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| **Trongkon Niyok**  *Cocos nucifera*  Coconut Tree | A palm tree with blue sky  AI-generated content may be incorrect.  Photo by Lauren Gutierrez |

**HISTORIC AND CURRENT STATUS**: Native to the Mariana Islands, *Cocos nucifera* is found nearly everywhere in Guam (Stone, 1970). Historically, *C. nucifera* earned the title of the “Tree of Life” as every part of the tree was used for food, shelter, building materials, and other needs. Leaves were used as material for thatched roofs and for various tools such as rick sacks, fans, brooms etc. The meat and water of the nuts are used as a major food source and ingredient in many dishes. Today, the leaves are primarily used for artistic weaving purposes and as a way for CHamoru people to reconnect with their indigenous heritage. The nuts are still used as a staple ingredient in many food dishes. According to a 2013 survey conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture, there were an estimated 1.46 million coconut trees throughout the island (USDA, 2013). Another survey was conducted in 2024 (UOG, 2024) but the data is not yet publicly available.

**THREATS:** Major threats include the coconut rhinoceros beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros*) (CRB) and the Tinangaja disease.

**HABITAT:** Majority of habitats in Guam, including limestone forests, savannas, coastal, ravines

**GOAL:** Protect and sustain healthy coconut trees in Guam

**OBJECTIVES:** Conserve and restore key coconut strands, reduce impacts from pests, and promote community stewardship and traditional uses.

**ACTION PLAN:**

* Conduct targeted surveys to identify healthy coconut strands and prioritize conservation or restoration areas.
* Implement integrated pest management (IPM) strategies, including CRB trapping, removal of infested trees, and sanitation to reduce breeding sites
* Replant healthy coconut trees in areas such as parks and village recreation sites
* Collaborate with cultural practitioners to promote traditional uses and knowledge related to the coconut
* Develop and share outreach materials relating to conservation of the coconut tree and impacts of the CRB and Tinangaja disease.
* Establish long-term monitoring approaches to track health, pest presence, and regeneration success.