

Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA+) Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation Project (SUPA)

Project Concept Note

Name of Country	Republic of the Marshall Islands	
Name of Lead Agency/Ministry	Canvasback Wellness Center	
General Information		
Project Title	Community Food & Health Security in the Marshall Islands	
Project Site(s)	Majuro, Arno and Jaluit Atolls	
Project Duration	Four years	
Project Partners	Ministry of Health, Ministry of National Resources and Commerce, Mayors Association, Arno Atoll Local Government, Majuro Atoll Local Government, Jaluit Atoll Local Government, Taiwan Technical Mission at Laura Farm, Marshall Islands Organic Farmers Association	
Indicative Project Cost	US\$535,000	
<i>Funding modality: Indicate below your country's preference for funding arrangements for national coordinator and implementation.</i>		
Do you need a national coordinator (Yes or No)? NO		
If you answered "No" above, proceed to question 3.		
1. Place a tick in the box on the right to indicate the modality for funding the national coordinator position.		
Country recruits and pays the national coordinator through a Grant Agreement with SPC		
SPC recruits the national coordinator so he/she becomes an SPC staff based in-country		
2. In which agency will the national coordinator be housed?		
3. Place a tick in the box on the right to indicate the modality for funding implementation of activities.		
Country carries out procurement for all activities through a Grant Agreement with SPC (and according to SPC's procurement policies and procedures)		
SPC carries out procurement for all activities		
Blend of the above two modalities		X
<u>Project Description</u> and Link to SUPA Output 3	<p>The RMI's "National Climate Change and Health Action Plan of August 2012, identified several climate-sensitive health risks that will be addressed by this proposed expansion project. These include 1) malnutrition due to crop failures related to inundation and 2) obesity, circulatory disease, diabetes and related NCDs due to altered dietary patterns and dependence of processed foods and altered physical activity levels.</p> <p>The proposed Community Food and Health program is an expansion of Canvasback's "Community Lifestyle Program" ("CLP") which was piloted on Majuro Atoll, to improve food security and health resilience for diabetic patients. This program will be expanded to the outer atolls of Arno and Jaluit. Arno Atoll was selected because it is the closest atoll to the capital of Majuro (25 miles away and accessible by small boat), making implementation of the program feasible. Jaluit was selected by request of two Senators for that atoll who support</p>	

the Wellness Center projects. Both atolls have a population of about 1,500.

The CLP program includes home gardening instruction, using elevated earth boxes made with old plastic containers that wash up on shore, and both large and small recycled water bottles for “green wall” gardening where space is limited. Gardening for improved access to healthy food is incorporated with healthy cooking classes, and exercise activities for improved health.

The project is a “train the trainer” concept, whereby an initial cohort of participants will receive instruction (gardening and cooking) at the Wellness Center on Majuro, where the Wellness Center has a long-established demonstration garden and healthy cooking kitchen.

The first three months of the project, Canvasback staff will teach participants and MOH Community Health Outreach Workers how to prepare recipes from its Healthy Cooking with Local Foods cookbook. Cooking classes will focus on teaching a return to traditional Marshallese cooking with heavy emphasis on using locally grown foods such as breadfruit, papaya, taro, cassava, etc.

A recognized horticultural expert (Richard Clark, who has a B.A. in Agriculture from Warner University in Florida.

will teach several different gardening techniques including:

- How to use kitchen waste to make organic compost.
- How to integrate local crops for improved health
- How to build and maintain “green walls” using old water bottles

Through partnerships with Marshall Islands Organic Farmers Association (MIOFA), MNRC, EU RENI program, and Taiwan Technical Mission at Laura Farm, participants will receive seeds and seedlings and additional training courses to ensure the sustainability of the gardening program and assist with outer island sustainability of the program. The EU RENI program is scheduled for an October 2019 visit to Ailuk Atoll to start a health program and will return in May 2020 for follow up visits. Home gardens will be established during first visit as well as additional components to this health program.

The project also includes the establishment of “walking clubs” that encourage environmental awareness education and activities to help connect improved health of the individuals, improved health of the community, and improved health of the environment.

The CLP project will impact 2600 people over 4 years – for a cost of \$205 per person.

Proposed Project Outputs and Outcomes	<p>Conduct an ongoing series of gardening and cooking classes that will result in participants learning how to make their own organic compost from kitchen waste, and how to grow and prepare produce from home gardens, how to create “green walls” using old water bottles</p> <p>Conduct at least 2 trips to Arno and Jaluit each year during the grant cycle to implement similar activities on these outer atolls.</p> <p>Conduct a series of meetings in collaboration with appropriate government ministries to update the 2012 National Climate Change and Health Action Plan (NCCHAP).</p> <p>Outcomes from these activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of 150 “green walls” using recycled water bottles (how many?) • Cultivation of 150 home gardens on Arno Atoll and 300 home gardens on Jaluit Atoll. • Cultivation of 500 new home gardens on Majuro Atoll. • Establishment of 15 new walking clubs • Increased use of fresh vegetables from home gardens as measured by patient surveys.
---------------------------------------	---

General Criteria for Identification of Projects	
Criteria	How does the proposed project adhere to the criterion?
<p>1. Each country is to select one sector from the following list for scaling up: <i>i) Food security, ii) Water security, iii) Human health, iv) Coastal protection, v) Marine resources</i>); and the sector selected must be linked to national priorities.</p>	<p>Sector selected: iii) Human Health</p> <p>How is this sector selection linked to national priorities: The project aligns with the country’s National Climate Change Policy Framework (January 2011), “Response to Climate Change Vulnerabilities” – specifically as to Goal 2: Adaptation and Reducing Risks for a Climate Resilient Future “...the RMI is already implementing actions that contribute to increasing the adaptive capacity of ecosystems to changes in climate. These include the implementation of the Micronesia Challenge commitments through its associated Plans. These initiatives need to be scaled up and broadened to other sectors to ensure that resilience to climate change is strengthened....”... The following sectors need to be strengthened to increase the RMI’s capacity to adapt... Food and Water Security... Health</p> <p>With respect to food security, RMI is particularly vulnerable as it imports most food items, and it has no clear agricultural or food security policy. Following the state of emergency declared in July 2008 as a result of rising fuel prices as well as the impact of rising food prices, the government established a Food Task Force to provide advice on mitigation measures. Recent initiatives have seen some emphasis on household food production with the Agriculture Department giving away vegetable seedlings for household food gardens as a pilot project targeting youth (16 to 24 years) and including advice on composting, seed handling and how to cook different crops.</p>

<p>2. Identify the tested and effective previous measure that has elements of sustainability, and is to be scaled up in the project timeframe.</p>	<p>The Community Lifestyle Program (CLP) started in 2015 with a small pilot project at the LDS church in the Rita area on Majuro Atoll. In 2017, the program established five new walking clubs in the five different villages. This helped to sustain the progress many patients had made in reversing diabetes and heart disease through diet and exercise. In 2018, the program established community health workers to increase sustainability. After a successful pilot program, the health worker program expanded to include more villages and spread across Majuro Atoll.</p>
<p>3. The selected scaled up measures must have socio-economic benefits for the communities and be implemented using an evidence-based gender-sensitive and rights-based approach.</p>	<p>The Marshall Islands is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and the people have to deal daily with the stress of rising sea levels. These changes are impacting human health, especially sensitivity to and prevalence of water borne diseases, food safety and prevalence of food borne diseases, and the prevalence of vector borne diseases e.g. dengue fever, as well as other effects such as heat stress.</p> <p>This project aligns with the efforts of the EU “Readiness for El Nino (RENI) project. It is a participatory approach that incorporates women and works through local area consultations to establish more home gardens, improving gardening knowledge and techniques, and provide training in food preservation and safety. It builds on the existing efforts of the RMI government to build awareness and influence behaviors around the linkage between healthy lifestyles and reducing non-communicable diseases. The home gardening program aims to improve food security and health resiliency for the participants and their family members. A healthier population is better equipped to deal with these stressors. With a healthier population, people will be more resilient and able to overcome climate change issues as they arise.</p> <p>Further, a UNDP report on Community Based Adaptations for the “scaling up” of community-based actions stressed the importance of working with communities to use non-formal methods for teaching behavioral change, especially as related to health and lifestyle choices. The report emphasized the importance of explaining climate change using locally relevant examples, such as the need to adapt how food crops are grown, adapting food choices to improve health, and building capacity and awareness about the issue. The need for “considerable” time and energy to be invested in the change was highlighted.</p>
<p>4. The selected scaled up measure must fit within the scope of the SUPA budget.</p>	<p>The activities fit within the overall budget of USD\$535,000 over four years. Projecting that at least 2,600 participants will be involved in the project over four years, the per capita cost is \$205 .</p>