

Concept Note Cover Page

Country (ies): The Republic of the Marshall Islands

Location within the country (ies): Majuro

Concept focus:

Climate change adaptation

Sustainable energy

Both

Project type:

Type 1 – 200,000 Euro maximum budget

Type 2 – Maximum budget is the country allocation

Total requested budget: 199000 Euros (US\$ 270 000)

Duration of project: 18 months

Contact point:

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Support for PDD development:

Yes, consultant(s) or organisation(s) to be engaged: Dina Hestad

No

Undecided

Concept Note – Description (4 pages maximum)

1. Project title: Strengthening coordination and planning to increase climate change resilience in RMI

2. Background and rationale (max ¾ page)

Lying on average less than two metres above sea level, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) is one of the most vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change, however, the Government has recognised that it must strengthen its internal coordination and planning in order to effectively and efficiently prepare for, and respond to, these impacts.

From February to June 2014 the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and US-Adapt Asia-Pacific undertook a climate change finance assessment on RMI. It concluded that:

“The Government of the RMI demonstrated a high level of awareness around climate change, and this is reflected in its policies and plans for the future and in its international advocacy on the issue. Despite this, the institutional structures to cope with the impacts are weak, with unclear roles and responsibilities assigned to relevant bodies. Human capacity, too, needs significant strengthening. Two key gaps that should be addressed first are (i) coordination of climate change activities across RMI, and (ii) information exchange and knowledge management.”

The Office of Environmental Planning and Policy Coordination (OEPPC) – which sits directly under the RMI President – is the main body which manages and coordinates climate change activities in the country. One of the PIFS’ main recommendations was for the OEPPC to enhance its domestic coordination, policy and planning roles through addressing HR, institutional and financing restraints. The assessment also recommended that the RMI National Climate Change Committee (NCCC) be re-invigorated by expanding its membership, introducing clear processes for decisions and documentation, stimulating greater information flow and exchange and involving central offices such as OEPPC and the Economic Policy, Planning and Statistics Office (EPPSO), and ensuring other parts of government engage on climate change issues.

The lack of clarity and ability to plan and share information amongst the different domestic agencies means that RMI is missing out on a lot of possibilities to increase their resilience to climate change by undertaking sustainable adaptation projects and carrying out its policies and plans on climate change (for example, this includes the National Climate Change Framework Policy, the Joint National Action Plan on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Management). It also compromises RMI’s goals for the future set out in the document Vision 2018 and revisited in the National Strategic Plan 2014-2018 regarding operating in an interdependent world and achieving environmental sustainability.

It is critical that RMI’s coordination and planning abilities are strengthened to enable the country to prepare for the worsening impacts of climate change. The PIFS Climate Change Finance Assessment outlined a range of clear recommendations and tasks for RMI to address their shortcomings which will be used as the basis for the project which is directly related to goal 10.ii under Vision 2018: “Strengthening the relevant institutions and procedural mechanisms, so as to be able to secure the optimum support from both international and regional efforts, in minimizing the adverse effects of climate change”.

3. Objective (s) (two to three sentences)

The objective of the project is to increase the institutional and planning capacities and coordination between different agencies in RMI to strengthen the country's ability to respond to climate change. Specifically, this project will aim to clarify and strengthen the roles and responsibilities of the Office of Environmental Planning and Policy Coordination, the National Climate Change Committee and other key agencies active on climate change. This aligns with the EU-GIZ ACSE Programme's objective of increasing capacities of Pacific Island Countries to adapt to climate change.

4. Expected project outcomes (max ¼ page)

1. Clarity with regards to roles and responsibilities of different RMI domestic agencies in addressing climate change;
2. Increased coordination within and between ministries and all relevant stakeholders on climate change in RMI; and
3. OEPPC to enhance planning, knowledge management and monitoring and evaluation abilities to deal with impacts of climate change.

5. Targeted outputs (max ½ page)

Outcome 1:

- 1.1 Cabinet to approve submission to assign and define climate change roles and responsibilities to key actors;
- 1.2 Review and update OEPPC Act (2003); and
- 1.3 Review and update the Environmental Protection Authority Act (1986).

Outcome 2:

- 2.1 Creation of climate change coordination guideline which will act as the submission to the cabinet outlined in 1.1. It will include recommendations on the mandate of the NCCC and establish a method for ensuring climate change project information is shared with OEPPC;
- 2.2 Central and Line Ministries (LMs) to designate climate change focal points; and
- 2.3 OEPPC, Grant Writing Office, EPA and EPPSO create a newsletter to be distributed bi-monthly to ministries and stakeholders providing an update on climate change actions in RMI and funding opportunities.

Outcome 3:

- 3.1. Develop and maintain a database and map (physical to start with and later GIS map) of all projects funded by development partners on climate change in RMI;
- 3.2. Establish an internal server and a knowledge management system to store climate change data and reports at OEPPC;
- 3.3. Develop templates and conduct training to prepare annual reports for OEPPC and annual state of the environment reports including social dimensions of vulnerability together with EPA; and
- 3.4. Deliver training of key staff to be able to conduct vulnerability and adaptation assessments to enhance planning abilities including using GIS as a tool to map vulnerability.

6. Beneficiaries (max ½ page)

Ultimately, the population of RMI will benefit from the increased clarity, coordination and planning abilities of the Government leading to more projects on the ground addressing climate change and thereby increasing their resilience. Increasing resilience of the people of RMI, especially the vulnerable poor, women and children is the core goal of RMI's climate change policies and this project will help RMI start adequately addressing the needs of these populations.

In addition, the project's direct beneficiaries will be the staff of government institutions such as the OEPPC, EPA and EPPSO who will receive training or improved systems in their work place as well as increased information about climate change. Indirectly, the whole of government, especially the

members of the NCCC, will benefit from increased coordination and planning abilities as well as other stakeholders such as NGOs and the business community.

The roles and responsibilities of the beneficiaries will be as follows:

- For government staff in relevant ministries (OEPPC, EPPSO, GWO and EPA) will be responsible for collaborating with project management, keep up to date with developments and contributing to the development of the project and be willing to receive training and contribute to new work assignments.
- Other government staff and stakeholders will have to take part in consultations regarding the climate change coordination guideline, take part in NCCC meetings and keep up to date with project developments which will be shared with them.

The key stakeholders are the directors/secretaries and senior staff of the OEPPC, EPA, EPPSO, GWO and MoFA. In addition it will be important to keep the Minister in Assistance to the President, Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Chief Secretary involved and informed. In addition, the project will require assistance from the Attorney General’s office to update relevant legislative Acts.

When selecting staff to receive training, gender balance and background will be important considerations to ensure that benefits are evenly distributed.

7. Indicative budget (max ½ page)

Budget 271819 dollars =200 000 euros

<i>Item</i>	<i>Indicative budget (US)</i>
Output 1.1	0
Output 1.2	0
Output 1.3	0
Output 2.1	20000
Output 2.2	0
Output 2.3	5000
Output 3.1	40000
Output 3.2	10000
Output 3.3	35000
Output 3.4	30000
Project management costs	120000
Monitoring and evaluation	5000
Communication and visibility	5000
In-kind contribution	15000
Total	270000

8. Project management (max ½ page)

The lead national and implementing agency for this project is the Office of Environmental Planning and Policy Coordination. The OEPPC will be in charge of financial, accounting and technical arrangements and will report to the NCCC and GIZ and work closely with the Ministry of Finance.

The proposed steering structure of the project is NCCC have overall monitoring and evaluation responsibilities, Director of OEPPC oversight and project manager and project assistants in charge of implementation.

Previously the OEPPC has successfully implemented a range of climate change and environmental projects such as PACWASTE. They are currently the implementing entity for the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project (PACC) and the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) project.

The project management team will consist of one manager and two project assistants – one with knowledge management and GIS knowledge and one with communication and admin/finance experience.

9. Complementarity and replicability (max ¼ page)

This project will compliment numerous efforts by CROP agencies and national projects. The collation of and the requirement for a repository of reports and data is a recurring need for ongoing CROP and international projects. The requirements of reporting for numerous UNFCCC activities, such as the National Communications also would be complemented by this project’s activities.

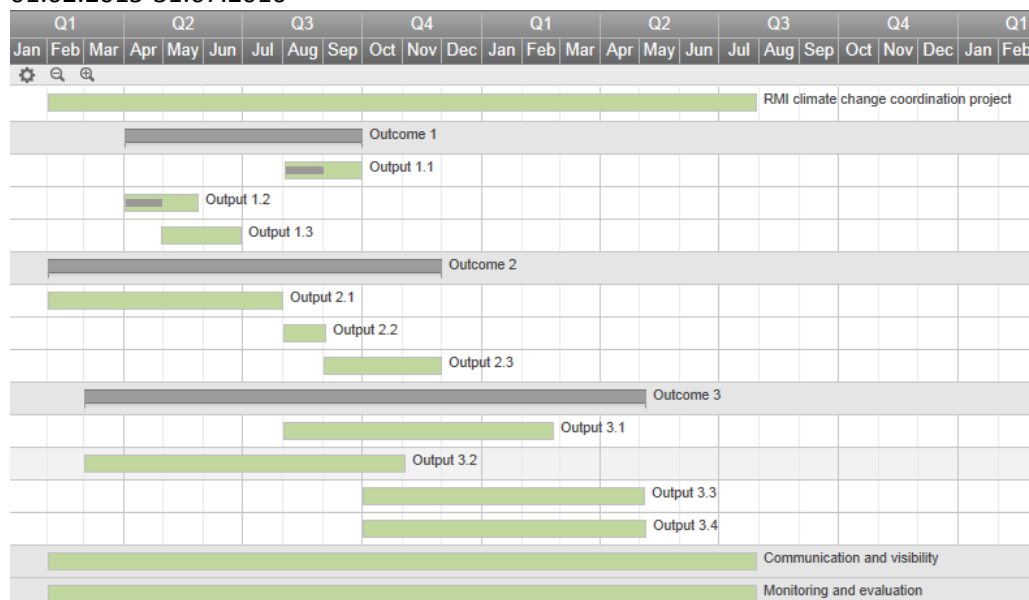
Some parts of the project like the climate change coordination guideline and the templates for annual reporting and state of the environment reports and training for vulnerability and adaptation assessments could be replicable in other Pacific countries but would have to be moulded to the specific contexts.

10. Sustainability and risks (max ¼ page)

This project will help implement a functional and sustainable system for coordinating and planning climate change activities in RMI. However, the sustainability of this system will be contingent on OEPPC staffing levels. Therefore one of the responsibilities of the project manager will be to explore options for continued funding for further stages of the project and for funding to hire permanent staff at OEPPC. It is envisaged that no more than 10% of the manager’s time will be used for this.

11. Timeline for planned measures (max ¼ page)

01.02.2015-31.07.2016



12. Stakeholder engagement in concept note development (maximum three sentences)

The climate change finance assessment conducted extensive consultations and in addition OEPPC hosted two workshops to address the preliminary recommendations of the assessment in April 2014, this included all key government stakeholders and coordination and planning was listed as a key first priority.