

# GEF7 FSM LAND DEGRADATION NEUTRALITY PROJECT

—4th Quarter Newsletter—

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## THE GEF7 FSM LDN TEAM HELD ITS 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER MEETING WITH THE KOSRAE STATE WORKING GROUP



On December 4, 2025, The FSM GEF7 FSM LDN team in Kosrae, in collaboration with the Kosrae State Working Group (KSWG), convened its 4th Quarter Meeting at the Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority (KIRMA) Conference Room. Eleven participants were engaged, comprising 7 men and 4 women, representing different state agencies and community organizations such as KIRMA, Overseas Development Assistance (ODA), KCSO, HPO, DREA and Lelu Town Government.

The meeting aimed to provide updates on project expenditures for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, and to present the 2026 Annual Work Plan, which was approved in the last Board meeting held in Yap in November. The project team in Kosrae presented on the financial progress and planned activities for the upcoming year, resulting in positive feedback and recognition from the Working Group members.

## We Are Hiring!!!



- **Pohnpei State Technical Coordinator**
- Annual salary is **\$20,000 or higher** 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







## Chuuk State SEWG Meeting Highlights

On October 22, 2025, the Chuuk State Environmental Working Group (SEWG) convened a meeting at Truk Stop to discuss project progress and coordination matters. There was a total of 9 participants (5 males and 4 females) representing Chuuk State EPA, Department of Agriculture (DOA), GEF6 Invasive Species Project, Chuuk Women's Council, and the GCF Food Security Project.

The meeting was as an opportunity to formally introduce the new GEF7 FSM LDN team in Chuuk, specifically the Chuuk State Technical Coordinator, Mr. John Paul Ori, and the Chuuk State Stakeholder Engagement Officer, Mrs. Edleen Wainit – and to review the 2025 AWP and 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter budget performance. Participants highlighted key priorities, discussed planned activities and the need to align them with state and community needs.

The meeting concluded with a discussion on next steps, emphasizing the importance of ongoing coordination between the community and State working groups to ensure effective implementation and monitoring of planned activities.

## Courtesy Visit to Yap Governor's Office

On November 11, 2025, the GEF7 FSM Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Project team paid a courtesy visit to the newly appointed Governor of Yap State, Mr. Francis Itimai. The courtesy call underscored the importance of collaboration between the State Government and national agencies.

The project team was accompanied by the Director of the Yap State EPA, Ms. Sharon M. Ourun, Chief of Land Resources, Mr. John Wayan, Mr. Legriv V. Marquez from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Chair of the GEF7 FSM LDN Project Board, Ms. Cynthia Ehmes.

During the visit, Honorable Governor Itimai expressed his appreciation for the project's continued efforts and reaffirmed the State Government's support for achieving the objectives of land degradation neutrality across Yap.





# GEF7 FSM LDN 4TH QUARTER BOARD MEETING



On November 13-14, 2025, the GEF7 FSM LDN Project held its 4th Project Board Meeting at the iBoom Conference Room located in Talmag, Yap. Attendees included representatives from the FSM National Government and State governments, UNDP, and the project team. The primary objectives of the Board meeting were to assess the Project's progress for 2025, address emerging challenges through identification of solutions, and review and approve the Annual Work Plan (AWP) for 2026.

The Board Meeting officially commenced on November 13, with discussions around the status of actions agreed in the last Board meeting, progress against the project indicators, implementation challenges, risk management strategies, social and environmental safeguards compliance, project quality assurance measures, financial matters and the proposed 2026 AWP.



The first day concluded with discussions on forward actions, which included the finalization of the AWP with the Management, Performance and Oversight (MPO) team and the Project Management Unit, as well as the preparation of the project's partial Annual Spending Limit (ASL) for 2026.

The second day of the Board meeting featured a site visit to the Project's demonstration site in the municipalities of Talmag and Gagil, aimed at showcasing the Project's activities at the community level. Participants had the opportunity to observe and learn about the land degradation issues affecting the site and the measures implemented by the project to address these challenges. The meeting concluded with a closing reception recognizing the Board for its continued guidance and support to the project, and to express gratitude to the State of Yap for its hospitality in hosting the meeting.





## POHNPEI STATE 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER MEETING

On December 9, 2025, the Pohnpei State Environment Working Group (SEWG) convened its 4th Quarter meeting at the Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP) Office, to review the 2026 Annual Work Plan (AWP), address deliverables for the Pehleleng Demonstration Site Land Management Plan (DSLMP), and discuss awareness activities for the upcoming year. Participants include representatives from Pohnpei EPA, MCT, the Pehleleng Community Land Management Working Group (CLMWG), Department of Land, AG's office, OFA, CSP and the GEF7FSM LDN Project.

The Pohnpei State Engagement Officer, Ms. Vandela Warren, facilitated the review of the 2026 AWP, while CSP shared updates on the outstanding deliverables for Pehleleng's DSLMP. The members also deliberated on the awareness activities for 2026, and agreed to the need to conduct school visits in the upcoming year to help boost and enhance the project's visibility in Pohnpei, particularly in schools and within the local communities.



## YAP DEMONSTRATION SITE LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN DEVELOPMENT UNDERWAY

A local consultant collaborating with the Tamil and Gagil communities in Yap is leading the development of the GEF7 FSM LDN Project Yap Demonstration Site Land Management Plan (DSLMP), which is anticipated to be completed by 2026. This initiative has involved close partnership with the Community Land Management Working Group (CLMWG), established through the project, along with council members, women's groups, and youth representatives.

Community planning sessions were held separately in each municipality from October and December 2025, as recommended by the CLMWG. These sessions featured participatory mapping, resource prioritization, threat analysis, and the initial development of a workplan to establish baseline conditions and management priorities. Approximately 35 community members participated through facilitated group breakout exercises, including 25 women and 10 men.

A final planning session will be conducted to focus on developing a shared vision and mission for the DSLMP, after which will then undergo validation before it is approved by the communities of Tamil and Gagil.

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