

STATE OF THE PACIFIC

A scenic view of a tropical island with lush green vegetation and turquoise water. The island is covered in dense, vibrant green trees and shrubs, extending to the water's edge. The water is a clear, light turquoise color, suggesting a shallow reef flat or lagoon. In the background, more islands and a hazy blue sky are visible. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

Pacific Islands Environment
Conference
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John McCarroll, EPA

TOP PRIORITIES

REMAIN

- ✓ Drinking Water
- ✓ Waste Water
- ✓ Solid Waste



TOP PRIORITIES REMAIN



- ✓ Pesticides
- ✓ Underground Fuel
- ✓ Oil Spill Prevention
- ✓ Hazmat/Hazwaste



TOP PRIORITIES REMAIN

- ✓ Coral Reef Protection
- ✓ Watershed Protection
- ✓ Emergency Response



HOW WE ADDRESS ISSUES



- ✓ Fund Construction and local programs
- ✓ Build local capacity
- ✓ Partnerships
- ✓ Enforcement

LOTS OF CHALLENGES

- **Very basic problems**
- **Lack of adequate infrastructure**
- **Chronic Underfunding**
- **Lack of capacity**
- **Remoteness**



PROGRESS SINCE LAST PIEC



- ✓ Infrastructure Finance Project
- ✓ Alternative Energy Workgroup
- ✓ Leptospirosis – Wider understanding
- ✓ Pig waste management improvements
- ✓ EPA-DOI Partnerships with Freely Associated States



GUAM

- **Water is safer**
 - No boil water notices
 - System-wide disinfection
- **Sewage Spills have been reduced**
- **New Landfill sited**
- **Legislation to implement recycling**



CNMI



- Water Task Force increased water supply by 25%
 - Poised to provide 24 hour service
- Inadequate sewage outfall being addressed
- Safer handling of UXO
- Recycling: 3 commercial firms in operation



AMERICAN SAMOA



- Underground storage tanks now in near total compliance
- ASEPA developing a new “ticket” enforcement program
- Leptospirosis- diagnostics and outreach
- Ammonia Cylinder removal

PALAU

- Water in Koror is safe to drink
- New wastewater treatment plant reduced fecal releases by >99%
- Pesticides inspections and improvements
- Underground fuel tank inspection led to improvements
- Paving begun on compact road



MARSHALL ISLANDS



- Wastewater system survey
- Laboratory technical assistance
- Recycling Program begun in Majuro
- Kwajalein Environmental standards upgraded
- Kwajalein recycling program improvements



FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

- Pesticides inspection, Yap
- Water system review, Pohnpei
- Conference on Technical Assistance hosted by US Embassy



SUMMARY

✓ Tremendous progress since last year!!



BUT LOTS MORE TO DO!!!

CREDIT FOR SUCCESS GOES

TO...

- ✓ Local government
- ✓ Island leadership
- ✓ Federal and other partners



FOCUS FOR NEXT YEAR

- ✓ Funding and financing
- ✓ Building capacity
- ✓ Partnerships
- ✓ Enforcement

