



# Pacific R2R Programme Workshop

## Most Significant Change

### The GEF Pacific IW R2R Project - PALAU



<b>Name of Person recording story</b>	Leena Mesebeluu
<b>Name of storyteller</b>	Oilei Basilius
<b>Date of recording</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> of July 2019
<b>When did it happen</b>	Almost a Year

## More than Just Surveillance



Oilei Basilius

I am 23 years and have been part of the Melekeok community all my life. I am a member of the youth group and involve myself in the local sports programs.

My interests in sports (physical activities) and my love for my community were the main reasons why I chose to work at the Melekeok Conservation Network as a Junior Park Ranger. My duties as a ranger include daily surveillance and enforcements at the Ngardok Nature Reserve (NNR) and Ngermedelim Marine Sanctuary. Work tasks include checking permits, filing incident reports, fire monitoring, bird monitoring, assisting scientific research, stopping prohibited activities, and ensuring visitor safety.

Prior to our work with Ridge to Reef International Water's Project on water quality monitoring, I personally didn't care about it, it was just part of my job to assist. My interests were still in surveillance and enforcement. However as we were trained on the water quality monitoring and I became more comfortable with the equipment's and water analyses, it became an activity I looked forward to.

Since August of last year we have conducted our water monitoring twice a month. The water quality monitoring work has opened my eyes to nature – the interconnected of water and the surrounding environments of NNR. My work is more than just surveillance now. On my daily routes I make added observations of rainfall, stream flow, noticeable changes, and presence of animals.

Most recently, through the project, I was able to attend the 50th Pacific Islands Environment Conference in Guam. At the conference, I was able to attend a session about water quality monitoring work in the Yukon River in Alaska. They are doing similar work to what we're doing at the NNR but in a larger scale. If something like this can be done, then most certainly we can expand our work to the entire river system in Melekeok and not just reaches of the Ngardok Nature Reserve.



Oilei Basilius preparing water samples in the field.



Oilei Basilius testing out water quality equipment's at Euall.