Kousapw Palikir Community Group

ICRI 2012 award winner for Eradication of Crown of Thorns Starfish from the Palikir Reef System
Palikir Reef
P-Pass has world class surfing
Fishing grounds
Pohnpeian culture teaches to avoid contact with “rarahni” - COTS
Our culture recognizes natural predators

Napoleon wrasse

triggerfish

Bump head parrotfish
The Need

An outbreak of COTS?

What can we do?

Who can help?

[Logos of Conservation Society of Pohnpei and ICRI]
Eradication of Crown-of-Thorn Starfish from Palikir reefs

Recipient’s Country: FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

Recipient Name: Kousapw Palikir Community Group

Purpose: Crown-of-Thorns Starfish (COTS) outbreaks are repetitively threatening the health of the Palikir reefs and therefore the coastal community that depends on it. This project will conduct an educational campaign to educate the community on causes for COTS outbreaks in order to promote behavioural change. It will offer hands-on community training to conduct COTS density surveys, and conduct COTS eradication excursions involving the Conservation Society of Pohnpei and the coastal community. Equipment acquired as part of this project will become the property of the community group.

Value of Grant (AUD): 2,729.65

Grant Term: 30/06/2013
Our Equipment
Our Project began with Community Education
Our 1\textsuperscript{st} Eradication
Special Guest: MV Aleutia
Volunteers ranged in age from 7 to 55 years old.
Lessons Learnt:
* Equipment worked extremely well
* COTS were mostly juvenile
* Scientists indicated only small outbreak
Disposal
Reef to Ridge: Crown of Thorns Fertilizer and Climate Change Adaptation in the South Pacific Islands

Nguna-Pele Marine and Land Protected Area Network
Reef to Ridge: Crown of Thorns Fertilizer and Climate Change Adaptation in the South Pacific Islands
Christopher Bartlett
Composting Technique

1) Collection of COTS
2) Weathering COTS – 6 weeks under the rain/sun (don’t do this too close to your house!)
3) Chopped into pieces with machete
4) Mixed with soil and composted for 4 months

Used locally on small family gardens
The results of our project

• Eradications were completed
• Ongoing “spot” eradications by fishermen
• >165 COTS removed
• Increased awareness of COTS and their negative effects on the reefs
• Increased sense of responsibility
• Additional methods of composting
The Project Going Forward

• Education brought awareness
• Awareness has brought a change in behavior
  – Community members using the community equipments for their fishing projects and “paying” for their usage with “COTS”
What’s next for KPCG?

- Alternative fishing methods
- Aquaculture
- Marine protection against waste from fishing vessels
- Dry Litter Piggeries/Biogas
- Solar projects