



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet Federated States of Micronesia 2020



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2019 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$40,000
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$80,000
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$0
State Fire Assistance	\$35,000
Urban and Community Forestry	\$135,980
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$0
Total	\$290,980

NOTE: This funding is for all entities within the state, not just the State Forester's office.

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) comprise a vast region of over 600 islands spanning 1,678 miles. It is located in the western Pacific in the Caroline Islands, north of the equator, east of Palau and west of the Marshall Islands. The FSM is an independent nation that includes four States: Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae. The FSM maintains strong ties with the United States, with which it has a compact of free Association. Of the country's population, 50% live on Chuuk, 33% on Pohnpei, 10% in Yap and 7% in Kosrae. The States have a significant level of autonomy with ownership of land and aquatic areas varying between states. In Kosrae and Pohnpei, land is both privately and state owned, with aquatic areas being managed by the States and public trusts. In Chuuk, most land and aquatic areas are privately owned and acquired through inheritance, gift, or more recently, by purchase. In Yap almost all land and aquatic areas are owned or managed by individual estates and usage is subject to traditional control. These land and aquatic tenure systems have critical bearing on the strategic actions required to sustainably manage and protect the natural resources of these islands. Responsibility for environmental issues is shared between the national and state governments. Invasive species affect all aspects of society, including the protection and use of natural resources, and they are a significant threat. This report concerns the ongoing USFS Federal programs (Urban & Community Forestry, Forest Stewardship, Forest Health and Forest Legacy programs), to enhance program awareness with committee members and island communities. The report highlights the goals and objectives of each program to be implemented with partners and agencies of each island state and national government, providing a synopsis of the deliverables required of the programs. At this time all the federal program grants are awarded directly to the states' implementing agencies for program activities.

Program Goals

- Goals in the Forest Action Plan are derived from the overarching FSM National Strategic Development Plan's Agriculture Sectoral Strategic Goals (1st to 4th) and Environment Sectoral Strategic Goals (5th to 7th and 9th). These provide guidance to the FSM and four State Forestry agencies in partnership with local, national and regional partners to collaborate on achieving the FSM Forestry Program goals:
- Sustainable Resource Management
- Environmental awareness and education
- Biosecurity
- Capacity building

Key Issues

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2019 Accomplishments	Value
Population	106,836	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	83
Acres of Forest Land	143,249	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	0
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	69,500	Acres in Important Forest Resource Areas Covered by New or Revised Stewardship Plans	0
Number of NIPF Landowners	0	Volunteer Fire Departments Assisted	0
Acres of Federal Land Under State Fire Protection	0	State Fire Communities Assisted	15
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	29,312	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	0
Number of Rural Fire Departments	4	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	39	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	4
Forest Based Employment	0	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	12,574
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	0	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	2,669
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	0		

Program Highlights

Cooperative Fire Protection

Cooperative Fire Protection:

The program continues to establish low fuel zones and shaded fuel breaks to reduce the contiguous area of highly flammable vegetation to limit the size of areas burnt by wildfires; as well as a fire prevention and education program. This year one additional community established shaded fuel breaks by planting over 4,200 tree seedlings in fire-prone savannah sites, along with establishing low fuel zones. Four communities continued to monitor and maintain 20,600 tree seedlings, covering approximately 52 acres, which were planted to establish shaded fuel breaks in previous years. Another community has been awarded this year's low fuel zone and shaded fuel breaks project. It is estimated that 3,600 seedlings will be planted, covering an area of approximately 5 acres.

In collaboration with the University of Hawaii, the program worked with Dr. J.B. Friday to establish fertilizer trial plots within the shaded fuel break projects planted in late 2015. We will continue to monitor the effects of different fertilizing methods over the next couple of years.

Forest Health Protection

Forest Health:

One less Invasive Plant in Yap State: Chain-of-love (*Antigonon leptopus*) with its luring string of heart-shaped pink flowers and special ability to smothering native plants, invades disturbed areas, and forest edges have promoted Yap Invasive Task Force to tackle it at its earlier stage. Pooling US Forest Services, Queens University, and Yap State resources together, the Task Force has managed to eradicate it from the Island of Yap after eleven years of engaging the invasive vine.

It is an appealing vine that can be reproduced by seed, and vegetation such as root suckers, stem segments, and tubers. Because of its ability to reproduce easily, the task force had used a wide range of control methods including outreach, citizen reporting any suspected plants, mechanical/manually digging it, used two brands of herbicides, and more importantly the team vigilant. This is an invasive plant that is eradicated in its lag phase of establishment saving the State and the residence a lot of resources. The problem with invasive is we do not know where, when, and how they will arrive and often time we become concerned when they are well established and causing problems. For this particular invasive it was

addressed before it causes problems.

Forest Stewardship

Conservation Society of Pohnpei

The Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP) has been working with the communities for almost 20 years. This year, one of its highlights is the development of the Conservation Action Plan (CAP) for Sapwohn community in Sokehs municipality where it was completed recently. The CAP for the Sapwohn community consists of community visioning, target resources, resources recent impacts and threats, and how the community can work together to improve and better manage these resources. The Sapwohn community CAP document is completed and is available for the community to use to seek for funding sources that can support the implementation of their project activities.

Landscape Scale Restoration

MCT

In September 2019, the Micronesia Conservation Trust and data analyst Mr. Julian Dendy hosted an FIA Data Analysis Workshop in Pohnpei, FSM. This workshop is the result of requests from Foresters and other partners from across the region to further capacitate their ability to query and analyze their own MC FIA data. In response, this workshop was designed to provide the initial skills necessary to begin to use the FIA metadata to derive questions and outcomes including an understanding of what the FIA database contains, how to query information and how to analyze the data once received. In early 2019, the terrestrial regional database was completed and launched for the public to use. The Micronesia Challenge Terrestrial scorecard Provides a regional framework to assess the monitoring indicators that measure the status of managed conservation areas set aside under the Micronesia Challenge jurisdictions of Guam, CNMI, RMI, FSM and Palau. The MC Terrestrial Measures Webviewer includes summaries of the completed FSM, Guam and CNMI data analyses, see the monitoring progress and learn more about the monitoring data collected across the region. Please go to <http://mcterrestrialmeasures.org> to view the webviewer.

Pohnpei State U&CF

There are 6 projects undertaken by the Department of Resources and Development, Division of Natural Resource Management (Forestry) during the fiscal year 2017. This office has awarded Peidie, a community in the Sokehs Municipality, Pingelap Municipality, Sapwuaifik Municipality, Enipein in Kitti Municipality, Pakin in Sokehs Municipality and Nukuoro Municipality.

Most of the activities for the Peidie Project have been completed wherein the demarcation of the mangrove Sanctuary has been plotted. We are still in performing the process of monitoring the seedlings that have been planted. Pingelap and Sapwuaifik projects requested to improve and/or enhance farm lots in these municipalities. These projects are being monitored on a periodic basis. Enipein, Pakin and Nukuoro are the current awarded projects. For the time being the procurement of tools necessary to move these projects forward are in the process. These projects are to enhance the livelihood of these communities in terms of food security and beautification. This office has benefited through these projects by conducting awareness programs on how to safeguard our agroforest and also to educate these communities on new planting methods, staff training/Capacity building, and office equipment.

Urban and Community Forestry

Kosrae

With the support by the US Forest Service through the Urban and Community Forestry Program, and Forest Stewardship Programs, Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority (KIRMA) worked with community groups, non-governmental organizations and government partners to conduct the tree planting projects in the areas affected with coastal erosion to protect the coastlines, improve food security and shading, which also improves clean and healthy environment. The support was also extended to assist partners such as the Kosrae Chapter of the Micronesia Red Cross Society in which they educate the communities plant propagation in the nurseries. Plant and seed collections are still ongoing to fill up the nursery to prepare them and distribute to interested farmers and groups. The Urban and Community Forestry Program and Forest Stewardship Programs still continue to conduct awareness on the importance of trees in the schools and communities throughout Kosrae.

The Forest Stewardship Program and Urban and Community Forestry Programs also feed the FSM Ridge-to-Reef Project in implementing the "Dry Litter Piggery System" in the communities. Such system supports clean and healthy environment in which it minimizes the use of water while cleaning the piggery

by using wood chips, reduces odor of the piggery and improves water quality in mangrove forests as most piggeries are situated on the river banks and taro patches and drain into mangroves. The piggery waste then mixes with the wood chips where it decomposes overtime making composts The compost then can be used for agricultural and agroforestry purposes and can be sold for financial subsidy as well.

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