



FSM GEF7 LAND DEGRADATION NEUTRALITY PROJECT



GEF 7: LDN PROJECT Gagil & Tamil Community Consultations

Overview

- Community Consultation in Yap, Gagil & Tamil (Page 1)
- 2nd Board Meeting in Kosrae (Page 2)
- Pohnpei World Food Day (Page 3)
- Yap Community & State Land Management Working Group (Page 4)
- Chuuk State Environmental Working Group (Page 5)
- Lelu Community Consultation (Page 6)
- School Awareness Visits (Page 7)
- Contact Information (Page 8)

The State Land Management Working Group (SLMWG), comprised of representatives from the Department of Resources and Development, Yap State Environment Protection Agency, Yap Farmers Association, Tamil Resources Conservation Trust, and the GEF7 Project, conducted a series of consultation meetings with the Council of Chiefs from the municipalities of Gagil and Tamil to validate the GEF7 Project's demonstration site for Yap State.

The first meeting took place with the Gagil Municipality Council on October 13, 2024, followed by a subsequent meeting with the Tamil Municipality Council on October 27, 2024. The primary objectives of these meetings were to provide an overview of the GEF 7 Land Degradation Neutrality project, outline its objectives, and present the rationale for selecting the demonstration site for the project. Additionally, the meetings aimed to validate and confirm the demonstration landscape, establish a Community Land Management Working Group (CLMWG), and identify its members. Most importantly, the meetings sought to garner the blessings and support of the respective communities for the successful implementation of the project.

The outcome of both meetings was the establishment of a Community Land Management Working Group (CLMWG) to supervise the implementation of activities within the GEF7 demonstration site in Yap. The group consists of 6 members, with three from each municipality, including one female representative and five male representatives. These consultations represented a significant advancement in promoting collaboration among community stakeholders, government and the GEF7 LDN Project, all with the shared commitment to land management and environmental sustainability.

2ND BOARD MEETING (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 (DECEM), 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.

World Food Day (Pohnpei)



The GEF7 Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Project proudly participated in the World Food Day event hosted by Pohnpei State on December 6, 2024, aiming to raise awareness about the Project's efforts among key partners and community members. World Food Day, an internationally recognized event, serves as a call to action for combating hunger and promoting global food security.

In the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), where the majority of households engage in gardening and agroforestry as a primary means of subsistence, the need for sustainable land management practices has never been more critical. The GEF7 LDN Project, with its focus on promoting sustainable land management, plays a pivotal role in safeguarding food security and supporting the resilience of local agricultural systems. By integrating principles of land degradation neutrality, the project helps communities adapt to changing environmental conditions while ensuring that food production remains sustainable and abundant for future generations.

This event marked a significant opportunity for the Project to connect with the local community, fostering partnerships and reinforcing the importance of land stewardship in securing long-term food security for all.



YAP COMMUNITY & STATE LAND MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP



On December 13, 2024, Yap hosted the inaugural meeting of both the State Land Management Working Group and the Community Land Management Working Group. The meeting was attended by 16 participants, including 6 women and 10 men, representing agencies such as the Department of Resources and Development, the Yap State Environment Protection Agency, the Yap Farmers Association, and representatives from the Tamil and Gagil Municipalities. The session began with introductions from all members and project staff, including the Project Management Unit (PMU).

The primary focus of the meeting was to integrate the Community Land Management Working Group (CLMWG) members into the project and review the 2025 annual work plan. Ms. Debra Laan, the Yap State Technical Coordinator, provided an overview of the 2025 annual work plan along with a map of the demonstration site. The demonstration site is situated within an ongoing road construction project in the Tamil and Gagil Municipalities. A key area of focus within the demonstration site will be addressing the negative environmental impacts associated with the road construction. However, the project scope will extend beyond road construction, addressing any other environmental impacts within the demonstration site.

The meeting provided an important opportunity for both the State and the Community Land Management Working Group to familiarize themselves with the 2025 annual work plan and budget. This understanding is crucial for initiating the planning and implementation of the project in the coming year. The meeting concluded with an agreement that project staff would convene another meeting to review key documents and initiate selected activities outlined in the work plan.

CHUUK STATE ENVIROMENTAL WORKING GROUP



On December 16, 2024, Chuuk State convened its inaugural meeting of the Environmental Working Group (SEWG) as part of the GEF7 Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Project. This meeting welcomed both new and returning members from a diverse array of organizations, including the Chuuk State Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Chuuk Power Utility Corporation (CPUC), Department of Environmental Health and Sanitation, Department of Agriculture (DOA), Chuuk Disaster Emergency Operating Center (CDOC), Chuuk Youth Council, Chuuk Women’s Council, Cooperative Research Extension (CRE), and the Chuuk Land Commission, fostering a collaborative environment aimed at advancing the objectives of the project.

The Chuuk State Engagement Officer, Mr. Adriel T. Setik, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the GEF7 LDN project, detailing its goals, current progress, and key milestones. This was followed by an in-depth discussion regarding Chuuk’s 2025 Annual Work Plan (AWP) for the GEF7LDN project, emphasizing key activities and objectives for the upcoming year.

The primary purpose of the meeting was to formally revive the Chuuk State Environmental Working Group for the GEF-7 project. This gathering provided a platform for raising awareness about the project’s current status and furthered a deeper understanding of the 2025 Annual Work Plan and Budget.

In addition, the SEWG agreed to proceed with the establishment of a Community Working Group, which will actively engage village chiefs and landowners in the decision-making process for the demonstration site under Component 3 of the project. The group demonstrated a strong understanding of their respective roles and responsibilities within the scope of the project.

The next meeting of the Chuuk State Environmental Working Group was scheduled for January 15, 2024, as proposed by Acting Director of Agriculture, Mr. Harman Mailo, and seconded by Mr. Mj Martin from the Department of Sanitation.



Lelu Community Consultation



On October 21, 2024, the GEF 7 Project team held their first community consultation in Lelu, where the Kosrae demonstration site is located. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the project to the community, and to seek their support.

The GEF 7 Stakeholder Engagement Officer, Mr. Nena, gave an overview of the project via a power-point presentation to a total of 14 attendees (7 men and 7 women). Mr. Nena shared the project's goals, objectives and different components, and a map of the demonstration site.

As there are multiple households in the demonstration site, community members were identified to serve as representatives to advise on project activities as part of a Community Land Management Working Group. The group will include the Presidents of each of the six hamlets in Lelu Community, the Community Mayor, councils, and some representatives from the state working group, as the demonstration site includes both public and private land. The next step will be to develop terms of reference (TOR) will be to ensure that roles and responsibilities are carried out in accordance with the scope of the project.

In closing, the Honorable Mayor Jesse gave a short remark and thanked the project team for involving the community in this important project, and assured their full support. DREA Director Rolner Joe spoke on behalf of the Project team to thank everyone, especially the Mayor, for allowing the team to share their presentation. He encouraged Lelu community to utilize and engage in the project to help sustain our land and water, and quoted that "Our great work today will help out future generation.



SCHOOL AWARENESS VISITS (KOSRAE)



PROJECT TEAM AND KIRMA STAFF WITH 8TH GRADERS AT TAFUNSAK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (TES)



PROJECT TEAM AND KIRMA STAFF WITH 8TH GRADERS AT SANSRIK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (SES)



PROJECT TEAM AND KIRMA STAFF WITH 8TH GRADERS AT UTWE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (UES)



PROJECT TEAM AND KIRMA STAFF WITH 8TH GRADERS AT LELU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (LES)



PROJECT TEAM AND KIRMA STAFF WITH 8TH GRADERS AT MALEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (MES)

On December 10, 2024, the Project team joined Forestry Unit and Education Unit from KIRMA Office during their annual school visit. A total of 135 students (74 male 61 female) and 11 Staff members participated in the activity, which targeted 8th graders in all six public schools in Kosrae: Tafunsa Elementary School (TES), Sansrik Elementary School (SES), Malem Elementary School (MES), Utwe Elementary School (UES), Lelu Elementary School (LES) and Walung Elementary School (WES).

Awareness efforts by the Forestry Unit focused on the function of mangrove ecosystems, and the importance protecting them. The GEF 7 team seized the opportunity to relate the topic to working towards achieving land degradation neutrality, and introducing the GEF 7 LDN Project.

The goal of the activity was for students to learn about the environment early so they can contribute to safeguarding it as they are growing up, and they were highly interested throughout. Following the presentations, students competed to answer questions in order to win school supplies such as books, pencils, backpacks, water-bottles were contributed by KIRMA and GEF 7 Project. The Project acknowledges the KIRMA staff and the Kosrae GEF 7 team for making the school outreach a success.



Contact Information



Project Manager

Rosalinda Yatilman
rosalinda.yatilman@decem.gov.fm
Tel: +(691) 320-8812/8814/8815

National Technical Coordinator

Rachael Nash
rachael.nash@decem.gov.fm
Tel: +(691) 950-8704

Communications Officer

Karet Johnson Silander
karet.silander@decem.gov.fm
Tel: +(691) 320 - 8814/8815

Project Finance and Administrative Assistant

Ymee Charley
ymee.charley@decem.gov.fm
Tel: +(691)320-8815

Yap State Technical Coordinator

Vallynna Gippin
vallynna.gippin@.decem.gov.fm
Tel: +(691) 350-2183

Kosrae State Technical Coordinator

Tamae Waguk-Luckymis
tamae.waguk@decem.gov.fm
Tel: +(691) 370-3646/3713

Pohnpei State Technical Coordinator

Vandela Warren
vandela.warren@decem.gov.fm
+(691)320-2712

Yap Stakeholder Engagement Officer

Debra Laan
debra.laan@decem.gov.fm
Tel: +(691) 350-2113

Kosrae Stakeholder Engagement Officer

Onniel Nena
onniel.nena@decem.gov.fm
Tel: +(691) 370 - 3017

Chuuk State Stakeholder Engagement Officer

Adriel T. Setik
adriel.setik@decem.gov.fm
Tel: (691)330-4158/2613

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