

MOBILIZING THE MPA COMMUNITIES OF POHNPEI TO BE RESILIENT TO CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION, COMMUNITY OUTREACH/AWARENESS AND PROTECTED AREAS ENFORCEMENT

CONSERVATION SOCIETY OF POHNPEI

LOCATION:	Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia
GRANT VALUE:	\$48,612.00
DURATION:	May 2019 – August 2021
PARTNERS:	Pohnpei State Government, One Reef Micronesia, Pacific Islands Managed Protected Areas Community, Micronesia Challenge Regional Office, University of Guam

PROJECT SUMMARY

- Communities within which marine protected areas (MPAs) exist are often lacking in information and knowledge about climate change. This project sought to explore how MPA communities are being impacted by climate change and to increase the capacity of those communities to undertake climate adaptation measures. Furthermore, given the central role of MPAs in climate adaptation for coastal communities in the Federated States of Micronesia, the project aimed to support MPA management and enforcement.
- Specific project objectives included:
 - The engagement of community partners to carry out baseline household surveys in two MPA communities, utilizing the SEM Pasifika Survey (a tool developed to guide the improvement of coastal and marine site management in the Pacific)
 - Supporting collaboration between the community MPAs and the State and Municipal Police to endorse standard operating procedures (SOPs) and MPA joint enforcement agreements (JEAs)
 - The training of Community Conservation Officers (CCOs) to carry out community-based coral reef monitoring to enable the identification of climate stressors.



Palikir CCOs and Municipal Officers undertaking a Fish Count & Coral Watch.
 Source: Conservation Society of Pohnpei.

MOBILIZING THE MPA COMMUNITIES OF POHNPEI TO BE RESILIENT TO CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION, COMMUNITY OUTREACH/AWARENESS AND PROTECTED AREAS ENFORCEMENT

KEY PROJECT ACTIVITIES

1. Engagement and training of survey team
2. Development and roll-out of baseline household surveys in Sapwitik and Palikir communities
3. Sharing of key survey findings with MPA communities
4. Commencement of SOP and MPA JEA development process
5. Drafting of SOPs and MPA JEAs
6. Training CCOs and undertaking coral reef monitoring
7. Sharing analysed coral reef data with MPA communities

College of Micronesia student interns at Conservation Society of Pohnpei participated in the 17th MPA Cross-site Visit. Source: Shirley-Ann Pelep.



3rd Ahi Mour Ahi Pwukoah fishing tournament to create awareness on fisheries laws and regulations, MPAs and resource management. Source: Shirley Ann Pelep.

PROJECT OUTCOMES & LESSONS

The socio-economic research demonstrated that different communities have different perspectives around the impacts of climate change and provided these communities with data to inform Local Early Action Plans (LEAPs) to guide climate adaptation.

An alliance was established to undertake SOP training related to monitoring and enforcement, which was carried out with CCOs in four communities. SOP endorsement has been achieved in two communities to date, while JEAs in those communities are awaiting full endorsement. It is intended that these SOPs and JEAs will be replicated across Pohnpei.

Following CCO training, monitoring of one community MPA was undertaken, assessing two sites within the MPA and two outside of it. The data collected demonstrated a greater abundance of fish within the MPA. These data are being used to guide MPA management decisions and were presented at the annual MPA Cross-site Visit – a motivational learning exchange to support MPA communities.