

Project Title: Capacity Building and Conflict Management with Palau Conservation Society and Palau's National Government

Project Leader: Kartik Sameer Madiraju

Supervising Organization: Insight Collaborative

Host and Partner Organization: Palau Conservation Society

As part of a year-long project with Insight Collaborative, a Boston based non-profit that specializes in conflict management, peacebuilding and negotiation, I am working for three months with Palau Conservation Society in the Pacific island nation of Palau. This project will be focused on helping mediate and facilitate discussions between Palauans and environmentalists on climate change; providing trainings and material on conflict resolution, effective communication and having difficult conversations; capacity building in engaging Palau's people on the climate change dialogue; and finally, consultancy work on priority issues that are prone to conflict such as overfishing and traditional practices in Palau.

The specific deliverables of this project will be to:

- 1) Provide conflict management training internally to Palau Conservation Society staff, and externally to new negotiation staff working for the Palau government under the Convention on Bio-Diversity, as well as to Protected Area Network Site Managers
- 2) Develop, in conjunction with Palau Conservation Society's coordinators, a community engagement strategy to improve communication regarding and compliance with fisheries regulations, management of marine resources, and sustainable fishing practices. Fishing is both a cultural and economic cornerstone of Palau—its effective management and empowering communities to make and comply with decisions is arguably one of the most crucial issues in Palau.
- 3) Finally, at the request of the Palau Office of Environmental Response and Coordination, to provide consultancy services regarding environmental policy and renewable energy legislation.