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Ocean Solutions



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Cover Page

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

APIL — Association of Pacific Island Legislatures
BPS — Bureau of Public Safety
CADRE — Climate Adaptation, Disaster Risk reduction and Education
CAPs – conservation action plans
CBD — Convention on Biological Diversity
CCD – Climate Change Directorate (RMI)
CEDAW — Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CI – Conservation International
CMAC — Coastal Management Advisory Council
CMI — College of the Marshall Islands
CNMI — Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COFA — Compact of Free Association
COS — Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions
CRCs — Convention on the Rights of the Child
DFZ — Domestic Fishing Zone
DVPPA — Domestic Violence Protection and Prevention Act
EEZ — Exclusive Economic Zone
FFA — Fisheries Forum Agency
FSM — Federated States of Micronesia
GAD — Gender and Development
GEF — Global Environment Facility
GLISPA — Global Island Partnership
GPA — Global Platform for Action on Women
HIES — Household Income and Expenditure Survey
ICM — Integrated Coastal Management
IEO — Independent Evaluation Office (GEF)
IOM — International Office of Migration
IUU — Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (fishing)
IW — International Waters
IW:LEARN — International Waters Learning and Exchange Resource Network
M&E — Monitoring and Evaluation
MC — Micronesia Challenge
MCP — Marine Conservation Plan
MCRO — Micronesia Challenge Regional Office

MCSC — Micronesia Challenge Steering Committee
MCT — Micronesia Conservation Trust
MDG — Millennium Development Goals
MICS — Marshall Islands Conservation Society
MIMRA — Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority
MNRET — Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism
MoCIA — Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs (RMI)
MOJ — Ministry of Justice
MoNRC — Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce (RMI)
MPA — Marine Protected Area
MSP — Marine Spatial Planning
NBSAP — National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NCDs — Noncommunicable diseases
NDMO — (National) Disaster Management Office
NORMA — National Oceanic Resource Management Authority
NOS — National Ocean Symposium
NWAC — National Women Advisory Council
NWIO — National Women’s Information Officer
OCIT — Office of Commerce, Investment and Tourism (RMI)
PAN — Protected Areas Network
PAS — Pacific Alliance for Sustainability (GEF)
PIAFA — Pacific Insular Area Fishery Agreement
PICRC — Palau International Coral Reef Center
PICTs — Pacific Island Countries and Territories
PIF — Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PIMPAC — Pacific Islands Managed and Protected Areas Community
PMC — Project Management Costs
PMRI — Pacific Marine Resources Institute
PMU — Project Management Unit
PNA — Parties to the Nauru Agreement
PNMS — Palau National Marine Sanctuary
PPA — Pacific Platform for Action on Women
PPEF — Pristine Paradise (Palau) Environmental Fee
PROP — (World Bank) Pacific Regional Oceanscape Program
PSC — Project Steering Committee
PSS — (Coastal) Policy, Planning, and Statistics

R2R — Ridge to Reef (Program)
RMI — Republic of the Marshall Islands
RST — MC Regional Support Team
SAP — Strategic Action Program
SBSAPS — State-level biodiversity strategy and action plans
SDG — Sustainable Development Goals
SDP — Strategic Development Plan
SIDS — Small Islands Developing States
SPC — Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SPREP — Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
TNC — The Nature Conservancy
UNDP — United Nations Development Programme
UNEP — United Nations Environment Programme
USP — University of South Pacific
VAW — Violence Against Women
VOCA — Victims of Crime Assistance
WCPFC — Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission
WIMA — Pacific Women in Maritime Association
WIP — Women's Interest Program
WPCF — Western and Central Pacific Fisheries (Convention)
WPWP LME – Western Pacific Warm Pool Large Marine Ecosystem
WUTMI — Women United Together in the Marshall Islands
WWF — World Wildlife Fund

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Situated within the Western Pacific Warm Pool Large Marine Ecosystem (WPWP LME), the Micronesia region hosts among the most ecologically rich and biodiverse coastal and marine environments on the planet. Despite the exceptionally long distances separating the individual island nations of Micronesia, the coastal and marine ecosystems they depend on are inextricably connected and require shared management for long-term ocean health. This Global Environment Facility (GEF) International Waters (IW) project “*Strengthening and enabling the 2030 Micronesia Challenge*” strengthens transboundary integrated marine resource management for healthy marine ecosystems and sustainable coastal fisheries in the Micronesian Large Ocean States of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and the Republic of Palau (Palau) with indirect benefits to the U.S. Territory of Guam and the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. In partnership with the Micronesia Challenge Regional Office (MCRO), the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT), the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA), FSM’s Department of Resources & Development (R&D), Palau’s Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions (COS), the project supports national and regional marine resource management planning for strengthened transboundary integrated marine resource management through planning of Micronesia Challenge 2030 goals for healthy marine ecosystems and nearshore sustainable fisheries. MC 2030 has an overall conservation target to effectively manage at least 50% of marine resources, including the exclusive economic zone (EEZ), and 30% of terrestrial resources by 2030. Additional goals, aligned with the GEF IW blue economy focal area, include fisheries management, restoring habitats, and increasing livelihood opportunities in Micronesia.

The three-year GEF IW project proposes a framework approach¹ that facilitates technical dialogues through national working groups to develop policy options for strengthened management of and optimized regional collaborations for priority marine resource issues. The project will build off key baseline activities for marine resource management under the MC commitments, including the recent support for the Micronesia Challenge 2030 conservation goals by the Micronesia Island Forum (MIF), national strengthening of Protected Area Network (PAN) legislation, and a recent collaborative working group model facilitated by COS

¹ A “framework approach” is a project planning strategy that builds from delineated components, outcomes, outputs, and activities in a “temporal matrix” for project planning and implementation purposes.

supporting implementation of the Palau National Marine Sanctuary (PNMS). The project will leverage existing partnerships, momentum, and lessons learned to engage all three Micronesia governments and will build coordination and cooperation for the next phase of the Micronesia Challenge—leveraging experience sharing and capacity building to ensure success for future shared regional and national resource management goals.

The project is designed with three components aimed at national and regional support, combined with knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation. The first project component will achieve national-level goals through national working group meetings that will develop science-based recommendations to support advancing integrated management of marine resources aligned under Micronesia Challenge 2020 and 2030 goals. The second project component aims to strengthen the Micronesia Challenge Regional Office (MCRO) through capacity building and significantly raising local, regional, and global awareness to of the Micronesia Challenge, and the coordination role of MCRO by taking advantage of major ocean-related events. A third project component aims to capture the wealth of knowledge generated from the Micronesia Challenge over the past decade, to disseminate nationally, regionally, and also internationally through IW:LEARN.

This GEF IW project also leverages recent intergovernmental momentum, including the 2016 Call to Action by the three Micronesia presidents at the 13th International Coral Reef Symposium Leaders’ Summit, the 2017 Pacific Judicial Council Environmental Law and Science Conference, and a 2018 Association of Pacific Island Legislatures resolution. Collectively these recent actions assist progress towards important 2020 milestones, including the Sustainable Development Goals, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Aichi Targets, and the Micronesia Challenge. The project also aims to support country needs at key ocean events, including the Our Oceans Conference, United Nations Ocean Conference, and the CBD Conference of Parties 15 (to be confirmed based on national policies and post-pandemic realities). The project further builds on the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the International Waters of Pacific Islands and associated recommendations from the Terminal Evaluation of the UNDP/GEF-supported International Waters Project (IW-Project) for the Pacific Small Island Developing States (2004).

SECTION 1: PROJECT BACKGROUND AND SITUATION ANALYSIS

1.1 Project Scope and Environmental Significance

The Micronesia large ocean states of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and the Republic of Palau (Palau) host high levels of biodiversity, including many endemic marine and terrestrial species. Collectively, their ocean and land area span over 3 million km² of the tropical north Pacific Ocean, or roughly similar to the area of the continental United States. 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. Over 1,400 plant species, 1,300 fish species, 535 coral species, and hundreds of birds, amphibians, insects, reptiles, and mammals are found within the Micronesia region.² Globally important fish stocks, such as several species of tuna and billfish, routinely migrate through the region and are a major source of economic wealth for Micronesian large ocean states.³ Over 500,000 people, speaking 12 languages, spread across 2,000 islands that include two World Heritage Sites, three Ramsar sites, and three biosphere reserves call Micronesia home.⁴

The Micronesia region is situated within the Western Pacific Warm Pool Large Marine Ecosystem (WPWP LME). While occasionally not recognized as a Large Marine Ecosystem due to its extreme size, the Western Pacific Warm Pool Large Marine Ecosystem (WPWP LME) exhibits many of the key characteristics of Large Marine Ecosystems, especially the relatively consistent biophysical marine environment and the connectivity of coastal and marine ecosystems across the region. The WPWP LME includes 14 Pacific island countries over approximately 40 million km² or 8% of the entire Earth's surface. Despite the exceptionally long distances separating individual countries, the coastal and marine ecosystems that these countries depend on are inextricably closely connected and require shared management for long-term ocean health. The WPWP LME is named after the warm equatorial waters of the western tropical Pacific Ocean that host the world's largest stocks of tuna and related pelagic species that provide approximately one third of the world's tuna and related species catches and over half of the world's supplies for canned tuna. The WPWP LME is also home to globally important stocks of sharks, turtle, billfish and other large pelagic species, and whales and other marine mammals.

While large in ocean area, these Micronesia islands are small in land area and disproportionately rely heavily on coastal and marine resources for food security, to sustain livelihoods, generate revenue, and achieve national development goals. For Micronesia, a sustainable blue economy is the foundation for achieving overall national development agendas and the United Nations

² Micronesia Challenge "We are One" Business Plan and Conservation Plan

³ FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Country Profiles

⁴ Micronesia Challenge "We are One" Business Plan and Conservation Plan

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), especially SDG 14: Life Below Water. Yet while the region shares similar blue economy aspirations, the economy of each Micronesia country is dominated by varying marine-based sectors. Where marine-based tourism is a key sector of Palau's economy, fisheries is a major part of the economy in the Marshall Islands. To promote a regional blue economy will rely on strong regional collaboration to collectively strengthen natural resource management across Micronesia.

The features that make these islands exceptional also make them especially vulnerable to environmental threats. Increasing pressure, from overfishing to marine debris, and seepage of terrestrial pollutants into coastal areas, coupled with the impacts of climate change, severely threaten the future of Micronesia large ocean states. To preserve the biodiversity of Micronesia and ensure a healthy future for their people, protect their unique island cultures, and sustain the livelihoods of their island communities, the Chief Executives of the RMI, FSM, Palau, the U.S. Territory of Guam and the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) launched the Micronesia Challenge in 2006.

The **Micronesia Challenge**⁵ is a shared commitment to effectively conserve at least 30% of near-shore marine resources and 20% of terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020 – altogether covering 6.7 million km² of ocean, an area nearly equal to the continental United States, including 4% of the global total reef area and over 480 coral species (60% of all known coral species).⁶ This ambitious challenge exceeds current goals set by international conventions and treaties. For example, Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 called for countries to conserve 17% of terrestrial and 10% of marine resources by 2020. The challenge also emphasizes the need for Micronesian leaders to work together at the regional level to confront environmental and sustainable development issues, in a rapidly changing world (see Appendix J).

In the years since the launch of the Micronesia Challenge (MC), much progress has been made at national and regional levels to achieve the MC 2020 conservation goals (see Appendix K). Yet despite the MC successes to date, the Micronesia region continues to face critical environmental challenges. Some of these challenges, such as the impacts of climate change, were poorly understood over a decade ago. Others have been known to be destructive, such as unsustainable land-use practices, coastal pollution, overfishing and depletion of other marine living resources,

⁵ For more information about the Micronesia Challenge 2020, please see:

<http://themicronesiachallenge.blogspot.com/p/about.html>

⁶ <https://oceanwealth.org/project-areas/micronesia/>

and continue to threaten the prosperity of Micronesian large ocean states. From concerns of national food security and economic stability to preserving traditional ways of life, the future of Micronesia’s ocean and land environment remains vulnerable. To address these continued threats, the governments of Micronesia issued a joint communique (Appendix J) at the 24th Micronesia Island Forum (MIF) in July 2019 proclaiming collective political ambitions for the region, including an updated ambitious plan: a 2030 Micronesia Challenge (MC 2030). The MC 2030 builds on the success and accomplishments of the MC—as noted in the MC 2020 Evaluation⁷—to pursue a collective approach to address critical issues such as sustainable livelihoods, fisheries management, enforcement capacity and climate-related disaster risk reduction and management. The commitments outlined in the 2019 MIF Joint Communique include MC 2030 Conservation and Community Benefit Targets as well as MC 2030 Process Targets.

MC 2030 Conservation and Community Benefit Targets:

- Effectively manage at least 50% of marine resources and 30% of terrestrial resources across Micronesia (linked with SDG 14.5; 15.1);
- Increase the number of community members within each jurisdiction who are deriving livelihoods, including any type of income or revenue, from sustainable managed natural resources (as determined by MC Measures Working Group) (linked to SDG 14.7);
- Reduce the risks from climate impacts for communities within flood zones and on low-lying islands (linked to SDG 13.1, 14.2);
- Reduce invasive species and increase restoration of habitats (linked to SDG 15.5).

MC 2030 Process Targets:

- Incorporate regional and jurisdictional fisheries management approaches, integrated with MPAs (linked to SDG 14.4);
- Increase local investment by MC governments in sustainable finance mechanisms, such as green fees and endowments, to leverage additional external investment to achieve new conservation and community benefit targets;
- Institutionalize and fully resource the MC Regional Office, including funding for at least three staff (Executive Director, Administrative position, and Communications support);

⁷ For more information about the Micronesia Challenge 2020 Evaluation, including summaries of each jurisdictions’ successes and accomplishments, please see: <https://themicronesiachallenge.blogspot.com/p/community.html?m=1>

- Expand the MC Steering Committee to include two focal points from each jurisdiction, one cabinet-level political designate and one operational/technical designate.

These updated MC 2030 targets are aligned with jurisdictional priorities and the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.

This GEF Project, “*Strengthening and enabling the 2030 Micronesia Challenge*,” aims to enhance national and regional marine management for sustainable development objectives proposed for the Micronesia Challenge 2030. It will do so through three Components: (1) National progress on regional and international ocean goals, including the Micronesia Challenge and Sustainable Development Goals; (2) Sustaining regional natural resources management in Micronesia through support to the MC 2030; and (3) Knowledge Management and Project Monitoring & Evaluation. This project focuses on RMI, FSM, and Palau.

1.2 Environmental Problem(s), Threats and Root Causes

The 1997 Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for International Waters of Pacific Islands recognized several threats to the WPWP LME’s health, including (i) pollution of marine and freshwater (including groundwater) from land-based activities; (ii) physical, ecological and hydrological modification of critical habitats, and; (iii) unsustainable exploitation of living and nonliving resources. While high level, the SAP provides the original regional framework within which actions are identified, developed and implemented. Past targeted investments have addressed Integrated Coastal and Watershed Management (ICWM) and Oceanic Fisheries Management (OFM) to set out a path for the transition from sectoral to integrated management of International Waters as a whole, which is consider essential for long-term protection for the whole LME. The WPWP LME assessment within the GEF Transboundary Watershed Assessment Program (TWAP) noted that the WPWP LME is continuing to experience multiple threats to ocean health, including the increased impacts of climate change on ocean water temperatures, acidification, sea level rise, and increased storm activity. For example, the TWAP has estimated that by 2030, 11.44% of coral cover in the WPWP is predicted to be under very high to critical level of threat from warming and acidification.

More recently, the SPREP-led 2020 State of the Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands noted more specific environmental problems across multiple relevant environmental indicators on governance, coastal and marine, conservation and protection, biodiversity, and

climate. This includes regional recommendations for partnering for harmonized environmental monitoring and management, including transboundary coordination for the mitigation of transboundary hazards that threaten coastal fish populations, and the protection of coral reefs and other essential habitats for food security and economically important pelagic fish.

The MC resulted in meaningful progress towards addressing multiple environmental problems, yet key threats at both the national and transboundary Micronesia-wide level continue to persist. The key environmental problems identified by this project include:

- 1) Degradation of marine habitats;
- 2) Overfishing of commercially and environmentally important fish stocks , and;
- 3) Insufficient management of climate change impacts on natural resources.

These problems are significantly impacting Micronesia’s terrestrial and marine environments and biodiversity, reducing important provisioning of ecosystem services, which for some countries, support a significant portion of national economic production and social wellbeing. As a highly complex social-ecological systems, many of these environmental problems are intricately linked in each geography. Declining fish stocks, for example, impacts both the health of marine ecosystems and the wellness of the regional human population. Loss of biodiversity and keystone species can lead to trophic cascades and the accelerated degradation of entire ecosystems. This harms the food security and health of the island populations dependent on fisheries for adequate nutrition.⁸

Threat #1: Degradation of marine habitats: Many of the inhabited atolls and islands of Micronesia are experiencing significant marine habitat degradation, especially in coastal areas that are predominately covered with coral reef, seagrass, and mangrove environments. These degraded marine habitats are typically the result of a myriad of threats, including local pollution and sedimentation issues due to poor land management practices, overfishing of important reef fish species such as parrotfish, and destructive fishing practices, to name a few. Increasing marine ecosystem tipping points have been passed, resulting in once thriving ecosystems to decrease in productivity or in some cases turn barren and unproductive. While often addressed at the local community and island-wide scale, the increasing degradation of land areas and linked coastal and marine habitats is leading to significant reductions of healthy habitats across Micronesia and is a major source of concern to human health and economic livelihoods.

⁸ Gillett, R. D. *Fisheries in the Economies of Pacific Island Countries and Territories*. Secretariat of the Pacific Community (2016).

For much of Micronesia, one of the main root causes of marine habitat degradation is population growth. In FSM, the population has almost doubled in less than 50 years and in RMI it has almost tripled in the same time frame. Palau’s population has increased by over 50% since 1970—leading to an increased consumption of and fishing pressure on certain species of reef and pelagic fish. The impacts of local population growth have also been exacerbated with increases in tourism for some islands. This has led to rapid and concentrated development, often on very limited land area with sensitive coastal habitats and delicate hydrological systems. Many large projects such as construction of airports and deep draft harbors have been a major driver in mangrove forest and coral reef ecosystem decline. Some poorly planned agricultural production and associated deforestation have further led to sediment and nutrient pollution, choking many coastal habitats.

Threat #2: Overfishing of commercially and environmentally important fish stocks: The Pacific provides roughly 64% of the global tuna harvest, and the waters within the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) of RMI, FSM, and Palau are all significant contributors.⁹ These pelagic fisheries are vital to the Pacific island economies, when combined with aquaculture brought in an estimated \$3.2 billion in 2014.¹⁰ While pelagic tuna stocks are not overfished nor undergoing overfishing,¹¹ coastal reef fisheries are being overfished at alarming rates.¹² Many of these coastal fish species serve important ecological roles. Unsustainable fishing can trigger declines in the overall health of coral reef and other coastal habitats, with potentially numerous cascading effects including jeopardizing food security and reducing resilience to impacts of climate change. Developing locally-based and well-managed fisheries offers an opportunity to alleviate pressure on culturally important reef fish stocks and support socioeconomic wellbeing.

Threat #3: Insufficient management of climate change impacts on natural resources: Climate change is a major threat to Micronesian large ocean states and has already had major impacts on each country’s environment, society, and economies. As highlighted in the 2019 IPCC Special Report on the Oceans and Cryosphere, the largest threats for Micronesian countries include sea level rise, ocean warming, ocean acidification, and deoxygenation, as well as

⁹ Gillett, R. 2016. *Fisheries in the economies of Pacific Island Countries and Territories*. Pacific Community (SPC).

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ Harley, S., Peter, W., Nicol, S., Hampton, J. & Brouwer, S. *The Western and Central Pacific Tuna Fishery: 2018 overview and status of stocks*. *Tuna Fisheries Assessment Report No.15* (2019).

¹² Birkeland, C. Working with, not against, coral-reef fisheries. *Coral Reefs* **36**, 1–11 (2017).

changes to climate systems that are forecasted to cause increased floods and droughts, as well as more intense tropical cyclones. While the threats of climate change to Micronesian large ocean states are often existential and must be addressed far beyond their borders, there is much that can be done locally to better mitigate and adapt to climate change impact for managing natural resources. For Micronesia, one of the largest hurdles to managing climate change impacts on natural resources is insufficient data and knowledge at local and state levels for informed and adaptive decision making. Addressing the climate change impacts of issues of sea level rise, ocean warming, acidification, deoxygenation, and increased variability of weather, necessitates more rapid and informed decision-making processes that are coordinated across Micronesia.

While these environmental problems are most acute at the national level, the ecosystem connectivity among island, atolls, and archipelagos across the Micronesia region necessitates a regional approach to developing solutions. Regional action is further necessitated given the highly migratory nature of many commercially important pelagic fish species that traverse the EEZs of all Micronesian large ocean states. The initial success of the Micronesia Challenge has established sound national terrestrial and coastal protected area network systems and a sustainable financing mechanism, yet substantially more work is needed for the five MC jurisdictions to collectively address the above environmental problems through a coordinated, regional effort. The newly promoted MC 2030 represents an opportunity to reinvigorate interest in working together take action on the most challenging issues facing the region.

1.3 National and Sectoral Context

Western Pacific Warm Pool Large Marine Ecosystem

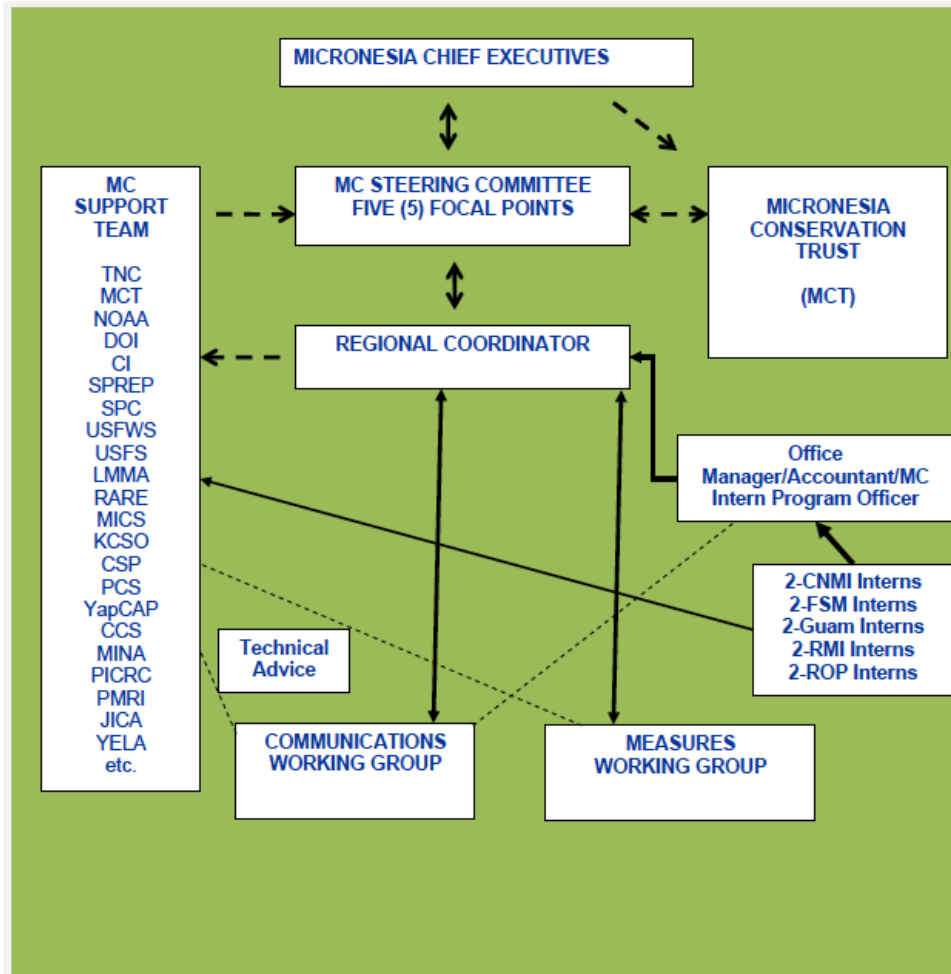
In 1997 the GEF supported a comprehensive analysis of trans-boundary marine issues in the Western Pacific Warm Pool Large Marine Ecosystem (WPWP LME) which led to a Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for International Waters of Pacific Islands by the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). The SAP was adopted in 1997 by fourteen Pacific Island States: Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. The SAP identified three priority transboundary concerns: (i) pollution of marine and freshwater (including groundwater) from land-based activities; (ii) physical, ecological and hydrological modification of critical habitats, and; (iii) unsustainable exploitation of living and nonliving resources. The SAP served as the basis for additional GEF support from 2000 – 2004 for the implementation of SAP priorities on Oceanic Fisheries Management (OFM) and the Integrated

Coastal and Watershed Management (ICWM) components with the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC). More recently, support for the WPWP LME has continued towards a narrowing focus on important pelagic fisheries management because of the immediate economic importance for many island nations. However, addressing the other priority transboundary concerns of the SAP have not been prioritized, namely: (i) pollution of marine and freshwater (including groundwater) from land-based activities, and; (ii) physical, ecological and hydrological modification of critical habitats, as well as addressing the unsustainable exploitation of reef fisheries and other living and nonliving resources.

Regional

Because of the global and local significance of the marine and terrestrial environments of the Micronesia region, the Chief Executives of RMI, FSM, Palau, as well as U.S. Territories of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI) signed on to the Micronesia Challenge in 2006. The Micronesia Challenge (MC) is a shared commitment to effectively conserve at least 30% of near-shore marine resources and 20% of terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020. This ambitious challenge far exceeds current goals set by international conventions and treaties, such as Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 calling for countries to conserve 17% of terrestrial and 10% of marine resources by 2020. The challenge also emphasizes the need for Micronesian leaders to work together at the regional level to confront environmental and sustainable development issues in a rapidly changing world. The overall MC organizational framework is depicted in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Micronesia Challenge Organizational Framework (A report on Progress to Implement the Micronesia Challenge 2006–2011).



The Micronesia Challenge Operational Framework includes the following functional members:

- *Micronesia Chief Executives*: Presidents of Palau, FSM, RMI and Governors of Guam and CNMI. The Chief Executives jointly discuss progress towards the MC every six months at the Micronesia Island Forum.
- *Micronesia Challenge Steering Committee (MCSC)*: Comprised of a focal point from each of the five jurisdictions as well as Executive Director of MCT and the Chair of the MC Regional Support Team, the MCSC oversees the regional coordination and implementation of the MC.
- *Micronesia Challenge Regional Office (MCRO)*: Established in 2008, the MCRO coordinates and contributes to the development, improvement, and implementation of the MC Young Champions Interns Program, MC Regional Communications Strategy, MC Regional Monitoring Framework, and MC Regional Sustainable Finance Plan.
- *Micronesia Conservation Trust*: Established in 2002 as 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.” In 2006, MCT was selected by the five MC jurisdictions to house the MC Endowment Fund and has since fully regionalized its Board and organizational structure and services. The purpose of the MC Endowment Fund is to support establishment and to sustain management of the national Protected Area Networks. In order for the jurisdictions to request funding from the endowment at MCT, they must have the following in place: national PAN laws and associated regulations and guidelines; a PAN technical committee and a national coordinator to oversee the daily work of the PAN; as well as a mechanism to receive, disburse and manage the funds. Disbursements are done on an annual basis based on MCT's Investment Policy Guidelines.

- *Regional Support Team (RST)*: The RST provides high-level support to partners in Micronesia in their efforts to implement the MC. The RST is comprised of regional and global NGO and government representatives as well as staff from U.S. Federal Agencies.
- *Communications Working Group (CWG)*: Originally comprised of communications staff from each jurisdiction, the CWG was organized by a communications specialist in the first years of the MC. Currently without a central point of contact, the CWG has been less active in recent years.
- *Measures Working Groups (MWG)*: Since the inception of the MC, MC Measures Working Groups were established to define ways to measure the progress of the Micronesia Challenge goals by identifying sets of regional indicators and appropriate methods. Core team members representing local government and NGO partners in marine, socioeconomic, and terrestrial topic areas guide priorities and work with the MC Regional Coordinator to identify gaps and needs.

Since the 2006 signing of the Micronesia Challenge, the member jurisdictions have made significant progress in enacting resource governance policies that align with MC 2020 objectives. For example, RMI developed the *Reimaanlok* framework as a national effort towards a unified, uniquely tailored conservation approach. This framework ultimately led to the adoption of RMI's PAN Act of 2015 and the National Oceans Policy and Implementation Plan of 2017. The government of FSM established a Protected Areas Network Policy Framework in 2015 to establish the operational details for achieving state and national objectives. In January 2020, Palau fully implemented the Palau National Marine Sanctuary in which 80% of the nation's exclusive economic zone is protected as a no-take sanctuary. Additional information about these stated initiatives is provided in the regional information below as well as in the MC 2020 Evaluation.

At the 24th Micronesia Island Forum (MIF) in Chuuk, FSM, the governments of CNMI, Guam, Palau, RMI, and FSM issued a Joint Communiqué that updated the targets for the future 2030 Micronesia Challenge (Appendix J). The updated MC 2030 targets build on the success of the MC 2020 and are aligned with jurisdictional priorities and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The exemplary MC 2030 targets are based on input from each jurisdiction and initial recommendations from the interview process during the development of the independent MC 2020 Evaluation.

In addition to country engagement in the Micronesia Challenge, RMI, FSM, and Palau also participate in numerous other regional marine resource management efforts, including:

- The **Micronesian Islands Forum (MIF)** is an annual high-level summit that convenes heads of state from RMI, FSM, and Palau as well as governors from Guam, CNMI, and the four states of FSM to discuss and establish regional cooperation across many initiatives. The MIF has been the main forum for discussing and launching the original MC and the recently updated MC 2030.
- **Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)**, assists islands in addressing one of the world's greatest challenges—to protect and sustainably manage the invaluable natural resources that support people, cultures, and livelihoods in their island homes around the world. Called for by the Presidents of Seychelles and Palau at the Mauritius International Meeting on the Sustainable Development of Islands in January of 2005, GLISPA was launched in March 2006 to actively support implementation of the new Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity under the CBD and other related global policies.
- The **Fisheries Forum Agency (FFA)** is an advisory body providing expertise, technical assistance, and other support to its members—which includes RMI, FSM, and Palau—who then make sovereign decisions about their tuna resources and participate in regional decision making engagements on tuna management.¹³
- The **Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA)** is a sub-regional agreement with terms and conditions for tuna purse seine fishing licenses.¹⁴ The Parties to the Nauru Agreement include FSM, Kiribati, RMI, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.

¹³ <https://www.ffa.int/about>

¹⁴ https://www.ffa.int/nauru_agreement

- **Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)** is a regional organization tasked with promoting cooperation and providing assistance across the Pacific to protect and improve the environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations. SPREP coordinates the State of the Environment (SoE) reports completed by member countries every decade.
- The **Pacific Community (SPC)** is an international development organization focused on development issues within the context of the region, including climate change, disaster risk management, food security, gender equality, human rights, non-communicable diseases and youth employment. The organization facilitates the sharing of technical experience and knowledge, and helps to implement specific development projects and activities in support of its members.
- **Pacific Islands Managed and Protected Area Community (PIMPAC)** provides continuous opportunities for the sharing of information, expertise, practice, and experience to develop and strengthen site-based and ecosystem-based management capacity throughout the Pacific Islands region.

In addition to each country's regional engagement, important national level efforts are also underway to address the identified environmental problems.

Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI)

The RMI Office of Environmental Planning and Planning Coordination, now called the Climate Change Directorate (CCD), is the focal point office for the Micronesia Challenge and includes a representative on the Micronesia Challenge Steering Committee (MCSC). The role of CCD is anticipated to change in 2020 as part of a larger reorganization within the RMI government.

Through a comprehensive stakeholder driven process, MIMRA along with CMAC partners developed a National Oceans Policy in 2017. The **Marshall Islands 2017 National Ocean Policy** includes guiding principles and an accompanying implementation plan. This plan focuses on important marine resource management themes, including sustainable fisheries, coral reefs and marine protected areas, marine pollution, and climate change impacts. Officially titled 'The National Guiding Principles to Sustain and be Sustained by Our Ocean and Coral Reefs', the guiding principles document is the main roadmap for achieving the National Oceans Governance Vision, which reads: *"As a large ocean nation with a rich history in sustaining and being sustained by the resources of the sea, we commit to ensuring that our resilience in the face of global oceans challenges endures for generations to come."* The Guiding Principles provide a set of policy directives to the national government to steer its activities at the national and local

government level as well as communicate the RMI's priorities and activities at the international level, including voluntary commitments to the United Nations Ocean Conference in June 2017.

Reimaanlok Conservation Area Planning Process is a national framework for the planning and establishment of community-based conservation areas in the Marshall Islands. It includes guidelines, principles, and processes for the design and management of protected areas by local communities. *Reimaanlok* was complemented by the passage of a **Protected Areas Network (PAN) Act** in 2015. An updated PAN Act was passed in 2018 which included new provisions that housed a PAN office within the **Marshall Islands Marine Resource Authority (MIMRA)** and tasked MIMRA with coordinating with CMAC (see below). *Reimaanlok* processes are facilitated with communities through a collaborative approach involving a group of national agencies and stakeholders known as the **Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC)**. CMAC's mission is "*to provide an enhanced mechanism for collaboration, integration and technical advice across multiple sectors to support communities in the implementation of the Reimaanlok process and other national priorities.*" CMAC roles were recently updated in 2018 PAN Act amendments, and now require, among other things, updating and integrating outdated strategic planning documents. In 2020, MIMRA operationalized Protected Area Network Regulations to further support protected areas established by communities in the RMI. Current CMAC membership includes the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA), RMI Environmental Protection Authority (RMIEPA), Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs (MoCIA), Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce (MoNRC), Climate Change Directorate (CCD), RMI Historic Preservation Office (RMIHPO), National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), Marshall Islands Conservation Society (MICS), College of the Marshall Islands (CMI), International Office of Migration (IOM), University of the South Pacific (USP), Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI), Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade (MoFAT), Office of Commerce, Investment, & Tourism (OCIT), and Jo-Jikum.

Recently, MIMRA—through its role as secretariat for CMAC—has taken on a larger role in marine resource management, including supporting progress towards Micronesia Challenge 2020 and 2030 goals. MIMRA is the agency with primary responsibility for the management and regulation of marine and fisheries resources, exploration, fishing licenses and conservation in RMI. Its mandate covers both the inshore coastal and offshore fishery resources. **The Marine Zones (Declaration) Act 1984** specifies a 12 nautical mile territorial sea and 200 nautical mile zone for RMI's EEZ. Inshore fisheries are designated to be within 5 miles of the shoreline. **The Marine Resources Act 1997** is the key legislative instrument controlling fishing by domestic and foreign vessels within the EEZ and was amended in 2011.

Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)

National-level marine management priorities for FSM were initially outlined in their 2002 **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)**. The NBSAP 2002 vision sought to develop more diverse and rich ecosystems that met the needs of humans while allowing natural ecosystems and functions to flourish. In 2018, **NBSAP 2018–2023** was released. It maintained the original vision and themes yet revised the content to tie into developments over the intervening years. These developments include the establishment of the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) in 2002, the release of *A Blueprint for Conserving the Biodiversity of the Federated States of Micronesia* in 2003, the Micronesia Challenge in 2006, and the new law banning commercial fishing in the 12nm zone contiguous to the territorial sea in 2017.

In 2003 *A Blueprint for Conserving the Biodiversity of the Federated States of Micronesia* was developed in response to the NBSAP 2002 and outlined an ecoregional plan for the conservation of biodiversity in FSM. This effort was led by TNC in collaboration with the FSM federal and state governments.

In 2006 FSM committed to the Micronesia Challenge along with other Micronesian countries with the aim of conserving 30% of nearshore resources and at least 20% of forest resources across Micronesia by 2020. In support of this commitment and the commitment under the CBD, the FSM government established a **National Protected Areas Network (PAN) Policy Framework** in 2018. The National PAN is administered by the Department of Resources and Development (R&D) in conjunction with State Focal Points, the MCT and the Technical Committee. The Technical Committee members are nominated by the State Government and confirmed by the Secretary of R&D. The Technical Committee duties include evaluating applications for PAN sites and providing written recommendations to the National PAN Coordinator based on established criteria. They are also responsible for evaluating funding requests and providing written decisions for these requests to the National PAN Coordinator. Some of the FSM states have also enacted corresponding PAN legislation referencing the National Protected Areas Policy Framework and articulating how they tie into national efforts.

Also in 2018, a World Bank funded Coastal Fisheries Situation Analysis Report was provided to government agencies in FSM as a part of the Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program (PROP) project. A key recommendation from the Report, within the coastal fisheries thematic area, was to develop a national-level coastal fisheries policy that updates fisheries management

interests at the local, state, and national levels. R&D is now actively working with SPC to begin the process of developing a new coastal fisheries report that will eventually require congressional support.

To meet its CBD and Micronesia Challenge target, FSM has had to contend with a more difficult process than that of its neighbors. By virtue of having four constituent semi-autonomous states, FSM has had to develop its national policy in concert with its states. The logistics of this mean that it is not uniformly adopted, with states developing individual PAN legislation or regulations to connect with national efforts. R&D is also responsible for establishing the Country Program Strategy and mechanism for the disbursement and management of FSM's Micronesia Challenge Endowment Fund.

To achieve the objectives of the National Protected Areas Network Policy Framework, each of the four states have pursued legislative or policy-based initiatives, including:

- Chuuk: On October 2017, Chuuk State Law No. 14-17-05 was enacted establishing the Chuuk State Protected Area Network.
- Kosrae: The Protected Area Act was established in 2010 and denoted the Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority (KIRMA) as the agency with power and duty to implement and enforce it.
- Yap: The Yap State Protected Areas Network Regulations entered into force on October 2019.
- Pohnpei: The Marine Resources Conservation Act of 1981, the Pohnpei Watershed Act of 1987, and the Marine Sanctuary and Wildlife Refuge Act of 1999 continue to be the authorities by which species habitats are conserved and MPAs are established in Pohnpei.

Republic of Palau

In line with the goals established under the Micronesia Challenge, the Government of Palau declared approximately 80% of its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), an area approximately 475,077 km², protected under the **Palau National Marine Sanctuary (PNMS) Act** in 2015.¹⁵ As

¹⁵ http://www.paclii.org/pw/legis/num_act/msrn9492015252.pdf

of January 2020, this area is now a “no-take” zone in which fishing and the extraction, disturbance, destruction, removal, or alternation of any Sanctuary resource is expressly prohibited.¹⁶ The PNMS Act limits the remaining area of Palau’s EEZ, called the Domestic Fishing Zone (DFZ), to fishing efforts, split between a fishing zone (24nm to the western edge of Palau’s EEZ; the only area where longline and purse seine vessels can operate), the Contiguous Zone (from 12–24nm; where pole-and-line vessels can operate), and the Territorial Sea (from baseline to 12nm; where only domestic fishers can operate). All commercial exports are banned¹⁷ except for catch from purse seine and long-line vessels, with a requirement to land their catch in Palau beforehand, unless exempted by the Minister of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism.¹⁸

Responsibility for overseeing the PNMS rests with the following agencies: the Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC), the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism (MNRET) and the Ministry of Justice (MOJ). **PICRC’s** role is to administer the PNMS by coordinating research, education, and outreach activities relating to the PNMS and DFZ, and developing and recommending to MNRET appropriate conservation management measures for the DFZ. PICRC now receives \$5 of the \$100 each visitor pays to Palau’s PPEF (Pristine Paradise Environmental Fee).¹⁹ **MNRET** is responsible for management and conservation of the PNMS no-take zone and the DFZ. **The Ministry of Justice’s** mandate is to protect the safety of persons and wildlife within the Republic’s jurisdiction, including restrictions pertaining to the EEZ, the DFZ and the PNMS.²⁰ An additional \$5 from each visitor is directed to a **Fisheries Protection Trust Fund**, which is intended to help fund MNRET and MOJ activities related to the PNMS and DFZ.

1.4 Barriers addressed by the project

Achieving stronger transboundary marine management to secure healthier marine ecosystems and sustainable nearshore fisheries across Micronesia requires fostering regional collaboration.

¹⁶ RPPL 09-49 § 4. Amends 27 PNC § 149; RPPL 10-157 § 7. Amends 27 PNC § 181 (n)

¹⁷ RPPL 10-157 § 4. Amends 27 PNC § 164 (b)

¹⁸ RPPL 10-157 § 4. Amends 27 PNC § 164 (c); RPPL 10-157 § 7. Amends 27 PNC § 181 (m). This landing requirement can be waived by the Minister of Natural Resources, Environment, and Tourism. RPPL 10-157 § 4. Amends 27 PNC § 164 (d)

¹⁹ RPPL 10-157 § 11. Amends 40 PNC § 2706 (b)

²⁰ RPPL 10-157 § 12. Amends 2 PNC § 105 (a)

With the endorsement of new MC 2030 goals at the 24th Micronesia Island Forum (MIF) in July 2019, the jurisdictions have an opportunity to strengthen current management national and regional management approaches but now face the immediate task of planning and implementing these new conservation goals and process targets. The previous phase of the Micronesia Challenge produced significant experiences and lessons learned, yet also faced barriers that must be addressed to achieve MC 2030 regional and national goals. These specific barriers have been identified by the independent evaluation of the MC and the terminal evaluation of the 2015 GEF UNEP project that supported the Micronesia Challenge. The barriers were further confirmed through stakeholder consultations during the development of this project.

In 2019, The MCSC commissioned an independent evaluation of the Micronesia Challenge on the occasion of the nearing the end of the MC 2020 goals. The evaluation report, completed in May 2020, includes a retrospective look at the MC performance across a number of themes, including governance and conservation impact. The MC evaluation²¹ also includes recommendations that will be used by MCRO and other MC stakeholders over the coming decade to inform more successful achievement of the MC 2030 goals. The content from the evaluation significantly aided the compilation of this project proposal—especially in identifying relevant barriers to success.

To successfully achieve the MC 2030 goals this project aims to address the immediate barriers that are jeopardizing the Micronesia Challenge enabling environment, including regional and national barriers that are compromising integrated natural resource planning, coordination effectiveness, and level of awareness. More specifically, the main barriers addressed by the project include: a) Limited national and regional capacity and insufficient management effectiveness; b) Limited coordination and harmonization of national management efforts through a regional lens; c) Limited communication of Micronesia Challenge goals to political and general audiences, and at the national level; d) Insufficient inter-institutional and multi-sectoral planning and management.

Regional Barriers

- **Limited integrated ecosystem-based marine and nearshore fisheries management capacity and effectiveness**

²¹ The Micronesia Challenge 2020 Evaluation Report can be found at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1e503p9takhxTRRH76oD6Gdri7AYhsbNA/view>

National and regional capacity limitations are a persistent issue in Micronesia. Limited funding and other resources, as well as overworked current government staff, and limited labor pools make finding and retaining staff difficult. Furthermore, access to professional and business resources are expensive and often unreliable. These staffing and capacity limitations have been a significant barrier towards implementation of marine ecosystem management efforts, that overtime, have also led to a lack of integration of ecosystem-based management approaches to mutually address healthy marine ecosystems and sustainable management of coastal and nearshore fisheries. This has resulted in very limited effectiveness at integrating the management of these key marine natural resources at both national and regional levels. Recommendations from recent MC evaluations have determined that long-term success of the MC will require a robust and fully functioning MCRO to facilitate regional coordination across the five participating Micronesia jurisdictions. Further, due to limited capacity and funding, some MC responsibilities have been absorbed by the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT), including fundraising efforts, administrative and financial tasks, and coordination of MC measures groups asked with monitoring MC goal progress (social, terrestrial, marine). The compilation of the MC Steering Committee has further been recognized as a structural barrier for long-term MC success. This includes often overtaxed national focal points, serving on the MC voluntarily on top of existing full-time national responsibilities. A lack of national staff to support national MC focal points on the steering committee has led to difficulty with follow up and implementation of MCSC decisions. All of this is further compounded by a lack of current long-term planning, including fundraising efforts. Current MCRO planning occurs on an annual basis without guidance from a strategic vision. There is a critical need to overcome these capacity and management barriers to guide regional and national activities towards a common goal.

- **Limited coordination and harmonization of national marine ecosystem and nearshore fisheries management efforts through a regional lens**

Micronesia Challenge regional coordination responsibilities are led by the Micronesia Challenge Regional Office (MCRO) and governed by the Micronesia Challenge Steering Committee (MCSC). Since its inception, MCRO has often been understaffed and occasionally lacked any staff at all. On top of MCRO staffing, the MC evaluations flagged the limited national-level capacity to support the MCRO as a barrier to harmonized engagement towards regional goals and addressing transboundary priority concerns. The 2019 MIF Joint Communique requested that two national focal points per jurisdiction support the MCRO as members of the MC Steering Committee – one technical member and one senior member. A persistent imbalance in capacity and agency within the MC Steering Committee representation, and insufficient capacity to attend

with enough frequency have resulted in limited agency to enact change at a high enough level within respective national governments. In addition, the informal nature of MC structures and management of shared data resources (for MC measures groups in particular) were noted by the evaluations to further strain the coordination and harmonization of approaches between national management efforts. The sum of these inhibiting factors strains the ability for effective regional coordination of national resource management efforts and missing critical opportunities to link teleconnected marine ecosystems and fisheries, as well as data and knowledge. In order to strengthen regional and national marine resource planning and securing healthy marine ecosystems and sustainable fisheries, it will be essential that regional collaboration is strengthened through the MC framework.

- **Limited communication of Micronesia Challenge goals and transboundary importance to key audiences, including public and private sector leaders**

While the Micronesia Challenge may be well known within the environmental community, in recent years there has been declining awareness of the objectives and direct benefits of the MC to local communities both within higher-level political spheres, private sector actors, and across the general public of Micronesia. This declining awareness has led to difficulties communicating the importance of regional collaboration to address transboundary marine resources issues, implementing integrated management approaches nationally, and difficulty with securing financing (both pursuing and securing grants as well as mainstreaming into existing national budgeting processes) to support healthier marine ecosystems and more sustainably managed nearshore fisheries. With the absence of a communications staff member in MCRO and the decreased engagement of a communications working group, the level of political and public awareness and engagement in MC efforts has decreased significantly. The decline in communications capacity has also led to decreased consistency in branding and messaging, resulting in often counterproductive and mixed messaging among jurisdictions and with regional and international efforts. The lack of coordination amongst communications staff from each jurisdiction decreases the ability for officials to convey locally relevant opportunities and successes to broader audiences. Furthermore, this lack of targeted capacity impairs the ability for communication of MC achievements to global audiences which could aid in additional private sector investment and fundraising to further support the MC towards achieving healthier coastal and marine ecosystems. The communication limitations were highlighted as one of the most important barriers that need to be addressed by the MC evaluation. Overcoming this barrier with increased awareness of the MC and its goals will be a critical step towards true integrated management at the national and regional levels.

National Barriers:

At the national level, RMI, FSM, and Palau are at different stages of planning and implementation of marine resource management and sustainable fisheries aligned under the Micronesia Challenge. However, with the expansion of the MC 2030 conservation goals and process targets, all three countries are seeking to advance national plans that also support meeting objectives of the SDGs and Aichi Targets. Healthy marine habitats across all of Micronesia are recognized as important mechanisms to improve commercial fish stocks, attract more tourism, and link other economies that are critical to the sustainable development of these island nations. Efforts to strengthen management of marine resources in Micronesia have been pursued in recent years, including GEF support to the first phase of the Micronesia Challenge. While these efforts have made considerable progress, key barriers continue to remain. Recent independent evaluations of the Micronesia Challenge have identified key barriers that must be addressed for long-term success of the Micronesia Challenge.

Republic of the Marshall Islands

- **Lack of strategic planning, including updating and integrating CMAC and PAN Strategic Plans, and alignment with Micronesia Challenge 2030 goals.**

In the Marshall Islands, long-term healthier coastal and marine ecosystems and more sustainably managed nearshore fisheries through achievement of the MC 2030 goals entails effective support to PAN implementation under CMAC's new stated mission as a result of the amended 2018 PAN Act. Currently CMAC is guided by an outdated 2016 CMAC Strategic Plan and Terms of Reference that needs to be realigned with the PAN. The main project barrier is the lack of an integrated and updated strategic plan that is aligned with the MC 2030—through national priorities such as the 2017 National Environment Management Strategy and 2017 National Ocean Policy. The expanded conservation goals of the Micronesia Challenge 2030 will require further stakeholder engagement through the *Reimaanlok* process and planning that must be mainstreamed into a new integrated and comprehensive CMAC Strategic Plan. Lack of an updated and integrated planning document for CMAC and PAN will severely limit its effectiveness to accomplish not only future national priorities, but also regional Micronesia Challenge 2030 goals.

- **Lack of document and data management, data synthesis, and inconsistent targeted research and data collection/monitoring to provide effective technical advisory functions.**

A core focus of CMAC members has always been towards a science-based and data driven approach to inform decision making for managing marine ecosystems and fisheries. This focus was further formalized under the amended PAN Act in 2018, such that CMAC is tasked with, among other powers and duties, to, “*Provide or arrange technical assistance to the LRCs for management of their protected areas including, but not limited to, assistance in surveying, monitoring, developing site management plans, identifying and establishing sustainable use practices, conducting scientific investigations, and educating the public about conservation and protected areas.*” Historically, CMAC members have relied on their respective organizations or personal data management systems if any such resources exist. Because CMAC members have been active in collecting field data to establish baselines as part of the *Reimaanlok* process, there is now a considerable amount of data collected. However, this data has been managed disparately by individual members, making assimilation and synthesis very difficult and creating a barrier for CMAC to advise decision making and management. With CMAC’s new formal technical assistance role with the PAN Office, there is now an important need to update and centralize current data management practices so that science-based recommendations can more efficiently inform both strategic planning and adaptive management. Moreover, updated data management practices will provide a more streamlined monitoring process to assess implementation of CMAC strategic plans and progress made towards national and regional goals, including the Micronesia Challenge 2030.

Federated States of Micronesia

- **Lack of an integrated nation-wide coastal-marine resource management plan, including alignment with MC 2030 goals**

The recently adopted National Protected Areas Network (PAN) Policy Framework is a major advancement for improved protected area management as a means for natural resource management in FSM, including marine resource management. In addition to this updated PAN Framework, new legislation was passed in 2017 that effectively expanded the management of fishing areas to 24nm from state baselines. This new legislation is a major step forward for FSM’s national fisheries efforts and for achieving expanded spatial management targets. While

these efforts are encouraging steps towards strengthened natural resource management, the two policies were created in parallel yet still present challenges for management integration and implementation that will strain limited staff and financial resources. There will be further confusion across management responsibility between PAN and fisheries policies, with a risk for competing management goals and inconsistent application between states. The lack of a nation-wide approach to guide each of FSM's four states towards consistent implementation will increasingly become a major barrier for long-term success. Compounding this barrier is the need to identify alignment of the MC 2030 goals with planning for these ongoing efforts.

- **Limited coordination and harmonization of state integrated coastal fisheries and PAN management efforts**

FSM is comprised of four states: Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae. These states maintain autonomy that politically empowers them to manage the governance of their natural resources including the nearshore, which each state manages differently. In Pohnpei and Kosrae, nearshore fisheries are owned and managed by the state, whereas in Yap and Chuuk the coastal resources are under the management of traditional reef owners.

As part of national support for state efforts there is an imperative need to build out the governance structures that will support coordinated state-level governance of natural resources. One mechanism for strengthening governance is the Protected Area Network Technical Committee (TC). The TC is a new governance group that will be comprised of four state marine resources staff, as well as representatives from NGOs, FSM College of Micronesia, etc. Connecting the efforts of the four states to the overarching national commitments under the CBD and Micronesia Challenge Initiative are necessary to harmonize and consolidate efforts. The ecological connectivity of FSM warrants cohesive policies and management plans that straddle these zones. Developing and applying such policies and management plans has the potential to harmonize national management efforts and leverage the connectivity of the states, their nearshore areas, and the offshore for aggregate benefits.

Republic of Palau

- **Lack of an integrated national plan or resources for creation of a domestic pelagic fishery, including alignment with MC 2030 goals**

The industrial pelagic fisheries sector in Palau is currently dominated by foreign-owned businesses. The PNMS legislation aims to foster the creation of a more productive domestic pelagic fishing industry to benefit local livelihoods and food security. However, Palau's domestic offshore fisheries sector is nascent, with no processing or storage facilities that can maintain fish cold enough to hold its high grade quality for raw preparations, and no dedicated marketplace to connect offshore fishers to potential buyers. Only a few Palauans are full-time offshore fishers, and currently operate small-scale, recreational vessels (i.e. day boats) using a variety of gear types (e.g., trolling, vertical longlines, jigging, live-bait handlining, and deep drop-stone (*Ika-shibi*)), and supply 6–16% of pelagic fish in Palau's domestic market. There is a high unwillingness from Palauans to enter the offshore fishery given its high operational costs and low returns (i.e., price and purchase uncertainty for pelagic fish). Furthermore, the national government agencies have had limited ability or capacity to integrate national laws or regulations and to coordinate across the multiple agencies and businesses needed to support enabling conditions for growing its nascent domestic pelagic fisheries. The implementation of the PNMS legislation provides a catalyzing moment for supporting the enabling conditions. The lack of this integrated national plan and the necessary resources for the creation of a domestic pelagic fishery is a major barrier for Palau to achieve long-term sustainability of the PNMS, including healthy ocean and coastal resources, and to meet their MC 2030 goals.

1.5 Baseline Scenario

Achieving stronger transboundary marine management to secure healthier marine ecosystems and sustainable nearshore fisheries across Micronesia requires addressing the above regional and national barriers that are preventing progress towards the primary transboundary concerns from the WPWP LME SAP and alignment with the recommendations from the 2020 SPREP State of the Environment report. The recently endorsed MC 2030 goals provide a very timely and critical opportunity to address these barriers through a fostering collaboration within the WPWP LME and overseeing coordination of national efforts of strengthen current marine ecosystem and coastal fisheries management. The baseline analysis—or "business as usual scenario " —

synthesizes the ongoing or planned actions that the RMI, FSM, and Palau governments and other key regional stakeholders will undertake in the coming years to address the above identified barriers to achieving effective integrated management of natural resources in Micronesia and successful implementation of Micronesia Challenge goals. Collectively, the following baseline initiatives represent the key project baseline and present a very timely opportunity for leverage to foster stronger collaboration within the WPWP LME to address key transboundary marine resource concerns that help implement national sustainable “blue economy” development strategies, including strengthened nearshore fisheries policy.

Regional-level Baselines

Strengthening integrated marine resource management across Micronesia requires building on multiple ongoing baseline initiatives at the regional and national level linked to the Micronesia Challenge. Most important of these, the recently endorsed MC 2030 goals serve as the primary vehicle for fostering collaboration and coordination in order to secure healthy marine ecosystems and sustainable nearshore fisheries within each national jurisdiction. The Micronesia Challenge is a commitment by the Chief Executives of RMI, FSM, Palau, the U.S. Territory of Guam and the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) to effectively conserve nearshore marine resources and terrestrial resources across Micronesia.

In July 2019, at the 24th MIF, Chief Executives expanded the scope of the MC goal by 2030 to “*Effectively manage at least 50% of marine resources and 30% of terrestrial resources across Micronesia (linked to SDG Goal 14.5; 15.1).*” These decisions were captured in the 23rd and 24th MIF Communique, yet it has been recommended that the initial set of decisions at the 24th MIF should be considered draft while more stakeholder input can be carried out in each jurisdiction over the coming years. The 24th MIF decisions and communique (Appendix J) also noted a few key recommendations for the MC that are planned over the next three years, including:

- Improve the institutional structure and capacity for the MC going forward including "institutionalize and fully resource the MC Regional Office, including funding for at least three staff (Executive Director, Administrative position, and Communications Support)".
- Hire an experienced communications person to focus on the development of communication products for the use of regional bodies.
- Expand the Steering Committee to include two focal points from each jurisdiction, one cabinet-level political designate, and one operational/technical designate.

The July 2019 MIF Joint Communiqué has set the stage for all five Micronesia jurisdictions to begin planning national-level activities to achieve the expanded Micronesia Challenge conservation and community benefit targets. Regionally, there are also several key initiatives planned to help achieve the new 2030 Micronesia Challenge goals.

Micronesia Challenge Regional Office (MCRO): As the main organization tasked with coordination of the Micronesia Challenge, the MCRO is actively coordinating efforts among all five MC jurisdictions to promote the MC as well as strengthen MC capacities in line with the 2019 MIF Joint Communiqué. The MCRO is advised by the MC Steering Committee (MCSC), which jointly oversee the overall long-term success of the Micronesia Challenge. The MCSC meets virtually monthly and has at least one face to face meeting at the MIF each year. The MCRO has multiple initiatives underway over the next three years that support promotion of the MC 2030 goals. These initiatives include:

- Annual workshops in 2021, 2022, and 2023 planned for each of the three measures groups (marine, terrestrial, and socio-economic)
- MC Young Champions event at Our Oceans Conference in 2020, with additional events showcased at future events in 2021 and 2022 (funding permitting)
- Jurisdictional coordination, logistical support and representation for MCSC at annual Micronesia Island Forums events in 2021, 2022, and 2023
- Communications and outreach efforts including hosting and maintaining the MC website (<http://www.micronesiachallenge.org/>)

MCRO cofinancing support for these efforts totals \$340,692 for the three-year project duration.

The Micronesia Challenge Young Champions Program (MCYC): The MCRO has recently expanded its mandate to coordinate the MC Young Champions Program. The MCYC Program is an undergraduate internship program designed to build the next generation of conservation leaders in Micronesia while promoting the goals of the Micronesia Challenge and Protected Areas Networks (PANs) and expanding the participation of all MC jurisdictions. The program provides funding for at least one intern from each MC jurisdiction to develop blogs, videos, podcasts, and other multimedia that highlights the rising environmental concerns of their respective jurisdictions as it relates to the Micronesia Challenge goals. For the upcoming three years, it is anticipated that the MC Young Champions program will continue annually with funding provided by the five jurisdictions.

USAID Climate Ready: The MCRO is anticipated to engage with USAID’s Climate Ready program²² over the next several years to update the MC’s approach towards climate resilience. The USAID Program will support the project objective of strengthening and enabling the MC 2030 by working towards one of the highlighted goals of the 2019 MIF Joint Communique specifically to, “*Reduce the risks from climate impacts for communities within flood zones and on low-lying islands (linked to SDG 13.1, 14.2).*” The USAID Climate Ready program aims to work with Pacific island governments and regional stakeholders to: (1) draft and implement policies to achieve national adaptation goals; (2) access and utilize international sources of climate financing; and (3) improve systems and expertise to better manage and monitor adaptation projects. The outcome of Climate Ready will help countries develop in accordance with their national adaptation strategies and aid in strengthening national blue economy opportunities—a key objective of the GEF International Waters Focal Area. Potential USAID Climate Ready support to the MCRO is anticipated between in 2021.

Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT): MCT currently provides administrative and financial services for MCRO, including playing a critical role as MCRO grants manager. MCT has also taken on coordination roles of the MC measures groups, which will continue over the upcoming 2021–2023 period. For the next three years, MCT is committed to strengthening MCRO capacities in accordance with the MC 2030 Process Targets so that MCRO can more effectively manage itself in the future. Over the next three years, MCT will provide staff support through 5–15% time of at least two MCT staff for strategic, project management, and financial support. MCT will also continue to elevate the profile of the MC at regional and international events, as part of the shared mission of the MC and MCT. MCT is also accredited for the Adaptation Fund (AF) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and is actively supporting fundraising to address climate change adaptation efforts linked to coastal fisheries and habitat restoration in Micronesia. MCT cofinancing support for these efforts totals \$470,850 for the three-year project duration.

MC Measures Working Groups: Since the inception of the MC, three MC Measures Working Groups—Marine, Terrestrial, Socioeconomic—were established to define ways to measure the progress of the Micronesia Challenge goals. Each measures working group includes a lead that works with the MCRO Coordinator to relay information to the MC Steering Committee. The marine measures lead has been housed at the University of Guam (UoG) marine lab since 2006, providing most of the technical support, capacity development, and coordination for marine

²² For more information, see: <https://www.pacificclimatechange.net/project/usaid-climate-ready>

monitoring with additional support provided by PICRC. However, the data coming into the marine measures database²³ has increased beyond the capacity for students at UoG to manage without a full-time database manager. The Terrestrial Measures Group has developed and posted results of monitoring on an online terrestrial ‘web viewer’ database,²⁴ which visually displays plot locations in each jurisdiction and provide summaries of data collected and results. The terrestrial measures group has been able to design an online database platform and hire a consultant to do data analysis beginning in 2018. For the most part, Socioeconomic Measures (SEM) activities to monitor effectiveness of MC sites throughout the region have been carried out through SEM-Pasifika training workshops since 2008 with support from the learning network PIMPAC. Since 2018, the position has been fully supported by NOAA and DOI with the Lead based at MCT. A database has been completed since March 2020, with intentionally limited access to select SEM core team members. Data analysis for the measures groups—broadly speaking—continues to be a challenge for jurisdictional partners/core team members and has been made more challenging by the fact that most members only do analysis during trainings and lose the skill set between training.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC): TNC has been one of the largest and most long-term proponents of the Micronesia Challenge. Over the coming three years of the project, TNC will continue to support the MC through several channels. TNC is a member of the MCSC and will continue to play an important role in coordinating donor interests, and providing technical resources to the MCSC. TNC is also working closely with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) on updates to State of Environment reports for each Pacific island nation which will provide valuable information to inform future national planning processes. In addition, TNC is preparing a 10-year initiative to support implementation of conservation efforts at community levels—which can be a complementary effort to this project’s national and regional approach.²⁵

Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions (COS): Starting with a \$185,680 grant from Future Earth and the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS), Stanford COS has been actively supporting a dialogue over the past 18 months with national, regional, and international experts and the government of Palau for the development of policy and technical

²³ The marine measures database can be found at: <https://micronesiareefmonitoring.com>

²⁴ The terrestrial measures database can be found at <https://mcterrestrialmeasures.org/#/intro>

²⁵ For more information, see; <https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/asia-pacific/the-pacific-islands/stories-in-the-pacific-islands/micronesia-challenge/>

considerations to inform implementation of the Palau National Marine Sanctuary (PNMS). The highlighted role of a domestic pelagic fishery is a direct result of the PNMS recommendations. Stanford University has also had an active education role in Micronesia, through summer coursework in partnership with the Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC) and Stanford at Sea. A number of Stanford University research faculty also have current and planned research in Micronesia and the broader Pacific Ocean region that will inform and directly contribute to the project. Stanford cofinancing support for these efforts totals \$632,833 for the three-year project duration.

National-level Baselines

Republic of the Marshall Islands

The Marshall Islands Government, in partnership with SPREP and under the coordination of the CCD, conducted an assessment of their environment in 2015. This led to the 2017–2022 **State of Environment (SoE) report**, which highlights that environmental quality is rapidly deteriorating across RMI due to increases in development and population in the low-lying and limited land area. Guiding RMI’s response to issues identified in the SoE through 2022, the **2017–2022 National Environment Management Strategy (NEMS)** is a commitment by the RMI to conserve and improve its environment for current and future generations. The NEMS 2017–2022 promotes sustainable development and integrates environmental conservation and the proper governance of development efforts.

The existing *Reimaanlok* process is a key baseline for implementation of the Guiding Principles under the Marshall Islands 2017 National Ocean Policy. MIMRA is the lead agency tasked with coordinating the implementation of the 2017 National Ocean Policy and with overseeing the continued expansion of *Reimaanlok* and Protected Areas Network (PAN) implementation. CMAC’s core responsibilities for implementation of the National Ocean Policy include ensuring community initiatives related to coastal and ocean management are consistent with *Reimaanlok* processes and principles, starting with an initial a review of *Reimaanlok* to identify areas of existing consistency and gaps. Through the National Ocean Policy, CMAC has also been tasked with supporting; a) strengthening of policy and technical capacity for Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) to improve environmental management and reduce vulnerability to climate change and natural hazards, including monitoring and enforcement of regulations; b) ensuring that marine resource management and decision making incorporates climate change impacts on ocean health, and; c) ensuring that climate change and disaster risk reduction considerations are central to marine resource conservation and management planning through close coordination with the National Disaster Management Office. CMAC has also been tasked with multiple roles

on ongoing projects, including roles with implementation of the national GEF UNDP Ridge to Reef (R2R) Program and the World Bank Pacific Regional Oceanscape Program (PROP). CMAC as the technical advisory body for the PAN will work closely with the PAN Office, which has specified powers and duties as outlined in the amended PAN Act (2018) that include:

1. Provide guidelines outlining criteria and standards that apply to areas that are eligible to be included in the Protected Areas Network, to affect the purposes of the Act;
2. Provide guidelines outlining the requirements for management plans for Protected Areas;
3. Provide guidelines to and advise to the Board on the allocation of funds to Local Resource Committees (LRCs);
4. Provide guidelines to the Board for determining what actions, training, infrastructure and equipment are eligible for funding;
5. Provide guidelines to the Board on the ranking of applications for funding from the PAN Fund;
6. Provide guidelines on the form and content of budgets and reports by the LRCs;
7. Enforce regulations and ordinances relating to Protected Areas, which shall have the full force and effect of the law, in cooperation with the LRCs and local government where relevant;
8. Collect information and establish record keeping, monitoring, and reporting requirements as necessary and appropriate to carry out the purposes of the PAN Act; and
9. Provide or arrange technical assistance to the LRCs for management of their protected areas including, but not limited to, assistance in surveying, monitoring, developing site management plans, identifying and establishing sustainable use practices, conducting scientific investigations, and educating the public about conservation and protected areas.

The RMI National *Reimaanlok* eight-step Framework continues to be the main mechanism for local community engagement to identify and manage protected areas in RMI. Currently, approximately 28 atolls and community sites are engaged with CMAC in the *Reimaanlok* process. This engagement through CMAC supports atoll communities with considering sound management of natural resources via the *Reimaanlok* Conservation Area Planning Process and in support of PAN goals that meet established conservation target criteria of the Micronesia Challenge—established through a GEF project supporting the Micronesia Challenge 2020. Meeting this target conservation criteria will allow RMI to access a PAN endowment fund that supports long-term sustainable management of the RMI’s PAN. The addition of new MC 2030

targets represents additional responsibilities and planning for RMI above this current system supporting the RMI PAN.

Given these new responsibilities, CMAC is now tasked with prioritizing the above ongoing and new duties over the coming years based on available resources and national priorities. With the amended PAN Act in 2018, CMAC is now in the process of re-aligning itself in its new role with the newly established PAN Office within MIMRA. The new PAN Office within MIMRA has been established, including the recruitment of at least one PAN Coordinator and other additional staff. The updated PAN regulations from 2020 also note the need for sustainable finance sources to support conservation and management of critical biodiversity and ecosystems in the RMI.

CMAC meetings have historically been held monthly and this frequency is anticipated to continue throughout the three-year life of the project. Anywhere from 8–12 of the 16 members regularly participate in the monthly meetings both in person and via teleconference, all of which are based on Majuro. Member participation in CMAC meetings is the responsibility of each member organization. CMAC is currently chaired by RMIEPA with MICS as Vice-Chair and MIMRA functioning as the secretary.

In terms of *Reimaanlok* implementation, at present seven atoll communities are pending recognition by the local atoll government for a community-based resource management plan. A request from the local community is a necessary precursor to initiate the eight-step *Reimaanlok* process as facilitated by CMAC. An additional seven atoll communities are still in initial local government discussions (Steps 1 and 2) prior to an initial community consultation by members of CMAC. A further 13 atoll Local Resource Committees (LRCs) are currently in the process of developing community-based resource management plans. Eight atoll communities (Majuro, Rongelap, Namdrik, Bikini, Likiep, Ailuk, Jaluit, and Arno) with 12 managed areas currently have approved management plans in place and need updated surveys to monitor resource health. Over the next three years, it is expected that between one and three local atoll governments per year will request initial support from CMAC. RMI cofinancing support for these efforts totals \$350,000 for the three-year project duration.

Federated States of Micronesia

In FSM, both terrestrial and marine protected areas are seen as an integral part of an ecosystem-based approach towards sustainable fisheries management. Successful implementation of the updated FSM PAN Policy Framework must be integrated with future coastal fisheries management plans to ensure that critical commercial fisheries habitats are conserved. Therefore,

the existence of the updated PAN framework and the upcoming development of a nationwide coastal fisheries policy creates an opportunity to align PAN management and fisheries management at the local, state, and federal levels. Fortunately, the PAN Technical Committee members will likely include some of the same positions—or potentially even the same people—involved in development of the coastal fisheries policy in the coming years.. In addition, as part of a FSM National Government Initiative, the Blue Prosperity Micronesian Marine Spatial Planning process is an effort to determine existing and potential MPA sites as well as sustainable finance mechanisms for the PAN system. These nation-wide planning efforts should facilitate coordination and consistency of protected area management and coastal fisheries management plans, including the key role of the PAN, while most importantly empowering state-specific implementation and management.

The FSM seeks to fill in large geographic data gaps of its marine environments through nationwide surveys assessing marine communities, relationships, and dynamics to further hone its marine management strategy through:

- Developing the Protected Area Network (PAN) Technical Committee (TC) and formulating a governance structure that ties both national and state level initiatives;
- Cataloguing existing related projects (e.g., SPC, TNC projects) in the country as a way to leverage existing work and build upon these initiatives.

FSM cofinancing support for these efforts totals \$476,326 for the three-year project duration.

Republic of Palau

A major goal of the PNMS is to support the development of a domestic pelagic fishery to secure a consistent supply of pelagic fish in Palau’s market while supporting Palauan livelihoods. Currently estimates suggest nearly 90% of the pelagic fish consumed in Palau are provided by foreign-owned, locally-operated fishing companies. The PNMS is now fully implemented, and now these foreign fleets are limited to fishing within 20% of Palau’s EEZ, as well as the higher operational costs from the export tax increase and the landing requirement, there is a high likelihood that their supply of pelagic fish to Palau will be limited. Initial reports have reported this prediction has come to fruition. Moreover, a small number (~12) of domestic pelagic fishers, only 3-4 identify as full-time offshore fishers, exist in Palau and they face many obstacles to fish offshore full time and sell to restaurants and hotels. Research has shown that if the supply of

pelagics does not meet demand, either by the foreign fleets or domestic fishers, locals and tourists will shift to consuming more reef fish which will increase pressure on already overexploited reef fish populations. To avoid this unintended consequence of the PNMS, efforts to improve infrastructure and develop domestic pelagic fishing capacity are needed for this fishery to be a reliable source of food and income for the people of Palau.

Three main efforts are underway to enable the development of a domestic pelagic fishery: 1.) Programs intended to increase residents' demand of pelagics; 2.) Initiatives to bolster the presence and utilization of Palau's FADs network; and 3.) Legislation that encourages offshore fishing, including the re-introduction of pole and line fishing. Government, non-profit organizations and private sector entities are organizing efforts to promote domestic pelagic consumption (i.e., the Choose Pelagics program)—one result being an Executive Order requiring all government events to serve only pelagics. The entities involved include:

- Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism
- Palau Conservation Society
- The Nature Conservancy
- Palau Sport Fishing Association
- Palau International Coral Reef Center
- Ebiil Society

Two microcanning workshops were recently held in Palau to introduce canning of pelagics as value-added products for tourists' souvenirs as well as for consumption by residents. To encourage Palauan fishers to spend more time targeting pelagics, Palau's Bureau of Marine Resources (BMR) redeployed several FADs and held two trainings for fishers to find and utilize the FAD network. BMR continues to hold trainings and FAD maintenance as priorities, yet the future plans are contingent on continued funding. The PNMS legislation created a "pole-and-line fishing only" zone in its Contiguous Zone (12–24nm) to encourage the revival of this specific type of fishing that was dominated by one vessel in Palau decades ago, yet no vessels nor gear configured for pole and line fishing are present in Palau to date. Thus, strong recommendations from regional experts have encouraged Palauan policies to focus on bolstering new and existing infrastructure (i.e. cold storage and day boat fleet, respectively) while incentivizing current small-scale fishers to meet current and future demand for offshore fish.

Along with the need to support Palau's current fishers, little attention has been given to the policies and programs needed to support the supply chain dynamics and human and fishing

capacity needs in order for Palau’s fishers to become full-time pelagic fishers. The most important needs are establishing a marketplace for fishers to sell their catch, chilling facilities to store catch, and equipment needed to safely and legally operate offshore. These topics will be major items for the working group to discuss as they consider ways to support infrastructure development and the purchase and distribution of safety equipment. For example, small-scale offshore fishers currently do not have a marketplace to land their catch and to connect with buyers. Moreover, if fishers are to spend more time offshore, they also need safety equipment. Each of these social, ecologic, and economic considerations are highly influential in the development of a domestic pelagic fisheries sector that will be a crucial leverage point for the success of integrated marine resource management in Palau with the Palau National Marine Sanctuary now fully implemented. Palau cofinancing support for these efforts totals \$500,000 for the three-year project duration.

Guam

In addition to meeting the 2020 goals of the Micronesia Challenge, Guam is currently negotiating to enter into a Pacific Insular Area Fishery Agreement (PIAFA), which would allow foreign fishing within the 200-mile U.S. EEZ adjacent to Guam with the consultation of the Governor of Guam. To enter into a PIAFA, Guam plans to develop a 3-year Marine Conservation Plan (MCP) highlighting the use of any funds collected by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce under the PIAFA. Guam cofinancing support for these efforts totals \$326,920 for the three-year project duration.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)

Conservation efforts in the CNMI are supported through a mixture of U.S. and CNMI government regulations, community-led activities, and private-public partnerships. Through the 1985 constitutional amendment of CNMI, a number of sanctuaries have been set aside on uninhabited northern islands and marine habitats, including islands in the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument. The U.S. Government also protects marine habitat on a few islands through its National Historical Monument and National Park. CNMI’s Marine Sanctuary Program protects a number of no-take marine reserves around inhabited islands, and several of the local government divisions work together to manage these parks and reserves. Conservation efforts by local organizations and government agencies largely focus on controlling invasive species, minimizing nonpoint source pollution, and regulating marine resource use. Private-

public partnerships focus on restoration and education efforts combined with tourism. CNMI cofinancing support for these efforts totals \$321,670 for the three-year project duration.

1.6 Coordination with other relevant GEF & non-GEF Initiatives

The project will build on and be closely coordinated with several initiatives at the national and regional level that are aiming to deliver healthier marine ecosystems and sustainable fisheries. The two most relevant and currently active GEF projects in Micronesia include the GEF-World Bank Pacific Regional Oceanscape Program (PROP) and the GEF- UNDP Pacific Ridge to Reef (R2R) Program. These GEF initiatives have national activities in Micronesia through respective child projects:

Republic of the Marshall Islands

In the RMI, the project will be coordinated with ongoing GEF initiatives related to ocean resources management. This includes the GEF-World Bank *Pacific Regional Oceanscape Program (PROP)* child project in RMI, “*Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program - Republic of the Marshall Islands*”. The project will also be coordinated with the GEF-UNDP Pacific Ridge to Reef Program child project, “*R2R Reimaanlok Looking to the Future: Strengthening Natural Resource Management in Atoll Communities in the Republic of Marshall Islands Employing Integrated Approaches: RMI R2R*” (GEF # 5544). Marine management activities for both of these child projects work closely with MIMRA and CCD, with updates provided to CMAC. As such, coordination of this project with these other ongoing GEF initiatives will be through appropriate government tasked with project coordination.

Federated States of Micronesia

In the FSM, the project will similarly coordinate with the GEF- UNDP Pacific Ridge to Reef Program child projects, “*R2R Implementing an Integrated Ridge to Reef Approach to Enhance Ecosystem Services, to Conserve Globally Important Biodiversity and to Sustain Local Livelihoods in the FSM*” (GEF #5517). In FSM, coordination will be ensured through existing inter-agency government meetings of development projects, including officials from the Department of Resource and Development, and the Department of Environment, Climate Change & Emergency Management.

Republic of Palau

In the Republic of Palau, the project will likewise also maintain coordination with the GEF- UNDP Pacific Ridge to Reef Program Palau child project implemented by UNEP, titled, “*Advancing Sustainable Resources Management to Improve Livelihoods and Protect Biodiversity in Palau*” (GEF #5208). Project coordination will be ensured through close communication with the GEF Operational Focal Point office that is also closely engaged with

implementation of the Palau National Marine Sanctuary, the Protected Areas Network (PAN) office within the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism. The project will also maintain communication with the GEF-UNDP project, “*Integrating Biodiversity Safeguards and Conservation into Planning and Development*” (GEF #9208) that has recently begun implementation, to ensure transaction costs within government offices are kept to a minimum.

Regional

Each of the participating countries has a child project under the GEF-UNDP *Pacific Ridge to Reef (R2R) Program*, formally titled, “*Testing the Integration of Water, Land, Forest & Coastal Management to Preserve Ecosystem Services, Store Carbon, Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihoods in Pacific Island Countries*” (GEF # 5404). Project coordination will be focused through national-level focal points given the high contributions of GEF STAR from the three participating project countries. Future R2R regional coordination will also be ensured through frequent check-ins and supporting implementation of R2R concepts as they relate to connecting terrestrial, marine, and socio-economic goals of the MC 2030 with respective national strategies and plans.

The GEF-World Bank *Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program (PROP)* (GEF #6970), while only operating in one of the three project countries, can serve as a valuable project partner for sharing regional data and information that may benefit all Micronesia jurisdictions. The project’s main coordination with PROP will be via national efforts in RMI (MIMRA), while coordination will also be explored at a regional level through the balance of the project timeline.

While this project is not solely focused on fisheries management, it’s important to further recognize the series of GEF-UNDP investments – GEF ID 4746: *Implementation of Global and Regional Oceanic Fisheries Conventions and Related Instruments in the Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) – Phase II* and GEF ID #10394: *Mainstreaming climate change and ecosystem-based approaches into the sustainable management of the living marine resources of the WCPFC*. The focus of these investments are to strengthen regional fisheries governance, including support to the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the with implementation of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention (WCPFC Convention) that was established to reform, realign, restructure and strengthen SIDS’ national fisheries laws, policies, institutions and programs. The more recent GEF-7 project (#10394) is focused on addressing climate change adaptation concerns, with the stated project objective to implement the 2019 Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of Living Oceanic Resources by the Pacific SIDS to

address the primary and emerging threats, particularly climate change. This first project (#4746) is nearing completion scheduled for end in early 2020 and recommendations from the project terminal evaluation will be reviewed closely to see where adaptive management adjustments might be made that can improve success of future project implementation. The second project was PIF approved in 2020 and this project will work closely with UNDP during full project development during 2020–2021 to ensure close coordination with Micronesia specific goals.

The recently approved GEF-Conservation International *Blue Nature Alliance to expand and improve conservation of 1.25 billion hectares of ocean ecosystems* (GEF # 10375) also may have activities in Micronesia. This project aims to catalyze the conservation of 1.25 billion hectares of ocean ecosystems, help build resilience, enhance ecosystem connectivity and function, and safeguard biodiversity. While this project is still in early project development phase, coordination will be achieved through close communication of respective GEF Project Agencies, project management units, and national GEF Operational Focal Points and PAN offices and coordinators, ensuring that any future Blue Nature Alliance support directly or indirectly is aligned with Micronesia Challenge 2030 objectives. Where possible and appropriate, financial support from Blue Nature Alliance’s planned US\$125 million trust fund will be carefully explored to support national and regional Micronesia Challenge 2030 objectives that mutually aim to strengthen support for important Micronesia ocean conservation areas.

While coordination will not be prioritized, it is important to recognize that the GEF International focal area is also supporting a new project on freshwater resources management in Micronesia, titled, “*Managing Coastal Aquifers in Selected Pacific SIDS*” (GEF #10041). Coordination with this project will be maintained through national GEF operational focal point offices and opportunities to reduce transaction costs will be continuously explored throughout project implementation.

SECTION 2: PROJECT EXECUTION STRATEGY

2.1 Project Objective and Theory of Change

The overall project objective is to strengthen transboundary integrated marine resource management for healthy marine ecosystems and sustainable coastal fisheries in Micronesia through the 2030 Micronesia Challenge—including support towards national and regional integrated resource planning, coordination, and awareness—with direct support to the GEF-recipient countries of RMI, FSM, and Palau and indirect benefits to Guam and CNMI. The project is addressing priorities raised in the WPWP LME TDA-SAP and is aligned with key ocean goals, including important milestones of the Micronesia Challenge, Aichi Target 11, and Sustainable Development Goal 14. The project builds on the opportunities provided by the endorsement of the 2030 Micronesia Challenge goals outlined in the 2019 MIF Joint Communique (Appendix J) with development of MC 2030 national and regional strategic plans.

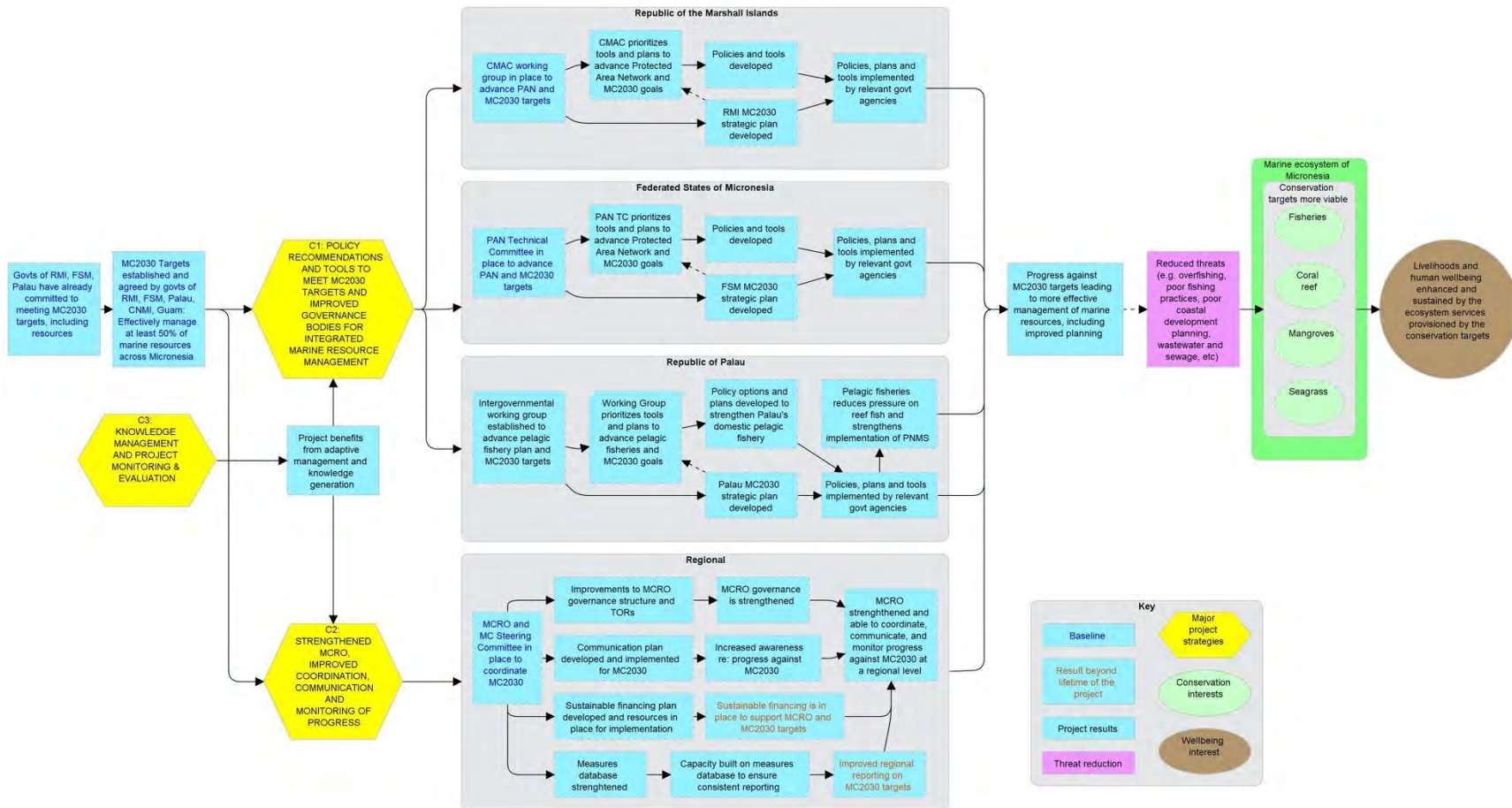
The project theory of change is framed within the three priority transboundary concerns identified by the WPWP LME TDA-SAP: (i) pollution of marine and freshwater (including groundwater) from land-based activities; (ii) physical, ecological and hydrological modification of critical habitats, and; (iii) unsustainable exploitation of living and nonliving resources. To address these priority transboundary concerns the project has targeted key barriers through a pair of coordinated interventions at the national and regional levels. At the national level, the project strategy facilitates inter-agency dialogue through a working group framework approach that is focused on establishing, updating, and integrating national marine management priorities in alignment with MC 2030 conservation and community benefit targets. This includes a specific focus on strengthening national policies to meet the MC 2030 Process Target that aims to, *“incorporate regional and jurisdictional fisheries management approaches, integrated with MPAs.”* Complementing this at the regional level, the project strategy aims to strengthen the Micronesia Challenge through direct support to MCRO and build momentum for the future of the 2030 Micronesia Challenge. The targeted interventions are supported by knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation systems that ensure building of efficient adaptive management and overall capacity building efforts across Micronesia that improve long-term success of the Micronesia Challenge. Collectively, the project has been designed to coordinate and harmonize project activities to ultimately ensure that long-term provision of resources for ocean livelihoods are enhanced and sustained across Micronesia. The following text frames the project’s theory of change succinctly and Figure 2 presents the project theory of change graphically.

The project theory of change aims to (1) strengthen national contributions to MC 2030 conservation and community benefit targets and process targets that address WPWP LME SAP priority transboundary concerns, especially management of nearshore, particularly around MPAs and marine systems and sustainable fisheries, as well as (2) ensure the governance and institutional capacities and systems are in place to harmonize national contributions to MC 2030 and strengthen regional coordination through the Micronesia Coordination Regional Office (MCRO).

The project theory of change is that:

- If inter-governmental working groups are convened in each country with key participants from different government (note: working groups already exist in RMI and FSM and there is government commitment for a new working group in Palau) and non-government sectors (including relevant national private sector actors);
- If these inter-governmental working groups identify and develop national plans, policies, and tools that fill gaps in transboundary resource management and contribute to MC 2030 targets for healthy marine ecosystems and sustainable fisheries;
 - Then plans and policies that contribute to MC 2030 will be endorsed/put in place by these key government sectors, advancing MC 2030 conservation and community benefit targets;
 - Then progress is made towards addressing WPWP LME SAP priority transboundary concerns for healthier marine ecosystems;
 - Then national policies integrated with MPAs will move nearshore fish stocks towards more sustainable levels.
- If MCRO has structures and plans in place – including a governance structure, fundraising strategy, communications plan and products, and a regional system to measure MC 2030 targets;
 - Then MCRO will be able to coordinate, monitor, and communicate progress against the MC 2030 targets, and ensure a successful regional approach.
- If there is national progress towards MC 2030 under regional leadership,
 - Then the long-term provision of resources for ocean livelihoods will be enhanced and sustained across Micronesia;
 - Then regional coordination is strengthened, and management of transboundary marine resource management is significantly improved.

Figure 2: Theory of Change Diagram





2.2 Project Components and Expected Outcomes

This one-step GEF medium-sized project is designed with a framework approach²⁶ whereby the GEF funding will be used to leverage regional coordination and strengthening for the Micronesia Challenge. A framework approach is being used to allow three parallel efforts at the national level that facilitate interdisciplinary and multi-sector stakeholder working groups, providing more opportunities to foster collaboration, exchange knowledge, and ensure common progress for strengthening transboundary integrated marine resource management across Micronesia. The project objective is to strengthen transboundary integrated marine resource management for healthy marine ecosystems and sustainable coastal fisheries in Micronesia through the 2030 Micronesia Challenge.

At the regional level, the project is directly designed to support the recently expanded Micronesia Challenge 2030 conservation and community benefit targets and process targets, as an avenue to delivering progress on healthy marine ecosystems and sustainable fisheries. At the national level, the project leverages important national baselines that support national priorities linked with marine resource primary transboundary concerns whilst developing strategic plans for making national progress towards Micronesia Challenge 2030. In RMI, the project is supporting the Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC), which has recently been formalized and is in charge of the implementation of the country's *Reimaanlok* community engagement process to inform strengthening of RMI's PAN and National Ocean Policy. In FSM, the project is supporting a recently created PAN Technical Committee aimed at developing a nation-wide integrated coastal and marine management plan, that is to include the role of FSM's PAN in coastal fisheries management. In Palau, the project is supporting the establishment of a new national 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).

The project consists of three linked project components. The first component deploys a framework approach to facilitate three parallel national inter-agency working groups filling targeted policy gaps to assist countries with national progress on respective national priorities and achieve regional Micronesia Challenge 2030 goals and aligned with WPWP LME SAP priority transboundary concerns. Project activities under the first project component are focused on supporting national-level efforts in the three GEF-eligible countries, including RMI, FSM, and Palau. While the US territories of Guam and CNMI are not directly eligible for GEF funding, they will receive indirect project benefits, especially linked to regional project activities under components 2 and 3 aimed at strengthening the MC. The second project component is focused on facilitating regional natural resources management in Micronesia, with a specific emphasis on assisting the Micronesia Challenge Regional Office (MCRO) with its increasing coordination responsibilities across the five Micronesia jurisdictions. Lastly, the project is supported by a third project component aimed at capturing project knowledge for dissemination within Micronesia and globally via IW:LEARN, as well as sound project monitoring and evaluation to inform long-term success of natural resources management across Micronesia.

²⁶ A "framework approach" is a project planning strategy that builds from delineated components, outcomes, outputs, and activities in a "temporal matrix" for project planning and implementation purposes.

Table 1. Project Framework

Project Objective: Strengthening transboundary integrated marine resource management for healthy marine ecosystems and sustainable coastal fisheries in Micronesia through the 2030 Micronesia Challenge				
Project Component	Project Outcomes	Project Outputs	(US\$)	
			GEF Project Financing	Confirmed Financing
1. Coordinated strengthening of national integrated marine resource management	<p>1.1 National policies and plans under MC 2030 goals targeting marine ecosystem health and coastal fisheries management</p> <p><i>[GEF Core Indicator 7.3: Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministerial Committees: 3]</i></p> <p><i>[GEF Core Indicator 8: Globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels: 281,947 metric tons]</i></p>	<p>1.1.1 National policy gap analysis to identify priority pathways for achieving MC 2030 targets on marine protected area planning and coastal fisheries management approaches</p> <p><i>[Policy gap analysis, one per country]</i></p> <p>1.1.2 National working group meetings including key national and regional stakeholders, including the private sector to deliver Output 1.1.3 and 1.1.4 (leveraging inter-agency working groups: CMAC (RMI), PAN TC (FSM), DPF sector (Palau))</p> <p><i>[Six per country, at least 18 total]</i></p> <p>1.1.3 National plans, strategies, and policy recommendations to integrate marine protected area planning and fisheries management approaches (linked with Outputs 1.1.1 and 1.1.2)</p> <p><i>RMI: Update CMAC Strategic Plan to align with coastal fisheries management and MC 2030 objectives</i></p> <p><i>FSM: Update PAN management documents to align with nationwide</i></p>	1,206,753	2,171,549

		<p><i>coastal fisheries management and MC 2030 objectives</i></p> <p><i>Palau: Assessment of domestic pelagic fishery sector to align with PNMS and MC 2030 objectives</i></p> <p><i>[Updated strategy documents, one per country]</i></p> <p>1.1.4 Micronesia Challenge 2030 Strategic Plan (RMI, FSM, Palau)</p> <p><i>[One MC 2030 National Strategic Plan per country; total of three MC 2030 National Strategic Plans]</i></p>		
2. Sustaining regional marine resources management in Micronesia	<p>2.1 Strengthening MCRO for successful implementation of MC 2030</p> <p>2.2 Government commitment for MC 2030 goals of marine resource management</p> <p><i>[GEF Core Indicator 7: Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management: 1 (Western Pacific Warm Pool Large Marine Ecosystem)]</i></p>	<p>2.1.1 Updated Strategic Plan, monitoring protocols, and communication plan & products</p> <p>2.1.2 Enhanced visibility of Micronesia Challenge</p> <p>2.2.1 MC 2030 visioning document endorsed by three project nations</p>	553,929	1,002,754

3. Knowledge Management and Project Monitoring & Evaluation	3.1 Project knowledge management <i>[GEF Core Indicator 7.4: Level of engagement in IW:LEARN through participation and delivery of key products: 4]</i>	3.1.1 Project knowledge captured and disseminated including through IW:LEARN	57,500	147,053
	3.2 Project management and evaluation system <i>[GEF Core Indicator 11: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment: Women: 506; Men: 576; Total: 1082] (Relevant throughout project)</i>	3.2.1 Monitoring and Evaluation reports (e.g. project progress reports, midterm review, terminal evaluation)		
Subtotal			1,818,182	3,321,356
Project Management Costs (PMC)			181,818	332,135
Total Project Costs			2,000,000	3,653,491

Component 1: Coordinated strengthening of national integrated marine resource management

(GEF Funding: US\$ 1,206,753; Co-Financing: 2,171,549)

Outcome 1.1: National policies and plans under MC 2030 goals targeting marine ecosystem health and coastal fisheries management

The focus of the first project component is employing a framework approached for a targeted series of national working dialogues over the three-year life of the project that promote national inter-agency collaborative interests towards achieving MC 2030 goals to address transboundary concerns identified in the WPWP TDA-SAP, complemented with input from key stakeholders to include private sector actors, civil society, local communities, and regional and international experts, where appropriate and at the request of government. The advantage of the framework approach is that it will foster collaboration and coordination by ensuring the three national level interdisciplinary and multi-sector stakeholder working groups are occurring in parallel, providing opportunities to foster collaboration, exchange knowledge, and advancing progress on a shared timeline. The focus of the national working groups will be to develop (1) national MC 2030 policy gap analyses to identify areas of interest for achieving MC 2030 Targets aligned with sustaining healthy coastal and marine ecosystems and promoting sustainable nearshore fisheries management, (2) national policy recommendations and plans for national strategy development for improved management of marine systems, MPAs, and fisheries, directly aligned with the 2030 Micronesia Challenge conservation and community benefit targets, with a focus on key coastal and marine economic sectors of Micronesia large ocean states facing environmental threats, and (3) MC 2030 Strategic Plans for FSM, RMI and Palau. The outcome from this project component will be improved national integrated marine resource management to make progress towards MC 2030 targets. This outcome will be achieved through four project outputs

linked to four main project activities. Note that the working group details for each partner nation are included at the end of this subsection for Outcome 1.1.

Output 1.1.1: National policy gap analysis to identify priority pathways for achieving MC 2030 targets on marine protected area planning and coastal fisheries management approaches

Output 1.1.1 includes completion of a national policy gap analysis for each partner nation that reviews existing national policies for achieving MC 2020 milestones to identify gaps that must be addressed in order to achieve each country's MC 2030 goals that promote healthy coastal and marine ecosystems and sustainable nearshore fisheries management. The "National MC 2030 Policy Gap Analysis" from each country will identify the national MC priorities as informed by the existing initiatives at the local, state, and national levels supporting each country's progress towards the most recent phase of the MC that concluded in 2020. In addition, the MC 2020 Evaluation (completed in May 2020) will also inform the initial structure and topics of interest for the new analysis. This first project output will occur immediately upon project start as it will serve as the central focus of discussion within the national inter-agency working group dialogues (Output 1.1.2) and direct the policy and planning deliverables (Output 1.1.3), and ultimately serve as the framework for the National MC 2030 Strategic Plans (Output 1.1.4).

Activity 1.1.1.1: Develop one National MC 2030 Policy Gap Analysis per country (total of three Policy Gap Analyses)

To support the development of these National MC 2030 Policy Gap Analysis efforts, Activity 1.1.1.1 will provide funds to the national subgrant recipients to develop and/or commission the development of the gap analyses. This activity will have a short duration (six to nine months) and be initiated early in the project with the intent of informing the working group dialogues as well as the final development of the National MC 2030 Strategic Plan. Specific details for the approach of these analyses efforts will ensure that there is some level of parallel structure amongst the three nations in the final outputs.

Output 1.1.2: National working group meetings including key national and regional stakeholders, including the private sector, to deliver Output 1.1.3 and 1.1.4 (leveraging inter-agency working groups: CMAC (RMI), PAN TC (FSM), DPF sector (Palau))

Output 1.1.2 will facilitate a series of national-level working group dialogues that are discrete to the project duration and build on existing inter-agency committees and marine management mechanisms in each country. As such, Output 1.1.2 will function as the main mechanism for the project's national level framework approach aimed at fostering stronger collaboration and coordination among the three participating nations by working in parallel towards the national policy strengthening efforts under Component 1. This creates specific opportunities for participating nations to collaborate on development of policy recommendations, exchange expertise, information, and other knowledge resources, and advancing planning progress on a shared timeline. More specifically in RMI, Output 1.1.2 is building on the existing Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC), which was recently formalized through the amended PAN Act in 2018, with an advisory role to the PAN Office and technical assistance in the implementation of the country's *Reimaanlok* community engagement process in support of the

RMI PAN and National Ocean Policy. In FSM, Output 1.1.2 is supporting the PAN Technical Committee that was formalized in legislation in late 2019 and with a need to develop a nationwide integrated coastal and marine management plan, including the critical role of FSM State-level development and management of the PAN for ecosystem-based coastal fisheries management. In Palau, Output 1.1.2 is supporting the newly established national inter-agency domestic pelagic fishery sector working group as part of long-term implementation of the Palau National Marine Sanctuary (PNMS).

The national-level working group dialogues will include participation of private sector actors, the other relevant GEF projects, and regional organizations, including MCRO and MCT in national working group dialogues, when deemed acceptable and appropriate by the national government and at the request of working group members. While not receiving direct funding from GEF funds, participants from the US Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands may also be invited to participate and contribute to national dialogues at their expense. By having some continuity of regional organizations supporting each of the national-level working groups, each country can help its neighbors with experience sharing on marine management challenges and solutions (linked with regional activities in Component 2 and knowledge management and IW:LEARN in Component 3). More importantly, shared participation will ensure there is enhanced coordination of marine management strategy implementation, harmonization of marine management approaches such as monitoring and consistent data collection, and complementary ecosystem-based spatial management approaches. Collectively, this output will ensure that the impact across Micronesia will be more than the individual national-level results.

Activity 1.1.2.1 Strengthen existing inter-agency bodies through targeted series of meetings focused on project-specific deliverables and priorities: (RMI: CMAC; FSM: PAN TC; Palau: DPF WG)

The core activity under Output 1.1.2 will support parallel inter-agency working group dialogues over the three-year project duration by holding at least two in-person meetings per year per country for a total of at least six per country. More frequent virtual meetings will also be held, recommended to be held at least monthly, so that working group members can review, distill, and refine the policy and technical recommendations, tools, and other working group outputs agreed at the first working group meeting. The inter-agency working group dialogues are the main mechanism for the other project Component 1 outputs, including the policy gap analysis (Output 1.1.1), National policy recommendations and planning tools (Output 1.1.3), and the development of national Micronesia Challenge 2030 Strategic Plans (Output 1.1.4).

Activity 1.1.2.1 will support and strengthen national inter-agency working groups in each respective nation. The specific actions include hosting in-person meetings in each country, including all the technical document preparatory and logistical tasks. The working group meetings will:

- Develop project specific inter-agency working group TORs

- Commission and oversee development of Project Component 1 deliverables – Policy Gap Analysis (Output 1.1.1), National Policy and Planning Recommendations (Output 1.1.3), and National MC 2030 Strategic Plan (Output 1.1.4);
- Facilitate targeted dialogues on coastal-marine management priority issues based on existing national plans, MC 2030 targets, and identified WPWP LME SAP transboundary concerns;
- Invite national private sector actors, as appropriate
- At the request of national governments, identify potential regional and international experts that can advise working group(s) on national priority issues;
- Include representation from the MCRO and Stanford COS to guide alignment of national priority setting with alignment of MC 2030 goals;
- At the request of national governments, identify a working group facilitator to ensure meeting organization, and follow-up and continued momentum between in-person meetings.

Output 1.1.3 National plans, strategies, and policy recommendations to integrate protected area planning and fisheries management approaches (linked with Outputs 1.1.1 and 1.1.2)

Output 1.1.3 is focused on additional direct support to the three national-level working groups for national-level policy recommendations and planning tools to advise integrated marine resource management, including direct alignment with MC 2030 targets. More specifically in RMI, Output 1.1.3 will focus on an update to the CMAC Strategic Plan that aligns with coastal fisheries management objectives as well as MC 2030 Targets. In FSM, Output 1.1.3 is supporting the PAN Technical Committee as they refine PAN management documents such that they align with an updated nationwide coastal fisheries policy as well as MC 2030 Targets. In Palau, Output 1.1.3 is supporting a new assessment of the Palauan domestic pelagic fishery sector that aligns with management and monitoring objectives from the Palau National Marine Sanctuary (PNMS) as well as MC 2030 Targets. Anticipated examples of policy recommendations and planning tools that will be developed under this output likely could include *inter alia*:

- ecosystem-based management recommendations for commercially important coastal fisheries by specific species;
- marine resource data layers and analysis informing marine spatial planning (MSP);
- policy and ecosystem-based local source-to-sea connectivity spatial analysis and management recommendations for commercially important local habitats;
- strengthening of protected area networks for targeted marine resource management goals aligned with MC 2030;
- analysis of private sector engagement investment opportunities for sustainable management of key marine natural resources, or;
- improved management mechanisms and/or frameworks for strengthened inter-agency coordination.

Activity 1.1.3.1 National working groups develop policy recommendations and planning tools between working group meetings

In conjunction with the ongoing project Activity 1.1.2.1, Activity 1.1.3.1 will provide ongoing support to each national working group to develop the specific policy recommendations and planning tools that were indicatively identified at each national first working-group meeting. More specifically, Activity 1.1.3.1 resources will allow working groups to synthesize and analyze existing data or conduct targeted data collection to fill specific information gaps to support science-based recommendations for improved marine management that is directly linked to identified working group deliverables. This Activity may also include working group commissioning specific studies, assessments, reports, or surveys that directly inform the project deliverables. Funding from Activity 1.1.3.1 will be available for working group member organizations or consultants to perform these tasks. All decisions on funding will adhere to proper procurement policies outlined in project agreements and subgrants and be detailed in advance through project annual work plans that are approved by the project steering committee. Activity 1.1.3.1 will provide the means for one updated resource management strategy document per country.

Output 1.1.4 Micronesia Challenge 2030 Strategic Plan (RMI, FSM, Palau)

Output 1.1.4 provides for the commissioning and development of an MC 2030 National Strategic Plan that outlines the intended approach to achieve MC 2030 objectives for each nation. The national MC Strategic Plans serve as the cumulative result of the other project specific content, actions, and findings from the working groups relevant to accomplishing the nationally identified MC 2030 goals. Each national MC 2030 Strategic Plan will either be developed as a stand-alone document or be a dedicated part of a larger national-relevant planning document effort for mainstreaming MC 2030 national goal planning with national-level integrated marine management goals, national ocean policies, blue economy strategies, and/or broader sustainable development objectives.

Activity 1.1.4.1 Develop one national MC 2030 Strategic Plan per country (total of three MC 2030 National Strategic Plans)

Activity 1.1.4.1 ensures dedicated funding is available to each national working group to develop one national MC 2030 Strategic Plan per country. This activity is linked to the other project activities under this output, but with specific funds to support associated document finalization and publication costs. This activity ensures that national planning efforts supported by Component 1 are directly linked to the Micronesia Challenge regional efforts under Component 2. By the end of the project, the development of three national MC 2030 Strategic Plans (to be supported by an MCRO Strategic Plan developed in Component 2) will ensure MC 2030 conservation and community benefit targets are met by all participating countries.

Anticipated outputs for Component 1 from each nation were determined to address comments from the draft Micronesia Challenge evaluation and to achieve proposed targets of the Micronesia Challenge 2030. Specifically, the national-level outputs listed below are steps towards effective management of marine resources, integration of protected areas into regional and jurisdictional fisheries management approaches, and greater investment by MC governments in sustainable finance mechanisms. The outputs from each nation include the following:

1. National policy gap analysis to identify priority pathways for achieving MC 2030 Targets [one policy gap analysis per country]
2. National working group meetings (working group TOR, meeting minutes, participation lists, and other relevant meeting outputs) including key national and regional stakeholders, including the private sector (leveraging inter-agency working groups: CMAC (RMI), PAN TC (FSM), DPF Sector (Palau) [at least six meetings per country]
3. National plans, strategies, and policy recommendations to updated existing national strategy documents. Within each country, at least two deliverables will be produced directly linked with Outputs 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 and informing Output 1.1.4. These include:
 - (1) nationally relevant MC recommendations as highlighted by the policy gap analysis;
 - (2) nationally relevant recommendations for integrating protected area planning and fisheries management approaches. The specific national strategies that will be the recipient of the recommendations are as follows:
 - a. RMI: Update CMAC Strategic Plan to align with coastal fisheries management and MC 2030 objectives
 - b. FSM: Update PAN management documents to align with nationwide coastal fisheries management and MC 2030 objectives
 - c. Palau: Assessment of domestic pelagic fishery sector to align with PNMS and MC 2030 objectives
4. A national Micronesia Challenge 2030 Strategic Plan [one Plan per country]

Specific national level working group project support under Outcome 1.1:

Marshall Islands Working Group – Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC):

This GEF regional International Waters project will provide resources to the RMI government through MIMRA to address the specific CMAC barriers, including updating outdated strategic planning needs and filling data and data management goals to meet CMAC’s newly formalized objective under the 2018 amended PAN Act. Under Project Component 1, the GEF funding will follow a framework approach in each nation. GEF funding will be used to support CMAC, as a technical working group, through supporting a series of working group meetings that are dedicated to producing policy recommendations and planning tools. For CMAC, the specific deliverables will include an updated CMAC Strategic Plan and Terms of Reference that will now include the most current guidance from the RMI PAN regulations and policies (inclusive of *Reimaanlok* framework), National Ocean Policy, 2017–2022 National Environment Management Strategy (NEMS), and amended PAN Act—all aligned to achieve proposed Micronesia Challenge 2030 targets. In doing so, CMAC will provide the Marshall Islands government with a nationally relevant Micronesia Challenge 2030 Strategic Plan by the end of the project.

To accomplish this goal, GEF funding will also be made available to CMAC under Component 1 to commission targeted activities to fill data and information gaps, as necessary, that inform the development of a science-based updated and integrated CMAC Strategic Plan.

These activities may include working with CMAC member organizations and/or outside experts as requested by CMAC, to commission reports and other documents to fill data and information gaps that directly inform strategic planning and adaptive management goals aligned under the project. The specific activities will be decided by CMAC members as part of the annual project work plan during project implementation, which is approved annually by the Project Steering Committee. Activities will be limited to assimilation and synthesis of existing data, modest data collection and other targeted research to fill specific information gaps, spatial analysis and other modeling products, that inform policy and technical recommendations and planning tools as part of the overall planning for a science-based updated and integrated CMAC Strategic Plan.

More specifically for RMI, the GEF funding will be granted to the PAN Office within MIMRA, which serves as the secretariat for CMAC. Funding will be made available to MIMRA for the following identified indicative activities:

- a) MIMRA to commission the development of a national policy gap analysis that identifies priority pathways for RMI to achieve MC 2030 goals;
- b) CMAC to host an initial national priority setting workshop to identify the top national priority(ies) that will be the specific national focus and deliverable(s) of the project aligned under the above stated priorities and Micronesia Challenge 2030 goals;
- c) CMAC to host meetings, including travel costs for outer atoll members, and regional and international experts, as requested by CMAC members, to facilitate an on-going review, refinement, and finalization of a science-based updated and integrated CMAC Strategic Plan;
- d) Funding for CMAC to commission specific reports, technical assessments, planning tools, and other documents, that directly support development of at least two policy recommendations or planning tools relevant to the strategic planning goals of CMAC and PAN priorities aligned with regional Micronesia Challenge 2020 and 2030 goals;
- e) MIMRA to commission the development of a National Micronesia Challenge 2030 Strategic Plan for RMI;
- f) CMAC Funding for modest publication costs, including copy editing, graphic design, and printing for intermediate and final deliverables from the Working Group.

Current Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC) Membership:

- Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA) (*CMAC Secretary*)
- RMI Environmental Protection Authority (RMIEPA) (*current CMAC Chair*)
- Marshall Islands Conservation Society (MICS) (*current CMAC Vice-Chair*)
- Climate Change Directorate (CCD)
- College of the Marshall Islands (CMI)
- RMI Historic Preservation Office (RMI HPO)

- International Office of Migration (IOM)
- Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs (MoCIA)
- RMI Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce (MoNRC)
- Office of Commerce, Investment and Tourism (OCIT)
- University of the South Pacific (USP)
- Women United Together in the Marshall Islands (WUTMI)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade (MoFAT)
- Jo-Jikum

Federated States of Micronesia Working Group - PAN Technical Committee (TC)

This GEF regional International Waters project will provide resources to the FSM government through the Department of Resources and Development (R&D) to advance nationwide PAN management. The FSM government formalized its PAN Framework in 2019 which included the formalization of a PAN Technical Committee (PAN TC). While the PAN TC has been formalized on paper, the TC has not yet met in person. The objective of the PAN TC is to provide support for PAN implementation at the state level, especially focused on harmonizing efforts across FSM. Project Outcome 1.1 will include support to the PAN TC for technical and policy recommendations that can inform the development of enhanced protected area management strategies while also benefiting the parallel development of the coastal fisheries policy, with an emphasis on the role of protected areas in ecosystem-based management of coastal fisheries (as informed by the recent state coastal fisheries assessment conducted by the World Bank/PROP). Technical support at the national level via the PAN TC provided by the project facilitates further development of state efforts, using similar integrated marine resource management approaches that are aligned with broader efforts at the national and regional level and are tuned for the local context. The planned state-led PAN management efforts in FSM create a strong need, especially at early stages during the three-year project duration, for coordinated in-person meetings. The project will support the PAN TC with funding to host convenings for state and national PAN affiliates over the course of the project to share case studies, lessons learned, and implementation strategies. These convenings shall provide an opportunity for a broader view of the status of PAN in FSM as well as a forum to explore other opportunities in PAN implementation. This technical support may also assist states in their PAN-related decision making by providing them with project-supported targeted, science-based information related to proposed PAs and MPAs and the process by which to create these MPAs and the extent of their parameters.

Funding will be made available to R&D for the following identified indicative activities:

- a) R&D to commission the development of a national policy gap analysis that identifies priority pathways for FSM to achieve MC 2030 Targets;
- b) PAN TC to host an initial national priority-setting workshop to identify the top national priority(ies) that will be the specific national focus and deliverable(s) of the project aligned under the above stated priorities and Micronesia Challenge 2030 goals.
- c) PAN TC to host meetings, including travel costs for state members, and regional and international experts, as requested by the PAN TC members, to facilitate an on-going review, refinement, and finalization of a science-based nation-wide integrated coastal and marine resource management plan with a focus on coastal fisheries;
- d) Funding for the PAN TC to commission specific reports, technical assessments, planning tools, and other documents, that directly support development of at least two policy recommendations or planning tools relevant to the strategic planning goals of PAN TC and state-level PAN priorities aligned with regional Micronesia Challenge 2020 and 2030 goals;
- e) R&D to commission the development of a National Micronesia Challenge 2030 Strategic Plan for FSM;
- f) PAN TC funding for modest publication costs, including copy editing, graphic design, and printing for intermediate and final deliverables from the Working Group.

Proposed PAN Technical Committee Membership:

- State Focal Points (four members - one per state)
- FSM Resources and Development (one member and committee secretariat)
- FSM College of Micronesia (one academic member)
- Regional Science Organization (one member - SPC)
- International NGO (one member - TNC)
- Micronesia Conservation Trust (one non-voting member)

Palau Working Group – Domestic Pelagic Fishery Inter-agency Working Group

This GEF regional International Waters project will provide resources to the Palauan government through MNRET to enhance enabling conditions for a domestic pelagic fishery sector. As part of the Palau National Marine Sanctuary (PNMS) implementation, it has been recognized that establishing a domestic pelagic fishery is an economic opportunity to bolster Palau's domestic fishing sector, while relieving the current fishing pressure on Palau's coral

reefs, a national treasure largely responsible for Palau’s tourism boom over the past two decades. Given that foreign fishing fleets dominate Palau’s domestic supply of pelagic fish, the establishment of a domestic pelagic fishery may also serve to stabilize supply of pelagic fish due to potentially declining catch of foreign fishing resulting from restricted access from PNMS. If the supply of pelagic fish does not meet Palau’s demand, tourists will switch to eating reef fish even though they have no strong preference for either fish type—a potential unintended consequence of the PNMS.

The government of Palau has requested that an inter-agency working group be established to assess and provide recommendations for government action to bolster its domestic pelagic fishery sector in Palau. The Bureau of Marine Resources within the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism (MNRET) has been tasked with this effort and aims to invite representatives from key government agencies, non-governmental organizations, stakeholders groups, fishermen, business leaders and regional experts to design policy recommendations, programs, initiatives and tools for enhancing Palau’s domestic pelagic fishery (from harvest to consumption).

This project will directly support the working group with funding for at least two in-person meetings in Palau per year for three years with virtual meetings in between. Similar to the other working groups in RMI and FSM, the project will also facilitate working group objectives towards designing policies and solutions to overcoming the major obstacles hindering fishers from entering the pelagic fishery as well as marketing opportunities for optimizing economic revenue, including through supporting value-added products. For example, market-based solutions, like designing a local sustainable “brand” of pelagic fish served in restaurants, will be discussed by the group to co-develop, evaluate and adapt the implementation of such solutions. This group will also assess ways Palau’s marine management agencies (e.g., MNRET, MOJ, and PICRC) can facilitate better integration and collaboration across the public and private sector for supporting and sustaining a domestic pelagic fishery. The deliverables from the project working group—including an assessment of the domestic pelagic fisheries sector—will be part of a portfolio to illuminate effects of the PNMS, means to strengthen Palau’s domestic fishery sector and provide Palau’s leaders with information to support evidence-based decision making.

Funding will be made available to MNRET for the following identified indicative activities:

- a) MNRET to commission the development of a national policy gap analysis that identifies priority pathways for Palau to achieve MC 2030 Targets;
- b) MNRET, in forming the Palau Domestic Fishery Working Group to host an initial national priority setting workshop to identify the top national priority(ies) that will be the specific national focus and deliverable(s) of the project aligned under the above stated priorities and Micronesia Challenge 2030 Targets.

- c) Palau Domestic Fishery Working Group to host meetings, including travel costs for outer island members, and regional and international experts, as requested by the working group, to facilitate an on-going review, refinement, and finalization of a science-based nation-wide integrated coastal and marine resource management plan with a focus on coastal fisheries;
- d) Funding for the Palau Domestic Fishery Working Group to commission specific reports, technical assessments, planning tools, and other documents, that directly support development of at least two policy recommendations or planning tools relevant to the strategic planning goals of working group and national PNMS priorities aligned with regional Micronesia Challenge 2020 and 2030 goals;
- e) MNRET to commission the development of a National Micronesia Challenge 2030 Strategic Plan for Palau;
- f) Palau Domestic Fishery Working Group funding for modest publication costs, including copy editing, graphic design, and printing.

Proposed Palau Domestic Pelagic Fishery Working Group membership:

- Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism
 - Bureau of Marine Resources
 - Division of Oceanic Fisheries Management
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Justice
- Palau International Coral Reef Center
- Palau Sport Fishing Association
- Ebiil Society
- Belau Offshore Fisheries Inc.
- Businesses (fishery operations, restaurants, consolidators)
- Friends of the PNMS
- Representatives of state governments
- Northern Reefs Fisheries Co-op
- Palau Conservation Society
- External and regional fisheries development and marketing experts
 - Parties to the Nauru Agreement Office (PNAO)
 - Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)
 - The Pacific Community (SPC)
 - Economists
 - Fisheries Specialists

- Marketing and Sustainability experts

Component 2. Sustaining regional marine resources management in Micronesia

(GEF Funding: US\$ 553,929; Co-Financing: 1,002,754)

Component 2 has been designed with two complementary outcomes. The first project outcome aims to strengthen the Micronesia Challenge Regional Office (MCRO) to successfully coordinate the implementation of MC 2030. The second project outcome strives for high-level government support for the MC 2030 goals for improved marine ecosystems. Together, a strengthened MCRO to coordinate a MC 2030 with positive political momentum creates a strong enabling environment for successful implementation of national and regional MC 2030 Strategic Plans and significantly increases the likelihood for achieving the expanded conservation and community benefit targets and process targets of the MC 2030.

Outcome 2.1: Strengthening MCRO for successful implementation of MC 2030

Project Outcome 2.1 will be achieved through two project outputs that are focused on strengthening the Micronesia Challenge Regional Office (MCRO) to foster collaboration and coordination of nations in planning and implementation of MC 2030 goals to sustain healthy ecosystems and promote sustainable nearshore fisheries management. The first output (Output 2.1.1) is focused on providing resources to strengthening coordination of the Micronesia Challenge. The second output (Output 2.1.2) will support development of key Micronesia Challenge communication products. Collectively these two outputs will provide key resources to that strengthen MCRO's ability to deliver its mandate of MC coordination, including the expanded responsibilities identified under the MC 2030 process targets (see Appendix J).

Output 2.1.1: Updated Strategic Plan, monitoring protocols, and communication plan & products

Project Output 2.1.1 will support coordination for the future of the Micronesia Challenge. The specific project activities of this output include resources for the MCRO to both build capacity as well as raise the profile of the MCRO among Micronesia partners, especially as the key coordination office for the Micronesia Challenge. This will be accomplished through seven project activities.

Activity 2.1.1.1 MCRO Coordinator engaging across MC region

This project activity is focused on providing resources for the MCRO coordinator to travel to at least one national working group meeting (linked to Component 1) per year, for a total of participation in three national working group meetings by the end of the project. Not only will MCRO coordinator participation in the national working groups provide regional insights to national-level planning, but it will also provide an opportunity for the MCRO to better learn about national-level challenges and opportunities related to MC 2030 strategic planning.

Additionally, as the MCRO coordinator is a relatively new position, this activity also provides a good opportunity for relationship building and networking among national and regional entities.

Activity 2.1.1.2 MC representation at key ocean events

There are multiple important ocean-related regional and international events planned over the project's duration (2021–2024). This project activity aims to capture this opportunity to showcase past Micronesia Challenge successes as well as build momentum and support for the future MC 2030 targets. This will be achieved by providing funding for the MC to be represented by at least one staff person (e.g., from MCSC, MCRO, member nations, or regional entity) at key ocean events—including virtual and in-person participation to reflect national policies and post-pandemic realities. Where Micronesia governments are already participating in their own national capacity, this project activity will also provide resources to ensure government representatives have coordinated MC materials and talking points. The project has specifically identified two important ocean events: a) the UN Oceans Conference held annually in June, and b) CBD COP held biennially in the fall.

Activity 2.1.1.3 Develop a MCRO 2020–2030 Strategic Plan, including fundraising plan and MCRO operational structure recommendations

This project activity is aimed at developing a MCRO 2020–2030 Strategic Plan, which includes a specific emphasis on MCRO fundraising and operational structure recommendations. The funding from this activity is intended to be used for recruiting a consultant to facilitate a long-term planning dialogue with relevant MC stakeholders and outside experts to inform an overall MCRO Strategic Plan. This MCRO 2020–2030 Strategic Plan facilitation will include incorporating recommendations from past GEF and non-GEF project evaluations and the recently complete Micronesia Challenge evaluation from May 2020. The MCRO 2020–2030 Strategic Plan will be a key document for MCRO to successfully implement the MC 2030 goals by building on over a decade of lessons learned from the previous phase of the MC.

Activity 2.1.1.4 Establish central document repository

As part of efforts under Outcome 2.1 to strengthening MCRO, Activity 2.1.1.4 is focused on improving MCRO's ability to manage document and data resources for greater coordination and transparency throughout the region. The current absence of any central document repository has been a major barrier for capturing regionally relevant resources that stem from national-level dialogues, archiving Micronesia Challenge institutional memory, efficient staff handing-over of MCRO staff and MCSC members, and improved accountability from decisions and follow-up items at MC and MCRO meetings. Further, the role of MCRO in managing a central document repository online will continue to strengthen the understanding of MCRO's role in coordination of the Micronesia Challenge for not just core Micronesia partners, but also external audiences. The specific activity funding will be directed at obtaining a license to use a web-based software management system that is actively managed by MCRO staff. The document repository will be part of the current Micronesia Challenge website that is managed by MCRO. The primary documents of interest include, but are not limited to: Articles of Incorporation for MC

jurisdictions, initial Strategic Plan, MIF Communiques, Communications Plans (regional and per jurisdiction), bylaws, and relevant publications.

Activity 2.1.1.5 Organization and logistics for MC side event at major international event

Similar to Activity 2.1.1.2, this project activity is focused on capturing the opportunity of a major international conference to showcase Micronesia Challenge successes and build momentum and support for MC 2030. The specific funding for this activity is focused on contracted staff time on organization, logistics, and associated direct costs for executing a high-level Micronesia Challenge side event at a major event for global ocean-minded audiences. This GEF activity is expected to be matched with additional funding from MCT for the event. The Micronesia Challenge high-level side event will also be closely linked to the updated MC communications plan under Output 2.1.2. This will include leveraging the current MC Young Champions program, whereby videos made by MICYC interns can be used for fundraising.

Activity 2.1.1.6 MCT Provides technical support to MCRO

Based on severely limited capacity of the MCRO, the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) has provided substantial financial and administrative backstopping to MCRO, including fundraising, grants management, and strategic advising. In an effort to strengthen MCRO, this project activity is focused on funding MCT Technical Support for the MCRO over the life of the project, with an explicit focus on MCRO staff training to build financial and project management capacity of MCRO (e.g., budget development and oversight, work plan development and operationalization), such that MCRO is in a stronger position after three years without the current level of MCT backstopping. This activity funding will be specifically for part-time MCT technical and financial staff support and associated technical assistance to the MCRO coordinator.

Activity 2.1.1.7: Enhance MC Measures databases and monitoring capacity

This project activity is aimed at enhancing three aspects of the MC Measures groups: 1) advance group objectives for effective monitoring, 2) enhance capacity of monitoring data collection, management, and analysis, and 3) improve the process of coordination amongst the Measures group leads, the MCRO Coordinator, MC Steering Committee and national inter-agency working groups under Project Outcome 1.1. As stated in the Micronesia Challenge Evaluation (completed in May 2020), there is a need to refine the sets of indicators and monitoring approaches for assessments that can inform management. Each of the three Measures groups (marine, terrestrial, and socio-economic) have evolved and matured since 2008 along different timelines. In that time, unique needs for each group have been identified. In addition, the distinct work streams have led to an increased need for re-emphasis of coordination in monitoring and communication efforts. Ultimately, there is a greater need for consistent coordination to ensure that the monitoring efforts and processes align with the operations and objectives of the MC as it relates to improved management of coastal ecosystems and fisheries.

The funds for this activity will be subcontracted through Micronesia Conservation Trust to lead organizations within the respective measures groups to advance database systems and analysis methods. Through MCT/MCRO and the PMU, these efforts will be conducted in concert with

the national-level project activities under Component 1 to improve coordinated efforts to monitor the respective stress and progress indicators linked to the policy recommendations and broader MC goals for improving marine ecosystem health and advancing sustainable coastal fisheries management. Funds will also be used to provide capacity building experiences that improve monitoring data collection. Because of the project's focus on coastal and marine ecosystem health and sustainable coastal fisheries management, there will be an inherent focus of this activity on the MC marine measures group, but relevant terrestrial and socio-economic measure group efforts that advance the project's marine focused objectives will also be included as part of an integrated and source-to-sea approach. The resulting refined approach to measures data collection, management, and analysis will aid broader MCRO coordination, tracking progress towards MC 2030 goals, and MCSC decision making.

Output 2.1.2: Enhanced visibility of Micronesia Challenge

With the end of the initial Micronesia Challenge, Sustainable Development Goals and Aichi Target milestones, Our Oceans, CBD COP and establishment of 2030 targets and plans, IW-LEARN IWC10, and other key regional events, 2020 will be the beginning of an important decade for the marine conservation and environmental development community. The focus of this output is to develop communication products, including a MC communication plan, to increase fundraising, support, participation, and collaboration of Micronesia countries at regional and global processes, with the goal to bolster their conservation leadership for increased influence, investment, and impact.

This output will be achieved through four project activities. Building from the enhanced visibility of the MC through representation at major ocean events in during the project duration (Output 2.1.1), this output also provides resources for MC representation in the second and third years of the project. An updated Communications Plan with additional communication products, including an enhanced social media presence, will enhance messaging of the successes of the Micronesia Challenge at these upcoming global events. This messaging will be backed by the soon-to-be-completed MC evaluation and specific science-based analyses generated in the national-level working groups in Component 1.

Activity 2.1.2.1 MC rep attend/present at least one highly relevant international conference per year

While 2020 is an important year for ocean-related events, there are additional important regional and international events happening from 2021 through 2023 that will be highly relevant for the long-term success of the Micronesia Challenge and ongoing platforms to elevate MC communication. These include increased presence at annual events like the Micronesia Island Forum (MIF) and US Coral Reef Task Force, IW:LEARN Conference and other events, and future UN Oceans and Our Ocean events. This activity aims to fund travel and per diem for at least one MC representative (either MCRO, MCT, or national government) to attend on behalf of the MC or present on MC at least one conference per year in 2022 and 2023 (project Y2 and Y3). This attendance will be enhanced by the revised Communications Plan, communications products, as well as additional materials that can be used to broaden the message of MC 2030 to global audiences.

Activity 2.1.2.2 Update MC 2008 Communications Plan

The MC currently is operating from a communications plan that is more than 10 years old. This project activity will provide resources to update the MC communications plan, inclusive of the MC 2030 targets. The funding will be used to recruit a professional communications firm to advise on current multimedia communication practices, updating the MC brand, and other associated tasks. The consultant will be tasked with facilitating an inclusive plan development process to ensure national-level perspectives are heard and incorporated into future MC communication needs. The communication plan will be developed in coordination with the MCRO Strategic Plan that includes fundraising. As MC communication is implemented across national and regional stakeholders, the communication plan will focus both consistent messaging and on coordination of action among stakeholders.

Activity 2.1.2.3 Develop at least two communications products per year (coordinated with project knowledge management products)

As part of the increasing awareness of the MC 2030, the project is providing dedicated funding for the development of at least two communication products per year (a total of at least six over the three-year project). The funding will be specifically used for in-house staff or recruitment of consultants to develop communication products. These products will be closely coordinated with the development of knowledge management products under project component 3.

Activity 2.1.2.4 Maintenance of Micronesia Challenge social media presence

The final activity under this project component is focused on significantly enhancing the social media presence of the Micronesia Challenge over the three-year project duration. This will likely include an active presence on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube. The funding will be used to recruit MC communications capacity (intern level) to expand on the MC's current social media presence. This activity will also leverage the current MC Young Champions program by providing additional platforms for MCYC's to showcase their communication products.

Outcome 2.2: Government commitment for MC 2030 goals of marine resource management

As Micronesia Challenge jurisdictions celebrate current successes, there is also a need to build on the MC 2030 conservation and community benefit targets and process targets that were one of many political aspirations stated in the MIF 2019 Communique. Outcome 2.2 is designed to ensure a continued high-level government commitment with the expanded MC 2030 targets for the next decade and beyond. This outcome is focused on the development of a high-quality visioning publication and associated visioning events, including a high-level visioning ceremony at key regional and international events. Rallying high-level government support and showcasing the government commitment of the Micronesia Challenge to the global community at a CBD COP will reinvigorate the Micronesia Challenge at a time when its long-term direction is most important.

Output 2.2.1: MC 2030 vision document endorsed by three nations

As a mechanism to maintain momentum, the project will provide resources that create the necessary enabling conditions to guide the Micronesia Challenge 2030 vision for targeted high-level governance audiences. To achieve that goal, project members will collectively draft content for a high-quality MC 2030 visioning publication that is then celebrated with two associated high-level MC 2030 visioning events. This output will ultimately lead to improved fundraising efforts and a high-level celebration of the 2030 Micronesia Challenge at an upcoming Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of Parties, the same forum at which the Micronesia Challenge was launched in 2006 at CBD COP 8 in Curitiba, Brazil.

Activity 2.2.1.1 Consultant(s) recruited, stakeholder consultation/validation, and drafting of MC 2030 high-quality visioning publication(s)

This first activity under Output 2.2.1 is focused entirely on the development of the high-quality MC 2030 visioning publication. The publication is intended to be image-rich, showcasing the rich natural resources of Micronesia along with the people that benefit from them, and aimed to invoke empathy and a call to action for supporting the Micronesia Challenge. The project funding will be for recruitment of a consultant who will produce a high-quality publication and associated visioning and artistic direction for side events noted in Activity 2.2.1.2 and 2.2.1.3. The consultant will be responsible for drafting the visioning publication in an inclusive manner—prioritizing stakeholder consultation and validation. The visioning document will be directly coordinated with the longer-term MCRO Strategic Plan (Activity 2.1.1.3) and the updated MC communication plans (Activity 2.1.2.2). Additionally an online version of the document will be made freely available on the MC website, the IW:LEARN website, and other project partner websites.

Activity 2.2.1.2 Host high-level event to support MC 2030 visioning document potentially at 2021 MIF and Activity 2.2.1.3 MC 2030 Launching Celebration at CBD COP in October 2022

Activity 2.2.1.2 and 2.2.1.3 both are focused on executing high-level side events at least one major regional and international meeting. The anticipated regional meeting is the 2021 Micronesia Island Forum (MIF). The anticipated international meeting is the 2022 CBD COP. For both events, project funding will be used for organization, logistics, and other associated direct costs for putting on high-level side events to promote the MC 2030 visioning document.

Component 3. Knowledge Management and Project Monitoring & Evaluation

(GEF Funding: US\$ 57,500; Co-Financing: 147,053)

Knowledge management and project monitoring & evaluation are essential components of all GEF projects to ensure that knowledge gleaned and other project information can readily be applied to improve project management, as well as disseminate, replicate, and scale most effectively for a lasting impact beyond the project duration. This is especially important for the long-term viability of the Micronesia Challenge where significant knowledge has already been developed but not well managed or disseminated. This project component has been designed with two key project outcomes. The first is focused on project knowledge management. and the second outcome is focused on project monitoring and evaluation.

Outcome 3.1 Project knowledge management

Outcome 3.1 focuses on capturing knowledge at the national and regional level for dissemination at key events and through relevant networks, including the International Waters Learning and Exchange Resource Network (IW:LEARN). The project will also make use of additional dissemination resources through project partners, including Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions, the Nature Conservancy, and the Micronesia Conservation Trust. Knowledge products and resources will be formalized and archived for improved distribution and uptake. The existing pathways through IW:LEARN will be a core component of sharing products and lessons.

Output 3.1.1 Project knowledge captured and disseminated including through IW:LEARN

As a GEF IW funding project, this project will actively participate in the IW:LEARN community. Funding for IW activities in this project (Output 3.1.1) constitutes 1.375% of the overall project budget at US\$27,500 (see Section 2.7: Budget and Budget Notes for additional detail).

Activity 3.1.1.1 Knowledge products developed and disseminated on MC, MCT, and IW:LEARN websites (at least one knowledge product per year)

This first project activity is designed to capture project knowledge through knowledge briefs and similar print and online documents. These knowledge briefs will highlight important lessons learned, best practices, and other types of knowledge from the project that highlight project results and opportunities to inform other current and future practitioners. This activity aims to yield at least one knowledge product per year for a total of at least three knowledge products by the end of the project. Project funding will be for knowledge product development and dissemination, potentially including costs for development (via existing MCRO staff or consultant), product graphic design, and printing costs. The knowledge products will be disseminated through key project partners, including MCRO, the MCSC, MCT, TNC, Stanford COS, and IW:LEARN. The knowledge products will also be developed in close coordination with the updated MC Communications Plan and communication products from Component 2 to ensure a consistent MC branding moving forward.

Activity 3.1.1.2 Establish project website on IW:LEARN

The project will participate in the IW:LEARN community through the development of a project webpage on the IW:LEARN website within the first year of project inception (2021). The MC project page will serve as an additional mechanism to disseminate project deliverables, include project communication and knowledge products. The project webpage on IW:LEARN will also be linked with the Micronesia Challenge website. The project webpage on IW:LEARN will serve as an important channel to closer link the project objectives and MC goals with the IW:LEARN community and the GEF IW objectives. Specific activity funding will be for webpage development and maintenance, including staff time and any software resources as necessary.

Activity 3.1.1.3 Develop at least one IW:LEARN project experience note

As part of engagement in IW:LEARN and to showcase the successes of the Micronesia Challenge throughout the three-year project duration, the project will develop at least one project experience note. The project experience note will consist of a small report (~5 pages) that captures a key lesson or best practice from the project that can be shared with the broader IW:LEARN community. The project experience note will differ from project knowledge products in that the experience note is a more detailed case study of a specific project activity that assesses and synthesizes the experience to highlight important lessons that are applicable to the broader IW:LEARN community. Funding for this activity will be for experience note development (via existing MCRO staff or consultant) and graphic design/formatting. The experience note will be disseminated electronically via the project webpage on IW:LEARN and on the MC website, along with through the respective channels of project partners. The project experience note will be developed in close coordination with the updated MC Communications Plan and communication products from Component 2 to ensure a consistent MC branding moving forward.

Activity 3.1.1.4 Project participation in at least one project twinning or other IW:LEARN event

Not only will the project actively participate in the online IW:LEARN community it will also engage in at least one in-person IW:LEARN event. Funding is made available in this activity for at least one MC representative, likely to be the MCRO coordinator, to participate in at least one IW:LEARN event. The IW:LEARN event will be identified during the three-year project in close coordination with the IW:LEARN secretariat based in IOC-UNESCO in Paris, France. Potential IW:LEARN events include a project twinning, a regional thematic IW:LEARN event, an LME:LEARN or similar IW:LEARN LME event, or the biannual IW:LEARN Conference (IWC). The identified event will be noted in advance and budgeted into the annual project workplan that is approved by the Project Steering Committee. Specific costs for this activity will largely include travel costs (airfare, lodging, etc.) to participate in the event.

Outcome 3.2 Project monitoring and evaluation system

Project outcome 3.2 will complement knowledge management with an effective project monitoring system that will inform knowledge generation in near real-time to allow of efficient adaptive management. The key mechanisms for this will be through six-month project progress reports, quarterly financial reports, annual GEF Project Implementation Report (PIR), a terminal evaluation, and additional ad hoc monitoring as recommended by the Project Steering Committee. Additional project monitoring will be accomplished through annual GEF Agency supervision missions.

Output 3.2.1 Monitoring and Evaluation reports (e.g. project progress reports, midterm review, terminal evaluation)

Activity 3.2.1.1 Project monitoring system developed for timely completion and submission of reports (aligned with MC Measures group where possible)

A three-year project monitoring plan will be developed by the project management unit (MCRO and COS), based on the project results framework (Appendix C). The project monitoring plan will be main tool to track project progress, with monitoring indicators detailed at the project output and outcome level. The monitoring plan will be developed in direct coordination with any relevant recommendations from the soon-to-be-released MC evaluation and in consultation with the MC measures groups, and assessed and steered through a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (Section 2.4) that requires strong stakeholder inputs to the project's outputs and to their on-the-ground delivery. The project monitoring plan will closely mirror the project workplan and inform the development of annual project workplan and budgets. Specific costs associated with the development of the project monitoring plan are for staff time and other direct costs associated with ensuring stakeholder input into monitoring plan development and tracking. Costs will also be allocated for an informal project midterm review halfway through project implementation. The midterm review will be conducted by impartial parties outside of the PMU and provide recommendations to strengthen the projects execution and impact through recommendations to be incorporated into project workplans and monitoring plans. For more information on project monitoring, please see the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (Appendix E). The project gender action plan is mainstreamed into the overall project monitoring system and includes monitoring activities for the gender action plan activities and progress on the project GEF core gender indicator.

Activity 3.2.1.2 Project terminal evaluation completed and submitted in a timely manner

This GEF medium sized project (MSP) will have an independent terminal project evaluation following WWF GEF and GEF Independent Evaluation Office (GEF IEO) guidelines. The project terminal evaluation will be conducted within six months of project close (expected in winter quarter 2023). The project terminal evaluation will be an important mechanism to advise national governments and project partners on any gaps or outstanding issues that may prevent success of the MC 2030. Further, the terminal evaluation will be instrumental in informing any follow-on GEF project development focused on the implementation of the Micronesia Challenge to achieve the expanded 2030 targets. The specific activity costs for the terminal evaluation will be for recruiting a consultant(s) to conduct the evaluation, inclusive of travel to the region to engage with stakeholders and producing a final project terminal evaluation report. The terminal evaluation will be disseminated to participating national governments and MCSC members and through proper channels of the WWF GEF and GEF IEO, as well as made available on the project webpage on IW:LEARN and the MC website.

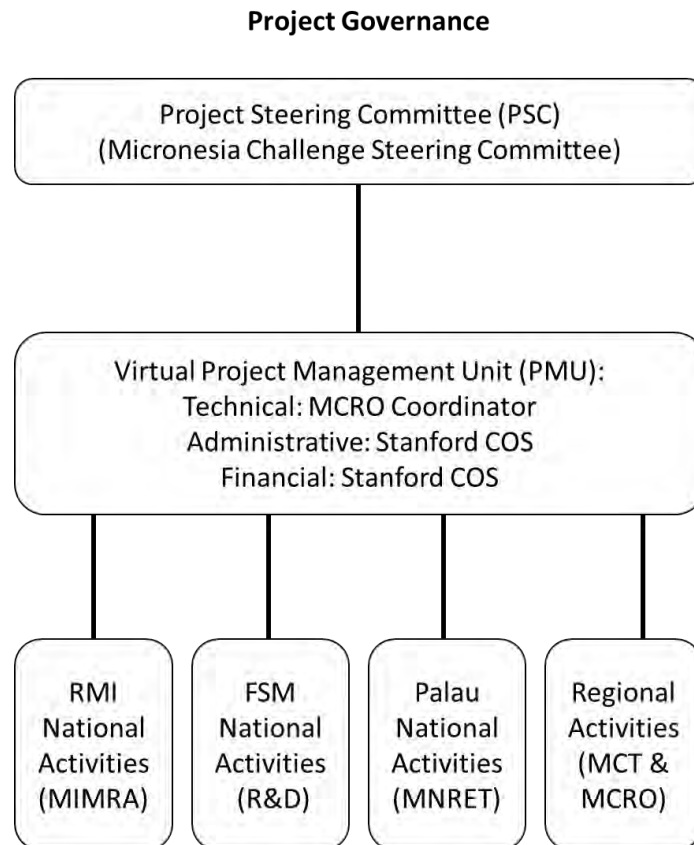
2.3 Institutional Arrangement

Project Governance

The GEF Agency for the project is World Wildlife Fund, Inc. (WWF) based in Washington, D.C. Project execution functions will be led by MCRO with administrative and financial project management support provided by the Executing Agency, the Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions (COS), based in Palo Alto, CA. The main project partners leading project activities will be the three national governments and MCRO (via MCT). Project Component 1 execution will be led by national government partners in RMI through MIMRA, FSM through R&D, and

Palau through MNRET. Project Component 2 and 3 will be led by MCRO for regional project activities.

Figure 3: Project Governance



Project Steering Committee

A Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be established to serve as the main decision-making body for the project. The main function of the PSC will be to provide overall project oversight and serve as the final decision making body for project execution. This includes providing strategic direction to the project management unit (PMU), approving the annual project workplan and budget, reviewing project reporting, and discussing and solving high-level project execution issues.

The PSC will leverage members of the current Micronesia Challenge Steering Committee (MCSC) that currently holds virtual monthly meetings, including two face-to-face meetings per year. MCSC membership includes focal points from the five MC jurisdictions (RMI, FSM, Palau, Guam, and CNMI), as well as representatives of MCT and TNC as observers. The MCRO functions as the MCSC secretariat.

The PSC will include the following members, or designates by these members: 1) the MCSC representative from RMI; 2) the MCSC representative from FSM; 3) the MCSC representative from Palau. The following will have observer status on the PSC: 4) the MCSC observer from the Micronesia Conservation Trust, and; 5) the MCSC observer from TNC. As full MCSC

members—and to ensure robust pan-Micronesia coordination—the government representatives of Guam and CNMI are welcomed observers to PSC meetings funded with in-kind financial support. The WWF GEF Agency will be invited to participate in annual PSC meetings as an observer and as requested by the PSC. The PSC will be supported by the Project Management Unit, including leveraging existing secretariat services provided by the MCRO Coordinator to the MCSC, with administrative and financial project backstopping from Stanford COS.

Of the two face-to-face MCSC meetings per year, the PSC will hold at least one annual in-person meeting. To reduce costs the PSC can meet as an additional day or half-day meeting before or after an in-person MCSC meeting, likely in conjunction with annual Micronesia Island Forum (MIF) events.

The MCSC government focal points from RMI, FSM, and Palau also serving on the PSC will be the same individuals responsible for internal government coordination with their national-level working groups. This individual coordination responsibility is independent of institutional responsibilities of the subgrant recipients. For the case of RMI, CCD is the official MCSC focal point, and is a member of CMAC. CMAC will lead RMI's technical activities under project component 1 with the project funding allocated to MIMRA. In FSM, R&D is the current MCSC focal point and will also lead their respective technical activities under project component 1. In Palau, MNRET is the MCSC focal point and will also their respective lead technical activities under project component 1.

To ensure project-related decisions do not significantly increase the MCSC workload and following on recommendations from the recent MC evaluation for more nimble MCSC decision making process, the three MCSC officers will serve as an informal group to aid the PMU with more frequent MCRO advising and other project decision needs that do not warrant a full committee decision. The expected time commitment for this ad hoc informal support function to the PMU is anticipated to be approximately no more than 5% time for the three-year duration of the project.

Project Management Unit

A Project Management Unit (PMU) will be established that supports the day to day project management needs. Due to the large geographic distances, multiple time zones, and high transaction costs of travel, a virtual PMU will be established. Leveraging the existing coordination role of the MC, the MCRO Coordinator will lead overall technical project coordination with administrative and financial project management backstopping by staff from the Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions. Additional details can be found in the Terms of Reference (TOR) documents for each role within the virtual PMU (Appendix N).

PMU Roles and Responsibilities

Project Coordinator

Through project co-financing, Micronesia Challenge Regional Office (MCRO) Coordinator will serve as the Project Coordinator, supporting the GEF project as part of their overall MCRO Coordinator responsibilities. The MCRO Coordinator will serve as the face of the GEF project in the region and internationally. The MCRO Project

Coordinator will interface directly with stakeholders in the region while deferring any project-specific administrative and financial tasks to the two following virtual Project Management Unit (PMU) members. The MCRO Coordinator is currently based in Guam.

Project Manager

The project manager will serve as the lead interface with the WWF GEF Agency to ensure efficient project management and other administrative tasks, including leading on all project reporting and other administrative project issues. Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions Research Development Manager will lead overall administrative project management. The Project Manager role will be 45% FTE (30% GEF, 15% co-finance) in project years one, two, and three.

Finance Manager

Under the direction of the Project Manager, the Finance Manager will manage all financial and operational aspects of the Project including project budgeting, contracting, subrecipient monitoring and evaluations, financial tracking and reporting, and administrative functions. The Finance Manager Provides financial and administrative assistance to, and oversight of, project partners and grantees to ensure that budgets and agreements are handled in accordance with GEF and WWF policies, procedures, systems, and donor requirements. Stanford COS Finance and Administration Manager will lead overall financial project management. The Finance Manager will be 10% FTE (5% GEF, 5% co-finance) in project years one, two, and three.

The PMU will jointly develop annual project workplans and budgets, monitor project results, and present technical and financial reports to PSC. The MCRO coordinator has also committed to receiving capacity training for practical project management and financial capacity and targeted issues with Stanford COS and MCT. Specifically, Stanford COS will provide support in project and task management for independent and interdependent activities throughout the project. MCT will provide support in financial issues regarding contract development, travel planning, and developing and managing requests for proposals.

An assessment and open dialogue with the MCSC members and national stakeholders was held to determine the most suitable project management structure to shoulder the administrative and financial costs associated with doing a medium-sized project. Based on this open dialogue, the MCSC agreed that Stanford COS was best positioned to provide administrative and financial project management services, noting the additional cofinancing that will be leveraged under this project management structure and access to technical expertise, as requested. This agreed arrangement also enabled the project to develop quickly with upfront financial capital to ensure the Micronesia countries can take advantage of the multiple global and regional ocean events that are occurring in 2020. It was further recognized that it is the desire from the region that Stanford COS, through the project, can also help build regional capacity for more effective and long-term MC 2030 implementation. To this end, the MCSC has helped design the project to ensure MCRO project management capacity is strengthened during the three-year project such that it will be empowered to take on future GEF projects on behalf of the region.

Stanford University has engaged in research throughout the region of Micronesia for many years. Stanford COS, in particular, has allocated significant effort towards marine resource management interests in Palau for the past two years. Based on this collaborative experience in facilitating working groups on resource management topics in the greater Micronesian region as well as the motivated capacity to manage the project, Stanford COS has been requested to continue supporting this project by hosting the virtual PMU.

Project Funding Flow

WWF GEF Agency will enter into a grant agreement with Stanford COS. Stanford will subgrant over 90% of the project funding to four project partners, the MCT as well as the governments of RMI, FSM, and Palau, which will provide financial oversight and services for grants to MCRO. The project funding will be contracted out to each project partner by way of subgrant agreements between COS and each project partner for a total of four project subgrants, following Stanford policies and procedures.

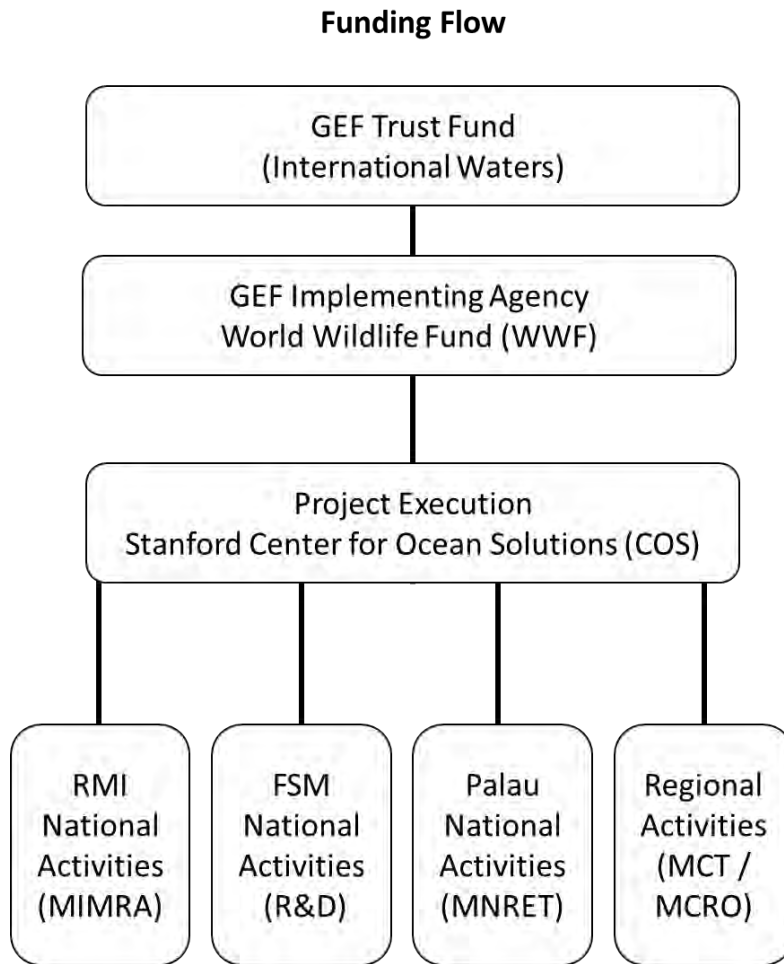
Given MCRO's limited capacity (currently one staff person), Stanford COS will provide project management services to ensure timely grant disbursements and reporting as well as efficient project coordination and adaptive management through in-kind support and part-time staff financed by the minimal project management cost.

Governments and MCRO (via MCT) will lead respective execution of project activities through subgrants that will finance technical project activities under Components 1, 2 and 3. Each subgrant will be issued to a specific national government ministry following national public funding procedures and Stanford subgranting policies. The project subgrant recipient in RMI for national activities (Component 1) is the Marshall Island Marine Resource Authority (MIMRA) which hosts CMAC. The project subgrant recipient in FSM for national activities (Component 1) is the FSM Department of Resources and Development (R&D) which holds the responsibilities of national PAN management. The project subgrant recipient in Palau for national activities (Component 1) is the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism (MNRET) which is leading the initiative on the Palau domestic pelagic fishery. The project subgrant recipient for regional activities (Components 2 and 3) is Micronesia Challenge Regional Office (MCRO) by way of a subgrant to the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT), leveraging the existing role that MCT provides to MCRO for administrative and financial services support.

During project execution, project funding will be made available following WWF GEF policies as detailed in the project grant agreement. Project funding will be distributed by quarterly advances based on request as detailed by an annual project workplan and budget. The annual project workplan and budget will be developed in advance of each project year by the project management unit (MCRO and Stanford COS) along with project partners and will be discussed and approved by the Project Steering Committee.

The project management unit will provide timely financial reporting through quarterly financial reports to WWF GEF, as well as participation in annual project supervision missions, a final project terminal evaluation, a final project audit, and any other ad hoc requests from the Project Steering Committee, WWF GEF, of the GEF Secretariat.

Figure 4: Project Funding Flow



2.4 Stakeholder Engagement

During the preparation of the project stakeholders were continuously engaged, multiple specific consultations from December 2018 through March 2020. These included various actors directly or indirectly involved in national-or regional-level marine resource management throughout Micronesia.

Project Stakeholders

National - RMI

Stakeholder	Role	Engagement Approach
Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA)	Influential Stakeholder	Continued engagement through director as well as senior-level staff
Climate Change Directorate (CCD)	Influential Stakeholder	Continued engagement through director and deputy director
Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC)	Influential Stakeholder	Direct engagement through existing contacts at MIMRA and CCD
Marshall Islands Conservation Society (MICS)	Influential Stakeholder	Vice-Chair of CMAC and important non-government technical resource
Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)	Influential Stakeholder	Chair of CMAC and important government technical resource
Mr. Clarence Samuel	Operational Focal Point	Initial discussion on conceptual framework of project, continued engagement through a point of contact of his choosing

National - FSM

Stakeholder	Role	Engagement Approach
Department of Resources and Development (R&D)	Influential Stakeholder	Continued engagement through Secretary as well as senior-level staff
National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA)	Influential Stakeholder	Direct engagement through existing contacts at R&D
Honorable Mr. Andrew Yatilman, Office of Environment and Emergency Management	Operational Focal Point	Initial discussion on conceptual framework of project, continued engagement through a point of contact of his choosing

National - Palau

Stakeholder	Role	Engagement Approach
Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism (MNRET)	Influential Stakeholder	Continued engagement through Minister as well as senior-level staff
Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC)	Influential Stakeholder	Continued engagement with Director and staff via existing and growing collaborative work.
Mr. King Sam, MNRET and Protected Area Networks	Operational Focal Point	Continued engagement throughout the duration of project inception and evolution.

Regional - Micronesia

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
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
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

This led to a prioritizing exercise of stakeholders which was followed by in-person discussions in December 2018 as well as July, September, and October of 2019 in locations including Majuro in RMI, Pohnpei and Chuuk in FSM, Koror in Palau, and Guam. Furthermore, these discussions involved multiple contacts within distinct agencies at a national or regional level.

The key topics of interest for each national working groups dynamically grew from these conversations. The topics now include:

- **RMI:** Support the Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC) in producing policy recommendations and planning tools that align with the 2018 amended Protected Area Network Act as well as the National Ocean Policy and the National Environmental Management Strategy.
- **FSM:** Support the FSM Protected Area Network Technical Committee (PAN TC) in producing policy recommendations and planning tools that inform development of a nation-wide, state-led coastal and marine resource management plan with an emphasis on the role of protected areas in ecosystem-based management of coastal fisheries.
- **Palau:** Support a new inter-agency working group that will be established to assess and provide recommendations for government action to bolster a domestic pelagic fishery sector in Palau.

As stated above in the section on Barriers (Section 1.4), lack of coordination is a main barrier to harmonized engagement and therefore, this project seeks to develop and set up key coordination mechanisms (memos, meetings, etc.) during the life of the project to facilitate cooperation with ongoing activities and coordination with key stakeholders (see engagement approaches below). Information regarding the project will be included and updated regularly and shared with all collaborative partners.

The project will fund a series of parallel working group meetings (approximately six per nation (two per year)) at the national level. Output 1.1.1 notes the organization and facilitation of at least two in-person meetings per year per country. 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. This will also include a dedicated emphasis in engaging national private sector actors for leveraging additional investment and long-term sustainability opportunities, as relevant within national context and priorities and where appropriate.

Anticipated Working Group Members – RMI

The working group in RMI will be comprised of members of the Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC).²⁷

Organization	Engagement Approach
Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA),	CMAC secretary; primary point of contact
RMI Environmental Protection Authority (RMIEPA)	Current CMAC Chair

²⁷ For more information about CMAC, please see: <https://www.atollconservation.org/cmacc>

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.²⁸

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)
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)

²⁸ 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>

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
Ministry of Finance	Invited to all meetings
Ministry of Justice	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

The Micronesian governments, as the main beneficiaries of the MC and the leaders at the site level, will be engaged in all national activities and will benefit from subgrants. Government agencies (national, state and local) will provide an enabling legal and policy framework for the project activities and those of the MC at the regional level. Stanford COS, in coordination with MCRO, will play a lead role in managing and disbursing funds through the project framework. Each national government will lead the subgranting activities for their national interests (Component 1). The MCT will play a lead role in providing subgrants for regional objectives (Components 2 and 3).

Private Sector: Private sector stakeholders serves an important strategy for ensuring long-term success towards the project objective of strengthening transboundary integrated marine resource management across Micronesia to ensure successful implementation of Micronesia Challenge 2030 goals. To achieve this within the project, private sector engagement will primarily occur at the national level through the government inter-sectoral working groups under Output 1.1.2, as appropriate. For example, Palau’s goal of establishing a domestic pelagic fishery to support implementation of PNMS, will rely on nurturing market uptake from local fishing companies, fish processors and traders, and restaurants promoting domestically caught seafood. Likewise, in RMI and FSM, private sector actors in the fishing sector will be solicited for the aim of improving sustainable coastal fisheries management through an ecosystem-based approach by integrating with marine protected area management. The expected result of private sector engagement through the project will focus on improving the policy enabling environment to encourage private sector participation in local resource management, and ideally to also facilitate new investments towards this goal. The project will also make opportunities to engage with private sector actors at the regional level in support of raising the profile of the Micronesia Challenge as part efforts to accomplish sustainable development and blue economy strategies.

Tracking of private sector engagement is included as part of the project results framework (see ProDoc Appendix C).

2.5 Gender

To promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, the project has undertaken a Gender Analysis (Appendix G) to understand the context on gender regionally and within RMI, FSM, and Palau to identify specific entry points for gender mainstreaming. Based on this analysis, a gender-sensitive approach has been identified for the project outcomes, outputs, and activities, and gender-sensitive indicators have been developed for the proposed project. This includes reporting against GEF Core Indicator 11: *Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment*, with a project target of at least 1,082 direct project beneficiaries, 506 woman and 576 men (see Appendix M for further details).

Gender issues vary between Pacific Island countries according to their levels of economic development, social and cultural norms, levels of population, migration, and emigration, and political climate. In the past 20 years, there has been significant progress in the increasing recognition of gender equality in Pacific Island countries (PIC). PIC have signed onto international treaties, including the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), as well as regional platforms, including The Revised Pacific Platform for Action on Advancement of Women and Gender Equality: A Regional Charter. Pacific Island countries have also established national gender equality policies and institutional mechanisms for gender equality. However, gender-based inequalities remain in several dimensions, including: high rates of gender-based violence, low proportions of women represented at all levels of decision-making, under-representation of women in the formal economy, inequitable access of women to health and social services, limited involvement in strategies related to climate change, natural disasters, and food security.

More specific to this project's objective, gender mainstreaming was highlighted at the 2019 MIF which also initiated the momentum for the 2030 Micronesia Challenge. The 2019 MIF Joint Communique proposed the establishment of a Standing Gender Equality Committee to support promotion of gender equality. In addition, more specific to the 2030 Micronesia Challenge, the MC independent evaluation also included key recommendations to promote gender equality. As part of recommendations for conservation actions and goals, the evaluation recommended for increased involvement of women's groups or organizations due to their influence in societies across Micronesia to help carry the MC messages and implement actions needed to attain the goals of the Micronesia Challenge. It also noted that woman's groups are an important stakeholder to be engaged in planning the future of the MC.

The Republic of the Marshalls Islands (RMI) has committed to achieve gender equality through international and regional conventions and instruments including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW), the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Beijing Platform for Action, the Revised Pacific Platform for Action for the Advancement of Women and Gender Equality,

and the 2012 Forum Leaders Gender Equality Declaration.²⁹ In 2015, the RMI government published the National Gender Mainstreaming Policy to guide the process of developing laws, policies, procedures, and practices that will address the needs and priorities of all women and men to end the discrimination and inequality. The main gender issues in RMI include provision for sexual and reproductive health,³⁰ higher rate in teenage pregnancy,³¹ the rates of violence that women experience,³² lack of work opportunities, and underrepresentation in management positions.³³ Despite the influential matrilineal culture of RMI, where women are perceived as custodians of land, culture, and tradition, men are, in the end, the primary decision-makers. Even though women are likely to have access to land, they have limited control, due to the traditional governance systems which determine decisions about its use. The combination of a lack of land ownership and decision making for resource management puts RMI women in a disadvantaged position regarding economic autonomy.

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) contains distinct ethnic groups, which influences the roles, responsibilities, and status of women. Except for Yap and a few remote islands in Pohnpei, most ethnic groups are matrilineal, with land ownership, use rights, and customary titles passed through the female line. Nevertheless, matrilineal descent does not guarantee women a voice in decision-making about resources.³⁴ While inheritance may pass through the female lineage, power over resources is often conferred to men. In the past decade, the FSM government has adopted international platforms, including the Pacific Platform for Action on Women (PPA, 1994), Cairo Platform for Action on Population and Development, the Global Platform for Action on Women (GPA, 1995), and the Beijing Global Platform for Action (GPA, 1995).³⁵ FSM does not currently have a national gender policy, and the current laws provide inadequate protection and safety for victims of gender-based violence (GBV). The main challenges for women in the FSM are related to reproductive health, domestic violence, sexual harassment, legal inequality, high rates of illiteracy, reduced job opportunities and limited access to the highest levels of decision making.

The Republic of Palau has a society that follows matrilineal traditions, particularly in relation to marriage and inheritance of land and titles. However, gender equality continues to be a significant social, economic, and political issue.³⁶ In 2013, the Palau government signed on to

²⁹ Office of the Chief Secretary/ Economic, Planning and Statistics Office. National Gender Mainstreaming Policy of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. 2015. The Republic of the Marshall Islands: Majuro.

³⁰ Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women. 2001. Gender Mainstreaming: Strategy for Promoting Gender Equality. Factsheet.

³¹ Republic of the Marshall Islands. 2014. Review of progress in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action in the Republic of Marshall Islands. National Review.

³² the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Ministry of Internal Affairs. 2014. Family Health and Safety Survey.

³³ Republic of the Marshall Islands. 2014. Review of progress in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action in the Republic of Marshall Islands. National Review.

³⁴ The Federated States of Micronesia. Millennium Development Goals & the Federated States of Micronesia Status Report. 2010. Available:

https://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/MDG/english/MDG%20Country%20Reports/Micronesia/FSM_MDG%202010.pdf

³⁵ FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs. 2014. *Federated States of Micronesia Family Health and Safety Study*. Report on the FSM. Available: FSM [Family Health and Safety Study](#).

³⁶ Australian Government. *Pacific Women: Shaping Pacific Development*. Available: <http://pacificwomenreport.org/progress-by-location/palau/>

international gender policies and ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Beijing Global Platform for Action, and has signed the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). In the past years, the Ministry for Community and Cultural Affairs has been working to introduce gender mainstreaming across all its policies and programs, designing for the first time a participatory mainstreaming policy and strategy for the country. Despite all these efforts, Palau society has significant challenges regarding gender equality. Some of the main issues are related to the lack of representation in the parliament, limited access to the formal and informal labor force, physical and sexual violence, sexual health, high rates of teenage pregnancy, and lack of representation in the decision-making table for private and public organizations.³⁷

Where possible in national and regional project activities, the project will make intentional efforts to engage with national stakeholders with a focus on gender—including the initial list of national organizations identified in the following table. These efforts will include, as nationally appropriate, national stakeholders with a focus on gender engaged as the primary stakeholder to guide the PMU in the development of project gender TORs recommended as amendments or inclusion in national working group TORs (as discussed in the Gender Action Plan). Further, the PMU will ensure that national stakeholders with a focus on gender are invited to all relevant national and regional virtual and in-person public events. An initial and non-exhaustive list of national stakeholders with a focus on gender includes:

Stakeholders with a focus on gender	
Republic of the Marshalls Islands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI). • Awareness of Conservation and Preservation of Environment (2005-Present). • Gender Equality in Leadership (2009-Present). • Climate Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Education (CADRE).
Federated States of Micronesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FSM Gender and Development (GAD) program. • FSM National Women Advisory Council (NWAC). • FSM Women’s Interest Program (WIP). • National Women’s Information Officer (NWIO).
Republic of Palau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Center for Women Empowerment. • Bureau of Public Safety (BPS). • Women of Palau Conference. • Gender Division. • Victims of Crime Assistance.

Gender Action Plan

³⁷ Pacific Community and UN Women. Stock take of the gender mainstreaming capacity of Pacific Island Governments Republic of Palau. 2012.

Based on the project gender analysis, the project has identified entry points for ensuring gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment is incorporated into project activities. Specifically, the project will promote gender equality through multiple activities that engage with direct project beneficiaries by leveraging multiple ongoing baseline activities at both the national and regional level, including implementation of MC evaluation recommendations and promotion of MC 2030 goals.

Under Component 1, specific gender activities will support the three national working groups in RMI, FSM, and Palau by reviewing and recommending each national working group TOR includes provisions that promote a gender-balance in terms of membership and participation. This will be achieved by proposing a project gender TOR to be incorporated to newly created TORs and added as an addendum to existing TORs. This includes participation of CMAC members in RMI, PAN TC members in the PAN TC in FSM, and PNMS DPF working group members in Palau as part of Output 1.1.1 (*National level policy recommendations and planning tools to advise integrated marine resource management (aligned with MC 2030 Conservation Targets)*) and especially Activity 1.1.1.1 (*Establish technical working group or strengthen existing inter-agency bodies and identify priorities*). National working group member participation will be observed and captured in annual work plan monitoring and the project results framework disaggregated by sex. Further, gender mainstreaming will be promoted within Activity 1.1.1.4 (*Develop one national MC 2030 Strategic Plan per country*) with the inclusion of specific section within each national plan that identifies opportunities and makes specific recommendations to mutually achieve national gender priorities and MC 2030 goals.

Within Component 2, the project will strive towards having all meetings and workshops hosted by the project work towards equal representation of men and women and, where possible, will prioritize speaking opportunities for women. This will be achieved by developing and implementing a set of gender mainstreaming principles that will be consulted and guide the PMU and other key project stakeholders when hosting project supported events. This may also include project events that are supporting the MCSC, MCRO, MC Measures Groups, and other MC events. Participation at these events will be observed and captured in annual work plan monitoring and the project results framework disaggregated by sex. More specifically, this will include promoting gender equality in Activity 2.1.1.1 (*MCRO Coordinator engaging across MC region*), Activity 2.1.1.2 (*MC representation at key ocean events*), Activity 2.1.1.5 (*Organization and logistics for MC side event at major international event*), Activity 2.1.1.7: (*Enhance MC Measures databases and monitoring capacity*), Activity 2.1.2.1 (*MC rep attend/present at least one highly relevant international conference per year*), Activity 2.2.1.2 (*Host high-level event to support MC 2030 visioning document potentially at 2021 MIF*), and Activity 2.2.1.3 (*MC 2030 Launching Celebration at CBD COP in October 2022*). Additionally, specific MC outputs developed within Component 2 will include specific sections that identify opportunities to promote gender equality. This will include Activity 2.1.1.3 (*Develop a MCRO 2020–2030 Strategic Plan, including fundraising plan and MCRO operational structure recommendations*) and Activity 2.1.2.2 (*Update MC 2008 Communications Plan*). Lastly, at least three specific MC communication product under Activity 2.1.2.3 (*Develop at least two communications products per year (coordinated with project knowledge management products)*) will feature women's empowerment as part of the larger theme/story of the communication product.

Opportunities for promoting gender equality will also be sought within Component 3. To start, project lessons learned and best practice as it relates to mainstreaming gender equality and women's empowerment will be documented as part of the project knowledge products, experience notes and disseminated through IW: LEARN, project progress reports, final evaluation, and communication products (linked with Component 2) as appropriate under Output 3.1.1 (*Project knowledge captured and disseminated including through IW:LEARN*). Further, the project will ensure equal gender participation in IW:LEARN events and trainings, including Activity 3.1.1.4 (*Project participation in at least one project twinning or other IW:LEARN event*). As noted in the above component-level descriptions, project-wide participation will be captured in annual work plan monitoring and the project results framework disaggregated by sex as part of project monitoring and evaluation under Output 3.2.1 (*Monitoring and Evaluation reports (e.g. project progress reports, midterm review, and terminal evaluation)*). Additional relevant details for each of the three components are noted in the table below.

Gender Action Plan: Beneficiaries, Support, and Activities		
Project Direct Beneficiaries	Specific Gender Support	Identified Project Activities
<i>Component 1. National progress on regional and international ocean goals, including the Micronesia Challenge and Sustainable Development Goals</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of RMI's Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC) Members of FSM's Protected Areas Network Technical Committee (PAN TC) Members of Palau National Marine Sanctuary Domestic Fishing Working Group (PNMS DFWG) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop national working group gender TORs to promote gender equality Inclusion of specific section in national plans for mutual promotion of national gender policies and MC 2030 goals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity 1.1.1.1 Establish technical working group or strengthen existing inter-agency bodies and identify priorities Activity 1.1.1.4 Develop one national MC 2030 Strategic Plan per country
<i>Component 2. Sustaining regional natural resources management in Micronesia</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff from Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) Staff from Micronesia Challenge Regional Office (MCRO) Members from Micronesia Challenge Steering Committee (MCSC) Members of Micronesia Challenge Measures Groups Participants at Micronesia Challenge events (virtual and in-person) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For all meetings and workshops hosted by the project, promoting equal representation of men and women, including speaking opportunities for women. Inclusion of specific gender section in MC output documents that identify opportunities to promote gender equality At least three MC communication products that feature women's empowerment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity 2.1.1.1 (MCRO Coordinator engaging across MC region) Activity 2.1.1.2 (MC representation at key ocean events) Activity 2.1.1.5 (Organization and logistics for MC side event at major international event), Activity 2.1.1.7: (Enhance MC Measures databases and monitoring capacity) Activity 2.1.2.1 (MC rep attend/present at least one highly relevant international conference per year) Activity 2.2.1.2 (Host high-level event to support MC 2030 visioning document potentially at 2021 MIF) Activity 2.2.1.3 (MC 2030 Launching Celebration at CBD COP in October 2022).
<i>Component 3. Knowledge management and Project Monitoring & Evaluation</i>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project staff and key stakeholder participation in IW:LEARN (virtual and in-person events) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project lessons learned and best practice as it relates to mainstreaming gender equality and women's empowerment will be documented and disseminated through IW:LEARN, project progress reports, final evaluation, and communication products as appropriate. Project-wide participation captured in project monitoring and evaluation system, disaggregated by sex 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity 3.1.1.1 (Knowledge products developed and disseminated on MC, MCT, and IW:LEARN websites (at least one knowledge product per year) Activity 3.1.1.3 Develop at least one IW:LEARN project experience note Activity 3.1.1.4 (Project participation in at least one project twinning or other IW:LEARN event). Activity 3.2.1.1 (Project monitoring system developed for timely completion and submission of reports (aligned with MC Measures group where possible)) Activity 3.2.1.2 (Project terminal evaluation completed and submitted in a timely manner)
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The Project Manager, in collaboration with the Project Management Unit, will ensure that the Gender Action Plan will be fully implemented with the objective of meeting project goals for gender equality, and supporting national and regional baseline gender policies as described in this projects Gender Analysis (Appendix G of the WWF GEF Project Document). Gender equality monitoring will be made by the PMU on an annual basis as part of the tracking on the Project Results Framework (Appendix C of WWF GEF Project Document). Based on annual tracking in the Project Results Framework and Project Implementation Reports (PIRs), adaptive management recommendations to promote gender equality will be sought from WWF GEF Agency gender specialists and incorporated into subsequent annual workplan and budgets. The project aims to support at least 125 women and 125 men as direct project beneficiaries (Project Indicator 2 of the Project Results Framework). This is directly aligned with GEF Corporate Indicator 11 (*Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment*).

2.6 Safeguards

This GEF project has been classified as "Category C," since it is a technical assistance project and there are no negative environmental and social impacts anticipated. Long-term positive impacts are expected since the work is designed to assist countries in Micronesia to improve national and regional marine management in line with the Micronesia Challenge.

2.7 Budget & Budget Notes

The full project budget is relatively evenly split amongst the three years with slightly greater funds allocated to the first year for initial operational investments and to the third year for additional monitoring & evaluation expenses. Funding for the project activities is split amongst Component 1 (\$1,206,753), Component 2 (\$553,929), and Component 3 (\$57,500). The majority of funds are dedicated to Component 1, which is comprised of three subgrants to the partner nations. The next largest allocation is to Component 2, which focuses on regional interests. Component 3 includes a 1.375% allocation for IW:LEARN (\$27,500) as well as funding for a project Terminal Evaluation (\$30,000). The remainder of the budget is allocated to Project Management Costs and are capped at 10% of the project budget (\$181,818). The project is

supported by a collection of baseline programs and activities from 10 project partners valued at \$3,653,491 in co-financing as in-kind recurrent expenditures (see table below).

The project budget for Components 1, 2, and 3 is split between four subgrants. For Component 1, the funds are equally split amongst three subgrants to government agencies for each partner nation: Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (RMI), Ministry of Resources and Development (FSM), and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism (Palau) (\$400,051 each) as well as a \$6,600 allocation to MCT (total \$1,206,753). For Components 2 & 3, the funds for activities will be allocated via a subgrant (\$553,029) to the regional entity, the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT). The remainder of the budget is allocated to Project Management Costs (\$181,818) through the Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions. A Project Preparation Grant (PPG) reimbursement of \$50,000 is also being requested.

Project Budget by Partner Summary

Partner Name	Project Allocation	Primary Focus
RMI: Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA)	\$400,051	Component 1
FSM: Department of Resources & Development (R&D)	\$400,051	Component 1
Palau: Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism (MNRET)	\$400,051	Component 1
Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT)	\$588,029	Components 2 & 3
Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions (COS)	\$181,818	PMC

Confirmed Source of Project Co-Financing:

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Cofinancing	Investment Mobilized	Amount (\$)
Recipient Country Government	Federated States of Micronesia, Department of Resources & Development	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	476,326
Recipient Country Government	Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA)	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	200,000
Recipient Country Government	Marshall Islands Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	150,000
Recipient Country Government	Republic of Palau, Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	500,000
Government	Government of CNMI, Office of the Governor - Bureau of Environment and Coastal Quality	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	321,670

Government	U.S. Territory of Guam	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	326,920
Civil Society Organization	Micronesia Challenge Regional Office (MCRO)	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	340,692
Civil Society Organization	Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT)	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	470,850
Academic	Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	632,833
GEF Agency	WWF US	In-kind	Recurrent Expenditures	234,200
Total Co-financing				3,653,491

Summary Project Budget General Ledger

TOTAL PROJECT						
CATEGORY	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	PROJECT TOTAL
PERSONNEL	\$ 44,921.00	\$ 46,268.00	\$ 47,656.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 138,845.00
THIRD PARTY FEES & EXPENSES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000.00
GRANTS & AGREEMENTS	\$ 748,219.00	\$ 484,221.00	\$ 555,742.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,788,182.00
TRAVEL, MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS	\$ -	\$ 8,400.00	\$ 6,044.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,444.00
OTHER DIRECT COSTS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
EQUIPMENT	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	\$ 4,492.00	\$ 5,467.00	\$ 18,570.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,529.00
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	797,632	544,356	658,012	0	0	\$ 2,000,000.00
COMPONENT 1: 1. Coordinated strengthening of national integrated marine resource management, including key marine ecosystems of transboundary importance aligned with Micronesia Challenge 2030 priority planning						
CATEGORY	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	COMPONENT TOTAL
PERSONNEL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
THIRD PARTY FEES & EXPENSES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
GRANTS & AGREEMENTS	\$ 470,150.00	\$ 348,325.00	\$ 388,278.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,206,753.00
TRAVEL, MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
OTHER DIRECT COSTS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
EQUIPMENT	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$470,150.00	\$348,325.00	\$388,278.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,206,753.00
COMPONENT 2: Sustaining regional natural resources management in Micronesia						
CATEGORY	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	COMPONENT TOTAL
PERSONNEL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
THIRD PARTY FEES & EXPENSES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
GRANTS & AGREEMENTS	\$ 274,769.00	\$ 135,896.00	\$ 143,264.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 553,929.00
TRAVEL, MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
OTHER DIRECT COSTS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
EQUIPMENT	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$274,769.00	\$135,896.00	\$143,264.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 553,929.00
COMPONENT 3: Knowledge management and project monitoring & evaluation						
CATEGORY	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	COMPONENT TOTAL
PERSONNEL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
THIRD PARTY FEES & EXPENSES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000.00
GRANTS & AGREEMENTS	\$ 3,300.00	\$ -	\$ 24,200.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,500.00
TRAVEL, MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
OTHER DIRECT COSTS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
EQUIPMENT	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$ 3,300.00	\$ -	\$ 54,200.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 57,500.00
Program Management						
CATEGORY	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	COMPONENT TOTAL
PERSONNEL	\$ 44,921.00	\$ 46,268.00	\$ 47,656.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 138,845.00
THIRD PARTY FEES & EXPENSES	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
GRANTS & AGREEMENTS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TRAVEL, MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS	\$ -	\$ 8,400.00	\$ 6,044.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,444.00
OTHER DIRECT COSTS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
EQUIPMENT	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	\$ 4,492.00	\$ 5,467.00	\$ 18,570.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,529.00
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$ 49,413.00	\$ 60,135.00	\$ 72,270.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 181,818.00

Annual Budget Summary by Outcome and Output

CATEGORY	PROJECT TOTAL	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
COMPONENT 1: 1. Coordinated strengthening of national integrated marine resource management, including key marine ecosystems of transboundary importance aligned with Micronesia Challenge 2030 priority planning	\$1,206,753.00	\$ 470,150.00	\$ 348,325.00	\$ 388,278.00
Outcome 1.1. Improved national integrated marine resource management to make progress towards MC 2030 targets	\$1,206,753.00	\$ 470,150.00	\$ 348,325.00	\$ 388,278.00
Output 1.1.1 National policy gap analysis to identify priority pathways for achieving MC 2030 targets	\$ 72,600.00	\$ 72,600.00	\$ -	\$ -
Output 1.1.2 National working group meetings including key national and regional stakeholders, including the private sector (leveraging inter-agency working groups: CMAC (RMI), PAN TC (FSM), DPP sector (Palau))	\$ 451,000.00	\$ 173,250.00	\$ 124,025.00	\$ 153,725.00
Output 1.1.3 National plans, strategies, and policy recommendations to integrate protected area planning and fisheries management approaches	\$ 672,500.00	\$ 224,300.00	\$ 224,300.00	\$ 223,900.00
Output 1.1.4 Micronesia Challenge 2030 Strategic Plan per country (RMI, FSM, Palau)	\$ 10,653.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,653.00
COMPONENT 2: Sustaining regional natural resources management in Micronesia	\$ 553,929.00	\$ 274,769.00	\$ 135,896.00	\$ 143,264.00
Outcome 2.1. Strengthening MCRO for successful implementation of MC 2030	\$ 452,179.00	\$ 211,519.00	\$ 135,896.00	\$ 104,764.00
Output 2.1.1 Improved MC coordination through updated Strategic Plan, monitoring protocols, and communication plan & products	\$ 359,779.00	\$ 166,419.00	\$ 113,346.00	\$ 80,014.00
Output 2.1.2 Enhanced visibility of Micronesia Challenge	\$ 92,400.00	\$ 45,100.00	\$ 22,550.00	\$ 24,750.00
Outcome 2.2. Government commitment for MC 2030	\$ 101,750.00	\$ 63,250.00	\$ -	\$ 38,500.00
Output 2.2.1 MC 2030 visioning document endorsed	\$ 101,750.00	\$ 63,250.00	\$ -	\$ 38,500.00
COMPONENT 3: Knowledge management and project monitoring & evaluation	\$ 57,500.00	\$ 3,300.00	\$ -	\$ 54,200.00
Outcome 3.1. Project knowledge management	\$ 27,500.00	\$ 3,300.00	\$ -	\$ 24,200.00
Output 3.1.1. Project knowledge captured and disseminated including through IW:LEARN	\$ 27,500.00	\$ 3,300.00	\$ -	\$ 24,200.00
Outcome 3.2 Project management and evaluation system	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,000.00
Output 3.2.1 Monitoring and Evaluation reports (e.g. project progress reports, midterm review, terminal evaluation)	\$ 30,000.00			\$ 30,000.00
Program Management	\$ 181,818.00	\$ 49,413.00	\$ 60,135.00	\$ 72,270.00
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$2,000,000.00	\$ 797,632.00	\$ 544,356.00	\$ 658,012.00

Project Budget Notes*

**Note costs identified in the below narratives are a summary of the activities identified within the subgrants (see Appendix I for subgrant-specific budget notes) to the respective partners and not additional to the other narratives presented in this budget notes subsection.*

Staffing

Two positions are budgeted for the Project Management Unit (PMU) under Project Management Costs: the Project Manager and Finance Manager. The Project Manager will lead overall project management duties throughout the duration of the project at 45% FTE (30% covered under the GEF grant at \$119,027, 15% cofinanced). The Finance Manager will lead overall financial management duties throughout the duration of the project at 10% FTE (5% covered under the GEF grant at \$19,818, 5% of the time is cofinanced).

Personnel costs are budgeted with an average annual increase at 3% for cost-of-living adjustments. Fringe benefit rates have also been included, in accordance with existing salary policies.

Third Party Fees and Expenses

An independent consultant will be recruited by WWF to undertake the terminal evaluation (\$44,300).

Expenses under subgrant line items

Under component 1, each partner nation will hire consultants to conduct the MC 2030 policy gap analysis, support working group research and analysis, and develop the national MC 2030 Strategic Plan (\$755,753).

In component 2, MCT will hire consultants to develop an updated MCRO operational structure and Strategic Plan, plan and execute high-level events, develop communication products, strengthen & maintain an MC social media presence, and develop high-level visioning resources (\$159,429).

Under component 3, MCT will hire consultants to develop communication products for IW:LEARN.

Contractual Services

Expenses under subgrant line items

Subrecipient expenses are allocated within component 2 (\$256,439). These expenses are included within the subgrant to MCT and are for establishing a central document repository, enhancing MC Measures databases & monitoring capacity, updating the MC Communications Plan, hosting events in support of the MC Visioning Document compilation, and hosting an MC 2030 Launch Celebration.

Travel

\$14,444 is budgeted for PMU Project Manager and Finance Manager travel to the Micronesia region to attend project workshops, meetings and project management activities (under PMC).

Expenses under subgrant line items

In component 1, travel expenses are allocated for MCRO involvement in project kickoff meetings as well as for each nation to support travel and lodging for working group meeting participants (\$359,150). In component 2, travel expenses are allocated to MCT for MCRO travel to national working group meetings and for MC representation at major regional and global events to raise the profile of the MC (\$57,200). In component 3, travel expenses are allocated to MCT for project member participation in at least one IW:LEARN event (\$13,200).

Workshops and meetings

Expenses under subgrant line items

Funding for workshop and meetings is contained within Component 1 as described in the detailed subgrant budget narratives in Appendix I. For Component 1, a total of \$91,850 is evenly split across the three nations for national working group workshops under Component 1 as follows: Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (RMI), Ministry of Resources and Development (FSM), and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism (Palau). Each partner nation will host national working group meetings to support Output 1.1.2 as well as deliverables from Outputs 1.1.3 and 1.1.4.

Equipment

No equipment is anticipated to be purchased with GEF funding within the scope this project.

Project Management Costs (PMC)

The Project Management Cost (PMC) of this three-year GEF Medium Sized Project (MSP) is budgeted at 10% of the project, totaling \$181,818. The PMC is supporting a virtual Project Management Unit (PMU) led by Stanford COS and MCRO (see Section 2.3 Institutional Arrangement for more detail). The PMU consists of three part-time staffing positions totaling \$138,846: Project Coordinator (MCRO, cofinanced), Project Manager (COS) and Finance Manger (COS). The virtual PMU is supported with \$14,444 in travel and \$16,528 of operational assistance costs, inclusive of a final project financial audit (\$12,000). The financial audit will follow WWF GEF and GEF Independent Evaluation Office (GEF IEO) guidelines and additional specifications identified in project grant agreements and subgrants, as relevant. The project final audit will be performed by a separate entity than the project terminal evaluation but also within no more than six months of project close. The specific costs for project financial audit will be for recruitment of an auditing firm to conduct the financial audit.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The project monitoring and evaluation plan has been developed in coordination with national and regional project stakeholders. A total of \$30,000 has been budgeted for M&E under Outcomes 3.1 and 3.2 (see Appendix H: Detailed Budget Tables). These budgeted funds include an allocation of \$30,000 for independent consultants to complete a project terminal evaluation within Output 3.2.1.

IW:LEARN

A total of \$27,500 is part of the subgrant to MCT as an allocation to the GEF International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IW:LEARN), representing 1.375% of the total project budget. The entirety of this funding is for activities under Output 3.1.1: *Project*

knowledge captured and disseminated including through IW:LEARN through the subgrant to MCT. The funding will support the project objective through \$14,300 in consultants for the development of knowledge products, experience notes, and support for project website) and \$13,200 supporting travel to at least one IW:LEARN event.

Section 3: GEF Alignment and Justification

3.1 Incremental Cost Reasoning and Global Environmental Benefits

Incremental Cost Reasoning

The small island developing states of Micronesia disproportionately rely on coastal and marine resources to achieve national economic development goals. Yet despite the exceptionally long distances separating them, the coastal and marine ecosystems these Micronesian island nations depend on are inextricably connected and require shared transboundary marine resource management for long-term ocean health and meeting national development goals. With increasing pressure on these natural resources, coupled with the impacts of climate change, the integration of sustainable coastal and marine resources management into the broader socio-economic agenda is essential for a healthy future environment, economy, and national food security.

The GEF supported and SPREP-led WPWP LME TDA and SAP identified three priority transboundary concerns: (i) pollution of marine and freshwater (including groundwater) from land-based activities; (ii) physical, ecological and hydrological modification of critical habitats, and; (iii) unsustainable exploitation of living and nonliving resources. While there has been ongoing support towards addressing transboundary management of pelagic fisheries due to their immediate economic importance for many island nations, far less support has been made available for the other SAP priority transboundary concerns; (i) pollution of marine and freshwater (including groundwater) from land-based activities, and; (ii) physical, ecological and hydrological modification of critical habitats, including addressing the unsustainable exploitation of reef fisheries and other living and nonliving resources. This is further reinforced by the 2020 State of the Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands report that stressed continued environmental problems across national and regional governance and conservation approaches and the degradation of biodiversity and coastal and marine habitats. Among the many important recommendations from the report are regional recommendations for regional coordination to mitigate transboundary hazards that threaten coastal fish populations, coral reefs, and other essential habitats for food security and economically important pelagic fish.

The governments of RMI, FSM, and Palau have taken large steps towards meeting many of these marine management priorities, most notably under the Micronesia Challenge and promotion of national commitments for protection of at least 30% of nearshore marine areas by 2020. The GEF previously invested in both national and regional marine management in Micronesia, including the Micronesia Challenge through the establishment of Micronesia Conservation Trust, an innovative sustainable financing mechanism. However, with the 2020 Micronesia Challenge deadline now passed, the long-term post-2020 future for marine management in Micronesia begins. As the WPWP LAM SAP and 2020 State of the Environment and Conservation for the Pacific Island highlight, this includes addressing several persistent marine transboundary concerns. The Micronesia Challenge serves as a critical framework to address the transboundary concerns through a fostering collaboration within the WPWP LME and overseeing coordination of national efforts to strengthen current marine ecosystem and coastal fisheries management. . The independent evaluation of the Micronesia Challenge and the terminal evaluation of the 2015

GEF-UNEP Micronesia project both clearly highlights the successes and continued added value of the Micronesia Challenge, but also the barriers that exist at the national and regional levels.

The five Micronesia jurisdictions agreed to an expanded set of 2030 Micronesia Challenge conservation goals and process targets at the 24th Micronesia Island Forum (MIF) meeting in July 2019 (Appendix J). Many of these expanded MC 2030 targets echo the transboundary priorities raised by the WPWP LME SAP and respond to the recognized importance of the marine environment for meeting long-term development goals for the Micronesia region. This is further reflected in the close alignment of the expanded MC 2030 goals with the Sustainable Development Goals and the national prioritization of specific SDGs, including SDG 14 focusing on life underwater. Yet with the expanded 2030 MC goals comes additional and new responsibilities. The current abilities of the regional coordination mechanisms of the Micronesia Challenge are highly strained. To successfully meet the new MC 2030 goals will require targeted financial support from the GEF to strengthen transboundary integrated marine resource management across Micronesia to ensure successful implementation of Micronesia Challenge 2030 goals. This effort includes supporting national and regional integrated resource planning, coordination, and awareness so that by the end of the project there is a significantly improved MC enabling environment with a detailed road map to guide each country towards meetings its national and regional MC 2030 goals. These benefits will require overcoming regional and national barriers that are compromising integrated natural resource planning, weak coordination, and declining awareness.

The five Micronesia jurisdictions that support the Micronesia Challenge are already investing in these efforts, especially the three GEF-recipient countries that are supported by this project, including the RMI, the FSM, and Palau. The ongoing baseline efforts in each country build from their current progress towards the 2020 Micronesia Challenge goals, largely driven by the development, expansion, and strengthening of their respective Protected Area Networks (PANs). In all three countries, the expanded MC 2030 goals require planning and mainstreaming into current baseline efforts. The RMI baseline builds from the government's 2018 amendment of their PAN Act which has formalized their Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC) with an expanded mandate to support PAN implementation. Similarly, the FSM baseline builds from the recently passed legislation for the National Protected Areas Network Policy Framework and a 2017 expansion of fisheries management, creating a need for a nation-wide and state-led integrated coastal resource management plan. In Palau, the baseline builds on the government efforts to establish a domestic pelagic fishery as part of long-term sustainability of their PNMS implementation. Among all this regional and national baseline activity in Micronesia, the international community has recently turned its focus towards ocean conservation, the blue economy, and the critical role oceans play in sustainable development. This revised focus is best captured by the amount of political momentum leading up to multiple high-level conferences focused on the oceans that were planned in 2020 and 2021. Further, The United Nations has proclaimed the next decade (2021–2030) as the Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development to support efforts to reverse the cycle of decline in ocean health and gather ocean stakeholders worldwide behind a common framework that will ensure ocean science can fully support countries in creating improved conditions for sustainable development of the Ocean.

An unfortunate business-as-usual scenario without support from the GEF International Waters focal area would almost certainly lead to missing out on this rare window of opportunity to leverage national, regional, and global political momentum towards protecting one of the most biologically and economically important areas of the globe. Without GEF support, the current pace of progress for marine management in Micronesia will likely struggle to survive with declining funding, coordination, and national political interest and participation. This struggle will likely result in highly inconsistent progress among the three countries, with many missed opportunities for policy cooperation and management collaboration among neighboring nations to learn and share experiences. Lack of assistance to address the presented barriers will further lead to a low functioning and low visibility MCRO that will be unable to become more self-sufficient through political support and fundraising, and almost certainly missing the MC 2030 process targets towards MCRO strengthening. The inevitable turnover in national level politics will further ensure that the not just the MC, but the role healthy oceans play in sustainable development, slips farther from the forefront of local and national political agendas. And perhaps the largest impact will be the continued disintegration of national and regional efforts without any guiding strategies, ensuring weakening of natural resource management efforts and counterproductive activities that severely limit results. Ultimately a business-as-usual scenario will fail to intervene on the primary marine transboundary concerns for Micronesia, leading to further declines in commercially important coastal fish stocks and marine habitats, severely undermining national sustainable development and blue economy strategy implementation.

The GEF International Waters focal area is uniquely positioned to support this regional effort to strengthen transboundary integrated marine resource management across Micronesia to ensure successful implementation of Micronesia Challenge 2030 goals for sustaining healthy coastal and marine ecosystems and fisheries management as part of larger investments in supporting national sustainable development and blue economy. GEF International Waters will build on key past successes including the WPWP LME SAP and the MC 2020 and current national and regional baseline efforts for targeted removal of specific barriers. These barriers include: a) insufficient inter-institutional and multi-sectoral planning and management; b) limited national and regional capacity and insufficient management effectiveness; c) limited national, regional, and transboundary coordination and harmonization of management efforts, and; d) limited political and general public awareness of Micronesia Challenge goals. By removing these barriers through the project, the GEF will directly support strengthening the enabling environment for successful implementation of the 2030 Micronesia Challenge, including support towards regional and national integrated natural resource planning, coordination, and awareness.

The GEF funded alternative scenario proposes a GEF International Waters project that has been carefully designed to build on existing national and regional baseline efforts through three project components. The project directly responds to recommendations from the independent evaluation of the MC , the GEF-UNEP MC project terminal evaluation, and the 2020 State of the Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands, consistent with the primary marine transboundary concerns highlighted by the WPWP LME TDA-SAP. Coordinated GEF support to national working groups in RMI, FSM, and Palau for strengthening marine planning and management efforts includes assessing the current policy gaps for achieving national MC 2030 priorities, the marine policy recommendation and planning tools to address these gaps, and the development of national MC 2030 strategic plans. In the Marshall Islands, the project will

support the Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC) with the very new mandate to advise the PAN office. In FSM, the project will directly support a Technical Committee that has recently been established to be revised PAN Framework. In Palau, the project will support a working group assembled by MNRET to establish a domestic pelagic fishery as part of sustainable implementation of the PNMS. Regionally, the project is directly supporting the strengthening of the MCRO for long-term success with meeting the MC 2030 goals. This support includes investments into updated regional operation and communication strategies and creation of political momentum to support the MC.

Collectively the GEF investment will leave the three participating countries and the key regional MC entities with consistent and well-coordinated national and regional MC 2030 strategic plans and renewed political momentum for the Micronesia Challenge. These efforts will ensure there is a far more favorable enabling environment for the Micronesia Challenge by the end of the project that is primed for national and regional MC 2030 strategy implementation in the remaining six to seven years until 2030. The GEF investments will further accelerate national-level baseline progress that meets national priorities aligned with the priorities of the WPWP LME SAP as well as the more recent SDGs. As several ocean-related conferences are being planned, unique opportunity exists to leverage growing political momentum at the national, regional, and international level connecting the importance of the MC to meet broader sustainable development objectives. These events also allow an opportunity to celebrate the Micronesia Challenge successes to date with past and present project partners, especially including the GEF and its significant past support to the Micronesia Challenge. As the Micronesia Challenge has served as a successful model for other LMEs and regions, this project provides the timely resources to properly document and disseminate lessons learned to the global community through IW:LEARN and these major international fora while international attention is focused on oceans through 2021–2030 as part of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

Global Environmental Benefits

The Micronesia region is home to globally important marine environments that provide critical ecosystem services, including world class tourism and habitats for globally important commercial fisheries, everything from multiple coastal finfish and invertebrate species to pelagic species like tuna. From an investment perspective, this GEF international waters marine transboundary project is designed to yield multiple global environmental benefits as measured by three GEF Core Indicators and multiple project-level indicators.

The project will invest in cooperation among all five Micronesia jurisdictions, including three GEF-recipient countries, to strengthen transboundary marine resource management across an ocean area of nearly 5.6 million km², or roughly the size of the continental United States. This will be accomplished through parallel national and regional components supporting planning to meet MC 2030 goals. At the national level the focus is on parallel national dialogues aimed at conserving and restoring marine ecosystem goods and services, including the integration of marine protected area networks and management with globally significant marine biodiversity and economically important coastal fisheries. Indirectly through improved management of marine natural resources, the project will also lead to increased capacity of natural systems to sequester carbon and improved coastal and marine ecosystem resilience to reduce vulnerability to certain impacts to climate change. At the regional level, the focus on strengthening the

Micronesia Challenge will directly benefit improved coordination and management among the five Micronesia jurisdictions within the WPWP LME.

The project will specifically yield results that are tracked by three GEF Core Indicators. To start, the project will advance GEF Core Indicator 7: *Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management*, though the direct support the WPWP LME. Further, additional tracking of this indicator will be made under GEF Core Indicator 7.3: *Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministerial Committees* by moving all three project countries from a 1 (1 = Neither national/local reforms nor IMCs) to a 3 (3 = National/local reforms and IMCs in place). Next, the project will make progress on GEF Core Indicator 7.4: *Level of engagement in IW:LEARN* through participation and delivery of key products by the end of the project achieving a target of 4 (4 = As above, plus active participation of project staff and country representatives at IW Conference and the provision of spatial data and other data points via project website).

The project will also monitor progress against GEF Core Indicator 8: *Globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels (metric tons)*, with an end of project target of 281,947 metric tonnes for all three participating countries. This will be accomplished through the integration of management of nearshore fisheries policies with national marine protected area networks as part of the policy and planning recommendations from Output 1.1.3. Appendix L provides details on the methodology used to calculate and monitoring against this GEF Core Indicator.

The project also supports progress on GEF Corporate Indicator 11: *Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment*, through supporting at least 506 women, 576 men beneficiaries, totaling 1082 beneficiaries as reflected in the project Results Framework (Appendix C), Gender Action Plan, and Core Indicator Methodology (Appendix M).

3.2 Alignment with GEF Focal Area and/or Impact Program Strategies

Consistency with GEF Focal Area/Fund Strategies

As a regional project promoting improved transboundary marine natural resources management across Micronesia, the project has been designed for direct alignment with the GEF-7 International Waters Strategy Objective 1: *Strengthening Blue Economy opportunities*, including the GEF-7 IW Program 1.1: *Sustaining Healthy Coastal and Marine Ecosystems*, and Program 1.2: *Catalyzing Sustainable Fisheries Management*. This design builds on past GEF investments that include the primary marine transboundary concerns highlighted by the WPWP LME TDA-SAP and the progress from the initial phase of the MC. The project's design is also based on recommendations from the 2020 MC evaluation, relevant past GEF project evaluations, and the SPREP 2020 State of the Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands.

Under the GEF-7 IW Objective 1-1: *Sustaining Healthy Coastal and Marine Ecosystems* program, the project is designed to align with investments focused on supporting the Micronesia governments with development of marine management strategies addressing primary transboundary concerns identified by the WPWP LME SAP that advance progress towards national sustainable development goals, which for these island nations constitute blue economy strategies that link sustainable use of marine natural resources to improvements in socio-economic development, food security, and overall community wellbeing. This will include the mainstreaming of marine area based management and spatial tools and recommendations for addressing policy gaps and development of specific national strategies to secure stronger marine management mechanisms helping governments advance MC 2030 goals. In RMI and FSM, this includes directly supporting technical committees advising PAN management: CMAC in RMI and the PAN TC in FSM. In Palau, support is directed at a government working group addressing their domestic pelagic fishery sector as part of long-term implementation of Palau's PNMS by relieving coastal fishing pressure on critical habitats outside of PNMS.

Within each country is also a focus on strengthened national policy and planning tools promoting sustainable coastal fisheries management aligned under the Objective 1-2: *Catalyzing Sustainable Fisheries Management* program. More specifically, the national working groups under Outcome 1.1 will assess the necessary policy and planning required to integrate coastal fisheries management with marine protected area networks to meet the MC 2030 Process Target, "*Incorporate regional and jurisdictional fisheries management approaches, integrated with MPAs; (linked to SDG Goal 14.1)*". Each national working group will also function as a platform, as nationally appropriate, for private sector engagement with relevant industry actors and groups, most specifically private fishing entities mutually invested in the long-term health of coastal and pelagic fish stocks. This will lead to the advancement of new national level policy frameworks that advance ecosystem-based management of nearshore fisheries integrated with national protected area network systems.

Lastly, the project is aligned with the GEF-7 IW Objective 1 investment priority of engaging with national, regional and global stakeholders to increase collaboration among LMEs and provide experience sharing and cross-support to investments and regional management processes, including through dedicated activities within the IW-LEARN community and with

important ocean-related international events. These project collaboration efforts are a critical part of strengthening MCRO's role in the MC that aligns with multiple MC 2030 process targets.

Collectively the project alignment under the GEF-7 IW focal area is captured through monitoring progress under GEF Core Indicator 7: *Number of shared marine ecosystem under improved cooperative management*, GEF Core Indicator 8: *Globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels (metric tons)*, and GEF Core Indicator 11: *Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment*.

3.3 Socioeconomic Benefits

Through supporting participatory processes to achieve integrated resource management at national and regional levels, this project aims to help the three countries improve livelihoods within local communities, minimize unintended consequences, and assess socioeconomic trade-offs of ecosystem services. Integrating human dimensions into conservation management is central for positive social, environmental, and management outcomes, and failure to do so can undermine success and lead to significant conflict and resistance to management strategies.^{38,39,40} Therefore, this project will support workshops and stakeholder engagement processes to help national leaders 'connect' the importance and existence value of the marine protection to the daily lives and social wellbeing of stakeholders and the public.⁴¹ Marine resource management authorities will identify and involve stakeholders and create opportunities for meaningful input from these groups in management planning.⁴²

This project will support the synthesis of existing data, and identify data gaps, to understand the socioeconomic effects of national and regional level marine management and to minimize the potential for unintended consequences. It is not uncommon for conservation strategies, like marine protected areas, to have unintended consequences.^{43,44} For example, strategies limiting access to a resource (e.g., establishing a partial no-fishing) can shift market equilibrium leading to negative, unintended market outcomes such as price fluctuations and shifts to other goods²⁴. Thus, in order to achieve conservation goals and avoid unintended consequences, protected-area

³⁸ Day, Jon C., and K Dobbs. 2013. "Effective Governance of a Large and Complex Cross-Jurisdictional Marine Protected Area: Australia's Great Barrier Reef." *Marine Policy* 41 (14–24).

³⁹ Gaymer, C.F., A.V. Stadel, N.C. Ban, P.F. Carcamo, J. Ierna Jr., and L.M. Lieberknecht. 2014. "Merging Top-down and Bottom-up Approaches in Marine Protected Areas Planning: Experiences from around the Globe." *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems* 24 (S2): 128–44.

⁴⁰ Richmond, L, and D Kotowicz. 2015. "Equity and Access in Marine Protected Areas: The History and Future of 'traditional Indigenous Fishing.'" *Applied Geography* 59: 117–24

⁴¹ Christie, Patrick, Nathan J. Bennett, Noella J. Gray, T. 'Aulani Wilhelm, Nai'a Lewis, John Parks, Natalie C. Ban, et al. 2017. "Why People Matter in Ocean Governance: Incorporating Human Dimensions into Large-Scale Marine Protected Areas." *Marine Policy* 84 (January): 273–84. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2017.08.002>.

⁴² Lewis, N, Jon C. Day, A Wilhelm, D Wagner, C.F. Gaymer, J. Parks, A.M. Friedlander, et al. 2017. "Large-Scale Marine Protected Areas: Guidelines for Design and Management."

⁴³ Gaymer, C.F., A.V. Stadel, N.C. Ban, P.F. Carcamo, J. Ierna Jr., and L.M. Lieberknecht. 2014. "Merging Top-down and Bottom-up Approaches in Marine Protected Areas Planning: Experiences from around the Globe." *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems* 24 (S2): 128–44

⁴⁴ Lim, Felix K.S., L. Roman Carrasco, Jolian McHardy, and David P. Edwards. 2017. "Perverse Market Outcomes from Biodiversity Conservation Interventions." *Conservation Letters* 10 (5): 506–16. <https://doi.org/10.1111/conl.12332>

policies need to be based on a deep understanding of socioeconomic trade-offs,^{45,46,47,48,49,50} and this project will support in-country and cross-country efforts to analysis socioeconomic tradeoffs of marine resource management.

Marine ecosystem services (e.g. coastal protection, biodiversity, recreation and other cultural services), have high economic values to national economies, and can be derived from multiple marine ecosystems.⁵¹ Minimizing damage to these ecosystems through ecosystem-based resource management, including marine protected areas, can optimize the value derived from them by local communities.^{52,53} This project will support the designing and management of ecosystem-based marine resource management at the national and regional scale to optimize the respective ecosystems services. Regional benefits exist from effective marine resource management at the local level.^{54,55} Thus, the regional component of this project is essential to ensure local, in-country efforts lead to regional environmental outcomes.

⁴⁵ Clifton, Julian, Eslam O. Osman, David J. Suggett, and David J. Smith. 2019. “Resolving Conservation and Development Tensions in a Small Island State: A Governance Analysis of Curieuse Marine National Park, Seychelles.” *Marine Policy*, no. July: 103617. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2019.103617>.

⁴⁶ Pringle, Robert M. 2017. “Upgrading Protected Areas to Conserve Wild Biodiversity.” *Nature* 546 (7656): 91–99. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nature22902>

⁴⁷ Watson, James E M, Nigel Dudley, Daniel B Segan, and Marc Hockings. 2014. “The Performance and Potential of Protected Areas.” *Nature* 515 (7525): 67–73. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nature13947>

⁴⁸ Ban, Natalie C., Georgina Grace Gurney, Nadine A. Marshall, Charlotte K. Whitney, Morena Mills, Stefan Gelcich, Nathan J. Bennett, et al. 2019. “Well-Being Outcomes of Marine Protected Areas.” *Nature Sustainability* 2 (6): 524–32. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-019-0306-2>.

⁴⁹ Larrosa, Cecilia, Luis R. Carrasco, and E. J. Milner-Gulland. 2016. “Unintended Feedbacks: Challenges and Opportunities for Improving Conservation Effectiveness.” *Conservation Letters* 9 (5): 316–26. <https://doi.org/10.1111/conl.12240>.

⁵⁰ Gardner, Charlie J., Julia E. Latham, and Steve Rocliffe. 2017. “Intended and Unintended Outcomes in Fisheries Learning Exchanges: Lessons from Mexico and Madagascar.” *Marine Policy* 77 (March): 219–26. <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.MARPOL.2016.04.040>.

⁵¹ Barbier, Edward B. 2017. “Marine Ecosystem Services.” *Current Biology* 27 (11): R507–10. <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.CUB.2017.03.020>.

⁵² Edgar, Graham J., Rick D. Stuart-Smith, Trevor J. Willis, Stuart Kininmonth, Susan C. Baker, Stuart Banks, Neville S. Barrett, et al. 2014. “Global Conservation Outcomes Depend on Marine Protected Areas with Five Key Features.” *Nature* 506 (7487): 216–20. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nature13022>.

⁵³ Rosenberg, AA, and KL McLeod. 2005. “Implementing Ecosystem-Based Approaches to Management for the Conservation of Ecosystem Services.” *Marine Ecology Progress Series* 300: 270–74.

⁵⁴ Carlsson, Lars, and Fikret Berkes. 2005. “Co-Management: Concepts and Methodological Implications.” *Journal of Environmental Management* 75 (1): 65–76. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2004.11.008>.

⁵⁵ Hassler, Björn, Kira Gee, Michael Gilek, Anne Luttmann, Andrea Morf, Fred Saunders, Igne Stalmokaite, Helena Strand, and Jacek Zaucha. 2018. “Collective Action and Agency in Baltic Sea Marine Spatial Planning: Transnational Policy Coordination in the Promotion of Regional Coherence.” *Marine Policy* 92 (June): 138–47. <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.MARPOL.2018.03.002>.

3.4 Risks and Proposed Mitigation Measures

Risk	Risk Rating	Mitigation Measures
Impacts of climate change, including ocean warming and acidification, that may disrupt marine ecosystems and impact commercial fisheries	H	The project will be connecting international marine science experts with local needs, and replication of these experiences across all three participating countries. Adoption of the latest climate science will be facilitated through national workshops and dialogues, as well as prioritization of long-term monitoring of marine natural resources to support adaptive management.
Political elections and administrative turnover leads to deprioritization of marine management issues	M	An overarching goal of the project is to demonstrate the linkages of national development agendas with marine management, including issues of economic development and food security. The project is working with across all branches of national government to ensure a change in anyone branch does not become a major setback. By engaging with all key government stakeholders early and often in each country, the goal is to promote inclusive and natural marine management plans that achieve already supported national sustainable development goals.
Government engagement or coordination declines during life of project	L	The project will directly strengthen development and implementation of national marine management plans, building on national priorities. These efforts are linked with the Micronesia Challenge and will leverage existing coordinating mechanisms facilitated by the Micronesia Conservation Trust to ensure country engagement remains high.
Financial support to MCRO declines and becomes inoperable	L	MCRO is financially supported by annual dues from the five jurisdictions. The jurisdictions typically pay on-time, though occasionally payment lapses do occur. The project is directly supporting MCRO to increase its profile and relevance, as well as raising the awareness and momentum of the MC 2030 within high levels of MC governments. This should ensure that annual dues are continued to be paid in full, if not increased due to increased political support for the MC.
MCRO staff leaving for other professional opportunities	H	In recognizing the critical role of the MCRO, ensuring staff consistency throughout the duration of the project will be of critical importance. As noted above, one aspect is maintaining financial resources necessary to host the position as well as plans to add additional staff per guidance from the MC Evaluation. In addition, MCRO project management capacity and workload will be ameliorated by support from the virtual PMU and MCT. In the event of a change in MCRO staffing, the project will rely upon the collective capacity and operational framework until the staffing vacancies are quickly addressed by the MCSC.
National working groups are overworked and unable	M	The project is leveraging existing government inter-agency working groups where possible – including an ad hoc working group in Palau supporting PNMS policy. This ensures that a certain level of

to effectively deliver project results		awareness exists already among members to ensure they can realistically deliver what has been discussed in the project. In the event a working group becomes overwhelmed by the project and cannot deliver results, the working group has the option to recruit outside help via consultancies or discuss in-kind technical support from Stanford COS or explore new expanded national and regional partners that can provide support.
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COVID-19 Risk Analysis

Risk category	Potential Risk	Mitigations and Plans
Availability of technical expertise and capacity and changes in timelines	COVID-19 impacts within participating Micronesia countries (such as intra-national island travel, gathering size restrictions, and government staff prioritization) impacts project activities and execution timeline.	The PMU and government partners will ensure national/regional COVID-19 restrictions are complied with. Further, due to the reality of extreme distances and challenging logistics working with remote Micronesia island nations, the project already embraces many virtual technologies and remote capacities for project management, consultation, decision making, and reviews. Lastly, existing monthly meetings of the MCSC and quarterly monitoring of project progress, allow for ongoing adaptive management throughout the project’s duration.
	Impacts to key project stakeholders from outside of Micronesia region participating in project activities, such as national and regional working groups, project events, and trainings, including IW:LEARN	As needed due to travel bans and other COVID containment measures, project stakeholders outside the Micronesia region will be engaged using virtual technologies that are already in place. The project will also make use of online platforms used by international events and forums. Lastly, the project will make use of the MCRO, MCT, and Stanford COS websites and active social media presence to continue to engage the international audience and elevate the profile of the MC.
	Changes in baseline and co-financing sources and amounts may change due to changed government/project partner priorities, reduced funding availability or due to delays in implementation. This is especially a concern for Micronesia economies that are often reliant on a single sector such as tourism or fisheries.	National project cofinancing is from in-kind support from technical agencies and staff that are not directly involved in national COVID mitigation efforts, so reallocation of financial resources is not expected. It’s possible that overall decreases in government budgets will reduce national cofinancing, but the impact is expected to be minimal. The PMU and PSC will continue to monitor the cofinancing situation through the project duration and

Risk category	Potential Risk	Mitigations and Plans
		seek sources of additional project cofinancing opportunities, especially from non-government and private sources.
Stakeholder engagement process	Travel and meeting restrictions (intra and inter-island travel bans, quarantine delays, and restriction on group gatherings) may prevent convening national working groups and consultations at sub-national and community level during project implementation.	The project will respect national and regional travel and meeting restrictions. As needed, the PMU will work closely with each national partner and the MCSC to identify alternative meeting and convening formats that adhere to relevant national policies. This may include convening more often yet through smaller meetings/convenings, virtual or telephone participation, and alternative outdoor meeting venues. Due to the multiple variables involved, this will be dealt with on a case by case basis.
Future risk of similar crises	It is not anticipated that this project will have adverse impacts that might contribute to future pandemics; rather, this project is focused on enhancing the ability to effectively manage or conserve natural systems.	No specific mitigation efforts planned at this time.
Impacts on project strategy	The main potential risk to the project strategy is the increased risk of country isolation and threats to the project (and GEF IW) goal of strengthening cooperation and coordinated management across Micronesia.	While in-person travel has been significantly reduced, the participating Micronesia countries are continuing to operate in relevant MC and regional engagements without major disruptions so far. The momentum from this GEF project is now more critical than ever to translate the MC 2030 political aspirations into coordinated action at the national level.
	While too soon to tell, COVID-19 may have lasting impacts on the national conservation strategies of project national working groups. For example, how Palau's local demand from a domestic pelagic fishery sector is disrupted due to declines in tourism.	As the project goal for national level working groups is to integrate/update MC 2030 planning, the need to revisit existing conservation logic due to COVID impacts will also be integrated into discussions. It is not anticipated there will be major changes to current national working group approaches, but the PMU will work closely with the PSC, the WWF GEF Agency, and if necessary, the GEF Secretariat, to ensure the continued project alignment with project objective.

COVID-19 Opportunity Analysis

Opportunity Category	Potential	Project Plans
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<p>Can the project do more to protect and restore natural systems and their ecological functionality?</p>	<p>Central to the Micronesia Challenge is protecting marine and terrestrial natural systems and their ecological functionality. Through project support to the Micronesia Challenge, there are opportunities to emphasize these natural recovery strategies at the regional, national, and community level.</p>	<p>A core goal of the project is to restore ecosystem function, such as support to coastal ecosystems through improved management to improve fisheries health. This will be primarily achieved through support to the three parallel national working groups addressing key goals that including formulating strategies for meeting MC 2030 goals. Identification of opportunities will be part of these national efforts.</p>
<p>Can the project promote circular solutions to reduce unsustainable resource extraction and environmental degradation?</p>	<p>Across Micronesia, the main unsustainable resource extraction activities are commercial fishing and tourism.</p>	<p>The project will consider opportunities for circular solutions in national policy recommendations to support participating countries meet MC 2030 goals.</p>
<p>Can the project innovate in climate change mitigation and engaging with the private sector?</p>	<p>While the project is not focused directly on addressing climate change, it does present opportunities to indirectly mitigate carbon emission and engage with the private sector at the national level.</p>	<p>The project will not directly focus on mitigation efforts, yet it will have an impact on adaptation efforts—primarily through a strengthening of the MC Measures Working Groups. However, for a region spread across a vast area of the Pacific Ocean and heavily reliant on air travel, an indirect benefit due to the impacts of COVID will be increased virtual participation and thus reduced project carbon emissions linked to air travel. In some instances at the national level, the project will also engage the private sector. For example, the Palau national working group aiming to develop a domestic pelagic fishery as part of the PNMS will include private fishing companies as a key participant.</p>

3.5 Consistency with National Priorities or Plans

For the large ocean states of Micronesia, marine management is a national priority. This has been explicitly stated in the expanded MC 2030 conservation goals and process targets which build on the Sustainable Development Goals. This project has been co-designed with national government and key regional partners to specifically support the alignment of the MC 2030 with national priorities and plans. The project's success relies on advancing planning and strengthening the regional and national enabling environments for the MC 2030 goals through careful alignment and consistency with current national priorities and plans.

From a regional perspective, the Micronesia Challenge also builds on political commitments towards marine management from the executive, judiciary, and legislative branches of the governments of RMI, FSM, and Palau. The first such meeting was at the 13th International Coral Reef Symposium Leaders' Summit in Honolulu, Hawai'i in 2016. The Heads of State from RMI, FSM, and Palau signed a Call to Action, promoting: a) bridge between science and policy; b) partnerships with international science and technical communities; c) coral reef stewardship with open and transparent process; d) leveraging national and regional frameworks, and; e) integrating traditional knowledge and scientific research to guide policies. Building off Micronesia executive branch support for marine conservation, the Pacific Judicial Council held an Environmental Law and Science Conference in 2017 to discuss legal and policy gaps for strengthened judicial branch enforcement. In 2018, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) passed Resolution APIL Resolution No 37-GA-19, CD1, where they strongly urged "... *member jurisdictions to take action to conserve biodiversity and ease the impacts of climate change through the creation of marine protected areas in thirty percent (30%) of their jurisdictional waters by 2030.*"⁵⁶ These past actions were most recently galvanized in the Joint Communique that presented the expanded conservation goals and process targets of the 2030 Micronesia Challenge from ministers and heads of state of the governments of CNMI, Guam, RMI, FSM, and Palau at the 24th Micronesia Island Forum (MIF) in Chuuk State in July 2019 (Appendix J). All participating governments also support the Sustainable Development Goals, especially including SDG 14 focusing on sustainable use of the oceans and SDG 14.7 which states, "*By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism.*"

Through close co-design of the project with national partners, there is direct consistency of the project interventions with national priorities and plans. Building on the success of the Micronesia Challenge, the RMI government developed a national conservation area plan in 2007 titled *Reimaanlok*. *Reimaanlok* presents a process for building community-based conservation in the Marshall Islands, guiding the principles and process to inform design and management of protected areas by local communities. As such, the goals of the *Reimaanlok* process are not to directly identify specific protected areas.⁵⁷ While *Reimaanlok* predates the Micronesia Challenge, the goals of *Reimaanlok* are very well aligned towards a common goal. In 2015, the

⁵⁶ <https://apilpacific.com/files/37thGA/37-GA-19,%20CD1.pdf>

⁵⁷ Reimaan National Planning Team. 2008. *Reimaanlok: National Conservation Area Plan for the Marshall Islands 2007-2012*. Published by: N. Baker: Melbourne.

Marshall Islands Protected Areas Network Act was passed.⁵⁸ Currently the Marshall Islands have met their protected area coverage targets under the Micronesia Challenge and the CBD Aichi Target 11, but they still have need for significant strengthening of marine resource management both within and outside of protected areas. In 2017, the RMI held its first National Ocean Symposium (NOS), led by the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA). The outcome of the NOS resulted in a set of Guiding Principles with accompanying implementation plan that provides a set of policy directives to the national government to steer its activities at the national and local government level as well as communicate the RMI's priorities and activities at the international level. This National Ocean Policy is also supported by the recently amended 2018 Protected Areas Network (PAN) Act that formalized the Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC) and established a new PAN office in MIMRA. The project is directly supporting CMAC's and its growing mandate, including ensuring national alignment of the MC 2030 within RMI.

FSM has also acted to achieve marine goals. Building off their 2002 NBSAP, a collation of national and state governments partnered with international organizations, NGOS, and academic experts to develop, "*A Blueprint for Conserving the Biodiversity of the Federated States of Micronesia*" (FSM Blueprint) to guide FSM towards improved biodiversity and natural resource management. The FSM Blueprint identified overfishing as one of the most urgent and critical threats across marine areas of biological significance in all states.⁵⁹ More recently in 2017, FSM extended management of their territorial seas to 24 miles, effectively closing an area of 10% of its EEZ of more than 1.3 million square miles to commercial fishing and exploitation of natural resources. Marine resources management varies across the States of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap, including state-level biodiversity strategy and action plans (SBSAPS). FSM has recently completed an update on their NBSAP and SBSAPs which, once adopted, will provide updated national and state level guidance. Most recently, FSM passed the National Protected Areas Network (PAN) Policy Framework which is administered by the Department of Resources and Development in conjunction with State Focal Points, the MCT and a recently established PAN Technical Committee. The project will be directly supporting the recently established PAN Technical Committee in its new role for development of a nation-wide coastal and marine resource management plan, including alignment with the MC 2030 goals.

The Government of Palau declared 80% of its Exclusive Economic Zone (approximately 500,000 km²) protected under the *Palau National Marine Sanctuary (PNMS) Act* in 2015.⁶⁰ The PNMS legislation, fully implemented in January 2020, limits fishing to the remaining 20% of the EEZ, reserving it for domestic fishing efforts. Palau, and the broader western Pacific, is under increasing pressure from climate change while simultaneously more vulnerable than most places due to the sensitivity and exposure of small, coral reef-based islands. With its expansive, highly diverse reefs and broad national support of science, researchers from around the world have examined many components of Palau's social-ecological systems. Studies have documented the

⁵⁸ http://www.paclii.org/mh/legis/num_act/pana2015284.pdf

⁵⁹ The Nature Conservancy. *A Blueprint for Conserving the Biodiversity of the Federated States of Micronesia*.

⁶⁰ http://www.paclii.org/pw/legis/num_act/msrn9492015252.pdf

effects of individual stressors on Palau's nearshore ecosystems^{61,62,63} such as climate, inland development, tourism⁶⁴, coastal development⁶⁵, typhoons⁶⁶ and fishing⁶⁷. Yet integration among disciplines and between science and policymaking could be significantly strengthened to overcome barriers for successful implementation of the PNMS. In March 2018, Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC) partnered with the Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions to convene discussions with government and other regional and international experts for developing stronger science-based national marine resource management options in support of the PNMS. PNMS legislation aims to foster the creation of a more productive domestic fishing industry to benefit local livelihoods and food security. The implementation of the PNMS legislation provides a catalyzing moment for determining the enabling conditions for established a domestic pelagic fishery, but requires an integrated national plan and the necessary resources. The project is directly supporting the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism (MNRET) to establish a multi-stakeholder working group to discuss and guide development of the domestic pelagic fishery, aligned with MC 2030 goals and in support of long-term sustainability of the PNMS.

3.6 Innovativeness, Sustainability & Potential for Scaling up

Innovativeness: The proposed project will provide means for enhanced regional dialogues that address mutual interests to achieve the stated goals of the Micronesia Challenge. Given the movement of pelagic fish stocks across national boundaries and the deep cultural heritage shared among Western Pacific big ocean states, possibilities for a collaborative, interdisciplinary, multi-national series of targeted convenings could catalyze action on marine resource management. The multi-phase working group model will emphasize the importance of a regionalized approach while leveraging lessons from initial efforts on implementation of the Palau National Marine Sanctuary.

Sustainability: Ensuring long-term sustainability of this three year project is critical for meeting the overall objective of ensuring successful implementation of the MC 2030 goals. This will be ensured through establishing a stronger and more resilient enabling environment among national and regional actors through carefully designed project deliverables grounded in the existing regional partnerships and agreements for cooperative transboundary marine resource management. This includes: 1) operational MC strategies and plans at the national and regional level, 2) shared knowledge, 3) information management technology, 4) targeted policy

⁶¹ Golbuu, Y., A. Bauman, J. Kuartei and S. Victor. 2005. The state of coral reef ecosystems of Palau. *The state of coral reef ecosystems of the United States and Pacific freely associated states, 2005*, p.488-507.

⁶² Houk, P., R. Camacho, S. Johnson, M. McLean, S. Maxin, et al. 2015. The Micronesia Challenge: assessing the relative contribution of stressors on coral reefs to facilitate science-to-management feedback. *PLOS ONE*, 10(6):e0130823.

⁶³ Wabnitz, C.C., A.M. Cisneros-Montemayor, Q. Hanich and Y. Ota. 2018. Ecotourism, climate change and reef fish consumption in Palau: Benefits, trade-offs and adaptation strategies. *Mar. Pol.*, 88:323-332.

⁶⁴ Pratt, S. and D. Harrison. eds. 2015. *Tourism in Pacific Islands: current issues and future challenges*. Routledge.

⁶⁵ Richmond, R.H., T. Rongo, Y. Golbuu, S. Victor, N. Idechong, et. al. 2007. Watersheds and coral reefs: conservation science, policy, and implementation. *AIBS Bull.*, 57(7):598-607.

⁶⁶ Gouezo, M., Y. Golbuu, R. van Woesik, L. Rehm, S. Koshiba and C. Doropoulos, C., 2015. Impact of two sequential super typhoons on coral reef communities in Palau. *Mar. Eco. Pro. Ser.*, 540:73-85.

⁶⁷ Prince, J., S. Victor, V. Kloulchad and A. Hordyk. 2015. Length based SPR assessment of eleven Indo-Pacific coral reef fish populations in Palau. *Fisheries Res.*, 171:42-58.

interventions supporting coastal fisheries management and private sector engagement, and 5) capacity building. The development of updated and coordinated national and regional strategies and plans to meet MC 2030 goals, including an MCRO operational strategy and MC communications plan, will provide the critical tools necessary to guide the region towards meeting MC 2030 goals after the project concludes. Next, an interest in sharing knowledge on coastal management to support MC 2030 goals exists, yet the current resources to do so are intermittent. The knowledge generated by the project and the strengthening of mechanisms to disseminate it, such as strengthening the MC measures groups and participation in IW:LEARN, will fill important knowledge gaps that will provide guidance well after the project ends. Further, by focusing on the incorporation of information management technology for environmental monitoring, data organization, and fishery observations, for example, each partner nation will gain additional targeted resources for long-term management efforts. Fourth, each national working group has an established pathway for private sector stakeholders to engage in development and refinement of project deliverables. In addition, the regional project activities under Component 2 further provide targeted paths for engaging with private sector actors, specifically tied to supporting MCRO and meeting MC 2030 goals. Fifth, management that incorporates information technology will require the necessary cooperation and training to build for managers of the future. Both the national and regional working group convenings and events will elevate individual skills and resources necessary for achieving long-term MC 2030 goals.

This medium-sized project is designed to create the necessary enabling environment for sustaining longer-term impact through implementation of national and regional strategies and plans aligned with future GEF international waters focal area objectives. The communications and visioning resources produced through this project will be a foundational investment into enhancing fundraising opportunities that could increase the sustainability of the increased staff capacity. Through these highly consultative processes as well as regional and global MC events, the project will elevate the profile of MC to ensure stronger political, operational, and financial support to the MC. The outputs from this project—including a communication plan, document repository, MC 2030 strategic plan, MC 2030 vision document, and related fundraising recommendations—will enshrine the critical, financially stable, role of the MCRO and be inputs into the next decade of conservation in Micronesia.

Scalability: The proposed project is inherently scalable to broader geographies as multi-national dialogues and shared lessons are integral pillars of the initiative. The working group process will emphasize scalability and include key experts from the broader region—including Melanesia and Polynesia and from regional actors such as the Nature Conservancy and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. With the focus on scalability, active engagement with regional bodies and decisionmakers, and the support from the Global Environment Facility, the project will be able to directly disseminate our lessons learned and policy recommendations throughout the region.

There is a long history of Western Pacific nations working together, through organizations such as Western & Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), Parties of the Nauru Agreement (PNA), Pacific Judicial Council, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). Best management practices put in place by one nation often diffuse throughout the rest. With the project focus on transferability and our active engagement with regional bodies and decisionmakers, it will be able to directly

disseminate our lessons learned and policy recommendations throughout the region and beyond. Given the oceanic linkages in pelagic fish stocks and cultural heritage among these big ocean states, possibilities for this working group to link fisheries and food security policy and practice throughout Oceania abound. Thus, there is both political impetus to address these challenges, and a real prospect for lessons learned from one island jurisdiction to bolster ocean sustainability in other island locations—both in the region and globally.

3.7 Lessons learned during project preparation and from other relevant projects

This project has been designed based on recommendations from existing lessons learned and best practices from the region, with mechanisms in place to capture additional knowledge as it becomes available to inform timely adaptive management, enhanced capacity building, and to guide success for a sustained and long-term impact for future generations of the Micronesia Challenge. In an effort to continue to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of the Micronesia Challenge, there have been multiple instances of reflective practice to inform adaptive management. These have included:

- An 2017 independent project Terminal Evaluation for the GEF-5 UNEP project (GEF ID: 3626) titled, “*Micronesia Challenge: Sustainable Finance Systems for Island Protected Area Management*”
- A “Lessons Learned” document was developed to explore the launch and initial years of the MC in 2008.
- A 5-year progress report was developed to review progress from 2006–2011 and captured progress made in governance by defining the various governing and implementing bodies of the MC.
- In late 2018, the MCSC initiated a Formal Evaluation as a testament to their willingness to take a hard look at what worked, what didn't, and make changes moving forward to ensure that the MC 2030 is carried out by building on the existing strengths and addressing some of the major gaps and challenges. The evaluation was completed in May 2020.

The project design was most influenced by the most recent independent evaluation of the Micronesia Challenge that was presented to the MCSC in February 2020 and completed in May 2020. The evaluation’s recommendations were helped guide the MC 2030 goals that were endorsed at the Micronesia Island Forum (MIF) in July 2019. This evaluation was also the basis for much of the project’s design. Among the key recommendations from this evaluation were the successes of the current support groups and measures groups, as well as successes and areas for improvement on MC governance at the national and regional level. As an example, below are key recommendations from the governance section of the evaluation that inform this project’s design and how they have been incorporated into this project:

MC Evaluation Recommendation	Project Design
Review/Celebrate jurisdictional accomplishments toward the 2020 goals and challenges faced in achieving the goals	Component 2 activities at regional and international ocean conferences

Review and discuss the 2030 goals (presented by Chief Executives) in relation to local priorities and needs, including sustainable development, to identify how the MC 2030 can best support local efforts	Component 1 working groups of key national stakeholders are tasked with discussing national efforts and priorities and how they align with the MC 2030 goals.
Draft a local implementation plan to achieve the existing 2020 commitments and/or the 2030 goals based on existing efforts and review how agency work plans and budgets can support these goals	Output of Component 1 will be national-level MC 2030 Strategic Plans to guide future implementation
It is recommended that the framework of the MC be revisited and more structured to improve true regional level coordination	Component 2 supports the development of a MCRO 2020-2030 Strategic Plan which will include a more structured regional coordination mechanism
MCRO focus on high-level regional communication and coordination with executive leadership, legislatures, and cabinet/minister-level leaders. The first year of the MCRO should aim to support the coordination of jurisdictional planning meetings and understanding how jurisdictional efforts and needs fit into a regional context	Component 2 supports MCRO communications. Components 1 and 2 supports jurisdictional planning efforts

The project design was also informed by recommendations from the May 2017 Terminal Evaluation from the GEF-5 UNEP regional International Waters project titled, “*Micronesia Challenge: Sustainable Finance Systems for Island Protected Area Management*” (GEF ID: 3626). This GEF project ended in December 2015. One of the key lessons learned identified in the project that has been translated in this project was Lesson Learned #3: “*Engagement of high-level political champions to promote and drive an initiative can make a significant difference to country buy-in, engagement and delivery, but there needs to be institutional structures that ensure they are kept informed and through which they can engage directly, such as the MC Steering Committee.*” This project is directly engaged with the MCSC, both in terms of specific project activities but also as this project’s steering committee.

Additionally several regional programs with national child projects will end during the life of this project that can provide additional valuable information to inform adaptive management of the project. These include the GEF World Bank Pacific Regional Oceanscape Program (PROP) and the GEF UNDP Pacific Ridge to Reef (R2R) Program. The PROP has child projects in RMI and FSM and is schedule to end in 2020. The Pacific R2R has child projects in RMI, FSM, and Palau and is scheduled to end in 2022, 2020, and 2020, respectively. To ensure coordination with the timing of these evaluations and capturing recommendations that may advise adaptive management of this project, the project will operate closely with the respective national ministries serving as focal points for these two projects. These national coordination mechanisms already exist by leveraging planned and existing inter-agency committees where both national

GEF Operational Focal Points (OFPs) and technical government agencies are leading or closely associated with these other projects.

SECTION 4: TECHNICAL APPENDICES:

Appendix A: Project Map(s) with geo-coordinates

Figure A.1: Project map including jurisdictions for Micronesia Challenge

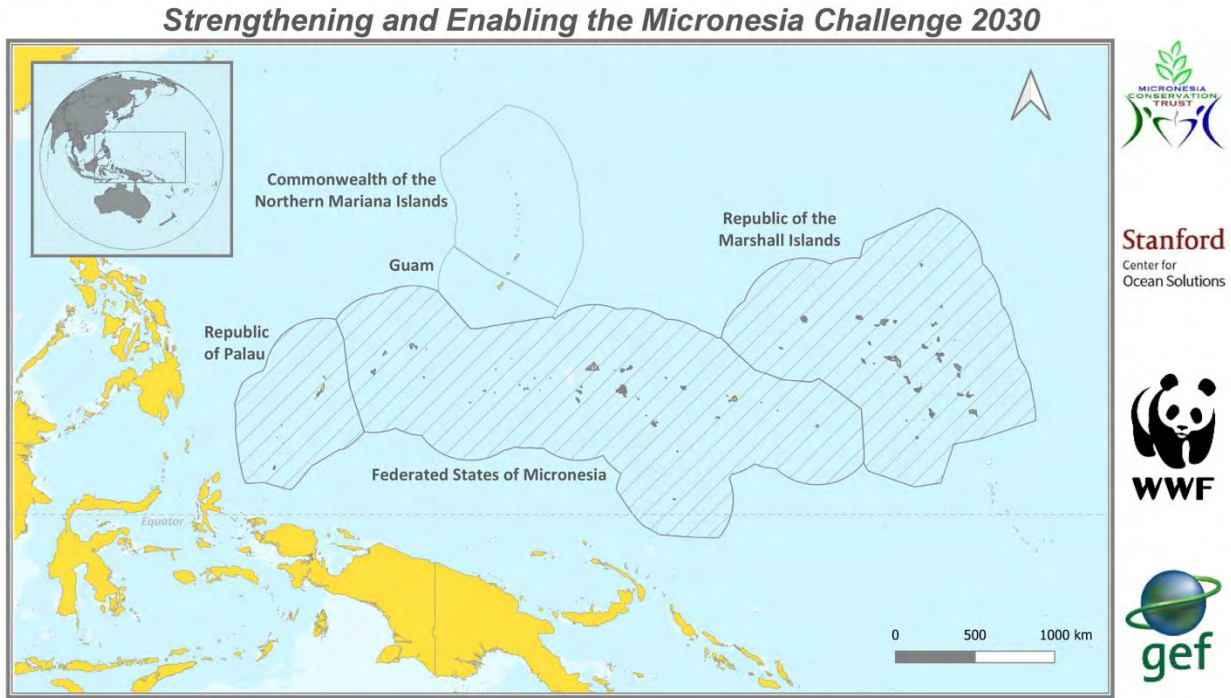


Figure A.2: Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

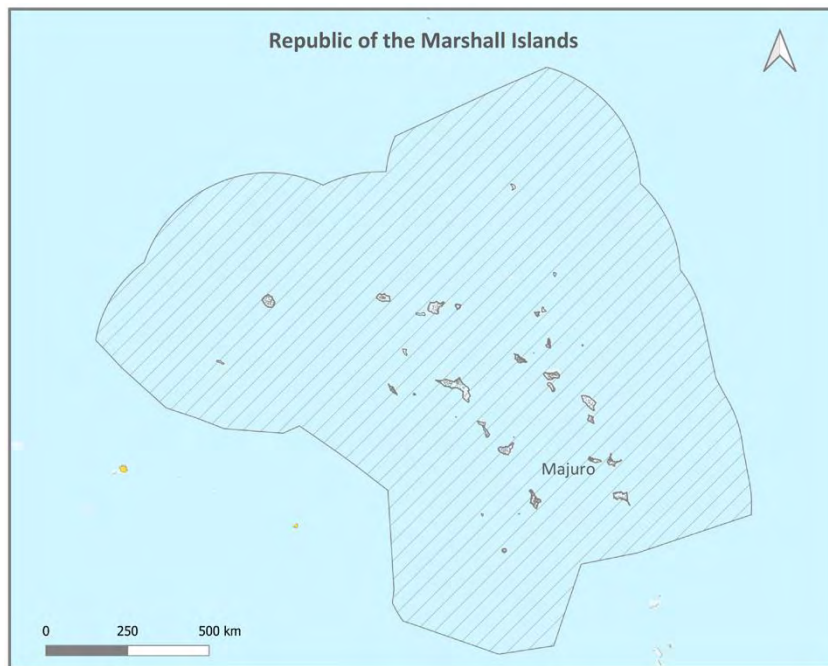
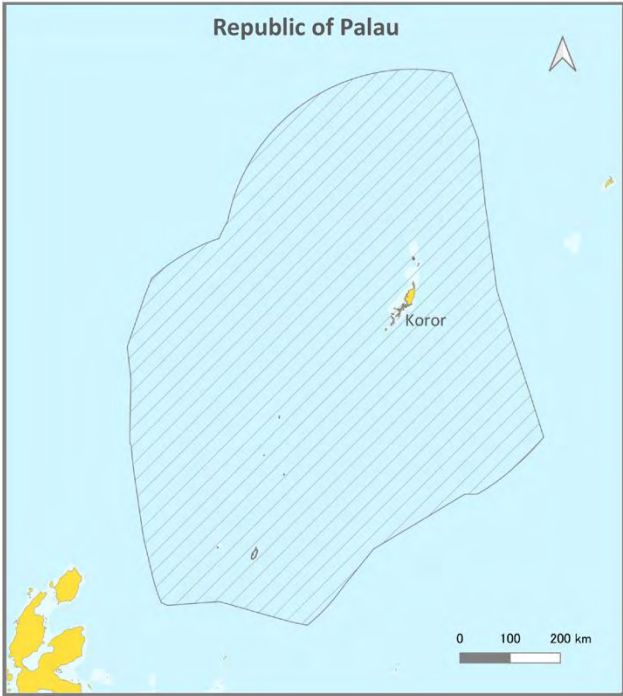


Figure A.3: Exclusive Economic Zone of the Federated States of Micronesia.



Figure A.4: Exclusive Economic Zone of the Republic of Palau.



Component 2

Component	Outcome	Output	Activities	Indicator/Deliverable	Pathway / Steps (GEF Financed Actions)	Timeline	Y1Q1	Y1Q2	Y1Q3	Y1Q4	Y2Q1	Y2Q2	Y2Q3	Y2Q4	Y3Q1	Y3Q2	Y3Q3	Y3Q4				
2. Sustaining regional marine resources management in Micronesia	2.1 Strengthening MCRO for successful implementation of MC 2030	2.1.1 Updated Strategic Plan, monitoring protocols, and communication plan & products	2.1.1.1 MCRO Coordinator engaging across MC region	Attend at least one national working group meeting per year (all three countries by end of project)	MCRO coordinator first participation in national WG meeting	Y1	X	X	X	X												
					MCRO coordinator second participation in national WG meeting	Y2					X	X	X	X								
					MCRO coordinator third participation in national WG meeting	Y3													X	X	X	X
			2.1.1.2 MC representation at key 2020 ocean events	At least one MC representative at events	e.g., UN Oceans Conference (Participating Micronesia governments and project partners have coordinated MC materials and talking points)	Y2Q1						X										
					CBD COP 2022 (Participating Micronesia governments and project partners have coordinated MC materials and talking points)	Y2Q4											X					
			2.1.1.3 Develop a MCRO 2020-2030 Strategic Plan, including fundraising plan and MCRO operational structure	One MCRO 2020-2030 Strategic Plan	Recruit consultant for MCRO Operational Structure	Y1Q1		X														
					Facilitate long-term planning conversations with relevant MC stakeholders to inform MCRO Strategic Plan, including fundraising plans	Y2							X	X	X	X						
			2.1.1.4 Establish central document repository		Obtaining web-based software management system (to be updated monthly)	Y1		X														
			2.1.1.5 Organization and logistics for MC side event at major international event		Plan and execute high-level MC side event	Y1		X														
			2.1.1.6 MCT Provides technical support to MCRO		MCT Technical Support for MCRO (part-time technical and financial support to build MCRO coordinator capacity)	Y1Q1–Y3Q4		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
			2.1.1.7 Enhance MC Measures databases and monitoring capacity		MCT subcontracts to support the enhancement of the three measures groups databases and monitoring processes	Y1Q1–Y3Q4		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Component	Outcome	Output	Activities	Indicator/Deliverable	Pathway / Steps (GEF Financed Actions)	Timeline	Y1Q1	Y1Q2	Y1Q3	Y1Q4	Y2Q1	Y2Q2	Y2Q3	Y2Q4	Y3Q1	Y3Q2	Y3Q3	Y3Q4
		2.1.2 Enhanced visibility of Micronesia Challenge	2.1.2.1 MC rep attend/present at least one highly-relevant international conference per year		Travel and per diem for one conference in Y2	Y2					X	X	X	X				
					Travel and per diem for one conference in Y3	Y3									X	X	X	X
			2.1.2.2 Update MC 2008 Communications Plan (especially coordinating messaging across major ocean events)		Facilitate conversation to update communications plan	Y1	X	X	X	X								
			2.1.2.3 Develop at least two communications products per year (coordinated with project knowledge management products)		Consultant recruited to support development of at least two communications product per year (six in total)	Y1Q1–Y3Q4	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
			2.1.2.4 Maintenance of Micronesia Challenge social media presence		Recruit MC communications capacity to expand MC social media presence and enhance MC Young Champions communication products	Y1Q2		X										
	2.2 Government commitment for MC 2030 goals of marine resource management	2.2.1 MC 2030 visioning document endorsed by three project nations	2.2.1.1 Consultant(s) recruited, stakeholder consultation/validation, and drafting of MC 2030 high-quality visioning publication(s)		Consultant recruited, stakeholder consultation/validation, and drafting of MC 2030 high-level visioning resources (e.g., high production quality book or publication)	Y1Q2		X										
	<i>[GEF Core Indicator 7: Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management: 1 (Western Pacific Warm Pool Large Marine Ecosystem)]</i>		2.2.1.2 Host high-level event to support MC 2030 visioning document potentially at 2021 MIF		Host high-level event	Y1Q3 (or Y2Q3)			X									
			2.2.1.3 MC 2030 Launching Celebration at CBD COP in 2022		Host high-level side event	Y2Q4								X				

Component 3

Component	Outcome	Output	Activities	Indicator/Deliverable	Pathway / Steps (GEF Financed Actions)	Timeline	Y1Q1	Y1Q2	Y1Q3	Y1Q4	Y2Q1	Y2Q2	Y2Q3	Y2Q4	Y3Q1	Y3Q2	Y3Q3	Y3Q4	
3. Knowledge management and Project Monitoring & Evaluation	3.1 Project knowledge management	3.1.1 Project knowledge captured and disseminated including through IW:LEARN	3.1.1.1 Knowledge products developed and disseminated on MC, MCT, and IW:LEARN websites (at least one knowledge product per year)	At least three knowledge products	Knowledge product produced (year 1)	Y1Q1–Y3Q4	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
		<i>[GEF Core Indicator 7.4: Level of engagement in IW:LEARN through participation and delivery of key products: 4]</i>	3.1.1.2 Establish project website on IW:LEARN	One website established on IW:LEARN	IW:LEARN Project Website Established (linking with existing MC website)	Y1	X	X	X	X									
			3.1.1.3 Develop at least one IW:LEARN project experience note	At least one project experience notes developed	Project experience note developed	Y3										X	X	X	X
			3.1.1.4 Project participation in at least one project twinning or other IW:LEARN event	Participation in at least one IW:LEARN event	Project coordinates with IW:LEARN to identify opportunities	Y1	X	X	X	X									
					Project participates in IW:LEARN event	Y3										X	X	X	X
		3.2 Project monitoring and evaluation system	3.2.1 Monitoring and Evaluation reports (e.g. project progress reports, midterm review, terminal evaluation)	3.2.1.1 Project monitoring system developed for timely completion and submission of reports (aligned with MC Measures group where possible)		Project monitoring plan developed and utilized (including travel for project monitoring)	Y1Q1	X											
			<i>[GEF Core Indicator 11: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefits of GEF investment: Women: 506; Men: 576; Total: 1082]</i>	3.2.1.2 Project terminal evaluation completed and submitted in a timely manner		Project terminal evaluation TOR completed	Y3Q2										X		
			<i>[Relevant throughout project]</i>			Project terminal evaluation consultant recruited Project Terminal Evaluation complete	Y3Q4 Within 6 months after project end												X



Appendix C: Project Results Framework

Results Framework: Strengthening and Enabling the Micronesia Challenge 2030

Project Outcome	Indicator / unit	Definition (noted if cumulative)	Method/ source	Tracking Frequency	Who	Disaggregation	Baseline	YR1	YR2	YR3
Project Objective: Strengthen the enabling environment for successful implementation of the 2030 Micronesia Challenge										
	Objective Indicator 1: GEF Core Indicator 7.3: Level of National/Local reforms and active participation of Inter-Ministerial Committees	IMC = Integrated management through national working groups Reforms = any modifications towards improved management <i>Indicator not cumulative</i>	1 = Neither national/local reforms nor IMCs 2 = National/local reforms in preparation, IMCs functional in place 3 = National/local reforms and IMCs in place 4 = National/local reforms/policies implemented, supported by IMCs.	Project Close ⁶⁸	PMU	By Country & regional	Palau: 1 FSM: 2 RMI: 3 Regional: 1 Overall Project Baseline = 1		Palau: 2 FSM: 2 RMI: 3 Regional: 2 Overall Project Baseline = 2	Palau: 3 FSM: 3 RMI: 4 Regional: 3 Overall Project Baseline = 3
	GEF Core Indicator 8: Globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to more sustainable levels	Metric tons <i>Indicator cumulative</i>	See Appendix L	Project Close	PMU in coordination with MC Marine Measures Group	By Country	Palau: 0 FSM: 0 RMI: 0		Palau: 29,808 FSM: 57,501 RMI: 53,664 Total: 140,974	Palau: 59,617 FSM: 115,002 RMI: 107,327 Total: 281,947
	Objective Indicator 2: GEF Core Indicator 11: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment	Direct beneficiary: individuals receiving targeted support from the project. Targeted support: participation in working groups <i>Indicator cumulative</i>	See Appendix M	Annual	PMU	Gender	0		Women: 253 Men: 288 Total: 541	Women: 506 Men: 576 Total: 1082
1. Coordinated strengthening of national integrated marine resource management										
	GEF Core Indicator 8: Globally over-exploited marine fisheries moved to	Metric tons <i>Indicator cumulative</i>	See Appendix L	See Above	See Above	See Above	See Above		See Above	See Above

⁶⁸ All indicators that are tracked less frequently than on an annual basis will also be informally observed during annual supervision missions by the PMU and adaptive measures taken where possible to meet Y3 target

	more sustainable levels									
1.1.Improved national integrated marine resource management to make progress towards MC2030 targets	Outcome 1.1 indicator Number of marine resource management recommendations generated by the project	Recommendation = One stand-alone document, such as a report, white paper, or similar that recommends improvements for resource management policy and governance (Output 1.1.3)	Direct counting of document	Project Close	PMU	By country	Palau: 0 FSM: 0 RMI: 0			Palau: 1 FSM: 1 RMI: 1
	Outcome 1.1 indicator Number of coastal fisheries management recommendations generated by the project	Recommendation = One stand-alone document, such as a report, white paper, or similar that recommends improvements for resource management policy and governance (Output 1.1.3)	Direct counting of document	Project Close	PMU	By country	Palau: 0 FSM: 0 RMI: 0			Palau: 1 FSM: 1 RMI: 1
	Outcome 1.1 indicator Number of new private sector actors engaged in national working group meetings	Private sector actors = Individuals representing private businesses New = participants above project baseline (Output 1.1.2)	Enumeration from meeting minutes and/or participation lists	Project Close	PMU	By country	Palau: 0 FSM: 0 RMI: 0			Palau: 3 FSM: 3 RMI: 3
Component 2: Sustaining regional natural resources management in Micronesia										
2.1 Strengthening MCRO for successful implementation of MC 2030	Outcome 2.1 indicator Level implementation of Communication Plan	<i>Indicator not cumulative</i>	0 = No communication products or updated MC communication plans 1 = At least two communication products and updated MC communication plan; 2 = At least four communication products and MC communication plan implemented; 3 = At least six communication products and MC communication plan implemented;	Annual	PMU	N/A	0	1	2	3
2.2 Government commitment for MC 2030	Outcome 2.2 indicator	MC jurisdiction signatory = participation pf high-	Number of MC jurisdictions (out of 5 MC jurisdictions)	Project Close	PMU	Country	0	0	0	5

	# MC jurisdiction signatories to MC 2030 vision document	level jurisdiction representative development or launch of vision document, including associated events connected with MC 2030 vision <i>Indicator cumulative</i>								
	GEF Core Indicator 7. Number of shared water ecosystems (fresh or marine) under new or improved cooperative management	Large Marine Ecosystem <i>Indicator not cumulative</i>	N/A	Project Close	PMU	Regional			1	1
									Western Pacific Warm Pool LME	Western Pacific Warm Pool LME
Component 3: Knowledge Management and Project Monitoring & Evaluation										
3.1 Project knowledge management	Objective indicator 2: GEF Core Indicator 7.4. Level of engagement in IW:LEARN through participation and delivery of key products	<i>Indicator not cumulative</i>	1= no participation 2=website in line with IWLEARN guidance 3= As above, with strong participation in training/twinning events and production of at least one experience note and one results note 4 = As above, plus active participation of project staff and country representatives at IW Conference and the provision of spatial data and other data points via project website	Project Close	PMU	N/A	1		2	4
3.2 Project management and evaluation system	Outcome 3.2 indicator # of project monitoring and evaluation documents informing project adaptive management	Report = quarterly Project Progress Reports (PPR), Quarterly Financial Reports (QFR), and Project Close Report <i>Indicator cumulative</i>		Annually	PMU & PSC		0	6 reports (2 PPR, 4 QFR)	12	18 reports + 1 Terminal Evaluation



Appendix D: Stakeholder Engagement Analysis

Stakeholder Engagement in Project

The identification of, and consultation with, stakeholders by the project proponents has been an iterative process. During initial development phases of the project, the proponents met with an assortment of actors directly or indirectly involved in national-or regional-level marine resource management throughout Micronesia. The stakeholders consulted during project development are listed below within three categories: 1) Project Partners, 2) National-level Stakeholders, and 3) Regional-level Stakeholders. See Section 2.4 for the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

Project Partners

Main Project Partners:

Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT): MCT was formally established in 2002 as 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.” In 2006, MCT was selected by the five Micronesia Challenge jurisdictions to house the MC endowment and has since fully regionalized its Board and organizational structure and services. The Trust adheres to policies and standards set out in its Articles of Incorporation, ByLaws and Operations Manual.

Micronesia Challenge Steering Committee (MCSC): Established in early 2007 to oversee the regional coordination and implementation of the Micronesia Challenge, the MCSC is made up of the five MC Focal Points (designated by the Chief Executives from each of the MC jurisdictions), the Executive Director of the Micronesia Conservation Trust, and the Chairman of the MC Regional Support Team. In November 2008, the Chief Executives of Micronesia signed an agreement formally establishing the Micronesia Challenge Regional Office and awarding it the full legal status necessary to operate as an official intergovernmental agency. The agreement also gives the office the capacity to function as a semi-autonomous body under the auspices and direction of the MC Steering Committee.

National Project Partners:

Government of Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI): RMI manages marine resources primarily through the 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. They work closely with the Marshall Islands Conservation Society (MICS) and Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) to realize the protected areas targets established through the Micronesia Challenge (MC). Relatedly, the Office of Environmental Policy and Planning Coordination (now known as the Climate Change Directorate (CCD)) is responsible for coordinating policy and planning to mitigate the effects of global warming and climate change on biodiversity, land degradation, sea level rise, and further threats to sustainable development, livelihood, and human health. CCD is the GEF OFP office.

Government of Federated States of Micronesia (FSM): The national government plays a coordinating and facilitating role in various forms of traditional, local, and state marine resource control and jurisdictions, through the Department of Resources and Development (R&D). While R&D leads facilitation and coordination, the FSM government recently established a National

Protected Area Network (PAN) Policy Framework. The National PAN is to be administered by R&D in conjunction with State Focal Points, the MCT and the Technical Committee. The Technical Committee members are nominated by the State Government and confirmed by the Secretary of R&D.

Government of Republic of Palau (Palau): As Palau fully implemented the Palau National Marine Sanctuary (PNMS) in January 2020, there are active transitions in how the nation will manage marine resources. The Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism (MNRET) is responsible for management and conservation of the Palau National Marine Sanctuary (PNMS). A key leverage point in the success of the PNMS is a thriving domestic pelagic fishery sector. MNRET will be the primary agent in facilitating a new working group to address this leverage point with members comprised of relevant agencies and stakeholders in Palau and the region.

Implementing Agency:

World Wildlife Fund (WWF): WWF's mission is to conserve nature and reduce the most pressing threats to the diversity of life on Earth. As the Implementing Agency, WWF will be the main conduit between the Executing Agency (Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions) and the GEF.

Executing Agency:

Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions (COS): COS works with researchers at Stanford and other universities to advance understanding of ocean challenges and to help create new solutions. The core team of researchers and fellows partner with other research institutions, national and international non-governmental organizations, businesses and governments, as well as established and emerging leaders in the data revolution to deliver impact in the water. Through a grant via the Future Earth as well as the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, COS is partnering with the Palau International Coral Reef Center at the request of the Palauan government to convene a working group of Palauan and international experts to address the interlinked challenges of marine protection, managing nearshore and pelagic fisheries, economic development and broader food policy associated with the Palau National Marine Sanctuary (PNMS). This proposed effort throughout Micronesia embodies the COS mission to catalyze research, innovation, and action to improve the health of the oceans for the people who depend on them the most.

Related Organizations:

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's vision is people empowered with science and knowledge for effective marine conservation and management. Their work is locally and internationally relevant and contributes to better informed decisions regarding the management and conservation of Palau's marine resources. PICRC also leads research, education, and outreach efforts as well as conservation recommendations, for the PNMS.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC): The Nature Conservancy is a global environmental nonprofit working to create a world where people and nature can thrive. TNC’s work in this region encompasses the Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

University of Guam: The University of Guam is a U.S. land-grant institution accredited by the Senior Commission of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), one of six regional accrediting bodies in the United States. The University of Guam houses academic researchers that can add significant value to the project as members of national or regional working groups.

University of Hawaii: The University of Hawai‘i System includes 10 campuses and educational, training and research centers across the Hawaiian Islands. As the public system of higher education in Hawai‘i, UH offers unique and diverse opportunities. The University of Hawaii houses academic researchers that can add significant value to the project as members of national or regional working groups.

National- and Regional-level Stakeholders

The national and regional stakeholders considered in the analysis include institutions, political decision makers and those whose mandate could have a significant influence on the results and the expected impacts. These stakeholders are essential to the project’s implementation at the national level as they either are members of, or directly engage with, marine resource management agencies. At the regional level, the noted stakeholders engage in regional dialogues that are vital to the project’s success—primarily through efforts pertaining to the Micronesia Challenge. The main national and regional stakeholders are described in Table E.1 below.

Table E.1.

Nation	Name	Mandate	Project Relevance	Consultation in Preparation
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.	MIMRA staff have been made aware of the project as early as December 2018. The project proponents engaged directly with the Director and staff from MIMRA in person in Majuro, RMI in July 2019.
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	Participation of staff from OEPPC is highly relevant as the Director is the GEF	The Director and Deputy Director of CCD have been engaged in early discussions of

Nation	Name	Mandate	Project Relevance	Consultation in Preparation
		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.	Operational Focal Point for RMI. CCD plays a key role in national coordination.	project development.
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.	In July 2019, the Secretary of CMAC was part of a consultation meeting, through her role at MIMRA.
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	The MICS was engaged in December 2018 to discuss opportunities for GEF funds to support updating available online spatial resources.
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	The RMI Sea Grant contact provided initial context for engaging RMI partners through an in-person dialogue in December 2018.
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	R&D staff would be lead contacts for engaging national- and state-level resource	R&D staff were part of a large engagement meeting in Pohnpei in July 2019.

Nation	Name	Mandate	Project Relevance	Consultation in Preparation
		traditional, local and state marine resource control.	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.	NORMA staff have been engaged in limited email dialogue to date.
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.	OFCF engaged in a large meeting with FSM partners in Pohnpei in July 2019.
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.	PICRC has been a longstanding partner of the Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions and has engaged intermittently on the scope of this project.
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	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.	MNRET staff have been engaged for nearly a year in incubating and iterating the scope of national and regional components of this project.

Nation	Name	Mandate	Project Relevance	Consultation in Preparation
		ocean-based resources as well as tourism.		
Palau	Ministry of Finance (MOF)	The Ministry of Finance ensures accountability, continuous productivity of government services, and economic growth by promoting policies for, and sound management of, expenditures, revenues, financing and human resources.	MOF plays a newly heightened role in funding allocation with regards to the National Marine Sanctuary.	[Pending – likely in September 2019]
Palau	Ministry of Justice (MOJ)	Ministry of Justice is “to take all necessary lawful action to further enforcement within the Republic’s jurisdiction, thus promoting the safety of persons and wildlife therein.	MOJ plays a newly heightened role in marine resource management enforcement with regards to the National Marine Sanctuary.	[Pending – likely in September 2019]
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.	MCT staff have been engaged in building the scope of the project since summer of 2018.
	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.	SPC staff engaged in a large meeting with FSM partners in Pohnpei in July 2019.
	The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	TNC is a global environmental nonprofit working to create a world	TNC plays a significant role in the region as a leader in convenings,	TNC staff have been engaged intermittently throughout the

Nation	Name	Mandate	Project Relevance	Consultation in Preparation
		where people and nature can thrive.	research, and planning for conservation efforts.	project scoping process.
	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.	UNDP Regional staff were consulted from July 2018 – December 2018.

Local-level Stakeholders

As this project focuses on regional (multi-national) and national governments, local agencies, organizations, and stakeholders will not be a primary focus. The efforts from regional and national agencies and organizations supported by this project may engage with audiences and stakeholders in local governments, communities and outer islands, yet those decisions will depend on factors relevant to the interests of the national governments.

Relationships Between Stakeholders

Within each nation, there is some degree of limited inter-agency engagement that varies per nation. However, many stakeholders noted that there is a need for greater connection and structured knowledge sharing. Amongst the nations—at a regional level—the main avenue for engagement is through international efforts such as the Micronesia Challenge.

On a specific note, there is an opportunity for greater coordination amongst the four states within the FSM. It is becoming clear that there is a greater degree of state-level independence in general governance, including terrestrial and marine management.

Revision of Project Components

While the core objective of the proposed project has not changed significantly since its initial discussions and scope, the details of the national and regional components have been co-developed with project partners. At a national level, contacts within each nation have helped focus the outcome language towards addressing specific inter-agency marine natural resource management needs. At a regional level, the ongoing discussions regarding new goal setting for the next iteration of the Micronesia Challenge have been essential to reframing the gaps that will be addressed through this project. The in-person meetings and discussions have proven to be some of the most valuable avenues for advancing the conceptual details of the project strategy.

Conclusion

Based on the above information, the priority stakeholders include:

- 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



Stakeholder Consultation Log

Date	Location	Participants	Summary
December 4-21, 2018	Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands	College of the Marshall Islands Sea Grant Officer Marshall Islands Conservation Society Pacific Resources for Education and Learning	Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Introduce GEF mission and gather feedback on interest and feasibility. Key Takeaways: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The GEF concept should be introduced through the ad hoc government Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC) and then to the GEF Operational Focal Point (who's also on CMAC)○ Little interest in reforming the foreign commercial fishing sector.○ Positive/neutral support for WWF as GEF Agency
December 4-21, 2018	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	Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Introduce GEF mission and gather feedback on interest and feasibility. Key Takeaways: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ GEF project should be introduced through the Committee on Climate Change and Sustainable Development (CCC&SD), that includes both the GEF Focal Point office (Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management) as well as the ministry responsible for marine management (namely, Secretary Marion Henry, Department of Resources and Development)○ Little interest in reforming the foreign commercial fishing sector.

		<p>and Emergency Management (FSM)</p> <p>Director, Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT)</p> <p>Lead Conservation Officer, MCT</p> <p>Finance Officer, MCT</p> <p>Grants Manager, MCT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Positive/neutral support for WWF as GEF Agency
December 4-21, 2018	Koror, Palau	<p>President of Palau</p> <p>Palau GEF Operational Focal Point (OFP)</p> <p>Policy Advisor to the President, Planning OOC 2020</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce GEF mission and gather feedback on interest and feasibility. <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Significant interest in investigating the project opportunity from Palauan audiences as well as from MCT

		<p>The Nature Conservancy (TNC)</p> <p>PNMS Exec. Committee</p> <p>House of Delegates, Palau</p> <p>Senate of Palau</p> <p>CEO, Palau International Coral Reef Center (PICRC)</p> <p>PICRC Board, Policy Advisor</p>	
July 3, 2019	MIMRA Office in Majuro, RMI	<p>Director, MIMRA</p> <p>Deputy Director of Fisheries, MIMRA</p> <p>Secretary, CMAC</p> <p>General Manager of FSM Environmental</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introductory discussion <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RMI has current World Bank PROP funding from GEF ○ Regarding International Waters funding, RMI wants to accept funding, but they do not know where to put it. ○ RMI wants to address combatting IUU, marine pollution and emerging tech for management post-2020. ○ Incoming PAN legislation is an opportunity for GEF IW funding.

		Protection Agency	
July 4, 2019	Mangrove Bay Hotel, Pohnpei	Lead Conservation Officer, MCT	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introductory discussion <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GEF IW project could help FSM implementation of the 12 nautical mile expansion legislation. ○ Each FSM state has a different approach to PAN. ○ Effectiveness in management needs to be improved.
July 5, 2019	Palikir, Pohnpei	<p>Secretary, Ministry of Resources and Development (R&D)</p> <p>MC Steering Committee</p> <p>GEF Climate Change Lead</p> <p>Technical Coordinator, FSM Ridge to Reef</p> <p>Director, Micronesia</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introductory discussion <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fishing policy should be integrated with NORMA. ○ This would be first time working with WWF as the executing agency.

		<p>Regional Office, SPC</p> <p>Resident Representative, Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation of Japan</p> <p>Overseas Fishery Cooperation Foundation</p>	
July 7, 2019	Weno, Chuuk, FSM	<p>Director of Micronesia Program, TNC</p> <p>Director, Micronesia Conservation Trust</p> <p>GEF OFP, Palau</p> <p>Representative, Guam</p> <p>Representative, CNMI</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introductory discussion <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Overall, the Micronesia Challenge Steering Committee was supportive of the project and proposed governance. ○ GEF provides resources, but nations state and pursue specific actions. ○ The timeline is rapid, and the Coral Reef Task Force Meeting in Palau in Sept. 2019 is a key meeting to finalize this project.

		Director for Micronesia, TNC	
July 8, 2019	Weno, Chuuk, FSM	Guam, Board of MCT Chuuk Conservation Society Director of Micronesia Program, TNC Director, Micronesia Conservation Trust GEF OFP, Palau Representative, Guam Representative, CNMI Director for Micronesia, TNC	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Micronesia Challenge Steering Committee and leaders discuss new commitments beyond 2020. <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Post-2020 Micronesia Challenge (MC) should be called MC+. ○ There is extreme interest to move forward as climate change resilience will be essential. ○ MCRO capacity is a major issue and needs to be prioritized/strengthened for MC+. ○ While marine issues are the largest focus/interest, it should not be the only focus or goal. ○ MC+ should have improved communication, branding and marketing. ○ There should be better alignment with SPREP to reduce duplicating costs to countries.
July 9, 2019	Tumon Bay, Guam	Micronesia Challenge	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introductory discussion

		Marine Measures Group University of Guam Former MC Steering Committee Member, CNMI	<p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fisheries and supporting climate change resilience should be the two marine priorities for MC+. ○ The marine measures group needs “more bodies and consistent funding” in terms of managing/analyzing data.
July 9, 2019	Tumon Bay, Guam	Coordinator, Micronesia Challenge Regional Office	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introductory discussion <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Allied Business Consultants are doing a pro-bono proposal for an assessment of how to strengthen MCRO. ○ Documents should be sent out bilaterally with specific questions flagged to each country to improve responsiveness.
July 10, 2019	Koror, Palau	CEO, PICRC	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Follow-up discussion <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The focus may be too centered on what an “ideal” stakeholder engagement may be rather than what is feasible in this context.
July 11, 2019	Koror, Palau	Palau Conservation Society, Policy	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discuss PCS role in the process <p>Key Takeaways:</p>

		& Planning Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PNMS communication needs to address socioeconomic implications in addition to environmental impact. ○ Tourism can be a component that can help fill transition time for greater, long-term job sustainability.
July 11, 2019	Koror, Palau	PICRC Board, Policy Advisor	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introductory discussion <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Now that the amendment process has concluded, COS aims to help PICRC move forward under their new mandate.
July 11, 2019	Koror, Palau	Aquarium Director, PICRC	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introductory discussion <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is a need for clarity in the process with general audiences.
October 17, 2019	Koror, Palau	TNC	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce WWF GEF ○ Discussion about potential TNC cofinancing ○ Better understand TNC current and future baseline programs in Palau <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TNC is shifting strategy away from “protected areas” to Micronesia Challenge.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The MC should focus on progress and engaging outer islands and regional efforts. ○ National working groups should be used as a mechanism to advance national priorities through the lens of MC.
October 17, 2019	Koror, Palau	<p>CEO, PICRC</p> <p>Communications & Outreach Officer, PICRC</p> <p>PCS</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Note updates from working group meeting in Santa Barbara ○ Discuss a shared messaging approach for rollout ○ Also note key considerations for broader communications opportunities in coming year <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Youth should be engaged by incorporating material into 9th grade curriculum. ○ Sections of the report should be distilled for targeted audiences.
October 18, 2019	Koror, Palau	<p>Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism (MNRET)</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce WWF GEF ○ Confirm national and regional project component activities and budget ○ Discuss govt. of Palau cofinancing ○ Finalize project governance ○ Discuss starting Palau’s GEF OFP Endorsement process <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MC SC needs balance of capacity and agency for MC+

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Monitoring is a big question in effective management. ○ Conservation targets are known, but strategy regarding process and indicators is needed. ○ Contacts from MCSC should be leaders at national levels.
October 18, 2019	Koror, Palau	MNRET	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review key considerations languages ○ Learn update on regulations and timeline ○ GEF IW focus on DPF ○ Status of negotiations with Japan ○ Review map details <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regulations will be available in early November. ○ GEF IW 7 could be used to develop enabling conditions for the DPF, and GEF 8 can be used for implementation. ○ General specific revisions and suggestions for report and language.
October 19, 2019	Tumon Bay, Guam	TNC	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce WWF GEF ○ Ensure high-level TNC support for this project ○ Better understand TNC baselines in each country, especially ongoing work with MSP ○ Explore TNC co-financing

			<p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A series of ~9 white papers should be compiled from MCT ○ Consider general regional project approach
October 19, 2019	Tumon Bay, Guam	Coordinator, MCRO	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce WWF GEF ○ Confirm regional project component activities and budget ○ Finalize MCRO co-financing ○ Finalize project governance <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Communications plan needs to be updated. ○ Possible MCT grant for a socioeconomic database for the region
October 21, 2019	Pohnpei, FSM	FSM R&D MCT NORMA Asst. Director, FMD	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce WWF GEF ○ Confirm national project component activities and budget ○ Discuss FSM government co-financing ○ Discuss GEF OFP Endorsement process <p>○ Key Takeaways: PAN Technical Committee may be the best “Working Group” for the IW project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PROP Assessment states a need for a Nationwide Coastal Plan ○ PAN framework can be operationalized nationwide.

October 21, 2019	Pohnpei, FSM	Lead Conservation Officer, MCT	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discuss MCT and MCRO co-financing ○ Finalize project governance <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IW effort should focus on the contiguous zone. ○ Translation services should be considered for all nations/states.
October 22, 2019	Majuro, RMI	<p>Director, Office of Environmental Planning and Policy Coordination (OEPPC) & GEF OFP</p> <p>Deputy Director, OEPPC</p>	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce WWF GEF ○ Brief OFP about the project ○ Discuss RMI's GEF OFP Endorsement process. <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ With MIMRA support, GEF OFP can endorse without any additional internal process. ○ OEPPC is somewhat responsible for developing letters of co-financing for GEF projects. ○ There is limited capacity of MCRO, and the project may help support building their roles.
October 22, 2019	Majuro, RMI	Deputy Director Coastal and Community Affairs, MIMRA	<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Introduce WWF GEF ○ Share status/updates on project

		<p>Environmental Protection Authority (EPA)</p> <p>Deputy Director, Marshall Islands Conservation Society (MICS)</p> <p>Executive Director, MICS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Learn more about CMAC and discuss specific CMAC baseline activities. ○ Discuss CMAC barriers and areas for specific project support <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Updated PAN legislation and new office at MIMRA has further strengthened CMAC’s role within RMI. ○ Strong consensus that CMAC is the right focus for the GEF project, and RMI should adopt and implement stronger integrated marine management.
November 12, 2019	Audio Call	MCSC Call	<p>Objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Update on proposal development status and subgrant details <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MCSC still maintains interest in the project design and will aim to provide all relevant resources in the coming weeks
December 10, 2019	In-person meeting in Palo Alto, CA	MCRO Coordinator and Eric Hartge	<p>Objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Detailed discussion of project details and task management <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We began a dialogue on foundational project management aspects
January 10, 2020	Audio Call	MCSC Call	<p>Objective:</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback on national-level language in ProDoc; Co-financing and endorsement process; considerations for in-person MCSC meeting in Guam <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All details provided regarding remaining items needed for submission. New goal for receiving all items is by Feb MCSC call
January 16, 2020	Audio Call	FSM: R&D	<p>Objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed discussion of FSM language in proposal; confirm details for co-financing letter and endorsement letter <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsement letter underway; R&D details may take some time due to staff transitions
January 23, 2020	Audio Call	Palau: MNRET; MCRO	<p>Objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detailed discussion of Palau language in proposal; confirm details for co-financing letter and endorsement letter <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsement letter, cofinancing letter, and subgrant details are all nearly completed
February 7, 2020	Audio Call	MCSC Call	<p>Objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm remaining details in preparation for multi-day MCSC meeting <p>Key Takeaways:</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCSC members are aware of remaining items of interest; we are planning for a longer dialogue on all final details during the MCSC virtual meeting later this month
February 13, 2020	Audio Call	MCT / MCRO	<p>Objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirm subgrant budget for MCT <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCT subgrant details are confirmed and ready for review by the MCSC
February 22, 2020	Video Call	MCSC Meeting	<p>Objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual MCSC meeting as a setting to confirm project design and outline governance structure as well as remaining necessary items for submission <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New agreement on governance structure and timeline in place for submission this spring
May 8, 2020	Video Call	MCSC Meeting	<p>Objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on proposal status – awaiting final content from FSM Note new cofinancing details for Stanford requests <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MCSC members agree with decision to move forward and complete all cofinancing requirements through 1:1 follow-up calls

August 11, 2020	Video Call	MCSC Meeting	<p>Objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update project members on the new indirect cost guidance from WWF/GEF and the resulting impact to the project → newly available funds for project direct costs <p>Key Takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newly available funds should be allocated towards a regional effort – most likely the MC measures databases
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Appendix E: Monitoring & Evaluation Plan

The project monitoring and evaluation plan has been developed in coordination with national and regional project stakeholders. A total of \$57,500 has been budgeted for M&E under Outcomes 3.1 and 3.2 (see Appendix H: Detailed Budget Tables). These budgeted funds include allocations of \$30,000 for independent consultants to complete a project terminal evaluation within Output 3.2.1 as well as an additional \$27,500 is part of the subgrant to MCT to fund for engagement in project monitoring activities to inform project experience note(s) within Output 3.1.1.

The Project will be monitored through the Results Framework (see Appendix C). The Results Framework includes three indicators for Component 1, two indicators for Component 2, and two indicators for Component 3. The baseline has been completed for each indicator along with feasible targets, set annually and/or life of project where relevant. A methodology for measuring indicator targets is provided. Indicator targets are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound (SMART), and disaggregated by sex where applicable. Component 3 of the Results Framework is dedicated to M&E, knowledge sharing and coordination. Relevant Core indicators have been included to provide a portfolio level understanding of progress towards the GEF Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs). Detailed methodologies for tracking GEF Core Indicators 8 and 11 are explained further in Appendices L and M, respectively.

The Project Coordinator and Project Manager will be responsible for gathering M&E data for the annual results framework tracking to improve the results, efficiency, and management of the project. Where appropriate, coordination with the appropriate MC Measures Groups will be sought for data collection and analysis.

The following is a summary of project reports:

M&E/ Reporting Document	How the document will be used	Timeframe	Responsible
Inception Report	Summarize decisions made during inception workshop, including changes to project design, budget, Results Framework, and Y1 Annual Work Plan and Budget	Within three months of inception workshop	PMU Project Manager and M&E Officer
Quarterly Financial Reports	Assess financial progress and management.	Every three months	PMU F & A officer
WWF Project Progress Report (PPR) with RF and workplan tracking.	-Inform management decisions and drafting of annual workplan and budget; -Share lessons internally and externally;	Every six months	PMU Project Manager and M&E Officer

	-Report to the PSC and GEF Agency on the project progress.		
Terminal Project Evaluation Report	-External summative evaluation of the overall project; -Recommendations for GEF and those designing related projects.	Within six months after project completion	External expert or organization
Midterm project review recommendations	-Inform annual workplans and project monitoring plan	Halfway through project implementation	Impartial party outside of PMU

An annual reflection will be led by the PMU and conducted with the PSC to review project progress and challenges to date, taking into account results framework tracking, work plan tracking, stakeholder feedback and quarterly field reports to review project strategies, risks, and the theory of change (ToC). The results of this workshop will inform project decision making (i.e., refining the ToC, informing PPRs and AWP&Bs).

Achieving the project gender goals is critical for an overall successful project. Execution of the project gender action plan is mainstreamed into the overall project monitoring system under Component 3 of the project. This includes monitoring activities for the gender action plan and progress on the project GEF core gender indicator. Adaptive management measures will be taken as appropriate to successfully achieve the project gender goals as informed by the project monitoring systems, including frequent (at least monthly) informal virtual check-ins with national and regional subgrant project partners, six-month Project Progress Reports to WWF GEF, annual WWF GEF Agency supervision missions, and annual PMU reflection reports to the PSC to inform future project year planning.

Independent formal evaluations have been budgeted by the project and will adhere to WWF and GEF guidelines and policies. The Terminal Evaluation will be completed within six months of the official close of the project. An informal project midterm review will also be conducted halfway through project implementation. The midterm review will be conducted by impartial parties outside of the PMU and provide recommendations to strengthen the projects execution and impact through recommendations to be incorporated into project workplans and monitoring plans. The review and evaluation will provide an opportunity for adaptive management as well as sharing of lessons and best practices for this and future projects. The respective GEF Operational Focal Points will be briefed and debriefed before and after the evaluation(s) and will have an opportunity to comment on the draft and final report.

Appendix F: Knowledge Management Plan

This project has been designed based on recommendations from existing lessons learned and best practices from the region, with mechanisms in place to capture additional knowledge as it becomes available to inform timely adaptive management, enhanced capacity building, and to guide success for a sustained and long-term impact for future generations of the Micronesia Challenge.

The project design was directly informed by the independent evaluation of the Micronesia Challenge that was commissioned by the MCSC (anticipated final report due January 2020). The evaluation’s recommendations were helped guide the MC 2030 goals that were endorsed at the Micronesia Island Forum (MIF) in July 2019. This evaluation was also the basis for much of the project’s design. Among the key recommendations from this evaluation were the successes of the current support groups and measures groups, as well as successes and areas for improvement on MC governance at the national and regional level. As an example, below are key recommendations from the governance section of the evaluation that inform this project’s design and how they have been incorporated into this project:

MC Evaluation Recommendation	Project Design
Review/Celebrate jurisdictional accomplishments toward the 2020 goals and challenges faced in achieving the goals	Component 2 activities at regional and international ocean conferences
Review and discuss the 2030 goals (presented by Chief Executives) in relation to local priorities and needs, including sustainable development, to identify how the MC 2030 can best support local efforts	Component 1 working groups of key national stakeholders are tasked with discussing national efforts and priorities and how they align with the MC 2030 goals.
Draft a local implementation plan to achieve the existing 2020 commitments and/or the 2030 goals based on existing efforts and review how agency work plans and budgets can support these goals	Output of Component 1 will be national-level MC 2030 Strategic Plans to guide future implementation
It is recommended that the framework of the MC be revisited and more structured to improve true regional level coordination	Component 2 supports the development of a MCRO 2020-2030 Strategic Plan which will include a more structured regional coordination mechanism
MCRO focus on high-level regional communication and coordination with executive leadership, legislatures, and cabinet/minister-level leaders. The first year of the MCRO should aim to support the coordination of jurisdictional planning meetings and understanding how jurisdictional efforts and needs fit into a regional context	Component 2 supports MCRO communications. Components 1 and 2 supports jurisdictional planning efforts

The project design was also informed by recommendations from the May 2017 Terminal Evaluation from the GEF-5 UNEP regional International Waters project titled, “*Micronesia Challenge: Sustainable Finance Systems for Island Protected Area Management*” (GEF ID: 3626). This GEF project ended in December 2015. One of the key lessons learned identified in the project that has been translated in this project was Lesson Learned #3: “*Engagement of high-level political champions to promote and drive an initiative can make a significant difference to country buy-in, engagement and delivery, but there needs to be institutional structures that ensure they are kept informed and through which they can engage directly, such as the MC Steering Committee.*” This project is directly engaged with the MCSC, both in terms of specific project activities but also as this project’s steering committee.

Additionally several regional programs with national child projects will end during the life of this project that can provide additional valuable information to inform adaptive management of the project. These include the GEF World Bank Pacific Regional Oceanscape Program (PROP) and the GEF UNDP Pacific Ridge to Reef (R2R) Program. The PROP has child projects in RMI and FSM and is schedule to end in 2020. The Pacific R2R has child projects in RMI, FSM, and Palau and is scheduled to end in 2022, 2020, and 2020, respectively. To ensure coordination with the timing of these evaluations and capturing recommendations that may advise adaptive management of this project, the project will operate closely with the respective national ministries serving as focal points for these two projects. These national coordination mechanisms already exist by leveraging planned and existing inter-agency committees where both national GEF Operational Focal Points (OFPs) and technical government agencies are leading or closely associated with these other projects.

Project Knowledge Management Mechanisms and Strategic Communications

There are multiple processes in place to capture, assess, and document information, lessons, best practices, and expertise generated during project implementation. The third project component has been specifically designed to capture, manage, and disseminate project knowledge. Under Output 3.1: Project Knowledge Management Captured and Disseminated, including through IW:LEARN, the project will develop at least one knowledge product per year (total of at least three knowledge products), with dissemination on the MC and MCT websites, as well as the project page on the IW:LEARN website. The project will develop at least one experience note and engage in IW:LEARN events. Additionally, the project will capture knowledge under Component 2 by developing at least two MC communication products per year for a total of six communication products. While not solely focused on disseminating project knowledge, these communication products will be coordinated with the knowledge management products under Component Three and are a secondary knowledge management process that will ensure consistent messaging and amplifying of knowledge generated by the project.

Knowledge developed and captured by the project will be disseminated at both the national, regional, and global levels. At the national level, the project will disseminate knowledge through the national working groups that are being directly supported by the project (Component One), knowledge can then be transferred immediately to key government and non-government entities. At the regional level, project knowledge will be disseminated chiefly through existing MC processes. These include the MCRO, MCT, and focal points of the MCSC. Further, the project

will also be disseminating project knowledge through the MC, MCT websites, as well as through the expanded social media presence that is directly being supported by the project. Project partners, including Stanford COS, TNC, and local CSOs will also provide additional platforms to disseminate project knowledge. At the global level, this GEF IW project will be an active participant in IW:LEARN and will leverage the IW:LEARN platform to share knowledge and lessons learned with the global IW community, including through the project webpage on the IW:LEARN website, IW Conferences and other IW:LEARN events, and the development of a project experience note. Further, the project has been designed to raise the profile of the MC at important international events, including UN Oceans and Our Oceans conferences and the CBD COP.

Based on the initial recommendations for the Micronesia Challenge independent evaluation, communications to raise awareness of the Micronesia Challenge are deemed critical for future success. A large focus of this project involves enhancing strategic communications for the Micronesia Challenge, both at the national and regional level. There is dedicated funding for communications in Components Two and Three of the project. More specifically, under output 2.1.2 the project is directly supporting the development of an updated MC communications plan from the current 2008 plan. The project is also developing at least two communication products per year for a total of at least six communication products in total. The project is also supporting enhancement of the MC's social media presence. Further, the project will have a direct impact on elevating the branding and consistent messaging of the Micronesia Challenge. Combined with increased participation at international events over the coming years, the Micronesia Challenge will rely heavily on the enhanced role of communications to have a lasting impact.

Long-term Knowledge Management Impact

Knowledge and learning are recognized as critical aspects that ensure that the impact of the project persists far beyond the short project duration. Long term sustainability will be achieved through multiple knowledge management efforts, including using the project's own knowledge management processes while also participating in the GEF International Waters knowledge management community, IW:LEARN. Project sustainability and long-term impact relies heavily on raising the profile of the Micronesia Challenge at the national and regional levels. This is why the project has a heavy focus on project communications, including development of communication strategies and plans. Past knowledge and experiences as well as knowledge gleaned from the current project will factor heavily into ensuring future planning. This includes following recommendations from the Micronesia Challenge independent evaluation. By improving the Micronesia Challenge community, not only can project knowledge be disseminated to a wider regional audience, but it will also cast a wider net of stakeholder engagement to glean knowledge that may enhance the future success of the Micronesia Challenge.

Looking to the future, the project is also directly supporting outreach to younger generations of Micronesians by leveraging the Micronesia Challenge Young Champions program as well as enhancing the MC's social media presence. These activities will raise the profile of the MC among future generations of Micronesians (and potentially beyond the Micronesia region). In a

region with a relatively small population where local champions can be highly influential, such targeted efforts can have a significant and lasting impact.

By growing the overall Micronesia Challenge community, a positive feedback loop can be created by the project that mainstreams the MC 2030 goals into local government and communities, and ultimately primes the region for renewed interest and investment to meet the MC 2030 goals over the coming decade.

Appendix G: Gender Analysis

Introduction

This provisional gender analysis is prepared as an input to inform the design and implementation of the project title, “*Strengthening and Enabling the Micronesia Challenge 2030*”.

Context

Located in the low-latitudes of the western Pacific Ocean, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and the Republic of Palau are island nations of the Micronesia region. The RMI, FSM, and Palau were administered under the United States after World War II as a UN Trust Territory and gained independence under a Compact of Free Association (COFA) with the United States in 1986. Palau’s COFA was fully ratified in 1993.⁶⁹ Together with the United States Territory of Guam and the United States Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Micronesia region is home to more than 500,000 people, 2,000 islands, 12 languages, and 5 sovereign jurisdictions. Micronesia is experiencing considerable environmental degradation from overfishing, developing infrastructure, and poor waste management. These effects, combined with the anticipated effects of climate change, threaten the livelihood of the islanders. Climate risks include increases in sea level rise, water shortages due to extreme climate variability, increased average temperatures, coastal erosion, and typhoons.^{70,71}

Status of Gender Equality

The FSM, RMI, and Palau each have a dual structure of common and customary laws that promote or constrain gender equality to different degrees. Customary laws are upheld and reinforced by social norms and traditional values.

Social norms and practices

Gender roles is a complex issue in these nations, and men and women traditionally have distinct practices and rights. Land, identities, titles, and rights are typically inherited through matrilineal descent, and women are viewed as the custodians of land, culture, and tradition. For example, women in Palau handle the money in the household and select the men that will appropriately represent their family in the community and local government. The colonization of these islands, however, has led to the decline in women’s authority and decision-making power, undermining their status. Common laws and protections are in place to support gender equality in each nation, though customary practices and rights can be more influential in ensuring or hindering women’s traditional rights.

Major Indicators and Political Participation

Women are largely underrepresented in the legislative positions of the FSM, RMI, and in Palau. Traditional and cultural positions of leadership and decision-making are led by men, but women’s counterpart roles are not reflected in modern government systems due to colonizers

⁶⁹ Central Intelligence Agency. 2019. *The World Factbook*. Report for Federated States of Micronesia. Available: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/fm.html>

⁷⁰ United Nations Children’s Fund. 2017. *Situation Analysis of Children in the Federated States of Micronesia*. UNICEF, Suva. Available: [FSM Children](https://www.unicef.org/micronesia).

⁷¹ United Nations Development Program. 2019. *Climate Change Adaptation*. Report for Micronesia. Available: <https://www.adaptation-undp.org/explore/micronesia>

elevating chiefly status’ while dismissing women’s customary roles. Consequently, the current political and electoral systems are generally more favorable to “men of status,” roles which extend to decision-making in the home, community, and society at large.⁷²

The FSM has never had women in its 14-seat National Congress, and at the moment has three national cabinet women members. The lack of women’s participation in public decision making and the highest level of government decision-making is largely attributed to: cultural stereotyping of men’s and women’s roles based on traditional social hierarchies, the lack of opportunity to undertake leadership training, and the lack of support for women wanting to move into roles that have traditionally been dominated by men. The FSM has no national gender equality policy in place, though the FSM Strategic Development Plan (SDP 2004-2023) includes a strategic goal to mainstream gender issues into decision-making, policies, and strategic development plans.⁷³

In the RMI, the Council of Iroji is the upper house of the Marshallese parliament and reviews matters relating to customary law. Members are appointed by virtue of their chiefly title, and though women are not given chiefly status, three female members currently sit in the 12-person council.⁷⁴ The RMI made history in 2016 by electing its first female President, Hilda Heine, who is also the founder of the women’s rights group Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI). Traditional gender roles and stereotypes act as barriers to entry for women in government decision-making, but the 2015 National Gender Mainstreaming Policy guides the RMI government in mainstreaming gender perspective across its policies, strategies, and programs.⁷⁵

Under the constitution of Palau, women are afforded equal opportunities as men, and recommendations by the association of women’s chiefs (Mechesil Belau) are said to be given high consideration in legislative matters.⁷⁶ Palauan women are eligible to hold positions as the president, the 16-members of the National Congress, and the 13-member Senate, though only three women currently hold Senate seats. Given the complex state of gender roles, Palau is the only country among the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) to have signed but not ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).⁷⁷

The limited representation and low political participation of these three countries results in women being underrepresented in issues relating to environment and economic related decision-

⁷² United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) For the Pacific Region 2013-2017. Available: https://www.undp.org/content/dam/samoa/docs/UNDP_WS_UNDAF_Summary_Report_2013-17.pdf

⁷³ Braun, Treva. 2012. *Stocktake of the gender mainstreaming capacity of Pacific Island Governments: Federated States of Micronesia*. Available: [FSM Gender Stocktake](#).

⁷⁴ United Nations Women. *Asia and the Pacific*. Report for Republic of the Marshall Islands. Available: <http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/countries/fiji/co/republic-of-the-marshall-islands>

⁷⁵ Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. 2018. *Gender Equality Where Do We Stand? Republic of the Marshall Islands*. Available: [RMI Gender Equality 2018](#)

⁷⁶ United Nations in the Pacific. 2017. *United Nations Pacific Strategy 2018-2022*. Available: https://www.unicef.org/about/execboard/files/Final_UNPS_2018-2022_Pacific.pdf

⁷⁷ United Nations Women. *Asia and the Pacific*. Report for Palau. Available: <http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/countries/fiji/co/palau>

making processes, including ownership of land and access to resources and services critical to agricultural and fisheries development.⁷⁸

Economic Participation

In the FSM, economic activities consist primarily of subsistence farming and fishing and women play prominent roles in processing, marketing, and management within the tuna industry.^{79,80} In 2012, the labor force participation rate was 58.5% for men and 39.9% for women, with fewer than half as many female wage and salary earners as males. Women are less represented in all fields of the paid workforce, concentrated at the lower levels of the hierarchy, and have comparatively lower pay than men.⁸¹

In the RMI, the 2011 Census classified 48% of men and 26% of women as working for pay or profit. Women have a higher unemployment rate at 72% compared to men at 49%, though these rates do not reflect women's participation in vulnerable employment as own-account operators, unpaid workers in family enterprises, or producing goods for their own consumption or sale (including the processing of seafood).⁸² There are no legislative barriers obstructing women from financial services, though women can still face discrimination from receiving loans, mortgages, and obtaining credit, which impacts their economic independence and ability to engage in business and equitable ability to earn a livelihood.⁸³

In Palau, 60% of men and 41% of women aged over 15 are in the workforce, with an unemployment rate of 2%. Of the women in the work force, 95% are employees working for wages or salaries, and the majority have professional jobs that require secondary or postsecondary education. Nearly all women working for wages and salaries work in the service sector and earn a lower average total income than men. Fewer than 1% of Palauan women work for wages and salaries in the agriculture, forestry, and fishing sector, and the development of the tuna industry is perceived to be a low priority by Palauan women.^{84,85}

In the fisheries sector, women's roles are underrepresented from both the lack of data on their participation in the fishing industry and the focus on men's forms of fishing rather than the whole supply chain. The cultural belief that women are bad luck on fishing boats and that fishing is a man's field often inhibits women's participation in deep sea fishing, but women participate

⁷⁸ United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) For the Pacific Region 2013-2017. Available: https://www.undp.org/content/dam/samoa/docs/UNDP_WS_UNDAF_Summary_Report_2013-17.pdf

⁷⁹ Federated States of Micronesia and United Nations Development Program. 2010. *Millennium Development Goals & The Federated States of Micronesia Status Report 2010*. FSM country report.

⁸⁰ Demmke, Patricia T. 2006. *Gender issues in the Pacific Islands Tuna Industry*. Development of tuna fisheries in the Pacific ACP countries (DEVFISH) Project. Available: [DEVFISH](#)

⁸¹ Braun, Treva. 2012. *Stocktake of the gender mainstreaming capacity of Pacific Island Governments: Federated States of Micronesia*. Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). Available: [FSM Gender Stocktake](#).

⁸² Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. 2018. *Gender Equality Where Do We Stand? Republic of the Marshall Islands*. Available: [RMI Gender Equality 2018](#)

⁸³ United Nations Women. *Asia and the Pacific*. Report for Republic of the Marshall Islands. Available: <http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/countries/fiji/co/republic-of-the-marshall-islands>

⁸⁴ Government of Palau. *Palau 2013/2014 HIES Gender Profile*. Available: [Palau Gender Profile](#).

⁸⁵ Demmke, Patricia T. 2006. *Gender issues in the Pacific Islands Tuna Industry*. Development of tuna fisheries in the Pacific ACP countries (DEVFISH) Project. Available: [DEVFISH](#)

in gleaning (gathering of seafood) and fishing in coastal shallow areas.^{86,87} This catch is often consumed for food rather than being sold.^{88,89,90} Women also make up the bulk of the tuna processing industry workforce and are more involved in the processing and marketing of fish from coastal fisheries. They prepare fish for sale and consumption using traditional and modern methods and use marine resources such as seashells to produce handcrafts that have high cultural value and generate income.⁹¹ Unconscious biases cause women's roles in fisheries to be overlooked, though women's participation in fisheries in the Pacific is often over 50% when including gleaning and subsistence fisheries.⁹²

Land Ownership and Environmental Stewardship

Throughout the Micronesia region, land ownership, use rights, and customary titles are traditionally passed down through matrilineal descent, and control and decision-making over resources is often vested in the male members of the lineage.⁹³ However, women's authority and rights to land ownership have been undermined by the paternalistic colonizers that governed the islands during the first half of the 20th century.^{94,95} In the RMI, this loss of status among women in modern society has shifted most decision-making in a family and in government to men.⁹⁶ The customary passage of land rights through matrilineal lines is also being steadily eroded as the Marshallese society urbanizes and the population increases, making the tracing of lineage and land rights more difficult.⁹⁷ In the context of Palau, it was not until the 1950's that women started to "reassert themselves and re-claim their rights, though they continue to face discrimination and other challenges."⁹⁸

⁸⁶ Demmke, Patricia T. 2006. *Gender issues in the Pacific Islands Tuna Industry*. Development of tuna fisheries in the Pacific ACP countries (DEVFISH) Project. Available: [DEVFISH](#)

⁸⁷ International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO. 2014. *Traditional Knowledge and Wisdom Themes from the Pacific Islands*.

⁸⁸ Rohe, J., Schlüter, A., and Ferse, S. C. A. 2018. A gender lens on women's harvesting activities and interactions with local marine governance in a South Pacific fishing community. *Maritime Studies*, 1–8.

⁸⁹ Harper, S., Zeller, D., Hauzer, M., Pauly, D. and Sumaila, U. R. 2013. Women and fisheries: Contribution to food security and local economies. *Marine Policy*, 39(C), 56–63.

⁹⁰ Kronen, M. and Vunisea, A. 2009. Fishing impact and food security – Gender differences in finfisheries across Pacific Island countries and cultural groups. *SPC Women in Fisheries Information Bulletin* 19 (February), 3–10. <http://coastfish.spc.int/en/publications/bulletins/women-in-fisheries/115-women-in-fisheries-information-bulletin-19>

⁹¹ Barclay K., Leduc B., Mangubhai S. and Donato-Hunt C. (eds.). 2019. *Pacific handbook for gender equity and social inclusion in coastal fisheries and aquaculture*. First edition. Noumea, New Caledonia: Pacific Community. 80 p.

⁹² Kronen, M. and Vunisea, A. 2009. Fishing impact and food security – Gender differences in finfisheries across Pacific Island countries and cultural groups. *SPC Women in Fisheries Information Bulletin* 19 (February): 3–10. <http://coastfish.spc.int/en/publications/bulletins/women-in-fisheries/115-women-in-fisheries-informationbulletin-19>

⁹³ Federated States of Micronesia and United Nations Development Program. 2010. *Millennium Development Goals & The Federated States of Micronesia Status Report 2010*. FSM country report.

⁹⁴ Palau Ministry of Health. 2014. *Belau Family Health and Safety Study*. Available: <https://pacific.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/PalauFHSSReportweb.pdf>

⁹⁵ Braun, Treva. 2012. *Stocktake of the gender mainstreaming capacity of Pacific Island Governments: Federated States of Micronesia*. Available: [FSM Gender Stocktake](#).

⁹⁶ Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. 2018. *Gender Equality Where Do We Stand? Republic of the Marshall Islands*. Available: [RMI Gender Equality 2018](#)

⁹⁷ United Nations Women. *Asia and the Pacific*. Report for Republic of the Marshall Islands. Available: <http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/countries/fiji/co/republic-of-the-marshall-islands>

⁹⁸ Palau Ministry of Health. 2014. *Belau Family Health and Safety Study*. Available: <https://pacific.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/PalauFHSSReportweb.pdf>

Education, Literacy and Information

The FSM has nearly equal ratios of girls and boys in primary and secondary schools, yet it faces challenges in improving the quality of education, retention rates, and access to outer islands. At the college level, men dominate in the fields of agriculture, computer information systems, and marine science, whereas women dominate the field of early childhood education. The FSM Gender Stocktake attributes the “lack of women in technical and professional positions in employment,” to the “traditionally assigned gender roles [which] limit girls’ and women’s choices in education and careers and have the effect of compelling women to assume the burden of household responsibilities.”⁹⁹

The RMI has a relatively low gender disparity among boys and girls enrolled in primary and secondary education. At the highest level of education, the education gap widens: almost half of adult men aged 25 years and over have completed high school or higher education compared to 39% of women. One significant obstacle preventing women from completing their studies is the lack of appropriate childcare for children in their family.¹⁰⁰

Palau has a highly educated population, as indicated in the 2013/2014 Palau Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES). Of the potential labor force population between 15-54 years of age, more women have completed each level of education from elementary to post-secondary schooling than men. The majority of non-working women are students, retired, or completing home duties.¹⁰¹

Health

The FSM has a moderate fertility rate (80th in the world in 2018), and in 2009 had a record of 0 maternal mortalities and 90% of births attended by skilled birth attendants.¹⁰² The contraceptive prevalence rate is moderate at about 45%, and the adolescent birth rate has halved since 1973, dropping to 42 per 1,000 women in 2010.¹⁰³ A country health profile of the FSM indicates that the country has a high prevalence of tuberculosis, one of the highest leprosy rates in the Pacific, and noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) are the leading cause of death. NCDs have been associated with the frequent occurrence of obesity in the FSM.¹⁰⁴

The RMI has a relatively high fertility rate (53rd in the world in 2018), with adolescent fertility rates being the greatest in the region at 138 per 1,000 live births, though this rate has declined substantially between 1988 and 2007.¹⁰⁵ The Marshallese have high instances of generational health issues due to the 67 atmospheric atomic and thermonuclear weapons tests carried out in

⁹⁹ Braun, Treva. 2012. *Stocktake of the gender mainstreaming capacity of Pacific Island Governments: Federated States of Micronesia*. Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). Available: [FSM Gender Stocktake](#).

¹⁰⁰ Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. 2018. *Gender Equality Where Do We Stand? Republic of the Marshall Islands*. Available: [RMI Gender Equality 2018](#)

¹⁰¹ Government of Palau. *Palau 2013/2014 HIES Gender Profile*. Available: [Palau Gender Profile](#).

¹⁰² Central Intelligence Agency. 2019. *The World Factbook*. Report for Federated States of Micronesia. Available: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/fm.html>

¹⁰³ The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). 2013. *Federated States of Micronesia: Tracking Progress in Maternal and Child Survival*. Available: [FSM Maternal and Child Survival](#).

¹⁰⁴ World Health Organization. 2012. *WHO Country Cooperation Strategy for Federated States of Micronesia 2013-2017*. Available: [WHO FSM Strategies](#).

¹⁰⁵ Central Intelligence Agency. 2019. *The World Factbook*. Report for Republic of the Marshall Islands. Available: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/rm.html>

the RMI territory between 1946 and 1958.^{106,107} Health impacts include high instances of birth defects, miscarriages, weakened immune systems, and high rates of thyroid, cervical, breast, and other cancers.¹⁰⁸ Common communicable diseases include leprosy, tuberculosis, influenza, and syphilis, and 52% of women are classified as obese.¹⁰⁹

The fertility rate in Palau is low (173rd in the world in 2018), with a relatively low adolescent birth rate.¹¹⁰ In 2007, 100% of recorded births were attended by a skilled attendant, which is likely attributed to the great cultural and ceremonial value placed on childbirth in Palau.^{111,112} In 2010, the World Health Organization estimated that non-communicable diseases accounted for at least 38% of female deaths in women younger than 60, and approximately 53% of women over the age of 20 years are classified as obese.¹¹³

Gender-Based Violence

There is a high prevalence of domestic violence against women throughout the Pacific. In 2013, 76% of surveyed women on Yap reported experiencing at least one type of abuse, and the rate of domestic violence throughout the FSM is increasing, which can be attributed to: an increase in alcohol consumption, the breakdown in the traditional protection system that the extended family once offered, and the reluctance to seek outside help.^{114,115} Family pressures and expectations of inaction by authorities are common reasons for domestic violence to go unreported and persisting economic discrimination against women prevents them from leaving their family abusers.¹¹⁶

In 2014, the RMI's Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs (MoCIA) and the Women United Together Marshall Island (WUTMI) conducted a survey revealing that 48% of ever-partnered women experienced physical violence in their lifetime, and 33% of women have experienced physical violence by a non-partner at least once since the age of 15. The majority of women in

¹⁰⁶ Funabashi, Yoichi. 2004. *Islanders Want the Truth about Bikini Nuclear Test*. Available: <https://apjif.org/-Yoichi-Funabashi/1576/article.html>

¹⁰⁷ Republic of the Marshall Islands. 2014. *Republic of the Marshall Islands National Study on Family Health and Safety*. Available: [RMI Family Health and Safety](#).

¹⁰⁸ Lum, T., Thomas, K., Redhead, C. S., Bearden, D., Holt, M., & Lazzari, S. 2005. Republic of the Marshall Islands Changed Circumstances Petition to Congress. Library of Congress Washington DC Congressional Research Service.

¹⁰⁹ United Nations Women. *Asia and the Pacific*. Report for Republic of the Marshall Islands. Available: <http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/countries/fiji/co/republic-of-the-marshall-islands>

¹¹⁰ Central Intelligence Agency. 2019. *The World Factbook*. Report for Palau. Available: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ps.html>

¹¹¹ United Nations Women. *Asia and the Pacific*. Report for Palau. Available: <http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/countries/fiji/co/palau>

¹¹² International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO. 2014. *Traditional Knowledge and Wisdom Themes from the Pacific Islands*.

¹¹³ World Health Organization. 2019. *Countries*. Report for Palau. Available: <https://www.who.int/countries/plw/en/>

¹¹⁴ Dugwen, G. L., Hancock, W. T., Gilmar, J., Gilmatam, J., Tun, P., & Maskarinec, G. G. 2013. Domestic violence against women on Yap, Federated States of Micronesia. *Hawai'i Journal of Medicine & Public Health*, 72(9), 318. Available: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3780464/>

¹¹⁵ UNIFEM Pacific. 2010. *Ending violence Against Women & Girls: Literature Review and Annotated Bibliography*. Available: <https://www.unicef.org/pacificislands/evaw.pdf>

¹¹⁶ United Nations Children's Fund. 2017. *Situation Analysis of Children in the Federated States of Micronesia*. UNICEF, Suva. Available: [FSM Children](#).

the RMI do not report their experiences with violence and many feel that violence is a justified or acceptable punishment for wrong-doing.¹¹⁷

In Palau, one-quarter of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by a partner in their lifetime, and the majority of these women do not seek help because they do not know where to go or what to do about their situation.¹¹⁸ Palau passed the Family Protection Act in 2012 the goal to protect women and children from all forms of violence, and certain traditional values and practices continue to protect and help women, particularly during pregnancy.^{119,120}

Policy Environment

Legal Framework

The FSM Constitution (1978) states that women have equal rights under the law, and cannot be discriminated against based on race, sex, or language, yet no mechanism for making equal protection enforceable is in place. The FSM does not currently have a national gender policy, and current laws provide inadequate protection and safety for victims.¹²¹ The FSM has ratified the: i) Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC, 1993) the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (2003), and adopted international platforms as frameworks to set forth action plans and policies to address violence against women, including: i) the Pacific Platform for Action on Women (PPA, 1994); ii) Cairo Platform for Action on Population and Development; iii) the Global Platform for Action on Women (GPA, 1995); and the iv) Beijing Global Platform for Action (GPA, 1995).¹²²

The RMI Constitution has a national gender policy in place which states the RMI's commitment to ensuring that "women and men have equal rights, equal opportunities and equal access to services in order to reach their full potential in all areas of life."¹²³ In 2006, the RMI ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and have since created national legislations and policies to meet the commitments of the CEDAW, including: i) the RMI National Plan of Action for VAW (2003); ii) "The Judicial Response to Gender Based Violence in the RMI under the Domestic Violence Protection and Prevention Act, 2011"; iii) PL2011-14 Domestic Violence Protection and Prevention Act (DVPPA); iv) Pacific Leaders Gender Equality Declaration (Draft); v) Marshall Islands Criminal Code; vi) National

¹¹⁷ Republic of the Marshall Islands. 2014. *Republic of the Marshall Islands National Study on Family Health and Safety*. Available: [RMI Family Health and Safety](#).

¹¹⁸ Palau Ministry of Health. 2014. *Belau Family Health and Safety Study*. Available: <https://pacific.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/PalauFHSSReportweb.pdf>

¹¹⁹ UN Women. 2016. *Global Database on Violence Against Women*. Report on Palau Family Protection Act. Available: <http://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/oceania/palau/2012/palau-family-protection-act>

¹²⁰ International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO. 2014. *Traditional Knowledge and Wisdom Themes from the Pacific Islands*.

¹²¹ FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs. 2014. *Federated States of Micronesia Family Health and Safety Study*. Report on the FSM. Available: FSM [Family Health and Safety Study](#).

¹²² FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs. 2014. *Federated States of Micronesia Family Health and Safety Study*. Report on the FSM. Available: FSM [Family Health and Safety Study](#).

¹²³ Government of Marshall Islands. *National Gender Mainstreaming Policy of the Republic of the Marshall Islands*. Available: [NGMP RMI](#).

Policy on Gender and Development (2013) Draft; and the vii) Commission on the Status of Women.¹²⁴

The constitution of Palau affords women equal opportunity as men, and recommendations made by the association of women's chiefs (Mechesil Belau) are said to be given high consideration in legislative matters.¹²⁵ Palau has signed and ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Beijing Global Platform for Action, the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) (2013), and has signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 2011 but has not ratified the treaty yet. They have additionally developed government policies and legislation to give effect to their international and domestic obligations and development objectives, including the Joint Country Strategy 2009-2013: Gender Policy, and the Family Protection Act 2012.¹²⁶

National Gender Mechanisms

The FSM Gender and Development (GAD) program from 1992 and the FSM National Women Advisory Council (NWAC) of 1993 collectively made up the FSM Women's Interest Program (WIP) and were set up to help the National Women's Information Officer (NWIO) improve communication and information disseminated between FSM women and women's programs in the Pacific.¹²⁷ The FSM Government took over the administrative and funding responsibilities assigned to the WIP in 1994, which was upgraded in 2010 to be under the authority of Assistant Secretary, Division of Social Affairs.¹²⁸ Gender focal points currently are stationed in several government offices and a Gender Advisory Committee "exists for the purpose of promoting gender equality at the national government level." However, "there is no national human rights institute or other special arrangement with the mandate for the protection and promotion of women's human rights."¹²⁹

Established in 1987, the Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI) is an umbrella organization for individual women's clubs throughout the Marshall Islands that leads the gender mainstreaming projects and policy reform in the RMI.¹³⁰ The WUTMI's mission is to serve as "the voice of Marshallese women, for the empowerment and advancement of women, through protection of cultural knowledge and human rights and safeguarding our island environment and inherent resources."¹³¹ Projects by the WUTMI address social, health and environmental issues,

¹²⁴ Republic of the Marshall Islands. 2014. *Republic of the Marshall Islands National Study on Family Health and Safety*. Available: [RMI Family Health and Safety](#).

¹²⁵ United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) For the Pacific Region 2013-2017. Available: https://www.undp.org/content/dam/samoa/docs/UNDP_WS_UNDAF_Summary_Report_2013-17.pdf

¹²⁶ Palau Ministry of Health. 2014. *Belau Family Health and Safety Study*. Available: <https://pacific.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/PalauFHSSReportweb.pdf>

¹²⁷ FSM Department of Health and Social Affairs. 2014. *Federated States of Micronesia Family Health and Safety Study*. Report on the FSM. Available: FSM [Family Health and Safety Study](#).

¹²⁸ Federated States of Micronesia and United Nations Development Program. 2010. *Millennium Development Goals & The Federated States of Micronesia Status Report 2010*. FSM country report.

¹²⁹ Braun, Treva. 2012. *Stocktake of the gender mainstreaming capacity of Pacific Island Governments: Federated States of Micronesia*. Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). Available: [FSM Gender Stocktake](#).

¹³⁰ Republic of the Marshall Islands. 2014. *Republic of the Marshall Islands National Study on Family Health and Safety*. Available: [RMI Family Health and Safety](#).

¹³¹ Women United Together Marshall Islands. Mission statement. Available: <https://www.wutmi.com/about-us/values/>

gender-based violence, climate change, diseases, substance abuse, disaster risk management, and sustainable livelihoods. Examples include the: i) Awareness on Conservation and Preservation of Environment (2005-Present); ii) Gender Equality in Leadership (2009-Present); and the iii) Climate Adaptation, Disaster Risk reduction and Education (CADRE). The WUTMI has worked with the Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs, the Public Safety Department, and the Ministry of Health and Human Services to conduct studies on national health and safety, and draft and endorse first-response protocols addressing domestic violence and violence against women.¹³²

In Palau, government agencies and initiatives related to women include: i) The Center for Women Empowerment; ii) Bureau of Public Safety (BPS); iii) Women of Palau Conference; iv) Gender Division; and v) Victims of Crime Assistance. The BPS conducts investigations of violence against women (VAW) and actively campaigns against VAW and children and raises awareness. The Gender Division under the Bureau of Aging and Gender within the Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs “supports initiative to promote gender equality.” The VOCA is a program under the Ministry of Health “that deals with issues of domestic violence and child abuse and neglect.” The Women in Palau Conference (Mechesil Belau Conference) has served as an important vehicle to take action on improving women’s lives in Palau and has been active in the passage of 19 laws and three Constitutional Convention Amendments.¹³³

Gender and Environment/Climate Change

Women in the RMI, FSM, and Palau partake in the subsistence fishing and farming and use resources of the land to create handicrafts of cultural value or for income. Climate change disproportionately affects women in these occupations through increased health risks, compromised food security, loss of land and livelihood, and population displacement.^{134,135}

However, women are sparsely addressed in the FSM, RMI, and Palau’s climate and marine policies and are often only included as identified vulnerable populations to environmental degradation and climate change impacts, or as co-beneficiaries to adaptation strategies.^{136,137} The WUTMI and the Pacific Women in Maritime Association (WIMA) have identified the need to conduct a gender assessment and mainstream gender policies to promote involvement and provide opportunities for women across activities in the fishing and maritime industry.¹³⁸ The Reimaanlok National Conservation Area Plan for the Marshall Islands has targeted shallow

¹³² Republic of the Marshall Islands. 2014. *Republic of the Marshall Islands National Study on Family Health and Safety*. Available: [RMI Family Health and Safety](#).

¹³³ Palau Ministry of Health. 2014. *Belau Family Health and Safety Study*. Available: <https://pacific.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/PalauFHSSReportweb.pdf>

¹³⁴ Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. 2018. *Gender Equality Where Do We Stand? Republic of the Marshall Islands*. Available: [RMI Gender Equality 2018](#)

¹³⁵ World Health Organization. 2012. *WHO Country Cooperation Strategy for Federated States of Micronesia 2013-2017*. Available: [WHO FSM Strategies](#).

¹³⁶ Federated States of Micronesia Government and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC). 2015. *Federated States of Micronesia Pohnpei Joint State Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change*. Available: http://bsrp.gsd.spc.int/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/JSAP-report_web-1.pdf

¹³⁷ Government of Palau. 2015. *Palau Climate Change Policy: For Climate and Disaster Resilient Low Emissions Development*. Report on Palau.

¹³⁸ Secretariat of the Pacific Community. 2005. *Pacific Islands: Regional Ocean Policy and Framework for Integrated Strategic Action*.

coastal environments in which women are traditionally allowed to fish or glean mollusks off the reef, as areas to protect under formal marine management.¹³⁹

¹³⁹ Reimaan National Planning Team. 2009. *Reimaanlok: National Conservation Area Plan for the Marshall Islands 2007-2012*. Published by: N. Baker: Melbourne.



Appendix H: Detailed Budget Table

The full project budget for Components 1, 2, and 3 is split between four subgrants as described in the following detailed budget. For Component 1, the funds for activities will be split amongst three equal subgrants to government agencies for each partner nation: Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (RMI), Ministry of Resources and Development (FSM), and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism (Palau) (\$400,051 each) as well as a \$6,600 allocation to the regional partner (total \$1,206,753). For Components 2 & 3, the funds for activities will be allocated via a subgrant (\$553,029) to the regional entity, the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT). The remainder of the budget is allocated to Project Management Costs (\$181,818) through the Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions. A Project Preparation Grant (PPG) reimbursement of \$50,000 is also being requested.

Strengthening and Enabling the Micronesia Challenge 2030

Appendix H: Indicative Project Budget

Expenditure Category	Detailed Description	Component 1 (USD\$)							Total (USD\$)	Funding Source	
		Component 1		Component 2		Component 3 (Knowledge Management and Monitoring & Evaluation)					
		Activity 1.1	Activity 2.1	Activity 2.2	Activity 3.1	Activity 3.2	Sub-Total	M&E (2)			PMC
Sub-contract to existing partner entity											
Republic of the Marshall Islands: Marshall Islands Marine Resource Authority (MIRA)	Consultancy to undertake MC 2030 National Policy Gap Analysis that informs the working group dialogues, the strategy documents, and the national MC 2030 Strategic Plan	28,200	0	0	0	0	28,200	0	0	28,200	Standard Expenditure
	Hosting at least two meetings per year for the Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC) of at least six meetings to deliver Output 1.1.5 and 1.1.4 (travel costs for working group members, workshop-related expenses including food/beverage)	170,400	0	0	0	0	170,400	0	0	170,400	Standard Expenditure
	Consultancy to undertake at least one comprehensive policy recommendations and/or planning tool and new assessment determining how recommendations/planning tools will enable Coastal Management Advisory Council to align with MC 2030	246,000	0	0	0	0	246,000	0	0	246,000	Standard Expenditure
	Consultancy for one MC 2030 National Strategic Plan to ensure connectivity with regional partners and MC 2030 objectives	5,551	0	0	0	0	5,551	0	0	5,551	Standard Expenditure
Federated States of Micronesia: Department of Resource and Development (FSM: DRD)	Consultancy to undertake MC 2030 National Policy Gap Analysis that informs the working group dialogues, the strategy documents, and the national MC 2030 Strategic Plan	28,200	0	0	0	0	28,200	0	0	28,200	Standard Expenditure
	Hosting at least two meetings per year for the Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC) of at least six meetings to deliver Output 1.1.5 and 1.1.4 (travel costs for working group members, workshop-related expenses including food/beverage)	159,300	0	0	0	0	159,300	0	0	159,300	Standard Expenditure
	Consultancy to undertake at least one comprehensive policy recommendations and/or planning tool and new assessment determining how recommendations/planning tools will enable Coastal Management Advisory Council to align with MC 2030	212,000	0	0	0	0	212,000	0	0	212,000	Standard Expenditure
	Consultancy for one MC 2030 National Strategic Plan to ensure connectivity with regional partners and MC 2030 objectives	5,551	0	0	0	0	5,551	0	0	5,551	Standard Expenditure
Republic of Palau: Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism (Palau: MNRET)	Consultancy to undertake MC 2030 National Policy Gap Analysis that informs the working group dialogues, the strategy documents, and the national MC 2030 Strategic Plan	28,200	0	0	0	0	28,200	0	0	28,200	Standard Expenditure
	Hosting at least two meetings per year for the Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC) of at least six meetings to deliver Output 1.1.5 and 1.1.4 (travel costs for working group members, workshop-related expenses including food/beverage)	159,300	0	0	0	0	159,300	0	0	159,300	Standard Expenditure
	Consultancy to undertake at least one comprehensive policy recommendations and/or planning tool and new assessment determining how recommendations/planning tools will enable Coastal Management Advisory Council to align with MC 2030	212,000	0	0	0	0	212,000	0	0	212,000	Standard Expenditure
	Consultancy for one MC 2030 National Strategic Plan to ensure connectivity with regional partners and MC 2030 objectives	5,551	0	0	0	0	5,551	0	0	5,551	Standard Expenditure
Micronesia Country/Donor Trust, on behalf of Micronesia Challenge Regional Office	Micronesia Challenge Regional Office (MCRO) Coordinate travel costs for important project kick-off meetings and working group biweekly meetings	6,600	0	0	0	0	6,600	0	0	6,600	Standard Expenditure
	Conferences to improve MC coordination through updating and MCRO Strategic Plan and MC Working Plan as well as to advance communication efforts. Also fund the contractual services to advance MC Minutes (meeting) protocols as well as funds for travel for MC representatives at global events	0	209,779	0	0	0	209,779	0	0	209,779	Standard Expenditure
	Regional Visibility of Micronesia Challenge through travel funds for representation at major national and global events as well as identification to develop updated communication plan and products	0	92,400	0	0	0	92,400	0	0	92,400	Standard Expenditure
	Travel and Consultancy funds to support process for developing a new MC 2030 Working Document as well as travel and event planning expenses for Regional and Global events to launch the 2030 vision	0	0	101,750	0	0	101,750	0	0	101,750	Standard Expenditure
	Contracted services for development of knowledge products, expertise, tools, and MC 2030 strategy as well as travel funds for participation in WCLM/SDG events	0	0	0	77,000	0	77,000	0	0	77,000	Standard Expenditure
	TOTAL sub-contract to existing partner entity	1,296,753	482,179	101,750	77,000	0	1,957,682	0	0	1,957,682	Standard Expenditure
Contracted Services - Company											
Process (Financial Audit) Contract	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12,000	12,000	Standard Expenditure
TOTAL Contracted Services - Company	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12,000	12,000	Standard Expenditure
International Conditions											
Waiver of Terminal Evaluation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Standard Expenditure
TOTAL International Conditions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Standard Expenditure
Salary and benefits / Staff costs											
Travel Manager	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	119,077	119,077	Standard Expenditure
Finance Manager	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10,910	10,910	Standard Expenditure
TOTAL Salary and benefits / Staff costs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	130,000	130,000	Standard Expenditure
Travel											
SPD to Micronesia: three days to Micronesia region for PMU WCLM strategy meeting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16,444	16,444	Standard Expenditure
TOTAL Travel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16,444	16,444	Standard Expenditure
Other Operating Costs											
Operational activities for PMU activities (RFL, legal, accounting support for the project)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10,520	10,520	Standard Expenditure
TOTAL Other Operating Costs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10,520	10,520	Standard Expenditure
Grand Total											
		1,296,753	482,179	101,750	77,000	0	1,957,682	0	0	191,914	2,049,666

(1) International Conditions: PMU waiver of terminal evaluation for Waiver of Terminal Evaluation for existing partner entity

(2) M&E costs are accounted for under Component 3. This column shows that costs under Component 3 are included in M&E - 0.00 and 348,000.00 but these are not added to the 348,000.



Appendix I: Subgrant Budget Narratives

Subgrant Budget Justification: Republic of the Marshall Islands **Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority**

For implementation of the three-year GEF project, Stanford COS is subgranting US\$400,051 to the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA), Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) to finance activities under project Component 1. This subgrant budget justification below is part of the overall project budget and is reflected in the full project workplan. Project execution will follow the project workplan and budget that is developed annually by the Project Management Unit (PMU) and approved by the Project Steering Committee (PSC), which may differ from initial budget allocations (typically by no more than 10% among project components). The budget includes funding to support MIMRA coordinate Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC) convenings as well as consultant expenses for additional research or synthesis.

Travel

The budget includes travel for members of a national inter-agency working group, CMAC, achieve working group objectives. The travel expenses may include supporting working group members from outside of RMI to attend meetings in person. This travel will be coordinated with other major events in the region to best utilize the in-person presence. Anticipated costs of \$95,150 throughout the full three-year duration of the project include lodging, airfare, and ground transportation for two major convenings per year.

Convening

The budget includes funds for convening members of the working group. Specifically, \$30,250 throughout the full three-year duration of the project is allocated towards two convenings per year with an additional (third) convening in year one to initiate the project. The expenses include fees for the locations (room rentals), food costs, and technical assistance for the working group meetings throughout the three-year project duration.

Consultants

The budget includes funds totaling \$274,651 for consultants to aid in synthesis and communication of research necessary for achieving CMAC's objectives in coastal resource management. Specifically, \$24,200 is allocated in the first year to commission a policy gap analysis to aid in MC 2030 strategic planning. In addition, \$82,300 per year is allocated towards targeted analysis and synthesis products that inform working group recommendations. Finally, \$3,551 is allocated for a consultant to produce a final national Micronesia Challenge 2030 Strategic Plan to ensure connectivity with regional interests.

Subgrant Budget Table: Republic of the Marshall Islands
Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority

	Activity	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	TOTAL
Salary					
		-	-	-	-
Total Salary		-	-	-	-
<i>Fringe Benefits</i>					
		-	-	-	-
Total Salary & Fringe		-	-	-	-
Travel					
Air travel costs for attending working group meetings	1.1.2.1 (& 1131)	22,000	17,600	22,000	61,600
Ground transportation for working group meetings	1.1.2.1 (& 1131)	1,100	825	825	2,750
Lodging for attendees of working group meetings	1.1.2.1 (& 1131)	11,000	8,800	11,000	30,800
Total Travel		34,100	27,225	33,825	95,150
Convening					
Fee for location(s) of working group meetings	1.1.2.1 (& 1131)	2,200	1,100	2,200	5,500
Food costs for working group meetings	1.1.2.1 (& 1131)	4,950	4,400	4,400	13,750
Technical assistance for working group meetings	1.1.2.1 (& 1131)	4,400	3,300	3,300	11,000
					-
Total Convening		11,550	8,800	9,900	30,250
Consultants					
Commission internal report on policy gaps to achieve MC 2030 Targets	1.1.1.1	24,200			24,200
Conduct targeted analysis/synthesis to produce data-based decision making that informs working group recommendations	1.1.3.1	82,300	82,300	82,300	246,900
Consultant to develop the national MC 2030 Strategic Plan	1.1.4.1			3,551	3,551
Total Consultants		106,500	82,300	85,851	274,651
Total Direct Cost		152,150	118,325	129,576	400,051
TOTAL		152,150	118,325	129,576	400,051

Subgrant Budget Justification: Federated States of Micronesia
Department of Resources & Development

For implementation of the three-year GEF project, Stanford COS is subgranting US\$400,051 to the Department of Resources & Development (R&D), Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) to finance activities under project Component 1. This subgrant budget justification below is part of the overall project budget and is reflected in the full project workplan. Project execution will follow the project workplan and budget that is developed annually by the Project Management Unit (PMU) and approved by the Project Steering Committee (PSC), which may differ from initial budget allocations (typically by no more than 10% among project components). The budget includes funding to support R&D convenings for a working group (i.e., travel, convening expenses) as well as consultant expenses for additional research or synthesis.

Travel

The budget includes travel for member of the FSM Protected Area Network Technical Committee to travel between and amongst the states and islands of FSM to achieve working group objectives. In addition, some travel funds may be available for members of the FSM government or Protected Area Network staff to engage in regional or global dialogues as needed. This travel will be coordinated with other major events in the region to best utilize the in-person presence. Anticipated costs of \$128,700 throughout the full three-year duration of the project include lodging, airfare, and ground transportation for two major convenings per year.

Convening

The budget includes funds for convening members of the FSM Protected Area Network Technical Committee. Specifically, \$30,800 throughout the full three-year duration of the project is allocated towards two convenings per year with an additional (third) convening in year one to initiate the project. The expenses include fees for the locations (room rentals), food costs, and technical assistance for the Technical Committee meetings throughout the three-year project duration.

Consultants

The budget includes funds totaling \$240,551 for consultants to aid in synthesis and communication of research necessary for the FSM Protected Area Network Technical Committee. Specifically, \$24,200 is allocated in the first year to commission a policy gap analysis to aid in MC 2030 strategic planning. In addition, \$71,000 per year (\$70,800 in year three) is allocated towards targeted analysis and synthesis products that inform Technical Committee recommendations. Finally, \$3,551 is allocated for a consultant to produce a final national Micronesia Challenge 2030 Strategic Plan to ensure connectivity with regional interests.

Subgrant Budget Table: Federated States of Micronesia
Department of Resources & Development

	Activity	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	TOTAL
Salary					
		-	-	-	-
Total Salary		-	-	-	-
<i>Fringe Benefits</i>					
Total Salary & Fringe		-	-	-	-
Travel					
Air travel costs for attending working group meetings	1.1.2.1 (& 1131)	33,000	24,200	30,800	88,000
Ground transportation for working group meetings	1.1.2.1 (& 1131)	4,400	2,200	3,300	9,900
Lodging for attendees of working group meetings	1.1.2.1 (& 1131)	11,000	8,800	11,000	30,800
Total Travel		48,400	35,200	45,100	128,700
Convening					
Fee for location(s) of working group meetings	1.1.2.1 (& 1131)	3,300	1,100	2,200	6,600
Food costs for working group meetings	1.1.2.1 (& 1131)	5,500	4,400	4,400	14,300
Technical assistance for working group meetings	1.1.2.1 (& 1131)	3,300	3,300	3,300	9,900
Total Convening		12,100	8,800	9,900	30,800
Consultants					
Commission internal report on policy gaps to achieve MC 2030 Targets	1.1.1.1	24,200			24,200
Conduct targeted analysis/synthesis to produce data-based decision making resources that inform working group recommendations	1.1.3.1	71,000	71,000	70,800	212,800
Consultant to develop the national MC 2030 Strategic Plan	1.1.4.1			3,551	3,551
Total Consultants		95,200	71,000	74,351	240,551
Total Direct Cost		155,700	115,000	129,351	400,051
TOTAL		155,700	115,000	129,351	400,051

Subgrant Budget Justification: Republic of Palau
Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism

For implementation of the three-year GEF project, Stanford COS is subgranting US\$400,051 to the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism (MNRET), Republic of Palau (Palau) to finance activities under project Component 1. This subgrant budget justification below is part of the overall project budget and is reflected in the full project workplan. Project execution will follow the project workplan and budget that is developed annually by the Project Management Unit (PMU) and approved by the Project Steering Committee (PSC), which may differ from initial budget allocations (typically by no more than 10% among project components). The budget includes funding to support MNRET convenings for a working group (i.e., travel, convening expenses) as well as consultant expenses for additional research or synthesis.

Travel

The budget includes travel for members of a new inter-agency working group—focused on enabling a domestic pelagic fishery sector—to travel between and amongst the states and islands of Palau to achieve working group objectives. The travel expenses may include supporting working group members from outside of Palau to attend meetings in person. This travel will be coordinated with other major events in the region to best utilize the in-person presence. Anticipated costs of \$128,700 throughout the full three-year duration of the project include lodging, airfare, and ground transportation for two major convenings per year.

Convening

The budget includes funds for convening members of the working group. Specifically, \$30,800 throughout the full three-year duration of the project is allocated towards two convenings per year with an additional (third) convening in year one to initiate the project. The expenses include fees for the locations (room rentals), food costs, and technical assistance for the working group meetings throughout the three-year project duration.

Consultants

The budget includes funds totaling \$240,551 for consultants to aid in synthesis and communication of research necessary for the domestic pelagic fishery sector working group. Specifically, \$24,200 is allocated in the first year to commission a policy gap analysis to aid in MC 2030 strategic planning. In addition, \$71,000 per year (\$70,800 in the third year) is allocated towards targeted analysis and synthesis products that inform working group recommendations. Finally, \$3,551 is allocated for a consultant to produce a final national Micronesia Challenge 2030 Strategic Plan to ensure connectivity with regional interests.

Subgrant Budget Table: Republic of Palau
Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism

	Activity	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	TOTAL
Salary					
		-	-	-	-
Total Salary		-	-	-	-
<i>Fringe Benefits</i>					
		-	-	-	-
Total Salary & Fringe		-	-	-	-
Travel					
Air travel costs for attending working group meetings	1.1.2.1 (& 1131)	33,000	24,200	30,800	88,000
Ground transportation for working group meetings	1.1.2.1 (& 1131)	4,400	2,200	3,300	9,900
Lodging for attendees of working group meetings	1.1.2.1 (& 1131)	11,000	8,800	11,000	30,800
Total Travel		48,400	35,200	45,100	128,700
Convening					
Fee for location(s) of working group meetings	1.1.2.1 (& 1131)	3,300	1,100	2,200	6,600
Food costs for working group meetings	1.1.2.1 (& 1131)	5,500	4,400	4,400	14,300
Technical assistance for working group meetings	1.1.2.1 (& 1131)	3,300	3,300	3,300	9,900
					-
Total Convening		12,100	8,800	9,900	30,800
Consultants					
Commission internal report on policy gaps to achieve MC 2030 Targets	1.1.1.1	24,200			24,200
Conduct targeted analysis/synthesis to produce data-based decision making that informs working group recommendations	1.1.3.1	71,000	71,000	70,800	212,800
Consultant to develop the national MC 2030 Strategic Plan	1.1.4.1			3,551	3,551
		-	-	-	-
Total Consultants		95,200	71,000	74,351	240,551
Total Direct Cost		155,700	115,000	129,351	400,051
TOTAL		155,700	115,000	129,351	400,051

Subgrant Budget Justification: Micronesia Conservation Trust

For implementation of the three-year GEF project, Stanford COS is subgranting US\$588,029 to the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) to finance activities under project Components 2 and 3. This subgrant budget justification below is part of the overall project budget and is reflected in the full project workplan. Project execution will follow the project workplan and budget that is developed annually by the Project Management Unit (PMU) and approved by the Project Steering Committee (PSC), which may differ from initial budget allocations (typically by no more than 10% among project components). The budget includes funding to support MCT efforts to strengthen the Micronesia Challenge Regional Office (MCRO for a successful implementation of the Micronesia Challenge 2030.

Salary and Fringe

Grant Manager (50% Full Time Effort (FTE))

The MCT Grant Manager will support MCRO in implementing and operationalizing the project in a capacity-building effort. This role includes tasks such as: developing workplans, managing multiple stakeholder needs, advising on project deliverables, and supporting overall coordination. The Grant Manager will allocate 50% FTE for the three-year duration of the project.

Finance Manager (10% FTE)

The MCT Finance Manager will manage the financial considerations for the activities relevant to MCT and MCRO (e.g., reviewing contracts, issuing payments on consultancies & contracts, completing financial reports, providing overall funding oversight). The Finance Manager will allocate 10% FTE for the three-year duration of the project.

The fringe rate for MCT is currently 12% and has been added to salary expenses for this subgrant, totaling \$8,345 for three years. The salary and fringe expenses total \$77,891.

Travel

The budget includes travel funds for MCRO to participate in in-person meetings to kick off the project as well as national-level working groups. In addition, funds are allocated for MCRO to travel to attend working group meetings in each nation (once per nation per year). Further, travel funds are allocated for a Micronesia Challenge representative to attend major global events throughout the three-year duration of the project. In addition, funds are allocated towards advancing communication efforts and ensuring broader outreach through the International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IW:LEARN). The travel expenses total \$77,000. These expenses are dynamic and will be a function of adaptive management due to uncertainty in travel planning based on current COVID-19 restrictions.

Miscellaneous / Computing

The budget includes funds for building capacity in MCRO for regional engagement. These activities could include: engaging stakeholders, monitoring progress towards MC objectives, reviewing deliverables, and in writing project reports. The miscellaneous / computing expenses total \$2,970.

Consultants (Vendors)

The budget includes funds for consultants to support targeted activities, including: refining the MCRO operational structure, refining high-level MC 2030 visioning resources, developing updated communication resources, and planning and executing side events at major events. The consultant expenses total \$173,729.

Subcontracts

The budget includes funds for subcontracted activities including establishing a web-based repository for general communication needs and enhancing the Micronesia Challenge Measures databases as well as related monitoring capacity. In addition, funds are allocated to support development of outputs relevant to engaging broader audiences through high-level events and communication products. The subcontract expenses total \$256,439.

Subgrant Budget Table: Micronesia Conservation Trust

	Activity	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	TOTAL
Salary					
Grant Manager	2.1.1.6	18,000	18,540	19,096	55,636
Finance Manager	2.1.1.6	4,500	4,635	4,774	13,909
		-	-	-	-
Total Salary		22,500	23,175	23,870	69,545
<i>Fringe Benefits (12%)</i>		2,700	2,781	2,864	8,345
Total Salary & Fringe		25,200	25,956	26,735	77,891
Travel					
MCRO Travel for in-person project kickoff meetings	1.1.1.1	3,300	-	-	3,300
MCRO Travel for in-person working group kickoff meetings	1.1.1.2	3,300			3,300
MCRO Travel for in-person working group meetings (1/nation/yr)	2.1.1.1	3,300	3,300	3,300	9,900
MC Representation at UN Oceans Conference for World Ocean Day	2.1.1.2	13,200			13,200
MC Representation at CBD COP (fall 2022)	2.1.1.2	13,200			13,200
MC Representation at one highly relevant conference in years 2 & 3	2.1.2.1		10,450	10,450	20,900
Participate in at least one IW:LEARN event	3.1.1.4			13,200	13,200
Total Travel		36,300	13,750	26,950	77,000
Miscellaneous/Computing					
Support for MCT Communications Expenses	2.1.1.6	990	990	990	2,970
		-	-	-	-
Total Miscellaneous/Computing		990	990	990	2,970
Consultants (Vendor)					
Recruit consultant for MCRO Operational Structure	2.1.1.3	11,000			11,000
Facilitate long-term planning conversations with relevant MC stakeholders to inform MCRO Strategic Plan, including fundraising plans	2.1.1.3		33,000		33,000
Plan and execute high-level MC side event at major international event	2.1.1.5	41,179			41,179
Develop at least two communications products per year (coordinated with project knowledge management products)	2.1.2.3	6,600	6,600	8,800	22,000
Strengthen and maintain a Micronesia Challenge social media presence	2.1.2.4	5,500	5,500	5,500	16,500
Consultant recruited, stakeholder consultation/validation, and drafting of MC 2030 high-level visioning resources (e.g., high production quality book or publication)	2.2.1.1	35,750			35,750
Knowledge products produced (3 total)	3.1.1.1			7,700	7,700
IW:LEARN Website Established (linking with existing MC website)	3.1.1.2	3,300			3,300
Develop project experience note	3.1.1.3			3,300	3,300
Total Consultants		103,329	45,100	25,300	173,729
Subcontracts (Subrecipient)					
Establish central document repository. Obtaining web-based software management system (to be updated monthly)	2.1.1.4	8,250			8,250
Enhance MC Measures databases and monitoring capacity	2.1.1.7	50,100	50,100	48,989	149,189
Update MC 2008 Communications Plan (especially coordinating messaging across 2021 ocean events)	2.1.2.2	33,000			33,000
Host high-level event to support MC Visioning Document (potentially 2021 MIF)	2.2.1.2	27,500			27,500
MC 2030 Launch Celebration event at CBD COP (2022)	2.2.1.3			38,500	38,500
Total Subcontracts		118,850	50,100	87,489	256,439
Total Direct Cost		284,669	135,896	167,464	588,029
TOTAL		284,669	135,896	167,464	588,029

**Executing Agency: Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions
Project Management Unit**

Budget Justification

Center for Ocean Solutions (COS) at Stanford University is requesting a \$2,000,000 grant. The budget includes funding to support COS personnel time, travel, and subcontracts in the amount of \$181,182 for Project Management Costs (PMC).

Salary and Fringe

PI, Jim Leape (0% GEF Sponsored FTE, 1% Co-financed FTE)

COS' Co-Director (Jim Leape) will be the Principal Investigator and will supervise all activities related to the project. He will devote 1% effort as in-kind support.

Project Manager, Eric Hartge (30% GEF Sponsored FTE, 15% Co-financed FTE)

COS' Research Development Manager (Eric Hartge) will be the project manager and will lead overall management of the Project Management Unit. He will receive funding at 30% in years one, two, and three.

Finance Manager, Zach Lucina (5% GEF Sponsored FTE, 5% Co-financed FTE)

COS' Finance Manager (Zach Lucina) will lead financial administration and reporting efforts by coordinating with subrecipients to ensure objectives are met. She will receive funding at 5% in years one, two, and three.

Per agreement dated January 31, 2020, between Stanford University and the Office of Naval Research, effective September 1, 2019 the provisional fringe benefit rates are 29.2% and TGP rate of 1.35% for faculty and staff and 24.3% for postdoctoral scholars. Stanford's agreement with the Office of Naval Research provides for 8.7% vacation accrual/disability sick leave (DSL) for exempt employees and non-exempt employees. The vacation accrual/DSL rates will be charged at the time of the salary expenditure. No salary will be charged to the award when the employee is on vacation.

Travel

The budget includes travel for project personnel to travel to the region for in-person meetings with key project personnel. This travel will be coordinated with other major events in the region to best utilize the in-person presence. Anticipated costs of \$14,443 including lodging, airfare, meals, and ground transportation for several trips over the duration of the project.

Subcontracts

The budget includes four subgrants. One subgrant will go to regional efforts led by the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT). Three subgrants will towards national efforts for the nations of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and the Republic of Palau (Palau).

Subgrant for regional efforts to MCT (\$588,029)

Micronesia Conservation Trust will be awarded a subcontract to advance regional activities throughout the three-year duration of the project. These funds will be used to enhance the communication resources, coordination, and visibility of the Micronesia Challenge – including through efforts with the Micronesia Challenge Regional Office.

Subgrant for national efforts in RMI (\$400,051)

The government of RMI, through the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority, will be awarded a subcontract to advance national activities utilizing a working group framework. The funding will support working group meetings and coordination throughout the three years of the project. The working group will focus on strengthening the Coastal Management Advisory Council and relevant stakeholders for implementation of the *Reimaanlok* Framework, RMI Protected Areas Network, and National Ocean Policy.

Subgrant for national efforts in FSM (\$400,051)

The government of FSM, through the Department of Resources and Development, will be awarded a subcontract to advance national activities utilizing a working group framework. The funding will support working group meetings and coordination throughout the three years of the project. The working group will focus on supporting coordination of the Protected Area Network Technical Support Committee for nationwide protected area framework.

Subgrant for national efforts in Palau (\$400,051)

The government of RMI, through the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism, will be awarded a subcontract to advance national activities utilizing a working group framework. The funding will support working group meetings and coordination throughout the three years of the project. The working group will focus on developing enabling factors for a domestic pelagic fishery after the implementation of the Palau National Marine Sanctuary.

Financial Audit (\$12,000)

Funds for a terminal financial audit will be held within the Project Management Costs budget.

Technical Assistance

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF)/Global Environmental Facility (GEF) negotiated rate for technical assistance is 10% resulting in an allocation of \$16,528.

Micronesia Challenge¹⁴⁰

The Micronesia Challenge hosted a lunch and made a presentation to Leaders focusing on the challenges facing the Islands in continuing the legacy of the Micronesia Challenge and in extending these original commitments into the future.

The Leaders recognized the enormous accomplishments of members through the Micronesia Challenge initiative and committed to the Micronesia Challenge - MC 2030, which will build on the success and accomplishments of the MC and pursue a collective approach to address critical issues such as sustainable livelihoods, fisheries management, enforcement capacity and climate-related disaster risk reduction and management. These updated targets are aligned with jurisdictional priorities and the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.

The Leaders recognized the tremendous success of the various scholarships supporting students to work on achieving the MC goals, and supported continuing investment in these program.

The Leaders further committed to support the following MC 2030 conservation and community benefit targets:

- ▶ Effectively manage at least 50% of marine resources and 30% of terrestrial resources across Micronesia (linked to SDG Goal 14.5; 15.1);
- ▶ Increase the number of community members within each jurisdiction who are deriving livelihoods, including any type of income or revenue, from sustainably managed natural resources (as determined by MC Measures Working Group) (linked to SDG Goal 14.7);
- ▶ Reduce the risks from climate impacts for communities within flood zones and on low-lying islands (linked to SDG Goal 13.1, 14.2); and
- ▶ Reduce invasive species and increase restoration of habitats (linked to SDG Goal 15.5).

The Leaders also committed to support the following MC 2030 Process Targets:

- ▶ Incorporate regional and jurisdictional fisheries management approaches, integrated with MPAs; (linked to SDG Goal 14.1);
- ▶ Increase local investment by MC governments in sustainable finance mechanisms, such as green fees and endowments to leverage additional external investment to achieve new conservation and community benefit targets;
- ▶ Institutionalize and fully resource the MC Regional Office, including funding for at least three staff (Executive Director, Administrative position and Communications support); and
- ▶ Expand The MC Steering Committee to include two focal points from each jurisdiction, one cabinet-level political designate and one operational / technical designate.

¹⁴⁰ 24th MIF Joint Communique, Section 8.

Declaration of Commitment: ‘The Micronesia Challenge’

Recognizing that human economic and development activity has altered, and in many instances degraded, ecosystems more rapidly and extensively in the last 50 years than at any other period in the history of our planet;

Recognizing the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals and the agreement by the global community during the World Summit on Sustainable Development to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010;

Recalling the targets and timetables agreed to under the Convention on Biological Diversity to establish comprehensive systems of protected areas by 2010 for terrestrial and 2012 for marine habitats;

Reiterating the 2005 Forum Leaders’ vision for the Pacific that calls for the sustainable management of the region’s resources and the 2005 Pacific Plan that encourages the development and implementation of national and regional conservation and management measures for the sustainable utilisation of resources;

Recognizing that the future economic, cultural and political health of the Micronesian Islands depends upon the conservation of our marine and terrestrial environments;

Acknowledging the need to work on a regional basis to address the environmental and sustainable development issues confronting the Micronesian region in the New Millennium, and in this context:

- ▶ The significance of healthy marine and forest resources to the future of Micronesia;
- ▶ The growing capacity to sustainably manage marine and forest resources across Micronesia; and
- ▶ The significant financial and technical support still required to meet this challenge;

Understanding that modern efforts to sustain the Micronesian ‘Way of Life’ and to ensure the health, prosperity and cultures of our people are unlikely to succeed if the ecosystem services on which our islands and humanity rely continue to be degraded; and

Recognizing that the Eighth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity will adopt a global **Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity**;

Declaration of Commitment: ‘The Micronesia Challenge’

We the Chief Executives of Micronesia, in order to:

- Sustain our unique island biodiversity;
- Ensure a healthy future for our island people;
- Protect our unique island cultures;
- Guard the foundations of our future development, our pristine island environments;
- Sustain the livelihoods of our island communities;
- Contribute to global targets set out in the Millennium Development Goals, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the Mauritius Strategy for Small Island Developing States and the relevant Programmes of Work of the Convention on Biological Diversity; and
- Expand our commitment to preserve our marine and terrestrial environments,

Agree to “effectively conserve at least 30% of the near-shore marine and 20% of the forest resources across Micronesia by 2020.”


In order to implement this Micronesia Challenge, we further agree to:

- Undertake and follow through on local, national, regional and international conservation strategies and plans, including National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs);
- Establish and expand local partnerships between Government agencies and NGOs engaged in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;
- Expand communication and interaction with local communities and traditional leadership;
- Share experience, tools and techniques among Micronesian officials, conservation practitioners and community leaders;
- Establishment sustainable financing mechanisms for the conservation and sustainable use of island biodiversity;
- Engage the region’s development and trading partners as well as NGOs and private foundations in appropriate financial and technical support to ensure the effective implementation of the Micronesia Challenge, including through a Regional Financing Mechanism;
- Further engage Pacific Island programs and facilities, such as the Pacific Island Forum and associated organizations such as the Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC) and the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to optimize regional coordination and financing; and
- Agree to review progress to achieve the Micronesia Challenge on a biennial basis at head of government/chief executive level.

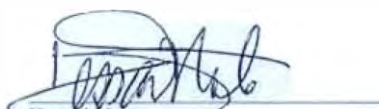
Declaration of Commitment: 'The Micronesia Challenge'


Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.
President
The Republic of Palau

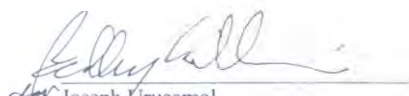
Date 1/17/06


Felix Perez Camacho
Governor
The Territory of Guam

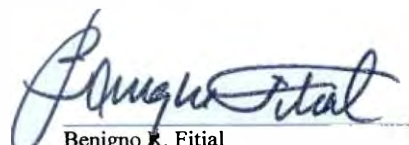
Date 01/17/06


Kessai Note
President
The Republic of the Marshall Islands

Date 03/14/06


Joseph Urusemal
President
The Federated States of Micronesia

Date March 04, 2006


Benigno R. Fitial
Governor
The Commonwealth of the Northern
Mariana Islands

Date _____

Appendix L: GEF IW Indicator #8 Methodology

GEF Core Indicator Methodology

GEF Indicator #8: *Globally over-exploited fisheries moved to more sustainable levels (metric tons)*

Project Rationale: Among the key project objectives supporting the Micronesia Challenge (MC) 2030 is a focus on addressing fisheries aligned with the MC 2030 Process Target, “*Incorporate regional and jurisdictional fisheries management approaches, integrated with MPAs*”.¹⁴¹ In Micronesia, nearshore fisheries play a key role in overall ocean ecosystem health and are identified as an important area for further conservation to improve other important marine ecosystem services, that include national food security, economically important pelagic fish stocks, and coral reef health underpinning tourism and many other coastal ecosystem services.^{142,143} To this end, the project has been designed to address national policies that incorporate sustainable fisheries management approaches with protected area networks, including important nearshore fish and invertebrate species. More specifically, Core Indicator 8 will be achieved through the national outputs and activities listed under Component 1, especially including Output 1.1.3 focused on updating the respective national level marine protected area strategies for strengthening nearshore fisheries management aligned with MC 2030 targets. In RMI this will include updating the CMAC Strategic Plan, in FSM the focus is on updating the PAN management document, and in Palau the focus is on domestic pelagic fisheries assessment as support to the PNMS.

Methodology: Building on methodologies from similar GEF-7 International Waters investments, the project will report on the amount of national overexploited (OE) or locally similar rating nearshore (inclusive of reef, coastal, and nearshore habitats) fisheries moved to more sustainable levels by metric tons. First the project must identify OE nearshore fish, ideally by species, to establish a baseline for future reef fish stock assessments during the project duration. The fisheries OE harvest amounts are then used as an estimate of future harvests and proxy for stock assessments during project duration. The fisheries harvest amounts are then multiplied by an estimated project attribution to calculate the total amount of OE fish moved by the project to more sustainable levels.

Baseline Species Data: The most accurate national fisheries data is available from the Sea Around Us project, reported as reconstructed fisheries harvests based on FAO data.¹⁴⁴ The data used for this project baseline is from 2016. Based on a report from Rhodes et al (2011) and more recent updates for Palau (2019), reef fisheries across Micronesia countries were identified as over-exploited (OE) (Table 1).^{145,146} With all nearshore fisheries identified as OE or similar rating, the reconstructed database was filtered by nearshore fisheries and associated invertebrate “functional groups,” resulting in the total 2016 landings are reported in the table below. Using 1% total attribution over the 2016 baseline towards moving these over-exploited reef fisheries moved to more sustainable levels over the three-year project duration, the final total will be **281,947 mt** (Tables 2 & 3). A full report of all nearshore fish species follows this report.

¹⁴¹ https://gov.fm/files/Joint%20Communiques/24th_MIF_Joint_Communique.pdf

¹⁴² Houk P, Rhodes K, Cuetos-Bueno J, Lindfield S, Fread V, McIlwain JL. 2012. Commercial coral-reef fisheries across Micronesia: A need for improving management. *Coral Reefs* 31:13-26.

¹⁴³ Houk P, Camacho R, Johnson S, McLean M, Maxin S, Anson J, et al. 2015. The Micronesia Challenge: Assessing the Relative Contribution of Stressors on Coral Reefs to Facilitate Science-to-Management Feedback. *PLoS ONE* 10(6): e0130823. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0130823

¹⁴⁴ Pauly D., Zeller D., Palomares M.L.D. (Editors). 2020. *Sea Around Us Concepts, Design and Data* (seararoundus.org).

¹⁴⁵ Rhodes, K.L., Warren-Rhodes, K., Houk, P., Cuetos-Bueno, J., Fong, Q. and Hoot, W. 2011. *An Interdisciplinary Study of Market Forces and Nearshore Fisheries Management in Micronesia. A Report of the Marine Program of the Asia Pacific Conservation Region, The Nature Conservancy.* Report No. 6/11. 120 pp.

¹⁴⁶ Republic of Palau. 2019 *State of the Environment Report.* National Environmental Protection Council (NEPC)

Table 1. Jurisdictional Characteristics. The numbers and characteristics represent the best available and most recent evidence. OE=overfished, FE=fully exploited; UE=under-exploited, C=collapsed.

Jurisdiction	Pohnpei	RMI	Palau	Yap	Kosrae	Chuuk	CNMI	Guam
State of reef fishery ¹	OE; FE	OE; UE	FE; UE	FE; UE	FE	FE/OE	FE	OE/C
Reef finfish catch (mt/yr)	596	910	--	--	--	--	~300	94
Locally marketed reef fish (mt /yr)	521	--	214±60	60	--	--	55 in 2009	61
Export reef fish (mt/yr), (best available, most recent)	47.5	--	213±60	13.6	0	200	0	0
Coral reef area (km ²)	385	1995	506	1090	21	1676	80	137
State of coral health	Fair-mod	Good-exc	Good-exc	Good-exc	Good-exc	Good exc	Fair	Fair-poor
Total fish consumption (kg/cap/yr)	69.3	39	33.4			80 (rural)	23 all, 7 reef fish	21.7-22.6
Land surface (km ²)	345	181	458	118	110	127	308	540
Population size (2000)	34,486	50,840	19,129	11,241	7,686	53,595	69,221	154,805
Pop. density (persons/mi ²)	261	886	42	244	179	1,094	1341	744
% High School graduate	64	40	74	11	54	39	69	76
% Adult college graduates	13.4	3	10	15.5	19.8	7.9	7.4	15.5
Dependency rate (15-64 yrs)	79	82	47	69	77	81	40	64
Avg. household size	6.3	7.8	3.9	5.5	7.2	7.7	3.7	3.9
Mean HH income (USD\$) *median	11,249	6,840*	26,563	10,344	12,407	6,195	22,898*	39,30*
Mean per capita income (USD\$)	6,793	2,281	5,785	5,016	5,625	2,133	9,151	12,722
% of work force unemployed	12.3	30.9	4.2	4.1	16.5	34.2	3.9	11.4
% working pop. engaged in subsistence activities	15	--	3	31	4	16	--	--
Visitor arrivals	7,168	5,400	57,700	5,199	3,516	7,294	400,000	1,288,000

Notes:

1. State of reef fishery: UE= under-exploited, FE= fully exploited, OE= over-exploited, and C= collapsed, from Newton *et al.* 2007; but see also for Kosrae, Yap & Chuuk (Donaldson *et al.* 1997; Beger *et al.* 2008), Pohnpei (Rhodes *et al.* 2008 and Rhodes *et al.* 2011). See also definitions in List of Acronyms and Definitions, p. 12.

Table 1: Reef Fisheries Status in Micronesia. Source: Rhodes et al (2011).

Country	2016 Annual Reef Fisheries Landings (mt)
Palau	1,987,000
FSM	3,833,000
RMI	3,578,000
Annual Total Catch	9,398,230
Three-year Total Catch	28,194,689
Project 1% Attribution	281,947

Table 2: Baseline Reef Fish Landing. Source Data from Sea Around Us Project

Country	% of Total	Y2 mt (Mid-Term, Project 1% Attribution)	Y3 mt (Final, Project 1% Attribution)
Palau	21%	29,808	59,617
FSM	41%	57,501	115,002
RMI	38%	53,664	107,327
Project 1% Attribution			281,947

Table 3: National and Cumulative Project % Attribution

Project Attribution: The attribution of a project intervention on a measured impact is exceptionally difficult to calculate, especially for policy-focused projects. Due to a lack of quantifiable information, the project is following a causal contribution analysis approach to estimate project attribution.¹⁴⁷ The main policy intervention by the project for this indicator will be from the development of national specific nearshore fisheries management policy and planning recommendations integrated with marine protected area management in response to the MC 2030 targets (Output 1.1.3). Because the scope of the intervention is then limited to marine protected areas, a highly conservative estimate of the maximum impact the project could have is limited to the amount of concerned fish stocks within the nearshore spatially managed areas (as opposed to those fish stocks outside the managed areas). Using national progress of % nearshore marine areas under conservation to meet Aichi Target 11¹⁴⁸ thus provides an upper bound of project attribution. This is approximately 98% for Palau (~600,000 km²), 6% for FSM (~180,000 km²), and <1% for RMI (~6,600 km²).¹⁴⁹ Narrowing this further, the project's focus on nearshore fisheries means that pelagic areas should be excluded. Most of Palau's 98% resides within the PNMS that makes up almost all of Palau's EEZ which is dominated by pelagic habitats deeper than 200m (>99%) and can be excluded from further calculations focused on order of magnitude estimations of nearshore fisheries for Micronesia. In contrast, because of actively managed pelagic stocks under the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) and atoll bathymetry, more of the marine protected area networks of FSM and RMI are in shallower coastal and nearshore habitats - approximately ~28,000 km² in FSM and 20,000 km² in RMI for a total of 50,000 km². If a combined total of 6% of FSM and RMI waters are under protection, this is approximately 190,000 km², of which no more than 50,000 km² can be considered shallower coastal environments. Put another way, a maximum of just over 25% of the total protected waters in FSM and RMI are in shallower water environments that host coastal fish species, meaning that, at a maximum, the project's interventions will only impact 25% of the 6% of FSM and RMI's combined marine protected waters, or 1.5%. This provides a meaningful range for project attribution, with a floor of 0% suggesting the project has no impact and 1.5% as the maximum potential impact. Between this 0 and 1.5% range, a conservative estimate of 1% can be made by assuming the project will have more than a 0% impact if the intervention is completed in a timely manner but also not impact all the nearshore fish stocks in of the full 1.5% of protected waters. Thus the 1% project attribution used by the project represents a conservative estimate of the project's deliverable of improved nearshore fisheries management policies and plans on the management of only a very small fraction of the nearshore fish stocks within the marine protected areas of Micronesia. As a further source of comparison, the 1% attribution is also significantly lower than the 15% to 80% attribution from GEF-7 projects using similar methodologies (see GEF ID # 10540, 10558, 10560, and 10685), and significantly more accurate than

¹⁴⁷ http://www.dmeforpeace.org/sites/default/files/Leeuw%20and%20Vaessen_Ch1.pdf

¹⁴⁸ <https://www.cbd.int/aichi-targets/target/11>

¹⁴⁹ <https://mpatlas.org/countries>

similar GEF projects proposed in the region that provide no detailed justification on project attribution. The project management unit will continue to reassess these assumptions and improve on them where possible as additional knowledge becomes available during project execution.

Monitoring: This indicator will be measured twice during project implementation, once at project mid-term (1.5 years) and again at project close (3 years). Project monitoring for this indicator will fall within the scope of Project Component 3. Because of the close alignment with the goals of the Micronesia Challenge Marine Measures Group, opportunities to improve this core indicator’s methodology and data collection will be sought throughout the project duration.

To assess progress towards this indicator, two sources of data will be recorded. The first data will be the cumulative 1.5-year and 3-year total estimate of nearshore fisheries stocks amount or harvest data (see assumptions below) for each country (reported in mt by OE or similar rating species). The second estimate will be the current level of project implementation progress measured as a percentage of completion of all project activities (where 0% is no completion of any project activities and 100% is completion of all project activities). This percentage of completion will then be multiplied by 1% total project attribution, and then the product of those factors is then multiplied with the respective nearshore fisheries assessment total.

Assumptions: There are several important assumptions to consider with the above methodology. Most importantly, the fisheries catch data used here is not an exact substitute of reef fish stocks. However, due to the lack of fish stock assessment available data worldwide, fisheries landings are used as an imperfect proxy to inform predictive models.¹⁵⁰ While no predictive model was used here, the fisheries landings do represent a very conservative estimate of overall fish stocks as it is safely assumed harvest data within a year has not fully exploited a given stock. Next, the most recently available fisheries catch data from 2016 is not representative of more current years. However, recent anecdotal evidence suggests the number of species of over and fully exploited reef fisheries has only continued to increase as a result of increasing fishing pressure, thus making the 2016 numbers a conservative estimate. The project bases estimates of OE or similar rating fisheries on a 2011 report that categorized all reef fish, not individual species. While a more accurate estimate by species would improve the calculations, the overall status of reef fishing pressure in Micronesia is known to have worsened since 2011.^{151,152}

Palau Reef Fisheries (2016)	
Row Labels	Sum of tonnes
Large reef assoc. fish (>=90 cm)	111.0
Bluefin trevally	20.0
Caranx melampygus	20.0
Giant trevally	10.9
Caranx ignobilis	10.9
Green jobfish	27.0
Aprion virescens	27.0
Leopard coralgroupier	53.0
Plectropomus leopardus	53.0

¹⁵⁰ Costello C, Ovando D, Hilborn R, Gaines S, Deschenes O, Lester S. 2012. Status and Solutions for the World’s Unassessed Fisheries. Science (338).

¹⁵¹ 2018 Coastal Fisheries Situation Analysis Report: Federated States of Micronesia Coastal Fisheries Assessment. Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program (PROP) Project. Integrated Aquatic Solutions Inc., Australia.

¹⁵² SPREP (2020) State of Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands: 20 20 Regional Report. Straza TRA (author). Wheatley A, Anderson P, Callebaut J, Reupena L (eds). Apia, Samoa: Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

Lobsters, crabs	0.5
Indo-Pacific swamp crab	0.3
<i>Scylla serrata</i>	0.3
Spiny lobsters	0.3
Palinuridae	0.3
Medium reef assoc. fish (30 - 89 cm)	1755.2
Basses, groupers, hinds	43.4
Serranidae	43.4
Blue-barred parrotfish	47.6
<i>Scarus ghobban</i>	47.6
Bluespine unicornfish	45.2
<i>Naso unicornis</i>	45.2
Ember parrotfish	141.1
<i>Scarus rubroviolaceus</i>	141.1
Emperors, scavengers	281.4
Lethrinidae	281.4
Goatfishes	47.2
Mullidae	47.2
Humpback red snapper	180.6
<i>Lutjanus gibbus</i>	180.6
Mullets, grey mullets	48.9
Mugilidae	48.9
Orangespine unicornfish	72.5
<i>Naso lituratus</i>	72.5
Parrotfishes	125.0
Scaridae	125.0
Parrots	33.6
<i>Scarus</i>	33.6
Rabbitfishes	5.0
Siganidae	5.0
Sea chubs	0.3
<i>Kyphosus</i>	0.3
Seabasses, hinds	94.5
<i>Epinephelus</i>	94.5
Snappers	36.5
Lutjanidae	36.5
Spinefoots	216.0
<i>Siganus</i>	216.0
Spotcheek emperor	31.8
<i>Lethrinus rubrioperculatus</i>	31.8
Squairetail coral grouper	48.4
<i>Plectropomus areolatus</i>	48.4
Sweetlips	15.3
<i>Plectorhinchus</i>	15.3
Thumbprint emperor	50.3

Lethrinus harak	50.3
Two-spot red snapper	43.3
Lutjanus bohar	43.3
Wrasses	5.0
Cheilinus	5.0
Wrasses, gropers, tuskfishes	11.7
Labridae	11.7
Yellowfin surgeonfish	47.5
Acanthurus xanthopterus	47.5
Yellowlip emperor	83.2
Lethrinus xanthochilus	83.2
Shrimps	10.1
Marine crabs, shrimps, lobsters nei	10.1
Miscellaneous marine crustaceans	10.1
Small benthopelagics (<30 cm)	22.3
Mojarras, silverbellies	22.3
Gerreidae	22.3
Small reef assoc. fish (<30 cm)	88.2
Squirrel-, soldierfishes	22.7
Holocentridae	22.7
Surgeons, tangs, unicornfishes	65.6
Acanthuridae	65.6
Grand Total	1,987.2

FSM Reef Fisheries (2016)

Row Labels	Sum of tonnes
Cephalopods	20.0
Octopuses, pikas	20.0
Octopus	20.0
Large reef assoc. fish (>=90 cm)	159.1
Bigeye trevally	4.2
Caranx sexfasciatus	4.2
Blacksaddled coral grouper	0.7
Plectropomus laevis	0.7
Bluefin trevally	61.9
Caranx melampygus	61.9
Brown-marbled grouper	3.6
Epinephelus fuscoguttatus	3.6
Camouflage grouper	23.2
Epinephelus polyphekadion	23.2
Giant trevally	0.5
Caranx ignobilis	0.5
Golden trevally	0.0
Gnathanodon speciosus	0.0

Green humphead parrotfish	1.0
Bolbometopon muricatum	1.0
Green jobfish	60.7
Aprion virescens	60.7
Humphead wrasse	1.5
Cheilinus undulatus	1.5
Leopard coral grouper	1.6
Plectropomus leopardus	1.6
Mangrove red snapper	0.3
Lutjanus argentimaculatus	0.3
Lobsters, crabs	25.0
Indo-Pacific swamp crab	5.0
Scylla serrata	5.0
Spiny lobsters	20.0
Panulirus	20.0
Medium benthopelagics (30 - 89 cm)	0.0
Whitetongue jack	0.0
Uraspis helvola	0.0
Medium reef assoc. fish (30 - 89 cm)	2790.1
Ambon emperor	10.3
Lethrinus amboinensis	10.3
Angelfishes	7.2
Pomacanthidae	7.2
Basses, groupers, hinds	25.7
Serranidae	25.7
Bignose unicornfish	0.2
Naso vlamingii	0.2
Black and white snapper	0.2
Macolor niger	0.2
Blacktail snapper	49.6
Lutjanus fulvus	49.6
Blue and gold fusilier	11.3
Caesio caerulaurea	11.3
Blue sea chub	35.1
Kyphosus cinerascens	35.1
Blue-barred parrotfish	0.3
Scarus ghobban	0.3
Bluespine unicornfish	71.7
Naso unicornis	71.7
Brassy chub	18.3
Kyphosus vaigiensis	18.3
Brassy trevally	0.1
Caranx papuensis	0.1
Carolines parrotfish	0.1
Calotomus carolinus	0.1

Common bluestripe snapper	0.0
Lutjanus kasmira	0.0
Common parrotfish	77.0
Scarus psittacus	77.0
Coral hind	0.0
Cephalopholis miniata	0.0
Daisy parrotfish	0.0
Chlorurus sordidus	0.0
Darkcapped parrotfish	15.8
Scarus oviceps	15.8
Dash-and-dot goatfish	84.2
Parupeneus barberinus	84.2
Doublespotted queenfish	0.0
Scomberoides lysan	0.0
Ember parrotfish	56.8
Scarus rubroviolaceus	56.8
Emperors	40.5
Lethrinus	40.5
Filefishes	0.6
Monacanthidae	0.6
Fusiliers	0.4
Caesionidae	0.4
Gold-saddle goatfish	12.5
Parupeneus cyclostomus	12.5
Gray unicornfish	0.0
Naso caesius	0.0
Greasy grouper	0.3
Epinephelus tauvina	0.3
Harry hotlips	0.1
Plectorhinchus gibbosus	0.1
Highfin grouper	0.9
Epinephelus maculatus	0.9
Humpback red snapper	48.2
Lutjanus gibbus	48.2
Humpnose big-eye bream	55.4
Monotaxis grandoculis	55.4
Indian goatfish	0.0
Parupeneus indicus	0.0
Jacks	0.6
Caranx	0.6
Japanese large-eye bream	0.0
Gymnocranius euanus	0.0
Largeeye breams	1.2
Gymnocranius	1.2
Obtuse barracuda	0.0

Sphyraena obtusata	0.0
One-spot snapper	2.9
Lutjanus monostigma	2.9
Orangespine unicornfish	132.8
Naso lituratus	132.8
Pacific longnose parrotfish	87.8
Hipposcarus longiceps	87.8
Pacific yellowtail emperor	0.5
Lethrinus atkinsoni	0.5
Parrotfishes	500.3
Scaridae	500.3
Parrots	602.4
Scarus	602.4
Parupeneid goatfishes	19.3
Parupeneus	19.3
Peacock hind	24.1
Cephalopholis argus	24.1
Redmouth grouper	5.7
Aethaloperca rogae	5.7
Ringtail surgeonfish	0.2
Acanthurus blochii	0.2
Russell's snapper	0.0
Lutjanus russellii	0.0
Rusty jobfish	0.0
Aphareus rutilans	0.0
Sabre squirrelfish	81.5
Sargocentron spiniferum	81.5
Seabasses, hinds	49.3
Epinephelus	49.3
Sixblotch hind	0.0
Cephalopholis sexmaculata	0.0
Sleek unicornfish	1.6
Naso hexacanthus	1.6
Small toothed jobfish	7.6
Aphareus furca	7.6
Snappers	34.8
Lutjanidae	0.0
Lutjanus	11.5
Macolor	23.3
Spadefishes	2.6
Platax	2.6
Spinefoots	67.6
Siganus	67.6
Spotcheek emperor	0.2
Lethrinus rubrioperculatus	0.2

Spotted unicornfish	36.5
Naso brevirostris	36.5
Squaretail coral grouper	89.1
Plectropomus areolatus	89.1
Squaretail mullet	8.0
Ellochelon vaigiensis	8.0
Steephead parrotfish	159.5
Chlorurus microrhinos	159.5
Striped large-eye bream	0.2
Gnathodentex aureolineatus	0.2
Sweetlips	0.4
Plectorhinchus	0.4
Thumbprint emperor	0.2
Lethrinus harak	0.2
Tomato hind	0.0
Cephalopholis sonnerati	0.0
Trevallies	0.6
Carangoides	0.6
Triggerfishes	0.0
Balistidae	0.0
Tripletail wrasse	37.7
Cheilinus trilobatus	37.7
Two-spot red snapper	5.2
Lutjanus bohar	5.2
Unicornfishes	0.1
Naso	0.1
White-edged lyretail	0.0
Variola albimarginata	0.0
Whitemargin unicornfish	0.1
Naso annulatus	0.1
Whitespotted grouper	1.7
Epinephelus coeruleopunctatus	1.7
Wrasses	0.0
Cheilinus	0.0
Wrasses, groppers, tuskfishes	20.7
Labridae	20.7
Yellow and blueback fusilier	1.5
Caesio teres	1.5
Yellowbarred parrotfish	0.7
Scarus dimidiatus	0.7
Yellow-edged lyretail	83.1
Variola louti	83.1
Yellowfin goatfish	21.7
Mulloidichthys vanicolensis	21.7
Yellowfin surgeonfish	0.7

Acanthurus xanthopterus	0.7
Yellowlip emperor	52.7
Lethrinus xanthurus	52.7
Yellowstripe goatfish	24.2
Mulloidichthys flavolineatus	24.2
Other demersal invertebrates	150.0
Trochus	150.0
Trochus	150.0
Small reef assoc. fish (<30 cm)	689.1
Brick soldierfish	0.0
Myripristis amaena	0.0
Butterflyfishes	9.6
Chaetodontidae	9.6
Chocolate hind	0.0
Cephalopholis boenak	0.0
Convict surgeonfish	0.1
Acanthurus triostegus	0.1
Dark-banded fusilier	0.0
Pterocaesio tile	0.0
Darkfin hind	0.0
Cephalopholis urodeta	0.0
Epaulette surgeonfish	69.8
Acanthurus nigricauda	69.8
Lattice soldierfish	0.0
Myripristis violacea	0.0
Lined surgeonfish	344.5
Acanthurus lineatus	344.5
Little spinefoot	0.0
Siganus spinus	0.0
Orangespot surgeonfish	26.6
Acanthurus olivaceus	26.6
Shadowfin soldierfish	25.2
Myripristis adusta	25.2
Shoulderbar soldierfish	0.0
Myripristis kuntee	0.0
Soldierfishes	45.7
Myripristis	45.7
Squirrelfishes	0.9
Sargocentron	0.9
Striated surgeonfish	107.4
Ctenochaetus striatus	107.4
Surgeonfishes	51.7
Acanthurus	51.7
Surgeons, tangs, unicornfishes	1.6
Acanthuridae	1.6

Sweepers	6.0
Pempheridae	6.0
Whitespot soldierfish	0.0
Myripristis woodsi	0.0
Whitetip soldierfish	0.0
Myripristis vittata	0.0
Yellowfin soldierfish	0.0
Myripristis chryseres	0.0
Grand Total	3,833.4

RMI Reef Fisheries (2016)

Row Labels	Sum of tonnes
Cephalopods	224.5
Octopuses, pikas	224.5
Octopus	224.5
Large reef assoc. fish (>=90 cm)	89.8
Brown-marbled grouper	89.8
Epinephelus fuscoguttatus	89.8
Medium reef assoc. fish (30 - 89 cm)	2069.2
Barracudas	58.1
Sphyraenidae	58.1
Basses, groupers, hinds	85.5
Serranidae	85.5
Blue sea chub	44.9
Kyphosus cinerascens	44.9
Brown chub	44.9
Kyphosus bigibbus	44.9
Dash-and-dot goatfish	44.9
Parupeneus barberinus	44.9
Emperors, scavengers	283.0
Lethrinidae	283.0
Goatfishes	34.7
Mullidae	34.7
Humpback red snapper	224.5
Lutjanus gibbus	224.5
Humpnose big-eye bream	224.5
Monotaxis grandoculis	224.5
Mullets, grey mullets	264.9
Mugilidae	264.9
Orangespine unicornfish	89.8
Naso lituratus	89.8
Pacific longnose parrotfish	89.8
Hipposcarus longiceps	89.8
Parrotfishes	71.3

Scaridae	71.3
Parrots	89.8
Scarus	89.8
Rabbitfishes	66.5
Siganidae	66.5
Seabasses, hinds	89.8
Epinephelus	89.8
Snappers	125.5
Lutjanidae	125.5
Spinefoots	44.9
Siganus	44.9
Triggerfishes	27.7
Balistidae	27.7
Wrasses, groppers, tuskfishes	19.1
Labridae	19.1
Yellowfin goatfish	44.9
Mulloidichthys vanicolensis	44.9
Other demersal invertebrates	746.4
Aquatic invertebrates	224.5
Miscellaneous aquatic invertebrates	224.5
Bear paw clam	134.7
Hippopus	134.7
Boxed sea cucumbers	8.0
Stichopus	8.0
Fleshy sea cucumbers	10.9
Holothuriidae	10.9
Fluted giant clam	134.7
Tridacna squamosa	134.7
Maxima clam	134.7
Tridacna maxima	134.7
Pacific asaphis	89.8
Asaphis violascens	89.8
Trochus	9.0
Trochus	9.0
Small benthopelagics (<30 cm)	18.4
Mojarras, silverbellies	18.4
Gerreidae	18.4
Small reef assoc. fish (<30 cm)	429.3
Convict surgeonfish	65.9
Acanthurus triostegus	65.9
Orangespot surgeonfish	113.7
Acanthurus olivaceus	113.7
Squirrel-, soldierfishes	102.7
Holocentridae	102.7
Surgeonfishes	89.8

Acanthurus	89.8
Surgeons, tangs, unicornfishes	57.1
Acanthuridae	57.1
Grand Total	3,577.6

Appendix M: GEF IW Indicator #11 Methodology

Indicator 11: *Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment*

The table below provides an overview of the intended indicators for each activity. The specific indicators will be reviewed again during project implementation and throughout adaptive management processes.

GEF 7 International Waters - MC 2030 - Core Indicator 11 Tracker									
Component	Output	Activity	Brief Description	Indicator	Totals by Gender		Cumulative Totals		
					M	W			
Component 1	1.1.2	1.1.2.1	<i>Dialogues / Working Groups</i>	# of (new) national working group members	15	15	0		
					15	15	0		
					30	30	60		
Component 2	2.1.1	2.1.1.2	<i>MC Representation at Ocean Event</i>	# of (new) MC representatives and direct stakeholder engagements	5	5			
					5	5	10		
			<i>MCRO Operational Support: Document Repository</i>	# of users accessing or downloading documents / information	100	100			
					100	100	200		
			2.1.1.5	<i>MC Side Events</i>	# of participants at side event(s)	25	25		
						25	25	50	
			2.1.1.5	<i>MCT Support to MCRO</i>	# of MCT staff supporting MCRO	1	1		
						1	1	2	
			2.1.1.7	<i>MCRO Operational Support: Data Monitoring Plan</i>	# of (new) recipients receiving advanced monitoring practices experience	10	10		
						10	10	20	
						141	141	282	
			2.1.2	2.1.2.1	<i>MC International Conference participation</i>	# of (new) MC representatives and direct stakeholder engagements	25	25	
							25	25	50
	2.1.2.3			<i>MC Communications Products</i>	# of (new) direct recipients of communications products	100	100		
		100	100			200			
				125	125	250			
	2.2.1	2.2.1.1	<i>MC 2030 Visioning Development</i>	# of (new) direct recipients of communications products	25	25			
					25	25	50		
			2.2.1.2	<i>MC 2030 Vision High Level Event (MIF)</i>	# of participants at side event(s)	50	30		
50	30					80			
	2.2.1.3	<i>MC 2030 Vision High Level Event (CBD)</i>	# of participants at side event(s)	125	75				
				125	75	200			
				200	130	330			
Component 3	3.1.1	3.1.1.1	<i>Knowledge Products</i>	# of (new) direct knowledge product recipients	40	40			
					40	40	80		
			3.1.1.3	<i>IW:LEARN Project experience note</i>	# of (new) experience note recipients	25	25		
						25	25	50	
			3.1.1.3	<i>IW:LEARN Conference Participation</i>	# of (new) MC representatives and direct stakeholder engagements	15	15		
						15	15	30	
				80	80	160			
Core Indicator Target					M	W	Totals		
Mid-Term					288	253	541		
Project Close					576	506	1082		

Metric / Indicator	Definition
# of (new) national working group members	People that actively attend at least one of the national working group meetings in a formal role
# of (new) stakeholders actively engaging	People engaging in meetings to provide an additional perspective for development of a project output
# of (new) MC representatives and direct stakeholder engagements	Direct engagements with new audience members that are directly benefited by MC successes
# of users accessing or downloading documents / information	Count of people that visit the MC website and download or engage with project documents
# of participants at side event(s)	People that attend MC side event (virtually or in person)
# of MCT staff supporting MCRO	New staff with strengthened capacities that formally contribute to the MCRO
# of (new) recipients receiving advanced monitoring practices experience	People that engage in some capacity development experience that advances monitoring interests of the MC
# of (new) direct recipients of communications products	People that have directly received products from communication-related activities
# of (new) direct knowledge product recipients	People that directly receive the knowledge products
# of (new) experience note recipients	People that have directly received experience note products

Project Management Unit - Terms of Reference
Project Coordinator

Function

Through project co-financing, Micronesia Challenge Regional Office (MCRO) Coordinator will serve as the Project Coordinator, supporting the GEF project as part of their overall MCRO Coordinator responsibilities. The MCRO Coordinator will serve as the face of the GEF project in the region and internationally. The MCRO Project Coordinator will interface directly with stakeholders in the region while deferring any project-specific administrative and financial tasks to the two following virtual Project Management Unit (PMU) members. The MCRO Coordinator is currently based in Guam.

Responsibilities

- Represent the GEF project externally at national, regional, and international events
- In coordination with the Administrative Project Manager and Project Finance Manager positions, ensure ongoing alignment with MCRO and the GEF Project activities throughout the life of the project
- Ongoing participation with virtual PMU for discussion, development, revision, and no-objections of project decisions, documents, reports, and other project related deliverables to ensure timely functioning of adaptive project management
- Function as primary secretary and point of contact with Project Steering Committee as part of ongoing responsibilities supporting overall Micronesia Challenge Steering Committee
- Participation in national and regional project-related meetings and workshops to promote Micronesia Challenge objectives and consistency of ecosystem-based management principles related to GEF project
- Facilitate coordination among project partners to strengthen Micronesia Challenge collaboration and achieve overall project objective
- Seek opportunities to expand GEF project partnership and co-financing as part of ongoing Micronesia Challenge fundraising and communication efforts

Project Management Unit - Terms of Reference

Project Manager

Function

The project manager will serve as the lead interface with the WWF GEF Agency to ensure efficient project management and other administrative tasks, including leading on all project reporting and other administrative project issues. Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions Research Development Manager will lead overall administrative project management. The Project Manager role will be 45% FTE (30% GEF, 15% co-finance) in project years one, two, and three.

Responsibilities

1. Administrative Project Management:

- Day-to-day administrative management of project activities, as outlined in the Project Document (ProDoc), Grant Agreement, and Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB) to support achieving project objective and targets in the Results Framework
- Support Project Coordinator with organizing, coordinating, and managing project documents for sharing/discussion with project partners, and seeking project decisions and guidance from Project Steering Committee (PSC)
- Support Project Coordinator in management of project-specific public outreach to advance Micronesia Challenge goals
- In collaboration with all project sub-grantees and partners, support drafting of AWPB for each project year, for approval by the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and no-objection from the WWF GEF Agency
- Provide high-level oversight and monitoring of procurement and expenditure in line with the AWPB, WWF GEF, and GEF Policies and Procedures, and project grant agreement and other relevant documents
- On-going progress review of work plan and monitoring plan to inform adaptive management
- Responsible for collaboratively organizing and facilitating project inception and closeout workshops, and other project-level workshops/meetings
- Represent the project and provide support for project supervisions and internal and external reviews/evaluations
- With the Finance Manager, oversee the preparation and disbursement of sub-grants

2. Staff management:

- Supervise project-relevant work products from the Finance Manager and any directly recruited staff or consultants
- Prepare Terms of Reference (TORs) to recruit consultants, staff, and sub-contracts

3. Reporting:

- Formulate semi-annual Project Progress Reports, including workplan and results framework tracking, and ensure timely delivery to the WWF GEF Agency
- With the Finance Manager, oversee development of quarterly financial reports and ensure timely delivery to the WWF GEF Agency
- Ensure co-finance reporting on a yearly basis
- Timely complete any identified project IW:LEARN responsibilities

4. *Quality Assurance:*

- Provide quality assurance for project activities, including in sub-grants
- Review reports and other products from consultants, staff, and sub-grantees, and ensure quality
- Ensure implementation in line with the GEF and WWF standards and policies

5. *Partnerships:*

- Coordinate with co-financed projects and liaise with project partners to ensure co-financing commitments are realized, as well as continue to build new project partnerships in supporting of long-term project impact
- Where possible, attract additional partners and co-financing
- Ensure smooth coordination and communication among all project partners, and with the Program partners
- Manage stakeholder engagement throughout the project duration
- Represent the project, as needed, at various meetings and workshops
- Ensure coordination with IW:LEARN

Qualifications and Requirements

- Eight years technical working experience, including two years of project management experience
- Bachelor's Degree, and post-graduate degree preferred
- Experience in managing similar, complex, multi-stakeholder projects
- Experience in leading a team of staff and coordinating sub-grant partners
- Ability to interact with senior business, government, and NGO staff
- Adaptive management skills
- Knowledge of WWF Project and Programme Management Standards preferred
- Experience in delivering technical and financial reporting to donor agencies on large projects
- Technical experience and knowledge in the thematic area of the project
- Experience with GEF Projects and GEF knowledge an advantage

Project Management Unit - Terms of Reference

Finance Manager

Function

Under the direction of the Project Manager, the Finance Manager will manage all financial and operational aspects of the Project including project budgeting, contracting, subrecipient monitoring and evaluations, financial tracking and reporting, and administrative functions. The Finance Manager Provides financial and administrative assistance to, and oversight of, project partners and grantees to ensure that budgets and agreements are handled in accordance with GEF and WWF policies, procedures, systems, and donor requirements. Stanford COS Finance and Administration Manager will lead overall financial project management. The Finance Manager will be 10% FTE (5% GEF, 5% co-finance) in project years one, two, and three.

Responsibilities

- Prepares, administers, and maintains the overall GEF project budget, ensuring that data is accurate and current. Reviews and monitors status of the budget, against the annual budget and the annual project workplan. Ensures spending levels are appropriate and coding is correct. Identifies problems and recommends corrective action, assists in the revision of budgets and communicates issues to the Project Manager. Ensures WWF and WWF GEF Requirements are met including the budget structure contained in the ProDoc Budget, and that all expenses are associated with the incremental costs.
- Reviews all documentation received from proposed subrecipients per the WWF pre-award process, performs subrecipient risk analysis and develops a risk mitigation plan for the project.
- Coordinates and prepares financial reports for submission to the WWF GEF Agency, ensuring GEF requirements are met.
- Supports, prepares and monitors grant and consultant agreements ensuring compliance with agreement terms. Ensures agreements and payments are processed timely and in accordance with WWF policy and procedures. Prepares paper work for approval, secures signatures, and distributes documents to appropriate parties.
- Reviews and analyzes sub-recipient's financial reports to ensure compliance by subrecipients with WWF-US and GEF Agency reporting requirements including project partner co-financing. Notifies grantees of any problems or discrepancies and provides technical assistance to grantees in resolving problematic issues.
- Supports WWF GEF Agency Annual supervision missions by providing requested documentation and other assistance as needed.
- Assists independent mid-term and final evaluations by providing all requested financial information. Provides feedback where relevant on evaluation reports and ensures that corrective actions based on the mid-term evaluation recommendations are taken when related to financial issues.
- Maintains information and files pertaining to all financial and administrative aspects of the project including agreements. Regularly monitors on-going compliance with WWF reporting requirements and individual project deadlines. Ensures all project reports are acknowledged and routed to appropriate individuals for review.
- Provides support to the project management and coordination of day-to-day administrative operations and special projects. Identifies, coordinates and expedites the

communication of information and issues both interdepartmentally and intra departmentally, as well as externally with subrecipients, the Project Steering Committee, the WWF GEF Agency and independent evaluators as necessary.

- Performs other duties as assigned.

Qualifications and Requirements

- Eight years technical working experience, including two years of financial management experience
- Bachelor's Degree, certifications in financial management preferred
- Experience in managing similar, complex, multi-stakeholder projects
- Familiarity with sub-award management and oversight