

Federated States of Micronesia - Country Report Updates
Forest Action Plan
FY 2010-2015

Background:

The 2010 Statewide Assessment and Resources Strategy (SWARS) was completed by the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) to meet the requirement of identifying its four States' highest priorities for Forest Resource Management and seek implementation of their strategies with on-island partners and with assistance from the United States Department of Agriculture(USDA) Forest Service(FS)

The FSM SWARS, now called a Forest Action Plan (FAP), is integral to the Forest Service's State and Private Forestry (S&PF) Redesign and required as an amendment to the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act (CFAA) as enacted in the 2008 Farm Bill. Therefore each Island State was required to complete a State Assessment and Resource Strategy within two years after enactment of the 2008 Farm Bill(June 18, 2008) to receive funds under CFFA.

This SWARS includes two components to the assessment and planning required by the S&PF Redesign approach to identify priority forest landscape areas and highlight work needed to address national, regional and state forest management priorities.

- State-Wide Assessment of Forest Resources – provides an analysis of forest conditions and trends in the state and delineate priority rural and urban landscape areas.
- State-Wide Forest Strategy –provides long term strategies for investing state, federal and other resources to manage priority landscape in identifying in the assessment, focusing where federal investment can most effectively stimulate or leverage desired action and engage multiple partners.

FSM SWARS proves a basis for subsequent annual grant proposals, as authorized under several CFFA programs. The Redesign deemphasized program by program planning and emphasizes program integration to meet island priorities, which are in turn tied to one to one or more broad national themes and objective. This program was developed with inputs from members of the Forest Stewardship and Urban Community Forestry advisory council in the four States of FSM.

FSM 2015 addendum serves as a good record of activities taken by all FSM partners to address strategic actions taken as part of the FSM Forest Action Plan (FAP) 2010-2015 and will be updating annually as requires.

This SWARS will be regularly monitored quarterly/ annually in accordance with annual consolidated and /or competitive grant cycles on reporting procedure. Note that the FSM Forestry Agency (Department of Resources and Development) is the lead agency for State Forester, Forest Legacy, Fire and other roles and programs.

FSM National Themes and Objectives:

US National Themes	FSM Issues	Relevant FSM SDP Sector Goals
1. Conserve , and Manage Working Forest Landscapes for multiple value and uses	1. Food security (agro forest) in response to climate change impacts	<u>Agriculture Sector Strategic Goal 1:</u> A well resourced and properly focused agriculture sector operating within a stable and consistent policy framework
1.1. Identify and conserve high priority forest ecosystems and landscapes		<u>Agriculture Sector Strategic Goal 2:</u> Increase production of traditional farming systems for home nutritional and traditional needs and cash incomes
1.2. Actively and sustainably manage forests	2. Coastal stabilization (strand forest and mangrove forest) in response to climate change impacts	<u>Agriculture Sector Strategic Goal 3:</u> Increased volumes of saleable surpluses to be marketed by the private sector into local and regional markets
2. Protect Forests from Threats		<u>Agriculture Sector Strategic Goal 4:</u> Promote environmentally sound and sustainable production.
2.1. Restore fire-adapted lands and reduce risk of wildfire impacts	3. Biodiversity conservation (relates to Forest Legacy, invasive species control, protected areas management, gap analysis, etc.)	<u>Environment Sector Strategic Goal 1:</u> Mainstream environmental considerations, including climate change, into national policy and planning as well as in all economic development activities
2.2. Identify, manage, and reduce threats to forest and ecosystem health		<u>Environment Sector Strategic Goal 3:</u> Reduce energy use and convert to renewable energy sources / Minimize emission of greenhouse Gases
3. Enhance Public Benefits from Trees and Forests	4. Watersheds (high islands)	<u>Environment Sector Strategic Goal 4:</u> Enhance the benefits of sustainable use of the FSM's genetic resources and ensure benefits derived are fairly shared amongst stakeholders
3.1. Protect and enhance water quality and quantity	5. Production and sustainable harvesting of forests	<u>Environment Sector Strategic Goal 5:</u> Manage and Protect the Nation's Natural Environment/Protect, conserve, and sustainably manage a full and functional representation of the FSM's marine, freshwater, and terrestrial ecosystems
3.2. Improve air quality and conserve energy	6. Urban and community forestry (utilities cooperators, hazard trees, arboriculture)	<u>Environment Sector Strategic Goal 6:</u> Improve environmental awareness and education and increase involvement of citizenry of the FSM in conserving their country's natural resources
3.3. Assist communities in planning for and reducing forest health and wildfire risks	7. Capacity-building – overall (recruiting new generation of natural resource managers)	<u>Environment Sector Strategic Goal 7:</u> Establish effective biosecurity (border control, quarantine and eradication) programs to effectively protect the FSM's biodiversity from impacts of alien invasive species
3.4. Maintain and enhance the economic benefits and values of trees and forests		<u>Environment Sector Strategic Goal 9:</u> Enhance and Employ In-Country Technical Capacity to Support Environmental Programs
3.5. Protect, conserve, and enhance wildlife and fish habitat		
3.6. Connect people to trees and forests, and engage them in environmental stewardship activities		
3.7. Manage and restore trees and forests to mitigate and adapt to global climate change		

Issue (s) Addresses:

FSM States Issues and Ranking of Priority Areas – As original ranking

Chuuk	Kosrae	Pohnpei	Yap
1.Food Security	1. Biodiversity	1.Watershed	1.Food Security
2.Coastal Stabilization	2.Coastal Stabilization	2.Food Security	2.Biodiversity
3.Biodiversity	3.Watershed	3.Biodiversity	3.Watershed
4. Watershed	4.Food Security	4. Coastal Stabilization	4.Production & Sustainable Harvesting
5. Production & Sustainable Harvesting	5. Production & Sustainable Harvesting	5.Production & Sustainable Harvesting	5. Urban Community
6. Urban Community	6.Urban Community	6.Urban Community	6. Coastal Stabilization
7.Capacity building	7.Capacity building	7.Capacity building	7. Capacity building

FSM 7 identified cross cutting issues:

1. Food Security
2. Watershed
3. Production & Sustainable harvesting
4. Coastal stabilization
5. Urban community
6. Biodiversity
7. Capacity building

Action taken 2010-2015

Conserve and Manage Working Forest Landscapes for Multiple Values and uses

1. Continue easement in place to protect the Alik tract of Yela Forest (Kosrae)
2. Micronesia Challenges areas identified and designated in all states (Yap, Pohnpei, Chuuk and Kosrae)
3. Protected Area Network (PAN) Legislation completed and passed in Pohnpei and Kosrae
4. Continue to work with Community Rangers in protecting watershed areas in Pohnpei, Kosrae, and Yap

Protect Forest from Threats:

1. All four States have a Invasive Species Task Force to coordinate on eradicating/controlling/managing invasive species issues
2. The respective State Invasive Species Task Force - Pohnpei I-STOP, Chuuk CITF, Yap YISP, and Kosrae KIST - just completed training on *Phellinus noxious* on how to control and prevent from spreading by Mr. Phil Cannon in all 4 State islands
3. Work done for Little Fire Ant completed – Draft action plan submitted
4. Little Fire Ant training has conducted in Guam and FSM Quarantine officers for each state attended
5. Established over 11 fire breaks by planting nearly 12,000 trees within the Yap State municipalities of Maap, Rumuung and Tomil (see additional description of entire project including community involvement, under “Enhance...”)

Enhance Public Benefits from Trees and Forests

1. Each States have Task Force to enforce invasive species issue
2. All four island States was fortunate to have USFS visit on *Phellinus noxious* training on how to control or prevent from spreading; assessment was given to take action by Phil Cannon to control the fungus.
3. Watershed based approach to food security and sustaining biodiversity” competitive grant nearly completed in Yap, analyzing effects of sea level rise on coastal agroforestry (taro), and implementing community-based projects to adapt to changes in sea level and rainfall changes about to end with final report.
4. Planning completed for Forest Inventory Analysis (FIA) to be conducted in 2016
5. Planning completed for Agricultural Census (agroforestry) to be conducted in 2016
6. Completed evaluation phase of 2008-2010 Professional Internships in Pacific Terrestrial Island Ecosystem Management (PIPTIEM1) and established cooperative agreements to support PIPTIEM2 for training and continuing education completed.
7. Capacity training in arborist training and grants management training completed in Guam where Chuuk, Yap, Pohnpei and Kosrae State Forestry staff attended both trainings
8. Yap’s funding received through the State Fire Assistance Grant Program, USDA, Forest Service, Fire and Aviation Management
Goals of the grant/program are to:
 - Communities develop fire breaks on fire prone savannah sites using both low fuel zones and shaded fuel break (sites chosen by history of repeated burnings, remoteness to fire station and willingness of community involvement)

- Increase fire prevention education programs and materials for agencies, schools, and village members that will increase the understanding and support for forestry and fire prevention activities.
- Recruit college level student into program by hiring an intern, creating incentive for students to receive degrees in forestry or further training in wildfire management

Yap fire-related Accomplishments:

- Over the past few years Yap State has:
 - Received a fire truck with the grant funding to help suppress wildfires.
 - Established over 11 fire breaks by planting nearly 12,000 trees within the municipalities of Maap, Rumuung and Tomil.
 - Distributed awareness materials during Yap’s annual cycle of eco-events
 - Administered an elementary school outreach program.
 - Presented wildfire awareness programs to interested communities.
 - Hired four college level interns to assist in the implementation of the project.
- Community Wildfire Suppression Training (USFS Training)
 - Tomil Municipality had developed a Community Wildfire Protection Plan within the last 5 years. This past year they established fire breaks within their fire prone savannah site. The next step to their wildfire program was to enable the community to better manage their wildfires once they occur.
 - Conducted a two day workshop on basic wildfire suppression techniques with Tomil Municipality.
 - Basic techniques explained and training exercises performed by the community and Yap Division of Public Safety.
 - Tools were given to the community to assist with fire suppression.
 - Community “Captains” were chosen to ensure that the training is an ongoing activity once the USFS Team has left Yap.
 - Over 37 community members joined the training.
 - This workshop was done in collaboration with US Forest Service Fire and Aviation Management, Tomil Municipality, Yap Division of Agriculture and Forestry and Yap Division of Public Safety (Fire Department).

2010 FAP Implementation Challenges Discovered Over Last 5 Years:

1. Land tenure system set up difference in each state
2. Not adequate information on allowable sustainable harvesting
3. Capacity development-Technical assistance
4. Unsustainable harvesting
5. Do not have genuine program with the appropriate extension-Limited capacity in carrying out appropriate activities related to Forestry program
6. Forest product development
7. Current high resolution aerial and satellite imagery obtained for USDA NRCS Office in Pohnpei
8. Communication
9. Funding not adequate to support implement FAP
10. To retain people on board to assist
11. Seasonal storm events can escalate to state of emergency incident (e.g. 2015 Typhoon Maysak) and subsequent state and national declarations triggers multiple agency rapid response to these incidents and shift focus of these multiple national and state resource agencies through

rehabilitation efforts, thus delaying forest management actions as experienced by Chuuk and Yap State

FAP Implementation Focus for the Next Five Years (2015-2020):

1. Continue to work with States and partners with improving coordination
2. Increase and improve data collection from 2016 FSM Integrated Agriculture Census
3. Nurseries need to be kept organized with good maintenance
4. Continue to conduct outreach in the communities and school where needed
5. Need coordinator to handle forestry work in the FSM Department of Resources and Development
6. Need good dedicated personnel in the forestry field
7. Further discussion of challenges, priorities and plan to update the FAP (SWARS) during Cooperative Forestry Assistance review, February 2016
8. Need a plan to expand the Forest Legacy Assessment of Need in other sister islands

Data Needs or New Issues Revealed Since 2010 FAP Was Completed

1. New Vegetation Maps will be needed for the 2020 update
2. Utilizing the 2016 FSM Integrated Agriculture Census information to develop 'inventory' by tree species (working with national statistics office)
3. Digital Elevation Map Data for FSM
4. High Priority Invasive Species Distribution
5. Climate Change Impacts to Forest Resources