



**WFLC PACIFIC ISLANDS FORESTRY COMMITTEE
2023 Report and 2024 Work Plan**

LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW

COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

The Pacific Islands Forestry Committee leadership team for 2023 included:

- Christine Fejeran (Guam), Chair
- River Thomas (Palau), Vice-Chair
- Marlyter Silbanuz (FSM), Past Chair
- Lajikit Rufus (Marshall Islands), Secretary
- Sherry Hazelhurst, USDA Forest Service
- Laura Wagner, CWSF/WFLC Staff Liaison

The Pacific Islands Forestry Committee leadership team for 2024 includes:

- Christine Fejeran (Guam), Chair
- Lajikit Rufus (Marshall Islands), Vice-Chair
- Marlyter Silbanuz (FSM), Past Chair
- Jenny Grimm (HI), Secretary
- Sherry Hazelhurst, USDA Forest Service
- Sara Goodwin, CWSF/WFLC Staff Liaison

MISSION STATEMENT AND PURPOSE

The mission of the Pacific Islands Forestry Committee (PIFC) is to aid the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition (WFLC) in developing informed and unified approaches to natural resource and forestry management issues that represent the needs of the tropical forests of the United States-affiliated Pacific Islands (USAPI). This approach ensures that the Council of Western State Foresters (CWSF) and WFLC redeem their responsibility to present a unified presence to Congress, the National Association of State Foresters (NASF), and the Washington Office of the USDA Forest Service (Forest Service) on behalf of the State of Hawaii; Territories of Guam and American Samoa, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands; and the Freely Associated State of Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands, and Republic of Palau with their unique tropical forestry management issues. In addition, it provides a forum for technology transfer, training, and cultural information exchange among USAPI, WFLC, CWSF, and NASF members on forestry topics.

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2023

- Held in-person annual meeting in Hawaii, in conjunction with the 2023 CWSF/WFLC Fall Meeting.
- Will hold Pacific Islands Technical Training Workshop, December 4-8, 2023. Topics include forest products,

- monitoring, communications, workforce development, technology, climate, wildfire, and invasives.
- Development of communication products, with WFLC, as a result of the State Fact Sheets to communicate with decision-makers and community members. Products include infographics, communications and outreach plan, project briefers, and general handouts. Products can be viewed at https://bit.ly/pifc_comms.
- Revised PIFC Mission Statement.
- Contributed content for CWSF/WFLC website and newsletter.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION BY STATE FORESTERS

- Recommendation for State Foresters to support equitable access by US-Affiliated Pacific Islands to competitive and noncompetitive federal funding and program direction.
- Recommendation for State Foresters to approve the Pacific Islands Forestry Committee 2024 Work Plan.

2024 WORK PLAN

MEETING(S) AND CALLS PLANNED FOR 2024

- Quarterly Zoom meetings - the last Monday (Mountain Time) of the month in the following months: January, April, July, and October for 1.25 hours. Quarterly meetings to include committee report-out, calendar check, and guest speakers as decided by the PIFC Executive Committee.
- In-Person Annual Meeting - date and location TBD.

METHOD OF COMMUNICATION

- In addition to quarterly Zoom meetings, the PIFC members communicate via phone calls and email.

KEY ACTIVITIES, DELIVERABLES, AND OUTCOMES PLANNED FOR 2024

- Revision and renewal of the PIFC strategic plan. (To be completed by 2024 Executive Committee Meeting)
 - Develop an issue paper exploring climate justice and the Pacific Islands. (January or April Meeting)
 - Topic focus on Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle and tie into existing Pacific-wide efforts. (January or April Meeting)
 - Increased Pacific Island representation at CWSF/WFLC Committees and plan for committee report-out at quarterly PIFC meetings.
 - Continuing the development of communication products, with WFLC, including contributing content for CWSF/WFLC website and newsletter.
 - Work to ensure equitable access to competitive and noncompetitive federal funding and program direction.
 - Explore strategy and economic opportunities for coconut and pandanus (byproducts) and breadfruit sustainability.
 - Additional items as a result of upcoming PIFC Technical Training Workshop.
-