



2019
Project Implementation Review (PIR)



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Ridge to Reef Micronesia R2R

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A. Basic Data

Project Information	
UNDP PIMS ID	5179
GEF ID	5517
Title	R2R Implementing an integrated “ Ridge to Reef” approach to enhance ecosystem services, to conserve globally important biodiversity and to sustain local livelihoods in the FSM
Country(ies)	Micronesia, Micronesia
UNDP-GEF Technical Team	Ecosystems and Biodiversity
Project Implementing Partner	Government
Joint Agencies	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
Project Type	Full Size

Project Description
<p>Marine and terrestrial biodiversity and ecosystem services underpin the economy of the Federated States of Micronesia and are vital to food security. However, these resources and services are currently being undermined by unsustainable resource use practices and overharvesting of resources, spread of invasive alien species and the impacts of climate change. This project has been designed to engineer a paradigm shift in the management of natural resources from an ad hoc site/problem centric approach to a holistic ridge to reef management approach, where whole island systems are managed to enhance ecosystem services, to conserve globally important biodiversity and to sustain local livelihoods. The project will promote an integrated approach towards fostering sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation, seeking to balance environmental management with development needs. Amongst other things, it will set-up a multi-sector planning platform to balance competing environmental, social and economic objectives. In doing so, it will reduce conflicting land-uses and improve the sustainability of upland and mangrove forest and wetlands management so as to maintain the flow of vital ecosystem services and sustain the livelihoods of local communities. Further, the project will demonstrate sustainable land management practices, testing new management measures, as needed, to reduce existing environmental stressors. The project will also enhance the FSM's capacities to effectively manage its protected areas estate, as well as increase the terrestrial and marine coverage of the PA system on the High Islands.</p>

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Project Implementing Partner	Department of Environment, Climate Change and

	Emergency Management
Other Partners	Department of Resources and Development

B. Overall Ratings

Overall DO Rating	Moderately Unsatisfactory
Overall IP Rating	Moderately Unsatisfactory
Overall Risk Rating	Substantial

C. Development Progress

Description					
Objective					
To strengthen local, State and National capacities and actions to implement integrated ecosystem based management through “ridge to reef” approach on the High Islands of the four States of the FSM					
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2018	Cumulative progress since project start
Area of High Islands of the FSM where pressures from competing land uses are reduced (measured by no net loss of intact forests) through the implementation of Integrated Landscape Management Plans	0 ha Area of intact forest within the High Islands to be established in Year 1	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	62,133 ha No net loss of intact forest against the baseline	Baseline data on intact forest was not collected/verified during year one of the project, however, collaborative efforts have begun between the R2R and the Micronesia Challenge (MC) terrestrial measures group to verify the baseline, now that data is available. The MC initiated collection of terrestrial data for the FSM over a year ago, and is currently analyzing data from the surveys conducted. As such, updates will be included in the next PIR, however, a priority for the PIU is to work with implementing partners and technical experts to update/verify baselines and possibly adjust targets (as needed) in the project's SRF, based on current situation in the FSM. Work is well underway, beginning 2nd quarter of FY18.	Baseline data has yet to be established. Project to utilize available information (i.e. 2008 vegetation maps and mapping of development activities identified through the SEA process in Pohnpei State) to support establishment of Pohnpei's forest cover. Priority of the project is to finalize Pohnpei's IEMP for implementation before establishing the baseline data. In Quarter 2 of 2019, the project completed the SEA for Pohnpei State. The final outputs include the SEA report and the IEMP for Pohnpei State. Such model is available for replication in the remaining three States. It is important to note, however, that following the decision by UNDP and government to select only one State to undertake the SEA, the project's

					<p>target of maintaining at least 62,133ha of intact forest (with no net loss) is unlikely to be achieved. Additionally, such indicator is confusing and will be more clearly reinterpreted in a logframe workshop in September 2019.</p> <p>Project will establish the data beginning with Pohnpei State. Project is already engaged with DECEM's GIS expert for assistance. Result to be reported in the next PIR cycle.</p>
Average of METT Scores for 40 target PAs covering 24,986 ha	0.55	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	65% with no drop in scores in any of the individual PAs	<p>Project is one year and a half (1 and ½) into implementation. Although scoring has yet to be conducted, a lot of effort has been focused on 1) consultations with communities for identification of new PA sites; 2) development of management plans for new PA sites and revision of existing plans; and 3) demarcation of existing PAs</p> <p>Chuuk, in particular, is focusing its efforts on raising awareness around its newly endorsed PAN Law; translating an existing management plan (for Onei community) into the local language; and a mangrove forest assessment which will help inform its efforts to put into place, a moratorium to seize the commercial sale of mangroves.</p> <p>Kosrae is still working towards finalizing and enacting the Walung</p>	<p>Overall, the average METT score for all the 40 PAs increased by 1% from 55% in 2015 to 56% in 2018-2019.</p> <p>In 2018, the project measured the METT scores for the 40 PAs and found that the average in all four States were well below the recommended threshold of 65%. Between 2015 to 2008-2019, Pohnpei's score changed by less than 1%, whereas Kosrae showed no change at all. Yap's score increased by 3%, whereas Chuuk declined by 1%. Of the 40 PAs, METT scores for 11 sites dropped.</p> <p>Activities within the reporting period</p>

				<p>MPA through PA legislation. Malem was officially endorsed as an MPA in February 2018.</p> <p>Pohnpei State is focusing efforts on participatory awareness for the Nett Watershed Forest Reserve. The Kitti Watershed Forest Reserve completed its awareness activities in Year 1, resulting in a signed MOU between the Pohnpei State Government, Kitti Municipality and traditional leaders for the demarcation of the watershed boundaries. Management planning with the Sokeh's community on Palikir Pass MPA is ongoing – objectives and activities have been identified by the community. The plan will be drafted in the coming weeks based on these community consultation outputs.</p> <p>Yap is working towards developing a new management plan for Gachpar community, and securing additional new sites through outreach on PAs with communities.</p>	<p>aimed to increase the METT scores of the 40 PAs include (1) protected area enforcement trainings for community and law enforcement officers in Chuuk and Kosrae; (2) management planning to support development of management plans in Kosrae and Yap; (3) annual learning exchange for communities engaged in management PAs in Pohnpei; and (4) demarcation of PA sites in Yap and Chuuk.</p>
Sustainable Land Management Capacity Development Score for FSM	0.5	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	0.7	<p>A capacity needs assessment was conducted for the States of Kosrae and Yap in May 2018. Both assessments were focused on revisiting the SLM and PA capacity development scorecards to update the scores based on state capacities and identify priority capacity building activities for implementing partners. Once Chuuk (scheduled for week of July 2nd) and</p>	<p>Post June 2018, the project completed the remaining Capacity Needs Assessments for Chuuk and Pohnpei using the PA and SLM scorecards. The scores for all four States were validated in February 2019 -- showing an average SLM score of 56% across the FSM. This demonstrates a 1% increase against the baseline of 55%.</p>

				Pohnpei (scheduled for June 29th) complete their respective needs assessments, a capacity building strategy will be developed, targeting the low scores and state priorities of both the SLM and PA scorecards.	During preparation of the mid-term results, the baseline was found to be incorrect (SLM and PA baselines were mixed), and baseline and target have been corrected in this PIR.
PA Management Capacity Development Score for FSM	0.55 [check]	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	0.75	Refer to above update on SLM capacity scorecard.	<p>The revised PA scorecard indicated an average of 52% for all four States. This is a 2% increase from the project's baseline data of 50%.</p> <p>This can be attributed to the project's efforts including, but not limited to the following: increased PA enforcement trainings in Chuuk; demarcation of PAs in Chuuk and Yap; sharing of best practices in Pohnpei through learning exchanges and endorsement of PA legal frameworks at National and State level to guide management effectiveness of PAs.</p> <p>Based on the scorecard results, Yap capacity is lagging behind other States due to its lack of legal framework to support PA management. Yap's PAN regulations is currently under review.</p> <p>During preparation of the mid-term</p>

					results, the baseline was found to be incorrect (SLM and PA baselines were mixed), and baseline and target have been corrected in this PIR.
% of the FSM population benefitting in the long-term from the sustainable management of the fisheries resource which includes providing adequate refugia for sustaining the resource	0	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	0.2	<p>It is difficult to determine, at this point, the percentage (%) of FSM population benefitting from sustainable management of fisheries. There are multiple community-based activities taking place simultaneously in each State, ranging from PA activities to providing assistance in development of fisheries management plans (Kosrae State) and deployment of Fish Aggregation Devices (Yap) – first FAD procured in Year 1 and awaiting materials for the final 2 to be deployed in 2018. Both activities aim to reduce harvesting pressure on inshore fisheries.</p> <p>Furthermore, other than successfully establishing and managing all the project's marine PAs, there is It is difficult to assess how the project's target (20% of the FSM population benefitting from the long term sustainability of fisheries management) will be determined. As such, there is a need for the indicator to be revisited (and modified if needed) in the MTR.</p>	<p>Project has yet to determine the percent of the FSM population benefitting from sustainable management of fisheries due to difficulties in measuring the indicator (for the purpose of establishing the baseline) and understanding how the progress made so far has contributed to achieving the 20% target.</p> <p>Initial findings of the MTE also support the development of more robust targets and fine-tuning of the indicators -- given the understanding that the 20% target is based on a fisheries study conducted for Pohnpei State only.</p> <p>Progress to be assessed post the MTE once the indicator has been refined to allow better monitoring.</p>
The progress of the objective can be described as:		Off track			
Outcome 1					
Integrated Ecosystems Management and Rehabilitation on the High Islands of the FSM to enhance Ridge to Reef Connectivity					

Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2018	Cumulative progress since project start
Number of Integrated Landscape Management Plans being implemented	0 ILMPs being implemented	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	4 ILMPs being implemented (1 per State)	<p>Project currently in the recruitment process for the SEA Specialist. Two candidates have been identified and have completed interviews with the selection panel, consisting of UNDP and the FSM. Final selection of consultant scheduled for last week of June. Offer to be given to the selected consultant by early July.</p> <p>Once on board, the SEA specialist will begin working with the SEA team and other key stakeholders to plan the first phase (scoping study) which will feed into Scope 2, development of the ILMPS. The scoping phase is tentatively scheduled to take place in August this year depending on consultant and state partner schedules.</p>	<p>As of June 2019, the project finalized and submitted to UNDP for consideration, the following key documents for Pohnpei State (1) a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Report and (2) an Integrated Environmental Management Plan.</p> <p>It remains unclear whether or not the remaining three States will move forward with SEAs and the development of their respective IEMPs. The decision to select only one state to undertake means only 1 out of 4 IEMPs will be established, therefore, accounting for only 1/4 of the project target.</p>
<p>Enhanced cross-sector enabling environment for integrated landscape management as per PMAT score:</p> <p>(i) Framework strengthening INRM</p> <p>(ii) Capacity strengthening</p>	<p>(i) Score 2 – INRM framework has been discussed and formally proposed</p> <p>(ii) Score 2 – Initial awareness raised (e.g. workshops, seminars)</p>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<p>(i) Score 4 – INRM framework has been formally adopted by stakeholders but weak</p> <p>(ii) Score 4 – Knowledge effectively transferred (e.g. working groups tackle cross-</p>	<p>INRM was discussed during the project's recent Project Management Training on 14-18 May 2018. Based on discussions, there is no INRM framework in place. Therefore, there is a need to validate information from the project document, specifically, that referring to a formal endorsement of an INRM framework that has been formally adopted by stakeholders.</p>	<p>The outputs of the IEMP process includes a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) platform and a Decision Support System (DSS) tool to measure effectiveness of the IEMP and help inform sound decision making. As of June 2019, project completed the first draft of Pohnpei's IEMP although has yet to be translated into a monitoring and evaluation platform for decision making.</p>

			sectoral issues)		
Annual Government and Donor funding allocated to SLM (including PA management costs)	US\$ 9.2 million	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	At least US\$ 10.1 million	<p>There is a recently approved project through the Adaptation Fund worth 1M which focuses on improving implementation of protected areas; strengthening enforcement of MPAs and near-shore fisheries regulations; building community level adaptive capacity to climate change; and improving knowledge management of PAs for livelihoods and conservation.</p> <p>This project has been supported by the R2R project from its project proposal phase until its endorsement to ensure there is no duplication of activities and that resources are shared to maximize benefits.</p> <p>Furthermore, there is a need for the Mid-Term Review to revisit the annual government and donor funding allocated for SLM and PAs to review the project's progress against its target of at least US 10.1 million.</p>	<p>Prior to the MTE, the project collected financial data for financing of environmental programs in the FSM to determine the annual government and donor funding for SLM and PA management costs. Based on the information provided by partner agencies, the overall budget for environmental programs in 2019 was approximately 12.3 million. Roughly 9.8 million was sourced from local revenues and 2.5 from donor funding.</p> <p>Additionally, in 2019 the project secured 40K from Congress to expand the project funded dry litter piggeries in Kosrae.</p>
Extent (ha) of ecosystems rehabilitated resulting in increased delivery of ecosystem and development benefits: (i) Upland forests (ii) Mangroves & wetlands	(i) 0 hectares (ii) 0 hectares	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	(i) 350 hectares (ii) 50 hectares	<p>One site (Nefo Forest) for rehabilitation has been identified in Chuuk. This activity also includes a baseline forest survey. Although the activity has yet to be implemented due to unforeseen complications with the implementing entity, it is anticipated to commence beginning third quarter of FY18.</p> <p>Other related activities include promotion of sustainable solid waste management practices (in Chuuk) and</p>	<p>Preparatory work for the rehabilitation of Nefo in Chuuk (implemented through the Chuuk Women's Council) is currently ongoing. The size of the site to be restored has yet to be determined due to a recent adjustment in its location. Size to be determined post submission CWC's work plan and proposed methodology for the restoration work.</p>

				<p>clean up of waste and pollution sources impacting critical ecosystems (in Yap).</p>	<p>In 2019, the project approved the rehabilitation of two additional sites in Yap. The restoration work will include replanting of native species within the watersheds of Tamil and Weloy. Exact sizes of the sites to be determined in the next PIR. Furthermore, in April 2019 the project completed the construction of a compost shed completed in Yap to support rehabilitation of degraded sites including savannah lands and other critical sites identified by the project.</p> <p>Additionally, the project endorsed the rehabilitation the rehabilitation of mangrove forests and wetlands in Kosrae. In April 2019, the Forestry and Invasive Unit within the Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority (KIRMA) completed an assessment on mangroves and wetlands to determine critical areas for rehabilitation. Findings of the evaluation has yet to be available including the identification of sites.</p> <p>Finally, as part of the project's demarcation activities in Pohnpei, the Kitti Watershed Forest Reserve will be delineated and rehabilitated. Exact size of area to be determined post consultations with the</p>
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					landowners.
% of piggeries using the dry litter piggery system within the Ipwek, Dachangar, Finkol, and Nefounimas catchments resulting in increased water quality	0	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	1	<p>Four farmers have been identified in Kosrae to pilot the dry litter piggeries, one in each of the State's four municipalities: Tafunsak, Malem, Walung and Utwe. Although Finkol was pre-identified as the project site, there was a unanimous decision among key stakeholders to divide the dry litter piggeries among the four municipalities. This decision was based on a recent water quality testing, which indicated that all rivers within the four municipalities are highly contaminated. As such, the project is currently undergoing procurement of materials for construction of piggeries.</p> <p>Pohnpei State has re-affirmed its decision to utilize Ipwek as the project site for its dry litter piggeries. Although the selection of farmers has yet to be confirmed, consultations with the community is expected to commence shortly for identification of four farmers for conversion of their regular piggeries into the DLP system.</p> <p>The baseline data for the project sites also needs to be revisited to determine whether or not the baseline data (number of piggeries using the DLP system) still remains at 0%.</p>	<p>The construction of four Dry Litter Piggeries (DLPs) in Kosrae is still ongoing and nearly completed. Multiple efforts to promote the DLP system in Kosrae were conducted between July 2018 - June 2019, including workshops on the operation of DLPs and use of compost fertilizers produced from DLPs, construction of portable dry litter piggeries as a cheaper alternative to the regular DLPs, etc.</p> <p>Construction of DLPs in Pehleng, Pohnpei State, are also ongoing through funding support from Compact. Project will be complementing the ongoing effort by funding the construction of remaining piggeries within the site. Slight delays in the construction work occurred early 2019 due to a cease on the sale of sand by the sole provider. With a new vendor now available, construction work is expected to pick up again.</p> <p>In 2019, the project completed a household survey in the Dachngar area, Yap State, to establish the project's baseline data for households with piggeries. Following the survey, outreach activities were conducted to (1)</p>

					<p>increase awareness in the community on the impacts of pig waste on water quality; and (2) leverage buy-in from community members to the Dry Litter Piggery method. Construction will begin in 2019 with the Division of Agriculture and Forestry's pigpen given its size and its location being within the project site.</p> <p>Limited progress on DLPs has been made in Chuuk due to lack of water tests to support construction within the newly identified site. Although an assessment was conducted in February 2019 to determine the source of contamination within the site, the report did not provide sufficient evidence to suggest that piggeries were the main pollution source for the site.</p>
The progress of the objective can be described as:		Off track			
Outcome 2					
Management Effectiveness enhanced within new and existing PAs on the High Islands of FSM as part of the R2R approach (both marine and terrestrial)					
Description of Indicator	Baseline Level	Midterm target level	End of project target level	Level at 30 June 2018	Cumulative progress since project start
Coverage (ha) of statutory PAs in the High Islands	(i) Legal status of 0 (0 ha) PAs verified	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	(i) Legal status of 40 PAs verified - 27 existing and 13 new gazette	Project is currently working with the Micronesia Challenge (MC), Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) and the Nature Conservancy (TNC) to verify legal status of existing PAs in the FSM. Once the list is finalized, the	Status verified for gazetted PAs
(i) PAs gazette status verified	(ii) 3,154 ha				(i) 21 existing PAs
(ii) Marine	(iii) 4,444 ha				(ii) 13,912.5 ha

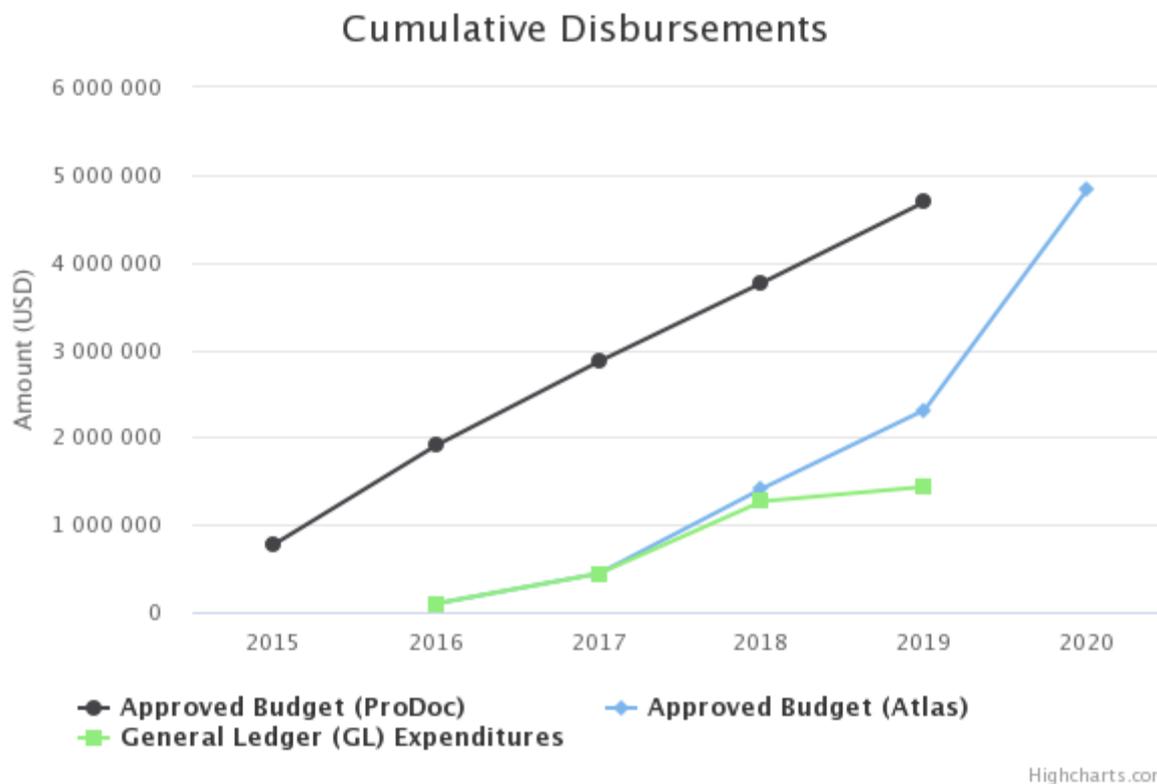
(iii) Terrestrial (iv) Total	(iv) 7,598 ha		(ii) 14,953 ha (iii) 10,033 ha (iv) 24,986	<p>project will be able to provide verification on legal status of the 27 existing PA sites.</p> <p>Verification of the proposed new PA sites is also ongoing, though it is anticipated that additional sites may be selected outside of the identified 40 PAs for support by the project.</p> <p>In addition, the Malem MPA (Kosrae State) recently endorsed its management plan with a signing ceremony held on February 9, 2018 to commemorate this important achievement. This achievement was made possible by efforts from the Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization (a key implementing partner of the R2R project) with support from the R2R project.</p>	<p>(iii) 3,415 ha (iv) 17,327.5 ha</p> <p>The above PAs are officially established either by State law or declared by the landowners/communities through municipal ordinances.</p> <p>(i) 19 PAs remain pending to be gazetted (ii) 1,225 ha (iii) 6,630 ha (iv) 7,855 ha</p> <p>During the METT review, the sizes of various PAs in Yap and Kosrae were corrected. These sites and their corrected size in hectares are as follows: Nimpal Channel (77.5 ha), Awane (136 ha), Tafunsak (269 ha), Utw Biosphere Reserve (120 ha), Pikensukar (21 ha), Tukunruh (131 ha) and Olum waterhed (322 ha). This increases the overall total of all PAs from 24,986 ha to 25,182.5 ha.</p>
Number of States having a fully operational PA management decision support system in place on which management decisions	0	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	4	Existing PA management systems include PAN laws which provide planning, management and regulation of PAs. Since the beginning of the	Key progress on PA management decision support systems include:

are based				<p>project, Kosrae and Pohnpei already had their respective PAN laws in place. In October 2017, through the support of key partners i.e. MCT, TNC and others, Chuuk’s PAN was signed into law. Yap has yet to endorse its PAN law due to legal complications. However, the project continues to work with its partners to once again, revisit the proposed law and revise to ensure it is in line with Yap State’s Constitution. There is a law student from the University of Hawaii interning at the Yap State AG office– he is working with partners in Yap to revisit current PAN legislation and provide recommendations on its amendment as needed. It is envisioned that the PAN legislation will be re-introduced once adjusted.</p> <p>There has been some key progress on the FSM PAN framework. A bill was drafted and introduced to the FSM Congress. It is waiting further action from the FSM Congress.</p>	<p>(1) Congress endorsement the FSM Protected Area Network (PAN) Framework in September 2018;</p> <p>(2) YAP PAN Legislation undergoing a 30day period of announcement to allow for public comment/dispute</p> <p>The overarching challenge remains that the FSM PAN has yet to be operationalized. The Department of R&D is currently engaging with MCT, R2R, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), State Governments and partners to operationalize the PAN. First step includes forming a Technical Review Committee and developing an Operations Manual. In its effort to help drive the PAN process, the R2R project will be funding the development of the operations manual.</p> <p>The Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT), through a separate grant, will facilitate the recruitment of State PAN Coordinators to support implementation of the FSM PAN in collaboration with the States.</p>
Mean % of total fish biomass of (i) <i>Cheilinus undulates</i> (EN); and (ii)	Chuuk:	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Stable or increasing mean	Mean % of total fish biomass for <i>Cheilinus undulates</i> (EN); and (ii)	Mean % of total fish biomass for (i) <i>Cheilinus undulates</i> (EN); and (ii)

<p>Bolbometopon muricatum (VU) across the States</p>	<p>(i) 1.14% (ii) 0.22%</p> <p>Kosrae: (i) 1.52% (ii) 0.00%</p> <p>Pohnpei: (i) 5.2% (ii) 0.48%</p> <p>Yap: (i) 2.47% (ii) 4.70%</p>		<p>% against baseline at each State</p>	<p>Bolbometopon muricatum (VU) across the States has yet to be determined. R2R is exploring several options to obtain such information i.e. seeking assistance from regional technical experts (for fisheries and coral reef monitoring) to verify baseline information and update the project's data based on recently conducted studies.</p> <p>For example, per the project document, 0.00% of Bolbometopon muricatum (VU) exist in Kosrae. The timing of when such assessment was conducted may have affected the results of the study, since reports indicate that such type of fish species exist in Kosrae. Baselines for these species need to be adjusted based on existing data – further and/or specific studies/surveys/assessments may need to be undertaken to verify some of this information.</p> <p>The R2R project will aim to collect all available data pertaining to recent fish studies, surveys and assessments for review and recommendations during the project's upcoming MTR.</p>	<p>Bolbometopon muricatum (VU) across the States for 2012-2015 are as follows:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Chuuk:</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Kosrae:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(i) 1.18%</td> <td>(i) 7.01%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(ii) 0.16%</td> <td>(ii) 0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pohnpei:</td> <td>Yap:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(i) 1.47%</td> <td>(i) 3.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(ii) 1.08%</td> <td>(ii) 4.9%</td> </tr> </table> <p>Results show a slight increase in mean % of fish biomass for Cheilinus undulates in Chuuk while the Bolbometopon muricatum declined by 0.06%. Kosrae saw a significant increase (5.87%) in its Cheilinus undulates with no changes against the Bolbometopon muricatum. Pohnpei, on the other hand, faced a decline in both the Cheilinus undulates and the Bolbometopon muricatum. Yap's data show a 0.63% in the Cheilinus undulates and a small 0.2% decline in Bolbometopon muricatum.</p> <p>Project is currently funding coral reef monitoring activities across the</p>	Chuuk:	Kosrae:	(i) 1.18%	(i) 7.01%	(ii) 0.16%	(ii) 0%			Pohnpei:	Yap:	(i) 1.47%	(i) 3.1%	(ii) 1.08%	(ii) 4.9%
Chuuk:	Kosrae:																		
(i) 1.18%	(i) 7.01%																		
(ii) 0.16%	(ii) 0%																		
Pohnpei:	Yap:																		
(i) 1.47%	(i) 3.1%																		
(ii) 1.08%	(ii) 4.9%																		

					four States to update the project's fish data. Results to be analyzed post July 2019.
<p>Mean Detection Rate of the following birds:</p> <p>(i) Kosrae: <i>Zosterops cinereus</i> (Kosrae White-eye) Endemic</p> <p>(ii) Pohnpei: <i>Myiagra pluto</i> (Pohnpei Flycatcher) Endemic</p> <p>(iii) Chuuk: <i>Metabolus rugensis</i> (Truk Monarch) Endangered</p> <p>(iv) Yap: <i>Monarcha godeffroyi</i> (Yap Monarch) Endemic</p> <p>(v) All States: <i>Ducula oceanica</i> (Micronesian Pigeon) Regionally endemic</p>	<p>(i) 1,846 (Baseline to be verified in year 1 of project)</p> <p>(ii) 0.7936</p> <p>(iii) – (v) Baseline TBD in year 1 of project</p>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Stable or increasing against baseline	<p>Verification of baseline data has yet to be verified, including other baseline information that has yet to be determined i.e. Chuuk Monarch.</p> <p>Project will seek assistance from technical experts in forestry/agriculture to verify and determine baseline data, before a survey is conducted to monitor mean detection rates.</p> <p>The R2R project will also aim to obtain existing data for recent bird studies, surveys and assessments to be made available during the project's upcoming MTR.</p>	<p>With assistance from the BirdLife International, the project is currently working on developing a Terms of Reference (TOR) for a bird survey to be conducted across the FSM states for the purpose of verifying/establishing the project's baseline data for its targeted bird species.</p> <p>Progress includes the development of a concept note although the methodology to be used and potential dates have yet to finalize.</p>
The progress of the objective can be described as:		Off track			

D. Implementation Progress



Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc):	30.56%
Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year:	30.56%
Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August):	1,433,033

Key Financing Amounts	
PPG Amount	150,000
GEF Grant Amount	4,689,815
Co-financing	17,886,398

Key Project Dates	
PIF Approval Date	Nov 6, 2013
CEO Endorsement Date	Jul 21, 2015
Project Document Signature Date (project start date):	Nov 19, 2015
Date of Inception Workshop	Oct 26, 2016
Expected Date of Mid-term Review	Nov 1, 2018

Actual Date of Mid-term Review	Sep 5, 2019
Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation	May 21, 2020
Original Planned Closing Date	Nov 17, 2020
Revised Planned Closing Date	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>

Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2018 to 1 July 2019)
2018-10-15
2018-11-15
2019-03-27
2019-04-17

E. Critical Risk Management

Current Types of Critical Risks	Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period
Organizational	<p>Limited technical support available within IPs to ensure timely delivery of project activities.</p> <p>Project has made provision to allow temporary staff to provide technical support from time to time. In addition, project will be hiring technical officers for each of the States to (1) oversee and provide support to technical activities at State level and (2) assist State Coordinators to ensure timely delivery of project activities.</p>
Financial	<p>Reduced funding for small sectors including Environment from the US Compact.</p> <p>In the past years, support to the project from government has normally been through the form of aid-in-kind. However, in 2018 the US Compact introduced a new bill ceasing its support for recurring costs for small sectors including Environment. This has resulted in reduced in-kind support from IPs for implementation of project activities, with some IPs now requesting financial assistance from project to cover their overhead costs. Project has explored ways to assist by financing utilities and internet costs (for KIRMA) to avoid disruption in project activities while seeking additional financial assistance from Congress.</p>

F. Adjustments

Comments on delays in key project milestones

Project Manager: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.

The Midterm Review was initially scheduled for late 2018, however, was delayed due to the recruitment process as well as ensuring the schedule was appropriate for all relevant partners including the external consultant.

Country Office: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.

Mid Term Review initially planned for 2018 was postponed to 2019. This for few reasons including:

- at the time of finalization of Terms of Reference for Mid Term Evaluation consultancy, the project was making progress on an important activity i.e. strategic environment impact assessment
- at the end of year was approaching and in consultation with procurement unit, based on previous experience it was advised that the review commence in 2019 e.g. not too many applications received around the end of year and most agencies closed during holiday season in December-January.

UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.

As summarized above by PM and CO, there were some delays in recruitment of the MTR team, scheduling the MTR mission and finalizing the MTR report (and its clearance by the UNDP CO which is only just confirmed). However, overall the MTR was completed ahead of the UNDP-GEF specifications for MTR timing (i.e. between the 2nd and 3rd PIRs) and the project is well-placed to respond to the MTR findings and make required course corrections that can be implemented over the remainder of the project.

G. Ratings and Overall Assessments

Role	2019 Development Objective Progress Rating	2019 Implementation Progress Rating
Project Manager/Coordinator	Unsatisfactory	<i>- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -</i>
Overall Assessment	<p>I have given a rating of unsatisfactory because the project is not proceeding as planned (continued delays in completion of project milestones) and is at risk of facing significant implementation issues. Although progress towards most indicators is limited or unclear, it is still possible that end-of-project targets can be reached by project end with good adaptive management. Project to revisit the logframe which will also help make targets achievable.</p> <p>Under the objective indicators, the project recently completed Pohnpei's IEMP in June 2019, therefore, it has yet to be implemented nor evaluated for its effectiveness. Progress on the averaged METT scores for the project's targeted 40 PAs indicate that with the exception of Kosrae, the other three states scored well below the 65% threshold. The SLM and PA scorecards were last measured in February in 2019. Results show a 6% increase in the SLM score and a 2% decline in the PA score. Furthermore, the project has yet to determine the percent of the FSM population benefiting from sustainable management of fisheries due to difficulties in measuring and monitoring the indicator.</p> <p>Under Outcome 1, Only Pohnpei State has a completed IEMP, although it has yet been implemented. It remains unclear whether or not the other three States will undertake the SEA for the development of their respective SEAs. Moreover, the outputs of the IEMP process includes a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) platform and a Decision Support System (DSS) tool to measure effectiveness of the IEMP. As such, only Pohnpei State has an M&E framework for its IEMP although has yet to be translated into an DSS tool. The annual government funding for SLM including PA costs, as measured in 2019, totaled 12.3. This is 2.2million above the project's target of 10.1m.</p> <p>Although sites for rehabilitation have been identified across all four States and preparatory work is ongoing, the project has yet to determine the exact size of ecosystems to be restored to assess its progress against the 350ha (upland forests) and 50 ha (wetlands and mangroves) targets. Finally, construction of dry litter piggeries is ongoing in Kosrae and Pohnpei. Yap is expected to begin its construction work late 2019 beginning with the largest pigpen within the site which belongs to the Division of Agriculture and Forestry, Department of Resources and Development. In Chuuk, limited progress has been made due to lack of water tests to support construction within the newly identified site.</p> <p>Under Outcome 2, The legal status of the 40 PAs was verified between 2018-2019. Results show that out of the 40 PAs, 21 were officially recognized as PAs either through municipal ordinances or declaration by State laws. The remaining 19 include sites that are community-established but have yet to undergo the PA legislation process/undeclared. These non-published PAs are currently supported by the project through community consultations to (1) development/revise their management plans; (2) leverage support from the</p>	

	<p>landowners to undertake the PA legislation process; etc. Project also funded demarcation of several PA including the annual learning exchange in Pohnpei State to share and learn from each other's best practices.</p> <p>For PA management decision support systems, the FSM PAN framework was approved in 2018 and three States (Kosrae, Pohnpei and Chuuk) now have PAN laws with the exception of Yap which is underdoing a 30day announcement period for its PAN legislation. The challenge remains that the PAN laws (for Pohnpei and Kosrae) established prior to 2018 need to be reviewed to ensure they are in line with the 2018 FSM PAN Framework. Additionally, the PAN framework itself has yet to be operationalized. To help drive the PAN process, the R2R project is partnering with MCT, TNC and R&D to establish a technical review and develop an operations manual for the PAN policy.</p> <p>Finally, project is funding coral reef monitoring activities across the States to update the project's fish data for Cheilinus undulates (EN) and Bolbometopon muricatum (VU). Fish data sourced from regional experts for 2012-2015 show a slight increase in mean % of fish biomass for Cheilinus undulates in Chuuk while the Bolbometopon muricatum declined by 0.06%. Kosrae saw a significant increase (5.87%) in its Cheilinus undulates with no changes against the Bolbometopon muricatum. Pohnpei, on the other hand, faced a decline in both the Cheilinus undulates and the Bolbometopon muricatum. Yap's data show a 0.63% in the Cheilinus undulates and a small 0.2% decline in Bolbometopon muricatum. Furthermore, the project's baseline data for its targeted birds have yet to be validated/established. Progress, however, has been through the assistance of Birdlife International. A concept note has been developed and methodology to be finalized post the finalized MTE report.</p> <p>Not all baselines have been established as some indicators are unclear. There are also challenges in data availability. The MTR recommended review of the logframe which will occur in September 2019 through a workshop with key stakeholders.</p> <p>The MTR management response is currently being prepared and will be finalized by August 16, 2019.</p>	
Role	2019 Development Objective Progress Rating	2019 Implementation Progress Rating
UNDP Country Office Programme Officer	Moderately Unsatisfactory	Moderately Unsatisfactory
Overall Assessment	<p>A rating of Moderately unsatisfactory is assigned for both development objective and implementation progress. Initial findings of the midterm review report and an internal UNDP review indicate that the overall project progress to date is off track. In contrast, the project manager has assigned a more negative rating towards development objective of unsatisfactory. UNDP Pacific Office recognizes implementation and activities taking place in the four states that will support progress towards targets. The continued efforts of the Project Implementation Unit is encouraging despite the challenges experienced to date. Key for now is adopting a strategic approach in the remainder of project life and considering findings of the Mid Term Review.</p>	

a) Progress towards development objective

The Ridge to Reef Project is not on target to achieve targets under the two outcomes, namely the Protected Area Network and Integrated Environment Management plan. An independent consultant conducted a mid-term review of the project, submitted a report which has been reviewed and is close to finalization. Findings are based on stakeholder consultations at national level and all 4 states. An overall rating of unsatisfactory for objective and outcome 1, and moderately unsatisfactory for outcome 2 was recommended by the report.

With reference to the DO progress table, the project manager has rated the objective and both outcomes as off track and the progress reported indicates that targets will only be achieved with shortcomings. In this regard, both the Project Implementation Unit and UNDP have commenced discussions for a strategy targeting improved delivery of the project. Once finalized, this strategy will include adaptive management at national levels as well as in all four states. With effective adaptive management and discussions of log frame, targets could be achieved by project end with fewer shortcomings.

Despite setback experiences, the project demonstrated an eagerness to progress activities at state and national level.

☐ Notable amongst these was the recruitment of an international expert in Strategic Environment Assessments (SEA). Based on the highly specialized nature of SEA, it took some time to finalize the Terms of Reference before eventually recruitment the consultant. To date, an Integrated Environment Management Plan was compiled for Pohnpei state. Based on current financial status, Government and UNDP decided on doing one state IEMP thoroughly. In addition, by focusing one state it was felt that more national and state stakeholders would be able to develop/enhance their knowledge of IEMP

☐ Project partnerships with two NGO's (TNC & MCT) as well as the Department of Resources and Development to support development of an operations manual for the Protected Area Network Policy

☐ Completion of survey and endorsement of final Marine Protected Area for Walung's Community based Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management and ready litter piggery (Kosrae)

☐ Demarcation of Kitti watershed and community participatory awareness raising

b) Implementation Progress

The implementation progress is also rated as moderately unsatisfactory, with some key implementation issues that can be resolved by adaptive management. This is also the rating for implementation given by the MTR report. Annual Meeting of the Project Steering Committee takes place at least once a year whereby Annual Work Plans is endorsed and updates on technical matters is provided. The steering committee is supported by active members but based on progress to date, but UNDP has recommended that the Project Implementation Unit assign two days to the next steering committee. The first day for the project implementation unit to review both State Annual Work Plans and National Project Work Plans as well as key decision items. The second day will be principally for the updates to the steering committee meeting and decision making on key agenda items.

The Project Implementation Unit works diligently with state coordinators, national government departments, state governments and non-governmental organizations. However, there is much room for improvement delivery of the project, especially with a time frame of about a year remaining. Based on quarter three face forms (2019), it is noted that the project has acquitted about 30% of advances received. The Mid Term Review found overall delivery rate at about 1/3 of total project budget. Should the project fully utilize its 2019 Annual Work Plan, a balance of least 2 Million dollars will remain in the final year of implementation. During annual project steering committee meeting of 2019, UNDP noted its concerns about low overall delivery and need for state to spend more and/or plan more follow up activities. The government has indicated its intention of submitting a request for an extension to UNDP.

There is room for improved coordination between the DECEM, DRD and project officers based in each state as this will support execution of activities at the state and national level. The Mid Term report has recommended improved communications at all levels i.e. between UNDP and Project Implementation Unit (PIU), between PI U and state governments and PIU and national governments. The finalization of Mid Term Review report and next steering committee meeting will prove crucial as they will determine an approach/strategy the project will take in order to successfully meet project objectives as well as endorse proposed changes to the log frame. Further to this, UNDP encourages and supports quarterly meetings of the Project Implementation Unit (including state officers) to review progress and plan for following quarters. Given unique challenges of having to deal with 5 national and state governments and delivery rates to date, it is essential that approaches to implementation is constantly reviewed and amended. Much support and encouragement should be provided at the state level. As there continue to be issues with national financial system which affects quarterly acquittals, it is suggested that the project explore agreements facilitated on its behalf between UNDP and implementation partners in country e.g. non-governmental organizations. is recommended that a Chief Technical Adviser (consultant) is brought on board and participates in mission to all states.

The MTR review is timely as it has provided a basis for both the Project Implementation Unit and UNDP to strategise implementation in remainder of project life, with closure scheduled for 2020. Discussions have already commenced with planning and implementation to be commence in quarter 3, 2019. Key amongst this will be recruitment of a Chief Technical Adviser and a special steering committee meeting to endorse recommendations of the Mid Term Review Report and the management response to it. In particular, the implications to project log frame will be considered and table for endorsement as there is a strong possibility of amendments to some indicators and targets.

There are several risks which the project must be manage but two of these are of significance and listed as critical in this PIR. Due to a lack of capacity, state technical officers are now being recruited to strengthen implementation in all four states. The Strategic Environment Impact Assessments (SEA) and Integrated Environment Management Plans is progressing through technical support provided by an International Consultant (IC). It was not easy recruiting a SEA consultant given that there are few experts in this area and as a relatively new development topic, it took few weeks before we were able to

	<p>finalize the consultancy Terms of Reference. Reduced funding from the USA through the Compact Agreement, has had an effect of reducing budgetary support and as a result some states of have requested financial support for utilities. The project has been discussed on a case by case basis and costs for the project are not anticipated to be significant.</p> <p>c) Recommendations</p> <p>It is recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress of the project is monitored closely on a quarterly basis between now and closure. - Participation of Project Manager and Finance Officer at GEF Project Managers meeting scheduled for September - Project Management Unit to finalize management response to the Mid Term Review Report as soon as possible, including indication of whether government will submit an extension request. - PMU to reflect MTR recommendations into work plans for remainder of 2019 as well as 2020 - PMU and UNDP have monthly call touching base on progress either via teleconference and/or skype - PMU have monthly discussions with State coordinators and conduct quarterly missions to all states 	
Role	2019 Development Objective Progress Rating	2019 Implementation Progress Rating
GEF Operational Focal point	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<i>- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -</i>
Overall Assessment	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	
Role	2019 Development Objective Progress Rating	2019 Implementation Progress Rating
Project Implementing Partner	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<i>- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -</i>
Overall Assessment	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	
Role	2019 Development Objective Progress Rating	2019 Implementation Progress Rating
Other Partners	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	<i>- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -</i>
Overall Assessment	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	
Role	2019 Development Objective Progress Rating	2019 Implementation Progress Rating

UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser	Moderately Unsatisfactory	Moderately Unsatisfactory
Overall Assessment	<p>This is the second PIR for this five-year project implementing a Ridge-to-Reef approach to biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management across the four States of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). Following some delays with inception, a committed PMU has been established at national and State levels and many activities commenced. However, challenges with setting up key activities and in ensuring that the four States have the needed project support on-the-ground have hampered both progress towards development objectives (DO) and implementation progress (IP). I have allocated ratings of 'moderately unsatisfactory' for both DO and IP. This is the same as the ratings given by the UNDP Country Office. The Project Manager has given a more negative rating of 'unsatisfactory' for DO progress, perhaps in part due to the challenge and frustration of seeing limited progress towards the results framework despite their best efforts. My assessment of 'moderately unsatisfactory' is based on my experience with other projects at this stage and my confidence that the PMU will be able to turn around the project to achieve results by project close, following adaptive management responses to refine the project results framework and prioritize interventions. For this reason, I have upgraded the overall DO rating to 'moderately unsatisfactory' as I believe these adaptive management measures in the next quarter, along with strong implementation over the next year, can help put the project back on track to achieve results.</p> <p>PROGRESS TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES (DO)</p> <p>The PM has assessed both the Objective and two Outcomes as 'off track' in the DO progress tab. I agree with this assessment based on the reported progress, noting also that challenges with M&E design (e.g. unclear indicators, overly ambitious targets) and M&E implementation (e.g. interpretation of indicators, collation of baseline data and progress at mid-term) are preventing an accurate reflection of progress. Strengthening M&E and the logic of the results framework is therefore a key area for attention over the coming months. The PSC and PMU with support from UNDP Country Office and RTA will consider the project results framework and changes needed in response to the MTR in workshops held in Pohnpei in the week of 16-20 September. The MTR report did not provide specific, practical suggestions to help with individual indicators and so this will be based on expert local advice on the availability of data, progress towards targets and the suitability of individual indicators to the FSM context and the project interventions. The project's DO rating for this year is a decline from last year's rating of 'moderately satisfactory', although that assessment was perhaps overly optimistic given the limited data reported.</p> <p>The project's Objective of strengthening capacities and actions to implement R2R ecosystem management on the high islands of the FSM is measured by five indicators, which is a large number of indicators at Objective level. Progress towards all of these is uncertain and targets appear unlikely to be met by project close without shortcomings. The first indicator is based on the implementation of Integrated Landscape Management Plans (now referred to as IELPs – integrated environmental and land management plans)). While there has been good progress made with development of the IELP for Pohnpei, it is not certain that the project will be able to replicate this approach in all four States, putting the overall target at risk unless the indicator and approach can be reinterpreted. Progress is also measured through the average METT score across FSM's 40 PAs. While a small overall increase has been recorded, this looks unlikely to achieve the average of 65% set for the end of the project. However, this target could be made more meaningful and practical by also setting individual targets for PAs based on their management status at project</p>	

start. This will also help make project interventions at the individual PAs more targeted. Targets for institutional capacity development on SLM and PA management have both recorded small increases. The PMU has discovered that the baselines for these were transposed during the CEO Endorsement process and therefore baselines and targets need to be corrected. Finally, the Objective is measured by the FSM population benefitting from sustainable management of fisheries resources. This was established based on maintaining the percentage of population engaged in fisheries in Pohnpei, which is difficult to translate across Pohnpei and meaningfully connect to the project interventions. This indicator and target need detailed attention to confirm how it can be interpreted to suit the project's context. The MTR gave the Objective a progress rating of 'unsatisfactory' and I concur that there are some challenges with these targets, although enhancing clarity and understanding of how to report against the targets should help resolve this.

The two project Outcomes focus on integrated ecosystem management and PA management. Under Outcome 1, one IEMP has been drafted but the target of achieving four IEMPs is at risk subject to discussion and PSC agreement on the potential to replicate the SEA/IEMP across other States. It might not be possible with remaining time and resources to achieve this in all four States, and this target should be assessed as part of the response to the MTR.

Reporting against the PMAT score is unclear, but will be supported by the focus of the IEMP process on providing an integrated NRM framework and bringing together different sectors to discuss environmental and NRM challenges. On financing, there has been an increase in government and donor funding that exceeds the annual target of securing US\$10.1 million, although it is not clear if this will be maintained across the project due to constraints on US Compact funding – such a target is subject to considerable year-to-year variability. The project has commenced work on rehabilitation of degraded sites and there is still potential that good progress will be made towards forest and mangrove restoration targets by project close, although perhaps with some shortcomings. Similarly, progress has been made with construction and promotion of dry litter piggeries, however the project's target of converting 100% of piggeries to the dry little system is very ambitious and seems difficult to achieve at this stage. The MTR gave Outcome 1 a rating of 'unsatisfactory'. In some places very ambitious targets have been set and these should be reviewed as part of the MTR management response.

Outcome 2 is focussed on PA management and has seen clearer progress towards targets at this Stage. The legal status for 21 PAs has been verified, almost halfway towards the end-of-project target of 40 PAs. Overall PA coverage has increased to over 17,000 ha, over halfway from the baseline of 7,600 ha to the target of almost 25,000 ha. Some baselines need to be updated and targets recalibrated – this will happen during the post-MTR discussions in September. Good progress has been made on PA management decision support systems, with Congress passing the FSM Protected Area Network (PAN) Framework in September 2018 and progress by States to operationalize the PAN. The target might need to be elaborated to align with the operationalization of this framework. There are also measurable increases in fish biomass of indicator species in some States – again data is subject to between-year variation.

The workshop on the results framework in September will help improve the strength of the project M&E. This process will also be likely to suggest changes to project targets and indicators. Once this adaptive management is completed and the revised results framework in place, I consider that targets can be more fully achieved by project close.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS (IP)

In last year's PIR, IP progress was rated as 'moderately unsatisfactory' due to delivery delays and operational bottlenecks. My assessment is that the PMU has worked effectively over the past year, although there are still some challenges with implementation that overall suggest a rating of 'moderately unsatisfactory' as not all parts of implementation are on track. This is the same as the rating given by the UNDP Country Office and by the independent MTR evaluator. With effective adaptive management – already underway by the PMU in response to the MTR – I feel that these challenges can be corrected, returning a positive implementation progress rating next year.

The Project Steering Committee has met four times over the reporting period and is operating effectively for AWP approval and key project governance issues. One potential challenge is to ensure that State stakeholders are appropriately engaged in project governance to secure their genuine buy-in to project activities, impact and sustainability (particularly in light of reduced US Compact funding – see below). The PMU's planned PSC meeting and post-MTR workshops proposed for the week of 16-20 September should help support this stakeholder engagement.

The PMU is dynamic, committed and responsive – and a true asset to the project. However, further capacity is needed in the PMU to support more effective implementation. Two proposals are being considered as part of the MTR management response – the recruitment of technical officers for each State, and the recruitment of a part-time international Senior Technical Advisor to provide technical support and mentoring to the PMU. Both of these measures appear justified to enhance implementation progress (e.g. additional support for drafting/finalizing technical TOR; more technical hands 'on-ground' to support activities) and the overall impact of the project's interventions.

Delivery has improved but remains low overall due to challenges and bottlenecks early in implementation. For 2018, delivery was a moderate 85% reflecting delivery of much of the project's AWP and the rollout of key activities such as the SEA/IEMP for Pohnpei. This is a good result for the project and represents the first effective year of activity implementation, disbursing >\$800,000. For 2019, delivery to mid-year is at a more concerning 18% and further efforts should be placed on delivery over the remainder of the year to fully deliver the AWP. The PMU should look for opportunities to package activities for execution by responsible parties such as technically qualified and administratively competent NGOs to help streamline implementation (and also reduce pressure on the PMU, which can then retain its focus on coordination and adaptive management of activities rather than dive into the detail of each activity). The potential to do this, along with any necessary AWP changes at national and State level arising out of the mid-term review, will be discussed at a national MTR management response workshop in September.

Due to the initial delays in project inception and implementation, the project has a delivery shortfall that is unlikely to be corrected by the project's closure date of November 2020, even with adaptive management to appoint responsible parties to support execution. A project extension might be required to fully deliver the project grant and achieve maximum project impact. This was recommended by the MTR and is being considered as part of the management response. If a project extension is to be requested, this should be done quickly to allow maximum time for rescheduling of remaining activities and work plans to ensure targets are achieved with as few shortcomings as possible.

Coordination and communication are areas requiring further attention – for example between central PMU and State-based officers, between different agencies to improve disbursement efficiency, and between the PMU and the

UNDP Country Office. A number of recommendations were included in the MTR report on this topic and practical ways forward should be identified. For example, scheduling of regular Skype calls between PMU and UNDP Country Office, and backstop arrangements for UNDP CO Project Analysts to maintain GEF Agency oversight of projects.

The project is paying appropriate attention to the identification and management of risks. Two critical risks are reported in this PIR – inter-related risks of low State capacity in relevant agencies, and a drop in US Compact funding for these entities. This impacts on project delivery as many activities are implemented at State level. The key response to these is the proposed recruitment of technical officers at State level to better support design and implementation of technical activities and coordinate with State entities. In parallel, the PMU has provided targeted support to State agencies when critical to ensure delivery. Once the MTR management response is finalized, the rating of these risks is expected to drop below critical, however the State co-financing commitments indicated at CEO Endorsement may not fully materialize. The PMU has a keen interest in adaptive management and on the back of the MTR is keen to learn from the findings and put in place appropriate course corrections to the project's strategy and interventions. The PMU is engaging widely in this exercise, correctly recognizing the importance of bringing stakeholders together for these discussions so that changes – and resulting targets and interventions – are owned broadly; and inviting UNDP CO and RTA to attend the discussions to ensure that they remain aligned to UNDP and GEF procedures. These efforts are commended and will support the project's improved success.

The project's attention on gender mainstreaming can be improved. It is recommended that a gender analysis is completed to identify priority activities that the project could progress to support gender mainstreaming within its interventions. This will also help enhance the project's Gender Marker. No new or enhanced safeguards risks have been identified. Following the post-MTR discussions the PMU should again revisit the SESP to confirm that all potential social and environmental risks have been captured and appropriate mitigation responses identified and integrated into project activities. The proposed Senior Technical Advisor should be able to support these tasks, with guidance from UNDP on adherence to GEF and UNDP policies.

The project has placed good attention on communications and is active on social media. Further opportunities for communication will arise as activities are rolled out, including the completion of the Pohnpei SEA/IELP which has the potential to be presented as a best practice that could be adopted by other SIDS facing similar challenges with data availability. This could be a potential best practice for the IUCN-led and UNDP-supported PANORAMA partnership – this can be explored over the coming year. The project can also offer lessons to the UNDP-GEF Palau biodiversity safeguards project that is also aiming to conduct SEA/integrated land management planning.

RECOMMENDATIONS

I have the following recommendations to further improve performance:

- 1) Finalize and endorse the MTR management response in September and then work on implementing the key actions in the management response (many of which are duplicated in the following recommendations); 2) Revisit the project result's framework and identify necessary corrections to baselines and as needed targets and indicators to ensure the project has clear, measurable and appropriate indicators and confirm that targets are achievable within data

	<p>and capacity constraints. Collection of remaining baseline data should be prioritized by the PMU so that all baselines are in place by the end of 2019; 3) If supported in the MTR management response, submit a formal government request for a project extension as soon as possible so that the RTA can submit the request to UNDP-GEF Executive Coordinator and allow maximum time for adaptive delivery of the remainder of the project based on approval or not of the extension request; 4) Strengthen the capacity of the PMU to provide better technical support for activities and M&E (e.g. recruitment of State technical officers and part-time Senior Technical Advisor); 5) Strengthen communication between PMU and UNDP Country Office through establishment of regular Skype calls; 6) Work closely with UNDP Country Office to maintain focus on delivery and identify opportunities to streamline delivery through execution of activities through responsible parties (e.g. qualified NGOs in each State); 7) Agree upon a model to support the finalization of the Pohnpei SEA/IELP and practical replication of the process in other State/States. Pursue opportunities to communicate this as a best practice including with other UNDP-GEF projects in the Pacific and with the IUCN-led PANORAMA platform; 8) Complete a targeted gender analysis and mainstreaming plan to identify key opportunities for the project to support gender mainstreaming through activities; 9) Revisit the SESP once the MTR management response is finalized and re-assess the potential social and environmental risks of project interventions, along with identifying appropriate management responses.</p>
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H. Gender

Progress in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

This information is used in the UNDP-GEF Annual Performance Report, UNDP-GEF Annual Gender Report, reporting to the UNDP Gender Steering and Implementation Committee and for other internal and external communications and learning. The Project Manager and/or Project Gender Officer should complete this section with support from the UNDP Country Office.

Gender Analysis and Action Plan: <i>not available</i>
Please review the project's Gender Analysis and Action Plan. If the document is not attached or an updated Gender Analysis and/or Gender Action Plan is available please upload the document below or send to the Regional Programme Associate to upload in PIMS+. Please note that all projects approved since 1 July 2014 are required to carry out a gender analysis and all projects approved since 1 July 2018 are required to have a gender analysis and action plan.
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
Please indicate in which results areas the project is contributing to gender equality (you may select more than one results area, or select not applicable):
Contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over resources: Yes
Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: Yes
Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: No
Not applicable: No
Atlas Gender Marker Rating
GEN1: some contribution to gender equality
Please describe any experiences or linkages (direct or indirect) between project activities and gender-based violence (GBV). This information is for UNDP use only and will not be shared with GEF Secretariat.
N/A
Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women.
Please explain how the results reported addressed the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values, and power structures, and/or contributed to transforming or challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.
In an effort to promote dry litter piggeries (DLPs) in Kosrae, the R2R project partnered with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to conduct a training for the Kosrae Farmers Association and the Kosrae Women in Farming on the operation of DLPs using the portable dry litter method. The training not only taught the participants how to construct the pigpens using cheap materials, but also the use of compost produced from the DLPs as fertilizers for locally produced

crops. The training recognized the role of men and women as cultivators of the land by promoting the DLP as a sustainable method of farming aimed to safeguard the environment, human health as well as unlock its economic benefits to improve people's livelihoods.

Additionally, the project, in collaboration with the Nature Conservancy (TNC), completed the construction of a 3-dimensional model (P3DM) for the Municipality of Kitti in Pohnpei. P3DM is a planning tool that provides an avenue for resource owners to come together, discuss development issues, make decisions and develop plans to address and manage issues concerning natural resources and the livelihood of communities. The construction process brought together men, women and the youth to promote better understanding of the diversity of the forest and marine habitats of Kitti and empower them to effectively manage their resources.

The project also recently partnered with the community of Weloy in Yap to rehabilitate its watershed. This partnership aims to foster better understanding and appreciation of conservation by empowering communities to take necessary actions to safeguard their key natural resources.

The roles and responsibilities men and women play in society influence how decisions are made and resources are accessed, controlled and managed. In the FSM, men are considered the decision-makers at home and within the community, therefore, they have power over the way natural resources are managed. By involving all members of the communities in the decision making process, the project provides an avenue for everyone's voices (men, women and the youth) to be heard to ensure their different needs are addressed.

Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.

Men and women play different key roles within society. As such, their unique roles bring with them different knowledge and skills that are critical to finding solutions to environmental challenges. The FSM R2R project recognizes this by ensuring equal representation from men and women in all project activities and decision making processes.

For example, during consultations, whether it be for land or protected area management, the project ensures that the whole of the community is informed and included and their views/thoughts are heard. Although it is common to assume that men are more knowledgeable in fisheries management compared to women, inclusiveness allows the project to benefit from a wider range of knowledge, views, ideas and experiences from both men and women which are critical to achieving project's outcomes.

Environmental challenges affect everyone, therefore, identifying and addressing both women and men's needs, as well as empowering women as decision-makers, is critical to ensuring the sustainability and ownership of the project goals. With more men and women equally represented, the project has seen more buy-in and pro-activeness from stakeholders which accounts for the milestones achieved within the reporting period.

I. Social and Environmental Standards

Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)

The Project Manager and/or the project's Safeguards Officer should complete this section of the PIR with support from the UNDP Country Office. The UNDP-GEF RTA should review to ensure it is complete and accurate.

1) Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during project implementation?
No
If any new social and/or environmental risks have been identified during project implementation please describe the new risk(s) and the response to it.
N/A
2) Have any existing social and/or environmental risks been escalated during the reporting period? For example, when a low risk increased to moderate, or a moderate risk increased to high.
No
If any existing social and/or environmental risks have been escalated during implementation please describe the change(s) and the response to it.
N/A
SESP: PIMS 5179 FSM R2R ESSP Final 2013-08-07.pdf
Environmental and Social Management Plan/Framework: <i>not available</i>
For reference, please find below the project's safeguards screening (Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) or the old ESSP tool); management plans (if any); and its SESP categorization above. Please note that the SESP categorization might have been corrected during a centralized review.
<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
3) Have any required social and environmental assessments and/or management plans been prepared in the reporting period? For example, an updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Indigenous Peoples Plan.
Not Applicable
If yes, please upload the document(s) above. If no, please explain when the required documents will be prepared.
N/A
4) Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential)?
No
If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail including the status,

significance, who was involved and what action was taken.
N/A

J. Communicating Impact

Tell us the story of the project focusing on how the project has helped to improve people's lives.

(This text will be used for UNDP corporate communications, the UNDP-GEF website, and/or other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts.)

The project has helped improve the lives of people in the FSM by providing incentives to reduce pressure on certain key natural resources that are undermined by human activities as well as the tools and technologies necessary to improve resource management in the FSM. All of these are critical to enhancing ecosystem services necessary for the livelihoods of people in the FSM.

For example, in Kosrae, through the project's efforts on Dry Litter Piggeries (DLPs), farmers now have compost produced from DLPs as alternatives to the commercially available fertilizers, therefore, reducing their reliability on imported fertilizers. Pig farmers with DLPs have another source of income through selling of the compost produced from operating their pigpens. The DLP has become very popular in Kosrae that farmers are requesting funding from other sources.

Additionally, in Yap, the project has contributed to improving the lives of fishermen by deploying 3 fish aggregating devices (FADs) approximately 5 miles off of the reef of the main island. Fishermen now have alternative fishing grounds, thereby, reducing pressure on inshore and coastal reef resources. The FADs will also lessen costs (fuel) associated with fishing, with reduced searching time for fish.

In Pohnpei, the project completed the construction of a 3D model for the entire municipality of Kitti to enable collaboration and planning for natural resource management including tourism. In doing so, Kitti was provided with a valuable resource management tool necessary to guarantee food and water security for the municipality for many years to come.

Finally, in Chuuk, the project's site (Nefo Forest) for rehabilitation provides water to roughly 80% of the population of the island of Weno. The watershed, however, has been undermined by poor human activities including pollution. By restoring the site, the project will also provide for food security through replanting of local food crops i.e. breadfruit, banana, etc.

Knowledge Management, Project Links and Social Media

Please describe knowledge activities / products as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement /Approval.

Please also include: project's website, project page on the UNDP website, blogs, photos stories (e.g. Exposure), Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, as well as hyperlinks to any media coverage of the project, for example, stories written by an outside source. Please upload any supporting files, including photos, videos, stories, and other documents using the 'file library' button in the top right of the PIR.

FSM Ridge to Reef Project – Facebook

FSM Ridge to Reef (fsmR2R) – Twitter

18/11/2018 | P3DM for Kitti Municipality | Twitter – FSM R2R

<https://twitter.com/fsmR2R/status/1064377702902198272>

FSM R2R: Beacon Lights for MPA

<https://twitter.com/fsmR2R/status/1064371876259016704>

FSM R2R: Board Meeting

<https://twitter.com/fsmR2R/status/1064367221776871424>

05/12/2018 | Handover ceremony 3D Mapping | Twitter – FSM R2R

<https://twitter.com/fsmR2R/status/1070484682540634113>

13/12/2018 | KM Training conservation officers | Twitter – FSM R2R

<https://twitter.com/fsmR2R/status/1070484682540634113>

18/12/2018 | FSM R2R RT | Twitter – UNDP Pacific

<https://twitter.com/fsmR2R/status/1074815245565054976>

18/12/2018 | Kosrae dry litter piggery | Twitter – FSM R2R

<https://twitter.com/fsmR2R/status/1075256470688526336>

27/12/2018 | Stock for Yap restoration works | Twitter – FSM R2R

<https://twitter.com/fsmR2R/status/1078510307612344320>

21/01/2019 | Tamil Watershed Management Area | Twitter FSM R2R

<https://twitter.com/fsmR2R/status/1087553707443515392>

04/02/2019 | Prep for midterm review | Twitter – FSM R2R

<https://twitter.com/fsmR2R/status/1092625590920740864>

22/02/2019 | Nimpal Channel Marine Conservation Area | Twitter FSM R2R

<https://twitter.com/fsmR2R/status/1099200428338606086>

07/03/2019 | IWD2019 | Twitter – UNDP Pacific

https://twitter.com/UNDP_Pacific/status/1103630721627770881

28/03/2019 | R2R Steering Committee meeting | Twitter FSM R2R

<https://twitter.com/fsmR2R/status/1111191956745388032>

07/05/2019 | Pohnpei State Coordinator presentation | FB – FSM R2R

<https://www.facebook.com/fsmr2rproject/posts/578905179271313>

07/06/2019 | Leadership Youth Program | FB – FSM R2R

<https://www.facebook.com/fsmr2rproject/posts/597200650775099>

26/05/2019 | Yap GIS Mapping | Twitter FSM R2R

<https://twitter.com/fsmR2R/status/1132791776387796992>

04/06/2019 | Clean Up Pisiwi Island | Twitter – FSM R2R

<https://twitter.com/fsmR2R/status/1136087601675292673>

06/06/2019

<https://twitter.com/fsmR2R/status/1136853900907110400>

07/06/2019 | Leadership Youth Program | FB – FSM R2R

<https://www.facebook.com/fsmr2rproject/posts/597200650775099>

16/06/2019 | WED 2019 | Twitter – FSM R2R

<https://twitter.com/fsmR2R/status/1140441532924751874>

17/06/2019 | WED 2019 Kosrae | FB – FSM R2R

<https://www.facebook.com/fsmr2rproject/posts/603538260141338>

23/06/2019 | Pohnpei clean up | FB – FSM R2R

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2288936354476999&id=170636409640348

K. Partnerships

Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagement

Please select yes or no whether the project is working with any of the following partners. Please also provide an update on stakeholder engagement. This information is used by the GEF and UNDP for reporting and is therefore very important! All sections must be completed by the Project Manager and reviewed by the CO and RTA.

Does the project work with any Civil Society Organisations and/or NGOs?
Yes
Does the project work with any Indigenous Peoples?
Yes
Does the project work with the Private Sector?
No
Does the project work with the GEF Small Grants Programme?
Yes
Does the project work with UN Volunteers?
No
Did the project support South-South Cooperation and/or Triangular Cooperation efforts in the reporting year?
Yes
CEO Endorsement Request: Resubmission_FINAL_R2R 5517 CEO ER.docx
Provide an update on progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement based on the description of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan as documented at CEO endorsement/approval (see document below). If any surveys have been conducted please upload all survey documents to the PIR file library.
<p>The role of stakeholders is as stipulated in the stakeholder engagement plan for the R2R project. Government partners are responsible for carrying out (as well as provide technical support for) project activities that fall within their respective mandates. The collaboration between government agencies and the project accounts for the achievements made by the project. Many of the project's highlights are due to relentless support by government.</p> <p>The challenge, however, remains that capacity is a big issue across the FSM. Many government agencies lack the required human resources and necessary skills for their job requirements. This affects the project by causing delays in delivery of project activities due to capacity-related issues. It also adds on extra financial burden when project is required to hire additional help for implementation of project activities.</p>

The project also engages with non-governmental and community-based organizations for implementation and provision of technical support to project activities. This relationship has contributed to improved working relationships between government, NGOs and CBOs, and has leveraged greater support from local communities for government initiatives such as the R2R project.

Stakeholder engagement is crucial to ensuring the sustainability of the R2R project beyond its funding life cycle. As such, the project is highly keen on further expanding its learning network and stakeholder engagements to continue to bring in new ideas that are crucial to the project's success.

L. Annex - Ratings Definitions

Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Project is on track to exceed its end-of-project targets, and is likely to achieve transformational change by project closure. The project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Project is on track to fully achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. The project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with minor shortcomings only.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is expected to partially achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with significant shortcomings. Project results might be fully achieved by project closure if adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. Project results might be partially achieved by project closure if major adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets without major restructuring.

Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Implementation is exceeding expectations. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are fully on track. The project is managed extremely efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are on track. The project is managed efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned with minor deviations. Cumulative financial delivery and management of risks are mostly on track, with minor delays. The project is managed well.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces significant implementation issues. Implementation progress could be improved if adaptive management is undertaken immediately. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are significantly off track. The project is not fully or well supported.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces major implementation issues and restructuring may be necessary. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are off track with major issues and/or concerns. The project is not fully or well supported.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Implementation is seriously under performing and major restructuring is required. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones (e.g. start of activities), and management of critical risks are severely off track with severe issues and/or concerns. The project is not effectively or efficiently supported.