

# GEF7 FSM Land Degradation Neutrality Project

— 3rd Quarter Newsletter —

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## We Are Hiring!!!

- **Pohnpei State Technical Coordinator**
- *The annual salary is **\$19,000-\$20,000** 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*



# Kosrae Environmental Summer Youth to Youth Program



Under the inspiring theme “Local Action, Lasting Resilience: Community Safeguarding Our Future,” this year’s Summer Youth-to-Youth program brought together the energy of young minds and the wisdom of traditional knowledge in a weeklong outdoor learning experience.

The Youth-to-Youth Program took place at Awane Marine Park from July 15 to the 18th. The program was organized by the Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization (KCSO), in partnership with Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority (KIRMA), Department of Resources & Economic Affairs (DREA), Kosrae Conservation & Enforcement Task Force (KCET), FSM GEF 6, and the Yela Environment Landowner Authority (YELA). The event aimed to educate and inspire Kosrae’s youth about environmental stewardship, cultural heritage, and the value of community involvement.

On Day 3, the GEF 7 Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Project Team joined the program. The team was represented by Mr. Onniel Nena, Stakeholder Engagement Officer (SEO), and Mrs. Tamae Luckymis, State Technical Coordinator. Together, they engaged students with hands-on activities and shared information about the GEF7 FSM LDN project, including the distribution of educational brochures.

Beyond simply teaching about the environment, the event was a celebration of Kosraean identity. Through nature-based activities and open dialogue, students gained a deeper understanding of how traditional knowledge and practices which are vital in preserving both the natural landscape and cultural roots. The involvement of youth in transferring these traditional skills is seen as key to sustaining the island’s way of life for generations to come.

This successful program left both students and staff with a renewed sense of purpose and pride. Special appreciation goes to the KCSO team and its dedicated partners for organizing such a meaningful week—and heartfelt congratulations to the 7th-grade participants, the future leaders and guardians of Kosrae.

## FSM LDN PROJECT

# GEF7 FSM LDN 3<sup>RD</sup> BOARD MEETING



On September 12, 2025, the GEF7 FSM LDN Project convened its 3rd Board Meeting with representation from key government and partner organizations, including DECEM, UNDP, FSM R&D, Pohnpei R&D, Pohnpei EPA, Yap EPA, Chuuk DOA, KIRMA, DREA, and DOFA. The primary objectives of the meeting were to assess the 2025 progress in relation to the project's strategic results framework, financial performance, and discuss implementation challenges, potential solutions, and priority activities for the remainder of the year during four structured sessions.

Session 1, presented by the Project Manager (PM), Ms. Rosalinda Yatilman, centered on the status of decisions made during the previous board meeting, with the majority completed. During Session 2, National Technical Coordinator Ms. Rachael Nash, shared updates on the progress made toward project indicators, major achievements such as establishment of state working groups, monitoring and evaluation, risk management strategies, and gender mainstreaming initiatives. Overall, the Project is on track, and received a 'Moderately Satisfactory' rating on its annual Progress Implementation Report. In Session 3, the PM provided a comprehensive review of Project finances, covering the positive 2024 audit outcomes, co-financing contributions, 2025 budget expenditures, and challenges such as slow disbursement of funds. After consideration, the Board decided to redirect funds to a crucial consultancy, and support recruiting vacant staff positions. During the final session, the PM outlined next steps, including the preparation of the 2026 Annual Work Plan, to be reviewed at the next Board meeting, scheduled for November in Yap State.

In her closing remarks Madam Chair, Ms. Cynthia Ehmes, expressed gratitude to the board members for their significant contributions to the Board discussions, particularly regarding the decisions made to advance the project. Additionally, Ms. Gulbahor Nematova, Deputy Resident Representative for UNDP, conveyed UNDP's appreciation and commended the Board for its open dialogue, which is crucial for understanding the expectations and alignment of priorities.

## FSM LDN PROJECT

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter State Site Visits and Monitoring



The GEF7 FSM Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Project successfully concluded its Third Quarter 2025 State Site Visits and Monitoring Mission across the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) on October 3 to October 14. The visits were conducted to review project progress, assess expenditures, and prepare plans and budgets for the upcoming year.

The mission included meeting staffs in Kosrae, Chuuk, Yap, and Pohnpei. Discussions focused on reviewing quarter 3 progress and expenditures, the Quarter 4 work plan and budget, ongoing contracts and Terms of Reference (TORs), awareness activities, and key project monitoring components, including the Social and Environmental Safeguards (SES) and Risk Register. The team also began preparations for the 2026 Annual Work Plan (AWP) and budget, as well as the upcoming Board Meeting. In addition, the PMU staff conducted an orientation for the newly appointed Chuuk State Technical Coordinator and Chuuk Stakeholder Engagement Officer, who were recently recruited.

Third Quarter 2025 State Site Visits and Monitoring Mission provided a comprehensive review of project implementation, strengthened coordination among state staff, and laid the groundwork for effective planning and execution of project activities in the coming year.

# Kosrae State Land Management Working Group Convenes 3rd Quarter Meeting



The Kosrae State Land Management Working Group held its 3rd quarter meeting on October 7 at the KIRMA Conference Room. Participating in the meeting were Director Rolner Joe of the Department of Resources and Economic Affairs (DREA), Director Steven Palik of the Kosrae Island Management Authority (KIMA), Administrative Officer Mr. James George (KIRMA) Director Faith Esau of the Kosrae Conservation and Safety Office (KCSO), Lelu Town Government Project Manager Isao Mike, Kosrae Historic Preservation Office Administrator Swenson Thomson, GEF7 LDN State Technical Coordinator Mrs. Tamae Luckymis, and State Environment Officer Onniel Nena.

The purpose of the meeting was to review the group's 3rd quarter expenditures, discuss the proposed 4th quarter work plan and budget, and present the proposed 2026 Annual Work Plan. The meeting was highly productive, demonstrating strong and continued support from all participating members. Constructive feedback and valuable recommendations were shared, contributing to the overall progress of the group's objectives. As part of the discussions, the group agreed to convene another session to revise the Kosrae Land Use Plan before the end of the year. This review is a key step in preparation for hiring a local consultant to finalize the plan and move it forward for implementation.

## FSM LDN PROJECT

# Consultant Hired to Lead the Development of the Demonstration Site Land Management Plan in Gagil and Tamil, Yap



On July 4th, 2025, The Project brought on board a consultant, Ms. Natasha Gorong, to lead the development of a land management plan for the demonstration site located in the municipalities of Gagil and Tamil in Yap. Since her hiring, the consultant has been working closely with the Community Land Management Working Group (CLMWG) for the two municipalities to plan a series of community sessions essential to developing the management plan.

The State Land Management Working Group (SLMWG) has also been actively involved, providing valuable technical support during the planning meetings. This collaborative effort between the consultant, community groups, and state-level stakeholders aims to ensure a participatory and well-informed approach to land management planning.

# Pohnpei State SEWG 3rd Quarter Meeting



On October 22, 2025, The State Environmental Working Group (SEWG) convened its quarterly meeting at the Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture, bringing together representatives from key agencies and community stakeholders. Attendees included members from the Pohnpei R&D, Pohnpei EPA, Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP), V6AH Radio Commission, Kitti Pehleng community, Department of Land, Attorney General's Office, and the GEF7 FSM LDN Project.

The meeting was chaired by the Director of Pohnpei R&D, Mr. Mark Kostka, who opened with welcoming remarks and reaffirmed the group's commitment to collaborative environmental stewardship.

The agenda featured a progress update on the 2025 Annual Work Plan, the Demonstration Site Land Management Plan (DSLMP) and the 2026 Annual Work Plan.

The meeting concluded with an open discussion and miscellaneous updates, allowing members to share insights and feedback. This gathering reaffirmed the SEWG's role in guiding sustainable land management and environmental planning in Pohnpei, with strong inter-agency coordination and community representation at its core.

## FSM LDN PROJECT

# Meet our new staff!



## Chuuk State Technical Coordinator

John Paul Ori, with over 12 years of experience in project management from previous military experience, he is committed to advancing environmental initiatives and enhancing climate resilience in Chuuk.

John holds degrees in Marine Science and Liberal Arts, and he is a certified Lean Six Sigma professional. His expertise includes managing environmental projects and engaging local communities in sustainable practices.

He is passionate about environmental stewardship and climate action, John is dedicated to fostering collaboration and innovation in addressing climate challenges. He believes in the power of community involvement to create a positive impact on Chuuk's environmental landscape.

## Chuuk Stakeholder Engagement Officer

Edleen K Wainit hails from the island of Chuuk in the Federated states of Micronesia. She is a graduate of Xavier High school and attended Miramar College in San Diego, California. After several years of study and residence in the United States, she returned to Chuuk, and later relocated to Guam, where she continued to build her professional and personal experience.

In 2024, Mrs. Wainit returned to Chuuk and joined the Chuuk Visitors Bureau, contributing to tourism development and community engagement initiatives. She currently serves as the Chuuk Stakeholder Engagement Officer with GEF7 where she supports project coordination, stakeholder relations and sustainable development efforts. She is married and the proud mother of three children.



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