



The Micronesia Challenge:

Why it Matters

26th Pacific Islands Environmental Conference

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Saipan, CNMI



Overview

- What is the MC
 - targets
 - players
- Progress
- Challenges
- Why it matters



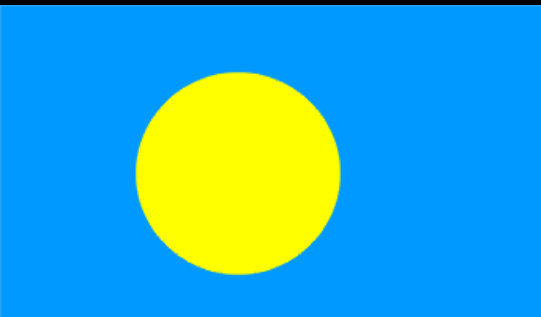
What is the MC

- A shared target-based commitment of 5 gov'ts. to ensure effective conservation of their ecosystems.

- *30% near-shore marine resources*

- *20% terrestrial resources*

- *2020*





Opportunity



Core Challenges

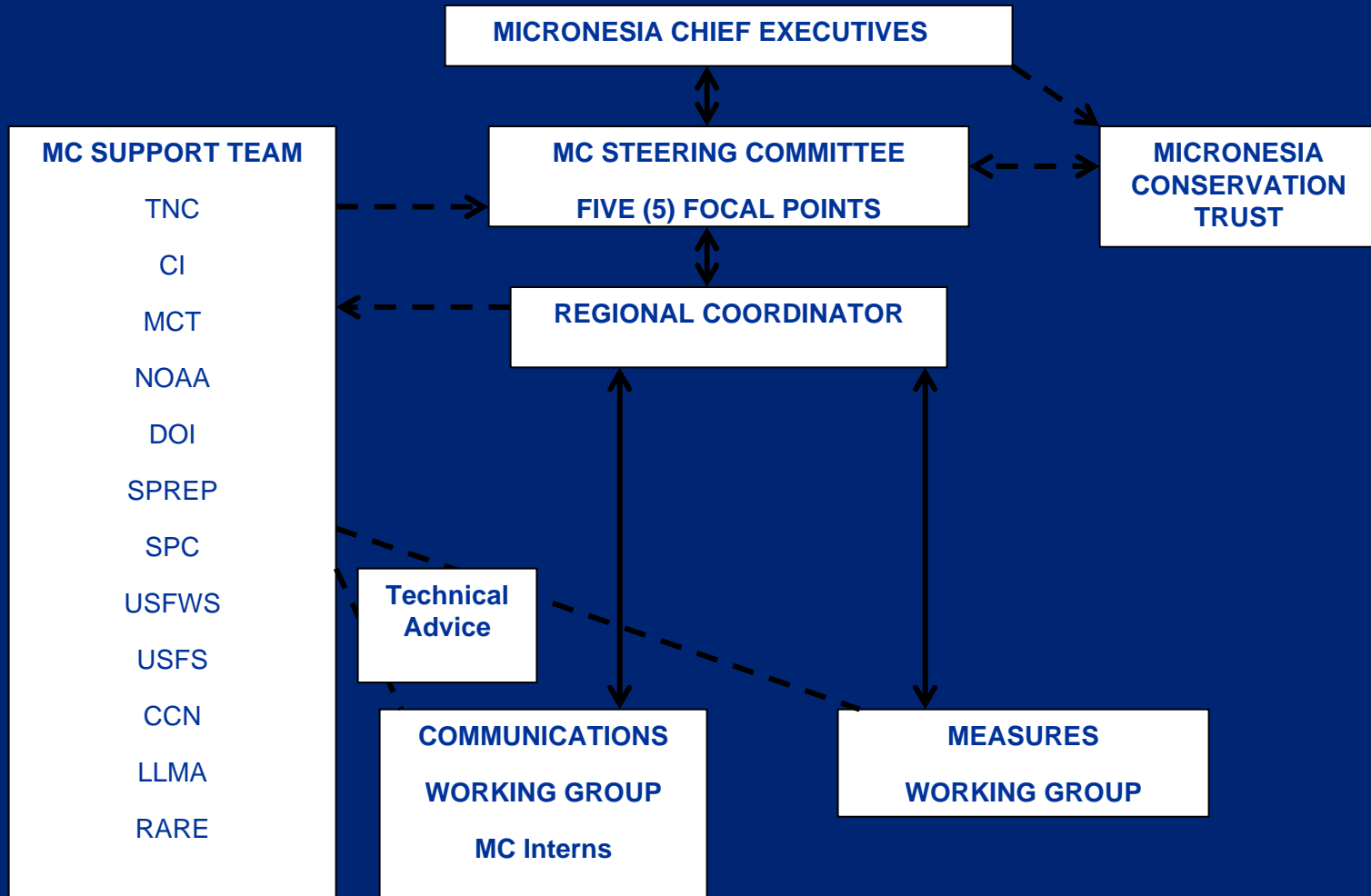
- **Conservation**
 - 20/30 target coverage
- **Fund-raising**
 - national sustainable finance mechanism
 - MC endowment

How – The approach

- Established targets (common goal)
- Strategy for BD conservation & CC adaptation
- Identified supportive partners



Effective Partnerships





Regional progress: Conservation

- Planning Meeting (Dec '06)
- Measures Meeting (Jun '08)
 - Technical Workshop
(Measures Group) – identify regional monitoring indicators
 - Communications Workshop
(Comms Group) – dev. regional communications strategy
- Climate Change Workshop
(Apr '09)



Regional progress: Fund-raising

- \$6m USD pledges from TNC & CI
- MC Endowment capitalized w/ \$1.5M (USD) from Palau
- GEF Proposal for \$6M (USD) for the endowment almost finalized
- LifeWeb Grant –\$1.5M Euro (\$1.9M USD) to assist on-going efforts



Challenges

- MC not yet well-understood by local communities
- Communications need improvement – both at regional & local levels
- Effective conservation measures difficult to identify
- Sustainable financing mechanisms need high level commitment to be implemented
- Jurisdictions need to promote MC financial needs at international level



Why MC Matters

- Fills in some existing gaps, but builds on on-going work
- Increases regional cooperation & coordination
- Increases access to critically needed resources (funding & technical assistance)
- Commitment to local people and cultures
- Puts Islands on the global stage (more visibility, more opportunity and access to assistance)
- Sets a benchmark for the world (Caribbean Challenge, Coral Triangle Initiative)



- An opportunity that can ensure a worthy inheritance of **functional** and **intact** ecosystems for Micronesians tomorrow.
- Needs all of our **combined efforts** to make it work.
- Here now – how to contribute

Thank you!