

## INCORPORATING CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE INTO COMMUNITY-BASED MARINE PROTECTED AREA DESIGNS AND IMPLEMENTATION IN KOSRAE, FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

### KOSRAE CONSERVATION AND SAFETY ORGANIZATION

<b>LOCATION:</b>	Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia
<b>GRANT VALUE:</b>	\$57,144.00
<b>DURATION:</b>	June 2019 – October 2021
<b>PARTNERS:</b>	Kosrae Fisheries and Marine Resources (Department of Resources and Economic Affairs), Utwe Biosphere Reserve, the communities of Awane, Lelu, Malem, Tafunsak, Utwe and Walung

### PROJECT SUMMARY

- Marine protected areas (MPAs) are an important tool in supporting communities to build resilience to climate change, delivering ecosystem protection that reduces stress on marine organism populations.
- With a focus on community climate awareness and MPA effectiveness, the objectives of this project were to make climate information understood and usable by communities through awareness raising, to use spatial planning and the mainstreaming of climate information to improve the design and management of MPAs in Kosrae, and to plan and implement community-specific ecosystem-based climate adaptation activities to reduce the vulnerability to climate change impacts of those communities with MPAs.



Summer Youth-to-Youth program participants. Source: Kosrae Conservation & Safety Organization.



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### KEY PROJECT ACTIVITIES

1. Spatial redesigning of existing MPAs through community consultations and planning
2. Community-based MPA loss and damage assessments and climate adaptation planning
3. Community climate adaptation outreach workshops
4. Awareness raising, including visits to all elementary schools in Kosrae and an event at Kosrae Senior Citizens Day
5. Summer Youth-to-Youth programs 2019 and 2020, incorporating climate change presentations and harbor clean up
6. Mangrove replantation
7. Q&A radio show enabling awareness-raising during the COVID19 pandemic
8. Crown of thorns starfish eradication and subsequent testing as fertilizer



Crops being grown with crown of thorns starfish fertilizer. Source: R. Henry.

### PROJECT OUTCOMES & LESSONS

Following community consultations and MPA planning, a number of MPAs in Kosrae have been adjusted in size and location, and recommendations from the spatial planning workshops have been incorporated into existing MPA management plans. One MPA has been relocated entirely, with a new management plan under development. Combined, these actions will help build the communities' future resilience to climate change.

Awareness of climate change has been raised amongst all age groups in Kosrae and, as a direct result of this project, the Kosrae Senior Citizens organization has strengthened its relationship with the Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization with a view to greater future involvement and to the sharing of valuable traditional knowledge.

***Climate change should be taken into consideration at all times when designing marine protected areas***



Marine spatial planning workshop. Source: Kosrae Conservation & Safety Organization.