



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Palau 2020



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2019 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$0
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$66,000
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$0
State Fire Assistance	\$30,000
Urban and Community Forestry	\$0
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$0
Total	\$96,000

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

The overall vision, mission, and goals of Palau's forestry program are:

Vision

A healthy and productive Nation in Harmony with the environment where all families have the skills, resources and opportunity to ensure wise stewardship of natural resources and systems and sustained food production.

Mission

The Bureau of Agriculture's mission is to promote, develop, protect, and conserve the Republic's land-based natural resources and to assist families to have the skills, resources and opportunity to ensure sustained food production, nutrition, food security and wise stewardship of ecosystems.

Program Goals

- Goal 1: Develop a national forest program based on cooperative management between the national and state governments and NGOs through broad stakeholder and intersectoral participation to ensure the wise management and sustainable use of Palau's forests and land based resources.
- Goal 2: Sustainable forest based source of livelihoods, including ecotourism, agro-forestry, and sustainable harvesting, are adopted by landowners and developers.
- Goal 3: Sustain forest health by preventing, controlling, and eradicating priority invasive species and develop and implement a fire hazard reduction program.

Key Issues

- Issue #1 Climate Change 1 - Stabilize slopes and reforest priority landscape areas 2 - Restore trees, shrubs and vegetation to stabilize coastlines within 10m of the high tide mark. 3 - Protect Littoral forests and mangroves 4 - Assess forest health from seawater intrusion.
- Issue #2 Population Growth and Urbanization 1 - Develop and implement land use plans 2 - Build capacity for land use planning and land use change for GHG Inventory. 3 - Increase native tree propagation and planting on private and public lands.
- Issue #3 Water Quantity and Quality 1 - Inventory current land use and correlate with water quality and quantity. 2 - Initiate buffer initiative for each state. 3 - Build capacity within communities to produce watershed management plans.
- Issue #4 Wildfire and Public Safety 1 - Develop and implement monitoring methods to determine baseline and ongoing levels of burning. 2 - Continue wildfire prevention awareness campaigns. 3 - Develop and implement community based fire response and suppression plans with training in fire response and suppression. 4 - Develop and implement a fire hazard reduction program.

- Issue #5 Conservation and Protected Areas 1 - Protect the integrity of our ecosystem. 2 - Control and if possible eradicate Palau's top priority invasive plants and build capacity on management of priority landscapes. 3 - Build capacity for conservation management.
- Issue #6 Sustainable Use of Forest Resources 1 - Develop and implement a National Policy Framework and Best Practices for Forests as guidance for states and raise awareness about the value of forests. 2 - Develop sustainable forests sources of livelihoods through specific programs and capacity building.
- Issue #7 Urban Forest Sustainability 1 - Enhance and organize planting of trees to foster self-reliant communities. 2 - Develop forest-based sources of livelihood 3 - Gather and share information and assist communities to raise awareness of the value of trees and forests. 4 - Promote the connection between trees and our culture.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2019 Accomplishments	Value
Population	20,956	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	93
Acres of Forest Land	102,130	Acres Covered by New or Revised Forest Stewardship Plans	0
Acres of Nonindustrial Private Forest Land	0	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	10
Acres of Private Land Under State Fire Protection	0	Coop Forest Health Acres Protected	0
Number of Rural Fire Departments	0	Forest Legacy Project Acquisitions	0
Cities and Towns	16	Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	0
Forest Based Employment	0	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	0
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	0	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	0
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	213,619		

Program Highlights

Breadfruit agroforestry in Palau

Last March 2019, staff from Palau Forestry, Land Grant, and Ngardok State attended training in Hilo, Hawaii with financial assistance from the USDA Forest Service (Research and S&PF), to study breadfruit pruning, propagation and processing. Then, Forestry distributed 650 breadfruit plants to states throughout Palau. As one example, the Ngaraioll women's group outplanted these breadfruit in Melekeok in October.

Forest Stewardship

The project objectives of restoring the degraded land area in Ngaremlengui and Ngial is well underway and able to accomplish all of it's objectives from October 2018-September 2019. Project accomplishments include the following; Provided training/education to a total of 74 household owners, engaged with a total of 720 tree planting volunteers who planted a total of 2,416 trees, restoring a total area of 13 acres in Ngial and Ngaremlengui, that is estimated to reduce soil loss of 34 tons per year once the trees mature between three to five years. A total of 200 plants have been tagged for monitoring tree species growth. Trees planted in Ngaremlengui and Ngial are showing an average of 90% survival rate. In addition to the forest restoration a total of 39 sediment traps which constitutes planting of 2115 lemon grass with log fences have been installed in the area to reduce soil erosion and manage storm water. This provides for immediate prevention of soil loss and sedimentation offload into the watershed, a reinforcement to the long term solution of reforestation. Four members of the staff have received training and capacity building through US Forest Service on grants management, arboriculture, and nursery management. This has resulted in significant improvement to the project, in terms of plant collection, propagation, maintenance in nursery, monitoring, and financial reporting.

Landscape Scale Restoration

The Palau Protected Areas Network Office and the Bureau of Agriculture, of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism, are collaborating in the development and implementation of the first national forest monitoring program. In consultation with the US Forest Service and other relevant local partners, the design of the monitoring program has been agreed on and the forest monitoring protocol document is being produced. Additionally, fieldwork has been initiated in the terrestrial protected areas. This monitoring program is intended to be long-term and aims to detect long-term trends in forest cover and structure. In March, a contract was signed and executed between MCT and the Office of Palau Automated Land and Resource Information System (PALARIS), Bureau of Budget, Ministry of Finance, Government of Palau. The contract is supporting the development of an access database to house forest monitoring data, developing a protocol for database accessibility, data entry, and back up, and conducting training with relevant forestry staff on the use of the database.

Urban and Community Forestry

Forestry staff attended arboriculture training in Honolulu in April 2019. Forestry staff and Palau community nursery managers attended tree nursery training in Guam in August 2019.

Contact Information



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