

# Strengthening and Enabling the Micronesia Challenge 2030

## Project Inception Report

September 2022

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Supported by:



Implemented by:



Executed by:



In partnership with:



<sup>1</sup> For more information, please visit:

<https://oceansolutions.stanford.edu/strengthening-and-enabling-micronesia-challenge-2030>

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## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AWPB — Annual Work Plan and Budget  
CCD – Climate Change Directorate (RMI)  
CMAC — Coastal Management Advisory Council  
CNMI — Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
COS — Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions  
FSM — Federated States of Micronesia  
GEF — Global Environment Facility  
IW:LEARN — International Waters Learning and Exchange Resource Network  
IWP — International Waters Project  
M&E — Monitoring and Evaluation  
MAFE — Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment  
MC — Micronesia Challenge  
MCRO — Micronesia Challenge Regional Office  
MCSC — Micronesia Challenge Steering Committee  
MCT — Micronesia Conservation Trust  
MIMRA — Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority  
MNRET — Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism  
MOU — Memorandum of Understanding  
OOC — Our Oceans Conference  
PAN — Protected Areas Network  
PAN TC — Protected Areas Network Technical Committee  
PICTs — Pacific Island Countries and Territories  
PMU — Project Management Unit  
PNMS — Palau National Marine Sanctuary  
ProDoc — Project Document  
PSC — Project Steering Committee  
R&D — Department of Resources & Development  
RMI — Republic of the Marshall Islands  
TNC — The Nature Conservancy  
ToR — Terms of Reference  
WWF — World Wildlife Fund

## SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This document reports on the inception phase of the Global Environment Facility's 7<sup>th</sup> Replenishment International Waters project titled "Strengthening and Enabling the Micronesia Challenge 2030" and outlines the plan for the initial quarters of project execution. A brief project introduction is provided along with a summary adaptive updates between endorsement (August 2021) and implementation (April 2022). Details on the inception workshop are presented, followed by updates to project activities as well as considerations for future project efforts.

### 1.1 Strengthening and Enabling the Micronesia Challenge 2030

The project "Strengthening and Enabling the Micronesia Challenge 2030" supported by the Global Environment Facility builds on the Micronesia Challenge 2030 (MC 2030) conservation, community benefit, and process targets, recognized by MC 2030 partner jurisdictions including the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Republic of Palau, the U.S. Territory of Guam and the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). The overall MC 2030 conservation target is to effectively manage at least 50% of marine resources and 30% of terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2030. This project aims to enhance national and regional marine resource management towards the Micronesia Challenge 2030 targets through three Components. The first component focuses on supporting FSM, RMI and Palau as they develop national policies, plans and tools to support national integrated management of marine resources under Micronesia Challenge 2030 targets. The second project component—implemented through the Micronesia Conservation Trust and the Micronesia Challenge Regional Office—aims to strengthen the capacities, communication, and planning to ensure regional coordination of the MC 2030. The third project component focuses on monitoring and evaluation, knowledge management, and communication of knowledge products generated through the project, including through IW:LEARN.

This project was designed in close collaboration with the following key decision-making entities: 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 and Tourism (MNRET), restructured as the new Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment (MAFE), and The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

### 1.2 Project Development Phase

Initial development of a Global Environment Facility (GEF) International Waters Project (IWP) began through discussions in Palau in December 2018 as staff from the Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions (COS) met with staff from the President's office and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism regarding research into the implementation of the Palau National Marine Sanctuary. It became apparent that there would be an opportunity to engage members of the Micronesia Challenge Steering Committee and partner jurisdictions to advance the transition from the Micronesia Challenge (MC) 2020 to the yet-to-be-declared MC 2030 objectives. Through the following months, COS staff researched the topic and engaged influential stakeholders to validate the hypothesis that a GEF IWP related to the Micronesia Challenge could be catalytic. From the summer of 2019 through the summer of 2021, stakeholders from each jurisdiction of the MC engaged with COS staff in person and virtually to

develop and refine the project framework and related Project Document (ProDoc) materials. In August of 2021, the WWF GEF Agency submitted the full proposal and the GEF approved the project.

## **SECTION 2: PROJECT INCEPTION PHASE**

### **2.1 Inception Phase Overview**

The inception phase for this project occurred between August 30, 2021, and June 30, 2022—with a project start date of April 1, 2022. During this 10-month period, several consultations took place with WWF as well as points of contact for each subgrant partner, to confirm and refine documentation as needed. For example, this period provided an opportunity to better align the Annual Work Plan & Budget (AWPB) with GEF core indicators and to adapt to changing political dynamics and other conditions.

Through the fall of 2021, members of the Project Management Unit (PMU) and the Project Steering Committee (PSC) drafted a PSC Terms of Reference document and revised the first year's AWPB. Both resources were confirmed by the PSC during the first official, virtual PSC meeting on January 7, 2022. A month later, the grant agreement between WWF (Implementing Agency) and the COS (Executing Agency) was finalized and signed.

With an official project start date of April 1, 2022, the project partners were able to note the added GEF investment towards the Micronesia Challenge during the Our Oceans Conference (OOC) hosted in Palau on April 13–14, 2022. As many project partners were focused on preparing a compelling side event panel at the OOC on the Micronesia Challenge 2030, the core efforts for the GEF IWP project gained momentum in the weeks following the event. Specifically, the virtual inception meetings began with direct project stakeholders in May 2022.

### **2.2 Inception Phase Updates**

Notable adjustments and decision points occurred during this period from project approval on August 30, 2021, through the conclusion of the inception meetings in late June 2022, including the following:

1. **Project implementation:** During the first PSC meeting on January 7, 2022, key decisions about project implementation took place as follows.
  - a. The AWPB file was formally approved;
  - b. Vanessa Fread was designated as the interim PSC Chair—until confirmation of a new Micronesia Challenge Steering Committee (MCSC) Focal Point in Palau is named. At that time, PSC members will revisit the topic of selecting a PSC chair;
  - c. The draft PSC Terms of Reference (ToR) was discussed, with anticipated member changes briefly noted. The ToR was subsequently reviewed via email and approved in its current state on January 14, 2022 (see Appendix A).
2. **Points of contact:** Various formal and informal points of contact were redesignated within each partner team. The most significant of these included:
  - a. In RMI, the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA) was designated as the national Focal Point Agency, replacing the Climate Change

Directorate (CCD) in that role. Glen Joseph, Executive Director of MIMRA, assumed the role of Operational Focal Point for RMI representation on the MCSC (replacing Clarence Samuel), and thus the PSC member for RMI.

- b. FSM's Department of Resources and Development (R&D) welcomed a new Secretary, Elina P. Akinaga.
  - c. In Palau, the MCSC Operational Focal Point role is slated to change, as current designate Charlene Mersai, National Environment Coordinator, will be transitioning out of that position in late summer 2022. Ms. Mersai will retain the role of GEF Operational Focal Point for Palau. The person who takes on the MCSC operational focal point role will thus become a PSC member for this project.
  - d. MCT added two project team members: Shirley Pelep (Senior Grants Officer) and Meileen Albert (Finance Officer).
  - e. At TNC, Trina Leberer, Pacific Division Director, replaced Steven Victor as the MCSC Focal Point.
  - f. CNMI's MCSC Operational Focal Point and PSC observing member shifted from Janice Castro to Richard Salas (Acting Director, Division of Coastal Resources Management).
  - g. At WWF (Implementing Agency), Robbie Bovino is taking on the lead Project Liaison role previously filled by Rachel Kaplan.
  - h. Within COS (Executing Agency), three roles have been designated:
    - i. Cheryl Chan joined COS as the Finance and Operations Manager in January 2022, thus becoming the GEF 7 IWP Project Finance Manager;
    - ii. Lucie Hazen will be the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer.
    - iii. In June 2022, Dr. Staci Lewis returned from personal leave and has rejoined the team as a Project Research Lead.
  - i. A recruitment process to fill the MCRO Coordinator position has been underway for much of the inception phase. The PSC anticipates a conclusion to the recruiting process in the near future with active hiring discussions underway.
3. **Reporting requirements:** An exception to a standard financial accounting requirement of Stanford University (i.e., subaward recipient provision of detailed quarterly co-financing information) was made to allow for provision of an annual co-financing letter as agreed upon by WWF to reduce administrative effort for project partners.
  4. **Inception trainings:** Two Inception Trainings were hosted in March 2022, for WWF staff to orient Executing Agency staff and project partners with project management and execution responsibilities and requirements for project completion. The first training covered the full range of topics relevant to GEF project implementation; the second training focused on details of the grant agreement and financial administration (see Appendix B).

## SECTION 3: INCEPTION MEETINGS

### 3.1 Approach, Schedule, Purpose and Agenda

While the original plan involved hosting a single full inception project workshop, operational factors—primarily COVID travel restrictions—presented an opportunity for a nuanced approach to launching the project. Accordingly, PMU members in consultation with the PSC Chair, opted for conducting five direct meetings with the four subgrant partners and PSC members. While separate convenings precluded a singular launch event, bilateral discussions allowed for beneficial tailored dialogue. The dates, times, and partner list for all virtual inception meetings is compiled in the table below (for additional detail, see full list in Appendix C).

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time (GMT-7)</b>	<b>Partner Entity</b>
Tuesday, May 10	3–4pm PT	Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT)
Tuesday, May 10	8–9pm PT	Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA)
Wednesday, May 11	5–6pm PT	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment (MAFE)
Tuesday, June 21	7:30–8:30pm PT	FSM, Department of Resources and Development (FSM R&D)
Wednesday, June 22	3–4pm PT	Project Steering Committee (PSC)

The overarching purpose of these inception meetings was to connect with all primary partners, provide a high-level reminder of the project scope and deliverables; discuss status of subgrant agreements and clarify actions needed to finalize them; review financial and reporting details; highlight new information; and answer any questions. The agenda for each meeting maintained a similar foundation yet varied slightly depending on the partner’s needs. The inception meetings were concise with discussions focused on current issues needing resolution, priority action items, and activities for quarters one and two with a balance of time reserved for longer-term topics. Summaries of discussions for each meeting are included below.

The Executing Agency members from the Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions attended all inception meetings. Those members and a sample agenda are noted below. The Inception Meeting overviews, beginning with section 3.2, are listed in chronological order.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Professional Title</b>	<b>Project Title</b>
Eric Hartge	COS Research Development Manager	Project Manager
Cheryl Chan	COS Finance & Operations Manager	Project Finance Manager
Lucie Hazen	COS Research Analyst	Monitoring & Evaluation Officer

#### Sample high-level Inception Meeting agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Project Framework Refresher
- Subgrant Agreement Update
- Partner Activities
- Monitoring & Evaluation Resources & Requirements
- Discussion

### 3.2 MCT Inception Meeting

Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) Participants:

- Lisa Ranahan Andon – Deputy Executive Director
- Tamara Greenstone Alefaio – Conservation Program Manager
- Shirley Ann Pelep – Senior Grants Officer
- Meileen Albert – Finance Officer

Meeting Highlights & Key Updates:

Thoroughly presenting the agenda items was particularly informative for this group. With only Ms. Greenstone Alefaio having experience with this project’s development and an understanding of MCT’s work plan, familiarizing the other three MCT representatives was essential. Topics of particular interest for MCT included: understanding their role and activities which are primarily under Component 2, in contrast to the other partners; subgrant agreement details for the purposes of familiarizing Ms. Pelep and Ms. Albert, and the complicating factor of the MCRO Coordinator position remaining vacant.

### 3.3 RMI Inception Meeting

Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA) Participants:

- Emma Kabua-Tibon – Protected Areas Network Coordinator
- Joan Quijano – Chief Finance Officer; Corporate Services Division
- Florence “Flo” Edwards – Deputy Director; Coastal & Community Affairs

Meeting Highlights & Key Updates:

Covering the agenda served to refresh everyone about the activities and outputs under the purview of the Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC) in coordination with MIMRA. As Ms. Quijano is new to this project, bringing her up to speed on the financial administration was also important. The priority topics raised for RMI included: funding structure options; a ToR document for CMAC which could inform development of a ToR for this project; a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Protected Area Network which may be relevant; recent thesis work on conservation legislation that may be an important reference for the policy gap analysis; and plans to hire a National Project Coordinator to manage activities under Component 1.

### 3.4 Palau Inception Meeting

Palau Participants:

- Charlene Mersai – National Environment Coordinator
- Adelle “Lukes” Isechal – Director, Bureau of Fisheries; Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment (MAFE)
- Leena Mesebeluu – Director, Bureau of the Environment, MAFE

Meeting Highlights & Key Updates:

Stepping through the agenda reminded Ms. Mersai and Ms. Isechal about the activities and outputs under the purview of MAFE and brought Ms. Mesebeluu up to speed at a high level. Notably, not only is Ms. Mesebeluu new to her role in this project and her position within the



Palauan government, MAFE itself is part of a broader national government restructure under a new Presidential administration. Yet Ms. Mesebeluu has previous experience managing GEF-related projects through the Ridge to Reef efforts in Palau. The priority topics raised for Palau were consequently more fundamental than the previous inception meeting discussions. For instance, there have been active dialogues among national government entities and community members on plans for a domestic pelagic fishery as well as how Palau can best meet its MC 2030 goals. Both topics have implications for the scope of the working group and activities for this project. Modifying the working group's scope of work was briefly discussed as an opportunity best addressed soon, though it was noted that an evolution of the scope over time is also acceptable.

Lastly, a significant update from Palau is that Ms. Mersai will soon be stepping out of the MCSC Focal Point role; her replacement is not determined at this time. Ms. Mersai plans to retain the GEF Operational Focal Point role for Palau.

### 3.5 FSM Inception Meeting

FSM R&D Participants:

- Vanessa Fread – Assistant Secretary at FSM Division of Marine Resources, Department of Resources and Development (R&D)
- Dave Mathias – Marine Conservation and Management Specialist, FSM Division of Marine Resources (R&D)
- Beverlyn Danis Fred – Blue Prosperity Micronesia Program Assistant

Meeting Highlights & Key Updates:

While Ms. Fread is familiar with the project details, the overview presentation provided Mr. Mathias and Ms. Danis Fred with a clear picture of the project's purpose, activities and outputs, pertaining to FSM's role via R&D and the Protected Areas Network Technical Committee (PAN TC). Efforts were made to include Secretary Akinaga in this meeting, yet her schedule did not allow for her attendance. While the meeting was cut short due to a power outage in Pohnpei, two key topics were discussed before the power loss: 1) resolving lingering tasks to finalize the subgrant agreement and 2) planning to add a national project coordinator to facilitate the policy gap analysis (necessitating adjustments to the scope of work and budget). Follow-up emails directly after the call also served to conclude the discussion.

### 3.6 PSC Inception Meeting

Project Steering Committee (PSC) Member Participants:

- Vanessa Fread – Assistant Secretary, FSM R&D; PSC Chair
- Glen Joseph – Director, MIMRA
- Charlene Mersai – National Environment Coordinator, Palau
- Willy Kostka – Executive Director, MCT

Observing Attendees:

- Tamara Greenstone Alefaio – Conservation Program Manager, MCT
- Shirley Pelep – Senior Grants Officer, MCT
- Trina Leberer – Pacific Division Director, TNC

### Meeting Highlights & Key Updates:

The inception workshop process culminated with this PSC convening. Similar topics from the four partner meetings were covered, with additional details and context as the PSC is the oversight body for the project. Priority updates focused on the status of subgrant agreements, work plan tasks (each of which are in various stages, per partner), and the recruitment process for the MCRO Coordinator (PMU Project Coordinator). A primary topic of discussion was the MC 2030 policy gap analysis ToR, which has now been drafted, reviewed and approved by all PSC members. The group considered the possibility of adding international commitments to the gap analysis and agreed on the value of this addition. The idea of project consultants to lead the gap analysis work for each partner nation was also a key discussion point. Lastly, action items were identified to finalize the subgrant agreements and to complete the policy gap analysis ToR document.

The following entities and individuals were invited to participate, yet scheduling conflicts prevented their attendance.

- Richard Salas, MCSC Focal Point from CNMI
- Evangeline Lujan, MCSC Focal Point from Guam
- Robbie Bovino and Rachel Kaplan, WWF

## **SECTION 4: ANNUAL WORK PLAN**

### 4.1 Overview and Status Updates

The Annual Work Plan for April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023 is based on the version that was approved by the Project Steering Committee in January 2022 and is aligned with the project activities initially described in the Project Document. From January 2022 to the end of the first project quarter, minor alterations and further specification of the activities have been applied and described below. The adjustments are primarily the result of personnel changes since the project development timeline as well as the dynamic timeline of COVID travel restrictions and changes.

At the national levels, the allocations under the purview of each national partner include one significant adjustment. Each national partner has opted to revise subgrant budgetary expenses to provide for a “National Project Coordinator,” who will play a lead role in leading, facilitating, or coordinating activities to achieve the objectives of the national scope of work.

At the regional level, the allocation under the purview of MCT includes two general adjustments relevant to a subset of activities. First, for any activity that involves travel for major convenings, the current approach is to defer those allocations until Q2 or Q3—at the earliest—based on the status of travel in the region and globally. This adjustment includes the activity for hosting a side event at a major global convening. PSC members are exploring the appropriate venue(s), yet there is recognition that these activities may be reserved for later in year 1 or even in year 2. Second, for any allocation that would benefit from a contribution or involvement by the MCRO Coordinator, the current approach is to pause until conclusion of the recruiting process in order for the new Coordinator to play a lead role in completing those relevant activities.

## 4.2 Activities – Year 1: Q1 & Q2

Each national subgrant partner (RMI, FSM, Palau) is responsible for completing the following primary activities over the course of the first two quarters (April 1 to September 30, 2022).

1. Develop a National Working Group Terms of Reference document
2. Develop a National Project Coordinator Terms of Reference document
3. Commission/Initiate the National MC 2030 Policy Gap Analysis
4. Conduct a National Working Group Meeting

Over the same time period, the regional partner (MCT) is responsible for the following essential activities.

1. Generate a compilation of potential MC Measures enhancements in collaboration with the existing MC Measures leads
2. Establish a central document repository on the Micronesia Challenge Website
3. Develop an updated MCRO Communications Plan Terms of Reference document

As part of project monitoring and evaluation, quarterly financial and semi-annual project progress reports are associated with these tasks, to be submitted via the PMU and Executing Agency to WWF. The Y1Q1 finance report was submitted and received on July 27, 2022.

## SECTION 5: KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Over the course of the development and inception phases, various factors influenced the trajectory and status of this multi-dimensional project.

- The COVID-19 pandemic has limited a significant majority of engagements to remote convenings. Specifically, travel restrictions continue in many PICTs, including closed borders for FSM and RMI through the first quarter of the project. At this time, the FSM have just opened their borders as of August 1<sup>st</sup>—albeit during their first major COVID wave of infections. RMI has also recently experienced their first significant COVID outbreak and now formally announced that they would delay a scheduled opening of the border to September 8, 2022. Being mindful of the vulnerabilities of island communities, travel to partner nations will only take place under safe, agreed-upon conditions.
- An ongoing challenge—identified in the Risk Analysis—is the limited capacity of the MCRO, as the Coordinator position has yet to be filled. However, the recruitment process has been advancing and a formal offer is currently under negotiation. With the Coordinator role filled, the capacity for the PMU as well as for the completion of regional activities will significantly increase.
- An initial communication opportunity about the Micronesia Challenge 2030 as well as this project took place via a side event at the Our Ocean Conference in Palau (April 2022). MCT & TNC hosted an overview of the Micronesia Challenge and provided visibility to an important audience of high-level decision makers in the region. During future regional and global convenings, there will be additional opportunities to highlight the re-investment of the GEF into the MC 2030 through this project and other efforts.

## Appendix A: Project Steering Committee Terms of Reference

### **Introductory Note:**

*This Project Steering Committee Terms of Reference document was completed in January 2022. Since confirmation, a few organizational changes have occurred, impacting PSC roles from WWF, RMI, and Palau. Updates are noted in Section 2 of this Inception Report.*

**Strengthening and Enabling the Micronesia Challenge 2030  
Global Environment Facility (GEF) International Waters (IW) Project  
Executing Agency: Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions  
Project Steering Committee – Terms of Reference**

### **Background and Context:**

The WWF 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 the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and the Republic of Palau (Palau).

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 role includes providing strategic direction to the project management unit (PMU),<sup>2</sup> approving the annual project workplan and budget, reviewing project reporting, and discussing and solving high-level project execution issues. In the event of conflicting opinions, a majority vote amongst PSC and PMU members will decide the issue.

The PSC will leverage members of the existing 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 of RMI, FSM, Palau, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), as well as representatives of Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). The Micronesia Challenge Regional Office (MCRO) functions as the MCSC secretariat.

### **Main Objectives and Functions for the Project Steering Committee (PSC):**

The PSC is active throughout the project period (36 months) and its composition may be adapted as needed, until the WWF GEF project closure.

- a) PSC members will represent their institutions and the work led by their institutions that fall within the Project scope. They will remain up to date on progress, results and challenges encountered by the executing team, as well as other related work that could influence the project;

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<sup>2</sup> For more information on the Project Management Unit, please refer to language in the [CEO Approval](#) document.

- b) The PSC will advise the Executing Agency (EA) for a successful project execution and in particular regarding the project work planning, Annual Work Plans and Budget (AWPBs), and review of project reports and key project outputs when relevant;
- c) The PSC will have at least one meeting per year, timed to approve AWPBs;
- d) The PSC will discuss opportunities for adaptive management in the Project, based on the Project Progress Reports (PPRs). Recommendations for adaptive management will be made by the PSC;
- e) Appoint a Chair of the GEF PSC;
- f) The Chair will coordinate with the Executing Agency the date of meetings, agenda and invites to the members of the PSC.

### Proposed Composition of the Project Steering Committee

PSC Role	Organization	Represented by
Member	MCSC representative from RMI	Clarence Samuel
Member	MCSC representative from FSM	Vanessa Fread
Member	MCSC representative from Palau	Charlene Mersai
Member	MCSC representative from MCT	Willy Kostka
Observer	MCSC representative from TNC	Trina Leberer
Observer	MCSC representative from CNMI	Richard Salas
Observer	MCSC representative from Guam	Evangeline Lujan
Chair	Current Chair of the MCSC <sup>3</sup>	Vanessa Fread
Observer	WWF (US) GEF Agency	Rachel Kaplan
Secretariat	MCRO Coordinator	<i>Pending</i>
Organizer / Facilitator	Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions	Eric Hartge

The MCSC government focal points from RMI, FSM, and Palau also serving on the PSC will be the same individuals—or their designates—responsible for internal government coordination with their national-level working groups. This individual coordination responsibility is independent of institutional responsibilities of the subgrant recipients. As a subgrant recipient for this project, the MCT member of the MCSC—or their designate—will be an active member of the PSC. A breakdown of funding recipients, relevant government agencies and national working groups is shown in the table below.

### Subgrant Recipient Agencies and Affiliates of Interest

Subgrant Recipient	Recipient Agency	Working Group / Affiliate Party
RMI	Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA)	Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC)
FSM	Department of Resources and Development (R&D)	Protected Area Network Technical Committee (PAN TC)
Palau	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Environment (MAFE)	Fisheries Advisory Committee
MCT	Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT)	Micronesia Challenge Regional Office (MCRO)

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 national MCSC officers will serve as an informal group to aid the PMU with more frequent MCRO

<sup>3</sup> The role of the PSC Chair will be re-evaluated after the first quarter of the project based on the timeline of MCSC representative updates from RMI and Palau.

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.

**Meeting frequency for the PSC**

It is proposed that the PSC will have meetings at least once per year. The meetings will be scheduled and facilitated by the Lead Executing Agency (Stanford COS). The PSC will be invited to a (virtual) annual reflection workshop to discuss the theory of change and project progress, to be facilitated by the Project Management Unit. The PSC will leverage time within existing MCSC meetings to best utilize virtual and in-person meeting opportunities. 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.

## Appendix B: Inception Training Attendance

List of all attendees for the Inception Trainings led by WWF GEF Agency staff.

Inception Training Overview: March 11, 2022

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Gender</b>
Cheryl Chan	COS	PMU Project Finance Manager	F
Eric Hartge	COS	PMU Project Manager	M
Lucie Hazen	COS	Monitoring and Enforcement Officer	F
Vanessa Fread	FSM R&D	PSC Chair; FSM Lead	F
Tamara Alefaio	MCT	Conservation Program Director	F
Robbie Bovino	WWF	WWF Project Manager	M
Erika Drazen	WWF	Safeguards and Stakeholder Engagement	F
Rachel Kaplan	WWF	Senior Program Officer	F
Amelia Kissick	WWF	Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting	F
Nathalie Simoneau	WWF	Gender Mainstreaming	F
Tracey Smith	WWF	Director of Program Operations	F

Inception Training – Focus on Financial Management: March 16, 2022

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Gender</b>
Cheryl Chan	COS	PMU Project Finance Manager	F
Eric Hartge	COS	PMU Project Manager	M
Lucie Hazen	COS	Monitoring and Enforcement Officer	F
Paula Wetzal	Stanford	Asst. Dir. Research Administration	F
Tracey Smith	WWF	Director of Program Operations	F

## Appendix C: Virtual Inception Meetings Attendance

List of all Subgrant and Partner Participants in Inception Meetings

<b>Name</b>	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Dates of Participation</b>	<b>Gender</b>
Lisa Ranahan Andon	FSM	MCT	May 11, 2022	F
Tamara Greenstone Alefaio	FSM	MCT	May 11, 2022	F
Shirley Ann Pelep	FSM	MCT	May 11, 2022	F
Meileen Albert	FSM	MCT	May 11, 2022	F
Emma Kabua-Tibon	RMI	MIMRA	May 11, 2022	F
Joan Quijano	RMI	MIMRA	May 11, 2022	F
Florence Edwards	RMI	MIMRA	May 11, 2022	F
Charlene Mersai	Palau	Ministry of Finance (MoF)	May 12, 2022 June 23, 2022	F
Adelle “Lukes” Isechal	Palau	MAFE	May 12, 2022	F
Leena Mesebeluu	Palau	MAFE	May 12, 2022	F
Vanessa Fread	FSM	R&D	June 22, 2022 June 23, 2022	F
Dave Mathias	FSM	R&D	June 22, 2022	M
Beverlyn Danis Fred	FSM	R&D	June 22, 2022	F
Glen Joseph	RMI	MIMRA	June 23, 2022	M
Willy Kostka	FSM	MCT	June 23, 2022	M
Trina Leberer		TNC	June 23, 2022	F