

ASSISTING SOKEHS COASTAL COMMUNITIES AND THE PALIKIR MARINE PROTECTED AREA ADAPT TO THE CHANGES IN CLIMATE OF POHNPEI

SOKEHS MUNICIPALITY COASTAL COMMUNITIES

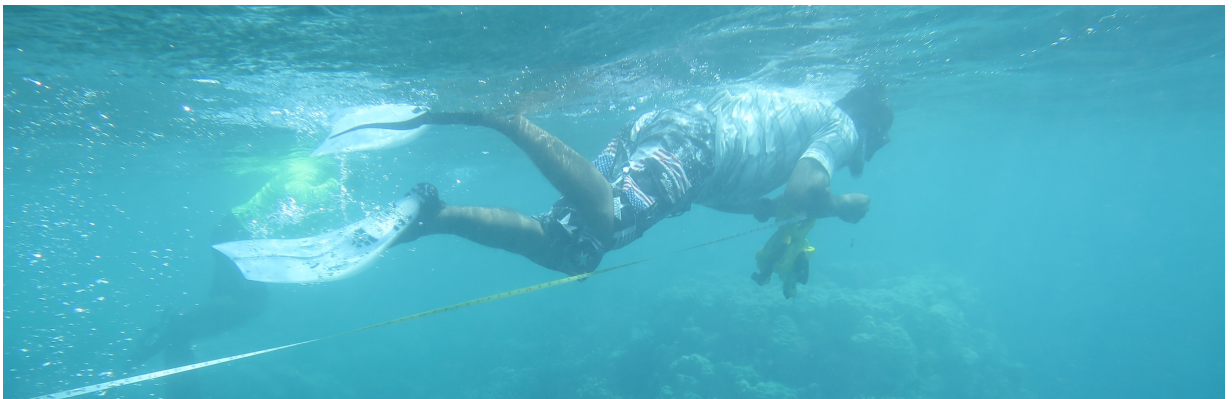
LOCATION:	Sokehs Municipality, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia
GRANT VALUE:	\$35,593.93
DURATION:	June 2019 – April 2020, extended to December 2021
PARTNERS:	Sokehs coastal community members and traditional leaders, Micronesian Productions, Sokehs Municipal Government, Conservation Society Pohnpei

PROJECT SUMMARY

- The aims of the project were to provide education to the coastal communities in Sokehs Municipality around the importance of the Palikir marine protected area (MPA) to build community resilience in the face of climate change, to identify climate change indicators for the MPA, and to incorporate climate change adaptation measures into the MPA management plan.
- The project delivered hands-on experience of fish and coral monitoring to members of the community to enable them to determine the benefits of no-take zones within the MPA and to assess the extent of coral bleaching within the MPA.

KEY PROJECT ACTIVITIES

1. Workshops delivering training to Community Conservation Officers (CCOs) in fish and coral monitoring techniques
2. Enforcement training for CCOs
3. Community outreach, demonstrating the value of the project
4. Crown of thorns starfish removal and trash collection from Palikir MPA
5. Updating the Palikir MPA management plan



Fish monitoring training. Source: Shirley-Ann Pelep.

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Coral monitoring training.
Source: Shirley-Ann Pelep.

PROJECT OUTCOMES & LESSONS

The project has enhanced the resilience to climate change of the coastal communities of Sokehs by building MPA management skills, including enforcement training and fish and coral monitoring training. Furthermore, the project broadened community awareness of the impacts of climate change and the value that the Palikir MPA offers to building community resilience. Directly engaging fishers in awareness raising helped community members understand the benefit of the MPA.

This project has implemented approaches to MPA management that can be rolled out across other MPAs in Pohnpei and throughout the FSM. In addition, initiatives to implement small-scale 'wise use' approaches to non-MPA areas have begun as a result of the project.

Proposed updates to the MPA management plan have been submitted for consideration for inclusion in the state management plan.

Since the close of the project, a larger organization of CCOs has been formalized to continue the work initiated under the project.

As a result of the project, an innovative multi-trophic aquaculture system is being explored that will help deliver jobs and provide food to the community, and a grant has been received to demarcate the Palikir MPA.

Communities are still very new at this but their eyes are open and they have a sense of the impacts of climate change



Fish monitoring training. Source: Shirley-Ann Pelep.