



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet Federated States of Micronesia 2021



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2020 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$52,900
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$128,602
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$179,150
State Fire Assistance	\$35,000
Urban and Community Forestry	\$71,055
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$0
Total	\$466,707

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

- Agriculture Sector Strategic Goal 1: A well-resourced and properly focused agriculture sector operating within a stable and consistent policy framework
- Agriculture Sector Strategic Goal 2: Increase production of traditional farming systems for home nutritional and traditional needs and cash incomes
- Agriculture Sector Strategic Goal 3: Increased volumes of saleable surpluses to be marketed by the private sector into local and regional markets
- Agriculture Sector Strategic Goal 4: Promote environmentally sound and sustainable production.
- Environment Sector Strategic Goal 1: Mainstream environmental considerations, including climate change, into national policy and planning as well as in all economic development activities
- Environment Sector Strategic Goal 3: Reduce energy use and convert to renewable energy sources / Minimize emission of greenhouse Gases
- Environment Sector Strategic Goal 4: Enhance the benefits of sustainable use of the FSM's genetic resources and ensure benefits derived are fairly shared amongst stakeholders
- Environment Sector Strategic Goal 5: Manage and Protect the Nation's Natural Environment/Protect,

conserve, and sustainably manage a full and functional representation of the FSM's marine, freshwater, and terrestrial ecosystems

- Environment Sector Strategic Goal 6: Improve environmental awareness and education and increase involvement of citizenry of the FSM in conserving their country's natural resources
- Environment Sector Strategic Goal 7: Establish effective biosecurity (border control, quarantine and eradication) programs to effectively protect the FSM's biodiversity from impacts of alien invasive species
- Environment Sector Strategic Goal 9: Enhance and Employ In-Country Technical Capacity to Support Environmental Programs

Key Issues

- Cross-cutting threats (Invasive species, wildfires, and climate change) affect all issues
- 1. Food security (agroforestry)
- 2. Coastal stabilization (strand forest and mangrove forest)
- 3. Biodiversity conservation (relates to Forest Legacy, protected areas management, gap analysis, etc.)
- 4. Watersheds (high islands)
- 5. Production and sustainable harvesting of forests
- 6. Capacity-building (coordination, technology and resources, training, and recruiting new generation of natural resource managers)

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2020 Accomplishments	Value
Population	106,836	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	339
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	23
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	6
Forest Based Employment	0	Population Living in Communities Provided Urban Forestry Program Assistance	16,068
Economic Impact of Forestry (by rank)	0	Urban Forestry Volunteer Assistance	8,912
State Forestry Budget (All Sources)	0		

Program Highlights

Chuuk State Mangrove Rehabilitation

Chuuk State Department of Agriculture is working closely with its local partners in providing and planting more than 200 mangrove trees (propagules species) in the Faichuk Region. The aim of the program is to protect the coastlines and minimize inundation as the giant taro is one of the main staple food for the people from Faichuk and sea-level rise has become their biggest challenge. The program also aims to provide shelter for the aquatic fauna in Faichuk.

After attending the nursery workshop in Guam from late July to early August 2019, two representatives from Chuuk State Agriculture shared what they have learned and started to coordinate with 4 islands

within the lagoon to collect and plant at least 2000 coconut nuts to help support the FSM's Coconut Rehabilitation Project to start off with in their forestry work. Most of the coconut nuts have been distributed to farmers and planted.

Cooperative Fire Protection

Yap State:

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 in fire-prone savannah sites, along with establishing low fuel zones. Four communities continued to monitor and maintain recently-established shaded fuel breaks covering approximately 42 acres. Two college level interns were hired to work with the communities on establishing the shaded fuel breaks, learning where to locate fuel breaks to optimize both fire risk reduction and maintenance.

Forest Health Protection

The Forest Health Management Programs in the FSM continue to combat invasive pests including several invasive plants, trees and vines, and little fire ant (Yap). Preventing new pest introductions and limiting spread of current infestations is the proactive approach used in the FSM to reduce the negative impacts associated with invasive pests in forests and on agroforestry crops.

Yap: surveyed for invasive plants across 60 acres; chemically treated African tulip seedlings and trees and Lantana sp. to kill plants; surveyed for damage by coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) across 436 acres and conducted education and outreach to communities to increase awareness and improve detection of CRB; surveyed and treated little fire ant infestations on 50 acres. University of Guam personnel provided virtual training to forest health workers on Sept. 28, 2020 regarding survey and control of little fire ant and coconut rhinoceros beetle using Moodle's Big Blue Button software.

Kosrae: continued mapping occurrences of plant diseases to create baseline GIS map layers, particularly for *Phellinus noxius* on bread fruit plants, *Terminalia* and other plants. *P. noxius* surveys were concentrated in the area of Lelu Ruins Historic Park. The invasive plant, *Clerodendrum quadriloculare*, was treated at 6 sites.

Pohnpei: University of Guam staff provided training for forest health workers in October on survey and management of little fire ants and coconut rhinoceros beetles.

Forest Legacy

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) is the largest and most diverse part of the greater Micronesian sub-region and maintaining the habitats and ecosystems that nurture this diversity is crucial to sustaining the country's rich ethnobiological traditions while improving quality of life. The Nature Conservancy has been working with state foresters in the FSM to update the Forest Legacy Assessment Of Need (AON) to identify environmental important forest areas that are threatened by conversion. To do this they have been working with local partners and key stakeholders to identify important forest values and uses and identify areas of privately owned land that if actively managed and protected can greatly contribute to preserving the FSM's biodiversity and culture. In Pohnpei TNC has been working with the States Terrestrial Working Group, which consists of state agencies, local NGOs and community leaders. In Yap, TNC met with community representatives to develop a list of private land that meet the agreed upon criteria. In the FSM, land tenure practices vary from states to state, so TNC has also been working with local partners to assess land ownership and the legality of establishing an easement in each of the FSM states.

Forest Stewardship

"Pohnpei State"

Conservation Action Plans for Pwoaipwoai community and Awak community.

The Conservation Society of Pohnpei along with state partners; EPA, Forestry and Municipal governments of Kitti and U, were able to work with the two communities and developed their Conservation Action Plan (CAP). CAP is a process of compiling the conservation efforts and needs from the communities. In Pohnpei, most communities are willing to conserve and manage their natural resources. Pwoaipwoai community and Awak community were the two of the communities that shared

their interest in conserving their resources, including forest resources. It took time, effort and commitment to develop their CAPs. Both communities were able to identify their target resources, issues/threats and developed their conservation strategies. Both communities are working towards their goal and strategies to achieve what they are aiming for. These CAP plans were prepared from the community and for the community to use as a living document. They can update, change as they see needs to be.

FSM Forest Action Plan (FAP)

The Forest Action Plan (FAP), previously named as State-Wide Assessments and Resource Strategies (SWARS) is a tool for islands to identify the Federated States of Micronesia's (FSM)'s highest priorities for forest resource management and needs for assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USDA-FS). It includes two (2) components to the assessment and planning required by the Forest Service's State and Private Forestry (S&PF) redesign approach to identify priority forest landscape areas and highlight work needed to address national, regional and state forest management priorities:

1. Statewide Assessment of Forest Resources-provides an analysis of forest conditions and trends in the state and delineates priority rural and urban landscape areas.
2. Statewide Forest Strategy-provides a long term strategies for investing state, federal and other resources to manage priority landscape in identifying in the assessment, focusing where federal investment can most effectively stimulate or leverage desired action and engage multiple partners.

The initial State Forest Assessment and Strategy was completed in 2010 and the FAP must be updated at least every 10 years and submitted to the relevant USDA Forest Service Region. The FSM Department of Resources and Development (R&D) has completed the update of the FAP with the Micronesia Conservation Trust which is contracted to support coordination, facilitate state workshops and lead editing and writing of the updated FAP.

Kosrae State Forest Stewardship Program

The Forest Stewardship Program for Kosrae state has continued to support ongoing collaboration efforts with the four communities in Kosrae, namely Tafunsak, Lelu, Malem, and Utwe. The following projects were implemented; Mangrove Forest Rehabilitation: an area of 1.4 hectares had been identified as mangrove gaps and total of 16 sites including two coastal sites were rehabilitated. There were some 16,000 propagules planted in mangrove gaps and some 2,000 coastal seedlings planted at two sites in Malem community. The Forest Stewardship Program and Urban and Community Forestry Programs have produced 263 and distributed 415 multipurpose tree seedlings to local farmers including local businesses and government entities for food security, erosion control, etc. The Kosrae Forestry staff (under Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority) observed and took part in its first "International Day of the Forest" by planting the three most commonly used native tree species along the Tofol water source. The total of 30 seedlings out planted along Tofol dam were mostly for stabilization of sediment runoff and additional native bird habitat.

Landscape Scale Restoration

Landscape Scale Restoration grants over multiple years funded the Micronesia Challenge Terrestrial scorecard, which 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. The Micronesia Challenge (MC) Terrestrial Champion continues to serve as the project lead in charge of logistics, coordination with partners, MC monitoring teams, MC Terrestrial group, reporting to the MC Regional Coordinator and guiding the MC Terrestrial Measures core group. The Micronesia Challenge Terrestrial Champion (MCTC) and MCT Conservation Program Manager were also in Majuro where they participated in aspects of the USFS Marshall Islands review and met with the Republic of the Marshall Islands Ministry of the Natural Resources and Commerce (RMINRC) Secretary, Forester and Agriculture and Forestry staff in preparation to support the update of the RMI Forest Action Plan. The MCTC also coordinated a tree-planting event across the Micronesia Challenge jurisdictions through social media where it led to the planting of almost 1000 trees across all the 5 MC jurisdictions. Along with that, MCT also supported a "Mahr Project" (Pohnpeian word for preserved breadfruit). It was a small-scale

project for communities promoting food security when it comes to the season of breadfruit.

Urban and Community Forestry

The Urban and Community Forestry Program has been a great opportunity for Natural Resource Management (NRM), R&D Pohnpei State. This program has been providing financial and technical support for years which we greatly appreciate. The 2019-2021 grant has funded two community projects in this year's cycle which are Nukuoro and Pakin atolls. The U&CF funded tools and equipment will be used to accomplish the goals for these projects. Their goals include planting trees for food and protection and getting rid of hazard trees for the 2 communities. The community members truly appreciate the support for they need farming tools and seedlings. The NRM staff has been monitoring these projects quarterly and along with the old projects when transportation is available. The U&CF has also been funding polybags, fertilizers, and other necessities for Kolonia and Pohnlangas nurseries.

Aside from the projects and nurseries, The U&CF has been funding the salary for the assistant coordinator, Regina Moya on her contract. She had the opportunity to attend a 3 day workshop in Honolulu, Hawaii regarding the U&CF Program. In mid-January, she attended an online class called i-Tree Academy also funded by U&CF and other partnerships. It was a 4 to 5 months' online class where they were introduced to use i-Tree online tools to do assessment, inventory, and report on values of trees and forests and how to manage a healthy forest.

Yap Urban Community

The Agroforestry system plays a major role in our way of living for Yap Main Island and its Outer Islands. Agroforestry system is not only a part of our living, and it can provide a wide range of environment services. Today Yap and its Outer Islands have seen a weakening of these services due to lack of maintenance. The Urban and Community Forestry program recognizes the need of the local communities and the program move forward to assist four (4) communities in the development and implementation of the agroforest enrichment projects. The U&CF Program make available support for the communities that convey their interest in initiating a project with U&CF program, which the program assists to develop contracts for each community. The goal for the project is to help the communities by planting local fruit tree varieties, including oranges, star apple, soursap, jackfruit, apple, breadfruit and avacado whereas the people will also preserve the knowledge of traditional planting methods and mitigate the impacts of climate change to our local communities.

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