

## STRENGTHENING WELOY'S COMMUNITY RESILIENCY AGAINST IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

### KADAY COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

**LOCATION:** Weloy Municipality, Yap, Federated States of Micronesia

**GRANT VALUE:** \$40,534.00

**DURATION:** May 2019 – June 2020, extended to September 2020

**PARTNERS:** Unniversity of Guam Marine Laboratory

#### PROJECT SUMMARY

- Taro patches are a pivotal element in the provision of local, traditional foods in communities across the Federated States of Micronesia. In Weloy Municipality in Yap State, many taro patches are situated along the shoreline and are increasingly vulnerable to saltwater intrusion due to climate-induced sea level rise and increasingly high tides.
- The impact of saltwater intrusion on the ability to grow taro depends not only upon the location of a taro patch, but the soil type and the presence of streams through a patch, both of which will impact salt retention in the soil.
- As part of this project, testing of salt levels within a number of patches in all eight communities in Weloy was undertaken to identify those that could be maintained with further assistance and those that are not sustainable for the production of taro and for which an alternative use might be considered, such as conversion to a fishpond. In this way, the project supported increasing climate resilience within the community.
- More broadly this project aimed to enhance the degree to which community resource management activities responded climate change, and to mainstream women into community planning.



Soil salinity field training. Source: Berna Gorong.



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### KEY PROJECT ACTIVITIES

1. Community capacity building through virtual training and field training for measuring soil salinity
2. Measurement of salt levels in community taro patches at high and low tides over the course of one month
3. Development of community outreach materials
4. Community outreach meetings and activities, including a walkathon through Weloy Forest Stewardship Conservation Area
5. Engaging local women's groups in community planning
6. Genderizing of community plans



Taking a soil sample for analysis.  
Source: Berna Gorong.

### PROJECT OUTCOMES & LESSONS

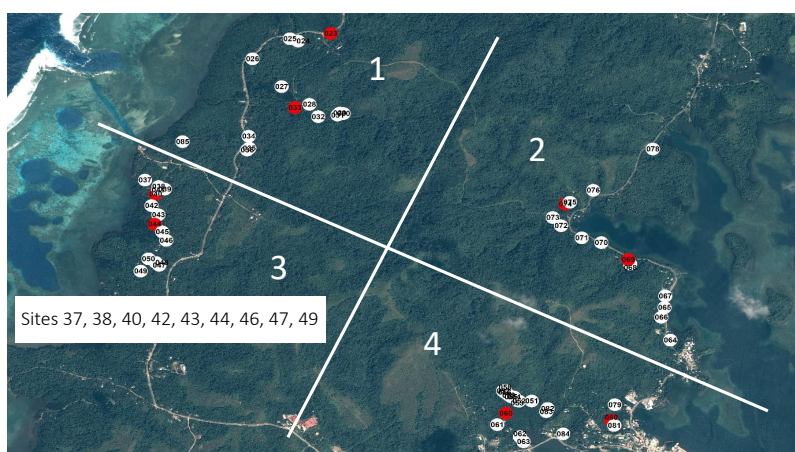
This project has supported the communities in Weloy to begin to identify opportunities for addressing the impact of climate change on traditional taro patches. Soil salinity testing has been undertaken and there is now a need for external technical assistance to support decision-making around the ongoing utilization of those sites that are no longer viable as taro patches.

Community-level awareness of the project and community conservation efforts as a whole were increased as a result of the project activities, as were levels of climate change awareness amongst community members.

The engagement of community women's groups has increased the level of female participation in community resource management planning.

Combined, these activities have served to support enhanced climate resilience in Weloy Municipality, and have helped to inform a holistic plan for the municipality as a whole.

***People want this information – it's good for the community***



Taro patch sites in Weloy Municipality.