



## Enhance the Network of Community-based Engagement for Watershed Forest Reserve to Conserve and Protect Our Fresh Water Ecosystems in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia-FSM



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The Conservation Society of Pohnpei (CSP) continues its 16<sup>th</sup> year of preserving Pohnpei's natural heritage and looks forward to strengthen a comprehensive effort as issues associated with effective conservation of island ecosystems become increasingly crucial for growth and sustainability in the state of Pohnpei. In 2002, the establishment of the Federated States of Micronesia's (FSM) National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP) set the stage for biodiversity conservation in the country. CSP identified the need to empower communities to protect Pohnpei's biodiversity in which networks of community-based protected areas were established with long-term goals of self-sustenance and increased collaboration towards biodiversity conservation and management in Pohnpei. Poor land management practices in the uplands continue to be detrimental for ecosystems downstream. A watershed steering committee has continued to pursue ways to improve management of Pohnpei's forest reserves. CSP aims to improve community access to information and resources to carry out implementation of Pohnpei State's conservation policy and including fresh water regulations. We learned a valuable lesson that community initiatives would never be effective without government legislations and government projects would not be successful without community

participation. This new initiative will unite our successes and communicate lessons learned throughout Micronesia.

The direction of CSP's work continue to be influenced by findings from various studies and surveys conducted over the past 10 years with aspirations of the Micronesia Challenge to effectively manage Pohnpei's natural resources. The goal of this project is to further improve the network of community-based engagement for Pohnpei's Watershed Forest Reserve to conserve and protect our fresh waters ecosystems while improving conservation policy by merging modern science and traditional resource management.

**Objective 1:** To conduct a series of water workshop and share fresh water regulations in the communities by developing and implementing their Conservation Action Plans

**Objective 2:** To improve community-based watershed management programs to improve water quality

**Objective 3:** To create interactive programs to motivate local compliance to improve/maintain water quality