

The Federated States of Micronesia
Pohnpei State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
2026–2030

Foreword

The abundant natural environment of Pohnpei State is at the heart of the identity, wellbeing, and resilience of our people. Across our islands, the interconnected ecosystems and the biodiversity they support provide us with food, support our livelihoods, and are inherent to our culture. At the same time, they face increasing pressures from climate change, development, and a growing demand for resources, making it essential that we take a coordinated and forward-looking approach to their management.

The Pohnpei State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) 2026–2030 represents an important development in strengthening that approach. Building on the foundations of the previous plan, while remaining grounded in Pohnpei's specific context and needs, the revised Pohnpei BSAP reflects current priorities, emerging challenges, and the need for more effective and practical implementation. In addition, it is aligned with the Federated States of Micronesia's commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the objectives within the FSM National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

This updated BSAP is the result of extensive consultation and collaboration across government agencies, municipal governments, communities, non-governmental organisations, and partners. I would like to acknowledge the time and effort that the stakeholders have invested throughout this process, and the commitment shown to ensuring that this plan reflects our shared priorities. I would also like to thank our partners in the FSM Department of Resources & Development for supporting us in this process.

A key focus of this plan is strengthening implementation; providing clear actions and realistic indicators for delivery that also recognise our capacity for implementation. The BSAP emphasises practical, achievable steps that can support conservation, sustainable resource management, and climate resilience across Pohnpei.

As we move forward, the success of this plan will depend on continued collaboration and sustained commitment. Government, communities, traditional leaders, civil society, and partners all have a role to play in safeguarding Pohnpei's biodiversity for current and future generations.

I encourage all stakeholders to take ownership of this plan and to work together in its implementation. By doing so, we can ensure that Pohnpei's natural heritage continues to support our people, our culture, and our future.

I hereby endorse the Pohnpei State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2026–2030.



Stevenson A. Joseph
Governor, State of Pohnpei

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The Pohnpei BSAP document was prepared by the Islands Insights team comprising Dr Iain Hall, Anne McDonald, Dr Erika Salazar, Tamara Greenstone Alefaio, Vanessa Fread, Julia Bolton, and Oriana Fernandez.

Part 1: Introduction¹

The State of Pohnpei comprises the island of Pohnpei and nine outlying atolls scattered over more than 100,000 sq. miles of water. The island of Pohnpei, sometimes referred to as the "Garden Island of Micronesia", is the largest in the FSM and is the home of the nation's capital. It is, therefore, the center of most economic activities in the FSM. The State may be the most potentially threatened in terms of biodiversity conservation but trends and developments in recent years show great promise for the future.

Pohnpei has a population of 26,102, with a population density of 189 per sq. mile (FSM Division of Statistics, 2023). The State is divided into eleven municipalities: Madolenihm, U, Kitti, Sokehs, Nett, Mwoakilloa, Pingelap, Sapwuafik, Nukuoro, Kapingamarangi and Kolonia Town. The main island is ringed by 25 smaller, widely scattered coral atolls, which lie on the barrier reef.

The average annual wage (real, i.e. adjusted for inflation) for the fiscal year 2022 was \$6,987, somewhat higher than the national average of \$5,594 (FSM Division of Statistics, 2023). Much of the population remains dependent on the land and sea for food, with approximately 82% of households engaging in at least one subsistence activity (agriculture and forestry, handicraft and home production, livestock and aquaculture, or fishing, hunting and gathering), slightly higher than the national average of 77% (FSM Office of Statistics, Budget, Overseas Development Assistance and Compact Management, 2014).

The FSM is a constitutional democracy, operating at national, state, municipal and traditional levels, with most power delegated to the four states by the national constitution. The State Government of Pohnpei is structurally similar to the FSM National Government with three separate branches of government: executive; legislative, and judicial. The Governor heads the Executive Branch with eight cabinet members heading the main government department and offices. There are also a number of semi-autonomous agencies in place, such as the Environmental Protection Agency, which are headed by Directors or Administrators under the guidance of Boards. The Department of Resource & Development and the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management are both heavily involved in issues relating to biodiversity conservation. The State Government holds jurisdiction over coastal waters up to 12 nautical miles from land. Beyond this, the National government has jurisdiction over the remainder of the EEZ, i.e. from 12 nautical miles to 200 nautical miles from land. Partnerships with traditional leaders and non-government agencies such as The Nature Conservancy and Conservation Society of Pohnpei have also been established to tackle conservation issues.

Systems of land ownership and tenure differ across the four states of the FSM. Land ownership in the FSM is limited to citizens of the FSM only, with land lease terms varying by state (US Department of State, 2017). The traditional culture of Pohnpei, which involves strong land and resource management components, is very much alive today and is still a strong influence on the lifestyles of Pohnpeians. The traditional system still exists within activities observed throughout the year. Despite Pohnpei being the melting pot of the FSM, where people of various races and from islands throughout the FSM reside, Pohnpeian culture remains practiced and respected by the island residents. Several languages are spoken in the FSM but three main languages are native to Pohnpei with three dialects.

Western influence is most evident in the capital city of Kolonia, where all aspects of western life exist. This influence is less striking in rural areas. Nevertheless, traditional conservation and land management practices are now being heavily challenged with the ever-increasing need for money, thus affecting the way people view and deal with land and natural resources.

The FSM experiences a tropical climate, with consistently warm weather driven by the north-east trade winds. The average annual temperature in Pohnpei between 1991 and 2020 was 81.1°F (NOAA NCEI, 2025). There is little variation throughout the year, with the high islands being generally hot and humid. Rainfall across the FSM is generally plentiful, with Pohnpei receiving an annual average of approximately 184 inches based upon 1991–2020 records. (NOAA NCEI, 2025).

The FSM is strongly affected by the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), which has a particularly forceful influence on minimum air temperatures during the wet season (Australian Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO, 2011). El Niño is also associated with reduced rainfall during the dry season. La Niña years are associated with extremely high tides in the FSM, which can lead to seawater inundation of crops and freshwater supplies (Fletcher & Richmond, 2010). The FSM is also vulnerable to extreme weather-related events, particularly typhoons, storm waves, flooding, landslides and drought.

Air and sea surface temperatures in the FSM are increasing, with waters around the FSM warming by approximately 0.11°C per decade in the eastern regions of the country and by 0.8°C per decade in the western regions since 1970 (Australian Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO, 2011). Under a high emissions scenario, temperature increases greater than 2.5°C by 2090 are projected with high confidence for the FSM, with a similar temperature increase projected for the ocean surface (Australian Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO, 2011).

Rainfall data show a decrease in Pohnpei during the May to October period. That being said, historical projections have suggested that annual rainfall may increase across the FSM, somewhere in the range of >5% and >15% by 2090 depending upon the model used and

¹ Where recent, authoritative data were available through established national, regional, or global sources, these have been incorporated. Data sets lacking recent updates retain values from the previous Pohnpei BSAP (2018) to avoid introducing unsupported estimates.

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the specific location within the FSM (Australian Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO, 2011). In terms of extreme weather events, there has been little change in the total number of tropical cyclones, or the number of severe tropical cyclones, in the Northwest Pacific over the past 41 seasons (McGree et al, 2022). A decrease in droughts has been projected, with mild droughts estimated to occur eight to nine times every 20 years by 2030, and severe droughts occurring twice every 20 years by 2030. It is also projected that the number of typhoons will decline (Australian Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO, 2011). It should be considered, however, that periods of drought followed by increasingly intense rainfall are increasing sedimentation run-off and coastal erosion, which in turn impacts essential marine ecosystems, such as seagrass meadows, and in turn marine productivity (Houk et al, 2013).

Of particular importance to the FSM, owing to reliance on near-shore coastal fisheries and the low-lying nature of many of its islands, are ocean acidification and sea level rise. In the case of ocean acidification, this is projected to rise throughout the 21st century resulting in reductions in the available form of calcium carbonate necessary for coral growth (Australian Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO, 2011). As regards sea level, models suggest a rise of approximately 2–6 inches by 2030, and of approximately 8–24 inches by 2090 under a high emissions scenario (Australian Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO, 2011). A 2010 study using the Coastal Module of the integrated Climate Framework for Uncertainty, Negotiation and Distribution assessment model suggested that a 1-meter sea-level rise by 2100 would incur damage costs in excess of 5% of GDP in the FSM (Anthoff et al, 2010).

A number of sectors within the FSM economy are recognized as being vulnerable to climate change, including fisheries, agriculture and tourism (FSM Department of Finance and Administration, 2018). These three sectors are all dependent upon a healthy environment and thriving biodiversity, which are themselves also considered highly vulnerable to climate change (FSM Department of Finance and Administration, 2018).

Pohnpei State Vital Statistics

Geography	
Location	2–8° N, 159–163° E
Number of islands	10 (1 high island + 9 atolls)
Land area	
Forest (including agroforest)	127.6 sq. miles (81, 659 acres)
Non-forest vegetation	7.3 sq. miles (4,654 acres)
Cropland	0.05 sq. miles (29 acres)
Urban (including urban cultivated)	2.2 sq. miles (1,412 acres)
Other (including water)	0.7 sq. miles (424 acres)
Ocean area	> 100,000 sq. miles
Climate	
Annual average temperature (1991–2020)	81.1°F
Annual average rainfall (1991–2020)	184 inches
Demographics	
Population (2021 estimate)	26,102
% of total FSM population	34%
Population density	189 per sq. mile
Economics	
Average annual income (wages)	\$6,987
% households involved in subsistence activity	82%
% contribution to national total household income	50.6%

Part 2: Biodiversity in Pohnpei²

Biodiversity across the FSM is incredibly rich, with FSM recognized as part of the globally important Polynesia-Micronesia biodiversity hotspot (CEPF, 2007).

The waters of the FSM are home to 1,221 species of fish. Of these, 1,070 are associated with the extensive reef system (Froese & Pauly, 2018). In fact, the wider Micronesia region is estimated to contain 4% of the world's coral reefs, with reefs a defining feature of the FSM. The basis of the reefs, the corals themselves, are incredibly diverse in the waters of the FSM, with both soft and hard/stony corals extensively represented. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species lists 436 species of coral in the FSM's waters, 153 of which are considered to be endangered and 26 vulnerable (IUCN, 2025).

The FSM also supports approximately 36.3 sq. miles of mangrove forest across the islands, approximately 21.8 sq. miles of which are in Pohnpei (Donnegan et al, 2011). Indeed, much of the FSM is covered with forests, and Pohnpei is no exception with an estimated 127.6 sq. miles of the islands forested (Donnegan et al, 2011). Upland forest covers 75.5 sq. miles of Pohnpei, with palm forest covering 7.1 sq. miles, swamp forest covering 0.4 sq. miles and agroforest covering 22.8 sq. miles (Donnegan et al, 2011). Cropland accounts for only approximately 29 acres of land in Pohnpei, and areas classified as 'urban cultivated' account for 0.7 sq. miles (Donnegan et al, 2011).

Pohnpei displays high levels of species endemism, being home to forty-seven endemic plant species (Costion & Lorence, 2012). In addition, seven endemic bird species are resident in Pohnpei; the Pohnpei Kingfisher (*Todiramphus reichenbachii*), which is considered to be vulnerable, the Pohnpei Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus rubiginosus*), which is near threatened, the Pohnpei Fantail (*Rhipidura kubaryi*), the Pohnpei Flycatcher (*Myiagra pluto*), the long-billed white-eye (*Rukia longirostra*, which is near threatened), the Pohnpei white-eye (*Zosterops ponapensis*), and the Pohnpei starling (*Aplonis pelzelni*), which is critically endangered (IUCN, 2025).

Of the many environmental threats facing innumerable places on Earth today, including the State of Pohnpei, perhaps none is more serious than the loss of biodiversity – the variety of species, ecosystems, and ecological processes that form the basis for continued life on Earth. The problem of biodiversity loss is so significant and urgent simply because of its irreversibility. Once a species is extinct, it is lost forever. Moreover, because humankind is so dependent on ecosystem services provided by biodiversity, the degradation or loss of habitat and species poses a serious risk to humans. Thus, nurturing the biodiversity of Pohnpei State through maintaining its habitats and ecosystems is vital to ongoing social, economic and cultural development, and to sustaining its rich traditions.

As demand for a consumer lifestyle increases, there are growing pressures on the island's resources that must be managed sustainably for future generations. A coordinated approach to biodiversity conservation through an agreed upon plan can contribute to the overall environmental health of the island. The people of Pohnpei therefore outline below the Pohnpei Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) that should be used in conjunction with the FSM National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), the land use plan and other resource management strategies to address priorities for the conservation and sustainable use of its biological resources.

It is recognized that a number of threats to the biodiversity of Pohnpei, and the entire FSM, exist. These threats, which have been identified at a national level and are relevant to Pohnpei State, are broadly categorized as climate change, environmental conversion and degradation from unsustainable land use, over-exploitation of resources, pollution from solid waste and land-based sources, the proliferation of invasive alien species, and infrastructure development that often proceeds without adequate environmental impact assessments (Kingsford et al., 2009).

In light of these threats, since the introduction of the first Pohnpei BSAP in 2004, significant developments toward comprehensive biodiversity conservation in Pohnpei and throughout the FSM have been undertaken, with a network of strong partnerships having been built between governments at all levels, academic and research institutions, international, regional, national and state-based non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations. The multitude of initiatives that have been undertaken demonstrates the recognition of the importance of biodiversity conservation.

Perhaps the most significant conservation initiative to come about since the initial Pohnpei BSAP was drafted is the establishment of the Micronesia Challenge. In 2006 the FSM, along with the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), developed and committed to the Micronesia Challenge, which had the dual aims of conserving 30% of near-shore resources and 20% of forest resources across Micronesia by 2020. This initiative has now evolved into the more ambitious Micronesia Challenge 2030, with an expanded goal for the “effective management of 50% of marine resources and 30% of terrestrial resources by 2030.” This goal encapsulates the initial conservation goals and sees the incorporation of additional goals related to sustainable livelihoods, fisheries management, and climate resilience (Micronesia Challenge, 2024).

² Where recent, authoritative data were available through established national, regional, or global sources, these have been incorporated. Data sets lacking recent updates retain values from the previous Pohnpei BSAP (2018) to avoid introducing unsupported estimates.

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Recently, the nation has operationalized the Protected Areas Network (NPANPF), which is designed to facilitate the national government's delivery of assistance to its states in the protection of significant areas of biodiversity, key habitats, and other valuable resources. The NPANPF is designed to augment efforts at the state, municipal, and community levels throughout the country to achieve conservation and climate change adaptation goals, which broadly reflect the country's participation in the Micronesia Challenge, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Pohnpei currently has ten marine protected area sites and seven terrestrial (including mangrove) protected area sites in its Protected Areas Network.

In working to achieve the Micronesia Challenge marine and terrestrial targets, government and non-government partners across the FSM have championed the creation of new terrestrial and marine protected areas to support resilient ecosystems, better able to withstand the impacts of climate change and marine protected areas have proven to be one of the best ways to protect diverse and healthy marine ecosystems and coral reef communities. As of January 2022, these efforts have ensured that 6,684 km² (30%) of the marine environment and 96 km² (15%) of the terrestrial environment are under effective management (Micronesia Challenge, 2024). Pohnpei has placed 59% of its marine resources and 20% of its terrestrial resources under effective management (Micronesia Challenge, 2024).

The FSM National and State governments and their numerous partners are also working towards sustainable financing for protected areas. This includes the FSM's Micronesia Challenge Endowment Fund, administered by the MCT and valued at \$6.42M as of January 2024 (Micronesia Challenge, 2024).

Part 3: Background to the Pohnpei Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

Development Process for the Revised Pohnpei BSAP

The Pohnpei BSAP revision process consisted of extensive desk research, in-person consultations, and a subsequent validation process, as described below.

Initial, extensive research was undertaken to provide latest-possible data and information regarding the status of biodiversity within the FSM as a whole, and Pohnpei State, and the pressures it is under.

The Objectives and Actions as defined in the prior Pohnpei BSAP were taken out to consultation, and a multi-stakeholder group was engaged in a three-day workshop to review the BSAP for ongoing relevance, identifying what progress had been made, where additional efforts were needed under current Objectives and Actions, where new actions were required, and what costs might be associated with implementation of individual Actions. These groups comprised officials from State and Municipal governments, regional, state and community NGO representatives, technical experts, scientists, researchers and educators.

In addition to these consultations, a women's focus group was held to ensure that the different interactions with and observations of biodiversity experienced by women in Pohnpei were understood and incorporated into the revised BSAP.

Following this process, all feedback was collated and combined into a revised document. This document was circulated to a select group from the original consultations, who then convened for a further two-day validation workshop.

This process was part of a wider set of consultations undertaken as part of the revision of the FSM National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). The revision of the NBSAP took account of each of the states' revised BSAPs, as well as being consulted upon separately. By following this process, it is intended that the NBSAP and individual state BSAPs are mutually supportive and reflect each other.

Part 4: The Pohnpei State Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

Vision

Pohnpei State will have more extensive, diverse, and higher quality marine, freshwater, and terrestrial ecosystems, providing sustainable resources and benefits to Pohnpei's residents.

Goal

The people of Pohnpei are actively protecting their natural and cultural resources and engaging in livelihoods based on traditional knowledge and modern-day sustainable development practices.

Information presented in this BSAP

The Pohnpei Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan is structured around eight Objectives:

- Objective 1. Develop a 5-year vision for biodiversity in the State of Pohnpei
- Objective 2. Establish and implement a comprehensive Pohnpei State Conservation Area Plan, including the development of a Marine Protected Areas Network and more effective management/enforcement of existing and new marine laws
- Objective 3. Establish effective management of Pohnpei's Watershed Forest Reserve and at least two mangrove reserves, with supporting local and state policies and day-to-day maintenance by local communities
- Objective 4. Address the invasive species problem in Pohnpei State by strengthening biosecurity and controlling and/or eradicating priority invasive species
- Objective 5. Increase awareness on proper (organic and inorganic) waste disposal and recycling, pollution control, fuel and energy reduction/alternatives, including the adoption of at least one model of effective "best practices" management in each of the areas
- Objective 6. Revive, maintain and utilize relevant Traditional Knowledge, which supports biodiversity conservation and improves community leadership and participation in conservation and development plans and initiatives
- Objective 7. Increase conservation funding by mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in government budgets as well as by establishing local/state conservation finance mechanisms and links with MCT and other donor agencies
- Objective 8. Increase biodiversity conservation and enhance the conservation and organizational practices of Pohnpeian organizations working in priority marine, coastal and terrestrial areas, including the development of highly skilled resource managers

Indicators for each Action under these Objectives are identified to support implementation.

Estimated annual costs are provided to achieve each Action. These are based upon the selection of annual funding brackets for each Action through the consultation process. These funding brackets were:

- <\$5,000
- \$5,000–\$25,000
- \$25,000–\$50,000
- \$50,000–\$100,000
- >\$100,000

Costs are defined as 'minimum' as it is understood that many Actions may require funding that far exceeds the \$100,000 value included in the upper cost bracket.

Each cost is identified as requiring 'new' funds, use 'existing' funds, or a 'mix' of new and existing funds.

While specific constraints are noted under each Action, it is acknowledged that limited technical capacity and insufficient or short-term funding remain overarching constraints affecting implementation across all Objectives within the Pohnpei BSAP.

Implementation and Monitoring

Monitoring the implementation of the Pohnpei BSAP is an essential part of ensuring ongoing activity and progress towards its Goals and Objectives. This must be balanced with resource capacity to undertake full-scale monitoring across the entirety of the suite of State BSAPs and NBSAP.

It is the intention that the Pohnpei BSAP will undergo annual reviews (including a mid-term review), will all relevant stakeholders brought together for an in-person consultation to review and update the BSAP as needed. The reviews will be coordinated by the Director of Pohnpei State Department of Resources and Development.

During the review, updates on the Implementation Actions will be provided by Pohnpei State Government agencies, NGOs, Local Governments, and communities and the status of each will be recorded in line with CBD reporting standards (i.e. Achieved / On track to achieve / Progress made but at an insufficient rate / No significant progress / Not applicable / Unknown). Specific information regarding the Action-specific Indicators will be provided by the same stakeholders. Brief progress notes will be recorded along with any challenges faced or delays experienced. Narratives will be developed and included in relation to any course-corrections made as a response to challenges and/or delays.

It is anticipated that monitoring data will be stored by Pohnpei State Department of Resources and Development, Division of Natural Resources Management, with the exception of specific fisheries-related data sets that are held by SPC (Pacific Community). Responsibility for updating monitoring data will lie primarily with Pohnpei State Department of Resources and Development, Division of Natural Resources.

A full review and revision of the BSAP will be undertaken after five years, in 2030. This will follow a similar process of consultations and validation that have been utilised in the current revision. This review will provide an opportunity for major progress, changes or developments to be recorded and considered for inclusion in the next revision of the BSAP and will ensure that all Objectives and Actions remain relevant and reflect the challenges and unmet needs of Pohnpei's biodiversity at that time.

Objective 1. Develop a 5-year vision for biodiversity in the State of Pohnpei

Progress to date

Progress under Objective 1 in Pohnpei shows steady advancement in municipal resource management planning, alongside more limited progress in strengthening formal coordination mechanisms at the state level.

Several municipalities, including Madolenihmw, U, and Kitti, have developed resource management plans and participated in consultations linked to the Pohnpei Strategic Development Plan. Water management planning to address drought has been implemented across municipalities, with plans in place at schools and churches, individual municipal watersheds identified, and wells established or planned, including initiatives supported by external funding.

Progress in re-establishing the Pohnpei Resource Management Committee has been uneven. While efforts have been made to revive the committee and broaden participation across resource management agencies, its operation has remained informal and dependent on leadership support rather than being mandated by law. Coordination between the Resource Management Committee and the Executive Budget Review Committee has not progressed.

Overall, progress reflects strong municipal-level planning activity, contrasted with ongoing challenges in formalizing and sustaining state-level coordination and integration.

Implementation Actions	Action-specific indicators	Estimated annual cost (and type)	Constraints
Continue working with municipalities to ensure a municipal resource management plan is developed for each	Number of annual management plans in place per year	\$5,000–\$25,000 (new)	Local priorities
Initiate re-establishment of the Pohnpei Resource Management Committee (PRMC) through executive order from the Governor, and ensure it has appropriate level of authority with the Lieutenant Governor Chairman by the end of 2026	- Executive order passed to required PRMC by end 2026 - Number of representatives engaged in the PRMC per year	<\$5,000 (new)	- Representative selection - Development of legal status via Governor
Ensure the re-established PRMC works closely with Executive Budget Review Committee (EBRC)	Number of meetings held per year	<\$5,000 (new)	Development of legal requirement via Governor

Objective 2. Establish and implement a comprehensive Pohnpei State Conservation Area Plan, including the development of a Marine Protected Areas Network and more effective management/enforcement of existing and new marine laws

Progress to date

Progress under Objective 2 has been mixed, with several actions achieved or ongoing, alongside a number of activities showing limited or no progress. A Protected Area Network Coordinator was initially recruited in 2022, though the position was later vacated; interim funding is currently being provided by the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT), with longer-term recruitment dependent on enabling state legislation. Awareness-raising activities through the Ahi Mour Ai Pwukoa campaign have been implemented in eight communities across more than 20 villages, although this remains below the target. Annual coral reef monitoring continues to be facilitated by CSP under the Micronesia Challenge framework, contributing to marine biodiversity monitoring efforts. Municipal-wide protected area management plans have been developed for U and Madolenihmw in Kitti, while outer island municipalities have developed their own plans and, in some cases, associated legislation.

Socio-economic monitoring linked to protected areas is undertaken on request, with activities coordinated by MCT and focused primarily on protected area communities. Research and management actions related to climate change resilience have been implemented through specific projects, including aquaculture support, clam translocation from Kosrae, and mangrove and forest restoration in Sokehs, however, no research summaries are being produced, with reporting remaining project-based. Legislative actions have been completed to establish a ban on the Live Reef Fish Trade and to restrict commercial export of reef fish and marine products, although enforcement challenges remain for some species-specific bans and export limits.

Progress has been made toward research to confirm sustainable export levels for certain marine resources, with trochus management plans in place and surveys underway for sea cucumber and clams. Additional fisheries-related legislation has been enacted, including restrictions on monofilament gill nets, with further species-specific regulations under development. Other actions, including legislation on night-time spear fishing, and work to expand mariculture and aquaculture production, show no significant progress or lack available information to assess implementation. Coastal management planning has advanced through the development of the Pohnpei Coastal Conservation Action Plan, which is intended to lead to the preparation of multiple site-specific management plans.

Implementation Actions	Action-specific indicators	Estimated annual cost (and type)	Constraints
Pohnpei State to pass Protected Areas Network Bill	Protected Areas Network Bill pass by end 2026	<\$5,000 (new)	Legislative approval
Protected Areas Network Coordinator role to be made a permanent, State-funded role within Pohnpei Department of Resources & Development, Division of Natural Resources	Post permanently funded by Pohnpei State by 2027	\$25,000–\$50,000 (new)	- Legislative approval - Political will
Continue to implement the Ahi Mour Ahi Pwukoa campaign in at least 50 villages in Pohnpei by 2030, ensuring it encompasses marine health, forest health and management, and waste	Number of new villages engaged per year	\$5,000–\$25,000 (new)	Political will at the municipal/community level
State and other research institutes to collaborate to expand monitoring program to new research sites (to encompass Pohnpei lagoon and outer islands) by 2030	- Record of data collection and surveys undertaken each year - Number of additional monitoring sites included per year	\$25,000–\$50,000 (existing)	- State administration change - Political priorities

Implementation Actions	Action-specific indicators	Estimated annual cost (and type)	Constraints
	• Number of research partners engaged during the BSAP lifecycle • Number of funding sources secured during the BSAP lifecycle		
Complete the Micronesia Protected Area Management Effectiveness (MPAME), or other similar tool, exercise in all existing protected area network sites, to expand and increase management effectiveness, by 2030	• Number of action plans developed under each management plan per year	\$5,000–\$25,000 (new)	• Technical capacity • Community engagement
Continue to use the SEMPASIFICA socio-economic monitoring programs to evaluate and monitor the impact of protected areas on adjacent communities under the new Community Resilience Measure of the Micronesia Challenge	• Number of communities implementing socio-economic measures per year	\$5,000–\$25,000 (new)	• Lack of capacity • Need for training of trainers
Continue to integrate climate change resilience into the Protected Areas Network design process	• Number of integrated plans produced	\$5,000–\$25,000 (new)	• Legislative approval • Researcher compliance
Identify where in the state research data should be deposited and identify key stakeholders by the end of 2027	• Data repository and key stakeholder identified by end 2027	\$5,000–\$25,000 (new)	• Technical infrastructure • Coordination of stakeholders
Review existing research permitting and compliance requirements to ensure mandatory data sharing and repatriation of research findings to state institutions including recommendations for strengthening the mechanism	• Completed Review •	\$5,000–\$25,000 (new)	• Technical capacity
Work towards establishment of export limits on reef fish and marine products	• Meeting minutes to discuss potential export limits • Draft legislation developed	\$50,000–\$100,000 (new)	• Political Will • Enforcement • Compliance • Awareness
Conduct research and assessment to confirm the sustainable export level of sea cucumber by the end of 2027 and clam by 2030	• Assessment on sea cucumber completed by end 2027 • Assessment on clam completed by 2030 •	\$50,000–\$100,000 (new)	• Data limitations • External technical expertise availability

Implementation Actions	Action-specific indicators	Estimated annual cost (and type)	Constraints
Establish and enforce a law prohibiting night spearfishing during the spawning season (January to May), including enforcement at local fish markets.	• Endorsed law to seasonally ban spearfishing night-fishing • Number of violations at markets	\$5,000–\$25,000 (new)	• Political will • Legislative approval • Enforcement • Awareness
Assess the impacts of dredging in Pohnpei and create a map of dredging sites across the island.	• Assessment report producing during the BSAP lifecycle	\$5,000–\$25,000 (new)	• Technical capacity
Continue to conduct annual coral monitoring under the Micronesia Challenge to help inform municipal and state sustainable fisheries management plans	• Monitoring data published annually • Number of municipal and state sustainable fisheries plans utilizing monitoring data per year	\$25,000–\$50,000 (mix)	• Data analysis capacity • Integration of data into management plans
Identify alternative (non-FSM) sources of aggregate by 2030	• Alternative material sources identified and utilized during the BSAP lifecycle	\$5,000–\$25,000 (new)	• Political will
Develop a management action plan encompassing all conservation targets by 2030	• Management action plan developed during the BSAP lifecycle	\$5,000–\$25,000 (new)	• Coordination
Increase the number of aquaculture enterprises by 30% by 2030	• Number of aquaculture businesses operating in Pohnpei per year • Annual percentage growth in number of aquaculture enterprises	>\$100,000 (new)	• Start-up capital • Skilled labour

Objective 3. Establish effective management of Pohnpei's Watershed Forest Reserve and at least two mangrove reserves, with supporting local and state policies and day-to-day maintenance by local communities

Progress to date

Progress to date shows partial and uneven implementation across watershed, monitoring, mapping, and enforcement activities. Watershed Forest Reserve boundary delineation has been completed in Kitti, but certification has not occurred due to limited capacity within the Department of Land, including the availability of a certified land surveyor and the loss of amended coordinates. Changes in land ownership since the 1980s required adjustments to boundary lines. In Nett, boundary delineation remains incomplete, with negotiations ongoing through the Nett Resource Management Committee and no dedicated funding available.

The Grow Low campaign assessment was not completed within the original BSAP timeframe and only began in 2025. Quarterly monitoring of sakau forest clearings has been undertaken by natural resource management staff and community conservation officers. Monitoring reports have been prepared and submitted to the Director of Resources and Development. The watershed law has been enforced to an extent, with Fish and Wildlife meeting with two communities. No new clearings have been observed, although some farmers continue harvesting sakau.

The Pohnpei vegetation map was completed in 2020, with partial LiDAR data collected in 2024. Some forest bird surveys were conducted through the Ridge to Reef project. US Forestry Service reforestation recommendations informed a restoration project in Kitti in 2022, with additional funding approved in August 2025 to continue monitoring and explore replication.

There is currently no dedicated GIS position or repository within R&D.

Implementation Actions	Action-specific indicators	Estimated annual cost (and type)	Constraints
Achieve certification of the updated Kitti watershed demarcation map and undertake community engagement and awareness	• Certification achieved during the BSAP lifecycle • Number of community engagement undertaken per year	\$25,000–\$50,000 (new)	• Dedicated staff member needed
Demarcate the Nett Watershed Forest Reserve (WFR) and conduct community buy-in/behaviour change campaign	• Demarcation achieved during the BSAP lifecycle • Community buy-in campaign conducted during the BSAP lifecycle	>\$100,000 (new)	• Dedicated staff member needed
Assess the impact of the previous Grow Low campaign	• Number of farmers assessed per year • Assessment published during the BSAP lifecycle	>\$100,000 (new)	• Data availability • Farmer engagement
Revive the Grow Low campaign based on the outcome of the campaign assessment	• Grow Low campaign activities commenced during the BSAP lifecycle	>\$100,000 (new)	• Funding for materials • Material availability
Continue quarterly monitoring of sakau forest clearings and provide findings/results to state leaders, enforcement agencies, Municipal Governments and traditional leaders for action	• Number of site visits undertaken per quarter • Number of reports produced per year • Number of violations prosecuted per year	\$5,000–\$25,000 (existing)	• Monitoring resources

Implementation Actions	Action-specific indicators	Estimated annual cost (and type)	Constraints
Work with Pohnpei Fish and Wildlife to enforce the watershed law to prevent sakau growing in the Watershed Forest Reserve	Number of violations prosecuted per year	\$5,000–\$25,000 (mix)	- Enforcement capacity - Political will - Compliance
Continue and expand public awareness on the importance and long-term benefits of the Watershed Forest Reserve by using the Ahi Mour Ahi Pwukoa campaign	- Number of communities engaged per year - Number of community engagement undertaken per year	\$5,000–\$25,000 (new)	Technical capacity
Conduct awareness activities around the Pohnpei Soil Map and the Landslide Hazard Map, and use these in the Ahi Mour Ai Pwukoa campaign	- Number of awareness activities undertaken per year - Number of individuals reached per year	\$5,000–\$25,000 (new)	Complexity of communications
Work with partners to update the current Pohnpei vegetation map and produce physical copies	Completed map published and distributed by end 2027	\$5,000–\$25,000 (existing)	Partner engagement
Undertake forest bird surveys every 2 years	Number of surveys undertaken and reports published during the BSAP lifecycle	\$25,000–\$50,000 (new)	Technical capacity
Develop recommendations on the reforestation of important watershed areas based upon watershed legislation, particularly with native and locally meaningful species	- Number of hectares restored per year - Record of native and locally meaningful species utilised	\$5,000–\$25,000 (existing)	Community engagement and commitment
Continue to work with forestry experts to conduct monitoring on clearing sites, to determine natural reforestation and removal of invasive species	Number of sites monitored per year	\$5,000–\$25,000 (existing)	- Access - Availability of external expertise
Revisit and refresh land-use and zoning plan for the state of Pohnpei	- Sustainable Land Management (SLM) State Action Plan (SAP) (GEF7) - Land-use and zoning plan completed and adopted during the BSAP lifecycle	>\$100,000 (existing)	- Technical capacity - Planning duration
Establish a position at Pohnpei State to manage a GIS repository of key natural resources for protected area management	- GIS-related position created during the BSAP lifecycle - GIS repository developed and maintained during the BSAP lifecycle	\$25,000–\$50,000 (new)	Technical capacity

Implementation Actions	Action-specific indicators	Estimated annual cost (and type)	Constraints
Continue mangrove assessments to help develop a comprehensive Pohnpei mangrove management plan, which will include identification of additional mangrove reserves	• Number of mangrove assessments per year • Number of newly identified mangrove reserves during the BSAP lifecycle	<\$5,000 (existing)	• External funding reliance
Update and strengthen regulations and permitting processes for earthmoving, agricultural, and development activities to better protect marine, freshwater, and drinking water resources.	• Number of updated regulations or permitting processes	\$5,000–\$25,000 (new)	• Coordination • Compliance • Enforcement
Review and strengthen the earth moving Checklist to incorporate requirements from all relevant government agencies, enabling a standardized tool for consistent use across entities	• Earth moving Checklist updated during the BSAP lifecycle	\$5,000–\$25,000 (new)	• Political Will • Coordination
Strengthen coordination and enforcement between government entities starting with EPA and the Department of Land, including through an updated MOU, to ensure effective implementation and monitoring of environmental regulations by the end of 2026	• Memorandum of Understanding signed during the BSAP lifecycle	<\$5,000 (existing)	• Political Will • Coordination

Objective 4. Address the invasive species problem in Pohnpei State by strengthening biosecurity and controlling and/or eradicating priority invasive species

Progress to date

Progress under Objective 4 has been consistent and substantial progress has been made in strengthening invasive species management through implementation of the Invasive Species Taskforce of Pohnpei (iSTOP) Strategic Action Plan (SAP). iSTOP was revised in 2018/2019 and a new SAP endorsed by the Governor in 2024, providing an updated framework for action. Quarantine officers at ports of entry have received national-level training and now manage quarantine operations, with support from Pohnpei State Agriculture. A state-wide survey to identify invasive species was completed in 2021, and invasive species education has been integrated into public awareness campaigns, and through outreach materials (though these need updating to reflect the current situation). An Emergency Response Plan for Invasives identified within the iSTOP SAP was completed in 2023. An Invasive Species Coordinator position has not been created yet, and staffing constraints remain.

Overall, Objective 4 reflects substantial progress in planning, response, education, and monitoring for invasive species management in Pohnpei, with remaining challenges centered on staffing, long-term institutionalization, and full integration of data systems.

Implementation Actions	Action-specific indicators	Estimated annual cost (and type)	Constraints
Improve coordination with the National Government around strengthening quarantine measures and preventing the introduction of invasive species	- Number of meetings, and accompanying minutes, per year - Number of joint proposals written per year - Amount of additional funding secured per year	<\$5,000 (new)	- Political will - Time
Establish a state Invasive Species Act to institutionalize and fund the Invasive Species Taskforce of Pohnpei (iSTOP) by June 2028	Act endorsed and implemented by June 2028	\$5,000–\$25,000 (new)	Technical support
Update invasive and alien species education curriculum with the Invasive Species Taskforce of Pohnpei (iSTOP) by 2030	Updated educational materials, with new targets, in place by 2030	\$5,000–\$25,000 (new)	Technical support
Continue to implement the action items in the iSTOP Strategic Action Plan (SAP)	Annual progress report on SAP achievements	\$50,000 – \$100,000 (new)	- Technical capacity - Sustained funding
Develop response plans for any new invasive and alien species identified in Pohnpei State	Response plans developed as needed during the BSAP lifecycle	\$5,000 – \$25,000 (new)	- Detection - Available expertise
Continue to eradicate and/or control priority invasive species as identified in the Invasive Species Taskforce of Pohnpei (iSTOP) Strategic Action Plan (SAP) by 2030	- Number of field visits undertaken per year - Levels of priority invasive species recorded and monitored annually	\$25,000 – \$50,000 (new)	Sustained capacity
Improve the invasive and alien species database to include geospatial analysis using GIS by the end of 2027	Number of maps produced by end 2027	\$25,000 – \$50,000 (new)	Technical capacity

Implementation Actions	Action-specific indicators	Estimated annual cost (and type)	Constraints
Conduct Pohnpei state-wide (including the outer islands) invasive species survey by 2030	• Survey completed during the BSAP lifecycle • Report published during the BSAP lifecycle	> \$100,000 (new)	• Transportation costs and logistics • Trained personnel

Objective 5. Increase awareness on proper (organic and inorganic) waste disposal and recycling, pollution control, fuel and energy reduction/alternatives, including the adoption of at least one model of effective "best practices" management in each of the areas

Progress to date

Progress under Objective 5 in Pohnpei has been uneven. Some policy measures related to plastic bags and Styrofoam have been implemented or are on track, and limited recycling initiatives exist for specific waste streams. A beverage container recycling program is in place, and some waste reduction actions, such as removal of abandoned vehicles and private clean-up efforts, have occurred.

However, most actions related to solid waste infrastructure, landfill development, hazardous and medical waste management, wastewater and septage systems, composting, and waste-to-energy show little or no progress. Many initiatives remain stalled due to funding, technical, equipment, or regulatory constraints.

Overall, progress under Objective 5 reflects isolated advances in specific waste policies and materials, alongside persistent gaps in comprehensive waste management systems across the state.

Implementation Actions	Action-specific indicators	Estimated annual cost (and type)	Constraints
Design and implement new waste-focused Ahi Mour Ahi Pwukoa campaign	- Number of communities engaged per year - Number of social groups and participants (women's groups, youth groups etc.) engaged in activities per year	\$50,000–\$100,000 (new)	- Engagement - Willingness to change behaviour
Submit and enact the drafted legislation, in coordination with the Attorney General, to deputize authorized staff from EPA, Customs/Tax and Revenue, and R&D to issue citations for littering and other environmental violations	Enacted Bill deputizing expanded government agencies in place	<\$5,000 (existing)	Political will
Develop oil spill and chemical response plan.	Completed plan in place during the BSAP lifecycle	\$50,000–\$100,000 (new)	Technical Capacity
Amend the current recycling law, in coordination with the Attorney General, to expand coverage beyond aluminum cans to include additional recyclable materials (e.g., plastics, glass, and other priority waste streams)	Law amended during the BSAP lifecycle	\$5,000–\$25,000 (new)	Technical Capacity
Continue to implement collection of used batteries	- Expand offshore companies willing to purchase batteries and ship them away from Pohnpei - Inventory of collected batteries in place during the BSAP lifecycle	\$50,000–\$100,000 (new)	- Awareness - Lack of laws and regulations - Health and safety

Implementation Actions	Action-specific indicators	Estimated annual cost (and type)	Constraints
	Assessment on status and disposal of collected batteries undertaken during BSAP lifecycle		
Review and update Pohnpei State Solid Waste Management regulations, including hazardous waste provisions, and the Solid Waste Action Plan; and implement targeted public awareness efforts to strengthen compliance with waste disposal requirements.	- Revised waste management regulations in place during the BSAP lifecycle - Revised Solid Waste Action Plan in place during the BSAP lifecycle - Number of public awareness activities undertaken per year - Number of individuals reached through awareness activities per year	>\$100,000 (new)	- Technical capacity - Public engagement in consultations - Awareness
Continue to sustain youth programs that raise awareness regarding waste management	- Number of youth projects undertaken per year - Number of youths participating in projects per year	\$5,000–\$25,000 (existing)	Youth engagement
Conduct microplastic assessments to inform public awareness on impacts to the marine environment, including evaluating whether commonly used bags are truly biodegradable	- Completed gap assessments published - Communication tools developed to share outcomes with communities	\$50,000–\$100,000 (new)	Technical capacity
Purse the establishment of one new sustainable local handicraft/industry within Pohnpei by 2030	- Number of new sustainable local enterprises begun during the BSAP lifecycle - Annual volume of new materials/products sold per year	>\$100,000 (new)	- Material availability - Equipment
Improve recycling, establish new taxes and/or fees on at least one non-bio-degradable import, and promote the importation of biodegradable products	- Quantity of recyclable materials being shipped out per year - Increase in the number of scheduled recycling ‘payment days’ over time - Amount of new/alternative funding secured to support recycling per year	>\$100,000 (new)	- Available funding sources - Awareness
Segregate all waste and recycling in all government buildings	Number of government building implementing waste segregation during the BSAP lifecycle	\$5,000–\$25,000 (new)	Leadership

Implementation Actions	Action-specific indicators	Estimated annual cost (and type)	Constraints
Reopen the bidding process to procure a qualified contractor to manage the landfill.	Contract awarded and implementation begun during the BSAP lifecycle	>\$100,000 (new)	Available funding source
Update the Solid Waste Action Plan to include actions for rehabilitation of the dump site, including the development of transfer centers, and increase the frequency of waste collection and transport to the dump site for each municipality	- Updated Solid Waste Action Plan during the BSAP lifecycle - Number of transfer centers established during the BSAP lifecycle - Data regarding frequency of collection of waste by municipality over time	\$25,000–\$50,000 (new)	- Land for centers - Vehicle maintenance - Fuel
Continue working to establish a centralized composting program in Pohnpei to decrease green waste in the landfill.	Program established during the BSAP lifecycle	\$50,000–\$100,000 (new)	- Land for the facility - Funding
Update the Solid Waste regulations to include medical waste and prevent health impacts from waste and pollution	Environmental health regulations reviewed and updated as necessary during the BSAP lifecycle	<\$5,000 (new)	- Engagement - Time burden
Endorse and pass a bill that addresses importation and removal of vehicles	- Bill endorsed by legislature during the BSAP lifecycle - Number of vehicles removed per year	>\$100,000 (new)	- Political will - Enforcement
Ensure updated recycling law promotes private businesses that can remove vehicles and heavy machinery for disposal	Number of vehicles removed per year	>\$100,000 (new)	Awareness
Promote dry litter piggery system and maintain equipment to ensure adequate availability of woodchipper machines.	- Number of dry litter piggeries in operation in each municipality per year - Number of households using dry litter piggery compost per year	>\$100,000 (new)	- Equipment - Equipment (woodchipper) maintenance
Convert 20% of pig pens and outhouses to sustainable and/or zero-waste systems	Number of pig pens and outhouse conversions per year	\$50,000–\$100,000 (new)	- Willingness to convert - Equipment (woodchipper) maintenance
Require all new government facilities and infrastructure designed and constructed to be "climate-proof" by the end of 2027	Percentage of all new government building meeting climate-proofing standards by end 2027	\$50,000–\$100,000 (new)	- Technical expertise - Prioritization

Implementation Actions	Action-specific indicators	Estimated annual cost (and type)	Constraints
	• Number of staff trained in climate resilient construction per year		• Donor/contractor standards
Implement action under Pohnpei State Sustainable Develop Plan to create a new climate change division in EPA and hire a climate change and mitigation officer	• Establishment of Climate Change Division at EPA during the BSAP lifecycle • Hiring of Climate Change and Mitigation Officer	>\$100,000 (new)	• Political Will • Funding • Prioritization

Objective 6. Revive, maintain and utilize relevant Traditional Knowledge, which supports biodiversity conservation and improves community leadership and participation in conservation and development plans and initiatives

Progress to date

Progress under this objective in Pohnpei has been mixed, with strong progress in cultural education, traditional knowledge promotion, and community awareness, alongside limited progress in formal documentation and some knowledge integration actions.

Pohnpei Studies, including traditional knowledge and practices, are taught in public elementary and high schools, and cultural weeks are held in schools. Traditional knowledge is shared through radio programming, online resources such as the Pohnpei Dictionary, and public events including Cultural Day, World Food Day, Mangrove Day, and farmer and cultural markets. Promotion of traditional food systems continues through farmer markets, agroforestry initiatives, food demonstrations, and traditional offerings linked to community and chiefly events. Community resource management activities are discussed through Traditional Leadership Council meetings, which now occur on a needs basis.

Some actions show limited or no progress. Information from the Pohnpei Ethnobotany Project has not been integrated into education or outreach due to concerns about data accuracy. Annual biodiversity-related conferences and cross-site visits remain limited. Community resource management plans are in place in several municipalities.

Implementation Actions	Action-specific indicators	Estimated annual cost (and type)	Constraints
Continue to strengthen cultural education, with a strong focus on traditional conservation and resource management practices, in primary and secondary schools as part of Ahi Mour Ahi Pwukoa campaign by 2030	- Number of new activities introduced to schools per year - Assessment of cultural education in schools by 2030	\$25,000 – \$50,000 (new)	- Timetable prioritization - Coordination
Collaborate with National Government to receive support to replicate and expand the Geoliteracy in Micronesia (GEM) project	- Number of new GEM project modules introduced during the BSAP lifecycle - Number of participants in formal and informal programs per year - Feedback from students or communities by program	> \$100,000 (new)	- Technical capacity - Community coordination - Locating/identifying knowledge holders
Continue to strengthen biodiversity messages in traditional knowledge radio programming and communications	- Number of new media products launched per year - Number of impressions on social media posts per quarter	\$25,000 – \$50,000 (new)	Creative capacity
Continue to promote pride in traditional conservation and resource management knowledge/skills, and strengthen integration of	- Number of events held per year - Number of event participants per year	\$50,000 – \$100,000 (mix)	Coordination of information dissemination

Implementation Actions	Action-specific indicators	Estimated annual cost (and type)	Constraints
biodiversity conservation into celebration days and cultural events as part of Ahi Mour Ahi Pwukoa campaign			
Promote the sustainable cultivation and consumption of diverse traditional food crops through a “Grow Local, Eat Local” campaign that encourages the production, availability, and consumption of locally grown foods	• Number of events promoting traditional agricultural products held per year • Number of key traditional agricultural products displayed at each event over time • Number of promotional activities held per year • Number of participants engaged in activities per year	\$25,000 – \$50,000 (new)	• Municipal Government prioritization • Municipal Government fundraising capacity • Behavior Change
Continue to share information with members of the Traditional Leadership Council (Mwoalen Wahuilele en Pohnpei)	• Number and frequency of meetings per year • Number of reports presented to the Council per year	<\$5,000 (new)	• Traditional protocols • Time requirement
Meet with each Municipality (including outer islands) to highlight biodiversity conservation initiatives to Municipal government leaders, Church leaders, Village Chiefs and Mayors annually	• Documentation of annual meetings	\$25,000–\$50,000 (new)	• Prioritization
Replicate the U Municipality resource management model in at least one additional municipality (including outer islands) each year, building on demonstrated success in integrated resource protection and sustainable livelihoods (e.g., aquaculture, agriculture, piggery)	• Number of meetings with other municipalities to share information about U’s planning • Number of integrated plans established	\$25,000–\$50,000 (new)	• Political will • Municipal Government prioritization • Awareness
Continue to support Municipalities and communities to establish resource management plans (fisheries, forestry, etc)	• Number of new plans in place per year	\$5,000–\$25,000 (new)	• Community engagement • Awareness • Capacity

Objective 7. Increase conservation funding by mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in government budgets as well as by establishing local/state conservation finance mechanisms and links with MCT and other donor agencies

Progress to date

Progress under Objective 7 in Pohnpei has been uneven, with some advancement in conservation financing mechanisms and mainstreaming of biodiversity considerations into government processes, alongside limited progress in establishing dedicated funding streams and enforcement mechanisms.

Work toward strengthening conservation financing is ongoing but remains insufficient. Efforts to build a conservation endowment fund continue, with multiple funding sources supporting specific projects. Disbursements under the Protected Areas Network should begin in the coming months. Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into government projects has been achieved, and will continue. Environmental permitting and impact assessment processes are embedded in law and applied across sectors. However, actions to establish fisheries and dredging royalties as a conservation funding source, expand watershed management funds, and create new tax-based conservation financing mechanisms show limited or no progress, with challenges related to legal frameworks, implementation, and stakeholder acceptance.

Enforcement-related actions show limited advancement. While new environmental laws and permitting processes are in place, actions related to penalties for illegal resource exploitation and controls on environmentally harmful imports show little documented progress.

Implementation Actions	Action-specific indicators	Estimated annual cost (and type)	Constraints
Continue working to reach the goal of a \$29 million conservation endowment fund	Oversight Committee established during the BSAP lifecycle	\$50,000 – \$100,000 (new)	- Municipal Government engagement - Finance mechanisms
Support the registration and ongoing compliance of Pohnpei State protected areas under the FSM National Protected Areas Network to facilitate the disbursement of PAN funds to the State	- Number of sites being funded per year - Amount of funding release per year - Fund distribution per municipality per year	> \$100,000 (existing)	Political will at National Government level
Encourage Pohnpei State Government departments to provide financial support to the Conservation Society of Pohnpei	Amount of support provided to the Conservation Society of Pohnpei per year	\$5,000 – \$25,000 (new)	Political will
Assess and, if appropriate, establish broader ecosystem service fee mechanisms, building on existing permit and royalty systems, to support conservation initiatives, while ensuring clear coordination to avoid overlap or conflict (e.g., coral extraction reporting and payment requirements to Pohnpei State).	- Number of fees enacted during BSAP lifecycle - Percentage of fees contributed to conservation initiatives per year	\$25,000 – \$50,000 (new)	- Political will - Enforcement capacity - Legal expertise
Continue to mainstream biodiversity conservation in government projects by 2030	Number of project applications per year	> \$100,000 (new)	Complexity of process

Implementation Actions	Action-specific indicators	Estimated annual cost (and type)	Constraints
	• Number of completed projects mainstreaming biodiversity per year		
Strengthen engagement with bilateral, private, and regional donors to expand conservation funding opportunities by 2030	• Number of project proposals per year • Amount of new and additional funding secured by year • Number of donors engaged per year	>\$100,000 (\$5 million; new)	• Local capacity • Legislative delays
Research and pilot at least one local user/resource fee to finance a conservation fund	• Law to be passed and implemented during the BSAP lifecycle	\$5,000 – \$25,000 (new)	• Political and public resistance • Technical and administrative capacity
Update Earth Moving Permit and regulations to increase fees	• Updated permitting and regulations • Amount of funds collected through permits per year	\$25,000 – \$50,000 (new)	• Stakeholder resistance

Objective 8. Increase biodiversity conservation and enhance the conservation and organizational practices of Pohnpeian organizations working in priority marine, coastal and terrestrial areas, including the development of highly skilled resource managers

Progress to date

Progress under this objective in Pohnpei has been uneven, with activity taking place across education, training, and staffing, while several coordination and institutional actions remain incomplete.

Environmental topics such as climate change, biodiversity, waste, and invasive species have been introduced through school-based activities and partner-led programs, including outreach and practical demonstrations. These activities are occurring, but they are not yet well integrated or consistently embedded within the formal school curriculum. An annual calendar of environmental events has been established, and awareness activities linked to these events include invasive species, water conservation, and climate change outreach, including activities in the outer islands.

Scholarship opportunities for students in resource management and environmental fields are available through multiple state, national, and donor-supported programs, and this action is progressing. Training for conservation and enforcement personnel is ongoing and covers areas such as resource monitoring, fisheries enforcement, protected area management, biosecurity, and species identification. Annual learning exchanges for Community Conservation Officers continue. At the same time, efforts to strengthen institutional coordination have been limited. Actions to formally clarify conservation roles between State and Municipal Governments have not progressed, enforcement staffing has increased but support needs are uncertain, and while municipal police have been deputized, Community Conservation Officers have not been formally deputized.

Overall, progress reflects active but fragmented efforts to build environmental awareness and capacity, alongside persistent gaps in coordination, structure, and long-term institutional support.

Implementation Actions	Action-specific indicators	Estimated annual cost (and type)	Constraints
Work with FSM Department of Education to include climate change, biodiversity, and wider environmental issues within the current school curriculum, ensuring these are contextualized for Pohnpei State and the FSM's unique environment	- Number of schools implementing environmental activities per year - Number of trainings and talks held per year	\$50,000 – \$100,000 (new)	- Transportation costs and logistics - Technical capacity
Continue improving and expanding ongoing environmental education programs, including strengthening the Ahi Mour Ahi Pwukoa campaign to include 'rahnwet, lakapw, oh pal' by 2030	- Number of engagements in communities and schools per year - Number of media spots per year - Development of an overall communications strategy during the BSAP lifecycle	\$25,000 – \$50,000 (mix)	- Identification of champions - Community will - Coordination
Develop an annual calendar of environmental public events, with the responsibility for specific events linked to specific state agencies	- Calendars developed annually - Communication campaign in place during the BSAP lifecycle - Evidence of enhanced coordination within agencies during the BSAP lifecycle	\$25,000 – \$50,000 (existing)	Coordination

Implementation Actions	Action-specific indicators	Estimated annual cost (and type)	Constraints
Provide at least two degree scholarships every year for Pohnpeian students (including those from outer islands) in resource management/environment undergraduate	Number of students receiving scholarships per year	\$50,000 – \$100,000 (existing)	Awareness among potential applicants
Continue to track and hire at least one Pohnpeian resource management/environment graduate every year	Number of Pohnpeian personnel hired per year	< \$5,000 (new)	- Awareness of opportunity among potential applicants - Requirement to apply
Continue to offer 2–4 in-country resource management/environment internships per year to Pohnpeian students at the College of Micronesia in FSM or studying abroad	Number of students and graduates undertaking internships per year	\$50,000 – \$100,000 (mix)	Awareness among potential applicants
Continue to conduct assessments on resource management agencies to determine areas of need/improvement and provide training	- Number of assessments conducted per year - Number of training sessions delivered per year based upon assessment findings	–	- Training capacity - Reliance on external technical support
Continue and utilize the existing Micronesians in Island Conservation program and similar programs to develop the resource management capacity of individuals and institutions	- Number of individuals supported through capacity building programmes per year - Evidence of capacity developments of individuals and organizations	–	Retention of individuals
Continue to provide at least one training course (e.g. monitoring skills, conservation enforcement) per year to all resource managers	Number of people undertaking training per year	\$5,000 – \$25,000 (new)	Coordination of course opportunities
Establish resource management personnel in outer island Municipal Governments	Number of personnel established during the BSAP lifecycle	\$50,000 – \$100,000 (new)	- Political will - Transportation costs and logistics
Continue to carry out training to government and NGO conservation area managers in conservation area planning methodology once per year	- Number of trainings delivered per year - Number of training participants per year	\$25,000 – \$50,000 (new)	- Transportation costs and logistics - Conservation area manager capacity - Reliance on external technical expertise

Implementation Actions	Action-specific indicators	Estimated annual cost (and type)	Constraints
Conduct one Community Action Planning (CAP) workshop or other management planning mechanism for conservation area managers per year	Evidence of annual Community Action Planning workshop	–	- Transportation costs and logistics - Conservation area manager capacity - Reliance on external technical expertise
Continue to support Community Conservation Officers (CCO) program	Number of engagements per year	\$5,000 – \$25,000 (mix)	Funding uncertainty
Establish and implement at least five memoranda of understanding (MOUs) between the State Government and Municipal Governments that clearly delineate management roles of the Municipal Governments on appropriate conservation laws, by 2030	Number of memoranda of understanding signed during the BSAP lifecycle	\$25,000 – \$50,000 (existing)	Political will
Increase capacity of the Division of Fish & Wildlife and provide appropriate resources for conservation enforcement	- Number and description of new resources procured per year - Number of trainings/workshops completed	\$25,000 – \$50,000 (existing)	- Funding sustainability - Appropriate recruitment
Continue to train, and deputize, at least one municipal police and Community Conservation Officers (CCOs) to collaborate with state police in each of the municipalities by the end of 2028	Confirmation of deputization by end 2028	\$5,000 – \$25,000 (mix)	Training capacity

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