



State and Private Forestry Fact Sheet

Palau 2021



Investment in State's Cooperative Programs

Program	FY 2020 Final
Community Forestry and Open Space	\$0
Cooperative Lands - Forest Health Management	\$0
Forest Legacy	\$0
Forest Stewardship	\$48,000
Landscape Scale Restoration	\$0
State Fire Assistance	\$55,000
Urban and Community Forestry	\$0
Volunteer Fire Assistance	\$0
Total	\$103,000

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 Monitoring Program with the collaboration of the national government, state governments and NGO's.
- 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 developing and implementing a fire hazard reduction program.

Key Issues

- Issue #1 Water Quality and Quantity 1 - Inventory forest and agriculture in watershed areas 2 - Provide support and technical assistance to establish buffer zones for watershed management plans.
- Issue #2 Conservation and Protection 1 - Control and if possible eradicate Palau's top priority invasive species. 2 - Build capacity on ecosystem management (e.g. data analysis training for forestry inventories, rapid ecosystem assessments etc.) 3 - Improve threatened and endangered species management. 4 - Update, finalize and promulgate endangered species regulations.
- Issue #3 Sustainable Use of Forest Resources 1 - Develop and implement a nationwide policy framework for sustainable use of forest resources. 2 - Develop a best practices manual to be used as guidance for States. 3 - Raise awareness about the value of forests. 4 - Develop sustainable livelihood opportunities from forest resources through specific programs and capacity building projects. 5 - Conduct state level forest inventories to be the basis for developing state forest resource mngt. regs.
- Issue #4 Climate Change 1 - Stabilize slopes & reforest priority landscape areas. 2 - Assess impact of climate change on forest health from extreme weather events. 3 - Promote trees, shrubs, vegetation and protect littoral forests and mangroves to stabilize coastlines within 10m of high tide mark. 4 -

Develop Best Management Guidelines for coastline stabilization and share with States.

- Issue #5 Wildfire Prevention 1 - Build States' capacity to continue monitoring levels of burning. 2 - Promote & support State education on legislations and effects of burning. 3 - Collaborate with the Division of Fire and Rescue to provide training in fire response and suppression. 4 - Develop and implement a fire hazard reduction program by focusing on reforestation.
- Issue #6 Population Growth and Urbanization 1 - Provide support to develop and implement land use plans, to build capacity for land use planning, and for land use change to GHG Inventory. 2 - Native tree propagation for public supply to promote native trees.
- Issue #7 Urban Forest Sustainability 1 - Enhance and organize planting of trees in urban areas. 2 - Develop and promote program to provide landscape advice services for land/home owners in urban areas. 3 - Develop and disseminate education materials for forest resources management. 4 - Preserve traditional knowledge on plants and promote connection between plants and culture.

Forest Facts and Accomplishments

Selected Facts	Value	FY 2020 Accomplishments	Value
Population	20,956	Landowners Receiving Educational or Technical Assistance	69
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	15
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

Cooperative Fire Protection

1) The Network for Wildfire Prevention was established in 2020 and is comprised of agencies across the national government (Ministry of Natural Resources, the Environment, and Tourism, Bureau of Agriculture, Palau Forestry, Protected Area Network, Ministry of Justice, Bureau of Public Safety, Division of Fire and Rescue, and the Environmental Quality and Protection Board), state governments, state protected area managers, and the Ebiil Society to focus on the complex issues and impacts related to wildfires, wildfire suppression, the restoration of areas burned, and outreach, education, and community engagement to help reduce wildfire occurrence in Palau.

2) The Network for Wildfire Prevention and the USDA-FS held a 2 day workshop to develop a National Wildfire Prevention Plan and a communication and outreach action plan for the 2021 dry season.

3) A place-based wildfire awareness curriculum was developed for Palau for grades 6-12 through a partnership of Ebiil Society, USDA-FS, Center for Getting Things Started, and the Pacific Fire Exchange and is currently being used in outreach programs of the Ebiil Society with local elementary schools.

4) A wildfire awareness video was produced by the Ebiil Society and the USDA-FS that is available on YouTube and will be used by the member agencies of the Network for Wildfire Prevention in their outreach activities.

5) Green shaded fuel breaks were established in 3 areas prone to wildfires in the state of Ngardmau, resulting in the planting of nearly 600 native trees by the Ngardmau community. A greenhouse was established in the Ngardmau protected area site (Ongedechuul System of Conservation Areas) to grow plants used for the green shaded fuel breaks.

Forest Monitoring Program

Palau was able to develop and initiate a Forest Monitoring protocol. This protocol has been established and we have initiated forest monitoring plots within the terrestrial Protected Areas Network (PAN) sites. Once all terrestrial PAN sites have been inventoried, plots will be established adjacent to PAN sites to compare forest status from protected areas and non protected areas. It is with this new initiative that we are hoping to be able to assess the state of Palau's forests.

Forest Stewardship

The FSP grant provided the Ebiil Society necessary support for organizational development and program improvement, including finances to hire personnel, training and capacity building in nursery training, forest health training, finance and project management training, and other critical knowledge for successful development and implementation of our forestry program. Our nursery productivity has increased tremendously as well as our reforestation efforts. The current project prioritized a Ngial State housing development area of 15 acres and Ngardmau's bauxite mine fields forest restoration of 20 acres. Soil and water management training was conducted with the residents of Ngial site. Households needing improved vegetative cover and flooding control were enabled to plant lemon grass and native medicinal and fruit trees and shrubs to reduce soil erosion and flooding. All activities are conducted with the State resource management office to ensure sustainability of knowledge and practices. Ngardmau's project launched in March 2020, and the efforts on tree planting to recover the mine fields has been exceptionally strong. The total number of landowners assisted is 31, for soil and water conservation, plants for their land, and education on planting to mitigate soil erosion, preserving soil quality, and property protection. A total 634 landowners, community members, science teachers, students and youth participated in Ebiil's community mobilization events including tree planting and Ebiil's Outdoor-Classroom in forest ecology. Two acres of Ngial degraded land area was planted for restoration while 8 acres in Ngardmau was restored with a total of 5377 trees. A total of 5404 seedlings were propagated for reforestation purposes, in addition to 81 ounces of seed of Ukall (*Serianthes kanehirae*) and Dort (*Intsia bijuga*), endangered and rare trees that are faced with overharvesting pressure for lumber. A project management plan for Ngardmau mine site was written.

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