

Highlights Of My Environment

“H.O.M.E”

KOSRAE CONSERVATION AND SAFETY ORGANIZATION

KCSO's Mission:

“To sustainably manage and protect Kosrae’s biodiversity and natural heritage through community engagement and partnerships for the benefit of present and future generations.”

Volume 9, 4th Quarter Issue

January 2020

Utwe Biosphere Reserve Validation Meeting



On the 9th & 10th of October 2019, the staff of the KCSO Marine Program paid visits to the 3 hamlets in Utwe to conduct validation meetings. The validation meetings were held to report back on the completion of the project and to allow the UBR community to confirm whether priority adaptation actions including the mangrove re-plantation, spring water access improvement, Crown of Thorn (CoT) eradication, and the coral monitoring in the Utwe Biosphere Reserve (UBR) were all completed and fully implemented.

During the meetings, participants shared deep concerns over unsustainable mangrove harvest practices

in Utwe over the years which create some of the largest forest gaps in Kosrae. Participants from all three hamlets also indicated that they planted over three thousand Rhizophora trees as part of the project but they still see the need for continued re-plantation. Some of the participants indicated that they are planting trees during their own free time which help to improve the mangrove gap situation compare to 5 year ago. According to the hamlets, climate change is contributing to the destruction of the mangrove ecosystem and they recommended quarterly visit to the planted sites to monitor and assess effects if any. Community members are even willing to volunteer their time and efforts to monitor and assess effects of climate change on the mangrove ecosystems in Utwe. Participants also reported that the Giant Clam farm, which was established by the project in the UBR, is also doing great

and it is taken care of by UBR Board and the Utwe Municipal Government (UMG). To support the project, the Mayor of Utwe, Hon. Canston Segal, appointed Mr. Larry Alik, a former KCSO employee, to serve as a UBR ranger. His primary function is to monitor the clam farm and all other project activities in the UBR. According to Mr. Alik, fish abundance, biomass, and variety in the UBR core zone has been increasing along with variety of other species. To ensure that fish and other marine lives in the UBR are protected, the Utwe Municipal government plans to hire at least two additional rangers to assist Mr. Alik.

Another key adaptation priorities discussed during the validation meeting was the Crown of thorn (CoT) eradication in the UBR and throughout Kosrae. CoTs are predators to the coral and they should be controlled (cont page 2) .



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4th Qtr School Visit



Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization (KCSO) Education program completed its fourth (4th) and final visit to 8th graders in the six public elementary schools in Kosrae on November 7th, 8th, 14th, 15th, 18th, and 20th. This last visit was focused on MPAs and mangrove ecosystem.

The KCSO education program staff carries out quarterly visit to each public schools every school year. Topics discussed and covered during the quarterly school visits this year include Upland Forest management,



Climate Change Adaptation, Watershed management, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Coastal and mangrove areas management. Project updates on KCSO's projects are also shared with students during these visits.

An inquiry-based assessment survey is conducted every beginning of the school year to assess students' understanding levels on topics and issues that will be discussed and covered with students throughout the school year. During the 4th quarter visit each year, a post assessment

survey is also carried out to measure changes in students' level of understanding.

This year, KCSO also completed the post surveys during the 4th quarter visit to the schools. Data collected during the post survey was compared with that of the pre-survey and the results of the surveys show a general increase students' understanding level. (See page 3 for graphs).

Special thanks to the Kosrae Department of Education and the six elementary school principals and teachers for their continued support and assistance. KCSO definitely hopes for the same in the upcoming school year!

Validation Meeting (Cont. from page 1)

and eradicated. During the validation meetings, a number of fishermen shared their observations regarding the increasing number of CoTs in the UBR buffer zone as well as in the core zone over the years. The fishermen expressed appreciation to KCSO for teaching them how to safely remove CoTs from the reefs and how to use CoTs for local fertilizers. Farmers who experimented with CoT fertilizers confirmed that CoTs are indeed great local/green fertilizers and are environmentally safe.

KCSO Welcome a new WIA Trainee



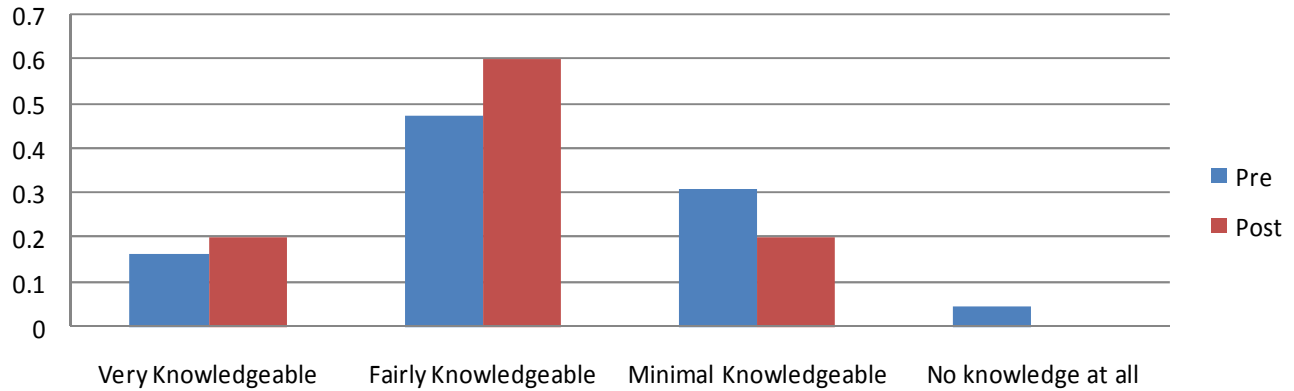
KCSO welcomes a new WIA trainee to the KCSO's environmental workforce. She is Ms. Stacey Kilafwasru, a 19 year old from Malem Municipality. Ms. Kilafwasru is a graduate of Kosrae High School and she recently returned

home to Kosrae after completing three semesters of college education at the College of Micronesia-FSM, National Campus, in Palikir, Pohnpei. She plans to remain in Kosrae for a while to help support her family.

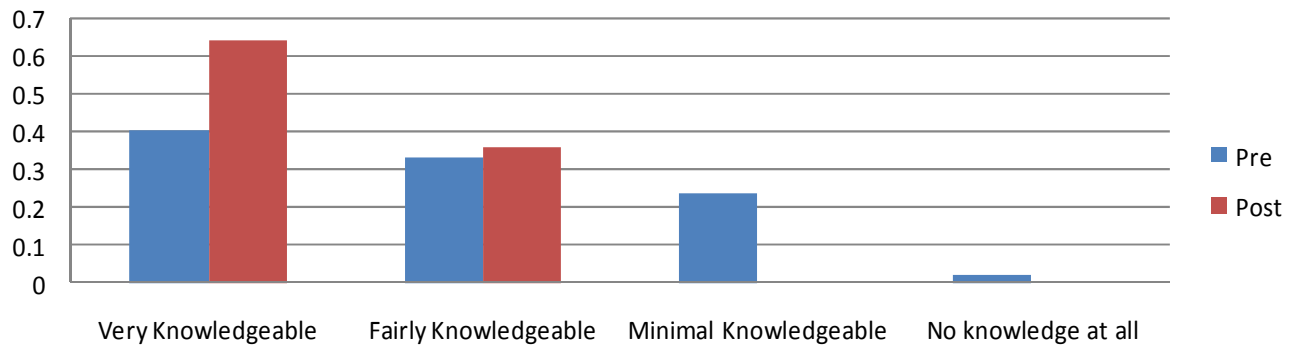
Ms. Kilafwasru will be trained by the KCSO's Administrative/Finance officer to carryout the work of an office assistant. KCSO Board of Directors and Staff would like to welcome Ms. Stacey Kilafwasru on board and we all wish for a fruitful learning experience with KCSO and all our partners. WELCOME ABOARD....

4th Qtr School Visits Graphical Analysis (Cont from pg. 2)

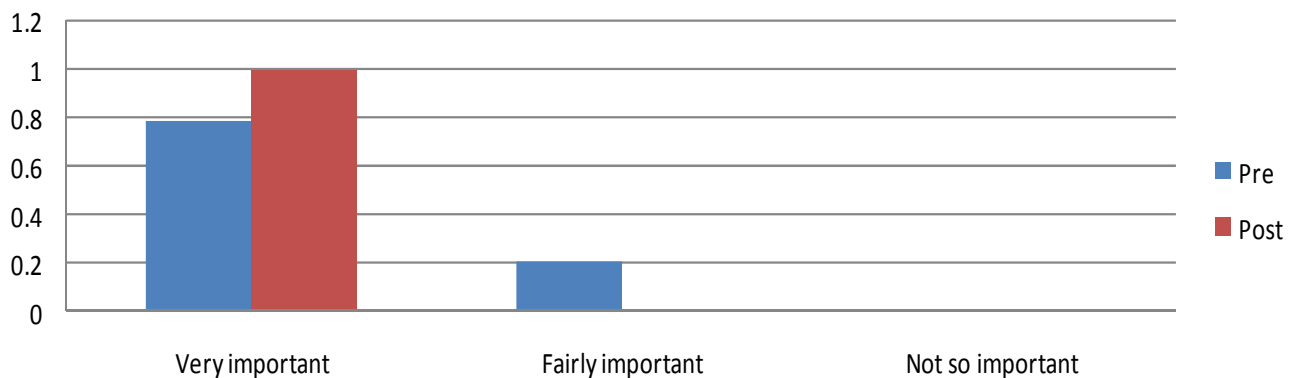
Q1. How much do you know about our upland forests?



Q11. How much do you know about our Marine Protected Area (MPA)?



Q18. Do you think learning about climate change is important or not?



KCSO Annual Membership Meeting & Christmas Party



On the evening of 19th December, 2019, Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization (KCSO) hosted its 16th Annual Membership meeting and Christmas celebration at the KCSO Office parking area. The venue for the celebration was not new but celebrating the two events at the same time was. The event gathered KCSO staff, board members, friends, families and a number of newly registered KCSO members. The Mastering of Ceremony for both events was the secretary of the Board of Director, Mr. Hans Skilling.

The function commenced with an opening prayer by the current Board of Director Chairman, Deacon Skiller Jackson, followed by an opening remark by the KCSO Executive Director, Mr. Andy George. In his remark, he welcomed everyone and thanked them for making time to attend the membership meeting and be part of the Christmas celebration. After the welcoming remark, Director George continued on to present the 2019 KCSO financial report highlighting various grants received in 2019 to support the operation of the organization as well as to implement conservation projects throughout the communities of Kosrae. Director George also

highlighted names of key donors such as UNESCO, SPC, UOG Marine Laboratory, TNC, MCT, FSM Government, and CFMS, and others that have provided financial support to KCSO in 2019.

Following the financial update, the program managers, Mr. Bond Segal (Marine Conservation), Onniel Nena (Environmental Outreach), and Ms. Faith Siba (R2R-IW), presented separately on their projects. Their reports covered activities from the beginning of 2019 to the end of 2019.

After all the presentations were completed, the KCSO staff facilitated a board election to select nine (9) new members to serve on the KCSO board of directors for 2020. The new board members who were elected at the meeting included: Ms. Beverly Wabol, Mrs. Heidi Sigrah-Floyd, Mr. Blair Charley, Mr. Hans Skilling, Mr. Lipar George, Mr. Natchuo Thomas, Mr. Paliknoa Sigrah, Mr. Robson Henry, and Mr. Skiller Jackson. The results of the election was announced to close out the membership meeting.

The Christmas celebration began immediately after with a raffle ticket.

KCSO provided a number of items to be given out to members who had the lucky tickets. Over twenty five (25) items were given out as prizes for the lucky tickets. Following the raffle, KCSO staff, board members, and members of their families sang their Christmas carols and were giving out free candies, chips, and other sweets to the crowd. Everyone was having so much fun.

Following the Christmas carols, everyone was invited to partake of the variety of delicious dishes prepared and contributed by all the KCSO staff, members of the Board of Directors, and their families.

The KCSO family wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and hope for another successful year ahead. In addition, we wish to congratulate all nine (9) members who were elected to become our board of directors for 2020.

The new board will select their officers in January and the result will be shared in the next issue of HOME. KULO and enjoy the NEW YEAR...

Young Leaders Champions Campaign



On the 6th of December, a young motivated team-player activist, Mr. Leroy Palik, met with the KCSO's Executive Director, Mr. Andy George, to discuss and seek KCSO's support toward a project he planned to implement in Kosrae. The project that Mr. Palik planned for was a road side clean up at the Lelu Causeway. During their meeting, the KCSO Executive Director expressed his support

of the project and that KCSO will contribute transportation support along with staff support to help out with the actual clean up.

The clean up took place on December 7th. Participants gathered around lunch at the Lelu Senior Citizen (LSC) meeting hall and were divided into two groups. One group collected trash from the LSC building towards Lelu town while the other group went the opposite direction toward the swimming dock. This project promoted the use of locally woven baskets to collect the trashes and marine debris to be transported to the dump site in Tofof.

Most participants were youth along with few other community volunteers and leaders. Thanks to the Lelu Women Organization (LWO) for weaving the basket used during

the clean up.

KCSO would like to thank all the participants, most especially the young activist, Mr. Leroy Palik, for planning and organizing this clean up activity. This was a great example to show the people of Kosrae that the Youth of Kosrae cares about the environment and is willing to make a difference. Let us support the future of our youth by keeping Kosrae clean and stop littering. Let us all learn from this young activist and replicate similar efforts in our own communities. It doesn't have to be a big area; it doesn't have to involve a large number of people. Clean up activities should start at home and in your neighborhood.

LET US KEEP KOSRAE CLEAN.

Walung MPA Spatial Planning

KCSO had been consulting its primary government partners KIRMA and DREA- Division of Fisheries and Marine Resources to share, discuss, and compare spatial planning notes to supplement and support ongoing efforts to establish the Walung- Community Based Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (CEAFM). In the CEAFM plan, food fish is identified as one of 5-6 target species to be managed. During MPA spatial planning meetings in Walung this year, food fish was also identified as a key species. A key outcome of the Walung MPA spatial planning meetings was the decision to relocate the Walung MPA to a new and larger lo-

cation. The decision was made after much analysis and discussions on the specific food fish that the community wanted to protect and the size of the current MPA. It was apparent that the size of the existing MPA was too small to accommodate the target food fish species in terms of the space they need to survive and distance they swim. To confirm with the community, the division of fisheries conducted a household survey and found that the majority of the community members were in support of the new site as it is large enough to support the target fisheries resources identified by the community. The final analysis of the survey re-

sults was presented back to the community in August 2019 and the delineation/ demarcation of the new site was completed on November 22nd 2019. In addition, the biological monitoring sites for new MPA site was also marked. The demarcation was led by KIRMA along with Fisheries and KCSO.

The Walung MPA is a community-declared protected area and is yet to be designated into the Kosrae Protected Areas System. We hope to work with the Division of Fisheries and KIRMA to get it protected in 2020.

FSM IW–R2R Knowledge Exchange to American Samoa EPA



The FSM International Waters—Ridge to Reef project manager, Ms. Faith Siba, and the President of the Women in Farming Kosrae, Ms. Kenye Livaie, were invited to participate in the weeklong GEFI-WLEARN Knowledge Exchange with American Samoa Environment Protection Agency (AS-EPA).

The learning exchange took place in Pago Pago, Samoa from October 7—10, bringing together GEF International Waters National project staff from FSM, Cook Islands, Tuvalu and Kiribati along with other key partners. These four countries identified pig waste management as a means to reduce environmental stressors. And through the IW R2R project, most, if not all, are trialing the Dry-Litter Piggery technology to address and reduce contamination associated with piggery effluent into water sources and systems on the islands.

The objective of this knowledge exchange activity was for participants to be exposed to an effec-

tively operational and coordinated approach to pig waste management, and piggery compliance program to improve implementation of “Dry-Litter Piggery” components of each national project.

We would like to thank the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency for a successful learning exchange.



FSM R2R—National Steering Committee Meeting in Yap



On October 14-15, the FSM Ridge to Reef Program held its Steering Committee Meeting in Colonia, Yap. The Steering Committee is the core group responsible for making decisions at the national level for the two GEF national projects in the FSM, namely the GEF IW project which is piloted in Kosrae and the GEF STAR project which is implemented in each of the states in the FSM.

One of the highlights of this year’s steering committee was the addition of five (5) new members on the committee. The new members represented each of the four FSM states and the R2R IW Project. The KIRMA Director, Mr. Blair Charley, represented Kosrae State and the KCSO Executive Director, Mr. Andy George, represented the IW R2R Project.

Another highlight of this year’s SC Meeting was the team’s visits to the various project sites supported by the GEF R2R STAR project in Yap. The sites visited include the Nimpal Channel Marine Conservation Area. SC members were able to meet with the project manager and members of the Nimpal community. The SC members also visited the Yap Southern Water Authority which provides water to the southern part of Yap.

The 3rd site visited was the Yap Agriculture station where SC members witnessed the opening of the Yap Compost project. The fourth and final site was at the Tamil Community where SC members met with the Tamil Resources Conservation Trust (TRCT) team. The TRCT project manager presented on their project and gave a tour of the community first to the Tamil Elementary school to see a water catchment tank supported by the R2R project and finally to the Tamil watershed area to see some of the conservation and environmental protection efforts in the watershed areas.

The next FSM R2R Steering Committee meeting is scheduled to be held in Kosrae sometime in mid 2020.

Volume 9,4th Quarter Issue

Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization (KCSO) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization incorporated in 1998 in Kosrae, Federated States of Micronesia . KCSO is dedicated to the sustainable conservation and protection of Kosrae’s natural resources and biodiversity. KCSO is run by a Board of Directors which is comprised of nine (9) members representing various stakeholders including the public and private sectors, church, government and communities. These board members are regular on-island members who were elected by members of the organization.

KCSO operates on funding from our donors and supporters. Funding and technical assistance from our donors, partners, and supporters are always appreciated. KCSO invites all interested individuals, groups, and /or institutions at the local, regional, and international level to become our partner and support the work we do in our communities. Contact us at kcsodirector@mail.fm or kcsso@mail.fm for more information visit us at our Facebook page: Kosrae Conservation & Safety Organization-KCSO

KCSO Staff & Current Board of Directors

- | | |
|--|---|
| Andy George Executive Director | Mr. Skiller Jackson Chairman |
| Benita Abraham Finance Officer | Mr. Natchuo Thomas Vice-Chair |
| Bond Segal Marine Program Manager | Ms. Hans Skilling Secretary |
| Faith Siba R2R IW Project Manager | Mr. Blair Charley Member |
| Onniel Nena Environmental Educator | Mr. Lipar George Member |
| Trenton Skilling Project Assistant | Mr. Marston Luckymis Member |
| Stacey Kilafwasru WIA Trainee | Mr. Paliknoa Sigrah Member |
| | Mr. Robson Henry Member |

WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER????OR A DONOR?????

- I want to become a Member of the Kosrae Conservation & Safety Org.
- I want to make a donation to Kosrae Conservation & Safety Org.

Please complete the form and send to: **Kosrae Conservation & Safety Organization**
PO Box 1007
Kosrae, FM 96944

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1 Annual Student Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100-500 Annual Corporate Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5 Annual On-Island Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1000 Lifetime Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Annual Off-Island Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Donation: \$ _____ |

Date: _____
Name: _____
Organization: _____
Address: _____