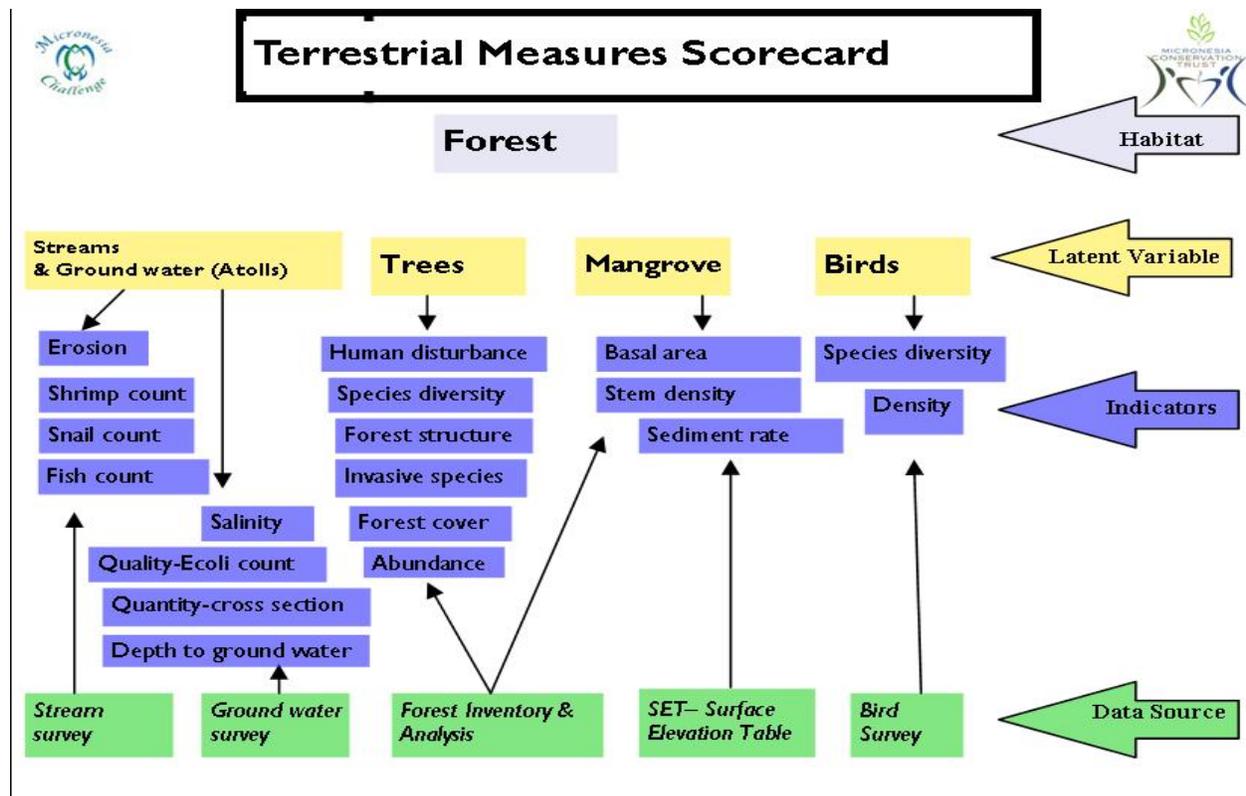


## The Micronesia Challenge and the Terrestrial Monitoring Program

The Micronesia Challenge is “a commitment by the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands to preserve the natural resources that are crucial to the survival of Pacific traditions, cultures and livelihoods. The overall goal of the Challenge is to effectively conserve at least 30% of the near-shore marine resources and 20% of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020.” Since the commitment was signed in 2006, the MC has inspired other challenges around the world, such as the Caribbean Challenge Initiative and Hawaii’s Aloha+Challenge. To learn more about the Micronesia Challenge, please go to: [www.micronesiachallenge.com](http://www.micronesiachallenge.com).

The Terrestrial monitoring program of the Challenge is guided by the Terrestrial Measures Scorecard. The scorecard was developed collectively by the Terrestrial Core Group representing each of the 5 Micronesia Challenge jurisdictions. The Scorecard emphasizes variables such as: trees, mangrove, bird, surface and ground water and guides the measurement of indicators under each of the variables (refer to the scorecard). Indicators such as native forest cover, species diversity, abundance, forest structure, human disturbance, bird diversity, and invasive species are monitored to detect changes in biodiversity over time. The information gathered helps forest managers make decisions to more effectively care for the forests and its many resources.



The current method utilized to track the tree variable is the United States Forest Service's (USFS) Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA), which samples permanent forest plot points across the US mainland and Pacific islands every 10 years. Through this partnership, the MC terrestrial measures teams work with the USFS to add plots in conservation areas across the region and aims to monitor plots in Micronesia every 5 years. This enables resource managers to use the results of the data to adapt management practices within protected areas. Using the FIA sampling design and protocols for monitoring conservation areas allows the data to be compared to similar forests in the region and provide a better gauge of forest health in the Micronesia region. The monitoring process also helps resource managers and governments responsible for forests contribute to objectives and actions as stated in their Forest Action Plans.

In 2018, the Micronesia Challenge, the Micronesia Conservation Trust, the U.S. Forest Service, the University of Guam, the College of Micronesia and the Nature Conservancy worked with the Conservation Biology Institute to launch the "Micronesia Challenge Terrestrial Measures Webviewer". This online platform offers public access to the results of the MC FIA data through an interactive mechanism that allows the user to search through the data. Visit the webviewer at: <http://mcterrestrialmeasures.org>