



2021

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-NCE Technical Team	Ecosystems and Biodiversity
Management Arrangements	CO Support to NIM
Project Implementing Partner	Government
Joint Agencies	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
Project Type	Full Size
Implementation Status	5th PIR
GEF Fiscal Year	FY21
Trust Fund	GEF Trust Fund

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 Satisfactory
Overall Risk Rating	low

C. Development Objective Progress

It is mandatory for all reported progress to be substantiated by evidence. Please upload evidence files for each objective/outcome via the DO PROGRESS section in the online PIR platform. If there is no evidence to upload, the Project Manager is required to provide an explanation.

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 2020	Cumulative progress since project start
<p>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* *For example: Pohnpei Integrated Environmental Management Plan, Kosrae Land use Plan, Weloy (Yap) and Sapo, Oror and Ununo (SOU, Chuuk) Stewardship Plans)</p> <p>(Indicator clarified post-MTR)</p>	<p>(i) 0 ha covered by ILMPs (some land use and stewardship plans developed, but not being implemented)</p> <p>(ii) Area of intact forest within the High Islands (6,213 ha)</p> <p>(Baselines clarified post-MTR; baseline for forest established using the estimate that intact forest at</p>	<p>(not set or not applicable)</p>	<p>(i) 62,133 ha</p> <p>(ii) No net loss of intact forest against the baseline</p>	<p>The area of intact forest within the high islands is estimated to be 6,213 ha. This baseline is using the estimate that intact forest equals roughly 10% of the area of the high islands.</p> <p>The term "intact forest" is defined as an unbroken natural landscape of a forest ecosystem and its habitat. This term will apply to Kosrae, Pohnpei and Chuuk, where upland forests exist whereas in Yap, agro-forests will be measured due to its lack of upland forests.</p> <p>As of June 30, 2020 the IEMP for Pohnpei State has been finalized and is pending official endorsement by the Pohnpei State Government. The update of the Kosrae Land Use Plan is also pending completion of the Kosrae SEA in December. The update of the plan is due to commence in January – May 2021.</p>	<p>(i) 0 ha covered by ILMPs</p> <p>(ii) Area of intact forest within the High Islands (6,213 ha estimated).</p> <p>Between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021, progress has been made toward the development, revision and/or implementation of the Pohnpei State Integrated Environmental Management Plan (IEMP), Kosrae Land Use Plan (KLUP) and Forest Stewardship Plans (FSP) for Weloy in Yap and Sapo, Oror and Ununo (SOU) in Chuuk.</p> <p>In Kosrae, the Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) was completed, and the report is in its final draft stage (Note: Uploaded draft is for internal review only). Consultations for updating the KLUP were completed in May 2021 (report uploaded). The draft KLUP, also available and uploaded, is currently being reviewed by the local</p>

	baseline equalled roughly 10% of the area of the high islands)			<p>The implementation of the Chuuk Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) is ongoing, while the Yap FSP has been pushed to 2021. The project will aim to implement at least 2 key activities within each of these plans which aims to reduce competing pressures on land use across the high island of the FSM.</p>	<p>consultant (Note: draft Kosrae land use plan documents are for internal review only).</p> <p>The IEMP for Pohnpei State calls for the establishment of a coordination unit, along with awareness of the plan. TORs have been drafted for the IEMP unit staff and are awaiting approval from relevant agencies (Note: these drafts are for internal review only until final). The coordination unit staff will carry out awareness activities once on board.</p> <p>Implementation of the SOU FSP in Chuuk is ongoing. An MoU is in place, and restoration activities are expected to be complete by September 30, 2021. Planning sessions to update and implement the Weloy FSP in Yap are ongoing, and will continue through December 2021.</p> <p>During the reporting period, the 10-year Forest Action Plan for the FSM was also updated and approved, serving as the over-arching forest management plan for all four states. While not a R2R initiated activity, the update was carried out with support from R2R team members, partners and stakeholders, and led by the FSM Department of Resources and Development. Each state has its own section with specific strategies, some of which are being implemented under the R2R program. The Plan prioritizes development and support</p>
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					of community-based FSPs, which the R2R project is supporting. The Plan also identifies the need for updated maps, something that is beyond the scope of the FSM R2R project, but noted as a priority for the FSM.
<p>Average of METT Scores for:</p> <p>(i) 40 target PAs covering 24,986 ha</p> <p>(ii) 20 priority active PAs covering 35,816 ha (includes 12 of the original 40 target PAs and 8 new PAs)</p> <p>(NEW part (ii) to indicator added post-MTR to reflect active PA sites – added here rather than under Outcome 2 for consistency; no change to existing part (i) indicator or targets)</p>	<p>(i) 55%</p> <p>(ii) 58.5% (part 2014, part 2019)</p> <p>(Baseline for part (ii) established post-MTR)</p>	<p><i>(not set or not applicable)</i></p>	<p>(i) 65% with no drop in scores in any of the individual PAs</p> <p>(ii) 65% with no drop in scores</p> <p>(Target for part (ii) established post-MTR; reflecting existing target)</p>	<p>Recognizing the ambitiousness of the indicator, and in consideration of the project's Mid Term Review recommendations, an additional sub-target has been incorporated to capture 20 priority PAs totaling 31,877 ha. These priority sites include 6 new active sites (which the project has been working with since 2017) that are most likely to achieve the METT target of 65% post conclusion of the R2R project.</p> <p>In March 2020, the PIU reassessed the METT scores for all 40 PAs, which concluded with no change in the overall average METT score for all 40 PAs between July 2019 to June 2020. The average METT scores for each of the States, however, moderately changed due to an increase in the individual scores of PAs in Yap and Chuuk, each at 1%. For example, in 2019 the average METT score for Chuuk's PAs was 40%, whereas Yap's score was at 50%. In 2020, Chuuk's average increased by 1%, from 40% to 41%, and Yap by another 1%, from 50% to 51%.</p> <p>The slight increase in the PA scores</p>	<p>No changes to METT scores measured between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021, as this is scheduled to take place at the end of the project.</p> <p>Since the majority of the PA management plans are community based, the project can only advise and support, but management decisions are ultimately left to the community. For this reason, it is not expected that the project will meet the end target for all 40 PAs, as this was overly ambitious to work with 40 individual communities. The project has shifted focus to 20 priority PAs that have the most active and willing community involvement.</p> <p>Activities to improve PA METT scores are ongoing as per the workplan, however, and will continue through December 2021:</p> <p>(1) Development/completion of PA management plans (2) demarcation of PAs; and (3) gazetting of PAs that are still pending the endorsement process. All three recommended actions were incorporated into the 2021 workplan, and are currently in progress in each of the states.</p>

				<p>is attributed to the following: (1) interpretation of the term "gazette" as endorsement at community level -- in the case of Chuuk and Yap -- therefore, increasing scores under Question #1 of the METT, to recognize PAs that are endorsed at community level; (2) continued support for community level PA management; and (3) the reassessment of the METT scores in 2020 which revealed that some PAs were poorly rated although they should be scored higher based on their progress.</p> <p>Furthermore, based on the recent METT analysis, the following three actions are recommended to ensure the target of 65% is met, with no drop in scores of any of the individual PAs: (1) Development/completion of PA management plans by ensuring they are in line with existing SLM policies in each of the States; (2) demarcation of PAs; and (3) gazetting of PAs that are still pending the endorsement process. These three recommendations will ensure that the baseline scores are restored for those PAs whose individual scores dropped since 2015.</p>	
Sustainable Land Management Capacity Development Score for FSM	56% (Baseline updated post-MTR; data for	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	75% (Target updated; data for CD scorecards	Baseline/target errors have been corrected following the MTR. As of June 2020, the SLM scorecard for the R2R project remains at 56%. No follow-up assessment was	No assessment took place between July 1, 2020 and June 1, 2021, as this will be done at the end of the project period. It is unlikely that the end of project

	CD scorecards had been transposed to results framework incorrectly, original =0.5)		had been transposed to results framework incorrectly, Original = 0.7)	<p>conducted in 2020 to determine whether any potential change in the score since the last evaluation. This will next be completed prior to the terminal evaluation.</p> <p>Efforts in support of increasing the project's SLM scorecard, between July 2019 to June 2020, include (1) finalizing Pohnpei's IEMP (which presents the actions needed to monitor the trends of Pohnpei's environmental concerns and steps required to mitigate against the negative impacts); and (2) execution of an SEA in Kosrae to update its 2003 Land Use Plan.</p> <p>The PIU, however, recognizes that there are areas within the scorecard which are outside the control of the project. These areas, including the mismatch between staff skills and job requirements, lack of motivation at work, etc. are highly unlikely to be achieved. Therefore, the project will only focus on areas that are likely to increase, while also provide a series of recommendations for improving human resources and capacity of institutions that are responsible for land use planning.</p> <p>Moreover, a recent analysis of the SLM scorecard (via consultations with key project partners) in June 2020 based on these priority focus areas under project control projected that the highest potential score will be at</p>	<p>target will be reached, due to some required actions being outside of the project's control, as they involve institutionalization in government agencies. Land tenure also varies greatly between the states. For instance, in Yap and Chuuk, almost all land is privately owned, and management by government or agencies is limited.</p> <p>However, activities to improve the SLM scorecard are ongoing and include:</p> <p>(1) preparations to implement Pohnpei's IEMP (which presents the actions needed to monitor the trends of Pohnpei's environmental concerns and steps required to mitigate against the negative impacts); and</p> <p>(2) completion of an SEA in Kosrae and consultations with communities and relevant partners May 2021 to update its 2003 Land Use Plan. The final SEA report, revised Land Use Plan, and lessons learned are expected by October 2021.</p>
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				61%, assuming that all the 2020 and 2021 activities in the project's proposal extension are successfully complete by end of project. This is still 14% short of the project target of 75%.	
PA Management Capacity Development Score for FSM	50% (Baseline updated post-MTR; data for CD scorecards had been transposed to results framework incorrectly, original =0.55)	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	70% (Target updated; data for CD scorecards had been transposed to results framework incorrectly, Original =0.75)	<p>Baseline/target errors have been corrected following the MTR.</p> <p>Similar to the SLM scorecard, the score of the project's PA scorecard remains at 52% and no further assessment has been completed. The next assessment will be completed ahead of the terminal evaluation.</p> <p>A number of key activities, however, took place within the current reporting period, which are aimed at improving the overall PA scorecard. These include the following: (1) development of a PAN regulation for Chuuk State – a draft is now currently under review; (2) review of Pohnpei's existing PAN law with the aim of establishing its regulations – currently ongoing; and (3) establishment of a PAN operations manual for the FSM – final due in mid-June 2020.</p> <p>Additionally, the highest potential score for the PA scorecard, assuming that all PA activities for 2020 and 2021 successfully complete, is at 69%. This is 1% short of the project target of 70%.</p>	<p>No assessment took place between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021, as this will be done at the end of the project.</p> <p>It is unlikely that the end of project target will be reached, due to some required actions being outside of the project's control, as they involve institutionalization in government agencies. Additionally, PA systems vary across the four FSM states, and the majority of PA sites are community owned and managed.</p> <p>However, activities aimed at improving the overall PA scorecard are ongoing and include:</p> <p>(1) continued review of a draft PAN regulation for Chuuk State. This began with volunteer legal assistance, and was delayed after that volunteer assistance was no longer available. The Chuuk PAN Coordinator continued with the review in 2021, and funds are budgeted in the 2021 work plan to support the continued review, which is expected to complete by December 2021. It will require approval by Chuuk state legislature;</p> <p>(2) update of Pohnpei's existing PAN</p>

					<p>law. This is currently being reviewed and pending approval from Pohnpei State Legislature (Note: the uploaded legislation is for internal review only, as it is not fully approved);</p> <p>(3) a draft FSM PAN Operations Manual (OM) was completed with support from an international consultant. However, full review was delayed by the untimely illness and passing of the FSM R&D Secretary. As of June, 2021, the draft has been reviewed and updated at the national level, and the next step is for the state PAN offices to review and develop state-specific operations as per the 2021 R2R work plan activity: implementation of PAN OM (Note: the uploaded June 2021 OM draft requires state review and finalization, and is for internal review only).</p> <p>(4) completion of Kosrae's PAN fund legislation-awaiting endorsement (note: uploaded legislation has not been endorsed, and is for internal review only).</p> <p>(5) completion of the draft PAN criteria for Yap State-currently pending approval by Yap CAP's (agency hosting PAN) board members (Note: the uploaded PAN criteria has not yet been endorsed, and is for internal review only).</p>
% of the FSM population* benefitting in the long-term from the sustainable	0	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	0.2	This indicator will be measured by focusing on MPA communities rather	This indicator was not measured between July 1, 2020 and June 30,

<p>management of the fisheries resource which includes providing adequate refugia for sustaining the resource</p> <p>*MPA communities</p> <p>(Indicator clarified post-MTR)</p>				<p>than the overall FSM population, a decision that came after the project's Planning Meeting in September 2019, post the Mid Term Evaluation. The meeting identified several flaws in the baseline data and target and recommends the following: (1) baseline data of "0" to be revised to "unknown" to reflect that the FSM population is benefiting from long-term sustainable management of fisheries resources, however, there is lack of information to confirm the correct data; and (2) the target of 20% lacks proper foundation – given that it is based off of Pohnpei's fishermen population – therefore, indicator to target only the MPA communities to ensure target is met.</p> <p>Progress against baseline data to be available post completion of socio-economic survey, scheduled for 2021. The survey, in addition to qualitative data, will be used to help determine benefits flowing into communities from the project's PA activities.</p>	<p>2021. As previously noted, the original indicator and targets were flawed, and the focus has been shifted to determining benefits to MPA communities from R2R's priority sites.</p> <p>The Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) has been identified and approved by the project Steering Committee to be contracted in order to evaluate socio-economic data. MCT hosts the socio-economic lead for the Micronesia Challenge initiative, a regional goal to effectively conserve 50% of marine resources by 2030. This will ensure that any surveys or tools used will align with existing methods. As of June 30, 2021, a TOR for the work and a Responsible Party Agreement was under review. MCT has noted that due to the flaw in the original indicator, and due to time constraints, that it will not be feasible to fully determine the percent of the population benefitting, overall or within all MPAs, since that would require a census, and the FSM census scheduled originally for 2020 has been postponed due to COVID-19. MCT will therefore review all available socio-economic data, and collect additional information as possible within the remaining project period to best determine how MPA communities are benefitting.</p>
<p>The progress of the objective/outcome can be</p>	<p>Off track</p>				

described as:	
Actions to be taken:	<p>1) Average of METT scores across 40 PA sites reaches 65%, with no drop in scores in any of the individual PAs, is off track due to PA sites being primarily owned and managed by communities. As per the mid-term recommendations, the project has shifted focus to 20 priority PA sites, and is implementing actions aimed at improving their average METT scores.</p> <p>2) Sustainable Land Management Capacity Development Score for FSM reaches 75% is not feasible, due to circumstances identified in the DO progress as outside of the project's control. The project has identified the following actions to address specific sections of the scorecard:</p> <p>1.2: Ensure that biodiversity conservation is clearly reflected in KLUP.</p> <p>1.3: Ensure that advocacy of the plans with leaders and decision makers starts before the endorsement of the plans.</p> <p>2.8: At minimum, ensure that enforcement mechanisms in the IEMP and KLUP are clearly defined.</p> <p>3.1: Ensure that awareness campaigns for leaders are designed to fill the gap of understanding on ecosystem services and benefits for island communities and state governments.</p> <p>5.1: Keep monitoring the status of the work conducted to date to ensure that there is no drop on in individual scores.</p> <p>3) PA Management Capacity Development Score for FSM reaches 70% is not feasible, due to circumstances identified in the DO progress as outside of the project's control. The project has identified the following actions to address specific sections of the scorecard:</p> <p>2.1: Monitor status for Pohnpei, Kosrae and Chuuk. Note that this score is currently hindered by the state and national situation with COVID-19.</p> <p>2.1.1: a) Finalize National OM, share with states for review and approval before the end of 2021; (b) Allocate funds to develop states OM; (c) train PAN Coordinators on the use of the OM.</p>
Responsible party/ies:	FSM R2R teams with collaboration from FSM National and state government and NGO partners and communities.
Actions to be taken:	May 19, 2022
Evidence uploaded:	YES

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 2020	Cumulative progress since project start
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<p>Number of Integrated Landscape Management Plans , e.g. Integrated Environmental Management Plans (IEMP) and Forest Stewardship Plans, being implemented</p> <p>(Indicator clarified post-MTR to reflect the key planning documents in each State)</p>	<p>0 draft Integrated Environmental Management Plan for Pohnpei and Kosrae State;</p> <p>Stewardship Plans for Chuuk and Yap yet to be implemented</p> <p>(Baseline updated post-MTR, Original =0 ILMPs being implemented)</p>	<p><i>(not set or not applicable)</i></p>	<p>IEMP for Pohnpei State finalized and implemented, and providing a model for replication in other States and Pacific Island Countries.</p> <p>Kosrae Land Use Plan updated and implemented</p> <p>At least 2 activities under the Weloy and SOU Forest Stewardship plans implemented</p> <p>(Target updated post-MTR, Original = 4 ILMPs being implemented [1 per State])</p>	<p>The target for this indicator has been updated.</p> <p>Due to budgetary restrictions and decisions by State stakeholders, Kosrae and Pohnpei will be the only two states undertaking SEAs aimed to deliver the following outputs (1) an IEMP for Pohnpei; and (2) a revised Kosrae Land Use Plan. Chuuk and Yap will be focusing efforts on implementing the SOU and Weloy forest stewardship plans. Thus, this indicator is recommended for revision as follows:</p> <p>Baseline:</p> <p>i. 0 draft IEMP for Pohnpei State;</p> <p>ii. Un-updated Land Use Plan for Kosrae;</p> <p>iii. 2 Forest Stewardship Plans for Chuuk and Yap yet to be implemented</p> <p>End of Project Target:</p> <p>i. IEMP for Pohnpei State finalized and implemented, and providing a model for further replication in other States and Pacific Island Countries</p> <p>ii. Update and implement at least 1 activity under the Kosrae Land Use Plan Implement at least 2 activities under the the Weloy and Sapo, Oror and Ununo (SOU) forest</p>	<p>1 draft Integrated Environmental Plan for Pohnpei State, not yet finalized/implemented</p> <p>1 DRAFT revised Land Use Plan for Kosrae State, not yet finalized/implemented</p> <p>0 Forest Stewardship Plans being implemented for Chuuk and Yap (both plans partially implemented/in progress)</p> <p>Progress made between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021, is as follows for the updated targets:</p> <p>i. TORs to establish an IEMP unit responsible for implementation and finalization of the plan are under review. Implementation is scheduled to take place through the end of the project.</p> <p>ii. A Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) has been completed for Kosrae along with community consultations to inform the update of Kosrae's Land Use Plan. The updated Land Use Plan, final SEA report and lessons learned are expected by October 2021.</p> <p>iii. Implementation of Chuuk's Forest Stewardship Plan for SOU community is ongoing through a contract with the Chuuk Conservation Society, and work is expected to be completed by September 30, 2021. Planning meetings for Weloy's Forest</p>
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				<p>stewardship plans</p> <p>In January 2020, the FSM R2R project extended the contract for Pohnpei's lead SEA specialist to help facilitate the SEA process in Kosrae. In April 2020 the PIU also hired a local consultant, based in Kosrae, to (1) coordinate and monitor the day-to-day SEA process in Kosrae; and (2) undertake the lead role in updating Kosrae's Land Use Plan. Progress of the SEA in Kosrae is on track and ongoing.</p> <p>In May 2020, the project hired the Chuuk Conservation Society (CCS) to undertake the lead role in implementing the Sapo-Oror-Ununo (SOU) Forest Stewardship Plan. CCS is currently undertaking a review of the SOU Forest Stewardship Plan and implementation will occur based on the review. Implementation of the Weloy FSP is currently pending completion of the project's activities in Weloy prior to moving forward with consultations with the community.</p> <p>As of June 30, 2020, Pohnpei's SEA report and IEMP have been finalized and pending endorsement by the Pohnpei State Government. The endorsement process was delayed due to the setback in finalizing both documents by key stakeholders, coupled with government priorities being focused on COVID-19.</p>	<p>Stewardship Plan updates and implementation in Yap are ongoing, and expected to continue through 2021 as per the work plan. Tree planting was identified in the existing plan, and was carried out as part of the rehabilitation activities in Weloy.</p>
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<p>Discontinued - 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>(Indicator discontinued post-MTR; see replacement target below)</p>	<p>Discontinued -</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>	<p><i>(not set or not applicable)</i></p>	<p>Discontinued -</p> <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-sectoral issues)</p>	<p>The target for this indicator has been updated.</p> <p>This indicator will be measured by the establishment of four core cross-sector working groups in each of the four States of the FSM. These working groups will be responsible for tackling cross-sectoral issues for improved landscape management. Refer to new indicator for more updates.</p>	<p>N/A. Discontinued</p>
<p>Annual Government and Donor funding allocated to SLM (including PA management costs)</p>	<p>US\$ 9.2 million</p>	<p><i>(not set or not applicable)</i></p>	<p>At least US\$ 10.1 million</p>	<p>As of 2019, the end of project target in the amount of 10.1. million has been met. A final evaluation to be conducted prior to project closure to re-evaluate progress against the final target.</p>	<p>This indicator is achieved in 2019. Target of at least \$10.1 million met in 2019.</p>
<p>Extent (ha) of ecosystems rehabilitated* resulting in increased delivery of ecosystem and development benefits:</p> <p>(i) Upland forests</p> <p>(ii) Mangroves & wetlands</p> <p>*Rehabilitation efforts in the final years of the project will focus on developing and implementing monitoring protocols in collaboration with appropriate communities and partners for the rehabilitated sites to ensure long-term restoration success.</p>	<p>(i) 0 hectares</p> <p>(ii) 0 hectares</p>	<p><i>(not set or not applicable)</i></p>	<p>(i) 30 hectares</p> <p>(ii) 20 hectares</p> <p>Monitoring and maintenance of rehabilitated areas.</p> <p>(Target revised post-MTR to reflect more achievable targets aligned with the agreed project definition of rehabilitation; Original targets were (i) 350</p>	<p>The target for this indicator has been updated as follows: 30 ha of upland forests and 20 ha of mangroves/wetlands. This was reduced from the original target to focus on developing and implementing monitoring protocols of sites that were restored during the initial years of implementation. Rather than rehabilitating as many sites as possible, the project recognizes the need to continue to monitor rehabilitated sites to ensure long term success.</p> <p>As of June 30, 2020, rehabilitation activities in upland forests have completed in Chuuk, while still</p>	<p>(i) Upland forests: 11.92 ha rehabilitated (cumulative).</p> <p>Discussions were ongoing as of June 30, 2021 with KIRMA's Division of Forestry and Wildlife for potential upland forest rehabilitation sites, along with developing a TOR to carry out rehabilitation efforts by the end of 2021.</p> <p>Pohnpei's upland forest rehabilitation was delayed due in 2020 due to COVID-19. Restriction of public gatherings resulted in restoration activities to be postponed to 2021. CSP's contract was extended to June 2021, but unavailability of funding drawdowns from UNDP produced</p>

(Indicator clarified post-MTR)			and (ii) 50 with a more narrow interpretation focussed on planting/revegetation)	<p>ongoing in Yap. Pohnpei's rehabilitation activities were delayed due to COVID- 19. Chuuk concluded its rehabilitation activities in the Nefo Forest in April 2020. The final report documenting the total area being rehabilitated, number of plants planted, lessons learned, etc. has yet to be available but expected to release by Quarter 3, 2020. Yap's rehabilitation activities are ongoing in two sites in the Tamil and Weloy Municipalities, covering 11.35ha of watersheds. Progress is ongoing with the restoration activities scheduled to conclude by end of 2020. Pohnpei's upland forest rehabilitation was scheduled to commence beginning of 2020, however, was delayed due to COVID-19. Kosrae has yet to begin restoration activities in upland areas, however, a target of 5ha has been set for restoration of critically degraded upland forests.</p> <p>Restoration of mangroves/wetlands completed for Kosrae, while the activities are still ongoing in Yap and Chuuk. Pohnpei's activities were delayed due to COVID-19. Kosrae completed its first major rehabilitation activity in Quarter 1 of 2020, covering 10.99ha of mangrove forests and 5.57 ha of coastal areas. Yap's rehabilitation activities are ongoing in two (2) wetland sites in Tamil covering 1.2ha; and a stream in Okaw, Weloy measured at 379ft. The</p>	<p>further delays. A second extension was proposed and approved to allow efforts to continue through December 2021.</p> <p>The Chuuk Women's Council submitted the final report on the rehabilitation for Nefo in September 2020. Chuuk Conservation Society coordinated planting of coconut trees as part of the SOU Forest Stewardship Plan implementation. Further restoration efforts, including planting of big trees and well restoration, for SOU are ongoing and expected to be completed in September 2021.</p> <p>The Yap Division of Agriculture and Forestry completed a Compost Shed in August 2020 that will utilize waste from the Dry Litter Piggeries, completed under R2R, for future tree planting efforts by the division. Yap completed rehabilitation activities within Tamil and Weloy Municipalities, covering approximately 11.35 ha in December 2020. Tamil is expected to verify its restored area by September 2021 as part of continued monitoring efforts.</p> <p>(ii) Mangroves and wetlands: 24.96 ha rehabilitated (cumulative).</p> <p>Kosrae completed rehabilitation of 9 wetland sites in February 2021, covering approximately 7.2 ha of wetlands in Kosrae. Previously, Kosrae completed rehabilitation of</p>
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				<p>rehabilitation of the Okaw stream in Weloy will include restoration of its traditional retaining walls to control erosion and sedimentation runoff. Additionally, Yap is focusing on improving its Compost Facility, operated by the Division of Agriculture and Forestry (DAF), to provide compost to communities to improve soil quality in savannah lands. The extension of the Compost Shed is in its final phase of completion. Finally, Chuuk concluded the first phase of its rehabilitation activities in December 2019 in two mangrove sites on the islands of Fefan and Oneisom. The first phase included establishment of nurseries within each of the two sites, facilitating capacity building and alternative livelihood trainings with communities to enable them to manage the nurseries, while also learning other ways of generating income. The second phase (scheduled for March 2020) was the transplanting of the seedlings to the mangrove sites. This is currently pending the lift in travel and gathering restrictions due to COVID-19.</p>	<p>10.99 ha of mangrove forests and 5.57 ha of eroded coastal areas in February 2020.</p> <p>Pohnpei Mangrove restoration site identification and rehabilitation efforts were delayed due to the aforementioned COVID-19 gathering restrictions. A TOR for a CSO to assist with mangrove planting was drafted in June 2021 and is pending approval, with work expected to be back on track by September 2021 in order to be completed as per the 2021 workplan.</p> <p>COVID-19 gathering and travel restrictions greatly postponed mangrove restoration efforts in Fefan and Oneisomw through 2020, but transplantation is expected to be complete by end of 2021. The R2R conducted a site visit in June 2021 to check nursery seedlings and schedule next steps.</p> <p>Yap completed restoration in 2 wetland sites in Tamil covering 1.2 ha by the end of 2020. It also completed planting along a stream in Okaw, Weloy, measured at 379 ft, including restoration of traditional retaining walls to control erosion and sedimentation runoff.</p> <p>Monitoring:</p> <p>Pre-planting and monitoring protocols and templates were developed, reviewed and approved by the states</p>
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					in June 2021. The next step is finalizing monitoring contracts and arrangements, to be conducted through the end of the R2R project. This will help ensure the success of rehabilitation efforts.
% of piggeries using the dry litter piggery system within targeted catchments resulting in increased water quality (Indicator revised post-MTR to reflect project-targeted catchments – now specified in baseline rather than indicator, Original = % of piggeries using the dry litter piggery system within the Ipwek, Dachngar, Finkol, and Nefounimas catchments resulting in increased water quality)	Pehleng [0%] Dachngar [0%] Tofol-Mutannanea [0%] (Baseline updated to reflect targeted catchments; see also new indicator below)	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	100%	This indicator has been updated and approved, which incorporates the following two new DLP sites, Pehleng and Tofol- Mutannanea, located in Pohnpei and Kosrae. Dachngar remains the DLP site for Yap. As of June 30, 2020, the construction of dry litter piggeries (DLPs) in Yap, Pohnpei and Kosrae are ongoing, with DLPs in Pohnpei and Kosrae expected to complete by end of 2020. Furthermore, to minimize contamination in coastal areas from pollution and poor waste management, Chuuk will be implementing sedimentation control activities in 2021 within targeted coastal sites rather than construction of DLPs. This decision was made after Chuuk raised a far bigger environmental concern related to pollution from poor management of solid waste.	Pehleng [100%] Dachngar [100%] Tofol-Mutannanea [0%] As of June 31, 2021, the construction of dry litter piggeries (DLPs) in Yap and Pohnpei has been completed. Pohnpei State is awaiting the arrival of wood chippers, expected by September 2021, that will enable the communities to prepare the substrate needed for the DLPs. Efforts in Kosrae are ongoing. All construction materials have been received, and a contract was finalized and pending approval as of June 30, 2021, with construction anticipated to begin in July 2021.
NEW indicator as of 2020 PIR: Revival of cross-sector working groups for integrated landscape management	0 cross-sector working groups operational Cross-sector	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Revival of Pohnpei Resource Management Committee, Utwe & Malem resource Management Committees, Yap	As of June 30, 2020, discussions have been undertaken at State level for formulation of the (1) Yap Environmental Stewardship Consortium (ESC); (2) Chuuk State Environmental Working Group (SEWG); Pohnpei Resource	Discussions have been ongoing between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 at the State level for formulation of the (1) Yap Environmental Stewardship Consortium (ESC); (2) Chuuk State Environmental Working Group (SEWG); (3) Pohnpei

<p>(New indicator post-MTR; indicator on cross-sector enabling environment updated to reflect a practical interpretation of PMAT questions on cross-sector enabling environment (e.g. Score 4): PMAT LD tracking tool will be reported separately to GEF Secretariat)</p>	<p>working groups existed in the past in some FSM states, but need to be re-established</p>		<p>Environmental Stewardship Consortium and Chuuk Environmental Working Group</p>	<p>Management Committee; and (4) Kosrae Resource Management Committee. Formal establishment, however, has been delayed due to COVID-19. Discussions to be revisited once gathering restrictions have been lifted.</p>	<p>Resource Management Committee; and (4) Kosrae Resource Management Committee. Formal establishment continued to be delayed due to priorities shifting to COVID-19 measures, and plans to have one consultant carry out the development of Strategic Action Plans (SAPs) for each group have been adjusted. Each state will now be preparing the SAPs internally or with the assistance of on-island consultants. As of June 30, 2021, consultations with the traditional councils of chiefs were held in Yap, and a TOR drafted. Pohnpei partners and relevant agencies were briefed and expressed approval. In Kosrae, agencies plan to review and update a previous MoU. Chuuk stakeholders have met, and made arrangements to brief the Governor in the 3rd quarter. TAC members will be involved throughout the process for each state.</p>
<p>New indicator as of 2020 PIR: Maintained/increased water quality in target catchments through measurement of</p> <p>(i) E. coli (Pohnpei, Kosrae, Yap)</p> <p>(ii) Sedimentation (Chuuk).</p> <p>(New indicator added post-MTR to assess project impact on water quality)</p>	<p>(i) E.coli</p> <p>Pehlung (baseline TBC)]</p> <p>Dachngar (baseline TBC)</p> <p>Tofol-Mutannanea</p>	<p><i>(not set or not applicable)</i></p>	<p>(i) Decrease of E. coli concentration from the baseline</p> <p>(ii) Chuuk: decrease of from sedimentation rates from baseline</p>	<p>This is a new indicator aimed at maintaining or increasing water quality within the target catchments. The target is as follows: maintained/increased water quality with the targeted catchments through measurement of E.coli (Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap) and sedimentation (Chuuk).</p> <p>The overall goal of converting pigpens into DLPs and undertaking sedimentation control activities is the expected improvement in water</p>	<p>As of June 30, 2021, DLP activities were complete for Yap, soon to be complete for Pohnpei with the arrival of wood chippers (anticipated by September 2021), and in progress for Kosrae (materials were procured, and construction contract expected to commence in July 2021). Water quality test kits to measure the reduction of E.coli were procured for Yap state, in process of being procured for Kosrae, with Pohnpei expected to start the process by</p>

	(baseline TBC) (ii) Sedimentation rate Chuuk (baseline TBC)			<p>quality. Changes in water quality will be measured by assessing concentration of E. coli, a pig waste contaminant, and sedimentation in waterways. The baseline E.coli levels at each DLP were collected prior to construction, and the sedimentation baselines will be collected prior to implementation of sedimentation reduction activities</p> <p>As of June 30, 2020, all DLP activities are ongoing with the exception of the sedimentation control activities in Chuuk which have been postponed to 2021.</p>	<p>September 2021.</p> <p>For Chuuk, water quality activities are under the mandate of EPA. Discussions for the proposed sedimentation reduction activity in Chuuk were delayed due to prioritizing COVID-19 mitigation, and a change in leadership. As EPA's involvement is necessary, it may not be feasible to complete this activity by the end of the project, but R2R is continuing to follow up.</p>
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The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	On track
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Evidence uploaded:	YES
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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 2020	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	Out of the 40 PA sites totaling 25,182.50 ha:	Out of the 40 PA sites totaling 25,165.50 ha (PA size and status reconfirmed in 2021 and will undergo one final reconfirmation prior to project closure):
(i) PAs gazette status verified	(ii) 3,154 ha		(ii) 14,953 ha	(i) 22 are existing PAs	(i) 22 are gazetted PAs
(ii) Marine	(iii) 4,444 ha		(iii) 10,033 ha	(ii) 13, 508 ha marine	(ii) 13, 670 ha marine
(iii) Terrestrial	(iv) 7,598 ha		(iv) 24,986	(iii) 3,415 ha terrestrial	
(iv) Total				(iv) 16,922.50 ha total	

			<p>The drop in overall size of gazetted PAs, compared to figures reported in 2019, is due to the interpretation of the term “gazetted”. The term gazetted is defined as any PA endorsed at the community level, in the case of Chuuk and Yap, whereas any PA endorsed through the legislative process, in the case of Kosrae and Pohnpei, is considered gazetted. Further, two PAs were inaccurately reported in 2019 as gazetted, although only endorsed at community level. This has been corrected.</p> <p>Roughly (18) PAs remains to be gazette, (ii) 1630 ha marine and (iii) 6630 ha terrestrial, totaling (iv) 8,260 ha.</p> <p>Progress of activities between July 2019 to June 2020 includes completion of the Awane MPA's Management Plan and a draft management plan for the Walung MPA, both sites located in Kosrae. Under the Kosrae PA system Act/PAN law, all sites must have an approved management plan prior to undergoing the endorsement process by the legislative branch. The Awane MPA is currently going through the gazettement process while Walung's management plan is still under review. Pohnpei is scheduled to begin the gazettement process of Peniou MPA and Awak Watershed Basin beginning 2020, however, there have been</p>	<p>(iii) 3,610 ha terrestrial (iv) 17,280.50 ha total</p> <p>Between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021, efforts were ongoing to assist sites in becoming eligible for legal gazettement or official recognition.</p> <p>Kosrae completed a management plan for Walung MPA, and is awaiting endorsement.</p> <p>Pohnpei was scheduled to begin the gazettement process for Peniou MPA and Awak Watershed Basin beginning 2020, however, there were first delays due to COVID-19, and now further delays in 2021 due to pending approval of Pohnpei's updated PAN legislation.</p> <p>Yap completed a draft management plan for Gachpar MPA in the previous reporting period, but the community took until the end of 2020 to fully review and add to it. The R2R team and partners provided additional feedback in 2021, and the plan was back with the community for final review as of June 30, 2021. It's important that the community has full ownership of the plan, and review can take longer than anticipated as community members have many obligations and limited time to meet. The Yap R2R team and partners also met to review and begin updating the Weloy Forest Stewardship Plan, and will continue through 2021 until the</p>
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				<p>slight delays due to COVID-19. Yap completed a draft management plan for Gachpar, one of the project's new MPA site, and continues to engage with the community members and other partners (TNC and PIMPAC) to help finalize the management plan.</p>	<p>community is satisfied. Yap also developed its PAN criteria, which was approved by the TAC in December 2020, and as of June 30, 2021, was awaiting endorsement by Yap CAP, the agency hosting the PAN office.</p> <p>The Chuuk R2R team worked with communities to conduct consultations and gather background information in order to develop management plans for priority sites. To help ensure efforts stay on track, the project contracted a local consultant to assist with this through September 2021.</p>
<p>Number of States having a fully operational PA management decision support system in place on which management decisions are based</p>	<p>0</p>	<p><i>(not set or not applicable)</i></p>	<p>4</p>	<p>All four States are in place to meet this target. To have a fully operational decision support system in place, all four States must have their respective PAN laws/regulations in place, establish PAN offices within each State, and have an overarching FSM PAN operations manual to help guide the process of establishing PAs.</p> <p>As of June 30, 2020, the following key progress have been made: (1) endorsement of Yap's PAN regulations; (2) development of a draft PAN regulations for the State of Chuuk; (3) establishment of a PAN office per State, and recruitment of a PAN Coordinator, which the R2R team closely works with; and (4) completion of a solid draft of the FSM PAN Operations Manual.</p> <p>The FSM PAN Operations Manual is</p>	<p>0</p> <p>Between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021, the following key progress was made: (1) development of Yap's PAN criteria (2) continued review and revision of the draft PAN regulations for the State of Chuuk; (3) continued collaboration between the PAN office/coordinator for each state; (4) updated PAN legislation for Pohnpei State, pending legislative approval; (5) development of PAN fund regulations for Kosrae State, pending endorsement; (6) review of the draft FSM PAN Operations Manual by the FSM Department of Resources and Development. The draft is a living document, and will continue to be reviewed by partners to ensure it will meet the needs of the state PAN offices through 2021; (7) a draft TOR for legal assistance to develop PAN</p>

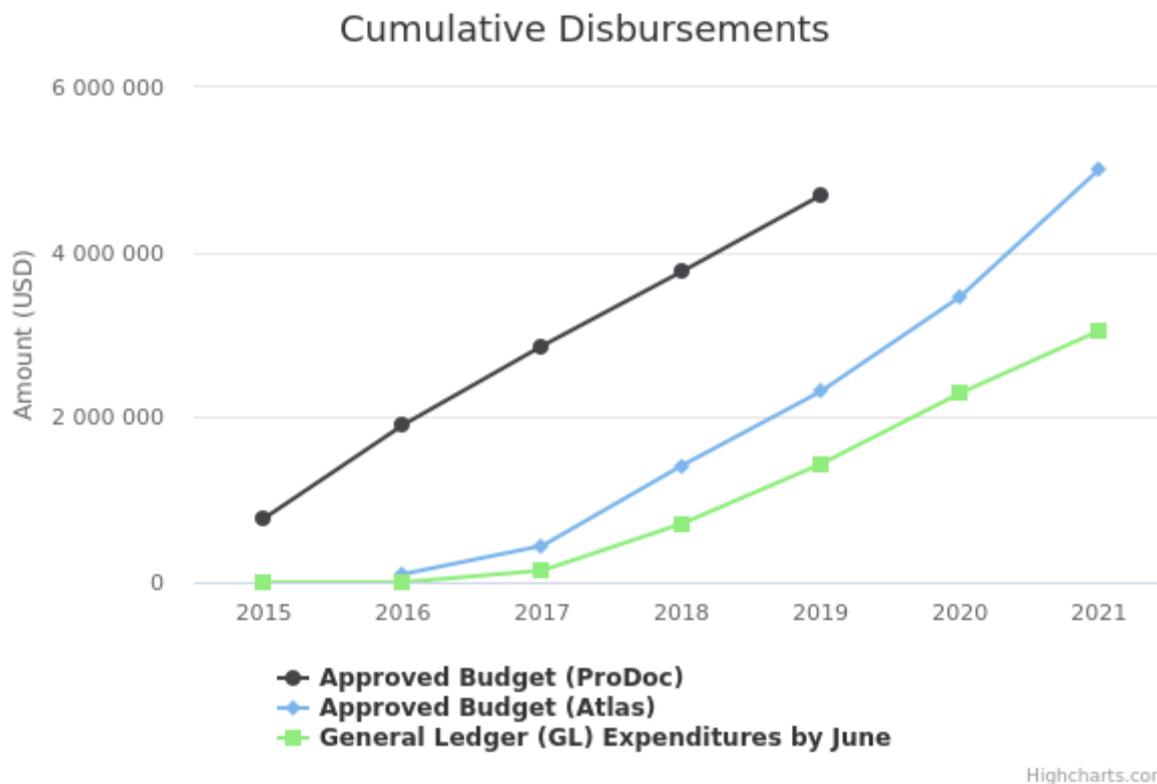
				highly crucial to operationalizing the FSM PAN Framework. It is a key document that provides guidance to communities, resource owners and municipalities on how to propose sites for formal members to the FSM PA Network. Additionally, Pohnpei State is in the process of reviewing its existing PAN law to ensure consistency and alignment to the FSM PAN Framework.	regulations for Pohnpei State once the revised legislation is approved; (8) a draft TOR, pending approval, to review/update Kosrae's PAN legislation by the end of 2021.
Mean % of total fish biomass of (i) <i>Cheilinus undulatus</i> (EN); and (ii) <i>Bolbometopon muricatum</i> (VU) across the States	<p>Chuuk:</p> <p>(i) 1.14%</p> <p>(ii) 0.22%</p> <p>Kosrae:</p> <p>(i) 1.52%</p> <p>(ii) 0.00%</p> <p>Pohnpei:</p> <p>(i) 5.2%</p> <p>(ii) 0.48%</p> <p>Yap:</p> <p>(i) 2.47%</p> <p>(ii) 4.70%</p>	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>	Stable or increasing mean % against baseline at each State	In October 2019, the R2R Steering Committee endorsed 100K to supplement the ongoing Coral Reef Monitoring (CRM) Program through MCT to collect new data on the mean percentage (%) of total fish biomass for (i) <i>Cheilinus undulatus</i> (EN); and (ii) <i>Bolbometopon muricatum</i> (VU) across the four States. This final set of data is necessary to re-evaluate the end of project target. Furthermore, in May 2020 UNDP approved a Low Value Grant to allow MCT to initiate the necessary ground work per the project's timeline. Progress is ongoing and on track. The collection of data is scheduled to occur between May to September 2020 but risks potential delays with ongoing travel restrictions. Project continues to liaise with MCT to ensure management intervention is provided where needed.	<p>Chuuk:</p> <p>(i) 3.18%</p> <p>(ii) 0.36%</p> <p>Kosrae:</p> <p>(i.) 2.40%</p> <p>(ii) 4.07%</p> <p>Pohnpei:</p> <p>(i) 2.35%</p> <p>(ii) 9.60%</p> <p>Yap:</p> <p>(i) 2.56%</p> <p>(ii) 4.51%</p> <p>Between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021, data collection and analysis of priority fish species, <i>Cheilinus undulatus</i> (EN) and <i>Bolbometopon muricatum</i> (VU), along with sharks at the request of the FSM, was completed for the four states in</p>

					<p>conjunction with the regular coral reef monitoring efforts. Efforts were coordinated by Micronesia Conservation Trust as per their low value grant (LVG).</p> <p>MCT, the research team, and principal investigator noted that the original indicators were flawed, and thus, the above end of target results are also flawed, and should not be distributed/shared as an accurate representation of priority fish species biomass. A more accurate representation of MPA performance and priority species' status is detailed in the final report (uploaded), and is based on occurrence of the target species by habitat type by state over time.</p> <p>This activity is now complete, with some additional awareness of the results being planned for the remainder of 2021 in order to ensure they are best utilized by stakeholders.</p>
<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>(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>	<p>(not set or not applicable)</p>	<p>Stable or increasing against baseline</p>	<p>In February 2020, UNDP engaged BirdLife International to undertake the first phase of the FSM Bird Survey, beginning with Pohnpei and Kosrae. The bird survey aims to provide new data on the mean detection rate of (i) <i>Zosterops cinereus</i> (Kosrae White-eye); (ii) <i>Myiagra pluto</i> (Pohnpei Flycatcher); (iii) <i>Metabolus rugensis</i> (Truk Monarch); (iv) <i>Monarcha godeffroyi</i> (Yap Monarch); and (v) <i>Ducula oceanica</i> (Micronesian</p>	<p>Between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021, FSM remained in a state of emergency, and borders were closed. Due to these COVID-19 restrictions, BirdLife was not able to enter the FSM to carry out field work.</p> <p>Instead, it conducted a desktop review of information and reanalyzed data from the 1983/1984 FSM bird survey, and prepared summaries of the results. Alternative methods using</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>Pigeon). The field work was scheduled to commenced between April/May 2020 for Kosrae and Pohnpei, followed by Chuuk and Yap late in the year. However, due to COVID-19, the field work has delayed.</p> <p>Despite delays in the field work, desktop review of information continues to be in progress. Collection of record observations from the previous 1983/1984 FSM bird survey has completed and entered into a database to be re-analyzed and comparison against the newly collected data. Several options have been considered including deployment of recording devices should travel bans continue to remain in effect throughout the year. These operations are to be revisited end of July 2020 between the project team and Birdlife International.</p>	<p>SongMetres (acoustic recording devices) were developed, allowing partners on the ground to collect bird song recordings and send the audio files to Birdlife for analysis. Collection was in progress in Kosrae and Pohnpei State as of June 30, 2021, and planning ongoing in Yap and Chuuk. As all land is privately owned in Yap and Chuuk, getting permission and arranging field guides can be outside of the teams' control and cause delays. In all states, field work can additionally be hindered by inclement weather, rough terrain, faulty recorders, and community events such as funerals. Once the data is collected, it will be analyzed during phase 2, which is anticipated to begin by October 2021.</p>
<p>New indicator as of 2020 PIR: Number of knowledge exchanges via (i) lessons learned disseminated through State wide events and other regional platforms; and (ii) most significant change stories shared nationally and regionally.</p> <p>(New indicator added post-MTR to reflect project efforts on knowledge exchange)</p>	<p>(i) 0 (ii) 1</p>	<p><i>(not set or not applicable)</i></p>	<p>(i) 2 (ii) 4</p>	<p>As of June 30, 2020, no lessons learned and most significant change stories were shared nationally and regionally. The PIU aims to distribute one of each by end of FY2020.</p>	<p>(i) 1 (ii) 1</p> <p>The FSM Ridge to Reef Project Manager Rosalina Yatilman and co-authors Dr. Chiara Franco and Rachael Nash, with the FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECCEM), produced a lessons-learned publication with input from stakeholders: Implementing a Strategic Environmental Assessment</p>

					(SEA) in small Pacific islands: lessons learned from the FSM Ridge to Reef project in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia. It was widely shared and distributed in May 2021.
The progress of the objective/outcome can be described as:	On track				
Evidence uploaded:	YES				

D. Implementation Progress



Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc):	65.01%
Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year:	65.01%
Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June:	3,048,966

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
First Disbursement Date	Jun 3, 2016
Expected Date of Mid-term Review	Nov 1, 2018

Actual Date of Mid-term Review	Sep 5, 2019
Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation	Feb 19, 2022
Original Planned Closing Date	Nov 19, 2020
Revised Planned Closing Date	May 19, 2022

Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2020 to 1 July 2021)

2020-11-06

Project Manager: Please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones outlined in the above 'Key Project Dates' table. Include comments on COVID-19 related challenges, delays and impact. If there are no delays, please indicated 'not applicable'.

Not Applicable

CO Programme Officer: Please include specific measures to manage the project's implementation performance

Planned dates for Terminal Evaluation and project closure are on track. At this stage no delays are anticipated.

NCE RTA: Please include specific measures to manage the project's implementation performance.

In 2020, the project requested, and was approved for, an 18 month no-cost extension. This was supported by members of the project's Steering Committee meeting and was aligned with the findings and recommendations of the MTR. The project is now set to close on May 19, 2022. Delivery of remaining outputs will need to be expedited to ensure that the project meets its targets before closure. Planning for the TE needs to start early to ensure timely recruitment of quality consultants.

E. Project Governance

Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021). Please also upload all meeting minutes using the FILE LIBRARY button.

2020-11-06

F. Ratings and Overall Assessments

Role	2021 Development Objective Progress Rating	2021 Implementation Progress Rating
UNDP-NCE Technical Adviser	Moderately Unsatisfactory	Moderately Satisfactory
UNDP Country Office Programme Officer	Moderately Unsatisfactory	Moderately Satisfactory

Role	2021 Overall Assessment
UNDP-NCE Technical Adviser	<p>This is the fifth PIR for the full-sized GEF project, “Implementing an integrated Ridge to Reef approach to enhance ecosystem services, to conserve globally important biodiversity and to sustain local livelihoods in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)”, which was launched in 2015 and has a revised closing of May 2022. The project intends 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.” Two complementary streams of action are utilized to achieve the project objective: integrating ecosystems management and rehabilitation on the high islands of the FSM to enhance Ridge to Reef (R2R) connectivity, and enhancing management effectiveness within new and existing Protected Areas (PAs) on the High Islands of FSM as part of the R2R approach (both marine and terrestrial). The project carries a GEF investment of approximately USD 4.6 million with an additional USD 17.8 million in co-financing.</p> <p>Overall, the project’s Development Objective (DO) is considered Moderately Unsatisfactory and Implementation Progress (IP) is assessed as Moderately Satisfactory.</p> <p>At the Objective level, progress is considered off track to meet many end of project targets. To date, 0 ha of land has been covered by Integrated Landscape Management Plans (ILMPs). However, progress has been made towards the development, revision and/or implementation of the Pohnpei State Integrated Environmental Management Plan (IEMP), Kosrae Land Use Plan (KLUP) and Forest Stewardship Plans (FSP) for Weloy (in Yap), and Sapo, Oror and Ununo (in Chuuk) (indicator 1). During this reporting period, the 10-year Forest Action Plan for the FSM was also updated and approved, acting as the umbrella forest management plan for all four states (Pohnpei, Kosrae, Yap and Chuuk). The Forest Action Plan notably prioritizes the development and support of community based FSPs. The next METT Scores for priority Protected Areas (PA) will be calculated at the end of the project however, it is not expected that the project will meet the end of project target (indicator 2). As recommended in the mid-term review, the project has shifted its focus on 20 priority PAs that have active and willing community involvement. The project is further working to develop and complete PA management plans, demarcate PAs, and gazette PAs that are still pending endorsement. Similar to the METT Scores, the Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Capacity Development Score (indicator 3) and PA Management Capacity Development Score (indicator 4) for FSM will be next calculated at the project’s closure with the project unlikely to meet the end of project targets. Shortcomings related to the</p>

management capacity scores may be largely attributed to factors that unfortunately lie outside the scope of the project such as institutionalizing activities within government agencies. Additionally, land tenure varies between states, with Yap and Chuuk predominately privately owned, which greatly impacts management capabilities. Nevertheless, the project has taken steps to improve SLM including supporting the implementation of Pohnpei's IEMP and completing a social environmental assessment in Kosrae to update its Land Use Plan. The project has also supported activities to improve PA management such as reviewing a draft Protected Area Network (PAN) regulation for Chuuk State which is set to be completed in December 2021, updating Pohnpei's existing PAN law, drafting FSM PAN Operations Manual, completing Kosrae's PAN fund legislation, and completing the draft PAN criteria for Yap State. In terms of community benefit from R2R priority sites, the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) has been approved by the Project Steering Committee to evaluate socio-economic data (indicator 5). MCT has flagged that it will be unable to fully determine the percent of the population benefitting within all marine protected areas (MPAs) as it would require a census and the FSM census scheduled for 2020 has been postponed due to COVID-19. MCT will review all available data and collect additional information where possible within the remaining project period. Despite the expectation that many end of project targets will not be fully met, the project has made some progress across all four states and continues to prioritize key activities to improve land and PA management. Evidence is provided to corroborate this assessment.

Despite shortcomings at an Objective level, progress can be considered on track for Outcome 1, which aims to integrate ecosystems management and rehabilitation on the High Islands of the FSM to enhance Ridge to Reef connectivity. As mentioned, one IEMP for Pohnpei State has been drafted, one land use plan for Kosrae State has been revised, and some FSP are being implemented for Yap and Chuuk (indicator 6). An IEMP unit is being established to help finalize and implement plans currently under review (in draft) and a final Kosrae Land Use Plan is expected in October 2021. The annual government and donor funding allocated to SLM is \$10.1 million (indicator 7 – achieved). Over the course of the project, 11.92 ha of upland forest and 24.96 ha of mangroves and wetlands have been rehabilitated (indicator 8). Discussions are currently underway with the Division of Forestry and Wildlife for additional forest rehabilitation sites that could be selected. Due to restrictions around public gatherings, Pohnpei's upland forest rehabilitation and mangrove restorations have been postponed. The Chuuk Conservation Society has planted coconut trees as part of the implementation of one FSP and is expecting to continue restoration efforts into September 2021. The Yap Division of Agriculture and Forestry has built a compost shed which will be used for future tree planting efforts. To help ensure the success of all rehabilitation efforts, pre-planting and monitoring protocols and templates have been developed, reviewed, and approved by all four states. As of June 2021, the construction of dry litter piggeries (DLPs) in Yap and Pohnpei has been completed while construction is set to begin shortly in Kosrae (indicator 9). Discussions are underway at the State level for the formulation of the Yap Environmental Stewardship Consortium (ESC), Chuuk State Environmental Working Group (SEWG), Pohnpei Resource Management Committee and Kosrae Resource Management Committee (indicator 10). Formal establishment has unfortunately been delayed due to COVID-19 related challenges. Each state will be preparing Strategic Action Plans (SAPs) internally or with assistance from local consultants. Water quality test kits to measure reduction in E.coli have been procured for Yap and are soon to be procured for Kosrae and Pohnpei (indicator 11). For Chuuk, water quality

testing is carried out under the EPA mandate.

Progress can be considered on track for Outcome 2, which aims to enhance Management Effectiveness within new and existing PAs on the High Islands of FSM as part of the R2R approach (both marine and terrestrial). Of the 40 PA sites, 22 have been gazetted, 670ha of marine area covered and 3,610 ha of terrestrial area covered (indicator 12). Unfortunately, no states have fully operational PA management decision support systems in place (indicator 13). The project has progressed with the: development of Yap's PAN criteria, continued review and revisions for Chuuk's PAN regulations, continued collaboration between PAN coordinators for each state, development of Kosrae's PAN fund regulation, review of the draft FSM PAN Operations Manual, draft TOR for legal assistance to develop PAN regulations for Pohnpei, and draft TOR to review Kosrae's PAN legislation. Data collection and analysis of priority fish species, *Cheilinus undulatus* (EN) and *Bolbometopon muricatum* (VU), along with sharks at the request of the FSM, was completed for the four states in conjunction with the regular coral reef monitoring efforts. The mean % of total biomass of priority fish across states is stable, or has increased, against baseline data however the project notes that these are not necessarily an accurate representation of priority species' status (indicator 14 – still considered achieved). Due to border closures related to COVID-19, the project partner BirdLife was unable to enter FSM to carry out the FSM bird survey (indicator 15). Some alternative methods were used to assess bird populations in FSM including acoustic recordings which were sent to BirdLife for analysis. A lessons-learnt publication with input from stakeholders was jointly written and distributed by the FSM R2R project manager and colleagues from the FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Emergency Management (indicator 16).

The project's implementation can be considered as Moderately Satisfactory. The overall financial delivery against total amount approved is 65%. The Project Implementation Unit (PIU) is well staffed and added two new consultancies, a Chief Technical Advisor, and a Communications Specialist to provide additional support. A financial spot check and audit were completed in 2020 with some issues raised such as the timing of quarterly reports and contracting delays. The PIU has committed to submitting reports on schedule and noted that a new government requirement to route contracts to the office of the President has contributed to delays. COVID-19 related travel restrictions (both international and domestic) have negatively impacted the project's implementation. For instance, the PIU was unable to conduct monitoring and oversight missions to each state and some partners were unable to fully carry out their activities.

To help expedite the achievement of project results, the following recommendations are suggested:

- Strengthened Project Communication: The PIU should continue to have regular communications between project staff and teams, with partners at the Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Emergency Management, as well as with UNDP colleagues. A planning meeting should be scheduled with the PIU and UNDP to formulate a strategy to expedite achievement towards end of project targets.

- Additional Project Steering Committee Meetings: One to be held in the

	<p>last quarter of 2021 and the last meeting to be held before May 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greater emphasis on gender: A gender analysis and action plan should be developed by October 2021 and updated on a quarterly basis. - Continued implementation of COVID-19 strategy: Adopt necessary amendments and adapt to uncertainties raised by the COVID-19 pandemic. - Plan the Terminal EvaluationL The TOR for TE consultants must be finalised in October 2021 to ensure timely recruitment of quality consultants and to ensure that the TE is carried out on schedule. The final report must be completed by April 30, 2022. <p>In 2020, the project requested, and was approved for, an 18 month no-cost extension. This was supported by members of the project's Steering Committee meeting and was aligned with the recommendations and findings of the MTR. The project is now set to close on May 19, 2022.</p> <p>Due to COVID, no NCE RTA mission has taken place during the reporting period.</p>
<p>UNDP Country Office Programme Officer</p>	<p>This is the 4th PIR for the FSM R2R Project. The objective of this project is to strengthen local, state and national capacities and actions to implement integrated ecosystem management ridge through ridge to reef approach on the high islands of four states of FSM.</p> <p>A moderately unsatisfactory rating is assigned to progress towards Development Objectives. The recommended rating for Implementation Progress is moderately satisfactory. These ratings is similar to the one provided by the R2R project manager.</p> <p>Key achievements during this reporting period include:</p> <p>Outcome 1: Integrated Ecosystem Management and Rehabilitation on the High Islands of the FSM to enhance Ridge to Reef Connectivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Completion of Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) for Kosrae. In addition, outcomes of stakeholder consultations are being used as a basis to update the Kosrae Land Use Plan, after a lapse of almost 20 years <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated environment management plan drafted for Pohnpei. Plans for the establishment of an Integrated Environment Management Plan unit is progressing. The Terms of References is finalized and discussion with authorities is ongoing. <input type="checkbox"/> Implementation of Forest Stewardship Plans progressing well. The completion of a Forest Stewardship Plan for SOU community in Chuuk is expected to be completed by third quarter 2021. This is indicative of considerable efforts for the R2R project implementation unit, Chuuk Conservation Society as well as land owning units of Sappo, Orror and UNuno. In Yap, the Weloy Forest Stewardship Plan is progressing steadily. <input type="checkbox"/> Rehabilitation of upland forests and mangroves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -In Kosrae, 18.9 hectares of wetlands was successfully rehabilitated (of which 7.2 hectares completed in 2021).

-In Yap, a total area of 11.35 hectares was rehabilitated

-Delineation of Kitti watershed Reserve completed in Pohnpei. This complements the Pohnpei State Public Law No. 1L-128-87, known as Pohnpei Watershed Forest Reserve and Mangrove Protection Act of 1987. It also called for a Watershed line to be delineated and demarcated on the ground to protect native forests from human encroachment.

-Completion of dry litter piggeries in Yap and Pohnpei

Outcome 2: Management Effectiveness enhanced within new and existing PAs on the high islands of FSM and existing Pas on the high islands of FSM as part of the R2R approach

□ In terms of States having a fully operational PA management decision support system in place , following progress is noted (1) development of Yap's PAN criteria (2) development of a draft PAN regulations for the State of Chuuk; (3) establishment of a PAN office per State, and recruitment of a PAN Coordinator, which the R2R team closely works with; (4) update PAN legislation for Pohnpei State, pending approval; (5) development of PAN fund regulations for Kosrae State; and, (6) completion of a solid draft of the FSM PAN Operations Manu

□ Coral reef monitoring completed across the FSM. This included survey two priority fish species for R2R project, namely Cheilinus undulates and Bolbometopon murricatum.

□ In terms of knowledge exchange and communication:

- A lessons learned document finalized: Implementing a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in small Pacific islands: lessons learned from the FSM Ridge to Reef project in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.

- Completion of a national FSM R2R communications plan

- An annual cross site learning exchange promoting lessons learnt and best practices in conservation conducted in August 2020. A total of 8 communities, non-governmental organizations and national government departments participated in this information sharing exercise. This was supported by the R2R project.

Implementation: in terms of project implementation, the project implementation unit demonstrated a moderately satisfactory rating. The Project implementation unit comprises of 11 officers. These include a project manager, a national technical coordinator, a financial administrator, four state coordinators and four state technical officers. In addition, consultants such as a Chief Technical Adviser and Communications specialist were recruited to provide additional support for the project implementation unit. The project manager and national technical coordinator have extensive networks amongst stakeholders. They are

also forth coming in raising issues for discussion with UNDP and jointly seeking solutions. Both UNDP and the Project Manager have at least 2 discussions per quarter aside from email discussions. In summary, there is a strong sense of ownership amongst the Project Implementation Unit, project steering committee, DECEM and in each of the four states. The presentations of Project Implementation Unit at board meetings is exemplary. The project steering committee proactively deliberates on key matters UNDP, pondering over options before making informed decisions. There is a strong sense of ownership within the steering committee and project benefits from its strong leadership. The steering committee has reviewed and endorsed key documents including R2R communications plan, draft covid 19 mitigation plan and work plans at national and state level. A significant feature of this project is progress updates from state coordinators, project implementation unit and the participation of the Regional Ridge to Reef Project. This is exemplary in terms of collaboration between national R2R projects and Regional Ridge to Reef Projects.

Based on overall performances within this reporting period, one acknowledges diligent efforts of the Project Implementation unit in coordinating and supporting implementation of activities at national level as well in the four states of Pohnpei, Yap, Chuuk and Kosrae. A number of partners are directly engaged including national government departments, state government, non-governmental organizations, municipal councils and communities. The perseverance of the project implementation unit for a project with such a wide scope is commendable as the efforts of multiple stakeholders have a direct contribution to achieving overall end of project targets.

Finances: The total project grant from GEF is USD 4,689,815. As of June 2021, the R2R project delivery since inception was at USD 3,315,971.78. This represents an overall expenditure of 66.9%. Between July 2021 and operational closure in May 2022, the project implementation unit will need to deliver a remaining 33.1% of the grant.

In 2020, the project was subjected to a spot check and annual audit. Key issues picked up from reports included timely submission of quarterly reports and delays in contracting. The Project Implementation Unit has committed to timely submission of reports and explained that it is a new government requirement contracts are routed through the office of the President, something beyond the project's control.

Corvid 19: the first (2020) and second (2021) waves of Corvid 19 have continued to negatively impact implementation. Significant amongst these is the closure of international borders and restrictions to domestic travel between states. The Project Implementation Unit was unable to conduct monitoring and oversight missions to each of the states. Similarly, UNDP Pacific Office was also unable to conduct missions to FSM. In response to the situation:

- the project implementation unit conducted virtual discussions with its members based in each of the states and as well as other stakeholders. Consultants who were not able to travel in country were connected to respective stakeholders, also facilitating virtual discussions. The Project benefited from having a Chief Technical Adviser who had previously worked in FSM and was well acquainted with local context.

- the project implementation unit conducted virtual discussions with UNDP

	<p>Recommendations: Some recommendations are listed below with the intention of successful achievement of project results by May 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ regular and continued discussions between project implementation unit members based in at the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management and those based in each of the four states □ regular and continued discussions between UNDP and project implementation unit. Once the 2021 PIR is finalized, it suggested that UNDP and the project implementation unit discuss a plan/way forward to achieve remaining end of project targets. The inclusion of Chief Technical Adviser and UNDP Regional Technical Adviser would add value to this planning. These discussions could feed into a revised project strategy (including exit strategy) and a multi-year work plan □ Prioritization of communications: based on newsletters and quarterly reports there is some good results at community and state levels. However, this is not being captured in global audiences. It is suggested that the project implementation unit dedicated some resources towards improving the communications of project results □ Corvid 19 strategy – the project implementation unit continues with implementation and adopts necessary amendments (wherever necessary) given uncertainty over the current Corvid 19 situation □ Project Steering Committee Meetings – that one is held in last quarter of 2021 and the final by May 2022 □ Terminal Evaluation - Terms of Reference are finalized by December 2021 and advertised in early January 2022 so that the team of consultants (international and national) are recruited by end of January. Planned way forward is for a draft report by early March and final report by early May. <p>Gender action - facilitating a gender assessment and compiling an action plan by October (2021). This action plan be updated on a quarterly basis and also documented gender achievements to date.</p>
<p>Project Manager/Coordinator</p>	<p>During this reporting period (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021), implementation continue to be impacted by COVID-19 restrictions, although progress continue to be made towards targets. A rating of moderately unsatisfactory is given as the project remains off track due to its overly ambitious targets, particularly at the objective level. Wherever possible, adaptive management strategies were put in place in order to meet as many targets as possible, and the project developed and is implementing a COVID-19 mitigation strategy. The project has also been following the recommendations that came out of the MTR. The project, nonetheless, is still unlikely to achieve all targets as some are either overly ambitious, have unclear baselines, or require actions outside of the projects' control. These include the METT and SLM & PA capacity scorecard targets.</p> <p>At the project objective level, the development and implementation of land management plans, aimed to reduce pressures from competing land use, are ongoing. Implementation and finalization of the Pohnpei IEMP is pending the establishment of the IEMP unit, for which TORs are currently under review. An SEA and consultations were conducted to inform updates of the Kosrae Land Use Plan, which is currently being revised. Implementation of the SOU Forest</p>

Stewardship Plan (FSP) is ongoing, as well as planning for the implementation of the Weloy FSP.

A METT analysis was conducted (per State) in April 2020 to help identify priority actions needed to improve the METT scores for each PA site. Additionally, the PA and SLM capacity scorecards were analyzed to help identify easily achievable targets to help improve the project's scorecards. Both assessments concluded that the targets are overly ambitious. The highest score that the SLM scorecard can potentially achieve is 61%. This is still 14% short of the project target of 75%. Additionally, the highest potential score for the PA scorecard, assuming that all PA activities for 2020 and 2021 successfully complete, is at 69%. This is 1% short of the project target of 70%. However, the project is still engaging in activities in 2021 that will boost METT scores within priority PA sites where possible, including developing, updating and implementing management plans, along with capacity building through training and learning exchanges, and has identified actions that will improve the PA and SLM scorecards as much as possible.

No progress has been made within this current reporting period against the baseline data for percentage of FSM population (MPA communities) benefitting in the long-term from sustainable management of fisheries resources. This is to be available post completion of a socio-economic survey, which is currently scheduled for the second half of 2021, with results to be made available in early 2022 prior to the completion of the terminal evaluation.

For Outcome 1, efforts to establish the Pohnpei IEMP unit are ongoing. Kosrae's Land Use Plan is being updated. In Chuuk, through the Chuuk Conservation Society (CCS), implementation activities for the SOU Forest Stewardship Plan are in progress and expected to conclude in September 2021. Yap is working with Weloy community, and will work to update and implement its Forest Stewardship Plan through 2021. The implementation of the aforementioned land use and forest stewardship plans aim to reduce pressures from competing land use on the high islands of the FSM.

Establishing cross-sector working groups that will aim to tackle cross-sectoral issues for improved landscape management is ongoing in 2021. To guide the groups, the R2R work plan has budgeted for the development of SAPs. This has been impacted by COVID-19 restrictions: the original plan of utilizing a single consultant to visit each state to develop the SAPs is no longer possible, gathering restrictions continue in some states, and relevant stakeholders are involved in COVID-19 committees. However, some progress in various States continue to include consultations with key stakeholders, development of TORs/MOUs and identification of memberships, utilizing the existing TACs where possible.

Rehabilitation efforts were completed in Yap, and ongoing in Kosrae, Chuuk and Pohnpei. To ensure long-term success, the overall target area to be restored was reduced in order to include monitoring of rehabilitated sites. During the project period, a monitoring protocol was developed and reviewed, to be utilized through the remainder of the project.

Construction of Dry Litter Piggeries in Pohnpei and Yap was completed, and is in progress for Kosrae. Yap also completed construction of a compost shed to utilize the waste for rehabilitation of degraded savanah lands, and Pohnpei is in the process of procuring wood chippers to prepare substrate for its DLPs. As per the 2021 work plan, water quality test kits are being procured to measure any improvement in E.coli levels in water quality as a result of the DLPs. Chuuk elected to shift focus to reducing sedimentation runoff within targeted coastal sites, and discussion with relevant agencies is ongoing although very limited progress has been made. With priorities still focused on COVID-19 mitigation,

coupled with a recent change in leadership, it is unlikely that the project will achieve its goal of implementing its sedimentation control activity for Chuuk. Without this, measurements of any improvement in levels of sedimentation in targeted coastal sites is unlikely to occur.

For Outcome 2, a solid draft of the Operations Manual (OM) for the PAN Framework was completed in June 2020, and has been under review within the FSM Department of Resources and Development and relevant stakeholders to fine tune it. Pohnpei State revised its PAN legislation, which is currently pending approval at Legislature. If it passes, the project will be able to support development of PAN regulations. Chuuk completed the first draft of its PAN regulations in 2020, and hired a local consultant to facilitate further review in 2021 before it goes to the Chuuk legislature. Yap completed its draft PAN criteria, which was approved by the TAC members, and now awaits endorsement by the YapCAP board, which houses the Yap PAN office. The establishment of these national and state legal and institutional frameworks aims to improve management effectiveness of PAs across the FSM, including gazetting. In Pohnpei, this is on hold until the aforementioned PAN legislation passes. In Kosrae, management plans updated under the R2R project are under review at the State level. Furthermore, numerous actions have been taken to establish and enhance management of PAs in the FSM. While the METT scores show some gaps beyond the ability of the project to address (i.e., equipment), other 2021 activities focus on addressing these for priority sites, including developing and updating management plans, demarcation, and capacity building.

The project has several ongoing awareness endeavors. The PIU completed and disbursed a Lessons Learned publication in early 2021 entitled Implementing a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in small Pacific islands: lessons learned from the FSM Ridge to Reef project in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia. It was widely shared and distributed. Pohnpei State is anticipating hosting a cross-site learning exchange in August 2021. Unfortunately, Kosrae, who planned to join in the learning exchange, is working on an alternative plan, as COVID-19 travel restrictions are expected to remain in place. An FSM R2R Communications Plan was finalized, and is being implemented through mini-campaigns in each state, developed under the guidance of an International Consultant. Awareness of the results of biological monitoring, however, is on hold due to COVID-19, as the bird survey has not been completed, and plans for awareness of the coral reef monitoring and fish biomass results need to be changed as the primary investigator cannot travel to the FSM.

An additional factor causing major delays to the project during this reporting period was slow procurement, correspondence and fund disbursement from UNDP. This resulted in the delay of contracts being executed, such as in the case of the Chief Technical Advisor not being brought on board until the 3rd quarter (even though the project submitted the CTA's terms of reference and request for service to UNDP in January of 2021), the Communications Consultant withholding deliverables due to slow payment, and the socio-economic activity not beginning within its scheduled timeframe due to lack of clarity from UNDP of the type of agreement to be used.

Delays also occurred from FSM's side in terms of procurement and contracts, many of which were outside of the PIU's control, as payments must circulate through appropriate channels within FSM National Government. Government offices remained impacted by COVID-19 during the majority of the reporting period, with staff alternating which days they came to the office. This greatly slowed down routine processes. To address this, R2R, with the approval of the SC and UNDP, hired a Project Assistant to assist and improve where possible.

	<p>As of June 30, 2021, the FSM R2R project had 20 full time staff. At the National level: 1 Project Manager, 1 National Technical Coordinator, 1 Financial Administrator, and 1 Project Assistant. At the FSM state level: 4 state coordinators, 4 state technical officers, 2 MATES, and 6 PA rangers. Having a strong team based in each of the four FSM states has greatly contributed to the project's success. In addition, the R2R team works closely with the project's Steering Committee, state Technical Advisory Committees (TACs), national and state Protected Area Network (PAN) offices, implementing partners (including govt agencies, NGOs and community groups) and other stakeholders across the FSM. Women are involved in every aspect of the project.</p> <p>The FSM R2R project implementation unit recommends the following actions from July 1, 2021 through the conclusion of the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •FSM R2R Communication: Continue regular communication (i.e., weekly emails and monthly calls) between national R2R project staff and state R2R teams. This is crucial as travel restrictions remain in place, prohibiting site visits from project staff. Continue in person meetings between national and state staff for those located in the same states (i.e., Pohnpei and Yap) when appropriate. If COVID-19 travel restrictions are lifted, prioritize resumption of state visits. Continue regular communication with the Chief Technical Advisor, which has been extremely helpful in keeping the project on track. Follow recommend actions in the exit strategy where possible •FSM R2R/UNDP Communication: Continue and increase regular discussion between FSM R2R project implementation unit and UNDP. Increase communication/discussion between FSM R2R project implementation unit/Chief Technical Advisor and the UNDP Regional Technical Advisor to effectively plan for achieving end of project targets, in particular related to addressing objective level targets that are 'off track' due to overly ambitious targets or factors outside of the projects' control. •FSM R2R to continue to consider gender and inclusion of women in implementation of project activities and document achievements in quarterly reports •FSM R2R to continue to submit quarterly narrative progress reports on time for UNDP review, and UNDP to provide timely feedback. •FSM R2R to continue to follow COVID-19 mitigation strategy and adjust activities where necessary •FSM R2R to carry out project Steering Committee Meetings according to the approved multi-year work plan •FSM R2R project Terminal Evaluation to be implemented according to the following schedule: Finalize TORs for Local and International consultants by end of September 2021; Complete selection and hiring of consultants by end of October 2021; Commence terminal evaluation by end of November 2021 in order to complete by February 19, 2021, with final report due by project's end in May 2021.
GEF Operational Focal point	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
Project Implementing Partner	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>
Other Partners	<i>(not set or not applicable)</i>

G. Gender

Progress in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

<p>1) 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.</p>
<p><i>(not set or not applicable)</i></p>
<p>Gender Analysis and Action Plan: <i>not available</i></p>
<p>Atlas Gender Marker Rating</p>
<p>GEN1: some contribution to gender equality</p>
<p>2) 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):</p>
<p>Contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over resources: Yes</p>
<p>Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: Yes</p>
<p>Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: Yes</p>
<p>Not applicable: No</p>
<p>3) Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>The FSM R2R project provides equal employment and capacity building opportunities in the FSM: half of the main project staff are women. During this reporting period (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021), the R2R project continued to work with NGOs, CSOs, and communities, including men and women and youth, across the FSM to implement project activities. There were some challenges related to COVID-19, as the country remained in a state of declared emergency, and borders remained closed. Gatherings and travel were majorly restricted overall, limiting some engagement of project partners, including women.</p> <p>Despite the impacts of COVID-19 on the project's gender-related work, there were some bright spots. In Yap, Chuuk and Kosrae, restoration activities were carried out by communities. Several site clean ups across the FSM involved women, and learning exchanges and cross-site visits in Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae had many strong female participants. The project also supports PA management planning, with women seated on the resource teams. Community consultations with key community members (men and women) for PA plans, forest stewardship plans, and land use plans ensure women's needs and perspectives are captured throughout the planning process.</p>
<p>4) Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.</p>

Women are involved in most, if not all, of R2R's ongoing 2021 activities. While men and women might have different roles within the many cultures of the FSM, their views and inputs are equally important, and both perspectives and approaches are necessary to have successful outcomes. Men might outwardly serve as the heads of households or community leaders, but women heavily influence and make decisions behind the scenes. Often, projects can't move forward without the women. Men and women might utilize the environment in different ways: i.e., men might fish, while women glean closer to the shore. Men might extract trees for building materials, while women collect supplies for weaving. In order to protect resources, all users should be considered, especially when considered limiting use or closure of a locally managed or protected area. Gaining insight from both genders is crucial to long term success of the project.

While the project has progressed gender equality, it does not have a gender assessment and action plan. This will be developed and updated through the Chief Technical Adviser by October 2021.

H. Risk Management

A) Review of Risks outlined in Risk Register and PIMS+ risk tab

NCE RTA:

Please provide an assessment of project risk management (including risks reported in Risk Register and risks included in the project's risk tab in PIMS+) undertaken in the reporting period and summarize the key risk management measures to be taken in the coming year. This text will be pulled into the risk management action plan in this project's risk tab in PIMS+.

The overall risk rating for this project is Low. Key risks include:

COVID-19 : As reflected in this PIR, COVID19 has had significant direct, indirect and induced impacts on the implementation of the IAS project, where it has substantially hindered project inception. While it is difficult to predict the future impacts of the pandemic, it is recommended that immediately post-PIR, the project, with support of UNDP CO and project technical advisors, should develop a project-specific COVID19 Mitigation Plan which should include at least: (i) a simple risk dashboard that can be used to track incidence of COVID19 in the project domain, and among project partners and staff involved in implementation; partner capacity (human resources, capacity to meet co-finance commitments); evidence of direct, indirect and induced impacts (that influence implementation); and, (ii) a set of protocols for stakeholder engagement processes to avoid disease transmission, in line with national directives and international best practice (i.e. thresholds on numbers of participants, social distancing measures; etc). The risk dashboard should be updated monthly and used to inform adaptive management.

Slow financial delivery: This represents a risk to successful implementation and project closure in 2022. Delays in any procurement processes at this late stage will have cascading and cumulative effects. It is recommended that the project develops a Delivery Acceleration Plan towards project closure (approved by the PSC) that includes at least the following:

- (i) Carry out joint budgeting and procurement planning in a workshop situation with all project partners, to ensure better coordination and realize efficiencies wherever possible, and ensure that any adjustments are communicated to all parties;
- (ii) As far as possible, develop any remaining TORS and activity concept notes under each AWP as a block in advance at the start of each quarter, and secure approval and sign-off from relevant authorities and the project's PSC in one step (instead of developing TORs on a one by one basis);
- (iii) Front load the budget with purchase of equipment and other larger-value items, or those that might take a longer time to procure;
- (iv) Consolidate tenders or consultancies where possible and sensible, to reduce the administrative burden and time required for multiple individual procurements;
- (v) Build the time required for procurement into the workplan and make sure that procurement processes are triggered well enough in advance of when the service/product is required, and in the right sequence, to enable work to be carried out according to schedule;
- (vi) Convene meetings with each of co-financier, or with them as a group or in small groups by category (e.g . Govt, NGO, private sector) to confirm that the co-finance commitments that were made at CEO endorsement stage will be met in full by project closure.

The project should also prepare well in advance for the terminal evaluation and share the TE TOR with the RTA as soon as possible (preferably by October 2021) in order to initiate timely recruitment of the International and National Consultants.

B) Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards) Risks

1) Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during the reporting period?
No
If any new social and/or environmental risks have been identified during the reporting period please describe the new risk(s) and the response to it.
n/a
2) Have any existing social and/or environmental risks become more severe and/or has the project's SESP categorization changed 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 become more severe and/or if the project's SESP categorization has changed during implementation please describe the change(s) and the response to it.
n/a
3) Have any social and environmental assessments and/or management plans been prepared or updated, and/or has the SESP been updated in the reporting period, as required? 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 using the FILE LIBRARY button. 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) during the reporting period?
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
5) Is the preparation and/or implementation of the project's safeguards management plan(s) on track, including monitoring?
Not Applicable

If no, please explain:
n/a

I. Knowledge Management & Communications

The **Project Manager** must complete the three questions below.

<p>1) Please provide progress on the implementation of the project's Knowledge Management approach approved at CEO Endorsement/Approval. If there is no KM approach/strategy, please comment on how the project is capturing and disseminating best practices and lessons learned.</p>
<p>As part of its knowledge management component, the R2R project newsletters capture highlights of project activities within a quarter. Since the last PIR, three newsletters (Quarter 3, 2020, Quarter 4, 2020, and Quarter 1, 2021) have been produced, with a fourth (Quarter 2, 2021) scheduled for release in July or early August 2021.</p> <p>Additionally, the R2R project has been playing a key role in financing Pohnpei's annual cross-site visit since 2017, most recently in December 2020. In May 2020, R2R helped host Kosrae's PA learning exchange, and a learning exchange for Chuuk's SOU community in December 2020. Additional learning exchanges are being planned for 2021 for all four states. These learning exchanges share the same goal of bringing together resource managers to report on the status of PAs, share lessons learned and challenges in planning and implementation to inform effective management of PAs in the FSM.</p> <p>In early 2021, the FSM R2R project also published a lessons learned document: Implementing a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in small Pacific islands: lessons learned from the FSM Ridge to Reef project in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia.</p> <p>Additionally, between Quarters 3-4, 2020, the FSM R2R project developed and finalized a Communications Plan. Mini-campaigns were prepared for each of the four states based on priority topics within the plan, and are being implemented in 2021.</p>
<p>CEO Endorsement Request: Resubmission_FINAL_R2R 5517 CEO ER.docx</p>
<p>2) Please provide URLs specific to this project in the relevant field below. Please categorize the URLs appropriately (for example: project websites, social media sites, media coverage, etc.)</p>
<p>Facebook: FSM Ridge to Reef Project</p> <p>Twitter: FSM Ridge to Reef</p> <p>Website: decem.gov.fm</p>
<p>3) In the PIR platform, please upload any supporting files, including the project's Communications Strategy, photos, videos, stories and other communication/knowledge materials.</p>
<p>FSMR2R COMMUNICATION PLAN FINAL_10_08_20.pdf</p>

J. Stakeholder Engagement

(A) Provide an update on progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement based on the description in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent documentation submitted at CEO Endorsement/Approval.

(B) Upload all available documentation of the project's stakeholder engagement, including surveys, FPIC reports and others using the FILE LIBRARY button in the upper right corner of the PIR.

(C) If the project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been updated during the reporting period, please upload that file using the FILE LIBRARY button above.

The role of stakeholders is as stipulated in the stakeholder engagement plan for the R2R project: e.g. government agencies are responsible for carrying out (as well as provide technical support for) project activities that fall within their respective mandates. Since project inception, lack of capacity has been an issue for the project with government agencies lacking appropriate skills for job requirements. Progress includes continuing engagement of NGOs and community groups as lead implementing partners to address the human resources and capacity gaps.

Stakeholder engagement is crucial to ensuring the sustainability of the R2R project beyond its funding life cycle. By expanding its network to allow NGOs and CBOs to play a key role in implementation of project activities, the project has gained greater leverage and support from the wider community – which is key to sustaining the project's goals beyond its life cycle.

During this reporting period (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021), the project experienced some challenges regarding stakeholder engagement due to COVID-19. The Federated States of Micronesia remained in a state of emergency declaration throughout the entire reporting period, and borders to the country remained closed. This resulted in delayed activities and reduced engagement due to gathering restrictions, partner priority shifts toward COVID-19 activities, and the inability for the project team to conduct state and site visits.

CEO Endorsement Request: [Resubmission_FINAL_R2R 5517 CEO ER.docx](#)

Stakeholder engagement plan (Annex): *not available*

K. 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.