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## Pacific-American Climate Fund (PACAM)

February 2017

### Aquaculture Technologies of the Marshall Islands (ATMI)

#### PROJECT SNAPSHOT

##### GRANT TITLE

RMI Aquaculture Fisheries Project

##### OBJECTIVES

To improve economic resiliency and food security on Majuro atoll through developing the aquaculture sector. To manufacture fish feed, grow fish, and provide training to establish aquaculture farms.

##### LOCATION

Majuro Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands

##### GRANT AMOUNT

\$1,701,750

##### DURATION

36 months

##### KEY PARTNERS

- Marshall Islands Marine Resource Authority
- College of the Marshall Islands
- National Training Council
- Women United Together Marshall Islands
- Marshall Islands Mayors' Association
- Liekiep Aquaculture Cooperative



Photo © PACAMI/ Matt Abbott

#### PROJECT SUMMARY

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) is approximately 112 square kilometers of land spread over more than 1.8 million square kilometers of the Pacific Ocean. The highest point anywhere on its 1,000 islands and atolls is just about two meters above sea level. Climate change adversely impacts both food security and livelihoods, as the majority of Marshallese households derive income directly from fisheries, fishing tourism, and subsistence fishing. The country imports up to 90 percent of its food products, and agricultural inputs annually, and the 2008 economic crisis demonstrated that RMI would have inadequate food supplies in an emergency.

With a grant from the Pacific-American Climate Fund (PACAM), Aquaculture Technologies of the Marshall Islands (ATMI) will establish alternative, climate-adaptive livelihoods for fishing communities in Majuro atoll. The project will manufacture cost-efficient local fish feed to boost local aquaculture; expand fish production through grow-out in open ocean cages, in order to improve food security; and train the local workforce to establish small aquaculture farms and enhance their livelihoods. Currently, farmers rely heavily on expensive, imported agricultural inputs. The PACAM-funded project will work through a network of small and mid-sized farms and utilize local agricultural products and fish by-products to produce the economical feed for agriculture and aquaculture.

## ABOUT THE GRANTEE

Aquaculture Technologies of the Marshall Islands (ATMI) focuses on fish broodstock cultivation, fish husbandry, and aquaculture technology transfer. It specializes in raising and selling fish for both the domestic and international markets. ATMI is based in Majuro, Marshall Islands, and will utilize the pantry islands of Majuro and elsewhere for fish ponds. ATMI employs local Marshallese citizens for the purpose of raising fish.

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## ABOUT THE FUND

The Pacific-American Climate Fund (PACAM), is a grant-making facility funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and administered by Partners for Global Research and Development, LLC (PGRD) that assists twelve Pacific Island countries to reduce long-term vulnerabilities associated with climate change. PACAM awards grants to civil society organizations in support of climate change adaptation measures and related “co-benefits”, such as livelihoods enhancement, improved health, food security, disaster risk reduction, or sustainable natural resources management.

In addition to building climate resiliency, the Pacific-American Climate Fund, through the awarded grants, strengthens the managerial and financial capacity of civil society organizations. The countries in which PACAM operates are: Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

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## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

1. Collect samples of local agricultural products, fish waste and fish by-products and profile them according to location, quantity, nutritional value, and price.
2. Utilize agricultural products, fish waste, and fish by-products to produce fish feed.
3. Select lagoon sites and install cages to grow fish in the open ocean.
4. Provide ongoing technical assistance to aquaculture farmers.
5. Train community members on aquaculture techniques, with a special focus on increasing women’s participation in feed development and fish husbandry.

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

1. An operational feed mill will produce up to 1,450,000 pounds of feed over the life of the project.
2. Twelve open ocean cages in Majuro producing 380,000 pounds of fish over the life of the project.
3. A replicable model of feed and fish production in a limited-resource environment.
4. Trained Marshallese with capacity to apply their higher-level skills at aquaculture organizations, and to share new knowledge with other Marshallese.
5. Improved livelihoods and sustainably managed small and mid-sized farms.

