



FSM Ridge to Reef (R2R) Project Newsletter

FSM R2R Project joins partners in Yap to commemorate the endorsement of Weloy's updated Forest Stewardship Plan (2022-2027)

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Chief James Manguon endorsing the Weloy Forest Stewardship Plan



Director Victor Bamog endorsing support letter on behalf of Government

Between January to April, 2022, the Yap R2R team, in collaboration with communities and partner agencies, and under the direction of the Weloy Council of Chiefs, facilitated the review and update of the Weloy Forest Stewardship Plan. The plan, originally for a 3-year period (2017-2020), was upgraded into a 5-year plan for 2022-2027.

The planning consultations took place over a series of 19 workshops, facilitated by a Resource Team comprised of representatives from Yap R2R, Yap PAN, the Marine Resources & Management Division, Division of Agriculture & Forestry, Micronesia Conservation Trust and the Nature Conservancy. A community group, appointed by the Weloy Council, aided the Resource Team by providing key information, as well as provide support in planning and facilitating workshop session to build their capacities for future community projects and management plan development.

The updated plan was endorsed during a signing ceremony on April 29, 2022 at Ramaan, Okaw in Weloy, with the Weloy Council of Chiefs and community members present. The participants celebrated efforts since 2017, which resulted in the completion of about 90% of the original plan's activities, and looked forward to implementing the revised plan going forward. Director Victor Bamog, of the Office of Planning & Budget and a member of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for Yap R2R, congratulated the people of Weloy on completing a huge milestone, by sharing a few remarks on behalf of the government and Yap R2R TAC, and endorsing a letter of support for the updated plan.

World Environment Day in Kosrae!

KIRMA, in partnership with the FSM R2R Project and other key stakeholders, coordinated the observance and activities of this year's World Environment Day on June 1, 2022. This year's theme was, "only one earth", which was observed through a coastal clean-up at the Pikensukar to Yeyeis (PY) in Malem. The World Environment Day is an annual event held on June 5 to raise global awareness on the importance of the environment and natural resource. The participants, which involved 24 women, 65 men and 11 youth, collected trash within...(continued on pg. 2)



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household areas to the roadside. Debris being collected and discarded included refrigerators, freezers, washing machines, toilet bowls, vehicles and tin roof, metals, plastic, papers, fabrics, glass, biodegradable/non-biodegradable – with plastic materials being the most dominant. Over 600 trash bags, not including the bulky waste, were removed and properly disposed at the Fukuoka Land Fill in Tofol.

A closing event was held at the Malem Municipal Office, with closing remarks from KIRMA and the Mayor, expressing their gratitude to everyone for their participation, including the following sponsors of the event: DECEM, through the R2R Project, the Solid Waste Management Division, the US Embassy, Kosrae State Government and the Malem Women Organization.

Demarcation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Pohnpei



Demarcation of MPAs, funded by the FSM R2R project and the Sokehs Menen Katengensed (SMK), continues to make progress through the Pohnpei State Department of Resources and Development (R&D), Department of Land and the Pohnpei Port Authority (PPA). Between April to June, 2022, the team completed demarcation of the Nanwap and Pakin marine protected areas, in collaboration with the Nanwap CCOs, the President of the youth community-based organization called MLMDA, Mr. Patterson Shed, and the community of Pakin.

This effort was recognized as a priority action by the Pohnpei State Government to enhance the visibility of MPAs for public information. The FSM R2R project, in its effort to enhance PA management across the FSM, partnered with Pohnpei State Government agencies and NGOs to demarcate priority PAs across the State.

FSM R2R Project hosts PA Learning Exchange in Chuuk



On May 12 & 17, 2022, respectively, the R2R team in Chuuk, in collaboration with the Chuuk Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Agriculture, College of Micronesia's Cooperative Research Extension and the Department of Marine Resources, held a 2-day Learning Exchange (LEX) with Protected Area (PA) communities on the islands of Fefan and Soponoch.

On May 12, Day 1, the LEX was held on Ununo, Fefan, where the focus was on terrestrial PAs. Each site was given an opportunity to share their respective activities, including achievements, challenges and next steps. On May 17, Day 2, the LEX relocated to the Soponoch Marine



Protected Area (MPA), where the emphasis was on management of marine PAs, including needs at PA site level. Some of the needs requested included technical training on aquaculture, increased awareness on Chuuk's Chapter of the PAN Operations Manual, more support from leaders and collaboration between PA sites.

Key outcomes of the LEX included: (1) support from the Municipal Leadership of Fefan, through the Speaker of the Council who participated in the LEX; and (2) commitment to establish a support network for PA communities to improve knowledge management.

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Yap State Launches its Protected Area Network (PAN), and first ever Learning Exchange



On March 17-19, 2022, Yap State held its first ever Protected Area (PA) Learning Exchange (LEX) at Pine Restaurant. Funded by the R2R project, this 3-day event aimed to bring communities together, those with established PA sites, or planning one, to learn from one another and share success stories and challenges.

The first two days were focused on presentations by government agencies, communities and NGO partners. For Day 1, the communities of Weloy and Tamil, which have been actively managing their PA sites for years, joined Gachpar MPA, which was recently declared in 2021 and has been very active since, in presenting. The participants then visited the Tamil Watershed to observe the progress of its rehabilitation efforts. The first half of Day 2 took place in Weloy, where participants went snorkeling in the Nimpal Channel Marine Conservation Area (NCMCA). The second half of the day concluded with a visit to the Gachpar MPA, where the community showed the newly installed beacon lights, and trees planted along the shoreline to prevent erosion and run offs into the MPA.

The last day of the LEX was dedicated to the launching of the Yap PAN. Remarks were given by government agencies and partners, including Yap EPA, Office of Planning & Budget and the focal point of the Yap PAN/ Director of the Yap Community Action Program (Yap CAP), who officially launched the Yap Protected Area Network (PAN). The event concluded with the Yap PAN Coordinator giving a presentation on the new Yap CAP PAN Policy, which includes PAN guidelines and criteria, to create and strengthen awareness on PAN.

FSM R2R Project joins Kosrae State PAN to host Learning Exchange for PA Communities

The “2022 Kosrae Protected Areas Cross-site Learning Exchange” was launched on the 9th – 13th of May 2022 at the Rose Mackwelung. The first day, facilitated by the PAN Coordinator, Mr. Bond Segal, with the assistance from the R2R Technical Officer, Mrs. Tamae Waguk Luckymis, kicked off with welcoming remarks from the Honorable Carson Sighra, Kosrae State Governor, and the Acting Administrator of KIRMA, Mr. Steven Palik. These were followed by presentations from the technical team covering the Kosrae Protected Area System Process, Community Based Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management, Citation Process, Kosrae Ecotourism Operation, YELA Operation, Mahkontowe Conservation Area, R2R Updates and the PAN Application Processes.



On Wednesday, May 11-12, the participants went on site visits to Malem, Utwe, Lelu and Tafunsak – an opportunity to promote their respective achievements, and share knowledge and experience to enhance management of PAs in Kosrae. A key outcome of the learning exchange was the formulation of a Locally Managed Area (LMA) committee, comprised of two representatives from each management unit. The LMA committee will support and advise on ... (continued on pg. 4)

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PA issues, and serve as the Technical Advisory Committee for the Kosrae Protected Areas Network (KPAN).

The learning exchange was made possible through funding support from the FSM R2R Project in collaboration with the Department of Resource and Economic Affairs, Kosrae Conservation & Enforcement Taskforce, Kosrae Visitors Bureau, Kosrae Historic Preservation Office, Yela Environment Landowners Authority, the Kosrae Conservation Safety and Organization; and the following PA Management Units: Utwe Biosphere Reserve, Tafunsak Marine Protected Area (MPA), Walung MPA, Lelu MPA, Pikensukar- Yeyeis (PY) MPA, Kuplu Mangrove Reserve Landowners Association (KMRLA), Olum Watershed, YELA Forest, Trochus Sanctuary, and the Mahkontowe Conservation Area (MCA)

Soponoch Coastal Clean Up



On June 23, 2022, the Chuuk R2R team, accompanied by officers from the Department of Marine Resources (DMR) and staff from the Chuuk Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), traveled to Soponoch for a coastal clean-up. Soponoch, while it is uninhabited, still suffers from marine debris from nearby islands, which regularly wash onto its shores. These can be harmful for the environment and community health. The coastal clean-up resulted with the removal and disposal of 24 trash bags full of solid waste materials.

The team also assisted the Soponoch community in cleaning their clam aquaculture sites. Clams reared in cages require cleaning to prevent build-up of algae, which can prevent intake of nutrients. They occasionally need to move to ensure optimal water depth and temperature. A total of 1,524 clams were cleaned and relocated, helping to ensure they continue to thrive and grow.

Benefits of Effective Protected Areas Management

"Effectively managed protected areas are a critical tool for safeguarding biodiversity, maintaining ecosystem balance, preserving important habitats, building resilience to climate change, providing global food security, maintaining water quality and quantities, conserving natural resources, deriving economic success, curbing spread of diseases and pests, and providing many other benefits to wildlife and human health" (Campaign for Nature).

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