



Micronesia Challenge

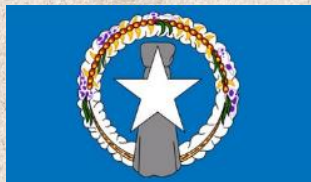
U.S. Coral Reef Task Force
September 23, 2016

Evangeline Lujan
Guam Focal Point

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MICRONESIA
A Campaign to Conserve Our Shared Resources

What is the Micronesia Challenge?

The Micronesia Challenge is a shared commitment to conserve at least 30% of near-shore marine resources and 20% of terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020.



Why the Micronesia Challenge?

Unique cultures and geography

500,000 people

2,000 islands

12 languages



Global rarities

2 World Heritage Sites

3 Ramsar Wetlands

3 Biosphere Reserves

53 IUCN-listed
threatened species



Spectacular biodiversity

1,500 plant species

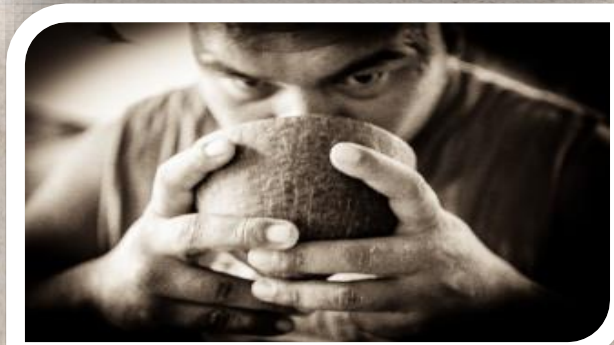
1,300 fish species

535 coral species



What are the Goals of the Micronesia Challenge ?

- Sustain our unique island biodiversity;
- Ensure a healthy future for our island people;
- Protect our unique island cultures;
- Guard the foundations of our future development, our pristine island environments;
- Sustain the livelihoods of our island communities;
- Contribute to global and national targets



History of the MC

- 2004 International community commits to Protected Areas (CBD COP 7, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia)
- 2005 **Palau invites chief executives from the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, the Marshall Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands to join the Micronesia Challenge (MC), effectively conserving at least 30% of the near-shore marine resources and 20% of terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020, at the 12th US Coral Reef Task Force Meeting (Palau)**
- 2006 **Leaders from all five MC jurisdictions sign Micronesia Challenge declaration
1st MC Regional Action Planning meeting (Palau)**
- 2007 **Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) selected as the institution to house the MC endowment**
MC leaders engage the US and others during the Pacific Island Conference of Leaders (Washington, DC)
The Association of Pacific Island Legislators endorses the MC, further cementing the commitment of the region to supporting the Challenge
- 2008 1st Micronesia Challenge Regional Coordinator hired and MC Regional Office established (Palau)
- 2009 3rd Regional Planning Meeting - Climate Change & the Micronesia Challenge: Ways Forward in Collaboration & Draft Sustainable Finance Plans developed for CNMI, Guam, and RMI
- 2010 GEF Project Document entitled Micronesia Challenge: Sustainable Finance: Systems for Island Protected Area Management submitted and approved for \$6M
Achievements of islands since the launch of the Micronesia and Caribbean Challenges at COP 8 and COP 9 showcased • **MC officially endorsed by US Coral Reef Task Force at their 24th meeting (held in Guam, CNMI, and FSM)**
- 2011 Community based climate change adaptation toolkit developed by the Pacific Islands Managed and Protected Areas Community, Micronesia Conservation Trust, and TNC
Resolution to establish a region-wide Micronesia Shark Sanctuary endorsed at 15th Micronesian Chief Executives Summit
Monthly digital MC newsletter launched
- 2012 MC Communications Plans completed for local jurisdictions
MC featured as a plenary panel at the 27th Pacific Islands Environment Conference held in Guam
- 2013 **Rare Micronesia Cohort featuring 11 Pride Campaigns to support the MC launched**
Publication of “Indicators for Monitoring Social Impacts of the Micronesia Challenge: An Addendum to SEM-Pasifika Regional Socioeconomic Monitoring Guidelines”



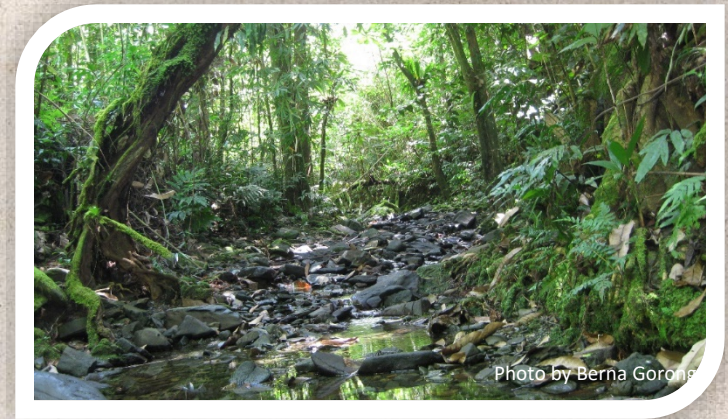
MC Coordination

- MC Jurisdiction Chief Executives
- MC Regional Office (MCRO)
 - Regional Steering Committee
 - 5 Focal Points, MCT, TNC
 - Regional Coordinator
- Micronesia Conservation Trust
 - Sustainable finance/Endowment
 - Bill Raynor MC Scholarship
- MC Young Champions
 - 1 currently in Chuuk
- 3 MC Working Groups
 - Measures (Marine, Terrestrial, SEM)
 - Support Team
 - Communications
- Partner Networks
 - GLISPA
 - MIC
 - PIMPAC
 - LMMA



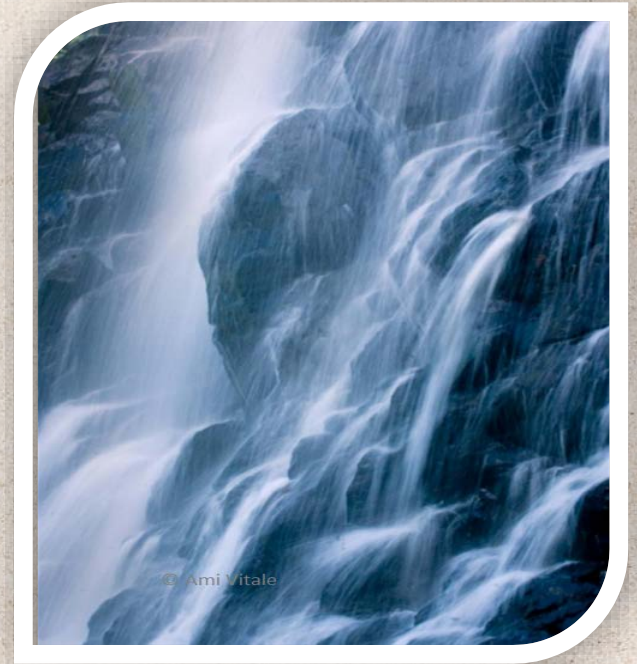
Measuring the Challenge

- MC Measures group core members from each jurisdiction
- Measures ‘Scorecards’ in progress
- Terrestrial monitoring being strengthened utilizing USFS FIA methodology
- Socio-economic monitoring surveys conducted, human wellbeing indicators being defined, data analysis capacity building
- New marine database
- MPAME tool utilized to monitor protected area management effectiveness



Our Progress

- Partnership with the Micronesia Regional Invasive Species Council (RISC)
- Inspired over 20 young conservation champions
- Inspired other regional conservation challenges such as the Western India Ocean, Caribbean, Coral Triangle, the Two Samoas, and the Aloha + Challenge
- Bill Raynor MC Scholarship



Our Progress

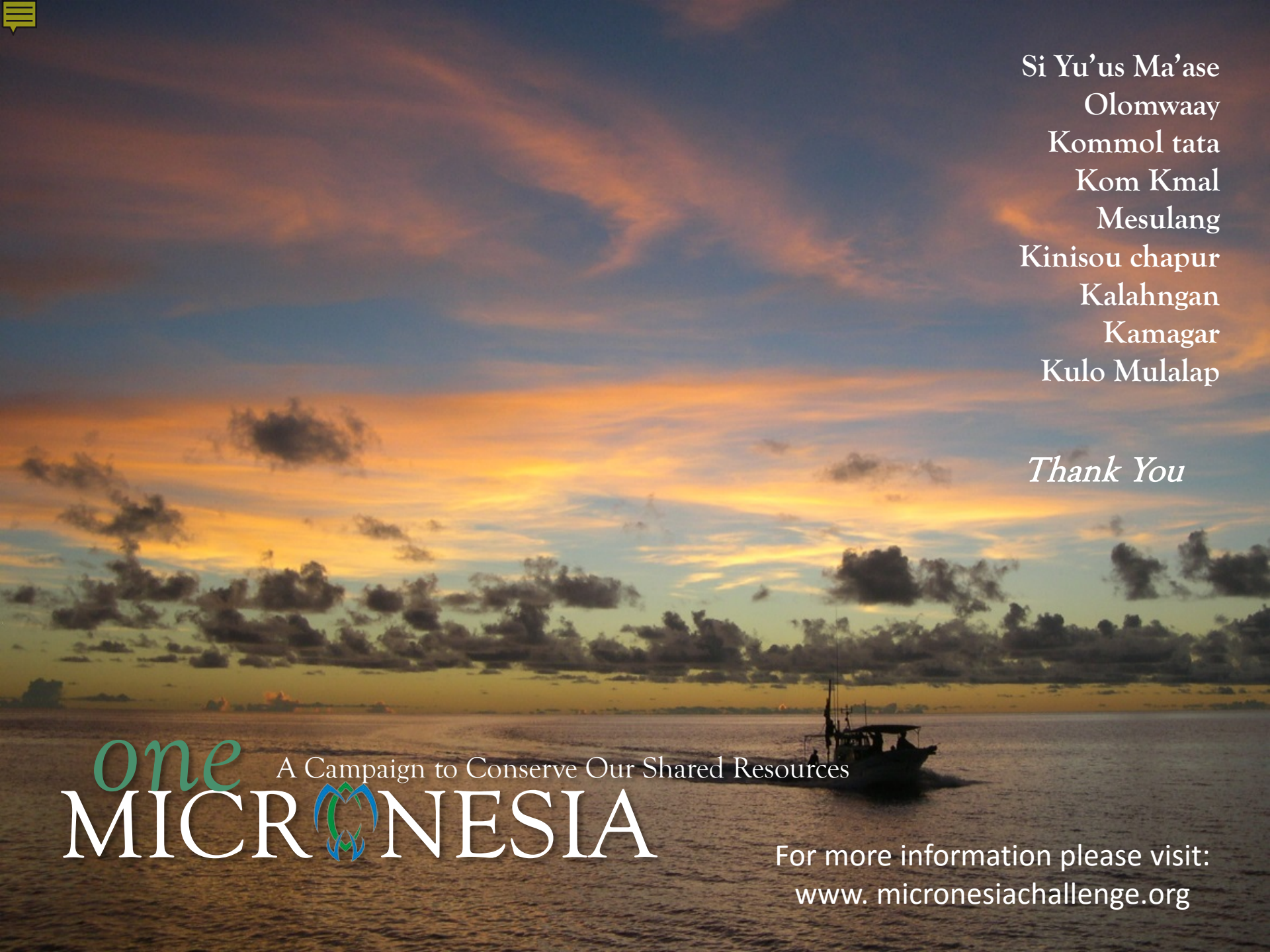
- Setting and meeting MC conservation targets
- Completed phase 1 of sustainable financing plan
- Protection of sharks and whales in all its waters
- Leveraged over \$20 million across the MC jurisdictions in non-endowment funding



Partners and Supporters

Micronesia Conservation Trust	German International Climate Initiative	Conservation Strategy Fund
The Nature Conservancy	The Government of Turkey	Micronesian Image Institute
Conservation International	Japan International Cooperation Agency	OneReef
Global Island Partnership	Australia Agency for International Development	Marianas Islands Nature Alliance
Global Environment Facility (GEF)	New Zealand Aid Programme	Pacific Marine Resources Institute
GEF Small Grants Programme	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme	Micronesians in Island Conservation
UN Environment Programme	Secretariat of the Pacific Community	New York Botanical Garden
UN Development Programme	The David & Lucile Packard Foundation	Palau International Coral Reef Center
US Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	Palau Conservation Society
US Department of State	The Margaret A. Cargill Foundation	Palau Community College
US National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration	The Pew Charitable Trusts	Helen Reef Resource Management Program
US Fish and Wildlife Services	Global Green Grants	Yap Community Action Program
US Environmental Protection Agency	Seacology	Chuuk Conservation Society
US Forest Service	Pacific Islands Managed and Protected Areas Community	Conservation Society of Pohnpei
EU Conservation and Environmental Protection Programme	Island Conservation	Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization
EU Global Climate Change Alliance	RARE	Yela Environment Landowners Authority
German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety	SeaWeb	Kaday Community and Cultural Development Organization
		College of Marshall Islands



A sunset over the ocean with a boat in the distance. The sky is filled with colorful clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and blue. The water is dark and calm. A small boat is visible on the horizon, moving towards the right.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Olomwaay
Kommol tata
Kom Kmal
Mesulang
Kinisou chapur
Kalahngan
Kamagar
Kulo Mulalap

Thank You

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MICRONESIA

For more information please visit:
www.micronesiachallenge.org