

## Federated States of Micronesia

**Status:** FSM is eligible for Australian Government ODA

**Population:** 115,021 (2020)<sup>1</sup> **Federation's capital,** Palikir, is located on Pohnpei, which is the largest and most developed state in the FSM, with a population of 36,196 in 2012. Yap - with four large islands, seven small islands, and 134 atolls; Chuuk - with seven major island groups; Pohnpei - the largest island of the Senjavin Islands; and Kosrae - a single, high island.

**Accessibility:** Four States (607 islands -some large islands and many atolls) Flights to Pohnpei, Kosrae, Chuuk, Yap on the United Airlines Island hopper flight via Honolulu or Guam. Flight from Cairns discontinued.

**Statistics around Waste (including plastic waste data):** A waste composition survey, conducted in 2011 (J-PRISM I) found household waste generation as follows: Pohnpei: 0.1kg per day, comprising approximately 25% plastic and 25% metal, n Yap: 0.5kg per day, comprising over 37% of plastic and 20% organic; n Chuuk: 0.2kg per day, comprising over 33% organic and over 22% plastic; n Kosrae: 0.1kg per day, comprising 26% organic and 20% plastic.

An estimated 4,794t of marine debris was generated in 2010. If not addressed, the amount is expected to rise to 10,699t by 2025.

	Coastal population	Waste generation rate [kg/person/day]	% Plastic in waste stream	% Inadequately managed waste	Waste generation [kg/day]	Plastic waste generation [kg/day]	Inadequately managed plastic waste [kg/day]	Plastic waste littered [kg/day]	Mismanaged plastic waste [kg/person/day]	Mismanaged plastic waste in 2010 [tonnes]	Mismanaged plastic waste in 2025 [tonnes]
FSM	154,895	0.79	13	81	122,367	15,847	12,818	317	0.085	4,794	10,699

Source *Pacific Islands Plastic Waste Report Jambek 2016*

FSM consists of four groups of island states: Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae. Governance is largely decentralised with state governments retaining considerable influence and management over their own affairs. In the FSM, the collection of solid waste is a municipal responsibility. This leads to variability in solid waste management service delivery and coverage between the different states. All states have enacted some type of legislation targeting single-use plastics.

**Legal/Policy framework to address single use plastics** *Federal Act for the Prohibition on the Importation, Sale or Distribution of One Time Use Disposable Styrofoam and Plastic Food Service Items and Plastic Shopping Bags (Public Law 21-76)*, effective 7 February 2020 amends *Code Title 25: Environmental Protection, Subtitle I: FSM Environmental Protection Act* (as at 2014). Chapter 4, s401 makes it unlawful to import, sell or distribute single use disposable styrofoam or plastic food service items. s402 has an exception for reusable or recycled. s403 allows an immigration or customs officer to seize and destroy such items. **Pohnpei** In 2004, the state government of Pohnpei announced their intention to ban the importation of styrofoam products and plastic bags by 2006 – this ban has been enacted but when and under what instrument is unclear. **Yap** banned retailers distributing single-use shopping plastic bags in July 2014 under State Law 8-45. **Chuuk Clean Environment Act of 2018** bans the importation, distribution, sale and possession of single-use plastic bags from December 2020, with the ban expanding to cover styrofoam products from December 2021 **Kosrae**. State Law 11-174 bans the distribution of single-use grocery plastic bags (biodegradable and non-biodegradable) by businesses and retailers from April 2019.

**Single Use Plastic policy:** Nationally, solid waste management is guided by the *National Solid Waste Management Strategy 2015-2020* which is due for revision in 2020. This strategy focuses on recycling and building institutional capacity to manage solid waste, rather than reduce and refuse initiatives. It is acknowledged that policies will be guided by the *Cleaner Pacific 2025: Pacific Regional Waste and Pollution Management Strategy*. As of 2018, the national government is working on establishing a zero-waste policy as part of their Environment Act.

	Single Use Plastic Policy	Dedicated Single Use Plastic Orders, Acts and Regulations							Economic Instruments to internalise costs				Recycling	National Campaigns targeting SUP	R&D Alternatives
		Plastic bags	Polystyrene plates	Straws	Styrofoam food Containers	Cups plates cutlery	PET	Plastic Ice blocks pouches nappies	Container Deposit Scheme	Levy Plastic Bags	Duty SUP	ARDC	Recycling Of plastics		
Chuuk															
Kosrae															
Pohnpei															
Yap															

**Economic Instruments:** The Solid Waste Management Strategies for **Chuuk** and **Kosrae States** include action plans to introduce container deposit system **Yap State State** Container Deposit CDL in Yap was initiated with the support from UNDP through a Technical Advisor in 2003. The regulations related to the CDL were amended in December 2009, and the refund was increased from 3 cents to 5 cents per container **Kosrae:** The *Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority (KIRMA)* is responsible for managing the beverage container recycling program. Under this self-financing program, which was initially launched with support from the United Nations Development Programme, a deposit fee of \$0.06 is levied on each imported aluminum, plastic (PET), and glass beverage container. Consumers are able to redeem \$0.05 when the container is returned to designated collection points for recycling.

**Institutional:** The FSM has three tiers of government: national, state, and municipal. Human resource capacity is low in the national/federal government and at the state level. To address multitude of environmental and waste management issues.

**Enforcement and compliance:** State laws governing SWM are in place in all four states. The problem lies with compliance and limited human and financial resources. The *National Solid Waste Management Strategy (NSWMS)* identified three challenges regarding solid waste management regulations: (i) lack of consolidated legislation, (ii) lack of infrastructure and programs, and (iii) social pressure in local communities where enforcers are related to offenders.

**Governance and organisation:** During the Micronesian Island Forum in 2019, leaders from the Micronesia region (Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,) designated September 13 as Micronesia Clean Up day where the region will address clean-up efforts through activities with all facets of society.

**Public Awareness- communities/villagers, schools and involvement of youth** Ongoing awareness campaigns in respective state schools and communities on waste, littering, and the 3R through projects such as the "Chuuk Litter Bug Project," facilitated by the Chuuk Women's Council; the "Environment Club" facilitated by Pohnpei State EPA; the "Spiffy, garbage collector" facilitated by KIRMA and the "Solid Waste/3R campaign" facilitated Yap State EPA.

**Public Awareness- tourism:** Visitors numbered 24,125 (SPTO, 2017) in 2016, which represented a decrease of 20% on the previous year.

**Private Sector:** No much information on private sector involvement in single use plastic initiatives.<sup>2</sup>

**Media and Communications:** The number of social media users in the Federated States of Micronesia was equivalent to 38.1% of the total population in January 2021. National newspaper published fortnightly is the *Kaselehlie Press*<sup>3</sup> FSM Telecom and Pasifica TV enables residents of the Federated States of Micronesia to get access to the TV program offerings.<sup>4</sup>

## Summary Overview

- The legal and policy frameworks for waste and environmental management appear relatively robust in the FSM. However, there is overlap in state and national responsibilities making uniform nationwide approach difficult.
- All States have been active in banning certain single-use plastic shopping bags and there is potential scope for more SUP coverage. Good potential to achieve results in communities working with municipality governance structures and good NGO presence.
- Scope for work on enhancing single use plastic laws and development of national single use plastic policy.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://datareportal.com/reports/digital-2021-federated-states-of-micronesia>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/KPressFSM/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.pita.org.fj/news/news-3/>