



Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) Meeting



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Minutes

Project Title: The Reimaanlok – Looking to the Future: Strengthening natural resource management in atoll communities in the Republic of Marshall Islands employing integrated approaches (RMI R2R) Project.

UNDP PIMS ID No.: 5685

GEF ID No.: 5544

Date: Friday 10th, February, 2017

Venue: Marshall Island Resort

Opening Remarks and welcome by Director OEPPC-Mr Clarence Samuel.

Background:

The GEF 5 RMI R2R Project formulation commenced in June 2015 after being handed over by UNEP to UNDP upon formal request from RMI government. The PIF was approved by the GEF Council in October 2015 and the formulation process followed in March 2016 with the Inception workshop. After the compilation of two (2) working drafts the Validation workshop was scheduled in November 2016. Final verification of the project proposal was shared with the RMI Government in February 2017 at which time the UNDP Mission was in country for the endorsement of the final proposal through the Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC).

Project Goal:

The subject project aims to support the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) in operationalizing the Reimaanlok – the National Conservation Area Plan that was adopted in 2008. Reimaanlok was developed partly in response to the Micronesia Challenge (MC), a shared commitment announced in 2006 of the three northern Pacific Island Countries of the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to effectively conserve at least 30% of the near-shore marine resources and 20% of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020.

Project Objective:

The RMI R2R project objective is to sustain atoll biodiversity and livelihoods by building community and ecosystem resilience to threats and degrading influences through integrated management of terrestrial and coastal resources.

Project Budget: \$3,927,981.00

Project Timeline: 2017 – 2022(5 years)

Executing Agency: Office of Environmental Planning and Policy Coordination (OEPPC)

LPAC Meeting Objectives:

- Presentation of Project Document and formulation process to date;
- Facilitate dialogue and allow feedback on key sections including as log frame, budget, implementation modality, project management structure.



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- Discuss and appraise UNDP Quality Assurance Assessment (Design and Appraisal)

Expected Outcomes:

- Identification and justification of any recommended amendments/changes to the project document
- Agreement on way forward for clearance and submission of Project Document to the Global Environment Facility (e.g. dates for sharing finalised pro-doc, endorsement of minutes of LPAC, submission to GEF)
- Endorsement of Project Document

Proceedings

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Clarence Samuel, Director OEPPC.

The meeting agenda is in Annex A.

The list of participants is in Annex B.

Baseline Situations

Presenter: UNDP RTA: Jose Padilla

Comments	Responses
Barriers Page bullet point 4 'Insufficient human resources capacity for sustaining effective PAN management' needs to be amended	Baseline will be updated during project implementation. TOR for the PAN Coordinator was to include any PAN legislative requirements, as needed.

Proposed Project Activities:

Component 1: Expanding and Sustaining RMI Protected Area Network

Presenter: Mark Stege – National Consultant Biodiversity Specialist

Comments	Responses
Clarification on the Aichi Targets	The project is achieving the Micronesian challenge that of which is accomplishing the CBD obligations.
The PA are being strengthened and enforced, which component targets the illegal foreign fishing vessels.	It is noted that the project supports the community based mechanisms in targeted areas. Each Atoll will be allocated approximately USD \$175,000 for field conventions to develop their individual management plans.
How will the project be managed to ensure non – duplication from ongoing projects from donor agencies.	The project strengthens synergies and compliments / or utilizes existing structures for instance R2R focusses marine and terrestrial whereas PROP focusses on coastal interventions. This is stipulated clearly in table 2 on page 22 of prodoc.



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Sustainable Financial
Management

Amend the text for the Activity 1.4.5 for Output 1.4 – from
'develop a sustainable financing concept note' to 'Identify
an alternative sustainable financial management plan'

Component 2: Improved Governance for Integrated Atoll Management.

Presenter: Jefferson Barton - National Consultant Socio-Economist Specialist

Comments	Responses
Output 2.4: Clarity on the sequence of the output of the activities 2.4.1 & 2.4.3	Activity 2.4.1 is not dependent on Activity 2.4.3. The development of the coursework and testing of curriculum in Activity 2.4.1 will not be undertaken by the environmental professionals to be trained in Activity 2.4.3. Academic consultants may be engaged in Activity 2.4.1.

Component 3: Knowledge Management

Presenter: Mark Stege National Consultant Biodiversity Specialist

Comments	Responses
Output 3.3.2 it was questioned why the project could only support one school for the testing of the environment education curriculum.	Budgetary restrictions to where funds would need to be sourced separately. Other donors may come in to expand coverage.
Output 3.4: Technical capacity was not budgeted for in the project document?	Director OEPPC who also sits on the Regional R2R Board to also ensure close coordination between the RMI R2R and Regional R2R project, including the provision of technical inputs. Additionally, the Regional R2R Project encourages South – South Initiative to where they host annual the Project National Coordinators.

Project Results Framework: Indicators & Targets

Presenter: Jose Padilla

Comments	Responses
Project Objective: Indicator on Number of direct project beneficiaries – is this figure of 2000 inclusive of Children, Youth & Adults? Has the Human Rights factor been considered into this indicator? If the indicators are linked to of SDG's?	The total number of beneficiaries is to be measured and verified during implementation. GEF 5 period is 2012-2016 while the SDGs were finalized in September 2015. While the GEF does not require alignment with the SDGs, the project document has indicated to which SDGs the project will contribute towards and these are SDG 14 & 15 primarily.



Component 1: indicator #2: Natural Resource Management plans (NRMP) – revisit the baseline and end of year project target	New baseline should read 1 (Aur) End of Project target should read 5 NRMP completed and adopted. Change will be done in prodoc.
Comments	Responses
Component 2: Suggestion for an increase in Indicators.	During the implementation stage the project would be able to add on further indicators upon the approval of the Project Board and taking into consideration the Tracking Tools which also provide a long number of indicators
Component 3: Indicator #2: Traditional Knowledge custodians; Baseline is to be refined as they need to identify where TEK is not widely acknowledged. End of project target – TEK guidelines currently exists and need to be amended	Appropriate change will be made in the finalization of the project document.

Project Management Arrangements

Presenter: Jose Padilla

Comments	Responses
Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is a more informal then formal organisation, how do you ensure that the PB will be guided by an organisation as such.	TOR for TAG is developed by PIU specifying its role and function with respect to the project. Coordination with the TAG is through the National Project Director who then reports to PB. During Board meetings they may also be invited as an observer with no voting rights but could contribute on discussions of technical issues. During implementation of the project, discussions can be made to strengthen this organisation and to officially formalize group.
Clarification on developing the project AWP & Work plans?	AWP & work plans will be prepared by PIU which will then be endorsed by the Project Board chaired by Director OEPPC. Activities can be amended but not the Outputs & Outcomes
Clarification of duplication of roles in PROP & RMI R2R investment into National Plans.	By design, the RMI R2R project has taken into account the PROP which is already an ongoing project to avoid any duplication. The two projects will jointly work in a number of sites complementing each other.
Clarification on Project board composition, why EPA & CMI were not considered?	Project Board consists of high level discussions, both organisations are clearly part of the TAG to where they would play an advisory role. If there is also a need for EPA to be on the Board, the decision lies with government, additionally with the recent inclusion of MIMRA.



It was recommended to keep the current composition of the PB as in the Prodoc; OEPPC will call the first board meeting to where they will finalise and formalize Project Board.

Budget & Co-financing

Comments	Responses
Clarification was made on the OEPPC Grant of \$500K and Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) in-kind contribution of \$2,452,768.00	It was noted that that OEPPC Grant is for the PMU office space and MIA in kind contribution from the five sites through the (5) Mayors costs for project activities time. Invitation was extended to partners who would like to be considered future co-financers to the project in particular CMI for their staff time.

Quality Assurance

- I. UNDP presented the results of quality assurance for the project. This was validated by the meeting.
- II. Quality Assurance Rating #19; **'Have targeted groups, prioritizing marginalized and excluded populations that will be affected by the project, been engaged in the design of the project in a way that addresses any underlying causes of exclusion and discrimination'** needs amendment to rating from 2 to now 3.

Endorsement

RMI R2R Reimaaanlok – Looking to the Future Project document was endorsed by OEPPC Director Clarence Samuels subject to changes that will be made as indicated above. This motion was seconded by the Acting Chief of Local Government Ms Rowena Alik and also agreed upon by Deputy Chief Secretary Jefferson Barton.

Meeting was officially closed by Director OEPPC at 12.30pm.

Meeting Minutes Endorsed:

 2/28/17

Date:

The LPAC Chairman,

Director OEPPC, Mr. Clarence Samuel.



Annex A

LPAC Agenda



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Local Project Appraisal Committee Meeting

The Reimaanlok – Looking to the Future: Strengthening natural resource management in atoll communities in the Republic of Marshall Islands employing integrated approaches (RMI R2R) Project

Date: Friday 10th, February, 2017

Venue: Marshall Island Resort

Time	Item	Comments
9:00am – 9:30am	Welcome and Introductions Appointment of Chairperson Opening Remarks from Government Opening Remarks from UNDP	Government and UNDP
10 minutes	LPAC: Background; Objective; Expected Outcomes	UNDP
9:25am – 10:00am	Presentation of the Project Document and GEF Approval Process	National Consultant & UNDP
10:00am – 10:15am	Morning Tea	
10:15am – 11:00am	Quality Assurance	UNDP
11:00am – 12:00pm	General comments & discussions on Project document	Chairperson
12:00pm – 12:30pm	Summary of Discussions Agreed Steps on Way Forward Way	Government and UNDP
12:30pm – 1:00pm	Lunch	



Annex B:

Meeting Participants



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Meeting Attendance Form

Name	Organisation	Email Address	Signature
1. Charlynn A. Alfred	College of the Marshall Is.	calfred@cmi.edu	Charlynn A. Alfred
2. Melinda Nish	CMi	mnish@cmi.edu	Melinda Nish
3. Laurence Edwards, #	MMRA	ledwards@mmra.com	Laurence Edwards
4. Julius Lucky	EPA	juliuslucky@epa.gov	Julius Lucky
5. Jose Padilla	UNDP	jose.padilla@undp.org	José Padilla
6. Terry Keji	UN JPO	keji@unfpa.org	Terry Keji
7. Winifred Naince	UNDP	winifred.naince@undp.org	Winifred Naince
8. Jefferson Barton	Chief Secretary	jeffersonbarton@gmail.com	Jefferson Barton
9. Clarence Samuel	DEPPC	clarencesamuel@gmail.com	Clarence Samuel
10. Mimi Siga	R2R MICS / PPG-Team	mimiheliga@gmail.com	Mimi Siga
11. Roena Allen	MOIA	roenaallen@moia.gov	Roena Allen
12. Vasiti Nanku	UNDP	vasiti.nanku@undp.org	Vasiti Nanku