



FSM Ridge to Reef (R2R) Project Newsletter

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Recertification Training for Kosrae Conservation Enforcement Taskforce (KCET) Officers in Kosrae



KCET Deputized Officers at Lelu Marina, April 2021

On April 12-14, 2021, members of the Kosrae Conservation Enforcement Taskforce (KCET) participated in a recertification training, facilitated by the Kosrae State Department of Public Safety. Pursuant to Kosrae State Law, for the Appointment of Deputies for Law Enforcement under Title 5, section 5.209 of the Kosrae State Code, a person appointed as a deputy must be re-certified every two years.

Activities for the three-day training included a classroom session, which occurred on day one, a physical training, which took place on day two and a written exam on day three to conclude the training. All 18 participants in the 2021 KCET Recertification Course passed, therefore, will resume their duties as deputy officers.

A deputization ceremony was held on Friday, April 23, 2021 at the Kosrae State Governor's Building. The Chief Justice of the Kosrae State Court, Hon. Chang William, administered the oath for the 18 KCET members and the new Sheriff for Lelu Town Government. Attendees in support of the event included Governor Carson Sigrah, Lt. Governor Arthy Nena, Speaker Tulensa Palik, several cabinet members, Municipal Mayors, families and friends.

A reception was held after the ceremony at Awane Marine Park. The Administrator for the Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority (KIRMA), Mr. Blair Charley, officiated the opening remarks prior to the issuing of certificates and badges to the deputized officers. In his remarks, Administrator Charley acknowledged the deputy officers and encouraged them to fulfill the duty and rights bestowed upon them. Mr. Steven Palik, Chairmen for the KCET, joined KIRMA in recognizing the Kosrae State Department of Public Safety for its technical support and the FSM Ridge to Reef (R2R) project for its financial support. Both made it possible for the 18 Officers to be re-deputized, which is crucial to enhancing the enforcement of Title 19 of the Kosrae State Code.

"Protect our Home, from Land to SEA"

The R2R project in Kosrae Observes World Environment Day in Lelu Municipality



On June 4, 2021, partners of the R2R project in Kosrae participated in a World Environment Day clean-up in Lelu municipality. Activities included an underwater clean-up of the Lelu Marine Protected Area, solid waste collection and transportation of junk vehicles to a designated landfill site in Tofol. A total of 107 participants were involved, 82 of which were males, 19 females and 6 youth – all representing different agencies/groups *i.e.* State and municipal governments, NGOs, community groups, women and youth organizations.

The event began with opening remarks from the Mayor of Lelu, Hon. Presley Abraham, and the Administrator of KIRMA, Mr. Blair Charley. The participants were then divided into groups and assigned to four sections in Lelu: (1) Lelu Island (Harbor Breeze, Sea Siders, Potoroic and KK Warriors), (2) Illanglang Lasfol (3) Pansre, and (4) Blue Hole including Causeway. Each section was



supervised by a KIRMA staff and assisted by hamlet leaders assigned by the Mayor.

The general waste and junk vehicles collected were quantified by the number of trips: a total of 26 trips for general waste (13 from section 1, 2 from section 2, 9 from section 3 and 2 from section 4), and 26 junk vehicles collected and transported to the landfill site.

Post the cleanup, participants returned to the Lelu Town Government Office for lunch and conclusion of the program, which included presentations and handing out of awards. In closing, the Marine Conservation & Surveillance Unit, on behalf of KIRMA, expressed its sincere gratitude and appreciation to all partners and volunteers for their collaborative efforts. Acknowledgment was extended to the FSM R2R Project for its funding support which contributed to the success of the event.

R2R Project partners with the US Embassy and Pohnpei State Government to observe World Ocean’s Day



Photo Credit: Marvin Lee Ling

On June 8, 2021, the R2R project in Pohnpei partnered with the United States Embassy, Pohnpei State Government and NGO partners to observe World



Photo Credit: US Embassy in Kolonia

Ocean’s Day through a clean-up of Lenger island. Over forty (40) participants from the following organizations took part in the event: the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT), Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP), Pohnpei Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Pohnpei Office of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Marine Environmental Research Institute of the Pacific (MERIP), Pohnpei Surf Club, and KOHWA.

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Chuuk State R2R Team Facilitates Management Planning in Kuop



On May 18, 2021, a team consisting of a local consultant and representatives from the R2R project in Chuuk, the Chuuk Conservation Society (CCS), Chuuk Environmental Protection Agency (CEPA) and the Department of Agriculture (DOA) set out to the island of Uman for a consultation with the resource owners and community of Kuop. This was a long awaited consultation with the community of Kuop, as COVID-19 prevented previously planned management planning meetings due to gathering restrictions.

During the meeting, the participants did a mapping exercise to help identify their resources, developed a climate story and conducted a SWOT analysis to inform the development of Kuop's management plan. The event, a success, concluded with an overview of plans for follow up consultations.



From June 22-23, 2021, the same resource team (deployed on May 18 to facilitate management planning activities in Kuop) returned to Kuop at the community's request to carry out further consultations and assessment of resources and community needs. The team spent one night in Kuop in order to maximize the use of their time.

Day one was dedicated to meeting with the village chief and other members of the community, during which additional information needed for the drafting of the management plan was collected. Day two was spent conducting water quality testing, preliminary taro patch assessment and assessing the designated site for aquaculture.



DID YOU KNOW?

The majority of protected areas in the FSM are owned and managed by communities, and full community engagement in the management planning process is crucial. The FSM R2R project utilizes a variety of tools, such as local early action planning (LEAP), community mapping, and SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis, to help communities identify priority resources and actions, and develop goals and objectives.

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On April 12-14, 2021, the Yap-based R2R staff participated in a 3-day training on how to utilize the Blue Guide to Coastal Resilience. The training was jointly facilitated by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) and the Yap Protected Area Network office (Yap PAN). The Blue Guide provides step-by-step guidance for integrating various nature-based solutions into disaster risk reduction (DRR) planning in coastal areas. The Blue Guide is similar to the Local Early Action Plan (LEAP) toolkit that the R2R Project utilizes for developing community management plans. It aligns well with the work R2R is doing, as R2R incorporates nature-based solutions in sustainable land and protected area management from ridge to reef. The training participants now have the capacity to use the Blue Guide and the LEAP to ensure holistic community planning. These practices help vulnerable communities to adapt to climate change.

The FSM R2R Project Team Welcomes a New Member!



Ms. Ymee Charley officially joined the FSM R2R team on April 12, 2021, as the new Project Assistant. Ms. Charley was previously the Accountant for the FSM Adaptation Fund (AF) project, “Enhancing the Climate Change Resilience of

Vulnerable Island Communities in the Federated States of Micronesia”, also implemented by DECEM. Ms. Charley, therefore, joins the project with familiarity of its work and partners, and brings with her many years of experience in finance and administration. Her primary role is to assist the Financial Administrator with the financial aspects of the project to ensure efficient financial management of the project.

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