



Strengthening and Enabling the Micronesia Challenge 2030
Global Environment Facility (GEF) 7 International Waters Project (IWP)
Implementing Agency: World Wildlife Fund
Executing Agency: Stanford Center for Ocean Solutions
GEF Project ID: 10740

Terms of Reference for the National Project Coordinator in the Republic of the Marshall Islands

Managing Entity: Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA)

A. Background

Micronesia Challenge 2020

In 2006, the leaders of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands committed to effectively conserve at least 30% of the near-shore marine resources and 20% of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020. We now see many of these types of commitments globally but at the time it was made it was, and still is, globally significant as it was a high-level political commitment made by heads of government, and directly addressed the perceived lack of engagement from political leaders in conservation-related efforts across the region.

Micronesia Challenge 2030

During the 24th Micronesia Island Forum in 2019, the Leaders recognized the success in the first 15 years of the Micronesia Challenge and endorsed the new Micronesia Challenge 2030 goals to effectively manage 50% of marine resources, including the exclusive economic zone (EEZ), and 30% of terrestrial resources by 2030. The goal now also includes a larger voice for fisheries management, reducing invasive species, restoring habitats, increasing livelihood opportunities and reducing risks to communities from climate impact in Micronesia (See full MC 2030 target language in Appendix A).

About this project

The Global Environment Facility International Waters project titled “*Strengthening and Enabling the Micronesia Challenge 2030*” builds on the Micronesia Challenge 2030 (MC 2030) conservation, community benefit, and process targets, recognized by MC 2030 partner jurisdictions including the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Republic of Palau, the U.S. Territory of Guam and the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). The project aims to enhance national and regional marine resource management towards the Micronesia Challenge 2030 targets through three Components. The first component focuses on supporting FSM, RMI and Palau as they develop national policies, plans and tools to support national integrated management of marine resources under Micronesia Challenge 2030 targets. The second project component—

implemented through the Micronesia Conservation Trust and the Micronesia Challenge Regional Office—aims to strengthen the capacities, communication, and planning to ensure regional coordination of the MC 2030. The third project component focuses on monitoring and evaluation, knowledge management and communication of knowledge products generated through the project, including through IW:LEARN.

Within the scope of Component 1, each partner nation (RMI, FSM, Palau) will pursue and provide four specific outputs:

- 1.1.1: National policy gap analysis to identify priority pathways for achieving MC 2030 targets on marine protected area planning and coastal fisheries management approaches
- 1.1.2: National working group meetings including key national and regional stakeholders, including the private sector to deliver Output 1.1.3 and 1.1.4
- 1.1.3: National plans, strategies, and policy recommendations to integrate marine protected area planning and fisheries management approaches
- 1.1.4: National Micronesia Challenge 2030 Strategic Plan

The National Project Coordinator will facilitate completion of national activities designated for MIMRA within project component one, act as a liaison for regional activities conducted under project component two, and assist or lead engagement with community or stakeholder members through the remaining duration of the project (through February 28, 2025).

B. National Project Coordinator Job Description

The National Project Coordinator (NPC) will work under the supervision and guidance of the MIMRA Executive Director and the Protected Areas Network (PAN) Coordinator. The NPC shall work closely with the Project Management Unit (PMU) for the full GEF 7 International Waters project, specifically the Project Manager, Finance Manager, and the Project Coordinator (also the Micronesia Challenge Regional Office Coordinator). The NPC shall oversee day-to-day management of the project activities in the RMI and will be responsible to undertake the following:

- **Project Preparation & Implementation**
 - Operational management of the project in RMI, including preparatory work and implementation of the national project activities in accordance with the Project Document¹
 - Preparation of an annual work plan and budget and the successful and timely implementation of the plan to ensure achievement of the project outcomes and deliverables for RMI
 - Organize and manage meetings, including appointments with stakeholders/consultations, logistical arrangements and secretary support
 - Collaborate with the consultant(s) conducting RMI's MC 2030 national policy gap analysis to ensure the study informs the national working group dialogues
 - Facilitate national-level working group dialogues with relevant stakeholders to share information on current challenges and policy recommendations for improved marine ecosystem health and sustainable nearshore fisheries management under the MC 2030

¹https://oceansolutions.stanford.edu/sites/g/files/sbiybj13371/f/10740_wwf_gef_micronesia_prodoc_approved_0.pdf

- Face-to-face consultations (at least 2 per year) with CMAC and other stakeholders, including the private sector
- Virtual monthly meetings (at least 8 per year) with groups and individuals appropriate to progress the work
- Coordinate recruitment of external consultant services to facilitate technical workshops with CMAC members and other key stakeholders to: (i) review and update the Reimaanlok National Conservation Area Plan and Facilitator’s Field Guide, as well as the CMAC Strategic Action Plan and TOR to ensure alignment with the MC 2030 targets; and (ii) develop a National MC 2030 Strategic Plan for the RMI based on the outcome documents from all the national meetings and workshops
- Oversight and supporting implementation of the relevant Gender Action Plan activities in the RMI²
- Procurement of resources as needed through the PAN Office to support working group meetings and activities
- Possible travel within the RMI and outside the country for participation in relevant regional meetings as required
- **Project Monitoring & Evaluation**
 - Conduct periodic assessment of implementation progress towards achieving the intended results and outcomes for the preparation of biannual progress reports
 - Maintain a project calendar to track and monitor each activity and make adjustments as necessary to ensure the successful completion of the project in consultation with MIMRA and PMU
 - Ensure effective coordination and communication with the PMU members, project partners, and other relevant stakeholders with regards to the project activities and updates to support the wider regional monitoring efforts of the project³
 - Participate and provide input as needed for the independent Terminal Evaluations of the project
- **Project Reporting**
 - Provide timely biannual progress reports against the project’s annual workplan and budget
 - Produce a final report reflecting the nature of the work undertaken, methodologies, indicators evaluation of the project, lessons learned and recommendations
 - Engage as a liaison with the other National Project Coordinators in Palau and FSM on updates for learning exchanges and to collectively support other areas of the project where required

Expected Key Deliverables

The National Project Coordinator will be responsible to produce the following deliverables, with the support of MIMRA and PMU:

² For specific guidance regarding gender activities, please review the Gender section of the Project Document which includes the Gender Action Plan (Section 2.5):

https://oceansolutions.stanford.edu/sites/g/files/sbiybj13371/f/10740_wwf_gef_micronesia_prodoc_approved_0.pdf

³ For specific guidance regarding outreach, please review the Stakeholder Engagement Plan:

https://oceansolutions.stanford.edu/sites/g/files/sbiybj13371/f/10740_stakeholder_engagement_plan_2020nov18_0.pdf

Key Deliverables	Timing
Project Work Plan and Budget	Upon commencement and annually
Progress Reports	Every six months
Set of National Policy Recommendations	September 30, 2023
TOR for consultancy work on national strategy documents	October 31, 2023
Final Report	February 28, 2025

C. Preferred Qualifications

- At least five years of experience in managing projects involving natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, or another field with direct relevance to the project, preferably in RMI
- Basic technical understanding of natural resources management
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively with a broad range of stakeholders
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively under close supervision, as well as under minimal supervision
- Superior skills in organization and management, including past experience with planning and supervision of consultants and/or employees
- Experience in report writing, monitoring and evaluation of projects
- Close familiarity with the operations and rules of the GEF is not a requirement but will be viewed with favor
- Excellent writing and speaking skills (English and Marshallese)
- Proven ability to collaborate well and to deliver work in a timely manner

D. Position Duration

The position will be for the remainder of the project duration—through February 28, 2025. A position extension beyond that timeline will be dependent on available funding and mutual agreement of additional work needed. This NPC role is a part-time position.



Appendix A: 24th Micronesia Island Forum Joint Communique – Micronesia Challenge 2030

Micronesia Challenge⁴

The Micronesia Challenge hosted a lunch and made a presentation to Leaders focusing on the challenges facing the Islands in continuing the legacy of the Micronesia Challenge and in extending these original commitments into the future.

The Leaders recognized the enormous accomplishments of members through the Micronesia Challenge initiative and committed to the Micronesia Challenge - MC 2030, which will build on the success and accomplishments of the MC and pursue a collective approach to address critical issues such as sustainable livelihoods, fisheries management, enforcement capacity and climate-related disaster risk reduction and management. These updated targets are aligned with jurisdictional priorities and the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.

The Leaders recognized the tremendous success of the various scholarships supporting students to work on achieving the MC goals, and supported continuing investment in this program.

The Leaders further committed to support the following MC 2030 conservation and community benefit targets:

- ▶ Effectively manage at least 50% of marine resources and 30% of terrestrial resources across Micronesia (linked to SDG Goal 14.5; 15.1);
- ▶ Increase the number of community members within each jurisdiction who are deriving livelihoods, including any type of income or revenue, from sustainably managed natural resources (as determined by MC Measures Working Group) (linked to SDG Goal 14.7);
- ▶ Reduce the risks from climate impacts for communities within flood zones and on low-lying islands (linked to SDG Goal 13.1, 14.2); and
- ▶ Reduce invasive species and increase restoration of habitats (linked to SDG Goal 15.5).

The Leaders also committed to support the following MC 2030 Process Targets:

- ▶ Incorporate regional and jurisdictional fisheries management approaches, integrated with MPAs; (linked to SDG Goal 14.1);
- ▶ Increase local investment by MC governments in sustainable finance mechanisms, such as green fees and endowments to leverage additional external investment to achieve new conservation and community benefit targets;
- ▶ Institutionalize and fully resource the MC Regional Office, including funding for at least three staff (Executive Director, Administrative position and Communications support); and
- ▶ Expand the MC Steering Committee to include two focal points from each jurisdiction, one cabinet-level political designate and one operational / technical designate.

⁴ 24th MIF Joint Communique, Section 8.

