



# Pacific R2R Programme Workshop

## Most Significant Change

### The GEF Pacific IW R2R Project - PALAU



Name of Person recording story	Leena Mesebeluu
Name of storyteller	Oberang Antonio
Date of recording	15 <sup>th</sup> of July 2019
When did it happen	Almost a Year

## Can we do it?



Oberang Antonio

I live in Melekeok and I am a member of the local women's group "Ngara Otelouch". When my son was old enough I decided to work for the Melekeok Conservation Network as a Conservation Officer. My duties include plant nurturing and propagation, monitoring invasive plants, leading group tours, and assisting with scientific monitoring.

I must be honest, when we started preparing for the water monitoring prior to August 2018, I was skeptical that we wouldn't finish. Reasons for this was that it was something new, we had no academic experience in studying water, and that we already had so much to do with our current duties. It seemed really strenuous at first.

However, we didn't go straight into the monitoring. We had classroom sessions where we talked about the properties of water, we had field days where we went to scope out the location of the possible monitoring sites, and we had sessions on learning how to use the monitoring equipment's. Over time I have become more comfortable and have happily incorporated it as one of my duties. We are two months away from our 1 year monitoring goal!



Oberang Antonio preparing water samples for analysis



As a conservation officer, one of Oberang's task is to take care of nursery plants

This experience has made me realize ra Klischel ma Ututel a Ralm (the strength and need of water). It's not that I did not care, it something I did not bother about before. March and April we experience dry months and a stream that we monitored was completely dry. This made me scared as it was an indicator of low rainfall and a potential drought. When heavy rains came back at the beginning of June, I rejoiced for presence of water in the stream. I am eager to see next year if the same stream is dry during the dry months.