

Moloka'i Community Plan

10.1 Environment and Natural Resources

Mana'e's environment, rich in natural resources, is a sensitive ecosystem that requires the utmost care in planning for its survival.

A. EXISTING CONDITIONS

The East End is blessed with abundant rain and numerous perennial streams. The north shore valleys exemplify this condition. Management of feral animal populations is required for watershed health; a healthy watershed is necessary to capture rainfall to recharge the aquifer.

The Nature Conservancy ("TNC") is a founding member of the East Moloka'i Watershed Partnership, which includes the Kamakou Preserve located high in the mountains of East Molokai. The main focus of the Partnership is to protect and enhance high-quality native Hawaiian rain forest communities. Molokai Ranch, Ltd. granted a conservation easement to TNC in 1982 to restore the Kamakou Preserve and protect it in perpetuity. Kamakou Preserve is managed in partnership with the DLNR through the Natural Area Partnership Program.

Commented [TNF127]: Proposal by Councilmember King.

The quantity of rainfall and limited human interference has helped to retain much of the fertile soil that was once found in many places on Molokai. Responsible land management, including preservation of coastal wetlands, is important to control loss of valuable soil.

The rich environmental characteristics of the land give rise to a pristine ocean ecosystem correspondingly as rich. Both near shore and ocean gathering opportunities are important to maintain the traditional lifestyle of Mana'e's people.

Many areas on the East End contain habitats where indigenous plant life still exists, as on the ridges between Pelekunu and Wailau Valleys. These habitats, whether mountain or coastal, provide unique ecosystems necessary for endangered life to survive, and must be adequately protected and preserved.

There are many wetlands along the coastal regions of Mana'e. It provides the recycling basins that control environmental pollutants and minimize the impact of sedimentation on ocean systems. These areas are habitats for endangered indigenous birds and are nesting grounds for several migratory bird species.

B. ISSUES

RECEIVED AT PC MEETING ON 2/1/2018
Committee Chair King

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- Issue 1: Overgrazing has exacerbated erosion.
- Issue 2: Flooding is common through the many streambeds and low lands.
- Issue 3: Tsunami inundation areas are common along the eastern coastal areas.
- Issue 4: Mana`e is subject to tidal surges because of the high-water table and the low-lying coast area.
- Issue 5: Community concerns regarding fencing installed by TNC for watershed protection and integration of the ahupua'a system into TNC's conservation efforts.

Commented [TNTF128]: Proposal by Councilmember King.

C. GOALS, POLICIES, ACTIONS

Goal Preserve, protect, and manage Mana`e's rich natural resources and ecosystems to ensure that future generations may continue to enjoy and protect the natural environment.

Policies

1. Support control of grazing domestic and wild ungulates.
2. Support hunting opportunities for Moloka'i residents.
3. Support harsher penalties for the indiscriminate slaughter of wildlife.
4. Discourage intensive use of coastal low lands for resort or multifamily, since the required modifications to the environment to overcome these problems, (i.e. stream diversions, excessive landfill, sewage treatment), would have destructive ecological effects.
5. Support appropriate sewage disposal to protect groundwater and marine resources.
6. Support planning that would protect Mana`e's unique environment and the natural resources.

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7. Review and assess Mana'e's sewage needs and implement appropriate infrastructure.

Commented [TN129]: Councilmember Hoakama. Moved from Action items.

7.8. Continue discussions between TNC and community regarding community concerns about TNC fencing and community desire to integrate ahupua'a into TNC conservation efforts.

Commented [TN130]: Proposal by Councilmember King.

Actions

Table 10.1 East End Policy Statement – Environmental and Natural Resources			
No.	Action	Lead County Agency	Partners
10.1.01	Adopt recommendations made in the Mana'e GIS Mapping Project (2008) and encouraged/intended for integration as policy and action items within the body of the Molokai Community Plan where appropriate. ⁹³	PD	State Community
10.1.02	Review and assess Mana'e's sewage needs and implement appropriate infrastructure	DEM	
10.1.03	Support designations to protect and preserve traditional lands under the DLNR conservation regulations, through County zoning, or other appropriate methods, including the creation of a Traditional Land Use Overlay.	PD	

Commented [TN131]: Councilmember Cochran

Commented [TN132]: Councilmember Hokama. Moved to Policies section.

Commented [TN133]: Councilmember Cochran

⁹³ The Mana'e GIS Mapping Project was initiated by Mālama Pono o Ka `Āina, Mana'e kūpuna and community members due to a concern that too much development in wetlands and "wet lands" (including ancient fishponds and lands that were traditionally cultivated in taro and other food crops) were being cleared and filled in for housing development. The project was also commissioned by the Planning Department with the intent of incorporating it into the updated Plan. It provides GPS maps of important natural and cultural resources that warrant greater protection by the Planning Department and other land use agencies, as well as the MoPC.
Chapter 10 East End Policy Statement