

GEF7 FSM Land Degradation Neutrality Project

—— 1st Quarter Newsletter ——

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KOSRAE STATE SLM SAP WORKSHOP



Consultations continue in Kosrae focused on the development of Kosrae's State Action Plan (SAP) for the National Action Plan (NAP). On day 1 (March 24), participants recognized critical land degradation challenges impacting Kosrae and identified practical measures for addressing them.



The 2nd day is currently in progress, featuring community mapping activities designed to identify land degradation issues that will contribute to the GIS component of the National Action Plan (NAP) for monitoring trends in land cover.

POHNPEI ELEMENTARY STUDENTS LEAD THE WAY IN LAND CONSERVATION



On March 24, 2026, the GEF7 Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Project team, in collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency, the Fish and Wildlife Division of the Pohnpei State Department of Public Safety, and the Pehleng Community Land Management Working Group, conducted an educational outreach visit to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students from Pehleng, Awak, Nett, Rohie, Soledi, and Peidie (RSP) Elementary Schools.

During the session, students were introduced to the concept of Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and participated in group discussions to identify local land-related challenges and propose practical, community-based solutions. Their insightful contributions and strong commitment to environmental stewardship were highly commendable.

In recognition of their active participation, students were awarded t-shirts and bracelets. The team extends its sincere appreciation to all participating students, as well as the schools' staff and faculty, for their support in facilitating this meaningful and impactful engagement.

KOSRAE CLMWG 1ST QUARTER MEETING



The Community Land Management Working Group (CLMWG) convened its quarterly meeting on the 3rd of April at Lelu Town Government (LTG) Conference Room. There were 12 participants with 3 women and 11 men comprised of CLMWG members, Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization (KCSO) and GEF7 Project Team.

The purpose of the meeting was to inform CLMWG members on the status of GEF7 Project and allow KCSO as the Consulting Firm to present the draft management plan of Tofol-Innem Management Plan for cooperative review and seek feedback for the final development of the plan.

KCSO led the meeting through presentation on different sections of the plan, noted comments/concerns raised and conclude with facilitation on the costed work plan of the demonstration site.

The workshop encouraged cooperation and collaboration between landowners, community leaders, and the state government to develop a solid plan moving forward.

The next step forward is to incorporate feedback in today's meeting with comments from KSLMC and National Project Team to finalize the plan by mid of May so implementation could kick off this year.

YAP STATE SLM SAP WORKSHOP



The Honorable Francis Itimai, Governor of Yap State, provided the opening remarks. He highlighted that the workshop represents an important milestone in the country's efforts to address land degradation and to encourage sustainable, climate-resilient, land and coastal management nationwide. He further underlined the importance of that the participants' expertise, insights, and commitment as vital to the success of the development of the SAP.

The GEF7 LDN project held a workshop in Yap from March 31 to April 1 to develop its State Action Plan (SAP). This plan is a crucial component of the FSM's National Action Plan for combating land degradation. The workshop brought together representatives from government, private sector, NGOs, and community-based organizations, serving as a vital platform for multi-sectoral collaboration to address land degradation and promote sustainable land management practices in the state.

The primary objective of the two-day event was to identify land degradation challenges facing Yap, explore practical solutions and opportunities to addressing them, and gather spatial planning data to track land cover changes, land productivity and soil organic carbon. These sub-indicators relate to the SDG goal 15.3, which focuses on combating desertification, restoring degraded land and soil, and achieving land degradation neutrality by 2030.

Participants engaged in productive discussions, exchanging insights on local land use practices, priority issues, and practical solutions for promoting SLM in Yap. The results of the workshop will contribute to the formulation of strategic actions and interventions that aim to enhance sustainable land use, bolster ecosystem resilience, and support local livelihoods across Yap.



CHUUK STATE SLM STATE ACTION PLAN WORKSHOP



Chuuk State- SLM State Action Plan Workshop-Analysis & Diagnostic March 24-25, 2026, Chuuk State successfully held its Sustainable Land Management (SLM) State Action Plan (SAP) consultations over two days, from March 24-25, at the Governor's Auditorium in Chuuk State.

The workshop brought together key stakeholders from government and partner organizations, including representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Agriculture, Department of Marine Resources, Department of Health Services-Sanitation, Department of Commerce and Industry, the Governor's Office, Chuuk State Senate, Catholic Relief Services, Chuuk Youth Council and the College of Micronesia-Cooperative Research and Extension.

The primary objectives of the workshop were to discuss Chuuk state-specific land issues, identify potential solutions and actions, and validate existing relevant plans, policies and spatial data. While GIS and spatial planning and monitoring capacity is limited in Chuuk, and for the FSM as a whole, the workshop emphasized the importance of continued collaboration, capacity building and data collection to support informed decision-making.

Participants engaged in collaborative discussions and activities to review findings, provide input and align priorities for implementation. State ownership of the development of the SLM SAP to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) was strengthened, and stakeholders reaffirmed their commitment to moving the SAP forward and ensure progress toward meeting SLM goals in Chuuk State.



POHNPEI STATE SLM SAP WORKSHOP



KOLONIA, POHNPEI -- From March 18 to 19, 2026, the FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECEM), through the GEF7 FSM Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Project, in collaboration with the Pohnpei State Government, convened a workshop for the formulation of Pohnpei's State Action Plan (SAP) for the FSM Sustainable Land Management (SLM) National Action Plan (NAP), a key reporting requirement to the United Nation's Convention for Combating Desertification (UNCCD).

The workshop, held at the Governor's Conference Room, brought together stakeholders from state and municipal governments, local and regional NGO's, as well as civil society organizations (CSOs). The objectives included validation of analytical findings across policy, institutional, spatial, and environmental dimensions, identification and prioritization of challenges associated with land degradation, and defining concrete, spatially explicit actions required to achieve LDN by 2030.

The workshop also ensured that the NAP/SAP process aligned with key national and state plans and legal frameworks, including the FSM Strategic Development Plan, National and State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAP/BSAPs), Forest Action Plans, and the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

A key outcome of the workshop included strengthening collaboration and ownership of the Pohnpei SAP through identification of priority issues and actions related to land degradation, thereby establishing a solid foundation for creating a comprehensive and actionable plan for the State.

The workshop, which only represents the initial phase of the NAP/SAPs process, will be followed by further consultations and a validation workshop. These subsequent meetings aim to confirm that all stakeholder feedback is integrated into the SAP, ensuring it aligns with the needs of Pohnpei State in fostering sustainable land management and climate resilience in the FSM.



Kosrae Sustainable Land Management Committee (KSLMC) 1st Quarter Meeting



On February 16, 2026, the Kosrae Sustainable Land Management Committee (KSLMC) convened its first quarterly meeting at the Department of Resource and Economic Affairs (DREA) Conference Room. The meeting brought together representatives from various partner agencies and organizations, including the Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority (KIRMA), DREA, the Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization (KCSO), the Lelu Town Government, the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DT&I), the Kosrae Historic Preservation Office, the Department of Administration and Finance through its Overseas Development Assistance Office, the Department of Health Services (Division of Health and Sanitation), and the GEF7 FSM Land Degradation Neutrality Project.

The primary purpose of the meeting was to inform the KSLMC members of the 2026 Annual Workplan and to provide updates on the progress of the Project. The meeting also aimed to prepare the State for the upcoming consultations related to the formulation of the FSM Sustainable Land Management (SLM) National Action Plan (NAP) and State Action Plan (SAP), as well as the GIS Capacity Assessment to support spatial mapping and analysis under the NAP and SAP processes.

As an outcome of the meeting, participants developed a shared understanding of the 2026 Annual Workplan and budget, the current status of project implementation in Kosrae, and the preparatory steps required for the upcoming NAP/SAP inception workshop, GIS capacity assessment, and in-person consultations for the NAP/SAP.

CHUUK STATE CONVENES FIRST 2026 ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP



On February 11, 2026, the FSM GEF7 Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) Project convened the 1st Chuuk State Environmental Working Group (SEWG) Meeting at the Governor's Conference Room. The meeting brought together representatives from key organizations of the Chuuk SEWG, including the Chuuk Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Chuuk Department of Agriculture (DOA), Chuuk Land Commission, Chuuk Women's Council, Chuuk Public Utility Corporation (CPUC), Chuuk Department of Marine Resources (DMR), and the College of Micronesia-FSM Cooperative Research and Extension (COM-FSM CRE).

The purpose of the meeting was to review and endorse the proposed changes to the SEWG Terms of Reference (TOR), examine the Chuuk State 2026 Annual Work Plan (AWP), and prepare for the upcoming consultations for the formulation of the Chuuk LDN State Action Plan (SAP), which will include an virtual Inception Workshop, a GIS/spatial capacity assessment and in-person consultations for identification of challenges, responses and priorities for land degradation. A key focus of the discussions was ensuring readiness for the SAP development process. The Project Management Unit provided an overview of the National and State Action Plan framework, with emphasis placed on identifying relevant stakeholders and promoting inclusive participation throughout the SAP development process.

By the conclusion of the meeting, participants had achieved a shared understanding of the project's current status, endorsed updates to the SEWG Terms of Reference, reviewed the 2026 Annual Work Plan and corresponding budget allocations, and agreed on priority next steps moving forward.

Yap State Land Management Working Group's First Meeting of 2026

Colonia, Yap – On February 6, 2026, the State Land Management Working Group (SLMWG) held its first quarter meeting at the Colonia Wellness Clinic Conference Room, where members received project updates and reviewed the Quarter 1 Budget under the 2026 Annual Workplan.

In addition, the PMU briefed the SLMWG on the upcoming consultations for the SLM National Action Plan (SLM NAP) and State Action Plan (SLM SAP) for combating land degradation.

This is a priority for the FSM and a key requirement under the UNCCD, and will incorporate strategies, indicators, and targets for achieving LDN. The Yap SLMWG will play a crucial role in informing the development of the Yap SLM SAP.



Pohnpei State Environmental Working Group (SEWG) Congregates for First Quarter Meeting.

KOLONIA, Pohnpei - On February 19, 2026, at the Attorney General's Conference room, the Pohnpei State Environmental Working Groups (SEWG) congregated for their first quarter meeting of the GEF7 FSM LDN project.

The meeting provided an opportunity to formally introduce the new Pohnpei State Technical Coordinator, review the 2026 Annual Workplan (AWP) and budget allocations, and assess project progress to date. Significant emphasis was placed on preparing for the upcoming SLM State Action Plan (SAP) workshops, which will encompass vital consultations and a GIS/Spatial capacity assessment to guide sustainable land management in the FSM.

The meeting concluded with a unified understanding of the project's status and a confirmed readiness for the SAP/GIS workshops. Immediate next steps will prioritize the identification of key State Stakeholder representatives to ensure expert participation in the upcoming SAP planning and development sessions.

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