



GEO WEEK 2019
PACIFIC ISLAND PROGRAM
4-7 November 2019

Mangrove Ecosystems in Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

7.30am-8.30am, Wednesday 6th November 2019
Executive Room, National Convention Centre

Summary:

Mangrove forests on the island of Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), are at risk from climate change, and the lack of areas for the mangroves to migrate to in response to sea level rise.

This event highlights ongoing work by a number of partners to produce scientific evidence (including an island wide vulnerability assessment and a climate model) paired with local knowledge of the vulnerability and resilience of the mangrove forests to support the identification and implementation of viable management options for increasing mangrove resilience for the people and communities that rely on them.

Session at a Glance:

Time	Item	Speakers
7.30am	Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledgement to Country, Ms Emma Luke, Geoscience Australia
7.35am	<i>Introductions to:</i>	
	Pohnpei, Micronesia the region and climate change affects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jasmine Mendiola, Rare.org and Micronesia Conservation Trust, FSM
	The importance of Mangrove systems in the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate Professor Joanna Ellison, Discipline of Geography and Spatial Sciences, School of Technology Environments and Design, University of Tasmania, Australia
	EO in the Micronesian Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Snyther Biza, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management, FSM
	The overall "Pohnpei Pilot Project"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Tamara Greenstone-Alefaio, Conservation Program Manager, Micronesia Conservation Trust
7.50am	Technology/best practices/outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A/ Prof. Joanna Ellison and Ms Maybeleen Apwong, Field and Data Technician, the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii
8.00am	Vulnerability assessment and modelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A/ Prof. Joanna Ellison
8.10am	<i>Discussion:</i>	
	Capacity building aspect of *project name* (above ground biomass training/Maybeleen's continued engagement)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Maybeleen Apwong, Field and Data Technician
	How the outcomes of Pohnpei Pilot Project will be used by government, NGO's and communities in Pohnpei for their wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Tamara Greenstone-Alefaio, Conservation Program Manager, Micronesia Conservation Trust
8.30am	Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms Tamara Greenstone-Alefaio, Micronesia Conservation Trust

DRAFT PROGRAMME SUBJECT TO CHANGE

The Presenters



Ms. Tamara Greenstone-Alefaio,
Conservation Program Manager,
Micronesia Conservation Trust

Tamara has lived in the Micronesia region (the Marshall Islands and Pohnpei) for almost 20 years. Tamara has been working at the Micronesia Conservation Trust since 2016 where she manages the Conservation Program. She and the MCT team acquire and manage international and regional donor grants issuing subgrants to local NGOs and communities ensuring that conservation and climate finance can be accessed where it is needed the most. MCT also offers technical support to partners across the region as part of a shared commitment to the Micronesia Challenge. MCT is the smallest entity in the world to be accredited by both the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund.



Mr. Synther Biza,
GIS and Data Officer at the
Federated States of Micronesia
National Government with the
Department of Environment, Climate
Change and Emergency
Management.

Native of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Mr. Synther Biza, based on his education at the College of Micronesia-FSM and in

Australia, has become an expert in GIS, and a college-level professor in mathematics and related disciplines for more than ten years. Upon completion of his MA at UQ in Brisbane, Australia, Synther became a faculty member of mathematics and basic GIS with the Mathematics and Sciences division at the College of Micronesia-FSM. During his college tenure from 2008 to early 2019, Synther also became one of the GIS consultants and a geospatial trainer for FSM's national projects that requires geospatial capacity development. Several of these projects include FSM's state-wide assessment and resources strategies, FSM's states important forest resource areas mapping, and FSM's climate change impacts projections using sea-level rise modelling. During his free time, Synther spends time with his family, and on occasions, he can be found on his 19-foot motorboat, out fishing with his fishing mates.



Ms. Maybeleen Apwong,
Field and Data Technician, Research
Corporation of the University of
Hawaii



Associate Professor Joanna Ellison,
University of Tasmania, Australia

Originally from the Cayman Islands which has lots of mangroves, Joanna became a Pacific islands mangrove expert to try help research needs. She is based in Australia's island state, at the University of Tasmania, since 1998. She was Chief Scientist for WWF-UNEP GEF funded research developing mangrove climate change vulnerability assessment methods 2007-2012, and has been helping Pohnpei with mangrove resilience building since 2016.



Jasmine Mendiola

Ms. Jasmine Mendiola is the Senior Program Implementation Manager at Rare.org for the Micronesian region covering the FSM, Palau and Marshall Islands. Rare is an international conservation organization that concentrates on behavior change to support conservation efforts and sustainable management, in partnership with the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT). Descendent of the Dipwinmen Clan and native woman of the island of Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia, Jasmine Mendiola grew up in a naturally rich environment – where water was never scarce, where green is everywhere and where fish was

abundant. Mendiola pursued both her interests – social and natural sciences – at the College of Micronesia. She has worked at the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and the Australian Embassy in Pohnpei. For over five years Mendiola was the Assistant Director to the Marine and Environmental Research Institute of Pohnpei (MERIP), a local NGO focusing on improving livelihoods through sustainable aquaculture. Simultaneously, Mendiola occupied a few part-time roles assisting the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL) organization and serving as the FSM Fisheries Ambassador; even working short-term contracts with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations as a National Aquaculture Consultant. Mendiola serves in the civic society advising and supporting environmental NGO's and several youth groups, and holds high responsibility in her extended family unit and her community.