

Climate Security in the Pacific Project

3rd Project Board Meeting Minutes

15 December 2022

Date: 15th December 2022

Time: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm

Venue: Virtual Zoom Meeting / Lalaga Room, Level 7, Kadavu House, UNDP Pacific Office (Suva, Fiji)

Chair:
UNDP – Deputy Resident Representative – Ms. Yemesrach Workie

Attendance:

Title	Names	Role	Organization
Mr.	Jaap Van Hierden	Resident Representative	UNRCO Micronesia
Mr.	Agus Wandu	Peace & Development Advisor	UNRCO Fiji
Ms.	Yemesrach Workie	Deputy Resident Representative	UNDP
Ms.	Angela Saunders	Head of IOM Sub Office, Republic of Marshall Islands	IOM
Ms.	Iunipa Teatu	Deputy Secretary of Ministry of Finance	Gov. of Tuvalu
Ms.	Tebaiti Redfern	Acting Assistant Secretary of the Office of the President	Gov. of Kiribati
Mr.	Clarence Samuel	Director of Climate Change Directorate	Gov. of RMI
Mr.	Terio Koronawa	Regional Security Advisor	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
Ms.	Pepetua Latasi	Director, Climate Change Department	Gov. of Tuvalu
Ms.	Sally Rimon	National Disaster Management Officer	Gov. of Kiribati
Mr.	Kirata Tekiera	Climate Change Coordinator, Office of the President	Gov. of Kiribati
Mr.	Justin Shone	Team Leader, RSD	UNDP
Ms.	Winifereti Nainoca	Deputy Team Leader, RSD	UNDP
Ms.	Merewalesi Laveti	Monitoring & Evaluation Analyst	UNDP
Ms.	Emma Sale	Project Manager, Climate Security Project, RSD	UNDP
Ms.	Serena Arcone	Climate Security Specialist, Climate Security Project, RSD	UNDP
Mr.	Kaiea Awira	Deputy Project Manager, Climate Security Project, Kiribati	UNDP
Ms.	Yoshiko Yamaguchi	Deputy Project Manager, Climate Security Project, RMI	IOM - RMI
Mr.	Saamu Tui	Deputy Project Manager, Climate Security Project, Tuvalu	UNDP
Mr.	Giulio Fabris	Communications & Advocacy Specialist	UNDP
Mr.	Vinay Singh	Finance and Administration Associate	UNDP

Note Takers: Emma Sale

1. Welcome and opening remarks by officials of the UN, Government, and regional organization

- The UNDP Project Manager, Emma Sale welcomed the participants to the third Project Board meeting for the Climate Security in the Pacific Project. The floor was handed over to the Chair.
- The **Chair and UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, Ms. Yemesrach Workie**, acknowledged all Project Board members present for their participation, commitment, and support for this important initiative for the Pacific and the global community.
- The key points highlighted by the **Peace and Development Advisor of the UN Resident Coordination Office in Fiji, Mr. Agus Wandu**, were: the project is very important and gaining strong traction and interest especially from the Pacific Ambassadors in New York; following up on the Regional Dialogue and the climate security risk assessments is important; there is high expectation that a second phase of the climate security project will be developed and therefore, it is critical to show key tangible results, as well as linkages to the regional agenda and post-UNFCCC COP-27 work.
- The **UN Resident Coordinator in Micronesia, Mr. Jaap Van Hierden**, stated that having visited Kiribati and the Republic of Marshall Islands, he is more attuned to the climate security challenges experienced in these two countries. Therefore, he understands the initial request from Kiribati for the infrastructure-related pilot activity much better and would like to see if this could be agreed upon in the second phase of the project. As this is an important project and a critical initiative, he encouraged board members to consider what has been done well, and what could be done well and built upon in the next phase.
- The **UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, Ms. Yemesrach Workie**, underlined the importance of the security aspects of climate change in the Pacific context, the achievements made since the 2nd Project Board meeting, and the commitment required to successfully complete the project including the support for a possible second no-cost extension.
- The **Head of IOM Sub Office for the Republic of Marshall Islands, Ms. Angela Saunders**, acknowledged the leadership of the RCOs, the host Governments of the atoll nations, as well as UNDP, and emphasized that local knowledge and local capacities are critical in the implementation of the pilot initiative in RMI. The support of the Climate Change Directorate has been overwhelming, and project methodologies are considered best practices and utilized for the adaptation work in RMI. Her Excellency Ambassador Kabua was acknowledged for her strong leadership in international negotiations to raise the voices of atoll nations and for the launching of the climate security risk assessment profile at the UNFCCC COP27. IOM hopes that resources would be mobilized and looks forward to continuing the successful partnership in the second phase of the project.
- **The Country Government Representatives from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Kiribati and Tuvalu gave their opening remarks, underlining their analyses of the progress to-date and the importance of obtaining the right support from donors and development partners.**
 - The **Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Finance from Tuvalu, Ms. Iunipa Teatu**, acknowledged the exceptional work delivered under the PBF Climate Security Project and especially the production of the Tuvalu national climate security risk assessment profile, which will assist the Government address its climate-related security risks; acknowledged that the pilot initiative will support communities to climate-secure its home gardening through the application of food cubes

and looks forward to seeing the impacts on peace and security as it addresses loss of land and food security issues and overcome potential conflicts over natural resources; acknowledged support from UNDP and Governments for organizing the launch of the climate security risk profiles at the UNFCCC COP27 side event; and re-affirmed the Government’s full support to the project and urges donor partners for continued support and financial assistance to address climate security risks that affect communities.

- The **Acting Assistant Secretary of the Office of the President from Kiribati, Ms. Tebaiti Redfern**, re-affirmed Government’s commitment to the project and is looking forward to the implementation of pilot initiatives and completion of remaining activities; highlighted their disappointment in having their initial request for a food storage warehouse rejected by the 1st Project Board meeting, and requested that this is taken onboard in the second phase of the project; and acknowledged the support from the project in helping Kiribati understand and address its climate-related security risks.
- The **Director of the Climate Change Directorate of the Republic of Marshall Islands, Mr. Clarence Samuel**, re-emphasized that low-lying atoll nations (Kiribati, RMI, and Tuvalu) are extremely vulnerable to the ongoing climate security risks, and combined with the risks of loss of social and cultural practices, the environmental damage due to the climate crisis is a lived reality that requires swift actions; seasonal changes are already happening where the worst cases of inundations due to king tides are occurring in November as opposed to February; acknowledged that the project has been vital to identifying needs and inputs from grassroots and communities that would help guide policy work (e.g. the consultation on the RMI National Adaptation Plan are utilizing the project’s methodologies); acknowledged that understanding the multi-dimensional aspects of climate change and security is also strengthened through this project; and congratulated all those involved in the achievements to-date.
- The **Regional Security Advisor from the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Mr. Terio Koronawa**, conveyed sincere gratitude to UNDP, the UNRCOs, the Adelphi think tank, and PIF members on the development of the Pacific Climate Security Risk Assessment Framework (PCSAF), which is being reviewed by the Forum Sub-Committee on Regional Security (FSRS); and underlined the importance of assisting PIF members on the implementation of the Framework, especially on addressing climate-related security risks and issues and to assist with policy planning moving forward.
- Introduction of the agenda of the day.

Agenda:

- *2nd Project Board Meeting Minutes (presented by Emma Sale)*
- *Overall progress and achievements (presented by - Emma Sale, Giulio Fabris, Vinay Singh)*
- *Country progress and achievements (presented by Yoshiko Yamaguchi, RMI; Kaiea Awira, Kiribati; and Saamu Tui, Tuvalu)*
- *Regional support (presented by Serena Arcone)*
- *Areas for strategic intervention (presented by Merewalesi Laveti, and Emma Sale)*
- *Presentation of concept notes for second phase (presented by Emma Sale)*
- *Discussion and decision points*

Topic	Highlights
1. <i>2nd Project Board</i>	The meeting agreed to: (i) endorse the project no-cost extension and provide further support to specific strategic areas that require intervention (i.e. the policy research on embedding climate security into policies and budgets; support for CANCC, mediation training, risk assessments, deep dive assessment on gender and climate security and the limits of adaptation, and the development partners’ dialogue); (ii) agreed to support the

<p><i>Meeting Minutes</i></p>	<p>next phase and that concept notes and proposals could be developed during the no-cost extension period; and (iii) recommended to highlight stories in high-level political forum, develop an acceleration plan, and consider allocating uncommitted funds to scale-up pilot initiatives and for national capacity development to prepare atoll nations to migrate externally with dignity.</p>
<p>2. Overall progress and achievements</p> <p>(Please refer to power-point presentation)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key achievements – inclusive consultations and completion of baseline perception surveys, commencement of pilot initiatives in the Republic of Marshall Islands and Tuvalu, increased awareness, enhanced support from PCSN through the Regional Dialogue, enhanced co-operation with regional actors including PIFS, increased visibility and advocacy, completion of climate security risk assessments and development of country profiles and regional assessment framework; completion of policy research on embedding climate security into national policies and budgetary processes in the Republic of Marshall Islands and Tuvalu. • Ongoing priorities – completion of community-based intervention in Tuvalu, and Kiribati, completion of capacity building initiative on climate security related mediation, support to regional actors including CANCC, promoting strategic dialogue with Development Partners on Climate Security, continued communication and advocacy, and completion of the project final evaluation process. • Updates on communications – catching the last wave podcasts, google earth stories and videos for all pilot initiatives, launch of the high-level climate security risk assessment summaries at UNFCCC COP27, and official launch in January 2023, and advocacy at the Pacific Climate Justice Summit, High-level Pacific Climate Security Dialogue in New York, and Climate Security Mechanism induction in New York. Ongoing priorities include highlighting the results of pilot initiatives, developing a communications and advocacy plan to ensure continuity and ownership beyond the project, and support to climate security related events. • Financial status – the project has received Tranche 2 of project funds and to-date, spent, and acquitted US\$2,265,958 of the total budget of US\$3,200,000. This equates to 71% delivery of the total budget. Of the total remaining balance of US\$934,041.73 the expenditure forecast from 1st December 2022 to 13th February 2023 is US\$367,800.43. This leaves a forecast of uncommitted funds amounting to US\$566,241.30 that could be fully utilized in a second project extension period.
<p>3. Country progress and achievements</p> <p>(Please refer to power-point presentation)</p>	<p>Project implementation at the national level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Republic of Marshall Islands – the pilot initiative has been implemented on Mejjatto Island where the solar-run aeroponic garden towers have been installed for the benefit of 352 people (52% female) and to help address conflicts linked to climate-induced food scarcity. Seven workshops on ‘social and emotional learning for social cohesion’ have been completed where 248 community members undertook the training. RMI’s climate security risk assessment profile has been reviewed and submitted for endorsement. A weeklong training camp on youth leadership was completed, along with a workshop empowering people with disability and human rights. • Kiribati – The pilot initiatives on upgrading fishponds and agricultural nurseries have been confirmed for Tamana and Marakei Islands, which will benefit 3,792 people (51% female) and address conflicts over natural resources. Office equipment have been provided to the Office of the President to support project personnel. The Kiribati climate security risk assessment profile is under review, and its high-level summary was presented at a UNFCCC COP-27 side event.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuvalu – the agricultural food cube gardening is being installed in Nui Island for the benefit of 494 people (50% female), which will prevent claims over land (due to climate-induced land loss) and avoid threats to social cohesion. The second draft of Tuvalu’s climate security risk assessment profile is under review, and its high-level summary was presented at a UNFCCC COP-27 side event. The project has conducted 21 consultations and reached 737 people (54% female) from local communities, Government agencies, and NGOs.
<p>4. Regional support</p> <p>(Please refer to power-point presentation)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pacific Climate Security Assessment Framework (PCSAF) has been reviewed in the Regional Dialogue involving government representatives and Non-State Actors from the region (31st August – 1st September). The first round of PCSAF revision has been completed, with high participation in the review process. The revised PCSAF has been submitted to the Forum Sub-committee on Regional Security (FSRS) for feedback (due 16th December) and was also presented to the Pacific Ambassadors in New York on 8th December. Feedback will be incorporated and launched in late January 2023. • The Gender and Climate Security Deep Dive assessment have been conducted and a draft is currently under review. • The Deep Dive assessment on the Limits of Adaptation has been completed and the draft is under review.
<p>5. Areas for strategic intervention</p> <p>(Please refer to power-point presentation)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft Final Evaluation report highlights the following findings: the project has a strong relevance and design, has efficient mechanisms along with its implementation modality and structure and roles. Although there are no financial issues and discrepancy, the implementation rate has been affected by COVID-19. The effectiveness, in terms of progress against performance indicators, is seriously affected by COVID-19. The project’s sustainability requires constant support, while the impact was unable to be assessed and requires clear communication. While the project has ensured gender empowerment and equal participation of men and women, there is lack of evidence on the inclusion of people living with disabilities. A second project extension is recommended as the 24 months duration is deemed too short for a complex, cross-border, and new area (climate security) involved. An adaptive peacebuilding approach should be built into the project, as well as sustainability and national appropriation. The design should have included a rigorous locally owned conflict analysis based on human rights approach, and the transfer of knowledge of a new concept is critical for capacity building. The integration of peacebuilding approach into local policies and laws will help understand this concept and its significance. The procurement processes of UNDP have room for further improvement. • Recognizing that the project has US\$566,241.30 of forecast uncommitted funds by February 2023, the second project No Cost Extension was requested by the project team. The PBSO has been alerted of this situation and they have recently advised that in-principle they can allow for up to 6-months No Cost Extension to ensure the completion of all remaining activities especially for the Kiribati component. Broad categories of activities to be completed in 2023 (including an additional No Cost Extension period) include the following: (i) completion of remaining activities and enhancing pilot initiatives; (ii) convening of in-person events in Suva, Fiji; and (iii) project management costs.
<p>6. Presentation of concept notes for second phase</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project team has also developed concept notes for the project’s second phase and worked in collaboration with IOM, the Government of Tuvalu, and internally with the Effective Governance team of UNDP.

<p>(Please refer to power-point presentation)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three broad concept notes (totaling US\$15m) are being prepared based on the findings of the draft PCSAF, climate security country profiles for each of the three countries, the policy research on embedding climate security into policy and budgetary process in Tuvalu, and UN agency/unit specific ideas. • The broad concept notes that are being developed are specifically relating to: (i) knowledge, capacities, communication, and programming; (ii) mainstreaming of climate security across policies, frameworks, and planning; and (iii) climate and conflict sensitive approaches in adaptation and mitigation practices. The first drafts are under review, and the revised versions will be shared with Project Board members by mid-January 2023.
<p>7. Decision points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Evaluation findings • Second No Cost Extension for the project • Concept Notes for phase 2
<p>8. Discussions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Final Evaluation findings were appreciated by Mr. Jaap Van Hierden, the Resident Coordinator for Micronesia, who noted the very clear recommendation for the second project extension, and concerns on sustainability needing constant support, and the impacts not being able to be assessed requiring clear communication on climate security. • Mr. Van Hierden appreciated all presentations and recalled the experience of the 1st Project Board meeting where decisions were made, which did not have the full buy-in from each of the three countries. Mr. Van Hierden stated that all decisions made during Project Board meetings must ensure that all countries' concerns are duly onboard. Upon enquiry, Emma Sale (Project Manager) clarified that the first category of activities outlined for the second No Cost Extension period have been discussed with countries (via the country coordinators) and are based upon proposals that were shared by governments earlier but could not be implemented due to limited timelines (e.g., proposals relating to the Kiribati maritime boundaries, and trade-related activities for the commerce ministry). For RMI, the solar-based aeroponic garden towers will be launched in early 2023 and will involve a field visit to Mejatto by Government and IOM officials. Mr. Van Hierden stated that the RMI pilot will be extremely relevant to any atoll nation and is interested in its operations, maintenance, and sustainability. He added that the success of the RMI pilot is to be shared with FAO to improve their support to sustainable agriculture for low-lying atoll nations. Ms. Angela Saunders, Head of IOM Sub-Office in RMI, informed that her office would invite Mr. Van Hierden to the launch and added that the pilot was also presented to the Ebeye community for a potential phase 2 of the project where IOM had started a dialogue about urban food security that is different from rural food security and how aeroponics could potentially be an amazing real solution in Ebeye community. • Mr. Van Hierden added that the nature of activities (e.g., software or hardware) needs to be clarified to avoid having a lot of knowledge products that will end up on the shelves. In addition, there needs to be some thinking about how these would link into UNFCCC COP-28 and in sharpening our message. He added that the three pilot countries provide very compelling examples of the terrible impacts of climate change (rising sea levels) and how it is impacting their

way of life and the potential of conflict as sea level rises and how to deal with these.

- Mr. Agus Wandu, Peace and Development Adviser for RCO – Fiji, added that he completely subscribed to the need to ensure full buy-in from all three countries as far as Project Board decisions are concerned. He requested for **confirmation from countries if the activities that have been outlined for the second No Cost Extension period have been discussed, are relevant, and agreed to.** Regarding the proposed in-person events in Suva (Fiji), the key event would be the Development Partners’ Dialogue where findings of the climate security risk assessments would be presented along with concepts for the project’s second phase. He added that resources could be focused on **Strategic Foresight and Mediation Training.** Mr. Wandu also emphasized the importance of building a **convincing narrative and justification for the project’s second phase** using knowledge drawn from the current phase.
- Ms. Sally Rimon from the National Disaster Management Office and representing the Climate Change Unit of the Office of the President from Kiribati, **appreciates and acknowledge the support of UNDP and IOM, and PBF. Kiribati is thankful of the possibility for a project extension to ensure the completion of activities for Kiribati, in particular the pilot initiatives on fishpond and agricultural nursery in Marakei and Tamana islands.** Regarding the priorities for the second No Cost Extension period, Ms. Rimon **confirmed that the activities on maritime boundaries and trade remains as their priorities.** Priorities for **phase 2** could look at **enhancing the Kiribati Meteorological Services’ Early Warning Systems, and construction of a food storage warehouse in Tamana Island.** Regarding project implementation modality, Ms. Rimon requested if **phase 2 could be done via National Implementation Modality (NIM)** based on the outcome of recent micro-HACT assessment of the Office of the President.
- Ms. Pepetua Latasi, the Director for the Climate Change Department for Tuvalu, **confirmed that the priorities for the no cost extension period is for enhancing the pilot food cubes activities in Nui Island.** Secondly, as discussed with RMI’s Climate Envoy at the UNFCCC COP27, there is **need for a workshop to validate some of the findings of the Climate Security Risk Assessment Profiles that could bring the participating countries together to allow them to have a common understanding** as once published will be used by Governments moving forward. Regarding the budget for the **no cost extension period, there is need to expedite the utilization of funds** and would like to work with participating countries to ensure complete utilization of funds. Regarding **phase 2, it is important to engage closely with countries so that country priorities are reflected in the concept notes** and there is room to discuss further at the climate security national profile validation workshop, in addition to issuing **specific communication to governments.** The Project Manager assured that the draft concept notes have been developed based on outcomes of the climate security risk assessments, both at national and regional levels, and in consultation with each country coordinator. Once reviewed and

updated, the concept notes will be officially submitted to each Government for review.

- Regarding the lack of project **impact** as outlined in the draft Final Evaluation Report, Merewalesi Laveti (Monitoring and Evaluation Analyst) clarified that project impact could not be ascertained as pilot initiatives have not been completed yet. However, the evaluation took note that the project has managed to activate government ministries and other key stakeholders regarding the inclusive approach undertaken and had scaled up awareness, understanding, and dialogue on climate security and what it means to specific country contexts. The project has also paved the pathways to peacebuilding in the context of climate security in the Pacific. Regarding **sustainability**, the evaluation recommended that national institutions fully take onboard the activities that have been initiated by the project.
- Regarding possible linkages **between phase 2 and UNFCCC COP28**, Serena Arcone (Climate Security Specialist) foresees that by this time the final climate security risk profiles could be used for negotiations and building on the takeaways from COP27 such as on loss and damage discussions.
- The Project Board **agreed to endorse the second project no-cost extension** and focus on country priorities both in activities and remaining funds.
- The Project Board **agreed to convene a workshop to validate the climate security risk assessment findings and profiles**.
- The Project Board agreed to include **national priorities in the development of concept notes for phase 2**.

9. Conclusions

- The Project Board Meeting was well received by all the participants, who had the opportunity to: (i) assess the project results; (ii) broadly endorse the second No Cost Extension (for a minimum of 3 months and a maximum of 6 months to fully complete all remaining activities) that will focus on country priorities; and (iii) provide inputs to the development of concept notes for phase 2.
- The Project Board agreed that a detailed Annual Work Plan for 2023 is shared for review together with the Project Board minutes, so that remaining country allocations are used for country activities.

10.Attachment: Power-point presentation

Recorded session: https://undp.zoom.us/rec/share/TttomYicu0B-bwVqcSIQmJ51A22YO6mL7mI16_8q8brn_oyuZmCLuQNGd_Hrsy2o.0f0Noojyr8EOmrNp

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