




Building Capacity for Community-based Coral Reef Monitoring in Palau and Micronesia Region



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Palau and other Micronesia Challenge Jurisdictions



A commitment to effectively conserve 30% near-shore marine resources and 20% terrestrial resources by 2020

Why Conserve Coral Reefs?

- Livelihoods
- Way of Life
- Limited Resources
- Fragile Environment
- Food Security
- Tourism Activities
- Threats: over-fishing, water quality, cuts, soil run-off, climate change




Why use Marine Protected Areas?

- Cost effective counter measure to threats
- Many similarities to traditional methods (BUL)
- Likely to be well-received by local communities




Why Monitor MPAs?

- Measure effectiveness
- Management objectives are met
- Management and Monitoring should go hand in hand






PICRC/JICA Project: 3 yr. Technical Collaboration, which aims to develop:

1. A community-based system to support the monitoring of MPA
2. Partnerships between PICRC and international initiatives, five MC Jurisdictions, related organizations and research institutes




Capacity Building

1. States own resources and should do monitoring
2. States currently do not have the capacity
1. PICRC has the capacity to train conservation officers



Steps taken

1. Understand MPA Objectives
2. Determine variables – both ecological and socio-economic
3. Determine monitoring methods/Analyze capacity
4. Select sites
5. Train rangers



Variables:

• Ecological

- Corals/Benthic cover
- Fish
- Macroinvertebrates (sea cucumbers, sea urchins)

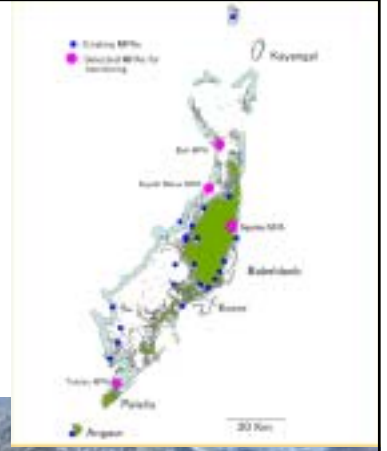
• Socioeconomic

- Buy-in/Change in attitudes
- Stakeholder participation
- Stakeholder change in behavior



Site selection

- Ecological/economic significance
- Willingness to participate



Ecological-monitoring Training

- Fish, seagrass, invertebrates, corals/coral recruits transects
- Sediment Monitoring
- Data Entry
- Development of Monitoring Plans



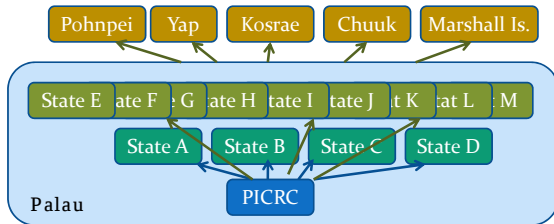
Socio-economic monitoring training

- Household Surveys (structured interviews)
- Key Informant Interviews – gov'n't officials, delegates
- Group Interviews – women's groups, fishermen's groups



Future development

Micronesia



Challenges

- Limited capacity for monitoring
- Quick turnover
- Long term financial and technical support
- Limited pool of human resources

Acknowledgements

- Japan International Cooperation Agency
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- The Nature Conservancy
- Palau State Governments

Thank You