

Country Brief

Project Site Description

Two (2) sites were identified through the Secretariat of Pacific Communities (SPC) selection process for the Republic of Marshall Islands. These were Majuro Atoll and Jaluit Atoll. In keeping with the scope of work assigned for the University of the South Pacific (USP), our project component will focus on building and strengthening the capacity of local government stakeholders.

Progress

Activities	Status	
Desktop Review	✓	Completed
Stakeholder Consultation – PNA Report	✓	Completed
Outreach and Awareness Raising	✓	On-going
Identification of Change Agents	✓	Completed
Consultation with Ministries	✓	On-going
Identification of Training Needs	✓	Completed
Training as per the identified need	X	Yet to start
Identification of local development plan	✓	Completed
implementation of development plans	•	Initiated

Government Ministry Consultations

At the inception phase of the project, consultations with the following ministries and departments have taken place to ensure that the USP activities are aligned well with activities within these

ministries/departments and that their support, buy-in and participation will ultimately contribute to the successful implementation of the USP Output.

The project was introduced to the Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs (MoCIA), the line ministry to which all Island/Atoll Councils align. At this consultation the Minister, Hon. Mr. Jemi Nashion assured the project of his ministry's support towards activities to be implemented at the two project sites. The Hon. Minister and his Secretary accompanied the project at its first community visit to Jaluit.

Desktop Review

A local consultant facilitated discussions in the local language. The desktop reviews aimed at providing a snapshot of the status of capacity within the local governments (Majuro Atoll Local Government (MALGoV) and Jaluit Atoll Local Government (JALGoV)) to address climate change on certain areas including governance and social systems, disaster risk management and capacity development. The reports analyzed these areas and made recommendations on potential capacity building options to that will enhance community resilience to the posing threats of climate change and disasters. The Participatory Needs Assessment (PNA) stakeholder consultation then facilitated detailed discussions on the recommendations prioritizing training needs of the target audience.



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Local Development Plans/Island Strategic Development Plans

For Jaluit, a Community Development Plan (CDP) prioritizing training needs was the outcome from its PNA Stakeholder Consultation. The Jaluit Council collectively endorsed the CDP as a Resolution that is now incorporated into the Islands Constitution. The plan is a three-year plan to achieve a local standard in practice of climate change and disaster risk management to address the adverse impacts of these catastrophic events to the communities of Jaluit. The plan aims to provide a feasible strategy to enhance community resilience, incorporating sustainable development and traditional knowledge.

In addition to the CDP, JALGoV requested the support of the project to develop its Disaster Management Plan. The RMI Nationwide Integrated Disaster Risk Management and Change Policy, highlight the need for community-level climate change adaptation and disaster preparedness plans. The overall aim of the committee is to link formal, national process with those at the community-level.



Challenges and Solutions

The only challenge that the RMI USP EU GCCA faced was domestic transportation, and this was a tremendous challenge because there is always a great degree of uncertainty attached to it. It is still the problem now and it has caused major setbacks for the project, considering the limited finances the project has. While there is the Marshall Islands shipping boats that are available, they also pose a challenge because of its unpredictable routes and dates of field trips, and these routes never take

one way trip unless chartered or there is an emergency encountered on board. They can take at least a week or two, or sometimes up to more than a month to arrive back at Majuro from one single field trip.

Lesson Learnt

One significant lesson learnt in the RMI is that the traditional leaders are critical to the success of implementation. There are local government officials representing all the different communities in the Marshall Islands, but the traditional leadership plays a more important role in most of the decision making for the communities. The iroij (Chiefs) and alaps (Landowners) have significant influence in the governance and decision-making processes. Furthermore, the iroij and alaps are also suitable project consultants because they have a great deal of knowledge about the history of their lands and the impacts of climate change pressuring their communities, and their needs to adapt to these impacts. Technical partners and other project collaborators are also very vital to seek out for the success of implementation.

Financial Summary

Item/Activity	Total Budget Allocation (EUR)	Year 1 & 2 Actual (EUR)	Balance (EUR)
(1.4) Total Office Costs	15,580	3,675	11,905
(2.1) Mobilisation and outreach on climate and disaster resilience with local area stakeholders in intervention areas	21,000	24,749	(3,749)
(2.2) Provision of training in resilient development to local area stakeholders	16,500	3,156	13,344
(2.3) Mainstream and integrate climate change and disaster risk management in sub-national sustainable development plans e.g. island plans	15,500	7,589	7,911
(2.4) Enhance the capacity to implement, monitor and evaluate sub-national sustainable development plans e.g. island plans	10,656	-	10,656
Total	79,236	39,169	40,067