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Member




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THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
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GOVERNOR OF KOSRAE
Member



MARCELO PETERSON
GOVERNOR OF POHNPEI
Member



JAMES YANGETMAI
LT. GOVERNOR OF YAP
Member

22nd Micronesian Islands Forum

MAY 01, 2017 ~ MAY 03, 2017 | GUAM



The Leaders called for the support of Micronesia Challenge Plus (MC+), which would fully integrate global and regional challenges, including Climate Change, Disaster Risk Management, and Invasive Species toward enhanced and holistic conservation measures and to move the 2020 commitments beyond 2020 and into the future. This will keep the MC in line with the revised and expanded UN Sustainable Development Goals.

2. Regional Invasive Species Council (RISC)

The Regional Invasive Species Council (RISC) reported on progress since the 21st MIF. RISC identified and discussed two major issues needing supporting action from the Leaders, and an additional two developments in the United States which needed to be brought to the attention of the Leaders. RISC also met with the MC SC to discuss ways that RISC can support the MC.

The first and most urgent issue is the need for regional coordination of invasive species activities in Micronesia, including implementation of the Regional Biosecurity Plan (RBP). RISC recommended the creation of a Regional Invasive Species Coordination Office to be staffed by a Regional Coordinator and to be housed in the Micronesia Center for a Sustainable Future (MCSF). The Regional Coordinator would be responsible to coordinate implementation of the RBP across the region, as well as to coordinate other activities and initiatives.

The second very urgent issue is the growing threat of the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) to the region. CRB is devastating coconut trees in Guam, Palau, and other Pacific Islands. There is a high risk of their spread to other islands in Micronesia, and there is currently no effective control. A regional project is therefore urgently needed to develop an effective biological control for CRB.

RISC met with the MC SC to discuss ways that RISC can support the MC in their efforts to minimize the impacts of invasive species in terrestrial and marine conservation sites throughout the region as an integral component of effective conservation. Together, they identified the critical need to work together to establish baselines of invasive species in conservation sites. RISC will continue to assist the MC as they work to effectively conserve natural resources by protecting conservation sites from invasive species.