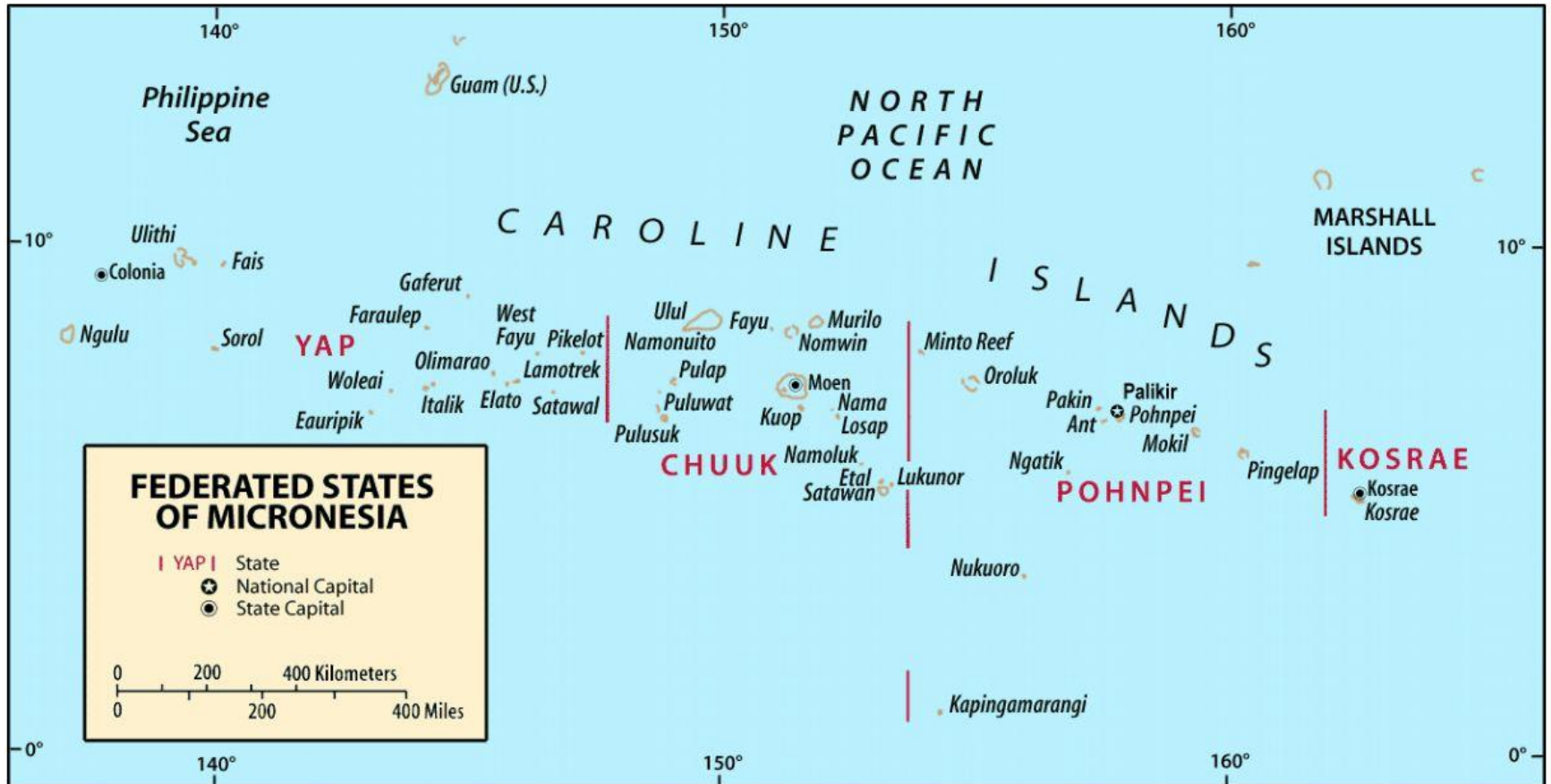


Kousapw Palikir Community Group

**ICRI 2012 award winner for
Eradication of Crown of Thorns
Starfish from the Palikir Reef
System**

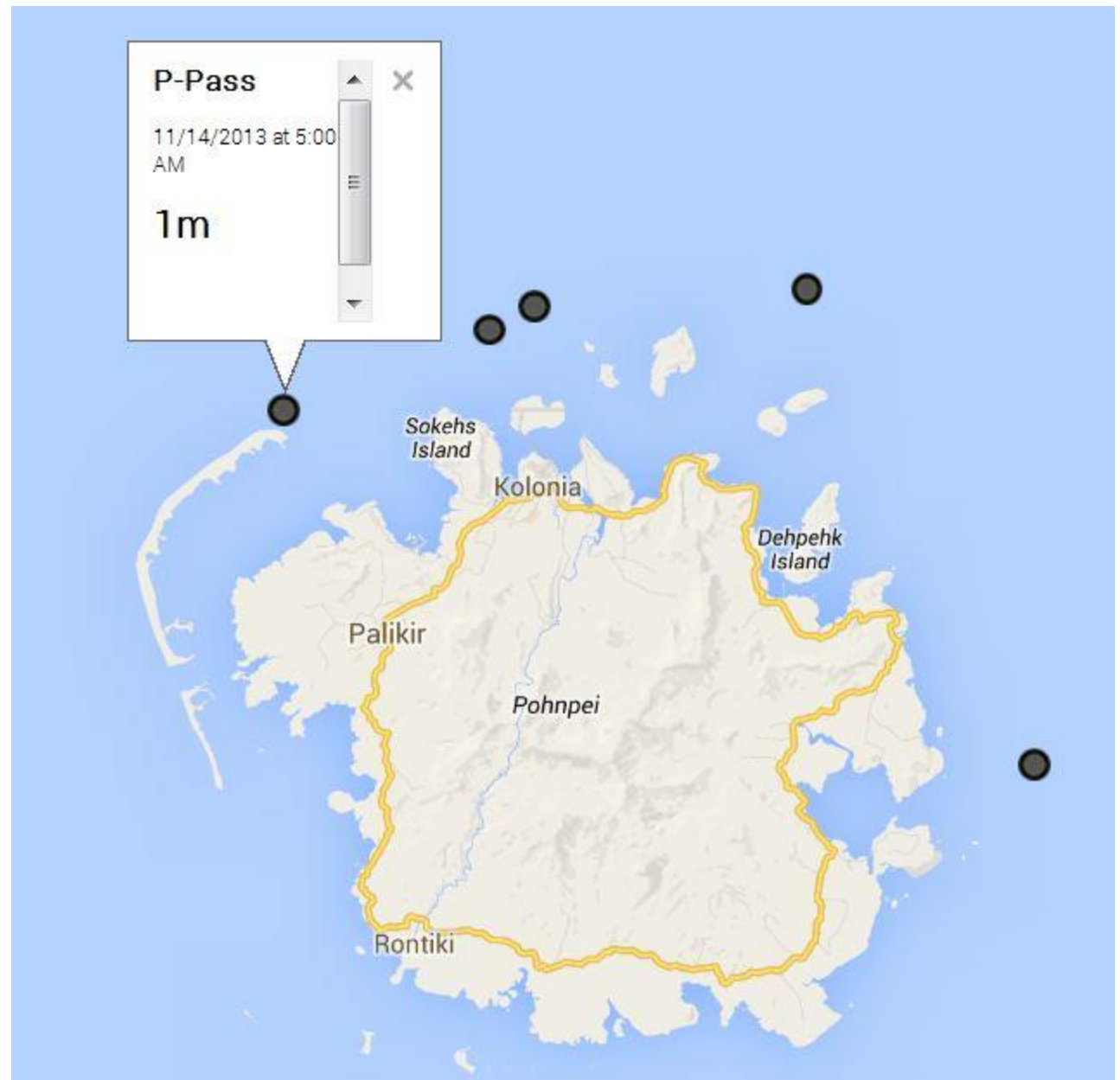
FSM Map



Pohnpei



Palikir Reef



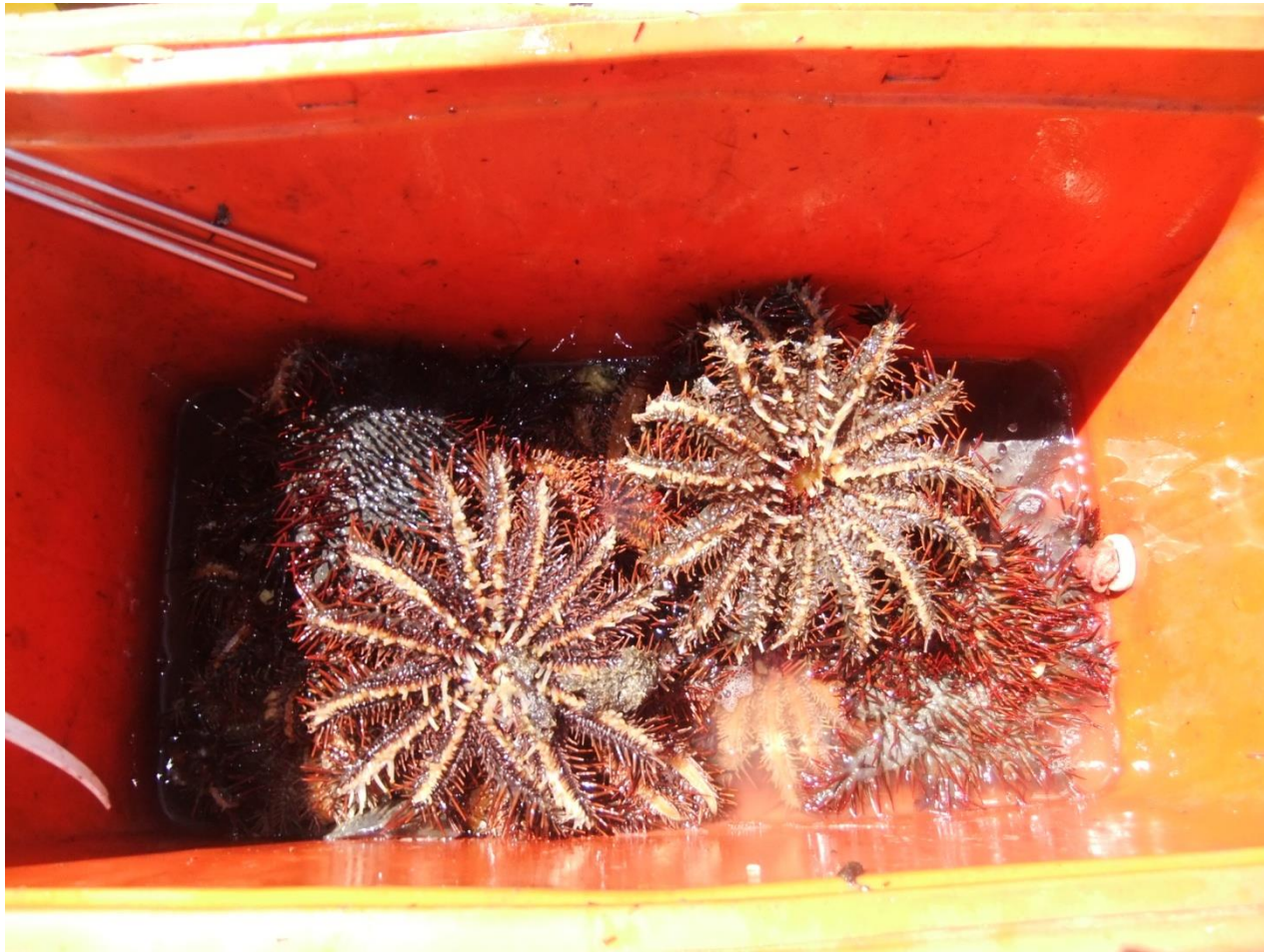
P-Pass has world class surfing



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?



Our Award



The header of the ICRI website features a blue background with a coral reef and fish. The ICRI logo is on the left, followed by the text 'International Coral Reef Initiative'. To the right is a search bar with a 'Search' button. Below this is a navigation menu with buttons for 'About Us', 'Secretariat', 'Members', 'Groups', 'Meetings', and 'Publications & Resources'. At the top right, there are links for 'About Coral Reefs', 'About the Site', and 'Contact Us'.

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 1st 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



Solution Search Entry

Reef to Ridge: Crown of Thorns Fertilizer and Climate Change Adaptation in the South Pacific Islands

SPREAD THE WORD



OCEANIA



FISH

INVASIVE AND PROBLEMATIC SPECIES AND GENES

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” eradication 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