



Federated States of Micronesia

Ridge to Reef Project (R2R)

3rd Quarter Report –FY2019



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1. Introduction

1.1 National Government Quarter 4 Activities

- **SEA Phase 2**

Since the submission of the draft IEMP in Quarter 2, no recent development has been made to finalize the draft components of the IEMP i.e. the mitigation and monitoring frameworks. A planning meeting is scheduled for Quarter 4 to help finalize the draft IEMP and agree upon the coordination and implementing arrangements as recommended by the SEA.

- **FSM Protected Areas Network (PAN) Framework**

In Quarter 3, the R2R project, in collaboration with the department of R&D and the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) developed a terms of references for the PAN Technical Committee and for a consultancy to develop the operations manual for the FSM PAN network. Both TORs are currently under review with the recruitment process expected to take place in Quarter 4 for the operations manual consultancy. This will be funded by the R2R project.

- **Communications Plan**

Per the MTR report, the R2R project lacks a knowledge management component. Thus, to further raise the visibility of the project and to ensure that the project communicates information effectively, it is very critical to hire a communications person to ensure the project's communication successfully reaches all audiences, through as many ways as possible. The MTR management response has been drafted and is awaiting final approval from the Steering Committee before moving forward with the proposed actions including hiring of a Communications Specialist to draft a communications plan for the project.

Furthermore, even with the absence of a communications plan, the project has been releasing newsletters to raise more awareness on the project's activities. Refer to *Annex 1* for the project's Quarter 3 Newsletter.

- **Capacity Development Strategy**

Also recommended by the MTR was the shift in capacity development and theoretical discussions to action-oriented efforts promoting well-designed experimental, outcome-oriented management interventions to reduce priority threats to R2R ecosystems. Rather than investing in a capacity development plan, it was recommended that the project should consolidate and scale up/replicate what it has accomplished, as well as what NGOs and private investors have achieved in terms of good practices.

- **R2R Planning Meeting**

On September 17-19, 2019, the R2R Project Implementation Unit (PIU) convened a planning workshop in Pohnpei to review and assess the progress of the project at its midterm phase. Delegations from the four States include project focal points, State Coordinators, technical staff, local NGOs, community representatives, other implementing partners at State level and affiliated key partners including regional NGOs, National and CROP agencies. A fundamental objective of the workshop was to review the findings and recommendations of the project's recently completed Mid Term Review and invite stakeholders to provide feedback to the management responses developed. Refer to *Page 2 of Annex 1* for more information on the meeting.

2. Implementation Progress at State Level

Table 1: Progress Report Matrix for 1st Quarter Activities

Unlikely complete on schedule	Behind schedule and ongoing	On track and ongoing	Completed behind schedule	Completed on schedule	Completed ahead of schedule	Cancelled
Outputs	Kosrae	Pohnpei	Chuuk	Yap		
Outcome 1: Integrated ecosystems management and rehabilitation on the High Islands of the FSM to enhance R2R connectivity						
1.1 Four Integrated Land Management Plans are developed and implemented for the High Islands of the FSM						
1.2 Institutions with sectoral responsibilities for the development and conservation of the High Islands, together with relevant CSOs and community partners, are capacitated for coordinated action at the wider landscape on SLM.						
1.3 Additional finances for SLM investments secured & existing contributions to the environment sector to support SLM practices are aligned		Develop a Work Plan for Resource Economist				
1.4 Management and rehabilitation of critical ecosystems implemented to enhance the connectivity, reduce erosion, improve water quantity	Conduct community awareness and outreach on the Sanitary Pig Pen Regulation	Construct 4 DLPs in Pehleng	Nefo Forest Project launch, coordination facilitation, mentoring and close out	Strengthening Yap’s R2R vein (stream bank restoration/erosion control)		
	Farmers promotional program on conversion of regular pigpens		Rehabilitation of the Nefo Forest area to enhance R2R connectivity			
	Construct and convert potential piggeries into the DLP		Facilitate a baseline forest survey and inventory for the Nefo Forest			
	Rehabilitation of Merremia Peltata Infested Areas (upland forests) for Agroforestry/Intercropping		Facilitate a monitoring and evaluating training for the Nefo Forest Area			
	Rehabilitation of Mangrove Forests		Development of the Nefo tree planting campaign	Restoration of upland watershed areas and wetlands		
		Mangrove Forest Assessment				

and quality to reduce coastal erosion	Rehabilitation of Wetlands	Rehabilitation of two degraded coastal ecosystems	Moratorium on sale of mangroves	Dry Litter Piggeries in Dachngar
	Conduct Tree planting for Eroded Coastal Areas		Engage communities for clean ups	
			Promote sustainable solid waste management practices	
			Rehabilitation of 2 Mangrove Forest Sites	
			Construction of Pilot DLPs	

Outputs	Kosrae	Pohnpei	Chuuk	Yap
Outcome 2: Management Effectiveness enhanced within new and existing PAs (marine and terrestrial) on the High Islands of the FSM as part of the R2R approach				
2.1 National and State level PAN legal institutional frameworks have been established to improve management effectiveness of PAs	Allocate 10,000 USD to support the start-up of a PA fund bill		Awareness Education on PAN Law	Development of Yap PAN Criteria to support PA management decision support system
			Tol Areas of Biodiversity Significance (ABS) Review and Status Analysis	
2.2 The PAN of the High Islands has been expanded, and existing & new PAs have been secured through review & upgrading of legal protection status	Finalize and enact Walung and Malem MPA through the PA legislation	Facilitate participatory awareness on Watershed Forest Reserve in Nett Municipality	Verification of Existing PAs	PAN Review, Enhancement and Expansion
		Develop a Demarcation Action Plan for the Nett Watershed Forest Reserve	Gazzeting of 1 New Protected Area	
	Gazetting of the Awane Marine Protected Area	Procure Demarcation Materials for Nett Watershed Forest Reserve		
	Establishment of Monitoring Sites for Awane and Walung MPAs	Delineate Watershed boundaries in Kitti Municipality	Establish PAN Fund through consultations, agreed on MOU by stakeholders, and engaging interns	
		Facilitation of Partarticipatory awareness activities with Peniou communities		
		Designation of Awak Watershed Basin through PA Legislation		
2.3 Management authorities (States and communities) of newly established PAs are			Conduct socio economic survey on fisheries stock and benefits	

equipped and capacitated in managing PAs		Conduct Watershed baseline ecological surveys for newly demarcated boundaries	Coral Reef Monitoring	Bird Survey for Yap Monarch, Micronesian Pigeon & Fruit Bats
2.4 Effective site and cross site level PA management practices promoted in new and existing PAs	Conduct consultation meetings for Walung and Tafunsak Community-based Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (CEAFM)	Cross-Site Learning Exchange		Assist Gachpar to develop an MPA management plan and review and update an existing community MPA plan
	Conduct MPA management planning activities in the Awane MPA community			Conduct community awareness and outreach on PAs with communities for potential new PA sites
	Conduct sea cucumber and trochus stock assessment in PAs around Kosrae coastal waters			Conduct community consultations with two communities to revise their management plans
	Revisit and update KCET Action Plan			Coral Reef Monitoring
	Participate in annual enforcement training course			Management Effectiveness determined and best practices promoted in PAs
	2 PA Rangers			
	Coral Reef Monitoring			

2.1 Kosrae State

Output 1.4

- Achievements/Shortfalls

On August 8, 2019, a meeting was held with the four farmers selected to convert their piggeries into the Dry Litter Piggery system to discuss progress of the ongoing construction work. During the meeting, the farmers discussed issues including delays in construction work due to lack of an overall contractor responsible for constructing the piggeries. Therefore, a request was made through the project to execute a labor contract for construction of DLPs in Kosrae. The contract is currently routing at the National level and expected to be executed by October 2019.

On September 10, 2019, the project also facilitated a workshop in Kosrae, with participation from departments and agencies responsible for the enforcement of the 1997 Sanitary Pigpen Regulation, aimed to strengthen the existing regulation. The workshop identified three main issues including lack of awareness and outreach, enforcement and the fact that the regulation is outdated. Furthermore, a recommendation was made to amend the regulation by designating KIRMA as administrator in collaboration with the Department of Health (Division of Environmental Health and Sanitation). The two agencies will work together to enforce the regulation. As such, the project is currently engaged with the AG's office to explore ways moving forward in the amendment process. If updated, the pigpen regulation will benefit the entire Kosrae population of 6,616¹ (3,352 of which are males and 3,264 are females).

Progress on the rehabilitation activities in Kosrae include field surveys and mapping of sites for restoration (costal areas, mangrove forests and wetlands) , which occurred between September to the first week of October. Although actual rehabilitation work has yet to occur, it is anticipated that TORs detailing the scope of work will be finalized by October for implementation in November.

The following activity, rehabilitation of merremia peltata invested areas will be terminated. This decision is based on the outcome of the MTR, discouraging invasive-related interventions due to the upcoming GEF6 project focused on invasive species.

- Adaptive Measures Identified to Address Issues

PIU to assist KIRMA to expedite drafting and review of TORs for the project's pending rehabilitation activities in Kosrae. Project plans to implement via the low value grant modality.

Output 2.1

- Achievements/Shortfalls

Since 2018, the establishment of Kosrae's PA fund has been delayed due to the lack of a regulation required to establish a regulatory body responsible for enforcing the provisions of the fund. The project, therefore, is in the process of drafting a TOR to secure the services of a legal expert who will be responsible for drafting the regulation for endorsement to the Kosrae State Legislature. It is anticipated that the drafting of the regulation will occur in 4th Quarter, however, it remains unclear whether it will be possible to have it endorsed by December. Therefore, the

¹ Based on the FSM 2010 Census of Population and Housing

10K available through the project to support the start up of the PA fund will be cancelled and revisited again in 2020 once the regulation is approved.

- Adaptive Measures Identified to Address Issues

TOR aimed to complete by November 2019. Funds have been secured through the project for engagement of a local legal expert.

Output 2.2

- Achievements/Shortfalls

In Quarter 3, the Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization (KCSO) and the Division of Fisheries under the Department of Resources and Economic Affairs (DREA) complied a work plan for the development of Walung's MPA management plan. The plan also included activities necessary to establish monitoring sites for both the Walung and Awane MPAs. The proposed plan was approved on October 9, 2019 with consultations expected to roll out in October. Additionally, a signing ceremony for the endorsement of the Awane management plan is scheduled for October 2019. The gazzeting process is unlikely to complete by Quarter 4, therefore, project support will focus on endorsement of the MPA at the community level.

The necessary steps for re-establishing the management plan for the Malem MPA remains unclear. Although previously reported that the plan was approved back in 2018 and expecting its official endorsement through the PA legislation process, the only existing copy of the plan was lost, resulting in the loss of the entire management plan. As such, support from the project for the Malem MPA will be terminated until Kosrae is able to

- Adaptive Measures Identified to Address Issues

Project to work with KCSO and DREA to ensure that management planning activities with the Walung community are initiated within the remaining 4th Quarter as well as the signing ceremony for the Awane management plan.

Output 2.4

- Achievements/Shortfalls

With the inclusion of the Tafunsak MPA under the Kosrae Protected Area Law, Kosrae State has agreed to utilize project funds intended to run the CEAfM to complete two pending consultations for the Walung MPA (*refer to output 2.2*). Furthermore, the draft management plan for the Awane MPA is now complete and awaiting its signing ceremony in October.

The following activities will be terminated:

1. *Conduct trochus stock assessment in PAs around Kosrae's coastal waters;*
2. *Revisit and revise KCET Action Plan;*
3. *Participate in the annual enforcement training course; and*
4. *Coral reef monitoring.*

While the project is highly keen on supporting State initiatives that contribute to improved capacities and management of resources, there are those that are impossible to achieve unless the implementing agencies act on them. This is the case of the aforementioned project activities. They will be terminated due to limited time available within the current funding cycle.

The recruitment of 2 PA rangers is currently ongoing through the PIU. Although initially anticipated to conclude by July 2019, delays were due to limited number of applications. As such, completion of the recruitment process has been pushed back to October 2019.

- Adaptive Measures Identified to Address Issues

Interviews for Kosrae's PA Rangers are expected to commence beginning October 2019. Project to work with KIRMA to expedite execution of the service contracts.

2.2 Pohnpei

Output 1.1

- Achievements/Shortfalls

Following the submission of the first draft of the Pohnpei State IEMP in Quarter 2, the results of the IEMP were then presented to the Pohnpei State leadership in Quarter 3 to discuss ways to utilize the findings of the IEMP to inform the update of Pohnpei's Strategic Development Plan. A few gaps remain including the completion of the plan's monitoring and mitigation frameworks.

- Adaptive Measures Identified to Address Issues

Project to plan and execute a planning workshop with Pohnpei State's stakeholders to finalize the draft IEMP, and agree upon the coordination and implementing arrangements (e.g. Coordination Unit as recommendation by the SEA, alignment IEMP to existing plans). Final IEMP scheduled for submission to Barry by January 2020.

Output 1.3

One key assignment under the SEA is the engagement of a Resource Economist to facilitate a valuation of identified ecosystem services in Pohnpei State. The SEA team, therefore, was tasked to develop a work plan identifying key tasks to be delivered by the Resource Economist. Due to budget restrictions and limited time availability of the local economist consultant, economic analysis particularly assessment of the value of particular ecosystem services could not be undertaken within the timeframe of the SEA, but will be available later in 2020 as supplementary information.

Output 1.4

- Achievements/Shortfalls

The construction of Dry Litter Piggeries (DLP) in Pehleng are ongoing, although slight delays are expected due to the lack of a wood chipper. Progress within the reporting period includes the completion of two DLPs. A third DLP is currently under construction. Furthermore, a draft TOR was prepared by the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP) for the demarcation of the Pohnpei Watershed Forest Reserve within the Municipality of Kitti and rehabilitation of two degraded sites. Setbacks in finalizing the TOR was due to limited capacity within CSP.

- Adaptive Measures Identified to Address Issues

The biggest challenge faced by the project is the lack of an overall technical adviser tasked to assist with drafting of terms of references which are necessary to execute contracts between the project and its IPs. However, with the upcoming Steering Committee meeting on October 14, 2019, the project plans to secure endorsement from the SC to hire a technical mentor to help speed up the project's delivery rate.

Output 2.2

- Achievements/Shortfalls

The following activities pertaining to the demarcation of the Nett watershed have been delayed and will be cancelled due to limited capacity available in Pohnpei to concurrently carry out two major demarcation activities. They are as follows:

1. *Facilitate participatory awareness on watershed forest reserve in Nett Municipality*
2. *Develop a Demarcation Action Plan for Nett Watershed*
3. *Procure demarcation materials for Nett Watershed*

While the initial plan was to target demarcation of the two watersheds within the same year, it is clear that the amount of capacities available in-State are significantly limited. Therefore, project will be prioritizing the demarcation and rehabilitation of Kitti prior to moving on with Nett in 2020. This decision is solely based on the existing MOU between the Kitti Municipality and the Pohnpei State Government for the demarcation of its watershed. A TOR is available and under review. Actual demarcation is expected to commence once the scope of work is finalized.

Furthermore, two bills are currently pending within the Pohnpei State Legislature for the official establishment of Peniou and the Awak Watershed Basin as an MPA sites. Though limited progress has been made to support the endorsement of both bills, in Quarter 3 the project engaged with MCT to identify ways forward in securing buy-in from key members of the Pohnpei State Legislature in passing the Awak Basin bill. A meeting is planned for Quarter 4 with the communities of Peniou and Awak to further discuss support from the project in pushing the bills forward.

- Adaptive Measures Identified to Address Issues

The priority for the upcoming Quarter 4 will be to (1) finalize the TOR for the rehabilitation of the Kitti watershed and (2) facilitate planning meeting with the communities of Peniou and Awak. The TOR is expected to finalize by October followed by the community planning meetings.

Output 2.3

- Achievements/Shortfalls

The baseline ecological surveys for newly demarcated watershed boundaries is a project activity scheduled to accompany the demarcation activities through CSP for the Kitti Watershed. This is currently pending completion of the demarcation of the Kitti Watershed Forest Reserve. While it is clear that the demarcation activities will not conclude until end of 2020, the baseline ecological survey is still a critical project activity that will be cancelled and revisited again post completion of the demarcation activities.

Output 2.4.

- Achievements/Shortfalls

In Quarter 3, the project implemented the Pohnpei Cross-Site learning exchanged through CSP. This year's learning exchange received participation from MPA communities from Yap, Chuuk and Kosrae through funding support from the Pacific Community (SPC). Refer to *Page 4 of Annex I* for more information on the Cross-Site learning exchange.

2.3 Chuuk

Output 1.4

- Achievements/Shortfalls

The rehabilitation of the Nefo watershed is still ongoing, although very delayed. In Quarter 3, the Chuuk Women Council (CWC) facilitated an assessment to identify issues disrupting the quality of the watershed. Preliminary findings indicate that the area is highly prone to soil erosion and invested by alien invasive species. Therefore, the rehabilitation methodology identified is replanting of viable tree crops to help control further spread of the IAS and soil erosion. The timeframe of the rehabilitation has been extended to FY2020, with the forest inventory, tree planting campaign and the M&E training anticipated to continue into Quarter 1 of 2020.

Additionally, in Quarter 3, planning work for the rehabilitation of Chuuk's mangrove sites in Fefan and Oneisomw concluded with a draft work plan. Both rehabilitation activities are scheduled for execution in October 2019. Furthermore, to promote sustainable solid waste management practices in Chuuk, the Cooperation Research Extension (CRE) of the College of Micronesia (COM) Chuuk Campus developed 6 awareness materials covering waste management and mangrove protection to be distributed during the rehabilitation phase. A training on how to maintain nurseries will also accompany the rehabilitation activities.

The moratorium on sale of mangroves will be shifting its focus to livelihood trainings. Most of Chuuk's resources are privately owned and managed. It is impossible to impose moratoriums on privately owned lands due to land rights. Instead, the project will focus its efforts on training communities on how to sew and garden so they can resource to other income-generating activities rather than selling of mangrove trees for firewood.

After multiple attempts to conduct water tests to support the identification of a DLP site, Chuuk will no longer be engaging in DLP activities. Instead, the project will focus interventions on sedimentation control activities planned for 2020.

- Adaptive Measures Identified to Address Issues

Delays in the execution of the rehabilitation activities were due to the timing of submission of purchase requisitions. At the time of submission, the PIU team was in Fiji attending a GEF/UNDP meeting. This affected the project's delivery with key staff being out of the office to ensure timely processing of payments. Project, however, is working diligently with the Department of Finance to expedite the needed purchase orders.

Output 2.1

- Achievements/Shortfalls

With the recent hiring of the Chuuk State PAN Coordinator in Quarter 3, the project's awareness and education efforts on the Chuuk State PAN law are now scheduled to commence along with the rehabilitation of mangrove sites in Fefen and Onei. The team tasked to lead the rehabilitation work will be conducting outreach activities to create better awareness on the Chuuk State PAN law.

Further, in Quarter 2, the Chuuk Conservation Society (CCS) submitted a proposed a plan for the Tol Area of Biological Significance (ABS) Review. Implementation, however, did not occur due to the resignation of the assigned lead staff. Multiple attempts have been made by the project to support execution of the ABS Review with no success due to limited human resources. In Quarter 2, DOA was assigned as the new lead IP. Planning concluded in Quarter 3 with new implementation dates scheduled for October 15 – 17, 2019.

- Adaptive Measures Identified to Address Issues

Coordinator to continue providing support to the PAN coordinator to ensure timely execution of the planned outreach activities on the PAN Law, as well as expedite processing of pending payments in collaboration with the PIU.

Output 2.2

- Achievements/Shortfalls

In Quarter 3, the Chuuk State PAN Coordinator began working with the Chuuk State Legal Services to draft an MOU for Chuuk's Protected Area (PA) Fund. The purpose of the MOU is to ensure funds allocated from the R2R project are strictly used to support the establishment and enforcement of PAs. Priority tasks moving forward will include a meeting with the Chuuk State Governor to secure a directive for the establishment and formalization of the PAN Steering Committee. The PAN Steering Committee is key to operationalizing Chuuk State's PAN and will be responsible for reviewing applications for expansion of Chuuk's PA network.

Prior to the project's Midterm Review in Quarter 2, the project through its State Coordinator, facilitated a review of Chuuk State's PAs. During the process, stakeholders identified and verified the status of the project's PA sites in Chuuk. Refer to 2019 PIR for further updates on the status of PAs in the FSM. Furthermore, the gazetting of 1 PA site will not be undertaken in FY19 due to limited time available within the current funding cycle.

- Adaptive Measures Identified to Address Issues

The challenge remains that in order to establish the PA Fund, a regulation and a steering committee must be in place to support the release of the funds allocated from the R2R project. Discussions have been initiated for possible engagement of the Chuuk State Legal Services in drafting of the needed PAN regulation, given its involvement in the drafting of the PAN Fund MOU between national and Chuuk State government. However, it remains unclear considering the MOU is still pending.

Output 2.3

- Achievements/Shortfalls

Facilitation of Chuuk State's socio-economic survey remains delayed due to the recent departure of the SEM coordinator placed within CCS. The SEM Coordinator is the only staff in Chuuk trained to facilitate the survey. With the absence of the needed skills, it is highly unlikely that the survey will conclude by December thus will be terminated. Furthermore, in July 2019, DMR in partnership with the University of Guam (UOG), LEED University and the Micronesia Conservation Trust completed the collection of coral reef data funded by the R2R Project (refer to *Page 3 of Annex 1* for more information). A preliminary report has been available through LEEDS University. The final report still pending its completion by UOG.

Additionally, the demarcation of MPAs in Chuuk, scheduled for Quarter 3, was delayed due to human resources constraints within DMR. There is currently one person responsible for deployment of FADs and demarcation within DMR. His long absence in Quarter 3 caused a disruption to DMR's demarcation activities, resulting in its overall delay.

- Adaptive Measures Identified to Address Issues

Although the collection of coral reef data in Chuuk completed in Quarter 3, the final report is yet to be available. Thus, as owners of the data, it is critical for DMR to continue following up with UOG to expedite the release of the final report. Likewise, it is also important that the Coordinator continues to work closely with the PIU by ensuring timely submission of PRs. It is apparent that majority of activities within the current quarter were affected by delays in release of funds. This highlights the importance of better planning and submission of requests to ensure timely delivery of project activities.

Output 2.4

- Achievements/Shortfalls

The construction of the surveillance and enforcement guardhouse for Fefen is still pending due to lack of the required co-financing from the Chuuk State Government. Its anticipated time of completion remains unclear and with the limited time remaining, it is unlikely to complete by December 2019. Therefore, the construction of the guardhouse will be terminated.

Yap

Output 1.4

- Achievements/Shortfalls

The project's effort to restore stream banks in Yap is still ongoing, although delayed. The community of Okaw within the Municipality of Weloy has been identified by DAF as the pilot site. The actual installment of the project's gabion wire mesh has yet to commence due to delays in completion of a TOR that will combine both the stream bank restoration and rehabilitation of the Weloy Watershed. The TOR has been provided to the PIU for review and is pending the following (1) agreement between the community leaders on the size of the stream bank to be restored; and (2) revision of the TOR based on comments from the PIU.

Planning for restoration of upland watersheds and wetlands is ongoing in Yap for two sites: Weloy and Tamil. Currently, there is ongoing work on the TOR for the restoration work in the Weloy Watershed. Draft of the TOR including a work plans have been provided to the PIU for further review. While the development of a TOR for the rehabilitation work in the Tamil Watershed is yet to be drafted, a work plan has been completed. Final versions of all the aforementioned key documents will be provided in the next progress report.

Additionally, In Quarter 2 the project completed a household survey in the Danchngar area (DLP site in Yap) to establish the baseline data for households with piggeries within the project site. Following the survey were outreach activities to (1) increase awareness in the community on the impacts of pig waste on water quality; and (2) leverage buy-in from community members to the Dry Litter Piggery method. Given the size of DAF's pigpen and its location being within the project

site, project will be converting DAF's pigpen (largest pigpen within the site) and utilizing it as a demonstration site for DLPs. Support from the project will include construction of a compost bin given this is the only component from the DLP design that DAF's piggery lacks. This will be followed by a Dry Litter training for stakeholders in Quarter 4.

- Adaptive Measures Identified to Address Issues

PIU to work with the community of Okaw all pending TORs impeding project implementation.

Output 2.1

- Achievements/Shortfalls

The YAP PAN regulation has yet to be approved by the Yap State Government, due to the recent change in leadership. As such, the following PAN-related activities will be on hold until FY2020.

1. *Development of Yap PAN criteria to support PA management decision support system*
2. *PAN review, enhancement and expansion; and*
3. *Management effectiveness determined and best practices promoted in PAs*

With only three months remaining in FY19, it is almost impossible to fully implement the above three activities. As such, Quarter 4 will be focused on having the PAN regulation endorsed.

- Adaptive Measures Identified to Address Issues

The Department of Resources and Development (R&D) is the main focal point for the PAN in Yap. R&D, in collaboration with State partner agencies and NGOs, is currently working with the Attorney General's office to review and advise on the PAN legislation before presenting back to the Governor for his consideration. If sanctioned, the legislation will be announced for 30 days to allow the public the opportunity to dispute the regulation prior to its endorsement.

Output 2.2

- Achievements/Shortfalls

Refer to output 2.2.

Output 2.3

- Achievements/Shortfalls

Development of a TOR for the bird survey in Yap is currently ongoing and spearheaded by the PIU. The concept note has been developed, however, because of the MTR, there was a delay in finalizing the methodology to be used, potential dates, and converting the model into a TOR format. With three months remaining, it is clear that the Bird Survey will not be executed as scheduled. However, PIU will aim to finalize the TOR in Quarter 4 with assistance from Birdlife International so implementation can take place in FY2020.

- Adaptive Measures Identified to Address Issues

Mr. Mark O'brien from the Birdlife International, who is currently providing technical assistance to the project on the development of the TOR, is working on adjustments to the concept and methodology. Although the execution date has yet to be confirmed, it is clear that the bird survey will not happen until 2020.

Output 2.4

- Achievements/Shortfalls

In Quarter 2, Dr. Reed Perkins led a group of students from the Queens University of Charlotte, North Carolina, on a mission aimed to assist Yap State Government departments/agencies, NGOs and communities with GIS-mapping needs for on-going projects. In collaboration with the State Coordinator, a map of Gachpar, Gagil was produced by the students to support the development of its management plan. In addition, the map for Tamil's MMA was refined through some overlay work to indicate a no-take zone on the southern part of the PA. The adjustments will be incorporated into Tamil's management plan which is up for revision. The municipality of Gagil has a population of 716² (375 of which are male and 341 females). It is unclear how many of the total population are from the community of Gachpar. Tomil has a population of 897³ (449 males and 448 females).

Community awareness and outreach on PAs are currently being led by the project Marine Aid Technician and Evaluators (MATEs), based with the Yap Community Action Program (YapCAP). The focal point for Riken has been engaged to plan and schedule a date for awareness activities to be conducted by the resource management team (consisting of YapCAP, R2R and R&D's Division of Marine Resources Management) within the community.

The project efforts to revise at least 2 management plans, although delayed, are also ongoing. The target site, Tamil, is currently undertaking a socio-economic survey through MCT. Upon completion and analysis of the survey results, the R2R project with technical support from TNC, will lead the revision process aimed to identify what needs to be updated and revised within the management plan. The survey result is expected to be available between September to October 2019.

Due to delays in the official endorsement of the Yap State PAN regulation, project efforts of promoting best practices of PA management (which includes supporting the PAN Coordinator in facilitating 2 MPAME tool trainings for community MPAs) have been delayed. These activities were proposed under the assumption that the PAN Coordinator would be hired beginning 2019. However, with the delay of the approval of the PAN legislation, the PAN Coordinator has yet to be hired.

- Adaptive Measures Identified to Address Issues

Project to begin planning process for the revision of Tamil's management plan while the survey results are being analyzed. Furthermore, project to discuss with R&D on how the project can support in driving the PAN process in Yap.

3. Budget

The proposed budget for Quarter 4 of the FSM Ridge to Reef Project Fiscal Year 2019 is USD 323,449.07. This proposed budget is based on the revised 2019 AWP.

² Based on the 2000 FSM Census of Yap

³ Based on the 2000 FSM Census of Yap

National	Kosrae	Pohnpei	Chuuk	Yap
Recruitment of State Technical Officers	Conduct Community Awareness on the Sanitary Pigpen Regulation	IEMP planning gaps workshop	Mangrove Forest Assessment	Construction of DLPs in Dachngar
FSM PAN Operations Manual	Rehabilitation of Wetlands/Mangroves	Construction of DLPs in Pehleng	Livelihood Trainings for Moratorium on Sale of Mangroves	Compost Shed extension
Recruitment of Communications Specialist	Tree planting for eroded coastal areas	Procurement of Chipper for Pohnpei State	Community Clean Ups	Tamil and Weloy watersheds restoration
Recruitment of a Chief Technical Adviser	Recruitment of legal expert for drafting of PA fund regulation	Rehabilitation of at least 2 degraded critical ecosystems	Promotion of sustainable solid waste management practices	Solid Waste Management
	Support community endorsement of Awane and Walung MPAs and establishment of monitoring sites	Planning meeting with Peniou and Awak Communities	Rehabilitaiton of Nefo Forest	Assist Gachpar to develop a management plan and review and update and existing community MPA plan
	Recruitment of PA Rangers	Demarcation of Kitti Watershed Forest Reserve	Awareness and education on PAN law	Conduct community awareness and outreach on PAs with communities for potential new PA site (Riken)
	Support workshop for KCET on PAs and environmental laws and regulations		Tol ABS review	Conduct community consultations with two communities (Nimpal and Tamil) to revise their management plans
			Consultations on Coral Reef Monitoring results	Coral Reef Monitoring
			Demarcation of MPAs	

4. Summary

The highlights of Quarter 3 include (1) the R2R planning meeting conducted to assess the progress of the project at its midterm phase; (2) the participation of the project to the the GEF ECW workshop and the Regional Steering Committee Meeting; (3) the graduation of 3 GEF STAR funded students from the R2R Sustainable Development Post Graduate Program through JCU; (4) the verification of PA statuses in Chuuk and completion of coral reef data collection;

and execution of the Cross-site learning exchange in Pohnpei State which included visiting participants from the other three States of the FSM.

Challenges within Quarter 3 include delays in majority of the project's key rehabilitation activities. The overall setback is due to limited capacity to develop terms of references for the required restoration work. One key challenge is the constant change in priorities by the States. This is demonstrated in the number of activities that have been terminated this quarter due to limited time available to fully implement activities and sudden changes in priorities; etc.

Annex 1: Quarter 3 Newsletter



FSM Ridge to Reef Project Newsletter

GEF's Expanded Constituency Workshop in Nadi, Fiji



Photo Courtesy of the GEF Secretariat.

On July 22-25, 2019, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Secretariat convened its Expanded Constituency Workshop (ECW) in Nadi, Fiji with participation from GEF National Focal Points, Convention Focal Points and other key stakeholders including the Civil Society. The objective of the ECW is to provide key stakeholders with updates on GEF strategies, policies and procedures. It also serves as a platform for GEF partners to discuss and review policies and procedures, and share experiences from GEF projects and their integration within national policy frameworks.

The FSM Delegation included Ms. Cynthia H. Ehmes and Mr. Jeem Lippwe, the former representing the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECCEM) and latter representing the Department of Foreign Affairs as the GEF operational and political focal points, Ms. Rosalinda Yatilman and Ms. Vanessa Fread, representing the GEF FSM Ridge to Reef (R2R) Project, Mr. Eugene Joseph from the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP) and Mr. Santiago Joab Jr. from the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT), representing the Civil Society, Ms. Christina Fillmed from the Yap Environmental Protection Agency and Mr. Dave Mathias from the Department of Resources and Development (R&D), representing R&D as the focal point for the Convention on Biological Diversity. As recipients of GEF funds — the ECW is highly crucial to understanding GEF's programming strategies for projects and programs and policies for agency fees, co-financing, stakeholder engagement, gender equality and environmental and social safeguards — for better planning of future GEF projects.

FSM Completes R2R Sustainable Development Post Graduate Program



Photo courtesy of the Pacific Community (SPC)

On July 31, 2019, five staff from the ongoing FSM Regional and National R2R projects and the Micronesia Red Cross Chapter in Kosrae graduated from the Ridge to Reef Sustainable Development Post Graduate Program through James Cook University (JCU), making the FSM cohort one of the largest groups of approximately 30 Pacific Islanders that graduated from the program.

Kosrae State's Ms. Faith Siba, Mr. Marston Luckymis and Mr. Hans Skilling, Pohnpei State's Mr. Jorg Anson and Yap State's Ms. Rosalinda Yatilman were part of the graduation ceremony which the JCU Deputy Vice Chancellor of Tropical Environments and Societies, Professor Marcus Lane, presented each graduate with a postgraduate certificate. The ceremony celebrated two years of hard work and tremendous commitment to their online and classroom studies, which was on top of their regular day-to-day careers in public service.

The intensive postgraduate program is a component under the GEF Ridge to Reef Program aimed to enhance integrated whole-of-system management capacity in Pacific Island Countries, underpinning effective action for sustainable biological, social, and economic resilience. The ceremony was held at the conclusion of the Pacific R2R 4th Regional Steering Committee.

4th R2R Regional Steering Committee Meeting



Photo Courtesy of the Pacific Ridge to Reef Project Coordination Unit.

Delegations from 14 Pacific SIDS involved with the implementation of the Pacific Ridge to Reef Program gathered in Nadi, Fiji for the 4th Regional R2R Project Steering Committee (RPSC) meeting from July 30-31, 2019. Representing the FSM was a delegation from DECCEM including Ms. Cynthia H. Ehmes, Assistant Secretary for the Division of Environment and Ms. Rosalinda Yatilman, Project Manager for the FSM R2R Project. From the Department of Resources and Development (R&D) was Ms. Vanessa Fread, Technical Coordinator for the R2R Project. The Kosrae

Conservation and Society Organization (KCSO) was represented by Mr. Andy George, Executive Director, and Ms. Faith Siba, IW R2R Project Manager. KCSO is the lead implementing entity of the IW R2R project in Kosrae.

The RPSC reviewed the recently completed Mid Term Review (MTR) of the Pacific R2R Program and its implications on both the national IW and STAR R2R projects. Countries were given the opportunity to provide feedback to the management responses, and discuss key decisions including collaboration on compilation of R2R lessons learned and adoption of a unified reporting template. Countries also

presented on the progress of their joint national activities, highlighting implementation successes, challenges, and submitted proposals for consideration by the RPSC.

Prior to the official opening of the meeting on July 29, 2019, the RPSC facilitated a session on the Most Significant Change (MSC) technique, a key M&E tool for evaluating success of project interventions. The session included an exercise where countries assessed stories submitted by the 14 countries using 13 assessment tools. FSM's story made it to the sub-regional level to compete against Fiji, representing Melanesia, and Tonga, representing Polynesia. By undertaking the exercise, participants were encouraged to collect and analyze data to better understand the impacts generated by project interventions.



Photo Courtesy of the Pacific Ridge to Reef Project Coordination Unit.

R2R Project Commences State Planning Meeting post its Mid Term Review



On September 17-19, 2019, the R2R Project Implementation Unit (PIU) convened a planning workshop in Pohnpei to review and assess the progress of the project at its midterm phase. Delegations from the four States include project focal points, State Coordinators, technical staff, local NGOs, community representatives, other implementing partners at State level and affiliated key partners including regional NGOs, National and CROP agencies.

A fundamental objective of the workshop was to review the findings and recommendations of the project's recently completed Mid Term Review and invite stakeholders to provide feedback to the management responses developed. Facilitated by Mr. Floyd Robinson from the UNDP Pacific Country Office with support from the PIU, the review of the MTR management responses was crucial in securing strong ownership of the proposed post MTR actions by all relevant stakeholders.

In response to the MTR recommendations, UNDP's Regional Technical Advisor, Ms. Lisa Farroway, also facilitated a session aimed to review and refine the project's strategic results framework, particularly its indicators, baseline data, outputs and targets. The goal was to have a revised logframe that reflects priority interventions (at State and National level) that are realistic and achievable by end of the project.

The final exercise of the planning workshop was a State planning session where each of the four delegations regrouped to discuss and prioritize actions moving forward including project sites and specific interventions based on the revised draft strategic results framework. With such high level of autonomy to each individual state, it was recognized that the work planning will need to continue at States level to ensure that feedback from all relevant stakeholders are captured.



Participating agencies include DECEM, FSM R&D, State EPAs, KIRMA, DREA, Chuuk DMR, Chuuk DOA, Yap and Pohnpei R&D, MCT, TNC, SPC, KCSO, CSP, CCS, Chuuk State Legislature, Kosrae Council of Mayors, and community representatives for TRCT, Oneismow, and the Pohnpei MPA Network Executive Committee.

“Areho, Polynesia Natural and Cultural Heritage” Workshop in Tahiti

On August 26-30, 2019, the French-Polynesia government held the “Areho, Polynesian Natural and Cultural Heritage” regional workshop in Tahiti. The workshop was an effort to strengthen cooperation and regional links between Pacific Countries that share a common vision for the conservation of natural pacific heritage.

Representing the FSM Ridge to Reef (R2R) project was Ms. Debra Laan, the Yap State R2R Coordinator. As part of her involvement, Ms. Laan shared experiences of the project on terrestrial biodiversity conservation in the FSM, including other activities on Pohnpei's endemic snails – *Partula Emersoni* and *Partula Guamensis*. The information presented on the Pohnpei snails was sourced from survey reports published by Rebecca J. Rundell & Jesse E. Czekanski-Moir and Peltin Olter Pelep & Michael G. Hadfield.



Photo courtesy of the Department of Environment, French-Polynesia Government

The workshop provided the opportunity for participants to learn from scientists and experts, share lessons learned and best practices for management of endangered species, with a focus on terrestrial biodiversity through conservation of arboreal snails. A field trip was also organized for the participants to visit a conservation area on Moorea Island where dozens of snails were released in 2015 after nearly 30 years of being protected.

Enhancing Protected Area Management in Yap



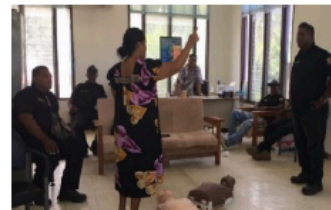
The R2R project, in its effort to support communities with protected area management, partnered with visiting professors and students from the Queens University of Charlotte in North Carolina to plot boundary lines of selected PAs using drones. As a result of the partnership, high resolution photos and maps were produced to help guide management planning processes in Yap. The R2R project and its implementing partners in Yap wishes to acknowledge the Queens University of Charlotte for its partnership and successful turn of events.

First-Response Training for Marine Conservation Officers (COs)

With the endorsement of the Chuuk State Protected Area Network (PAN) Law in 2018, a PAN Coordinator for Chuuk State was recruited in August 2019 through the Micronesia Conservation Trust to support partner agencies and stakeholders on PAN-related activities in conjunction with the National PA network. The PAN coordinator will be working closely with the Chuuk State R2R Coordinator to implement PA activities funded by the R2R project.

The first joint effort for the R2R and PAN Coordinators occurred on August 13, 2019 through a First-Response training conducted for marine conservation officers employed by the Chuuk Department of Marine Resources' (DMR). The training

aimed to equip the conservation officers with knowledge and skills for handling victims who have recently experienced traumatic events in the water or on land. Given DMR's role on the



Chuuk State First Responder team, the training was highly crucial to preparing and ensuring COs are trained and familiar with basic first-response protocols and procedures.

Micronesia Cleanup Day in Weno



In July 2019, the Micronesian Islands Forum leadership proclaimed September 13 as Micronesia Clean Up Day. Thus, on September 13, 2019, the Chuuk Conservation Society, Island PRIDE, Department of Marine Resources, Ridge to Reef Project, Chuuk Women's Council and the St. Cecilia Elementary School joined the rest of the Micronesia island communities for the inaugural Micronesia Clean Up day in a simultaneous drive against garbage in the region. The group joined together in Tunnuk to clean around the causeway and repaint a bridge covered in graffiti.

Coral Reef Monitoring



Coral Reef Monitoring is an ongoing program led by the Chuuk Department of Marine Resources. This year, with joined funding support from the R2R Project, the University of Guam and the University of Leeds in the UK, a team consisting of graduate students from Leeds, the R2R State Coordinator, UOG, Chuuk Conservation Society and the Department of Marine Resources undertook the collection of data for 32 sites in Chuuk spanning over a 15-days period. The information collected will be stored in the Micronesia Challenge database stored at UOG and analyzed by UOG and Leeds experts. Results will be shared with community, municipal and state leaderships to inform management and sound decision-making in Chuuk.

Kosrae to Strengthen Enforcement of Pigpen Regulations



One of Kosrae State's key activities under the R2R project's sustainable land management component is to strengthen the enforcement of the 1997 Sanitary Pigpen Regulation to help improve the quality of water within Kosrae's rivers and streams. As such, on September 10, 2019, the R2R project facilitated a workshop with key agencies responsible for the enforcement the pigpen regulation. The objective of the workshop was to review the pigpen regulation, identify existing gaps, validate roles and responsibilities of key agencies and develop an action plan to strengthen the enforcement of the Sanitary Pigpen Regulation.

Three issues were raised and captured during the workshop including (1) lack of enforcement; limited awareness and outreach; and (3) the fact that the regulation is outdated. As a way of identifying potential solutions to address the 3 key gaps, participants split into three separate groups to further discuss each issue, identify and consider potential actions/ solutions and present back to the participants for further deliberations.

Next steps will include further review of the regulation and consultations with the Kosrae Attorney General's Office to facilitate amendment of Kosrae's pigpen regulation.

2019's Annual Cross-Site Visit



Through funding support from the R2R project and the Pacific Community (SPC), the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP), with support from State and NGO partners, facilitated a learning exchange for the Pohnpei Protected Areas Network, also known locally as the Annual Cross-Site Visit (CSV). This year marks the 17th Annual Cross-Site Visit and was hosted by the Palikir Marine Protected Area (MPA) community of Sokehs. The two-day event was held at the Nihco Marine Park on September 27-28, 2019. Present at the CSV were communities from Sapwitik MPA, Depehk/Takaiou MPA, Nanwap MPA, Peniou MPA, Nahtik MPA, Palikir MPA and Pakin MPA.

The guiding theme for the 17th CSV was "*Mobilizing Pohnpei Communities to be Resilient to Climate Change*", reflecting ongoing State-wide efforts for advocating and creating awareness within communities on the impacts of climate change and ways to mitigate and adapt to them. Protected Areas on Pohnpei State are no exception, given the recent outbreak of coral bleaching found on reefs throughout the island.

Day 1 commenced with an opening remark from the Director of CSP, Mr. Eugene Joseph, reiterating the need for communities to be more proactive in managing their respective protected areas given the inconsistencies in support from the Governments for implementation of community action plans.

Each community site reported the successes and challenges they faced since last year's annual CSV. Across the board, it was clear that certain activities were successful i.e. those independent of technical support and procurement of assets such as ad hoc capacity building trainings delivered in certain communities. Challenges raised include the lack of funding support to implement their respective action plans.

This year's event received participants from each of the three sister States of the Federated States of Micronesia: Thomas Gorong and Aloysius Guchbuw from Yap, Enjoy Rain from Chuuk, Bond Segal and Larry Alik from Kosrae. These participants were funded by the SPC. Watisoni Lalavanua from SPC also attended in support of ongoing synergies with CSP on effective management of Protected Areas. During their presentations, the visiting community representatives expressed interest in replicating Pohnpei's Protected Areas Network within their respective States.

Day 2 began with a keynote address from the Speaker of the Pohnpei State Legislature, the Honorable Ausen T. Lambert, a long time representative of Sokehs Municipality with a lot of knowledge of State Public Laws associated with natural resource management. In his address, Mr. Speaker highlighted the role of human communities in safeguarding the blessings and creations found in Pohnpei's natural environment. Each of the sites then broke out into groups to work on their respective 2020 annual work plans. The event ended with the sharing of the respective work plans to the group.



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