



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

Celebrating Five Years of Success

Launched in 2006, the Micronesia Challenge (MC) calls for the effective management of the natural resources on which all Micronesians depend for a healthy future, to protect our unique island cultures, and sustain livelihoods. In the past five years, we have made substantial progress including the establishment or strengthening of 190 protected areas covering over 683,310 hectares, leveraging over \$15 million in support of the MC, including an endowment that currently stands at \$8.5 million, identified 12 regional measures of success, and mentored over twenty Young Champions.



The Micronesia Challenge spans
2.5 million square miles of ocean,
an area nearly the size of the continental U.S.
that supports the livelihoods of

650,000 people

and protects:

66 threatened species on the IUCN Red List

480+ coral species

1,300+ reef fish species

85 birds species

1,400 plant species



Leveraging the Challenge

The Micronesia Challenge has served to leverage several regional opportunities including:

- The world's first Regional Shark Sanctuary
- A Micronesia Biosecurity Plan to address the risk of spread of invasive species
- Young Champions Internship Program
- German Lifeweb Support for community-based climate adaptation and resilience
- Multi-year NOAA Partnership Agreements for coral reef conservation
- RARE Pride Social Marketing Campaigns to create local support and participation for the MC

The Micronesia Challenge Steering Committee has been presenting updates at the Micronesia Chief Executives Summit (MCES) since 2006, and formally became a working group for the MCES in 2008.

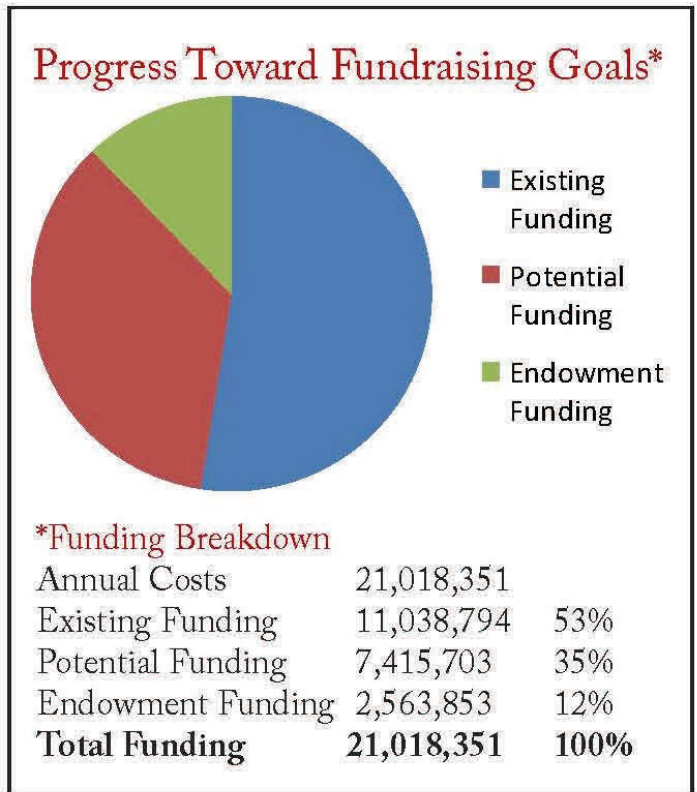
Micronesia Challenge Steering Committee Members:

Evangeline Lujan, Guam, Chair | Alissa Takesy, FSM, Vice-Chair | Yumiko Crisostomo, RMI, Secretary
Fran Castro, CNMI | Sebastian Marino, Palau | Willy Kostka, MCT | Trina Leberer, TNC

Sustainably Financing the MC

The Regional Micronesia Challenge Sustainable Financing Plan calls for a \$58M endowment that will result in supplemental interest income for implementation of the MC including effective management of protected areas, watershed restoration, communication and outreach, enforcement, and monitoring. The organizations that comprise the MC have already identified potential sources for nearly 90% of that target. The Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) was selected to house the MC endowment by the Chief Executives.

MCT is also working with the other jurisdictions to establish internal income generating mechanisms like that of Palau's Protect Areas Network Fund ("Green Fee"). Guam and CNMI are hoping to establish a tourism fee similar to that of Palau. Because RMI and FSM do not get as many tourists, they are looking at establishing mechanisms that will involve fees collected from the tuna industry. MCT, and other regional partners such as The Nature Conservancy (TNC) will continue to assist the jurisdictions with developing grants to continue supporting ongoing activities and other needs of the MC.



Next Steps

The MC Steering Committee is seeking the support of the Chief Executives for the following next steps:

- Continued prioritization of the Micronesia Challenge at the MCES
- Endorsement and implementation of the Regional Micronesia Challenge Sustainable Finance Plan
- Maintain profile of the Micronesia Challenge as a leading global initiative in international forums
- Piloting climate finance dissemination through the Micronesia Challenge framework

Supporters of the Micronesia Challenge

Global Island Partnership; German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Japan International Cooperation Agency, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety; the Government of Turkey; the Global Environment Facility; the David and Lucile Packard Foundation; the Micronesia Conservation Trust; U.S. Department of the Interior; U.S. Department of Commerce—National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; United Nations Environment Programme; United Nations Development Programme; The Nature Conservancy; Conservation International; RARE; SeaWeb; the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and Anonymous Private Donors.

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