

GOVERNMENT OF GUAM  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
AGANA, GUAM

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 78-21

PROTECTION OF WETLANDS

WHEREAS, Guam's wetlands are those areas that are inundated by surface or ground water with a frequency sufficient to support and under normal circumstances does or would support a prevalence of vegetative or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction; and

WHEREAS, the wetlands of Guam, including swamps, marshes, mangroves, natural ponds, surface springs, and estuaries, are natural habitats of high biological productivity and significant resource value; and

WHEREAS, the wetlands of Guam are extremely fragile, limited in number and difficult to restore once damaged; and

WHEREAS, wetlands provide a critical habitat for maintenance of native plant and animal life, including endangered and threatened species, and are valuable as locations for scientific and educational investigation; and

WHEREAS, wetlands act as floodplains during periods of excessive water flow and a source of fresh water for domestic and agricultural purposes; and

WHEREAS, mangrove wetlands act as a shoreline stabilization mechanism and prevent shoreline erosion and stormwave damage; and

WHEREAS, increased management attention to wetlands is essential in order to reflect the intent and effect of Presidential Executive Order 11990, regarding protection of wetlands, on non-federally owned property;

NOW THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Organic Act of Guam, wetlands are declared to be an area of particular concern in the planning and management of Guam's land and water resources and the Territorial Planning Commission is hereby directed to officially designate, consistent with Guam's Land Use Plan and Coastal Management Program, Guam's wetland areas, and promulgate such rules and regulations as are necessary for the balanced development, protection, and conservation of such wetlands, consistent with procedures of the Administrative Adjudication Act.

This Executive Order shall be effective this date. Dated at  
Agana, Guam, this 7th day of September, 1978.

  
RICARDO J. BORDALLO  
Governor of Guam

COUNTERSIGNED:

  
RUDOLPH G. SABLAN  
Lieutenant Governor of Guam