



# FSM Ridge to Reef (R2R) Project Newsletter

## *FSM R2R Project Completes its Rehabilitation of Mangroves and Eroded Coastal Areas in Kosrae*



*Photo Courtesy of Kosrae R2R: Community members in Kosrae participating in the planting activities*

In February 2020, the FSM Ridge to Reef (R2R) project completed its rehabilitation activities in Kosrae, covering 10.99 ha of mangrove forests and 5.57 ha of coastal areas. This achievement was possible through a Low Value Grant (LVG), awarded to the Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority (KIRMA) in December 2019, from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Pacific Office in Fiji. Sixteen (16) sites in total were rehabilitated, 14 of which were mangrove forests and 2 coastal areas. More than 15,000 propagules were planted at the selected mangrove sites and approximately 1,573 plants of six (6) different species were planted along the coastline areas of Malem to Utwe in Kosrae by 14 different community groups totaling over 500 participants.

### ***R2R Project Partners with UCF Program to Revitalize the Malem and Utwe Resource Management Committees***



*Photo Courtesy of Kosrae R2R: Meeting with Mayors of Malem and Utwe*

The FSM R2R project has partnered with the US Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program in an effort to revive the Community Resource Management Committees (RMCs) for Malem and Utwe Municipalities. On February 20,

2020 the team held its first meeting with the Mayors and Chairmen of the Councils of Utwe & Malem to discuss potential project activities to be supported by R2R and the USFS-UCF program, including the revival of their RMCs. The need to revive the Malem and Utwe RMCs is a result of the FSM R2R project's Planning Meeting in September 2019, where the lack of resource management groups in various States was identified as a major barrier for tackling cross-sector environmental issues including landscape management.

The outcome of the meeting was highly positive, with the Mayor of Utwe, Honorable Canston Segal, affirming his support through working with the Council members of Utwe to seek further steps in appointing and nominating members for its RMC. The Mayor of Malem, Honorable Ruben K. Charley, stated that the consultation came in very timely as Malem recently nominated members for its RMC and is in the process of developing its bylaws to help define the roles and responsibilities of the group.

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## *R2R Supports Assessment of Mt. Winipwot*



*Photo Courtesy of Chuuk R2R: R2R Partners on Mount Winipwot*

Winipwot, a mountain located on the island of Tol, is known as the highest peak in Chuuk with an elevation of 1,463ft. It is an Area of Biological Significance (ABS) that is home to endemic and endangered plant and animal species identified in the 2002 Resource Mapping Project for the FSM (Blueprint to conserving the biodiversity of the FSM) through the Nature Conservancy (TNC). The mountain, in particular, has ecological significance to the protection of the endangered *Rukya rukya*, Chuuk Monarch, believed to have been once widespread on the ridges of Winipwot, Polle Island and Oror Forest in UFO, Fefen Island.

In an effort to reassess the ecological condition of Mt. Winipwot to inform the designation of Winipwot as a terrestrial protected area (PA) under the Chuuk State PA Network, the R2R project deployed a team consisting of partners from the Chuuk Conservation Society (CCS), Department of Agriculture (DOA), Department of Marine Resources (DMR), Chuuk Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Cooperative Research Extension (CRE) of the College of Micronesia, Chuuk Campus on a 3-day mission to observe and collect data on birds, trees and other wildlife found on the mountain. The assessment has been complete and is pending the release of the report containing the preliminary findings of the review.

### ***Communities in Tamil and Weloy Municipalities Launch Rehabilitation Activities funded by UNDP/R2R through Low Value Grants (LVGs)***



*Photo Courtesy of TRCT: Community Members in Maa, Tamil, undertaking preparation work at the designated project site*

Shortly after being awarded a Low Value Grant for the rehabilitation of its watershed fire breaker line and two wetland sites, communities in Tamil began

groundwork including community meetings and outreach activities, preparations of the project sites, gathering of seedlings and caring for them at the Tamil community nursery, and mapping of additional potential wetland areas to be rehabilitated. The restoration projects in Tamil will cover approximately 156ha of Tamil's watershed and 11.1 ha (excluding the proposed new sites) of coastal wetlands in Maa and Meerur, Tamil. Stay tuned for more updates in the next newsletter!



*Photo Courtesy of TRCT: A Newly Planted Tree at the Tamil Watershed Buffer Zone*

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*Photo Courtesy of Yap R2R*

Progress of R2R's restoration work in the municipality of Weloy include identification of community members to assist with the groundwork and completion of preparatory work at the project's stream bank site. The stream bank restoration will cover approximately 189ft of the total stream. Additionally, two hundred and ninety (290) pots made out of coconut husks have been prepared and ready for seedlings to be transferred into them. When ready, the plants will be transplanted to Weloy's watershed buffer zone. With assistance from the College of Micronesia's Land Grant and the Division of Agriculture and Forestry (DAF) under the Yap State Department of Resources and Development (R&D), the project teams in Weloy were provided trainings aimed to build their capacities on composting techniques.

### ***Pohnpei R2R Team Pays Courtesy Visit to the Pohnpei State Governor***



*Prof. Dalal-Clayton delivering the SEA presentation*

The FSM R2R project's lead consultant for the Pohnpei State Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Integrated Environmental Management Plan (IEMP), Professor Barry Dalal-Clayton, visited Pohnpei in January 2020 to assist Pohnpei State in finalizing the two key documents. During his visit, the

R2R team also met with the new administration of Pohnpei State, led by the Honorable Reed B. Oliver, Governor of Pohnpei State, and the Honorable Feliciano Perman, Lt. Governor of Pohnpei State, to discuss the findings of Pohnpei's SEA. The need to secure the Governor's endorsement for the Pohnpei SEA report and IEMP is highly crucial to ensuring the threats identified and actions needed to monitor and mitigate these environmental concerns receive support at the highest level of decision-making.

### ***Nanwap MPA Partners and Stakeholders Review Management Plan***

Eight years after the development of its management plan, the Nanwap Marine Protected Area (MPA) community gathered at its communal center on February 20, 2020 in Madolenihmw to review and revise its management plan. Based on results from the Pohnpei Coral Reef biophysical monitoring, Nanwap continues to be Pohnpei's lead community MPA in terms of coral reef status. Nevertheless, the community felt the need to reinforce its management efforts to address the decline in management contributions from Community Conservation Officers (CCOs) in recent years.

The forty-four participants included CCO's from the villages of Mesihsou, Lukop, Metipw, Dolopwail, and Aparahk, the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP), Pohnpei State Department of Resources and Development (R&D), Madolenihmw and U Municipal governments. Collectively, the participants reviewed and updated the following sections of the management plan: A) Nanwap MPA law and intent, B) Community vision, C) Goals and Objectives, D) Successes and Challenges, E) 3 months, 6 months, and 12 months actions, F) Opportunities to incorporate into their management actions and G) the Management Structure.

Following the review process, an arrangement was made for CSP to develop the revised management plan based on the recommendations provided through the consultation, and present back at the next community meeting scheduled for the first week of April 2020. The presence of the Mayor of Madolenihmw reinvigorated the community's commitment to endorse its new management plan by end of April 2020.

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## *Conservation Officers in Pohnpei State Learn Valuable Enforcement Skills*

In February 2020, Pohnpei State, through the FSM R2R project, partnered with the Pacific Islands Marine Protected Areas Community (PIMPAC), OneReef and CSP to conduct an enforcement training with select CCOs from various protected areas across Pohnpei. The training was facilitated by Mr. Wayne Andrew and Mr. Angel Jonathan (PIMPAC Consultants) with technical support from CSP's Marine Team. The training was tailored to address the current on the ground challenges faced at the community level by emphasizing ways to address gaps in law enforcement settings and mandates at both Municipal and State Government levels. The training was delivered as part of the need to focus on improving the ground support and expertise to ensure communities are able to effectively implement their site management plans



*PC of Mr. Andrew: Facilitator, Mr. Andrew, delivering his presentation to the CCOs*

## *The FSM R2R Project Team Welcomes New Additions*



**Ms. Rachael Nash** joined the R2R Project Implementation Unit (PIU) in February 2020 as the new National Technical Coordinator. Ms. Nash has been passionate about conservation in the islands since arriving in Micronesia 15 years ago as a Natural Resource Conservation and Development volunteer with the Peace Corps. Ms. Nash spent two years teaching on Fais, an outer island of Yap State, followed by a year in Palau at the Bureau of Marine Resources assisting with sea turtle, dugong and crocodile conservation. She worked for the Yap State Government for five years as a grant writer, fundraising for renewable energy, environment, and other community development projects. Ms. Nash was the Regional Coordinator for the Micronesia Challenge for four years, an initiative to effectively conserve

30% of near-shore marine resources and 20% of terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020. Following her time there, she continued to stay involved in the FSM as a volunteer and independent contractor.

Ms. Nash holds a Bachelor's in Biology. Prior to moving to the islands, she conducted field research on songbirds, worked as a naturalist, was involved with animal husbandry, and lived as a caretaker at a biological field station. Throughout her time in the islands she now considers home, Ms. Nash has been fascinated by traditional management practices and the strong relationship between the people and their environment, and the need for effective natural resource management in light of new threats such as climate change. She is very excited to have the opportunity to support the efforts of local environmental agencies and partners in her new role with the Ridge to Reef program. Ms. Nash can be reached at [nash.fsmr2r@gmail.com](mailto:nash.fsmr2r@gmail.com)



**Dr. Chiara Franco** joined the R2R PIU in March 2020 as the Chief Technical Adviser for the project. She is currently with APLYS consulting on projects that focus on ecosystem based adaptation and nature-based solutions, ensuring that socio-economic, climate change and traditional knowledge are the foundation for climate change adaptation, ecosystem management and conservation. Prior to joining the project, Dr. Franco served as the Micronesia Climate Change Specialist for The Nature Conservancy where she led the coordination of technical and scientific efforts to support the implementation of The Nature Conservancy's Climate Change strategies for the Micronesia Program. Her work included

linking ecological and economic strategies and data to assist communities, local and national governments in establishing climate change adaptation priorities and sustainable finance mechanisms at conservation sites. Dr. Franco can be reached at [chiara.franco.2019@gmail.com](mailto:chiara.franco.2019@gmail.com)

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Dr. Franco brings with her a strong background in conservation and resource planning and management, with experience working in different countries including island nations such as Grenada, Maldives and Indonesia. She earned her PhD from the University of Essex (UK) in 2014, her Master of Science in Tropical Coastal Management from the University of Newcastle (UK) in 2008 and her Bachelor's Degree in Marine Biology and Oceanography from the Polytechnic University of Marche (Italy) in 2004.



**Mr. Carlos J. Cianchini** is a native of Puerto Rico who now considers Kosrae his home. He joined the R2R project in February 2020 as one of Kosrae State's Protected Area (PA) Rangers. Mr. Cianchini brings with him a background in research, data collection and project management through previous work experiences in Puerto Rico and Korae. Prior to joining the R2R project, Mr. Cianchini was employed by the Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization (KCSO) for two years, collecting ethno botanical information on plants. He later joined the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) project in Kosrae as the Assistant Coordinator before moving to the private sector.



**Mr. Lydon S. Nena** also joined the R2R project in February as a PA Ranger for Kosrae State. Prior to joining the project, Mr. Nena served the private sector for numerous years and later joined the Tafunsak Municipal Government as a security officer. In 2019, the R2R project conducted a training course for new and existing enforcement officers in Kosrae. Mr. Nena was one of the participants who completed the course and became deputized as an Environmental Enforcement Officer for Kosrae State.

The two PA Rangers are currently based with KIRMA and are responsible for supporting the project's partner agencies in Kosrae with implementation of PA activities including monitoring and enforcement of laws and regulations across protected areas in Kosrae.

### ***Employment Opportunity!***

***Position: R2R Technical Officer***

***Location: KIRMA***

***Benefits: \$18,000 per annum***

The primary responsibility of the **R2R State Technical Officer** is to technically assist the R2R Technical Coordinator in successfully implementing the FSM R2R Project. The R2R State Technical Officer will play a key role in liaising with and providing technical assistance to key implementing partners and stakeholders to ensure sound technical cooperation and coordination of project activities at State level.

**Qualifications:** BA in environmental management, conservation or other closely related fields; 2-3 years of work experience in PA management; good leadership, communication and facilitation skills; ability to work in multi-disciplinary environments; fully computer literate with MS Programs; and demonstrated initiative in carrying out his/her duties and ability to work independently on tight deadlines.

**To Apply:** Contact the Director of KIRMA, Mr. Blair Charley, via email at [charleyblair@gmail.com](mailto:charleyblair@gmail.com) or by phone at (691) 370-3646 or Ms. Yatilman at [rosalinda.yatilman@decem.gov.fm/](mailto:rosalinda.yatilman@decem.gov.fm/) (691)320-8814.

### ***For more information on the FSM R2R Project, please contact:***

**Project Manager,** Rosalinda Yatilman,  
[rosalinda.yatilman@decem.gov.fm](mailto:rosalinda.yatilman@decem.gov.fm) Tel: +691 320-8815

**National Technical Coordinator,** Rachael Nash  
[nash.fsmr2r@gmail.com](mailto:nash.fsmr2r@gmail.com) Tel: +691 950-8704

**Financial Administrator,** Fritzgerald Weilbacher  
[fritzweilbacher@gmail.com](mailto:fritzweilbacher@gmail.com) Tel: +691320-8815

**Kosrae State Coordinator,** Marston Luckymis,  
[mluckymis@gmail.com](mailto:mluckymis@gmail.com); Tel: +691 370-3646

**Pohnpei State Coordinator,** Jorg Anson,  
[jorgyanson@gmail.com](mailto:jorgyanson@gmail.com) Tel: +691 320-1780

**Chuuk State Coordinator,** Kriskitina K. Marar,  
[krizk66@gmail.com](mailto:krizk66@gmail.com) Tel: +691 330-6729

**Yap State Coordinator,** Debra Laan  
[debra.laan@gmail.com](mailto:debra.laan@gmail.com) Tel: +691 350-2113

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