

YELA Partners

Local Partners:

KIRMA, KCSO, KWA, TMG, TRMC, DREA

Regional Partners:

SPC, GTZ, TNC, USFS, MIC, EU, MCT, FSM National Gov.



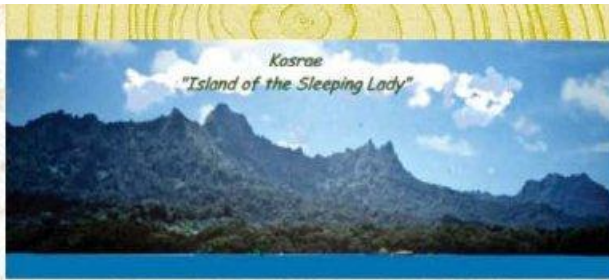
The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.



"Help Protect Our Forest And The Roots of Our Way of Life. Our Forest Is Our Life And Responsibility."

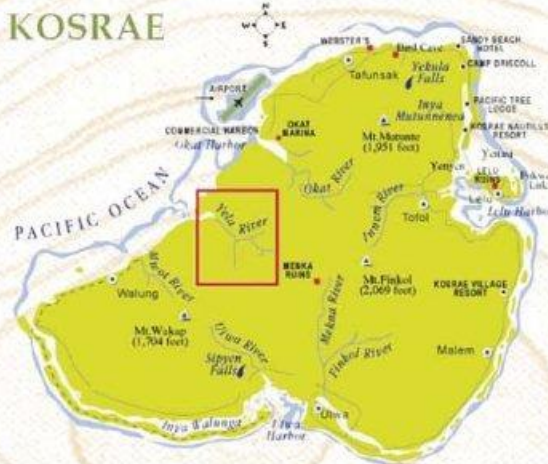


Partnership Photo at Yela Ka Forest



Kosrae
"Island of the Sleeping Lady"

KOSRAE



"We Need To Think Beyond Today. Our Actions Today Will Have Great Impact On Our Future Generations."



Yela Environment Landowners Authority (YELA)

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Tofol, Kosrae
PSM 96944

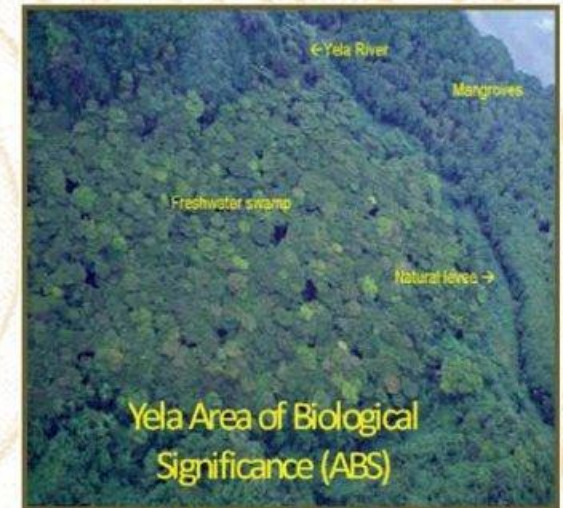
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YELA



A grass-root, non-profit organization dedicated to preserve and sustainably conserve the unique Yela forest biodiversity and pristine ecosystems, "The Last KA (*Terminalia carolinensis*) Forest in the world."



Yela Area of Biological Significance (ABS)

Our Mission:

To protect the world's only remaining Ka forest and its great ecological wealth from all harmful activities so that the Yela swamp and its surrounding ecosystems, including its pristine watershed, may continue to benefit the landowners, Kosraeans and people from around the world with its educational, cultural, spiritual, recreational, historical, scientific, economic and environmental values today and for our future generations.

Yela ABS: “Area of Biological Significance”



Yela is located on the Western coast of Kosrae, between the villages of Walung and Tafunsak, within an as-yet roadless corridor that remains one of the most magnificent parts of Micronesia due to its lack of development and human intrusion. The Yela Ka Forest is the last intact freshwater swamp ecosystem in the world. The Yela Ka Forest was coined by one of Micronesia's conservation pioneers as the “Redwoods of Micronesia.” Surrounding the Ka Forest (77.3 ha), is the Yela Watershed (659 ha) and Mangrove Forest (105 ha), that together nourish the adjacent sea-grass beds and coral reefs offshore.



Yela Importance to Kosrae and Global Biodiversity



- The Yela Terminalia swamp is the last remaining stand of Terminalia carolinensis in the world.
- The Yela Terminalia swamp has several endemic species of trees, and that it provides habitat for the endangered Micronesian pigeon “Ule”, which has few other large refuges on the island.
- The uniqueness of this wetland is of interest to scientists and that its natural beauty is attractive to tourists.
- The Yela watershed is the largest and perhaps the most valuable intact landscape remaining in Kosrae.
- The Yela River discharges this water to the seagrass beds and reef flat where it helps to support a productive offshore community of fish and invertebrates.
- Some of the water in the Terminalia swamp seeps into the groundwater and percolates slowly downslope into the



mangrove swamp, where it moderates the salinity of the water. The mangrove trees that grow there are the tallest, straightest, and most productive on the island of Kosrae.

- The hydrological relationships between Yela's freshwater swamp, river, and mangrove forest enhance the watershed's value as a natural laboratory for studying the effects of global climate change.

Benefits to the People

- Global Awareness of Kosrae
- Ecotourism
- Educational opportunities for Kosraeans, especially students
- Income-generating opportunities for the people
- Unlimited natural resources for present and future generations

YELA (Yela Environment Landowners Authority)

YELA is working, in collaboration, with local and regional partners to enhance its capacity to implement its 2007- 2010 Strategic Action Plan. The strategic outcome of YELA's activities is in line with the ultimate goal of the Micronesian Challenge, which is “to conserve at least 20% of marine ecosystems and 30% of terrestrial ecosystems by 2020.”

YELA welcomes any interested individuals or groups that wish to engage in the following activities at the Yela Conservation Area.

- Tours
- Research/Studies
- Photography
- Exhibition
- Camping/Hiking

Please contact us (Monday-Friday / 8am-4pm) to make arrangement for your visit. A reasonable fee of \$20.00/ person will be charged.

Donations and generous gifts are welcome.

Please feel free to contact any of the YELA staff for assistance:
Dr. Tholman F. Alik, Executive Director
William K. William, Project Manager
Rickson I. Jonathan, Community Educator