

GEF7 FSM LAND DEGRADATION NEUTRALITY PROJECT

2nd Quarter 2025 Newsletter

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PMU CONDUCTS COURTESY VISIT TO POHNPEI ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)



The GEF7 FSM Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Project Management Unit conducted a courtesy visit to the Pohnpei State Government, facilitated through its focal agency, the Pohnpei Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The meeting brought together key representatives, including Mr. Celestine Francisco (Director, Pohnpei EPA), Ms. Rosalinda Yatilman (Project Manager), Ms. Rachael Nash (National Technical Coordinator), Mr. Karet Silander (Communications Officer), and Ms. Vandela Warren (Stakeholder Engagement Officer for Pohnpei State).

The primary purpose of the visit was to present an update on project progress and to discuss key implementation components such as reporting requirements, co-financing commitments, and social and environmental safeguards. The team also introduced upcoming spatial planning initiatives aimed at supporting state-level land resource monitoring and the identification of LDN targets.



We Are Hiring!!!

- **Chuuk State Technical Coordinator**
- **Pohnpei State Technical Coordinator**
- *The annual salary is **\$19,000** per annum depending upon qualification of the applicant.*
- **Qualification** - Associate's degree in Environment Management, conservation or closely related fields with 10+ years of experience of Project technical experience, showing a progressive increase in scope and responsibilities, OR a Bachelor's degree with 5+ years of experience, OR a Master's degree with 3+ years of experience

GEF7 FSM LDN PROJECT

Yap Community Land Management Working Group Finalizes TOR



On Thursday, April 24, 2025, the Yap State Community Land Management Working Group (CLMWG) assembled to review its Terms of Reference (TOR) at the YCA conference room. The group is comprised of community representatives from the municipalities of Gagil and Tamil, where the project's demonstration site is located.

Mr. Vitus Foneg and Mr. John G. Giltamngin were the CLMWG members present from Tamil, and Mr. John Gamow and Devon Mirey attended for Gagil. The participants discussed and provided insightful feedback to the TOR prior to finalizing it. On May 1, 2025, the group reconvened to officially endorse and sign the TOR for the CLMWG.

Endorsment of the YAP Community Land Management Working Group TOR

On May 1, 2025, The Yap Community Land Management Working Group (CLMWG) convened at the Yap Small Business Conference Room in Colonia to formally endorse its Terms of Reference (TOR).

This meeting followed a prior session held on April 24, 2025, where the group reviewed and provided feedback to the draft Terms of Reference (TOR). The TOR will serve as a guiding document, outlining the roles and responsibilities of the CLMWG under Component 3 of the FSM LDN Project.



YAP SLMWG ENDORSES ITS TOR, AND PMU DELIVERS NEW SPATIAL EQUIPMENT

On April 24, 2025, the Yap State Land Management Working Group (SLMWG) facilitated the endorsement of its TOR, with key members present including Mr. John Waayan, Chief of the Division of Land Resources under the Department of Resources and Development, Ms. Sharon M. Ourun, Director of the Yap Environmental Protection Agency; and Ms. Janice R. Tamangided, Coordinator of the Tamil Resources Conservation Trust.



Following the signing of the TOR, the FSM LDN PMU officially transferred a drone to the Division of Land Resources, through its Chief, Mr. John Waayan. The drone is intended to support mapping efforts to monitor and document environmental changes in areas targeted for land restoration, while also enhancing the state's capacity for data collection and M&E.





FSM LDN PROJECT TEAM PARTICIPATES IN COM-FSM YAP CAMPUS CAREER FAIR

On April 11, 2025, the Yap-based staff of the GEF7 FSM Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Project participated in the College & Career Fair hosted by the College of Micronesia–FSM, Yap Campus. Organized in partnership with key state agencies—including the Marine Resources Management Division and the Yap Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)—the event aimed to promote academic programs and career pathways for students.

The FSM LDN Project team used the opportunity to raise awareness about sustainable land management and climate resilience by displaying informational materials, engaging with students and educators, and showcasing the project’s demonstration site in the municipalities of Tamil and Gagil. Notably, 8th-grade students from Tamilang Elementary School actively participated by sharing examples of local conservation practices.

With over 10 schools represented, the event saw strong engagement, with students and teachers expressing keen interest in the project’s goals and activities.

On April 21, 2025, the FSM LDN Project team paid courtesy calls on the newly appointed Director of Yap State EPA, Ms. Sharon M. Ourun, and the Director of Yap State R&D, Mr. Bernard Gorong. The meetings aimed to formally introduce the Project Management Unit (PMU), including Project Manager Ms. Rosalinda Yatilman, National Technical Coordinator Ms. Rachael Nash, and Communications Officer Mr. Karet Silander. The PMU provided updates on progress made by the Project to date, and priority activities for 2025. In addition, the PMU emphasized the roles of the two directors as focal points for the project and expressed appreciation for the continued support provided by their respective agencies.

COURTESY VISIT TO THE CONSERVATION SOCIETY OF PohnPEI



Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Project paid a courtesy visit to the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP). Participants included the Director of CSP, Mr. Eugene Joseph, and members of the FSM LDN Team: Project Manager, Ms. Rosalinda Yatilman, National Technical Coordinator, Ms. Rachael Nash, Communications Officer, Mr. Karet Silander, and Pohnpei Stakeholder Engagement Officer, Ms. Vandela Warren.

The primary objective of the meeting was to share the Project’s status and discuss co-financing commitments. The FSM Project staff further explored opportunities for collaboration on implementation of priority activities, given CSP’s extensive experience in working with communities in Pohnpei on similar initiatives, and as a key partner.

STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION: GEF-7 FSM LDN STAFF MEET YAP R&D AND EPA LEADERSHIP



CHUUK STATE ENDORSES ITS GEF7 STATE ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP (SEWG) TOR

On July 1, 2025, the Chuuk State Environmental Working Group gathered at the L5 conference room. The primary objectives of the meeting included: reviewing and formally endorsing the group's TOR; providing updates on the current progress of the FSM LDN project in Chuuk; and examining and approving the proposed Quarter 3 budget for Chuuk. The meeting included twelve attendees, comprising five women and seven men, representing multiple partner agencies.



Mr. Adriel Setik, the FSM LDN State Engagement Officer (SEO), led the meeting, which centered on a comprehensive review of the minutes from the previous meeting and the updated TOR reflecting input received from the SEWG during their last discussion.

The meeting concluded with the members approving the TOR, including the Q3 budget for Chuuk State. Most importantly, project-specific concerns were highlighted, discussed and actionable steps determined.

COURTESY VISIT TO IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES IN KOSRAE



KOSRAE'S COMMUNITY LAND MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP FINALIZES TOR

The Kosrae FSM GEF7 Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Project Team, in collaboration with the Community Land Management Working Group (CLMWG), successfully finalized and endorsed the group's Terms of Reference (TOR) during a focused stakeholder meeting held in Lelu on May 13, 2025.

The endorsement of the TOR marks a significant step forward in formalizing the CLMWG's role in supporting sustainable land management in Kosrae. The working group is tasked with a critical mandate: to guide the development, implementation, monitoring, and adaptive management of the Tofol-Innem demonstration landscape—a key site under the FSM LDN initiative.

During the meeting, participants reviewed the draft TOR, provided input, and discussed necessary revisions to ensure the document accurately reflected the group's purpose and responsibilities. Following the discussion, the CLMWG unanimously endorsed the final version.

This milestone reflects Kosrae's ongoing commitment to inclusive and community-driven approaches in achieving land degradation neutrality and building climate resilience.

On April 29, 2025, the Project Management Unit (PMU) of the GEF7 FSM LDN Project conducted a courtesy visit with implementing agencies in Kosrae: The Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority (KIRMA) (KIRMA) and the Department of Resources and Economic Affairs (DREA) at the KIRMA conference room.

Key officials representing Kosrae State included Mr. Steven Palik, KIRMA Director, Mr. Rolner Joe, DREA Director; Mr. James George, Administrative Officer for KIRMA; and Mr. Moses Sigrah, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Specialist for KIRMA. Ms. Rosalinda Yatilman, Project Manager; Ms. Rachael Nash, National Technical Coordinator; Mr. Karet Silander, Communications Officer, and Mr. Onniel Nena, Kosrae State Stakeholder Engagement Officer were present from the FSM LDN Project.

The purpose of the meeting was to share the overall progress of the project and discuss M&E requirements including co-financing and social and environmental safeguards. In addition, the PMU presented a mapping drone intended to augment Kosrae's spatial office capacity to demarcate key biophysical features, measure environmental changes, and support effective data collection & M&E.

POHNPEI STATE CLMWGS ENDORSE TERMS OF REFERENCE(TOR)

On May 16 and 23, 2025, Pohnpei State convened meetings with the Pehleung and Awak Community-Level Management Working Groups (CLMWGs) under the GEF-7 FSM Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Project.

The Pehleung CLMWG met at Kepkep in Pehleung with full attendance (10 men, 2 women), representing a diverse community cross-section, including representatives from Lien Alem en Pehleung (Protestant), Lien Mercedes (Catholic), senior citizens, and youth organizations.

The Awak CLMWG followed with a meeting at the U Municipal Government Office, also with 12 members present (9 men, 3 women), including representatives from key community organizations such as the U Organization of Women.

Both meetings focused on reviewing, finalizing, and formally endorsing each group's Terms of Reference (ToR), which define their roles, responsibilities, and operating framework in support of community-led sustainable land management initiatives.

The successful endorsement of the ToRs marks a key step forward in strengthening local participation and advancing Pohnpei's efforts toward Land Degradation Neutrality.



QUARTERLY MEETING WITH THE KOSRAE SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

FSM GEF7 LDN Kosrae Project Team held its quarterly meeting with the Kosrae Sustainable Land Management Committee (KSLMC) on July 3 at the KIRMA Conference Room, with twelve participants in attendance.

The meeting provided updates on project progress, including a review of completed activities, financial reports, the projected budget for the next quarter, and an update on State co-financing commitments from January 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

A key highlight was the successful establishment of the Community-Level Management Working Group (CLMWG), marking a major milestone in enhancing collaboration between communities and government agencies. Officially appointed by local mayors, CLMWG members include representatives from community organizations and relevant government offices. The group will support the development, implementation, monitoring, and risk oversight of the Tofol-Innem demonstration site.

Additionally, the KSLMC discussed the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the upcoming Demonstration Site Land Management Plan (DSLMP) and the identification of a potential consultant to lead its development.



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