



FSM RIDGE TO REEF PROJECT NEWSLETTER

About the R2R Project:

Funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and executed by the FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECCEM), the goal of the Ridge to Reef (R2R) project is to implement an integrated R2R approach to enhance ecosystem services, to conserve globally important biodiversity and to sustain local livelihoods in the FSM.

Marine and terrestrial biodiversity and ecosystem services underpin social well-being and the economy of the FSM, and are vital to food security. These resources and services, however, are currently being undermined by unsustainable natural resource use and practices; spread of invasive alien species; the impacts of climate change; and, the limitations of government to effectively implement its programs and policies.

The project is designed to engineer a paradigm shift in the approach to and management of natural resources from an ad-hoc species/site/problem centric approach to a holistic ecosystem-based management "ridge to reef" approach guided by planning and management process that are informed by actual data. The shift to an ecosystem-base approach within National and State governments will ensure that whole island systems are managed to enhance ecosystem goods and services, to conserve globally important biodiversity and to sustain local livelihoods.

FSM Ridge to Reef Project commences the Strategic Environmental Assessment for Pohnpei State



On March 13 - 26, 2019, the FSM Ridge to Reef Project, led by the Pohnpei State Environmental Protection Agency (Pohnpei EPA), commenced its Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Analysis Workshop at the Pohnpei State Governor's Conference Room. Over 40 participants representing State and National Governments, NGOs, regional agencies and other community based organizations participated in the 2-weeks intensive workshop.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a new concept in the FSM that has never been previously applied. It is an analytical and participatory approach applied to policies, plans and programs at the very earliest stages of decision-making to integrate environmental considerations and evaluate the inter linkages with economic and social considerations. This ambitious assignment is a large component under the R2R project, aimed to protect the environment, demonstrate approaches to foster sustainable development and provide better understanding of links between terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems to improve sustainable land use and protected area management in the FSM.

During the workshop, participants assessed the environmental and socio-economic impacts of developments and activities likely to arise for fisheries, agriculture and tourism under the four growth scenarios, and identified what needs to be done to minimize and mitigate these. The next course of action will be to draft and finalize the SEA report and the Integrated Environmental Management Plan (IEMP) for Pohnpei. Pohnpei participants implementing the IEMP in the near future.

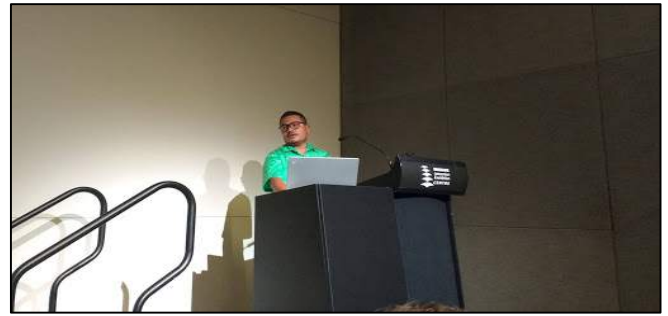


R2R Project launches its Midterm Evaluation (MTE) with State, National and Regional Partners

On April 4-16, 2019, the R2R project conducted its Midterm Evaluation (MTE) with key stakeholders from State and National governments, NGOs and regional experts to assess its progress to date and identify changes required to keep the project on the most direct route toward achieving its objectives and expected results. The review was followed by a debriefing on April 17, 2019 with the project's Steering Committee to share and discuss the initial findings of the MTE. The projects MTE report is due to finalize in July 2019.

R2R Project participates in the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) Conference in Brisbane

Pohnpei State Coordinator, Mr. Jorg Anson, presented a talk entitled *"The Challenges of Promoting Strategic Environmental Assessments in Small Island States: Case of the Federated States of Micronesia"* which summarized experiences of Pohnpei State while undertaking the SEA. The purpose of the SEA to support the project's goal of achieving integrated land and sea management. Pohnpei State is currently piloting the SEA in the FSM.



The upcoming GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop (ECW) and the Regional R2R Steering Committee Meeting will be held in Nadi, Fiji from July 22-24 and

R2R Funded Compost Shed for the Division of Agriculture and Forestry Completes



On April 26, 2019, the Westside Inc. in Yap completed the construction of a compost shed facility for the Division of Agriculture and Forestry (DAF), Yap State Department of Resources and Development (R&D). The state of Yap is known for its poor soil qualities, consisting mainly of volcanic materials, rocks and clays. Funded by the FSM R2R project, the compost shed facility will be operated by DAF to supply communities with compost materials to help improve biological, chemical, and physical characteristics of soil, particularly in degraded savannah land areas and other highly degraded sites targeted by the project for rehabilitation. The facility will also contribute to food security in Yap through improved soil quality for locally produced crops.

Pisiwi Island Clean Up with Students of Akoyikoyi Elementary School

The Pisiwi clean-up team, comprising of the Department of Marine Resources (DMR), the Chuuk State R2R Coordinator, Chuuk Conservation Society (CCS) and Chuuk Women's Council (CWC) set out with more than 20 students and four teachers to the island of Pisiwi for a Beach clean-up effort.

More than 50% of the population of Chuuk visit Pisiwi for picnics, camping and other recreational activities. Over the years, what was once a pristine little island has become accumulated with all types of waste due to lack proper waste disposal from visitors, including waste floating from neighboring islands that ended up on Pisiwi's beaches.

The clean up team took on the challenge in an effort to restore Pisiwi's natural beauty to ensure it remains accessible for public use. But most importantly, to help promote understanding among young students on why it is critical to properly dispose waste in designated areas, build understanding around the environmental impacts of waste on terrestrial resources and marine species, and to educate the students on the various types of ecosystems on and around the island.

On the day of the clean up, a mini orientation was conducted to enforce the team's ground rules and remind the students on why the effort was highly critical. To ensure everyone's safety, life jackets were distributed prior to setting out on boats to Pisiwi. Upon arrival, the students formed two groups and set out to collect trash beginning with the beach area and worked their way inland. A total of 26 (45 gallons) trash bags were



collected and transported back to Weno for proper disposal, turning what was once an eyesore back to its natural beauty. It is with hope that future visitors recognize the hard work of the team and continue to maintain the cleanliness of the island.

The team also hopes to continue this effort by working with other schools in creating Earth Councils and encouraging other young minds to take initiative in ensuring the sustainability of Chuuk's natural resources and the long-term use of those resources.

The Pisiwi clean-up team would like to acknowledge Island PRIDE for its generosity and support, Akoyikoyi's Earth Council, the student volunteers and teachers for willingly joining to support and assist and the team members from CWC, DMR and CCS for their continuous efforts and never-ending team spirit

47th World Environment Day in Kosrae

On June 5, 2019, the Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority (KIRMA), in collaboration with in collaboration with the FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Emergency Management (DECCEM), State Government and NGO partners, conducted a coastal clean-up in Utwe in observation of the 47th World Environment Day (WED). This year's theme was *"air pollution"*. The 200

participants include community members from Utwe Municipality, the Utwe Municipal Government, FSM-Ridge to Reef Project, Department of Transportation & Infrastructure, Department of Resources and Economic Affairs, Department of Health, Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization, Kosrae Association of Tour Operators, Kosrae Women Association, International Organization for Migration and Pacific Resources for Education and Learning.



Funded under the R2R Project, the coastal cleanup was an effort that aims to support the protection of biodiversity through improved waste management and pollution control in Kosrae. At 8am, participants gathered at the Utwe Municipal Office for a brief opening remark from the Director of KIRMA, Mr. Blair Charley. In his remark, Mr. Charley stated that the observation of WED rotates every year around the different communities in Kosrae. This year's event in Utwe is intended to promote a safe and clean environment through discouraging the burning and disposal of trash into Kosrae's coastal and marine environment.

An overview of the main activities of the day was also shared to help guide and ensure the safety of the participants. Prior to being deployed, participants were provided with promotional t-shirts and bumper stickers to recognize their support for the event. The clean up included removal of car wrecks and tons of other types of solid waste found on the coastal areas of Utwe. A total of 16 car wrecks were removed in addition to 17 other car wrecks that were collected on May 31 - totaling 33 car wrecks removed from Utwe. Roughly 14,946 gallons of other types of solid waste were collected and transported to the dumpsite for proper handling and disposal.



Following the clean-up, a question and answer (Q&A) session was streamed live on the radio to raise more awareness among the general public around air pollution, its environmental impacts and how citizens can reduce their contribution to the issue.

The people of Utwe would like to acknowledge the support and assistance from KIRMA, DECEM and all partners including state government agencies and NGOs who participated in the cleanup. Additionally, KIRMA and the FSM Ridge to Reef Project would like to extend their sincere appreciation to all partners for their support and collaboration in ensuring a successful event.

Most Significant Change Story

"Dry Litter Piggeries in Kosrae"



My name is Blair P. Charley. I'm from Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia. I am the Administrator for the Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority (KIRMA). I became involved with the Ridge to Reef (R2R) project 2016. At that time, I was the R2R

State Coordinator for the project. Since then, my involvement has continued through KIRMA as the focal-point for the R2R in Kosrae.

Some changes that have resulted from the R2R project include improved collaboration between National and State governments, revival of the Kosrae Conservation and Environment Taskforce (KCET) to support enforcement of environmental laws, greater awareness and buy-in from stakeholders on the dry litter piggery technology, improved working relationships between government, NGOs and communities, etc.

Among all, I would say the dry litter piggery (DLP) efforts of the project has created the most impact in Kosrae. The project selected four farmers to pilot DLPs in each of the municipalities

in Kosrae and funded trainings for farmers on the operation of DLPs, including the use of compost as fertilizers. The basis of having a state-wide demonstration of the dry litter piggery method was significant to ensuring wider education and awareness on the benefits of DLPs, as well as leverage support for sustainable farming practices such as the use of compost fertilizers. This effort has gained so much interest among the general public that the FSM Congress recently appropriated 20K to support further expansion of DLPs in Kosrae.

Prior to the Project Inception, there were no DLPs in Kosrae. We've heard stories of a successful DLP project in Uh, Pohnpei State, where famers can borrow from its revolving fund to construct their piggeries and pay back by selling their compost fertilizers. This financing mechanism not only helped maintain the funds to further expand DLPs in Uh, but also became a source of income for farmers. This was such a success that they expanded to extracting bio-fuel to support cooking. With support from the R2R project, we are now able to construct and promote DLPs in all of Kosrae. The Kosrae Women in Farming, for example, is one of our partners actively promoting this concept to support their organization for farming purposes. One DLP, located at KIRMA, is regularly visited by interested community members.

After the project has completed, we will continue to seek support for more establishment of DLPs. With more and more buy-in from stakeholders on the DLP concept, the future of our water resources looks very promising!

New Addition to the R2R Project Team



Fitzgerald Weilbacher I joined the R2R team in May 2019 as the new Project Finance Administrator. He is a graduate of Ohmine Elementary School (2005) and Xavier High School (2009). Upon graduating from high school, he went to the College of Micronesia (COM) where he majored in Micronesian Studies and

graduated in 2011. Following COM, he attended the University of Guam, majoring in Business Finance and Economics, and graduated in 2016.

Mr. Weilbacher brings with him relevant skills in finance through his working experience with the World Bank Project based in the FSM Department of Finance. As the Finance Administrator, Fritz hopes to assist the project in proving detailed financial reporting and monitoring of the budget, efficient procurement of services, timeous disbursements of funds to enhance project implementation and other financial responsibilities to meet GEF/UNDP requirements.



Ms. Jessica Phillip, from Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia, is currently an employee at Chuuk Women's Council as the project coordinator for the Conservation and Environment Program. One of her current projects is with Ridge to Reef as the

Conservation and Land Management Coordinator leading the project on rehabilitating the Epimworuk, Nefo Forest on Weno Island. She's excited to kick-start this project with the vision of involving more community members and young people along the way in order for them to understand the impacts of human activities and Climate Change on the environment and how putting in place the appropriate conservation and adaptation measures can help restore critical ecosystems.

Her passions include uplifting and advocating for undeserved communities who are vulnerable to Climate Change; leading and empowering young people and connecting resources to communities. Ms. Phillip is a proud mother of a young man, Resepwini Phillip and is known for being an excellent community/youth organizer, a climate change advocate, and an aspiring writer.

DID YOU NKOW? MPAs don't have to be totally off limits for everyone all the time. Areas with rare and vulnerable species and communities are the ones in need of extra protection from, for example destructive fishing gears, but people can still swim and enjoy the water in many of these areas.



Ms. Christine G. Robert was born and raised in Chuuk, Federated States of Micronesia. She received her AA Degree in Education from the College of Micronesia in 2017 and began working with the Chuuk Women's Council in 2015 as an intern for the Micronesia Challenge

Program. In 2018, she continued on as the facilitator for the high school and college students' Climate Change Adaptation Summer School. She is currently the Project Coordinator Assistant for the Conservation and Environment Program at CWC. She also oversees the restoration of Epimoruk, Nefo Forest through R2R with her new capacity as the Environmental Communication and Outreach Coordinator. Her goal for the rehabilitation of Epimoruk is to gain new skills from the team and everyone involved in the project, to increase her knowledge on environmental and conservation efforts, to improve the communication skills of her team, other partners, and stakeholders of the project, attain a leadership role among her colleagues and elsewhere, and to just enjoy and be happy at work.

For more information on the R2R project, please contact:

Project Implementation Unit:

Project Manager, Rosalinda Yatilman,

ryatilman@gmail.com

[Tel:+691 320-8815](tel:+6913208815); [Fax: +691 320-8936](tel:+6913208936)

Technical Coordinator, Vanessa Fread,

fsmr2rtech@gmail.com

[Tel: 691 320-5133](tel:6913205133)

Financial Administrator, Fitzgerald Weilbacher I,

fritzweilbacher@gmail.com

[Tel:+691 320-8815](tel:+6913208815); [Fax: +691 320-8936](tel:+6913208936)

Communications Officer, Kikuo Apis,

apis.k.h.002@gmail.com

[Tel:+691 320-8815](tel:+6913208815); [Fax: +691 320-8936](tel:+6913208936)

Kosrae State Coordinator, Marston Luckymis,

mluckymis@gmail.com

[Tel: +691 370-3646](tel:+6913703646)

Pohnpei State Coordinator, Jorg Anson,

jorgyanson@gmail.com

[Tel: +691 320-1780](tel:+6913201780)

Chuuk State Coordinator, Kriskitina Kanemoto Marar,

krizk66@gmail.com

[Tel: +691 330-6729](tel:+6913306729)

Yap State Coordinator, Debra Laan

debra.laan@gmail.com

[Tel:+691 330-2113](tel:+6913302113)