

## SEM-Pasifika Training Summary Report

This report was supported by The Nature Conservancy under cooperative agreement award #NA15NOS4820097 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Coral Reef Conservation Program, U.S. Department of Commerce. The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of NOAA, the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program, or the U.S. Department of Commerce.



**SEM-Pasifika Training**  
**Tanapag, Saipan, CNMI**  
**June, 2017**

## BACKGROUND

Tanapag (pronounced tah-NAH-pak) is a fishing village located on the northwestern coast of Saipan, the largest island of the Northern Mariana Islands, a commonwealth of the United States in the western Pacific Ocean. Saipan is the second largest island in the Mariana Islands archipelago, after Guam. It is located about 120 mi (190 km) north of Guam and 5 nautical miles (9.3 km) northeast of Tinian, from which it is separated by the Saipan Channel. Saipan is about 12 miles (19 km) long and 5.6 miles (9.0 km) wide, with a land area of 115.38 km<sup>2</sup> (44.55 sq. mi).



Tanapag is located alongside the large lagoon that extends out from the west side of the island. Tanapag was settled by Carolinian immigrants in the 19th century, during the time when the indigenous Chamorro population had been relocated

on Guam. The Carolinians chose this location because of its excellent fishing grounds, and fishing remains an important part of the culture in Tanapag. The area of the lagoon adjacent to Tanapag is known as the Tanapag Lagoon. According to the 2010 United States Census, Saipan had 18,683 households with a total population of 48,220. Of this, Tanapag's population numbered 829 with a total of 270 households. The village is a close-knit fishing community within close proximity to the Managaha Marine Conservation Area. Prior to its designation as a marine protected area, the MMCA was a known fishing ground historically for fishermen from Tanapag.



## STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

In 2015, meetings were held with various stakeholders in the Tanapag community to explore community sentiment with regards to co-management of the marine resources found in the Tanapag Lagoon. Key stakeholders included the village's legislative representatives (Reps. Vin Sablan and George Camacho), Talabwoogh StaR Association, an active church-based youth group, Dept. of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Richard Seman, Division of Fish & Wildlife Director Manny Pangelinan, and school leadership at Tanapag Middle School.

### Key Informant Interviews and Focus Group Discussions

Interviews of several key informants were conducted, and two focus group discussions (one with fishermen and the other with community members) were held to explore the community's interest in co-management of the marine resources found in the Tanapag Lagoon.

The community meeting, held at the Tanapag social hall, elicited insightful observations that the community has made over the years in terms of the condition of the lagoon. Some of these observations included:

- A drastic reduction in “akadu” (sea grapes)
- Disappearance of “dogus” (a mollusk similar to trochus)
- Damage to the reef as a result of increased foot traffic
- Concerns with new hotel development planned in an adjacent village and the potential runoff from planned earth-moving activities
- Problems with fishermen from other villages, including non-resident workers (*there is no exclusivity in the village to lagoon access, but residents do feel an ownership to the lagoon*), not respecting village residents by fishing without seeking permission
- Dying corals; more specifically, an observation that there is less blue coral (*Heliopora*)
- Stream runoff affecting coral growth
- Coral bleaching / corals losing pigmentation
- Use of poisonous derris root
- Increase in algal blooms
- Impacts on the lagoon from droughts, particularly the expected one this year
- More sightings of napoleon wrasse
- Large schools of catfish that are impacting corals
- More crown of thorns starfish sightings
- L-50 size recommendations not being followed

## **FISHERMEN INTERVIEWS**

Key questions posed consisted of the following:

1. What are the most important fish that you rely on the Tanapag Lagoon for?
2. What are the benefits of the Tanapag Lagoon?
3. Have you noticed any changes (good or bad) in the Tanapag Lagoon?
4. What fish/marine life are now rare, extinct or in short supply and the reasons that they are rare, extinct or in short supply?
5. What are the main problems affecting or threats to the Tanapag Lagoon?
6. What can the people of Tanapag do to protect/improve/sustainably use their marine resources?
7. What are two types of outside help or knowledge that the people of Tanapag will need from groups outside of Tanapag to protect or sustainably use their marine resources?
8. What are the advantages of the Managaha Marine Conservation Area?
9. What are the disadvantages of the Managaha Marine Conservation Area?
10. Any other insight or feedback regarding the marine resources of Tanapag Lagoon?

Responses to these questions make up the following table (see next page):

Name	# years fishing	Important lagoon fish	Lagoon benefits	Changes to the lagoon	Marine life that are in short supply	Threats to lagoon	Advantages of MMCA	Disadvantages of MMCA
<b>Ben Sablan</b>	66	Grey snappers, emperor, lililuk, unicornfish, rabbitfish, surgeonfish (3 types – mok, libobo, moch), convict fish, squirrelfish	Habitat for seasonal runs of big-eye scad, juvenile trevally and goatfish, nursery and habitat for food fishes	Acidification, coral bleaching, algae growth from NPS pollution (oil, runoff), algal blooms, increase in sandy layers off beach	Haven't observed any that have diminished tremendously but there are more people fishing now than before	Natural threats (typhoons) and pollution from humans	Unsure: Need to see evidence of spillover outside of MPA	MPA boundaries haphazardly done; no baseline studies done during establishment
<b>Sherwin Magofna</b>	30	Parrotfish, unicornfish, peacock & napolean wrasse, emperor fish, goatfish, surgeonfish, mullet	Tourism, training grounds, cultural heritage and survival	Algae growth, motor boat impacts on coral; increase in angler coral	Guili, kabara (hides in seagrass), parrotfish	Spearfishing, outboard motorboats, two streams flowing into lagoon, graywater, war-time dumpsite, use of bleach and derris in fishing	Not sure, need to see proof	No access to fishing grounds, too many tourist/ motorist / marine sports impacts
<b>Norman Amirez</b>	25	Emperor, unicornfish, rabbitfish, parrotfish, goatfish, surgeonfish, covict tang, slipper lobster	Training grounds for the youth, food resource	Decrease in corals	Blue beak parrotfish	Sewage runoff, overflow	Abundant fish	Former fishing spot; need to have an open season
<b>Tero Takai</b>	41	Grouper, emperor, surgeonfish, rabbitfish, slipper lobster	Food fish supply	Many outsiders going out at night	Grouper, lobster	Runoff, outsiders, drainage	Some control	No answer
<b>Abraham Falig</b>	20	All kinds of food fishes	Good location for those w/out boats; lagoon blocks off big predators	Low fish counts, dead and dying coral and increase of algae on coral	Groupers, lobsters, parrotfish in sea grass areas	Pollution, runoff, overfishing, abundance of catfish, no catch size regulating, esp. outside fishers	"Honestly, I don't know, as it has been a prime fishing area for the people."	"We can't fish there!"

## SEM-PASIFIKA TRAINING

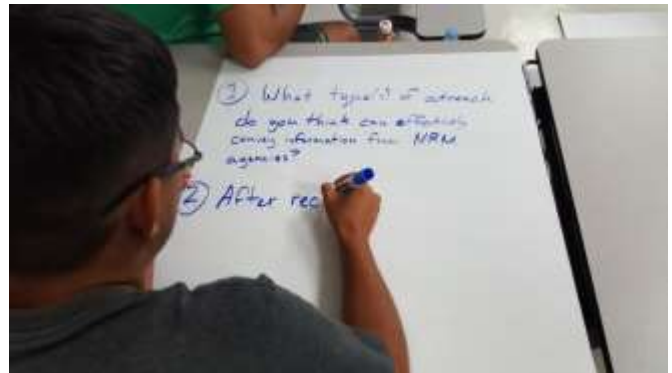
As a result of the meetings and discussions held in the village with various stakeholders, several community members and agency representatives took part in a SEM-Pasifika training conducted by Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance in June, 2017.

### GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The goal of the training was to utilize previous information collected and merge it with input from trainees to develop a survey that would explore natural resource use patterns and perceptions within the village of Tanapag. This data would be used to inform community action towards natural resource management.

Objectives:

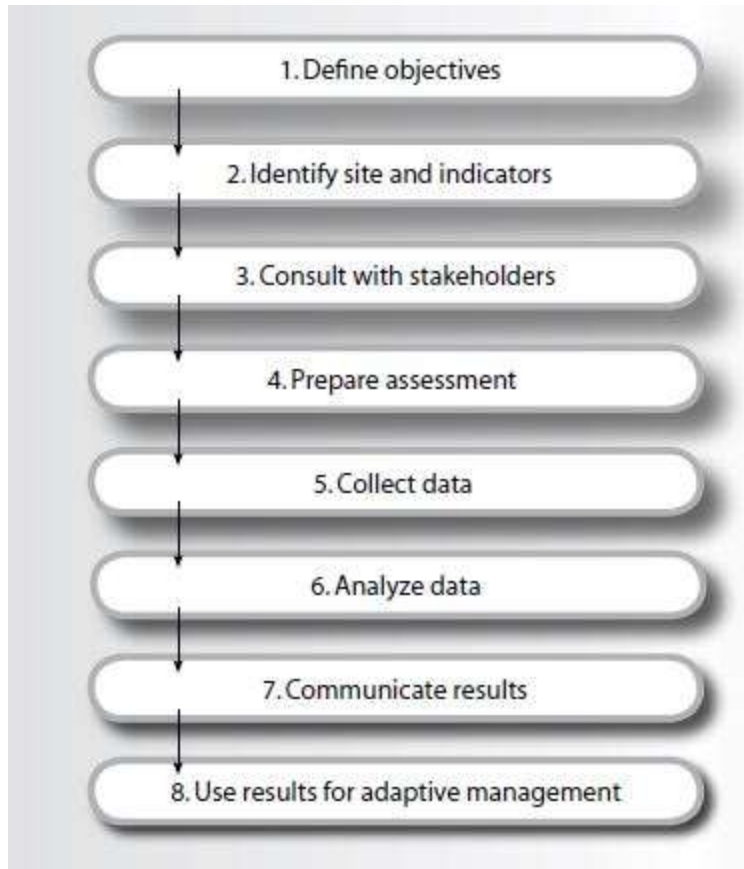
1. Provide preliminary socioeconomic baseline for Tanapag
2. Identify natural resource use
3. Identify perceived threats and changes to natural resources
4. Explore the community's perceptions of management effectiveness
5. Gather feedback on general issues affecting the village
6. Provide baseline assessment of Micronesia Challenge indicators



### Indicators used in study

Based on the study objectives, the following indicators were selected from the SEM-Pasifika Guidelines:

- Population size, # of households and household size (D1)
- Number and profile of visitors (D2)
- Age (D4)
- Sex/gender (D6)
- Perceived community problems (T1)
- Perceived resource conditions (T2)
- Perceived threats to coastal and marine resources (T3)
- Perceived coastal management problems (T4)
- Dependence on coastal and marine resources (C5)
- Knowledge of coastal and marine resources (C10)
- Attitudes toward coastal and marine resources (C11)
- Community awareness of the Micronesia Challenge (MC8)
- Community support for the Micronesia Challenge (MC9)



To date, the training has made it halfway through the SEM-Pasifika process, ending at Step 4 with an assessment prepared. Next steps involve the data collection and analysis, with results communicated back to the community and used for adaptive management.

#### **Tanapag SEM-P Trainees**

- Malcolm Omar – Talabwoogh StaR Association officer and representative from the Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation Program under the Office of the Governor
- James Omar – president of the newly resurrected Tanapag Action group and fisherman from Tanapag
- Acelia Dela Cruz – social studies teacher with over two decades of teaching at Tanapag Middle School
- Wilgene Dela Cruz – Division of Fish & Wildlife biologist and Tanapag resident
- Oscar Sablan – Tanapag Action Group member and fisherman
- Alex Castro – fisherman and representative from the Department of Public Works Energy Division
- Daniel Ogomoro – Northern Marianas College student and representative from the Chief Aghurubw Foundation
- Julian Pellegrino – Northern Marianas College student and representative from the Chief Aghurubw Foundation

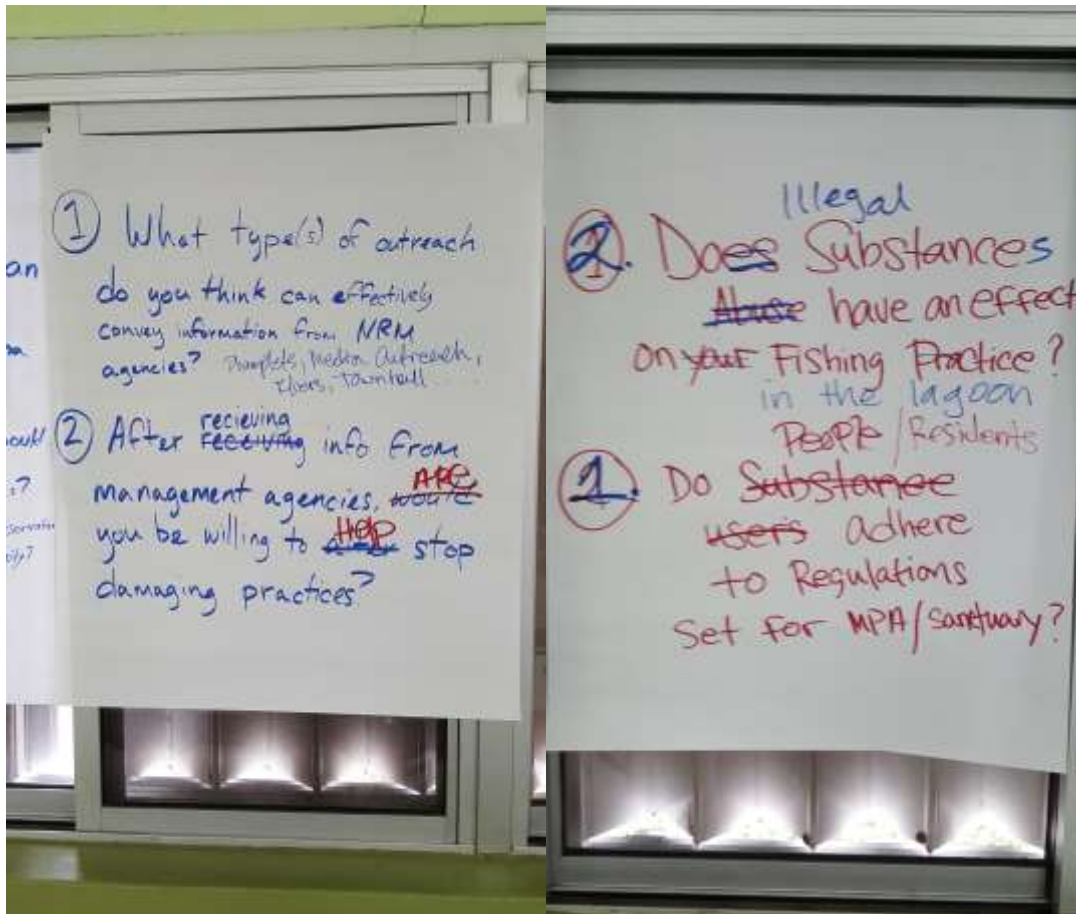




Left to right: Julian Pellegrino, Daniel Ogumoro, Wilgene Dela Cruz, Alex Castro, Malcolm Omar, Acelia Dela Cruz, James Omar, Trainer Kodep Ogumoro-Uludong; missing is Oscar Sablan

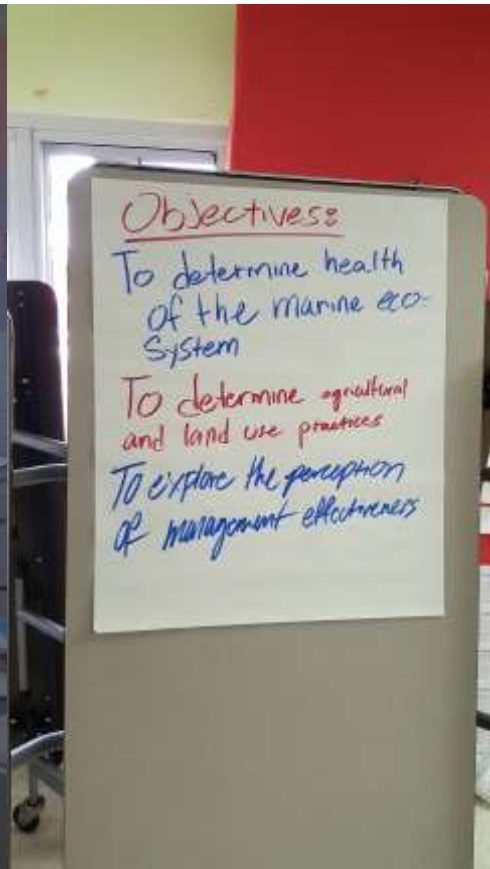
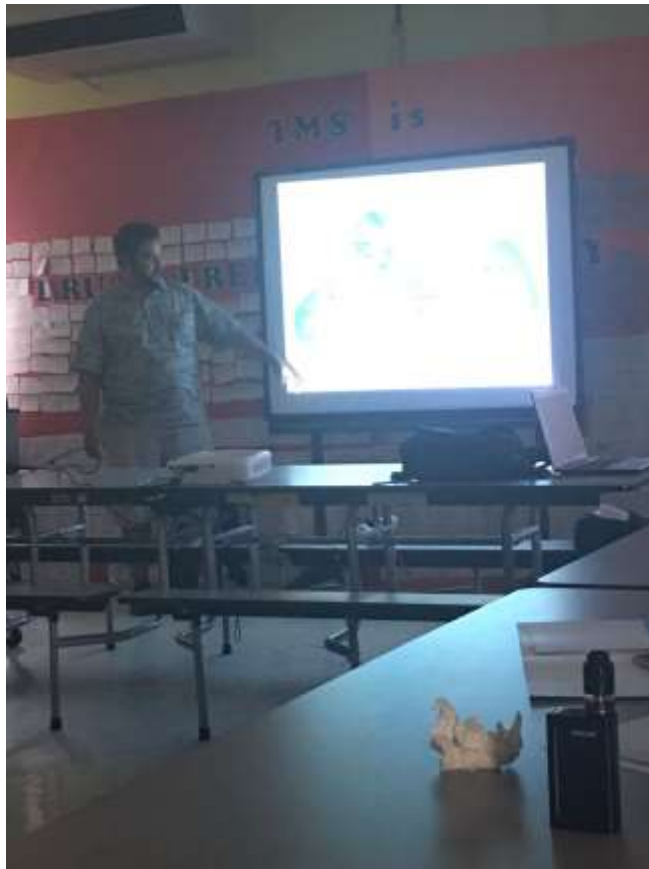


Commonwealth Health Care Corporation (CHCC) Maternal & Child Health Bureau (MCHB) representative Irene Barrineau discusses family planning issues with trainees.









**Interviewer Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Hafa Adai! A community survey is being conducted of people residing in Tanapag regarding their thoughts on the village's natural resources and other issues. We would very much appreciate your participation in this survey by answering a few questions Tanapag and the environment. Whatever information you provide will be kept strictly confidential and your name and answers will not be shown to or shared with any other person except for those people who are working on the survey. Your answers will help us to understand the community better. We are looking to get the opinions of community members. Please answer freely- we really want your opinion. The survey should take about 30 minutes. Participation in this survey is voluntary and you can choose not to answer any individual question or all of the questions. However, your views are important to us and we hope you will participate.

**You must be at least 18 years old in order to participate in our survey, and either be the head of household or a decision-maker for your household.**

#### **HOUSEHOLD DEMOGRAPHICS**

1. Gender: Male \_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_
2. Age: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Number of people living in your household, including yourself: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Including yourself, how many are over 18 years of age: \_\_\_\_\_
5. I reside in (Choose one):  
\_\_Tanapag                      \_\_Tanapag Homestead                      \_\_Achugao  
\_\_As Mahetog                      \_\_Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **FISHERIES (To be answered by households that engage in fishing)**

6. Do you or someone in your household fish?  
\_\_ No [*please skip to next section*]  
\_\_ Yes; If yes, how many of you fish? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What types of fishing do you engage in? (Choose all that apply)  
\_\_Spearfishing                      \_\_Bottom fishing                      \_\_Trolling  
\_\_Rod & reel                      \_\_Talaya                      \_\_Other: \_\_\_\_\_

8. When do you or someone in your household fish?  
 Daylight hours  
 Nighttime  
 Both day & night
9. Do you or someone in your household fish for:  
 Family consumption       Sale/market       Both
10. If you or someone in your household sells fish, where or to whom do you sell your catch to?  
 Relatives       Restaurant    Friends       Store/market  
 Fish vendor       Other: \_\_\_\_\_
11. What do you think of the fish stocks in Tanapag Lagoon?  
 Decreased    Increased    Stayed the same    Unsure
12. Do you think that the number of fish caught for each household should be regulated?  
 Yes    No    Unsure
13. Do you think outsiders (non-resident workers, tourists, or those not residing in Tanapag) should be allowed to fish in Tanapag Lagoon?  
 Yes    No    Unsure
14. Which of the following fish does your household sell or consume?

Species	Consume	Sell
Bluespine Unicornfish (Tataga)		
Orange spined Surgeonfish (Hangon)		
Surgeon fish (Hugupao)		
Trevally/Jack (Tarakitu)		
Goatfish (Satmoneti)		
Grouper (Gadao)		
Parrotfish (Palaksi)		
Rabbitfish (Hiting)		
Mullet (Laiguan)		
Big-eye scad (Atulai)		
Soldierfish (Sagamelon)		
Rudderfish (Guili)		
Emperor fish (Mafuti)		
Other:		
Other:		
Other:		

Species	Consume	Sell
Other:		
Other:		

### MANAGAHA MARINE CONSERVATION AREA

15. What impact do you think has the Managaha Marine Conservation Area had on fish stocks in the lagoon? Decreased Increased No impact Unsure
16. What do you think of the Managaha Marine Conservation Area?  
Too big Too small Right size Unsure
17. What do you think of the location for the Managaha Marine Conservation Area?  
Right location Wrong location Unsure
18. Do you think Tanapag Lagoon should have other conservation areas?  
No  
Yes; If yes, where? \_\_\_\_\_

### CLIMATE EVENTS/POLLUTION

19. Which of the following climate events has your household experienced? How long ago?  
 [check all that apply]
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tropical storm / typhoon            | <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal beach erosion        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Storm surge                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Changes in rainy/dry seasons |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sea level rise                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Drought                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brush fire                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Flood                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increased water surface temperature | <input type="checkbox"/> Coral bleaching              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hotter climate                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Cooler climate               |
20. How does your household dispose of its trash?  
 Pick-up by a trash company  
 I bring my trash to the transfer station or landfill  
 Burn  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_
21. Do you live by a stream?  
Yes No

22. How does runoff or sediment pollution affect Tanapag's marine environment? Negative, Positive, No impact or Unsure.

RESOURCE	Negative	Positive	No impact	Unsure
Fish				
Marine invertebrates for food				
Coral				
Sea water quality				
Mangrove				
Sea grass				

**TANAPAG ACTION GROUP**

23. Are you aware that the Tanapag Action Group [TAG] was recently revived and new officers were elected?  Yes  No

24. Should TAG be allowed to assist Tanapag residents with environmental or other community issues?  
 Yes  No  Unsure

25. Will you allow TAG to represent our community on issues that affect our environment and community?  Yes  No  Unsure

26. Would you and/or anyone in your household volunteer to be a member of TAG?

Yes  No  Unsure

If yes, name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

27. Are there any issues, concerns or suggestions you would like to share?

Yes  No  Unsure

If yes, please share:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**INFORMATION SOURCES**

28. What is your main source of local news? (choose one only)

Marianas Variety  Saipan Tribune  KSPN  Power 99  KZMI  
 KKMP  Facebook  Other: \_\_\_\_\_



29. Who would you trust the most if they told you something about our local environment?  
\_\_law enforcement official \_\_government official \_\_local community leader \_\_religious leader  
\_\_friends or family members \_\_teachers \_\_conservation groups/volunteers  
\_\_manamko \_\_media person \_\_other: \_\_\_\_\_

30. What is the best way of receiving information about our local environment? (choose one only)  
\_\_village/community meeting \_\_ radio \_\_ TV \_\_ newspaper \_\_ fliers/pamphlets \_\_ Facebook \_\_ other

31. Have you heard of the Micronesia Challenge?  
 Yes  No **[SKIP to Q32]**

If yes, do you support Micronesia Challenge?  
 Yes  No

If yes, what are the main goals of the Micronesia Challenge? **[LISTEN AND CHECK. THE RIGHT ANSWER IS (DO NOT READ): GOALS OF THE MICRONESIA CHALLENGE ARE TO CONSERVE 30% OF MARINE RESOURCES AND 20% OF TERRESTRIAL RESOURCES BY 2020.]**

- Correct
- Partially Correct
- Incorrect
- Don't know

## COMMUNITY ISSUES

32. What are the two biggest challenges/issues facing Tanapag?

#1: \_\_\_\_\_

#2: \_\_\_\_\_

33. Are you involved in any activities that protect or enhance the environment?  
\_\_Yes \_\_ No

If yes, what? \_\_\_\_\_

34. Do you utilize any of the following alternative energy sources at home?

- \_\_Energy saving appliances
- \_\_Solar operated appliances

Traditional methods of drying clothes

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

35. Are you or anyone in your household interested in accessing family planning services to:  
[choose all that apply]

Achieve pregnancy

Avoid pregnancy

Neither

36. Are you or anyone in your household interested in being contacted to hear the results of this survey or participate in any village conservation activities?

No

Yes      Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your cooperation, your utmost understanding and consideration and for your valuable time for participating in our survey. Your information is very useful and valuable in order for us to assist our entire community and environment that is affecting us presently and the future of our next generation.**