

# FSM GEF 7 Land Degradation Neutrality Project 2nd Board Meeting in Kosrae



On November 14, 2024, the FSM GEF 7 Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Project convened its second Board Meeting in Kosrae. Participants included representatives from various key government and partner agencies, including the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECCEM), FSM Department of Resources and Development, Department of Foreign Affairs, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Pohnpei State Department of Resources and Development (Pohnpei R&D), Yap State Department of Resources and Development (Yap R&D), Department of Resources and Economic Affairs (DREA), Chuuk State Environment Protection Agency, Yap State Environmental Protection Agency, and Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority.

The primary objectives of the meeting were to assess the progress and financial delivery of the project for 2024, share best practices and address challenges, review and approve the draft 2025 Annual Work Plan and Budget, and discuss priority activities for the rest of the year.

In her opening remarks, Madam Chair, Ms. Cynthia Ehmes, emphasized the important role that the Board members play in directing the project the safeguard the environment and the communities it serves. Mr. Kevin Petrini also reiterated UNDP's full commitment to the project and in partnering with government on environmental outcomes at the national level.

The meeting commenced with a presentation led by the National Technical Coordinator, Ms. Rachael Nash, who gave an overview of the Project's key highlights, challenges and the Monitoring Framework used to evaluate project outcomes and progress. Ms. Nash also presented the draft 2025 Annual Work Plan and Budget, both of which were subsequently approved by the Board.

The second presentation was delivered by the Project Manager, Ms. Rosalinda Yatilman, focusing on the 2024 Budget and delivery. She provided a comprehensive analysis of the budget by detailing the actual expenditures, commitments, and the outstanding balance, which stems from salaries due to

delays in recruitment fund disbursements. She also emphasized the significance of cash flow on projects, noting that challenges in disbursements not only impact Year 1, but also the overall financial trajectory of the project.

The day concluded with the board's commitment to continue to provide guidance and support to the project as the FSM progresses toward its land degradation neutrality goals.

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