workgroup was held on November 4th, 2024, and participants included local stakeholders who are part of the PRP's Management Conference. During this meeting, four breakout groups (Water Quality, Working Lands and Waters, Habitat Management, and Resilient Communities) were established to identify pressing issues that are affecting the Basin.

Recommendations

- Challenges identified by the PRP workgroups were categorized into eleven (11) priority issues with nineteen (19) generalized focus areas associated with each issue (Table 1. PRP Annual Priorities). It is recommended that the Program utilize these priority issues to guide the upcoming PRP funding opportunities to address environmental challenges in the Basin.
- Water quality remains a pressing issue within the PRP Basin. Several waterbody segments were identified as having multiple impairments and greater emphasis should be given to potential projects that address multiple impairments in these areas (Table 2. PRP 2024 Priority Impaired Assessment Areas).
- Parishes surrounding the shorelines of Lake Pontchartrain have received the majority of PRP funding (Figure 1. PRP FY 2002-2022 Funding by Parish/County). Within respect to a merit-based evaluation, an emphasis is needed on providing funding for opportunities to improve further reaches of the watersheds draining into the lake.
- Proposals that utilize nature-based solutions (NbS) and green infrastructure should provide rationale for design principles. Examples include references to guidelines outlined in the US Army Corps Engineering with Nature program and NNBF Guidebook, utilization of the GSA sustainability facilities tools, or seeking third party certification.

PRP 2025 Annual Priorities

Water Quality	
Priority	**Focus Areas**
Wastewater Systems	• Connection of decentralized septic system to reduce sewage runoff and reduce overall cost. • Provide funding to properly maintain existing septic systems in the short-term until they can be incorporated into a connected system. • Increase capacity/resiliency of existing infrastructure. • Assimilation of nature-based solutions to reduce pollutants.
Point Source and Non-Point Source Pollution	• Collaboration with farmers and land managers to reduce/prevent nutrients from being released into surface waters of the Basin. • Utilize nature-based solutions/green infrastructure to reduce pollutant discharge. • Projects that address multiple water quality impairments, especially in these assessment areas (sub-watersheds): (Table 2. PRP 2024 Priority Impaired Assessment Areas).
Hydrological Modifications	• Increase connectivity of rivers/streams and restore natural flow of waterways.
Habitat Restoration	
Priority	**Focus Areas**

Strategic Restoration	• Habitat restoration projects that:
	  ○ work synergistically with other projects
	  ○ provide direct benefits to SGCN or local communities
	• Proactive restoration that seeks to maintain/sustain existing habitat rather than recreate following loss.

Habitat Connectivity	• Protect and restore habitat connectivity within and between aquatic to terrestrial habitats.
Large Scale Shoreline Resilience	• Projects that work to limit shoreline loss, maintain existing buffers, and support species migration/refuge during extreme events
Working Lands & Waters	
Priority	**Focus Areas**
Protecting wildlife diversity reduce invasive species	• Restore ecosystems by building complex food webs to increase biodiversity and attract, produce, and sustain native fish and shellfish and other species important for recreation and commercial fisheries. • Removal and management of invasive species and promotion of native species when applicable.
Reduce quantity and improve quality of rural and urban runoff through use of green infrastructure and nature-based solutions	• Implementation and promotion of green infrastructure and nature-based solutions in projects. • Assist agricultural interests with identification and implementation of programs and projects that help remove sediments and nutrients from runoff and promote healthier native plants and habitats.
Resilient Communities	
Priority	**Focus Areas**
Workforce Development	• Training programs for water management workforce and educating potential trainees on the opportunities that exist. .

Meaningful outreach and education	• Support development of state/region wide environmental outreach programs to educate the public on resiliency.
Strategic Resilience Planning	• Development city/parish/regional plans for resilient communities.

Table 1. PRP Annual Priorities: ***Challenges identified by the PRP workgroups were categorized into priorities based on similar themes within each workgroup. Focus areas were identified based on example projects identified by the workgroup members. Priorities selected received the most votes by workgroup members (3 out of 4 workgroups) or were the most mentioned (1 out of 4 workgroups) during the discussions.***

PRP 2024 Priority Impaired Assessment Areas

Impaired Assessment Area Name & Unit #	Impairments
Tickfaw River-From La. Highway 42 to Lake Maurepas; LA040502_00	1. Chloride 2. Dissolved Oxygen 3. Mercury 4. pH 5. Sulfate 6. Total Dissolved Solids 7. Temperature
Ponchatoula Creek-From headwaters to La. Highway 22; LA040505_00	1. Dissolved Oxygen 2. Mercury 3. Nitrate/Nitrite 4. Total Phosphorus 5. Total Dissolved Solids 6. Fecal Coliform
Ponchatoula Creek-From La. Highway 22 to Natalbany River; LA040508_00	1. Dissolved Oxygen 2. Mercury 3. Nitrate/Nitrite 4. Total Phosphorus 5. Fecal Coliform
Blind River-From Amite River Diversion Canal to Lake Maurepas (Scenic); LA040401_00	1. Dissolved Oxygen 2. Mercury 3. Turbidity 4. Temperature

Table 2. PRP 2024 Priority Impaired Assessment Areas: ***List of highly impaired waterbodies within the PRP Basin with the associated impairments*** *(LDEQ 2024 Water Quality integrated Report[1]).*

[1] https://www.deq.louisiana.gov/page/louisiana-water-quality-integrated-report

PRP FY 2002-2022 Funding by Parish/County

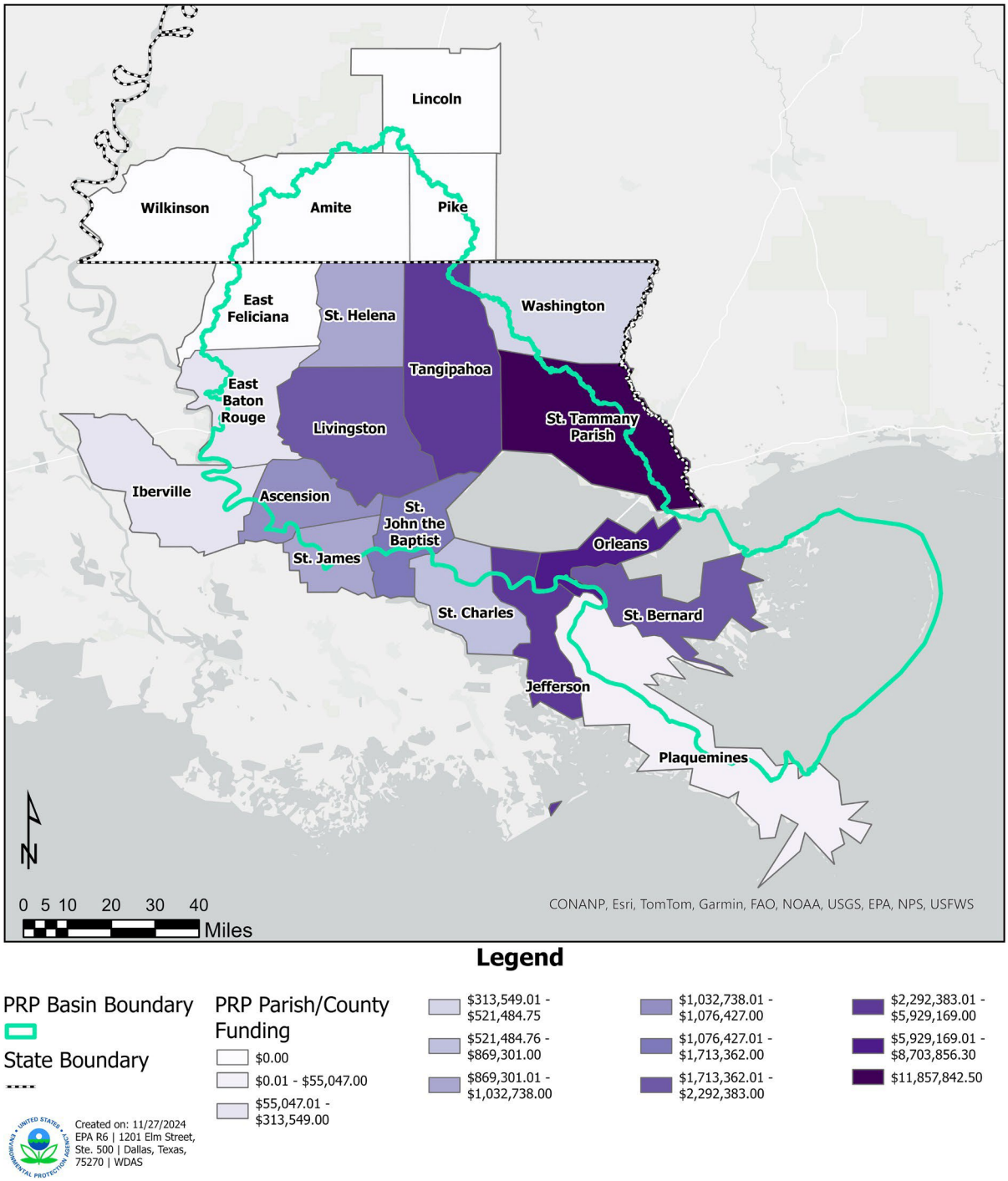

Figure 1. PRP FY 2002-2022 Funding by Parish/County: **Total funding (FY2002-2022) received by each parish/county within the PRP boundary. Project amount was distributed evenly for projects that took place in multiple parishes/counties.** ***Parishes/Counties that are more lightly colored have received less funding and may be prioritized for consideration to receive PRP funds.***

Appendix B: Terms & Definitions

For purposes of this PRP competition and the evaluation of applications, the following terms apply:

Adaptive Management

A process of iteratively planning, implementing and modifying strategies for managing resources in the face of uncertainty and change. Adaptive management involves adjusting management approaches in response to observations of their effect on, and changes in, the system brought on by resulting feedback effects and other variables. (NCA5 Glossary)

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Methods, measures or practices selected by an agency to meet its nonpoint source control needs. BMPs include but are not limited to structural and nonstructural controls and operation and maintenance procedures. BMPs can be applied before, during and after pollution-producing activities to reduce or eliminate the introduction of pollutants into receiving waters. (40 CFR 130.2)

Adaptive Investments - Refers to infrastructure and natural infrastructure that:

Incorporates current and future environmental change risks in planning, siting, design and operation of the infrastructure system. Approaches for incorporating environmental change risk should make use of environmental change projections and scenarios that are reflective of the infrastructure system's anticipated service life. This includes consideration of the infrastructure system owner's and beneficiaries' risk tolerance, and consideration of environmental change risks posed to the individuals, communities, local governments, organizations or other entities served by the infrastructure system, over its anticipated service life.

Maximize sustainability over the system's anticipated service life. This can be accomplished through incorporating sustainable design principles and operational practices, such as improved energy efficiency and procurement of reused, salvaged and alternative or low embodied carbon materials.(OMB M-24-03)

Resilience

The capacity of a system to maintain function in the face of stresses imposed by environmental change and to adapt to the system to be better prepared for future environmental impacts.

The capacity of interconnected social, economic and ecological systems to cope with a environmental change event, trend or disturbance, responding or reorganizing in ways that maintain their essential function, identity and structure. (NCA5 Glossary)

Nature-Based Solutions

Actions that protect, conserve, restore and sustainably manage natural or modified ecosystems. They use natural features or processes to address public health and environmental challenges while providing multiple benefits to people and nature. (the EPA's Green Infrastructure Federal Collaborative Website)

Outcome

An outcome is the level of performance or achievement that occurred because of the activity or services provided by the recipient. Outcomes may be environmental, behavioral, health-related or programmatic in nature, and may or may not be achievable or measurable during the period of the grant. (OMB Circular A–11)

Output

An output is the result of an activity or effort that recipients will produce throughout the grant period. Outputs must be measurable during the grant period. (OMB Circular A–11)

Green Infrastructure

The range of measures that use plant or soil systems, permeable pavement or other permeable surfaces or substrates, stormwater harvest and reuse, or landscaping to store, infiltrate, or evapotranspirate stormwater and reduce flows to sewer systems or to surface waters. (Water Infrastructure Improvement Act)

Appendix C: Examples of Project Activities

Project Activities

Habitat Management

- Habitat restoration and or protection of important and or critical habitats, for example:
    - Longleaf pine (Pinus palustris) savannahs
    - Bald cypress - Tupelo (Taxodium distichum – Nyssa aquatica) swamps
    - Canebrake habitats of the upland sub-basin composed largely of giant cane (Arundinaria gigantea)
    - Hydrologic restoration to re-establish the natural migration of fish, including threatened and endangered species
    - Increasing the habitat range of freshwater mussels
    - The basins wetlands/riparian/stream habitats
- Implementing conservation practices into a city's development code that prioritize environmentally sensitive areas and limit the development of natural habitat during construction, respective to type of habitat and wildlife species present, such as grasslands, upland forest habitat, riparian areas, and wetlands/deep water habitat.
- Use of artificial reefs and habitat structures.
- Restoration and remediation of mining sites including sand and gravel dredging operations.
- Research and monitoring related to understanding and protecting habitat and wildlife.
- Post restoration, management, and monitoring plans for the restored area; including implementation of adaptative management (see Appendix B: Terms & Definitions) strategies to meet restoration goals.

Reducing Water Quality Impairments

- Green Infrastructure (GI) such as:
    - Large scale projects - regional, city wide, or neighborhood scale that work to filter, infiltrate, and slow down, retain and detain stormwater before it may enter a storm drain, or local stream/wetland. Such projects may also work with water as a resource to encourage and enhance habitat quality and promote biological diversity.
        - Creating Development Codes that require developers to use green infrastructure and treat for water quality volume of runoff leaving a site, and to limit the cubic feet per second (CFS) of discharge leaving a site as runoff (treating for water quality and quantity).

        - Capital Improvement Planning within a city to integrate green infrastructure into the city's infrastructure plan, such as creating green streets during major road repair projects, allowing road medians and right of ways to receive and infiltrate stormwater, and tie into the municipal stormwater system. A city may also apply best management practices to stormwater retention and detention basins, and design/allow them to have more natural features and native vegetation.
        - Implementing conservation areas or grow zones within city ordinance or code. Some areas may be managed with an ecosystem restoration approach, incorporating ground preparation, native seeding and or plantings, and conservation practices integrated with maintenance strategies.
            - This may involve converting drainage swales and areas within parks and other public spaces into places for low maintenance grow zones.
    - Projects that work at a small scale and closer to the source of pollution, such as rain gardens, bioswales, pervious surfaces etc.
    - Technical assistance to help local communities build capacity to plan for or to implement green infrastructure.
- Installation of decentralized on-site wastewater treatment systems that more effectively treat pollutants.
- Low-cost retrofits of wastewater treatment facilities such as optimization and process improvements.
- Alternatives to chemical and nitrogen-intensive turf and landscaping, and to fertilizer and pesticide and herbicide use.
- Use of structural BMPs such as bags and barriers at inlets, especially for areas that receive runoff from automotive areas and places that work with hazardous chemicals and waste.
- Reduction of litter and floatables found in the waterway via debris/trash collection devices in drainage ways.
- Watershed planning addressing water quality issues and specific parameters within the basin, such as bacteria [please reference the Louisiana's Department of Environmental Quality's most recent Integrated Report to learn more about impairments in watersheds].
- In – stream restoration to increase nutrient processing, and to reduce erosion.
- Replacing or right-sizing stormwater infrastructure to reduce downstream erosion of nutrients.
- Projects to accelerate adoption of agricultural conservation practices that reduce nutrient and bacterial runoff such as:
    - Technical assistance or technical service to engage rural landowners and farmers in design and delivery of nitrogen and bacterial prevention projects.

- Regenerative agriculture practices.
- Soil health practices and management systems that combine improved tillage and/or pasture management, cover crops, crop and livestock rotations, and other practices to increase soil fertility while improving the capacity of crops and soils to reduce runoff and increase nutrient uptake.
- Precision nutrient management systems that fine-tune the rate, source, method, and timing of nutrient applications to maintain or increase crop yields, minimize nutrient input costs and nutrient losses to surface and groundwater.

Education & Outreach

- Public engagement in stewardship of local natural resources and biotic hotspots
- Educate public about hotspots known for biological diversity
- To include restoration for upland forests, and in particular the longleaf pine habitats and the importance of prescribed burns.
- Conducting field trips, student programs, and creating and disseminating online education & outreach material that support learning about the Basin's ecology
- Educate public to reduce demand for cypress wood products, especially mulch
- Education of the public on the value of wetlands and methods for minimizing urban impacts through land use planning
- Create public awareness and educational opportunities related to the cultural and historical links between Bayou St. John and the development of New Orleans
- Identify and create public awareness and educational opportunities related to bayou and estuarine ecology along Bayou St. John
- Education and outreach about watersheds, stormwater systems and MS4 permits
- Education material about point and nonpoint sources of pollution
- Help educate homeowners about their septic systems, and about how to inspect and maintain them
- Education & outreach about bacteria impairments, and alerts for the public to know when it's safe to enter the water
- Programs that foster, support, or develop community buy-in and meaningful inclusion in local environmental management projects
- Programs to increase appreciation of the basin
- Campaigns and activities to build public awareness and direct engagement reducing use and impact of plastic and other water/land-based consumer debris, abandoned and lost fishing/aquaculture gear, microplastics and microfibers prevention or reduction

- Native plant landscaping guidance and training that encourages alternatives to chemical and nutrient intensive landscapes
- Lake Pontchartrain Basin environmental and conservation-related classroom or informal instruction

Increased Resiliency

- Restoring or enhancing habitat to improve community resilience including proposals that provide natural and nature-based solutions to protect coastal and inland communities from the impact of storms, floods, and other natural hazards and to enable them to recover more quickly. For coastal communities, some examples of projects may include restoration of coastal marshes and wetlands, coastal forests, barrier islands, living shorelines, and oyster reefs. For inland communities, examples of projects may include hazard-focused stormwater management approaches that reduce localized flooding from high precipitation events and floodplain restoration and reconnection with measurable downstream flood reduction benefits.
- Green infrastructure/Low impact development proposals that combine gray infrastructure with nature-based solutions to create hybrid systems that improve habitat and community resilience to environmental impacts by increasing stormwater storage, reducing flooding and enhancing community green space.
- New or updated municipal, watershed or regional resilience/sustainability/natural hazard mitigation plans that evaluate the vulnerability of critical community infrastructure and natural areas and develop strategies for making this infrastructure and these areas resilient to hazardous events (sea level rise, flood and/or weather events).
- Technical assistance to help local communities plan for or implement resilience through nature-based infrastructure.
- Develop and/or demonstrate programs, projects and/or tools that improve a community's understanding of vulnerabilities and/or strengthen resilience
- Utilize existing or new techniques, tools, and information to assist coastal stakeholders in assessing risks and vulnerabilities to natural or man-made disasters Potential Community-Driven Projects Ideas
- Adaptive investments (see Appendix C for definition) can help to address these challenges while advancing the adaptive capacity of communities, enhancing the operational efficiency of built infrastructure. (see Appendix C for definition).

Appendix D: Examples of Project Outputs, Outcomes and Metrics

Example of Quantitative Outputs and Outcomes, and Metrics as it Relates to Project Work

Implementation Projects		
Saltwater Intrusion/Wetland Loss (Habitat Management)		
Project Work	**Project Outputs**	**Project Outcomes**
Floodplain Restoration	# of Acres restored	Improved water quality, increased biological diversity, decrease flood events and flood and hurricane impacts, and increased resilience
Marine habitat restoration	# of Acres restored	
Habitat Restoration (Inland)	# of Acres restored	
Beach and dune habitat improvements	# of Acres restored	
Wetland/Streams restoration	# of Acres restored	
Riparian restoration	# of Acres restored	
Recreation		
Access Improvement	# of Acres with public access for recreation, outdoor learning, etc.	Increased recreational opportunities, better community health and wellbeing, creation of spaces for socializing and outdoor learning and observation
Access Improvement	# of site locations	
Stormwater Runoff		
Green Infrastructure Implementation	# of GI features within a project, acres of watershed treated, and volume in gallons of stormwater prevented, before and after photos	Improved water quality, increased biological diversity, decrease flood events and flood and hurricane impacts, and increased resilience
Trash/litter removal	Lbs of trash removed	Improve water and habitat quality, and the aesthetics of an area
Erosion control	Linear feet restored, best management practices used to address erosion, before and after photos of the area, measurements of rate of erosion, supporting water quality data	Reduced sediment deposition, turbidity, TDS, protection of critical infrastructure
Water Quality Monitoring	A table detailing sites monitored and their location (X,Y Coordinates), sub segment ID and name of stream or waterbody sampled, HUC 12 watershed, parameters sampled for at each site, frequency sampled and duration of project, total samples taken over the course of the project, and complete data upload to WQX	EPA approved Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), contribute to understanding long-term trends, and local pollution sources, provide data used for the development of plans to achieve water quality improvement
Sewerage & Agricultural Runoff		

Home Septic System Inspection, Maintenance and Update	# of residences served based off service	Improved water and habitat quality
Use of agricultural best management practices (BMPs)	# of best management practices implemented, and type and location of best management practices used	Improved water and habitat quality
Education & Outreach		
Outreach/Education/Technical Assistance	# of organizations contributing to goals	Increased community development and knowledge, as well as coordination, providing aid to help with planning efforts, research, monitoring and implementation projects, and other education & outreach projects
Outreach/Education/Technical Assistance	# of people reached by outreach, training, or technical assistance	
Volunteer Participation	# of volunteers	
Outreach/Education/Technical Assistance	# of workshops, webinars, meetings, trainings, and events	
Online media created, or information made available to the public	# and type of education & outreach material posted online or made available to the public.	
Planning, Research, and Design		
Management or Governance, or Research	# of plans developed	Material and resources available for implementation projects to help manage the basins natural resources for current and future generations; this may also include changes in policy, codes, ordinances, development of planning documents, and scientific research that intends on publishing research findings to help inform future planning and design efforts.
Planning / Design	# of acres accessed for improved management	
Planning / Design	# of engineering and design plans developed	
Planning / Design	# of maintenance plans developed	
Increased Resilience		
Nature-Based Flood Projects	# of projects, # of nature-based solutions and Green Infrastructure features used, and categorized by type, location of sites and features, site plans or designs, models showing probability of project outcomes and related data, engineering plans and relevant data showing expected removal from flood plains – ex. conditional letter of map	Improved water quality, increased biological diversity, decrease flood events and flood and hurricane impacts, and increased resilience

	revisions from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and if it's an implementation project, before and after photos.	
Shoreline Protection and Hurricane Resiliency	# of coastal wetlands protected, dune, beach and land bridge restoration, structural or non-structural best management practices used, location data, any modeled data, and if it's an implementation project, before and after photos.	Improved water quality, increased biological diversity, decrease flood events and flood and hurricane impacts, and increased resilience

Additional quantitative and qualitative metrics may be reported as outputs and outcomes as well. Please coordinate with UNORTF on metric reporting for each project to help ensure all relevant metrics, data and information is reported correctly.

For instance, important qualitative information could be related to different bio, geo, physical, and chemical processes, to include land cover, soil formations and type, landforms, plant species names, identified host species, and information about endangered and threatened species, respective to project. Water quality measures may have bio indicators, or other causes related to water quality, such as human activity, that are important for documentation.

Other important quantitative measures may include weather data, stream flow data, species observed, etc.