



**Minutes of the Local Project Appraisal Committee Meeting
Jakaro Room, MIR, Majuro
Date: Thursday October 30 ,2019: Time: 2-3.30pm**

Addressing Climate Vulnerability in the Water Sector (ACWA) in the Marshall Islands.

Project(s) Appraised:

Proceedings:

The meeting was Chaired by the Office of Environment, Planning and Policy Coordination, represented by the Deputy Director, Mr Warwick Harris.

UNDP was represented by the Deputy Team Leader for RSD, Ms Winifereti Nainoca.

The meeting agenda is attached as Annexes 1

The List of Participants is attached as Annexes 2

1.0 Welcome and opening remarks by the Chair.

2.0 UNDP representative explained on the purpose of the LPAC which is to review key components of the project documents to ensure that they are within the requirements of UNDP and in the process identify any amendments and provide justification in order to approve the project.

3.0 The Overview of the Project document was presented by Winifereti Nainoca (UNDP), together with the Quality Assurance (QA) and the Social, Environment and Safeguard Screening Procedure (SESP)

At the end of each presentation, a discussion session was facilitated to allow members to comment or make recommendations. Some action points were identified for UNDP to take into considerations, which will be discussed further during the Inception Workshop in 2020.

3.1 Background information on the project presented by: Winifereti Nainoca (D/Team Leader RSD)

Brief project description:

The project supports the Government of Republic of the Marshall Islands (GoRMI) in adapting to increasing climate risks, particularly more frequent and extreme droughts, which impact the country's drinking water supply. Communities and the households in RMI primarily rely on a single water resource and supply system, which makes them highly vulnerable to risks of water shortages and drought. Despite previous water related investments, the people of RMI still do not have year-round access to safe freshwater supply for drinking, cooking hygiene and sanitation, particularly under droughts lengthened through climate change impacts.

The project will improve household and community rainwater harvesting and storage structures to increase resilience of water supply in all outer islands and atolls accounting for approximately 28% of RMI's

population, including 7,630 (49%) women, currently at risk. The project will also secure groundwater resources from contamination due to inundation caused by wave overtopping of seawater.

The project will strengthen the technical capacities of national and subnational institutions and key stakeholders for sustaining and replicating project results.

The proposed project leverages domestic financing (USD 6.12 million in cash) to meet baseline water requirements to provide an essential though non-revenue generating public good. The project aligns with GoRMI's key climate change and specifically with water sector policies and strategies and has been developed through extensive consultation with the national and local government units, Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) and beneficiary communities. The proposed project is aligned with RMI's NDC and country work programme to the GCF. The project will be implemented following UNDP's direct implementation modality (DIM) with GoRMI's Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) as the lead executive for the project.

Project Overview

Objective: Ensure water security by providing at least 20 LPCD for residents of outlying islands and atolls of RMI under climate change induced drought by 2045.

Purpose: To increase resilience of water resources for drinking and hygiene for vulnerable people and communities in the outer atolls and islands of RMI to the impacts of climate change, specifically prolonged droughts

Output 1: Implementation of optimal mix of interventions to ensure climate resilient water security in outer atolls and islands of RMI

Under this output, the GCF funds will co-finance, the improvement of rainwater harvesting structures on community and household buildings and increased community building water storage capacity. The proportional cost totaling 4.21 million USD of improving the rainwater harvesting systems and storage capacity to meet the water needs for a baseline drought will be borne by the Government of RMI. The additional cost of 5.21 million USD for developing the further capacity required for additional drought days attributable to climate change will constitute the GCF co-financing.

Optimization of alternative water sources to reduce reliance on harvested rainwater in the context of reduced rainfall

Activities through this output are focused on optimizing alternative water sources to reduce the burden on potable water supplies, and the establishment of a network of national and regional specialists on climate change through formal and informal trainings, and awareness raising on climate change adaptation. GCF funds will be used to protect 2586 household and community groundwater wells and provide training for women and youth as part of best practice and community awareness programmes.

- **Activity 2.1** Protect groundwater wells from more frequent climate change induced storm surges and contaminations
- **Activity 2.2** Enhance women and youth's leadership through best practices and awareness programs on efficient usage of rainwater

Climate drought preparedness and response measures implemented in outer atolls and islands.

- Through this output, GCF will support the effectiveness of RMI institutions responsible for drought early warning and preparedness, by strengthening institutional coordination and accountability mechanisms between government departments to initiate drought preparedness and coordinate response. This output will prepare a system and technology roadmap for outer island communications, and upgrade communications systems in remote locations and train people to use them. The project will also support local governments and Community-based Water Committees to mobilize resources and to develop and implement contingency plans in anticipation of and in response to droughts.

- **Activiti 3.1:** Update national-level contingency plans and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for climate change induced drought response
- **Activity 3.2:** Develop and implement community-level drought contingency planning in outer islands and atolls

Project Budget: US \$ 24,747,308

Total Co-Financing: US \$6,116,092

Total GCF Grabt : US \$ 18,631,216

Project Timeline: TBC

GCF Implementing: UNDP

Executing Agency: RMIEPA – Environmental Protection Agency

Responsible Partners: Office of Chief Secretary, WUTMI, IOM, Office of Environmental Planning and Policy Coordination, EPA and Mayors Association.

Project Financing:

Component Outputs	Financing Institution		Total (US\$)
	GCF	Government	
	Grant	Grant	
Implementation of optimal mix of interventions to ensure climate resilient water security in outer atolls and islands of RMI	11,215,735		23,457,672
Optimization of alternative water sources to reduce reliance on harvested rainwater in the context of reduced rainfall	2,696,128	5,561,483	
Climate change induced drought preparedness and response measures implemented in outer atolls and islands	3,984,326		
Project Management	735,027	554,609	1,289,636
Total	18,631,216	6,116,092	24,747,308

Disbursement Schedule:

Disbursement of funds from the facility will follow as such: Year 1 Activities: US\$2,323,131, Year 2 Activities: US\$4,302,691, Year 3 Activities: US\$3,689,288, Year 4 Activities: US\$4,944,193, Year 5 Activities: US\$1,154,700, Year 6 Activities: US\$982,599 and Year 7 Activities: US\$1,234,614.

Project Risk Assessment:

UNDP Representative presented also on the Risk Assessment that was conducted for the Project. Current rating is Moderate. These risks will be assessed and updated as and when required, depending on the situation on the ground.

Gender Mainstreaming:

To ensure that Gender is mainstreamed into the Project, the following activities has been proposed during the course of this project. Water Resource Survey to be conducted in all targeted rural communities to capture the views and needs of women, youth and people with disabilities, community-based water Committees to be equally represented by women, youth and people living with disabilities, train and engage women and youth in O&M of household and community RWH systems and ground water wells, to include gender-sensitive considerations in newly established SOPs, design and implement a series of formal and informal trainings for women and youth related to water demand management, and to empower vulnerable groups and reduce hardship faced by communities in times of disaster and to engage a gender expert as part of the PMU.

The LPAC members were advised by the UNDP representative that the project document has been approved, therefore document is not subject to any change, however any issues or input to the document can be discussed further during the inception workshop in February 2020.

4.0 Overall Comments:

- UNDP highlighted that the 24 communities and household for the has not been identified, which will be further deliberated on at the Inception Workshop.
- EPA Acting Director Ms. Dolores requested if we can re-look at the figure on Slide 4, i.e. : 15,572 *direct beneficiaries*, with the reason that the population in the outer island does not reach this number. In responding, UNDP Rep Ms. Nainoca explained that these figures we given to the formulation Team, while they were in country, but can be changed to reflect the most appropriate figure at the Inception workshop.
- Members has agreed to change the name from Board to Steering Committee, simply because of the legal requirements associated with having a Board. (Lessons learnt from the lesson of RMI R2R)
- A request was put forward by the D/Director OEPPC, is to have a National Deputy Project Manager level as well in country since the highest ranking national officer is an Associate.
- Director NDMO, advised the Forum that currently RMI does not have a Contingency Plan & Standard Operating Procedure for Climate Change Drought plan, as mentioned in Act 3.1 (Slide 9). The Country is slowly trying to formulate this. This will be re-worded at the Inception w/shop.
- Secretary for Natural Resource and Commerce raised the issue of mitigating Political Risk. UNDP rep agreed and mentioned that it's the responsibility of the Project Implementing Unit and Executing Agency to update new Government Administration from Community to Cabinet level.
- Question raised also by the Chair, in term of adding new Implementing Partners. Response from UNDP representative was that the current partners were endorsed in country and during the validation workshop. She also other Partners can be discussed/identified and added during the Inception Workshop. This was agreed upon.

5.0 Final LPAC recommendation:

After taking in to consideration all the comments, recommendations and action points to be considered at the Inception workshop, the LPAC members agreed to endorse the Project Document.

LPAC minutes prepared by:

W NAINOCA W NAINOCA 23/1/2020

LPAC minutes are approved by:
(Chairperson of the meeting)

W NAINOCA
Chairperson
01-23-2020

Kevin Pettrini
RSD-TIL