The Micronesia Challenge:

Why it Matters

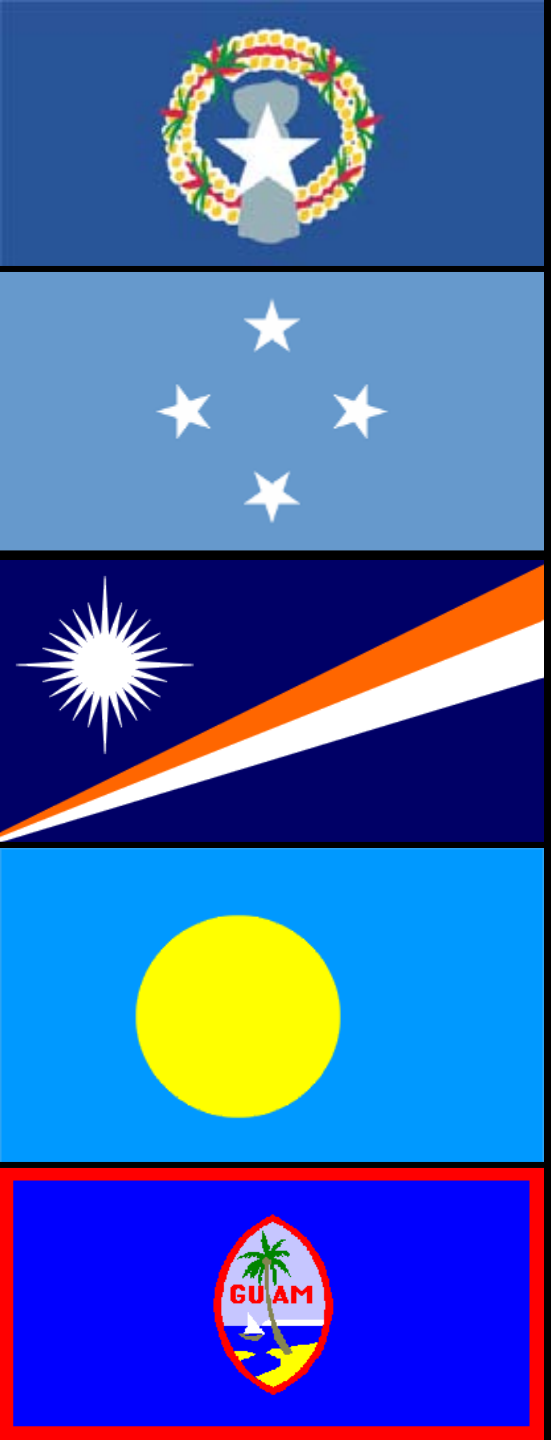
26th Pacific Islands Environmental Conference

June 24, 2009

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

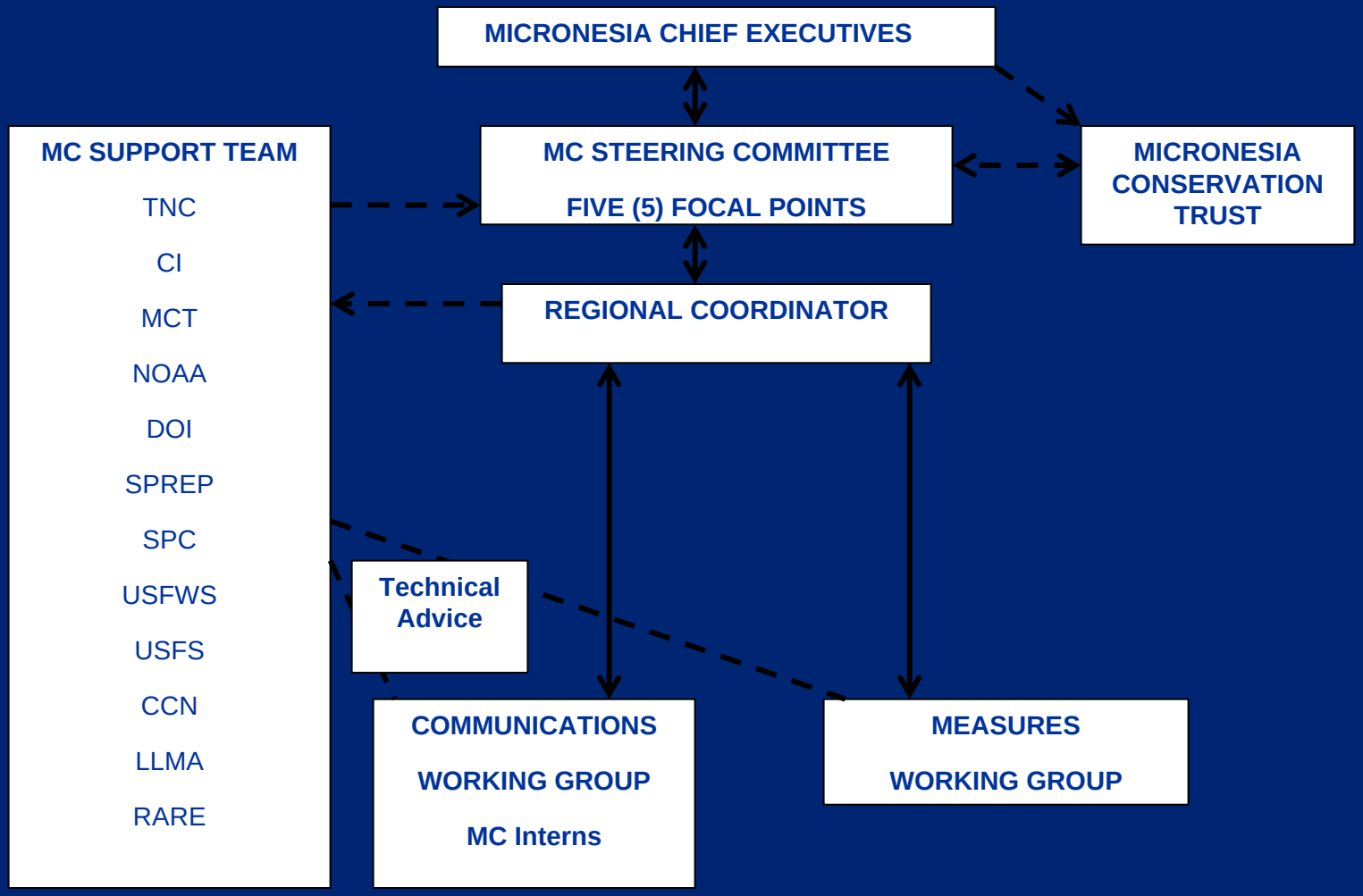
Core Challenges

- 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!