



WWF GEF Project Agency
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Strengthening and Enabling the Micronesia Challenge 2030

Introduction

The proposed project aims to strengthen the enabling environment for successful implementation of the 2030 Micronesia Challenge. The project will work in the Micronesia large ocean states of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and the Republic of Palau (Palau). The region hosts high levels of biodiversity, including many endemic marine and terrestrial species. Collectively, their ocean and land area spans over 3 million km² of the tropical north Pacific Ocean. Comprised of volcanic, rock, and coral atoll islands, the region is home to many species of flora and fauna found nowhere else in the world.

To achieve this objective, the proposed project consists of three linked project components.

Component 1: National progress on regional and international 2020 ocean goals, including the Micronesia Challenge and Sustainable Development Goals (GEF Funding: US\$ 1,323,880)

Under the first component, the project will facilitate inter-agency dialogues in Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and Palau to support national priorities and develop strategic plans to progress against the Micronesia Challenge 2030 conservation and community benefit targets. In RMI, the project is supporting the Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC), which has recently been formalized and is responsible for implementing the country's Reimaanlok community engagement process, as well as the Protected Area Network and National Ocean Policy. In FSM, the project will support the recently established Protected Area Network (PAN) Technical Committee to develop a national integrated coastal and marine management plan, including PAN's role in coastal fisheries management. In Palau, the project will support the establishment of a new inter-agency working group that will provide technical and policy recommendations for developing a new domestic pelagic fishery that aims to relieve fishing pressure from coastal reef environments as part of implementation of the Palau National Marine Sanctuary (PNMS).

Component 2. Sustaining regional natural resources management in Micronesia (GEF Funding: US\$ 440,372)

The second project component is focused on (1) building support and facilitating development of the Micronesia Challenge 2030 visioning document amongst the five Micronesian jurisdictions. The project will finance a consultant and workshop costs to support the development of the Micronesia Challenge 2030 visioning document, as well as side-meetings at a high profile event to officially launch the Micronesia Challenge 2030. Secondly (2) under this component, the project will strengthen the Micronesia Challenge Regional Office (MCRO) to successfully coordinate the implementation of Micronesia 2030. Activities include developing a 10-year strategic plan and fundraising strategy for

MCRO; developing a communications plan and associated communications products to help raise the profile of the Micronesia Challenge 2030; and travel costs for the MCRO regional coordinator to represent the Micronesia Challenge 2030 at key conferences and other high profile meetings.

Component 3. Knowledge Management and Project Monitoring & Evaluation (GEF Funding: US\$ 53,930)

The third project component will support knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation. The project will also support participation and engagement in IW: LEARN activities.

Regulations and Requirements

WWF has developed and adopted a comprehensive Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework (ESSF) to ensure consistent, comprehensive application of safeguards across all projects supported and implemented by the entire WWF Network. To comply with the WWF ESSF, the project will follow the policies, standards, guidance and procedures as detailed in the Environmental and Social Safeguards Integrated Policies and Procedures ([SIPP](#)). Specifically relevant for the Stakeholder Engagement Plan is the [Standard on Stakeholder Engagement](#) and the associated [Procedures for Implementation of the Standard on Stakeholder Engagement](#).

WWF supported projects are required to consult and engage potentially affected stakeholders (or parties) and to disclose information related to the project in a transparent manner. Projects are required to initiate stakeholder consultation at a very early stage of project design and put mechanisms in place that allow communication with affected stakeholders in a form and language that are understandable and accessible to diverse groups. This commitment extends the requirement for the project to have grievance mechanisms in place for stakeholders to lodge concerns and receive feedback.

Project Stakeholders

The priority stakeholders have been identified as the following:

- **National:**
 - Republic of the Marshall Islands
 - Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA)
 - Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC)
 - Federated States of Micronesia
 - Department of Resources and Development (R&D)
 - Republic of Palau
 - Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism (MNRET)
 - Bureau of Marine Resources (BMR)
- **Regional:**
 - Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT)
 - Micronesia Challenge Regional Office (MCRO)
 - Micronesia Challenge Steering Committee (MCSC) members

A detailed list of project stakeholders is provided below.

Nation	Name	Mandate	Project Relevance
RMI	Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA)	MIMRA is responsible for coastal and oceanic fisheries, as well as the management of all living marine resources in the RMI.	Participation of staff from MIMRA is essential to project success as MIMRA is the key Authority in management of marine resources throughout the nation.
RMI	Climate Change Directorate (CCD)	The mission of the Office of Environmental Planning and Policy Coordination is to protect human health and the natural environment of the Marshall Islands actively supporting a sustainable balance between RMI's economy and its natural environment, and to ensure improved coordination of all international and regional environmental programmes and activities allowing policy coordination to rest directly with the office of the President.	Participation of staff from OEPPC is highly relevant as the Director is the GEF Operational Focal Point for RMI. CCD plays a key role in national coordination.
RMI	Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC)	CMAC provides a mechanism for national-level collaboration, integration and technical advice on nearshore marine and terrestrial resource management in RMI, including Reimaanlok.	CMAC is the proposed entity for advancing a strengthened implementation of RMI integrated resource management.
RMI	Marshall Islands Conservation Society (MICS)	The MICS is dedicated to building awareness, support and capacity for sustainable use of resources, conservation and protection of biodiversity through the Reimaanlok process and Micronesia Challenge commitment.	MICS would be a contact as they aid in spatial information management for natural resources in RMI
RMI	Sea Grant Extension (college of MI)	US Federal University partnership program bringing science together with communities for solutions that work.	Sea Grant representatives in RMI have been involved in marine management planning discussions, specifically re: Reimaanlok

Nation	Name	Mandate	Project Relevance
FSM	Department of Resources and Development (R&D)	The Department of Resources and Development (R&D) plays a national coordinating and facilitating role in various forms of traditional, local and state marine resource control.	R&D staff would be lead contacts for engaging national- and state-level resource management discussions.
FSM	National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA)	NORMA's management jurisdiction includes the entirety of Oceanic fishery resources in FSM's EEZ.	NORMA staff would be lead contacts for engaging national- level pelagic resource management discussions.
FSM	Overseas Fisheries Cooperation Foundation of Japan (OFCF)	To implement economic and technical cooperation which contributes for development and promotion of overseas fishery as well as management of fish resources etc. and to secure overseas fishing ground and safety fishing operation of fishing vessels in Japan, thereby to contribute the stable development of fisheries industry of Japan.	OFCF would likely be involved in some of the FSM working group discussions.
Palau	Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC)	The Palau International Coral Reef Center is Palau's leading research and aquarium institution with a mission to guide efforts supporting coral reef stewardship through research and its applications for the people of Palau, Micronesia, and the world.	PICRC would be a core partner in their newly mandated role in administering the Palau National Marine Sanctuary.
Palau	Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism (MNRET)	MNRET's Vision is to be widely recognized in promoting, exploring, exploiting, developing, protecting, and managing the natural resources of the Republic, in areas of marine and fisheries, agriculture, aquaculture, forests, mineral and other land-based and ocean-based resources as well as tourism.	MNRET would also be a core partner as they oversee resource management and play a leading role in oversight of the new National Marine Sanctuary.

Nation	Name	Mandate	Project Relevance
Regional	Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT)	MCT is a charitable and irrevocable corporation organized to manage and provide funds “to support biodiversity conservation and related sustainable development for the people of Micronesia by providing long term sustained funding.”	MCT would be a leading partner in shaping and implementing Component 2 – the regional effort.
	Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)	We work for the well-being of Pacific people through the effective and innovative application of science and knowledge, guided by a deep understanding of Pacific Island contexts and cultures.	SPC engages in connecting science to policy throughout the region, so their engagement would be highly beneficial.
	The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	TNC is a global environmental nonprofit working to create a world where people and nature can thrive.	TNC plays a significant role in the region as a leader in convenings, research, and planning for conservation efforts.
	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	UNDP works to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities through the sustainable development of nations, in more than 170 countries and territories.	UNDP has played a significant role in past GEF-funded efforts in the region.

Summary of any previous stakeholder engagement activities.

From December 2018 through March 2020, project stakeholders were engaged in-person and virtually using a variety of methods (video calls, phone calls, e-mail). A full list of consultations, methods and key feedback can be found in Appendix D of the ProDoc.

December 4-21, 2018 – A in-person consultation process was undertaken by the project development team to introduce GEF mission and gather feedback on interest and feasibility. The following stakeholders were met with:

- Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands: College of the Marshall Islands; Sea Grant Officer; Marshall Islands Conservation Society; Pacific Resources for Education and Learning. It was agreed that the project should work through the Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC).
- Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia: Assistant Secretary of Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (FSM); GEF Operational Focal Point (OFP), Secretary of Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (FSM); Director, Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT); Lead Conservation Officer, MCT; Finance Officer, MCT; Grants Manager, MCT

- Koror, Palau: President of Palau; Palau GEF Operational Focal Point (OFP); Policy Advisor to the President, Planning OOC 2020; The Nature Conservancy (TNC); PNMS Exec. Committee; House of Delegates, Palau; Senate of Palau; CEO, Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC); PICRC Board, Policy Advisor

July 3, 2019- July 11, 2019 - A in-person consultation process was undertaken by the project development team to have an introductory discussion on the project design.

- MIMRA Office in Majuro, RMI: Director, MIMRA; Deputy Director of Fisheries, MIMRA Secretary, CMAC; General Manager of FSM Environmental Protection Agency
- Mangrove Bay Hotel, Pohnpei: Lead Conservation Officer, MCT
- Palikir, Pohnpei: Secretary, Ministry of Resources and Development (R&D); MC Steering Committee; GEF Climate Change Lead; Technical Coordinator, FSM Ridge to Reef; Director, Micronesia Regional Office, SPC; Resident Representative, Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan; Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation
- Weno, Chuuk, FSM: Director of Micronesia Program, TNC; Director, Micronesia Conservation Trust; GEF OFP, Palau; Representative, Guam; Representative, CNMI; Director for Micronesia, TNC; Guam, Board of MCT; Chuuk Conservation Society
- Tumon Bay, Guam: Micronesia Challenge Marine Measures Group; University of Guam; Former MC Steering Committee Member, CNMI; Coordinator, Micronesia Challenge Regional Office
- Koror, Palau: CEO, PICRC; Palau Conservation Society, Policy & Planning Program; PICRC Board, Policy Advisor; Aquarium Director, PICRC

October 17-22, 2019 - A in-person consultation process was undertaken by the project development team to further develop and confirm the project strategy.

- Koror, Palau: TNC; CEO, PICRC; Communications & Outreach Officer, PICRC; PCS; Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism (MNRET).
- Tumon Bay, Guam: TNC; Coordinator, MCRO;
- Pohnpei, FSM: FSM R&D; MCT; NORMA Asst. Director, FMD; Lead Conservation Officer, MCT
- Majuro, RMI: Director, Office of Environmental Planning and Policy Coordination (OEPPC) & GEF OFP; Deputy Director, OEPPC; Deputy Director Coastal and Community Affairs, MIMRA; Environmental Protection Authority (EPA); Deputy Director, Marshall Islands Conservation Society (MICS); Executive Director, MICS

In addition to ad hoc calls with project stakeholders and partners, the project development team also provided regular virtual updates and validated the project design on Micronesia Challenge Steering Committee calls. These took place February 7, 2020; February 22, 2020; May 8, 2020; August 11, 2020.

Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

Stakeholders will primarily be engaged through a ‘national working group’ structure supported by the project (approximately six per nation (two per year)). These working groups will be responsible for the national outputs under Component 1. In preparation for these meetings, each meeting organizing group will host a series of 1–3 calls or video meetings or community dialogues to gain stakeholder feedback and “connect” with relevant community members on the topics for discussion and overall framework. This approach may also include in-person, small group meetings as needed. Preceding these events, the

organizers will gain stakeholder input or feedback via phone, email, or in-person dialogues to shape the discussion content. The set of key stakeholders in project implementation has been defined during project preparation and is outlined in the tables below.

Anticipated Working Group Members – RMI

The working group in RMI will be comprised of members of the Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC).¹

Organization	Engagement Approach
Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA),	CMAC secretary; primary point of contact
RMI Environmental Protection Authority (RMIEPA)	Current CMAC Chair
Marshall Islands Conservation Society (MICS)	Current CMAC Vice-Chair
Climate Change Directorate (CCD)	CMAC Member, attending all meetings
College of the Marshall Islands (CMI)	CMAC Member, attending all meetings
Marshall Islands Historic Preservation Office (RMI HPO)	CMAC Member, attending all meetings
International Office of Migration (IOM)	CMAC Member, attending all meetings
Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs (MoCIA)	CMAC Member, attending all meetings
RMI Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce (MoNRC)	CMAC Member, attending all meetings
Office of Commerce, Investment and Tourism (OCIT)	CMAC Member, attending all meetings
SPREP Marshall Islands Office	CMAC Member, attending all meetings
University of the South Pacific (USP)	CMAC Member, attending all meetings
Women United Together in the Marshall Islands (WUTMI).	CMAC Member, attending all meetings
Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade (MoFAT)	CMAC Member, attending all meetings
Jo-Jikum	CMAC Member, attending all meetings

Anticipated Working Group Members – FSM

The working group in FSM will be comprised of members of the Protected Area Network Technical Committee.²

Organization	Engagement Approach
FSM Resources and Development (one member and committee secretariat)	PAN TC Secretariat, primary point of contact, attending all meetings (virtually or in person)
State Focal Points (four members – one per state)	PAN TC Member, attending all meetings
National Oceanic Resources Management Authority (one member)	PAN TC Member, attending all meetings (virtually or in person)

¹ For more information about CMAC, please see: <https://www.atollconservation.org/cmac>

² For more information regarding the FSM PAN Technical Committee, please see: <http://www.spc.int/CoastalFisheries/CFM/Document/ShowDocument/008858b9-c8ea-474a-bc39-443f7b19a6b5?attachment=True>

Micronesia Conservation Trust (one non-voting member)	PAN TC Member, attending all meetings (virtually or in person)
FSM College of Micronesia (one academic member)	PAN TC Member, attending all meetings (virtually or in person)
Regional Science Organization (one academic member - SPC)	PAN TC Member, attending all meetings (virtually or in person)
International NGO (one member - TNC)	PAN TC Member, attending all meetings (virtually or in person)

Anticipated Working Group Members – Palau

The working group in Palau will be comprised of members from organizations and agencies with a concerted interest in the Palauan domestic fishery sector.

Organization	Engagement Approach
Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism	Primary point of contact, attending all meetings
Bureau of Marine Resources	Invited to all meetings
Bureau of Oceanic Fisheries	Invited to all meetings
Palau International Coral Reef Center	Invited to all meetings
Palau Sport Fishing Association	Invited to select meetings
Ebiil Society	Invited to all meetings
Businesses (fishery operations, restaurants, consolidators)	Invited to select meetings
Friends of the PNMS	Invited to all meetings
Representatives of state governments	Invited to all meetings
Northern Reefs Fisheries Co-op	Invited to all meetings
Palau Conservation Society	Invited to all meetings

Regional

The following stakeholders will be closely engaged by the PMU throughout project execution.

Stakeholder	Role	Engagement Approach
Micronesia Challenge Regional Office (MCRO)	Project Partner	Key project partner leading project Components 2 and 3
Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT)	Project Partner	Key project partner directly supporting MCRO and active MCSC member. Will continue to engage with Director and Deputy Director. Will be engaged as an observer member of the PSC.
Micronesia Challenge Steering Committee (MCSC)	Influential Stakeholder	Direct engagement with MCSC members as PSC and through the MCRO Coordinator as a liaison

The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Influential Stakeholder	Continue to engage with relevant staff at regional level throughout Micronesia as well as with key staff in nations of interest. TNC is an observer on the MCSC and will be regularly informed and updated on the project.
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)	Indirect project stakeholder	Will be directly and indirectly engaged at national level due to parallel initiatives on State of the Environment

Resources and Responsibilities

The PMU is responsible for overall stakeholder communication and coordination. At the national level, the working group lead will be responsible for ensuring active participation and consultation with working group members. At the regional level, MCRO is responsible for communicating with regional partners and ensuring regional stakeholders are engaged and updated on the project.

Resources for stakeholder engagement are built into the project activity cost (working group costs related to travel and workshops, PMU salaries).

Grievances Mechanism.

A grievance can be filed with the Project Complaints Officer (PCO), a WWF staff member fully independent from the Project Team, who is responsible for the WWF Accountability and Grievance Mechanism and who can be reached at:

Email: SafeguardsComplaint@wwfus.org

Mailing address: Project Complaints Officer Safeguards Complaints, World Wildlife Fund 1250 24th Street NW Washington, DC 20037

Additionally, a complaint can be submitted online or by phone through a third-party host at the following website: <https://secure.ethicspoint.com/domain/media/en/gui/59041/index.html>. The PCO will respond within 10 business days of receipt, and claims will be filed and included in project monitoring.

Monitoring and Reporting.

Throughout the project, the following will be involved in monitoring:

- Activities related to stakeholder engagement will be documented and reported by the PMU and project partners on a half-yearly basis (as part of regular reporting), with sex-disaggregated data where possible. Meetings conducted will be documented and feedback reported back to stakeholders.
- WWF GEF Agency will take part in monitoring for the purpose of supporting the project and support on issues affecting timely and quality project implementation. WWF US will review the quality of outputs and progress against the stakeholder engagement plan.

- The PSC will also take part in monitoring the project's compliance to the plan at least twice a year and advises (or take decisions) appropriately and as per the standards set forward for the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.