

Signature Page:

Country: Republic of Marshall Islands

Multi-Country Programme Outcome and Indicator(s):
More equitable access to sustainable development opportunities

Expected Outcome(s) and Indicator(s):

This project is a partnership between the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, partner NGOs and UNDP to accelerate and expand national efforts to reduce hardships and deprivation in the country.

The primary objective of the project is to enhance the livelihoods opportunities of selected outer islands communities, disadvantaged women and unemployed youths.

Indicators:

- Increase income generating opportunities for women and outer island communities
- Improve coordination of services and resources aimed at disadvantaged groups and outer island communities
- Number of unemployed youths received vocational trade certification placed in the job market
- Capacity of 4 NGOs strengthened in the management and implementation of activities targeting disadvantage groups

Implementing Partner:

Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands

Other Partners:

Economic Policy, Planning and Statistics Office
Ministry of Resources and Development
WAAN
CMI
WUTMI

Programme Period:
1 May 2004 – 31 Dec
2007
Programme component:
Project title: RMI
Sustainable Livelihoods
Development Project
Project Code:
Project Duration: 3 years

Total Budget: US\$422,000		
Allocated resources		
UNDP		COST
SHARING:		
Govt:		
EPPSO	US\$90,000	
Min. of R&D	US\$30,000	\$US30,000
NGO:		
WAAN	US\$60,000	\$US60,000
CMI	US\$32,000	\$US32,000
WUTMI	US\$25,000	
UNDP:	US\$63,000	
TOTAL	US\$300,000	\$US122,000
US\$422,000		

Signatures:

For the RMI Government

Signature: 

Name: Raynard Gideon

Title: Secretary- MOFA

Date: 03/26/2004

For UNDP

Signature: 

Name: Peter Witham
Resident Representative

Title: _____

Date: 11/5/2004

RMI Sustainable Livelihoods Development Strategy
Final April 2004

Part 1a Situation Analysis

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) is a tiny, scattered group of 29 atolls in the North Pacific. The islands have a total land area of 181 sq km and are scattered over 2.0million sq km of the central Pacific, mid-way between Hawaii and Australia. The country faces formidable challenges in the form of environmental degradation, rapid population growth, accelerated sea level rise, the legacy of nuclear testing and localised pollution on several over-crowded islands. Seventy per cent of the population lives in the two major urban areas – Majuro and Ebeye on Kwajalein. Majuro is located on a narrow strip of low-lying coral sand. It is located within the tropical convergence zone and is largely immune from cyclones and similar disasters, however, it is still highly vulnerable.

It will be noted that this paper will make reference to and acknowledges the findings of the data contained in the 2002 ADB Assessment of Hardship and Poverty Discussion Paper hereafter referred to as ADB 2002. Since 1986 the RMI Government budget and the economy have been underpinned by the Compact of Free Association with USA. The Compact agreement covered the period from 1986 to 2001 and involved a total of around \$790 million of financial assistance. There were two steps down in funding, the second of which occurred in 1997 allowing for \$40 million per year in grants for the final five years up to 2001. A further two-year transition period was subsequently agreed through to 2003 to allow adequate time for a re-negotiation of the agreement. However poor fiscal discipline in the mid 1990s led to the government borrowing against future revenues resulting in all available funds being utilised before the end of the original Compact period causing the fiscal crisis (ADB, 2002).

As a former US Pacific Trust Territory, RMI received substantial US financial and technical assistance between 1986 and 2001 under a Compact of Free Association which ended in September 2001. A new compact agreement was initiated in November 2002 covering financial and technical assistance for the twenty year period to 2023. From the commencement of the Compact external grants consistently accounted for between 50% - 60% of recurrent budget revenues. In the last two years 2000/01 and 2001/02 this proportion has risen to over 70% as the domestic economy has stagnated. Under a programme of fiscal adjustment, the civil service contracted by a third between 1996 and 2000. The economy has been relatively stagnant in the recent years, limited access to credit and low workforce skills are major impediments to private sector activity. Weak governance has long been a problem and although improving, needs to improve further if economic progress is to be made. In 1999, UNDP ranked RMI 8th out of 12 PDMCs on its Pacific Human Development Index (ADB,2002).

ii) Problems being addressed

Women

The ADB 2002 study also found that there were a number of groups, in particular children, youth and women, which were seen to be most vulnerable to the effects of poverty and hardship.

The economic and social situation have implications for women's experience of hardship. Women on Ebeye and Majuro reported increased levels of personal and financial insecurity as a result of male members of their family drinking, cheating and in some cases becoming violent. These problems were said to be related to the greater extent of youth idleness, alcohol abuse and unemployment reported on Ebeye and Majuro. Extended and growing

families were also seen to put a lot of pressure on women who have to look after their own children, their children's children and sometimes their unmarried sister's children.

Women have increased work-loads as a result of their increasing participation in income generating activities. Women in the outer islands spend more time in copra and handicraft production and fundraising activities. On Majuro, in a number of the poor households surveyed by the ADB, women were the sole providers for the family. However, this differs on outer islands where most men are actively involved in producing copra and fishing, even as some women contribute an increasing share of the household income through their handicrafts. This project needs to ensure that men and women equally participate and share responsibilities in such activities to address this imbalance so the women are not overburdened. Women also reported the need for local handicraft shops or handicraft centres. It was felt that such centres could facilitate the supply of materials and the sale and distribution of handicrafts on an individual basis. Particularly on the outer island, most women lacked a personal relationship with handicraft traders on Majuro and Ebeye, who could arrange for sale and distribution at that end, as well as reliable payment to the producer. This project aims to facilitate meeting some of these needs

Credit availability is another area of weak opportunity in the outer islands hence a micro-capital grants component for this project to support women and families who need the support in this area. Finance for small-business loans is generally not available at all in the outer islands and less than one per cent of households have borrowed money for housing. Neither MIDB nor any of the three commercial banks operating in the country has a full-time credit presence in the outer islands although limited banking facilities are now being provided on the field trip vessels

Youths

ADB also found child poverty and neglect particularly in the urban areas as a problem leading to increased numbers of school drop outs and malnourished children. Youth idleness and alcohol abuse are of concern across RMI but of greatest concern on the urban islands of Majuro and Ebeye. Problems reported included youth idleness, alcohol abuse, stealing, aimlessness and '*jambo jambo*' (cruising). The problem was seen as most acute on Ebeye and Majuro as a result of population pressure and peer group pressure, inadequate parental supervision, boredom, the high drop out rate from school, and the lack of jobs, sporting facilities and youth organizations.

Teenage pregnancy was likewise an issue across all research sites, but was found to be of greatest concern in the more urbanised islands. On Ebeye although it remains an important issue, there is evidence that the rate of teenage pregnancy may be declining due to an increasing use of contraceptives. Related concerns were the trends in both Ebeye and Majuro for some young women actively to look for relationships with overseas contract workers and seamen. These actions were not on the whole considered a form of prostitution but rather as 'an easy option' for young women wanting to have a good time and to get food and clothes bought for them, when they lacked the funds to do so. Reports from the hospital on Majuro however confirm the growing number of young women giving birth to babies whose fathers are listed as 'unknown'. Aggravating the future difficulties for these young women is the move by the new principal of the Marshall Island High School to expel female students who become pregnant

The quality of education including the supply of books and teachers was also seen as an issue. On the outer islands, the lack of transport to and from school, as well as inadequate infrastructure (such as the lack of a water catchment at the school) were seen as the most common hardships effecting children and encouraging them to drop out from school. In the urban areas, peer pressure and lack of parental supervision were identified as key factors

accounting for school and youth drop out rates. Low educational attainment for both rural and urban youths and the absence of training and adult education opportunities were seen as the most common cause of poverty and hardship among youth. Unfortunately, there are only limited avenues for youth to resume schooling and/or pursue training on Ebeye and Majuro, and none at all on most of the outer islands. This includes vocational training.

Livelihoods

ADB found that annual household incomes are relatively low in the outer islands and reflect the largely subsistence nature of rural livelihoods. The imbalances in levels of employment and reliance on self-employment between the outer islands and the rest of the country are reflected in the high level of income inequality being experienced. There is a wide range in household income, with a small number of households in the urban centres of Majuro and Ebeye being relatively wealthy. The median income in 1999 was \$1,660, and ranged from \$600 - \$700 (Ailuk, Lib and Ujae) up to \$3,200 in Utirik where some 50% of households were in receipt of some form of welfare or social security benefits. Seven of the outer island atolls had median annual household incomes of less than \$1,000. For the country as a whole the median household income level was \$6840, and in the urban centres of Majuro and Ebeye it was \$10500.

There are clearly therefore, wide inequalities in incomes between the individual islands, not only between those in the urban and rural areas, but also between the various outer islands themselves. Not surprisingly the islands with the top four median household incomes were those which have been classified here as urban and compensation islands. The next highest median household income level was in Jaluit, however the level there was only 40% of the lowest in the top four, moreover the median household income on Lib, the lowest overall, was only 20% of that on Jaluit.

The mean household income for the outer islands was \$2942 against the national mean of \$11106. Forty per cent of outer island households had incomes of less than \$1000 per annum and 70% had incomes of less than \$3000. These figures compare with the national averages of 13.6% and 27.5% respectively. In six of the nineteen outer islands the proportion of households with incomes below \$1000 exceeded 50%, and in ten the proportion with incomes less than \$3000 exceeded 75%. In one island (Lib) it reached 100%. Only on Jaluit, Utirik and Wotje did more than 50% of the households have average incomes greater than \$3000.

The ADB 2002 The average annual per capita income for the outer islands was \$418 or \$1.15 per day in 1999. This compared with the national average per capita income of \$3.87. The median per capita annual income showed that half of the outer island population was actually earning only \$0.62/day. Both measures of per capita income indicate that almost two-thirds of the outer island population had per capita incomes below the UNDP standard poverty threshold of \$1.00/day (1993 PPP), the minimum income level considered necessary to purchase an individual's minimum daily nutritional requirements. The islands with the lowest per capita incomes were Lib and Ailuk, \$0.22 and \$0.59 per capita per day respectively. Those with the highest incomes were Jaluit \$1.96 per capita per day, Likiep \$1.81, Maloelap \$1.54 and Utirik \$1.53. On average there was no consistent difference between the per capita incomes of the closer and more distant islands.

In 1999 only some 37.9% of outer islands households were in receipt of wages and salaries compared to 88% of the households in the other islands. For the closer islands the proportion was 39% but only 36.8% for the more distant islands. The loss of public service jobs and incomes appears to have had a knock-on impact on the private sector with the number of private sector employees in the outer islands falling from 2.3% to 2.0% of the labour force between 1988 and 1999. The more distant islands once again appearing to suffer most with only 1.6% employment in the private sector compared to 2.3% in the closer

islands. In the urban/compensation islands the decline was only from 21.9% to 19.2% of the labour force illustrating the greater strength of the private sector particularly in Majuro and Kwajalein and the very limited private sector activity in the outer islands.

The relative worsening of the disadvantages and increasing poverty suffered by the outer islands during the period of public sector reform is further illustrated by the increase in households experiencing unemployment. Between 1988 and 1999 the number of outer island households containing unemployed persons rose from 8.1% to 33.6%. In the other islands the number rose from 24.6% to 39.3%, which although higher in absolute terms, masks the fact that 23.2% of these households were in receipt of social security and other welfare payments, this compares to only 12.0% of outer island households. However in this case the more distant islands had 13.8% of households in receipt of social security payments compared to only 10% of those in the closer islands. The proportion of households with no employed persons in them rose from 5.3% to 11.7% in the outer islands between 1988 and 1999 and from 6.9% to 11.6% in the other islands. Households in the more distant islands again fared worse, the number with no employed persons increasing from 4.9% to 13.9% compared to an increase from 5.6% to 9.2% in the closer islands (ADB,2002).

iii) Intended beneficiaries

This project will benefit the unemployed youths, disadvantaged women and selected outer island communities in terms of skills development and income generation activities.

Part II Strategy

Strategies in place to address some of the development issues through the Government's is Development Plan Vision 2018 that has been developed as the key strategy document outlines the following challenges:

- Sound system of governance with political stability, commitment to Vision 2018, and a competent and honest public service;
- Foster a culture of high savings, investment and high productivity;
- Take advantage of emerging global trends;
- Effective and responsible economic and financial institutions
- Facilitate equitable development of outer islands
- Strengthening spirituality of Marshallese people;
- Harmonizes development in the context of the prevailing culture and environment
- Fostering fundamental change in the attitudes and behavior of all citizens, government, local governments, business, public corporations and NGOs, and
- Effective partnership and coordination among national government, Atoll Local Governments, businesses, public corporations and NGOs the private sector, civil society and the citizens

The Government of the RMI has set ten goals and related objectives to address existing development problems. However; in specific context to the problem of income disparity and distribution between Majuro and the outer island communities and within specific communities; the following are areas of focus:

Enhanced socio-economic self reliance with objectives as follows:

- developing, diversifying and strengthening economic base so as to generate maximum feasible self sustaining level of national income and domestically generated government revenues;
- achieving fiscal stability in Government
- achieving a more balanced structure in the economy with a greater resilience on foreign exchange earning/import substitution sector
- ensuring optimal accessibility to opportunities to ensure full participation of women in the self reliant and sustainable development process in the country
- ensuring an acceptable way of equity in the distribution of national income among different income groups and within families and among family members
- enhancing the total level of saving in the economy
- achieving a higher degree of participation at all levels that promote of the national vision and enhances the welfare of every individual in the country
- ensuring productivity of all individuals and sustained at its fullest potential

This project is a partnership with the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, partner NGOs and UNDP aims to accelerate and expand national efforts to reduce hardships and deprivation in the country and reinforces the commitments of Development Plan 2018. The primary objective of the project is to enhance the livelihoods opportunities of selected outer islands communities, disadvantaged women and unemployed youths.

The project will carry out a number of assessments and gather relevant data to inform and guide project implementation which will contribute to the national MDG processes. The project manager will also be the UN focal point for MDGs in RMI working in partnership with the government focal point and as such will play an active role in the MDG monitoring and reporting process.

The ADB 2002 study summarised the key poverty issues and strategies as follows:

i) Issues

- difficulties in finding productive employment for the burgeoning workforce
- feudal land tenure system
- weakness of the private sector
- isolation of the outer islands from the wider economy
- pollution from radio activity and humanwaste n several islands
- low educational standards and achievements
- generally poor health and nutrition indicators linked to both infectious and lifestyle diseases

ii) Strategies

- ensure that the future relationship with the USA at least maintains existing immigration and other benefits
- create a genuine enabling environment and remove impediments to private sector development, in particular reform the land tenure system to allow private use and transfer
- increase the funding allocation to outer islands, especially for basic health and education facilities
- improve the environmental management for enforcement system.

The project strategy involves cost-sharing partnerships with the following partners in the implementation of catalytic activities targeting disadvantaged groups and communities

a. Ministry of Resources and Development

In order to increase the income earning opportunities from the production and sales of handicrafts for urban and outer islands women, there is need to expand the export of handicrafts as the domestic market is already saturated. The project will support the Trade and Investment Unit of the Ministry of Resources and Development in its marketing drive by producing a catalogue of Marshallese handicrafts for distribution to potential overseas buyers. The catalogue will be aimed at pitching the country's fine handicrafts to the high value niche markets.

The information compiled for the catalogue will be used to design a website to optimise access to the global market. The host of the website will be determined in consultation with EPPSO, MRD, the Marshall Islands Association of Handicrafts Businesses and other stakeholders; taking in consideration the ability to maintain, service and update the website.

b. Waan Aelon in Majel (WAM)

WAM will be supported to strengthen its capacity to expand and extend vocational training to unemployed youths. The project will develop a new curriculum for woodwork and carpentry and prepare the trainer's manual, trainees workbook, testing and evaluation and certification standards. In addition, the project will support the training of 4 trainers. This will enable WAM to have the capacity to train 30 unskilled youths per year with 30% to be females.

c. College of the Marshall Islands (CMI)

The black pearl industry is one of the very few commercial activities that can be undertaken by outer island communities. The expansion of black pearl culture depends, to a large extent, on the supply of spats (juvenile oysters) to existing and new farms. This partnership with CMI is to set up 3 spat outgrowing units in 3 selected outer atolls. Each spat outgrowing unit will be developed as a family or community enterprise to raise juvenile spats, supplied from the CMI hatchery, to a size that can be sold to established farms. This enterprise model, if

proven successful, can be replicated to other atolls where conditions are suitable for spat outgrowing. The experience gained from raising the spats may also lead to these communities to invest in full pearl culture in the future.

d. Women United Together in the Marshall Islands (WUTMI)

WUTMI will be assisted to conduct participatory sustainable livelihoods opportunity assessment targeting women in 5 atolls – Ailinglaplap, Arno, Ujae, Ailuk and Maloelap. A \$5,000 micro project fund will be provided under the project to assist these 5 communities to implement priority sustainable livelihoods initiatives identified by the women themselves. Best practices derived from this component will be used to replicate the approach to other atolls. WUTMI will also train the presidents and treasurers of the women’s chapters from these islands in financial management and project development.

e. Economic Policy, Planning and Statistics Office (EPPSO)

EPPSO will be capacitated to coordinate, administer, monitor and report on the implementation of the project. A locally hired project monitoring and evaluation specialist will be recruited and based at EPPSO for the 3 year duration of the project. This person will be responsible to mobilising additional cost-sharing resources to the project and provide support to the monitoring of RMI’s progress on the Millennium Development Goals and will be the UNDP MDG focal point in-country. EPPSO will document best practices assimilated from the implementation of the project as replicable models and approaches for poverty reduction in the RMI. A website on project information and best practices will also be set up within the ministry.

Part III Annual workplan & Budget – Annex 1

Part IV Management Arrangements

Execution Modality

The RMI Sustainable Livelihoods Development Project will be Nationally Executed (NEX) by the National Government of the Republic of Marshall Islands through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade where the focal point of contact will be the Secretary for Foreign Affairs and External. As the Executing Agency, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade will have overall responsibility for the RMI Sustainable Livelihoods Development Project.

As the Executing Agency, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade:

- be responsible for financial control of the project through the National Execution (NEX) modality of UNDP;
- sign off on all budget and work-plan revisions
- work with the project and assume responsibility for entering into necessary work arrangements with other national, state and regional organizations for efficient and effective project implementation;
- support the project by providing guidance and authority to engage services consistent with the objectives of the project.

Steering Committee

A Steering Committee will be formed:

- i to review the progress to date;
- ii to approve the proposed project work plan and budget for the next year and; and
- iii. to discuss necessary or recommended changes in the implementation strategy

The steering committee will be chaired by the Ministry of Economic Policy, Planning and Statistics Office and comprise of representatives of the six partner organizations:

- MEPPSO (Chair);
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade;
- Ministry of Resources and Development;
- WAM;
- CMI and
- WUTMI

Implementing Agency

The project will be implemented by EPPSO. As implementing agency, EPPSO will :

- be responsible for the overall coordination of the various components of the project,
- be responsible for developing the annual budgets and drafting each of the ten six-month work plans over the three year period of the project;
- monitor the progress in light of the work plans, identify problems, review and approve annual implementation work plans and corresponding budget revisions, in consultation with UNDP and Government;
- report to the steering committee Annual Review Meetings on the activities carried out, and the disbursement of funds, under this project to ensure full transparency of all actions;
- be accountable to the project partners and work with the various project partners to organize reviews to ensure that the project is within the scope established in this Project Document; and

- ensure that UNDP, through the PM, is cognizant of any UNDP efforts that impinge upon the project.

Part V Monitoring and Evaluation

On-going project monitoring will be provided in accordance with UNDP established procedures and will be provided on an ongoing basis by the UNDP Country Office with support from UNDP SLP Regional Project, Pacific Sustainable Livelihoods Development Project (PSLP)

The following monitoring and evaluation activities will be undertaken:

- a. Quarterly Progress Report
- b. Annual Reviews and Reports
- c. Final Term Evaluation:

a. Quarterly Progress Report (QPR):

Financial and Operational Progress Reports will be prepared by the implementing agency and signed off by the government executing agency and submitted to UNDP on a quarterly basis in accordance with the “Guidelines for National Execution” annexed in this document. These reports are required to monitor the project according to the annual work plan and will be used as the basis for the Annual Project Report (APR), which will be presented by the PM during the Tripartite Review Meeting. Any substantive changes to the budget and annual work plan will be decided upon at the Tripartite Review Meeting. Quarterly Progress Reports must be submitted to UNDP, together with the Financial Report, on the 15th day of each month following the end of the quarter. A project work plan for the following quarter will be prepared in a mutually agreed format must be submitted together with the financial advance requested. Approval of any advance payment will be subject to the submission of these reports to UNDP for consideration. UNDP will provide feedback on the most recent progress report and other relevant reports when releasing the advance payments.

b. Annual reviews and reports:

The project will be subject to Annual Review Meetings by the project partners and all other stakeholders. The first Annual Review Meeting will take place within twelve months following project start-up. The project Work Plan, which sets out the performance targets of the project, will be the basis for the monitoring and assessment of the project’s performance

The PM, in consultation with UNDP prepares and circulates to the participating parties, at least three weeks prior to the meeting, the Annual Project Report, a brief descriptive Project Progress Report, the updated Outcome and Output matrices, the updated work plan for the next year, as well as the year-end financial report. At least two weeks prior to the meeting, the PM will submit to UNDP a draft Annual Project Report (APR) in the agreed format. The draft will be discussed, reviewed, and if necessary, decide on means to improve project performance. Within two weeks following the Annual Report Meeting, the Project Manager prepares and circulates, a summary of no more than three pages of the analytical assessments, conclusions and decisions of the meeting as well as the finalised matrices and work plan, which will serve as the project work plan and budget for the following year.

c. Final Term Evaluations:

The project shall be subject to a final evaluation. Funds have been included in the budget for an international consultant to perform the mid-term evaluation and final evaluation. The purpose of the in-depth evaluations are to assess the overall project performance, project

outputs/outcomes produced compared against initial targets, project impacts achieved and will likely be achieved, project relevance to the national context and project management efficiency

The terms of reference for the in-depth evaluation will be developed in the second operating year of the project. This evaluation should primarily focus on assessing the long-term results (or impacts) and sustainability of the project following its completion and draw lessons for further programming and policymaking. The timing for and necessity of this evaluation will be decided later on, based on mutual agreement between the all the Partners.

Part VI Legal Context

This Project Document shall be the instrument referred to as such as I Article 1 of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia and the United Nations Development Programme, signed by parties, 2004. The host country implementing agency shall, for the purpose of the Standard Basic Agreement, refer to the government co-operating agency described in this agreement.

The following types of revisions may be made to this Project Document with the signature of the UNDP principal Project Representative only, provided He or She is assured that the other signatories to the Project Document have no objections to the proposed changes:

- a) Revisions in, or addition of, any of the annexes to the Project Document;
- b) Revisions which do not involve significant changes in the immediate objectives, outputs or activities of the Project, but are caused by the arrangement of inputs agreed to or by cost increases due to inflation; and
- c) Mandatory annual revisions, which re-phase the delivery of, agreed Project inputs or increased expert or other costs due to inflation or take into account agency expenditure flexibility.

ANNEX I

RMI Sustainable Livelihoods Development Project
Annual Work Plan

Year: 2004-2007

EXPECTED OUTPUTS ¹ & MONITORING ACTIVITIES ²	Key Activities <i>List all the activities to be undertaken during the year towards stated output</i>	TIMEFRAME				RESPONSIBLE PARTNER	PLANNED BUDGET (USD)	
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4		Source of Funds	Budget Description Amount
Tranning Programmes (including curriculum) developed in: Canoe Building, Canoe Maintenance & Sailing, Carpentry and Woodworking, Furniture and Cabinet Making, & Boat building and Fibreglass Technology	Develop Canoe Building Programme: Trainers Manual (daily plans) Curriculum Trainees workbooks Tests & evaluation Certification WAM/NTC	X	X	X		WAM	UNDP	Materials Consultant Translation Printing Equipment \$10,000 \$40,000 \$10,000 \$5,000 \$5,000
30 youths trained in woodwork & carpentry, cabinet making – 10 to be females	Develop Canoe Maintenance & Sailing Programme: Trainers Manual (daily plans) Curriculum Trainees workbooks Tests & evaluation Certification WAM/NTC	X	X	X				
Technical backstopping provided by PSLP through missions, email, phone & fax Regular site visits by PM	Develop Carpentry and Woodworking Programme: Trainers Manual (daily plans) Trainees workbooks Tests & evaluation Certification WAM/NTC	X	X					

¹ State the outputs that the project is expected to achieve/contribute to. Include relevant indicators/benchmarks

² List monitoring activities such as Field Monitoring Visits, Technical backstopping missions, Evaluations, Annual Project Report

Opportunities through Support provided to Black Pearl Farmers in 3 Outer Atolls Regular site visits by PM	Site Survey Pearl Farming Spat Production Spat Grow out Spat Growth Studies Conduct Training Programme	X X X X X X	X X X X X		CMI	UNDP/ CMI	Travel Materials Training Documentation	27,000 25,000 7,000 5,000
Income Generation Training conducted on 5 atolls by end 2005. At least 5 income generation activities operational - one per atoll.	Sustainable Livelihoods Opportunity Assessment in 5 Atolls	X			WUMTI	UNDP	Travel Training	\$10,000 \$10,000
Micro-capital grants disbursed to 5 income general small businesses Handicrafts promoted through project website and through distribution of handicrafts catalogues in trade fairs	Micro-capital grants Production of handicrafts catalogue	X			WUTMI R&D	UNDP R&D UNDP	Capital Consultant Printing Equipment	\$5,000 \$10,000 \$25,000 \$5,000
Handicraft marketing fair held in Majuro by July 2005 Regular site visits by PM Technical backstopping by PSLP	Handicraft marketing fair	X	X		R&D	R&D	Travel Misc.	\$10,000 \$10,000
A booklet of best practices produced	Recruitment of Programme Manager	X	X		EPFSO	UNDP	Personnel Equipment	\$75,000 \$3,000
	i) Identification of MDG of indicators as per project activities ii) Documentation and analysis of these indicators/data and integration into overall MDG national framework for monitoring & reporting iii) Identify and document examples of Best Practises	X		X	EPFSO	UNDP	Reporting Misc.	\$6,000 \$6,000

Annex I:
Terms of Reference for RMI SLD Project Manager

POST: Project Manager/Sustainable livelihoods Development Advisor

Duration: 36 Months

Duty Station: Majuro, RMI with travel within and outside of RMI as required

Qualifications:

- Masters degree in economics, planning, public administration and finance or a related field and/or at least five years experience in the field;
- Strong skills in dealing with and presenting sensitive and complex issues to a diverse audience of: business people, university technicians and government officials and community leaders;
- Excellent spoken, report writing and presentation skills in the English language;
- Willing to make a minimum three year commitment to the RMI Sustainable Livelihoods Development Project;
- Willing to move around and within the various atolls of RMI

Tasks:

The Project Manager will:

- Coordinate the implementation of RMI/UNDP sustainable livelihoods development project activities;
- Coordinate the RMI/UNDP sustainable livelihoods development project activities with all ongoing programs (National and Civil Society level) that provide sustainable livelihoods assistance to disadvantage groups in the RMI;
- Identify relevant indicators within the project that would contribute to RMI's MDG monitoring and reporting processes.
- Establish a steering committee to meeting regularly and review the progress, approve the proposed project work plan and budget for the next year and discuss necessary or recommended changes in the implementation strategy;
- Monitor the various components and activities of the project on a regular basis (quarterly site visits are proposed as a minimum);
- Prepare Financial and Operational Progress Reports, based of the financial and operation progress reports provided by the various implementers of the project, and submit to UNDP on a quarterly basis in accordance with the "Guidelines for National Execution" annexed in this document;

- Coordinating and schedule all required technical assistance as well as other assistance required to achieve particular activities of the project;
- Prepare and annual review report and organize the annual review meeting with all stakeholders to discuss the progress of the project and any recommendations to the implementation strategy,
- Prepare case studies i.e. best practices and lessons learnt, of the components dealing with the respective disadvantaged groups as part of a final project report for dissemination to all stakeholders, including national policymakers, planners and donors;
- Assist the Economic Policy, Planning and Statistics Office (EPPSO) in collecting and compiling statistics for the annual Statistical Year Book;
- Assist the Government of the RMI in compiling and analysing statistical data as reporting requirements on its commitment towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,
- Act as UNDP MDG focal point in RMI and play a key role within EPPSO on MDG issues and processes through liaison with the country MDG focal point within the EPPSO and as such regularly advise UNDP on progress; and
- Facilitate annual project audit

Annex II:
Terms of Reference - Project Steering Committee

1. The Project Steering Committee will comprise of the Project Manager and a representative from the respective implementing agencies, which are:
 - WAM
 - CMI
 - WUTMI
 - EPPSO
 - OFFICE of the PRESIDENT
 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 - UNDP

Members of the committee will be requested to contribute their time and expertise to review the project's work and make recommendations for future directions. The Committee will meet once a year.

2. The main functions of the Project Steering Committee are to:
 - Review the progress as well as any proposed revisions to the work plan and budget for the next year
 - Determine any necessary or recommended changes in the implementation strategy
 - Provide a forum for dialogue between UNDP, donors and other stakeholders on the project's approach and program of activities to promote the objective of the project
 - Facilitate discussion and seek suggestions for more effective implementation of the project's key outputs
 - Advise the project and UNDP on innovative approaches, best practices and lessons learned, which could be incorporated in project strategies and activities

- Strengthen the relationships between the project and key stakeholders with an interest in sustainable livelihood strategies.
- Share information about efforts and inroads made in promoting the project in the Pacific
- The Steering Committee will hold meetings on a quarterly basis and during the mid term and final evaluation or for a special meeting if necessary. Any partner or the PM may call for a special steering committee meeting, to be held should the need arise.

Annex I:
Terms of Reference for RMI SLD Project Manager

POST: Project Manager/Sustainable livelihoods Development Advisor

Duration: 36 Months

Duty Station: Majuro, RMI with travel within and outside of RMI as required

Qualifications:

- Masters degree in economics, planning, public administration and finance or a related field and/or at least five years experience in the field;
- Strong skills in dealing with and presenting sensitive and complex issues to a diverse audience of: business people, university technicians and government officials and community leaders;
- Excellent spoken, report writing and presentation skills in the English language;
- Willing to make a minimum three year commitment to the RMI Sustainable Livelihoods Development Project;
- Willing to move around and within the various atolls of RMI

Tasks:

The Project Manager will:

- Coordinate the implementation of RMI/UNDP sustainable livelihoods development project activities;
- Coordinate the RMI/UNDP sustainable livelihoods development project activities with all ongoing programs (National and Civil Society level) that provide sustainable livelihoods assistance to disadvantage groups in the RMI;
- Identify relevant indicators within the project that would contribute to RMI's MDG monitoring and reporting processes.
- Establish a steering committee to meeting regularly and review the progress, approve the proposed project work plan and budget for the next year and discuss necessary or recommended changes in the implementation strategy;
- Monitor the various components and activities of the project on a regular basis (quarterly site visits are proposed as a minimum);
- Prepare Financial and Operational Progress Reports, based of the financial and operation progress reports provided by the various implementers of the project, and submit to UNDP on a quarterly basis in accordance with the "Guidelines for National Execution" annexed in this document;
- Coordinating and schedule all required technical assistance as well as other assistance required to achieve particular activities of the project;
- Prepare and annual review report and organize the annual review meeting with all stakeholders to discuss the progress of the project and any recommendations to the implementation strategy,
- Prepare case studies i.e. best practices and lessons learnt, of the components dealing with the respective disadvantaged groups as part of a final project report for dissemination to all stakeholders, including national policymakers, planners and donors;

- Assist the Economic Policy, Planning and Statistics Office (EPPSO) in collecting and compiling statistics for the annual Statistical Year Book;
- Assist the Government of the RMI in compiling and analysing statistical data as reporting requirements on its commitment towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,
- Act as UNDP MDG focal point in RMI and play a key role within EPPSO on MDG issues and processes through liaison with the country MDG focal point within the EPPSO and as such regularly advise UNDP on progress; and
- Facilitate annual project audit

Annex II:
Terms of Reference - Project Steering Committee

1. The Project Steering Committee will comprise of the Project Manager and a representative from the respective implementing agencies, which are:
 - WAM
 - CMI
 - WUTMI
 - EPPSO
 - OFFICE of the PRESIDENT
 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 - UNDP

Members of the committee will be requested to contribute their time and expertise to review the project's work and make recommendations for future directions. The Committee will meet once a year.

2. The main functions of the Project Steering Committee are to:

- Review the progress as well as any proposed revisions to the work plan and budget for the next year
- Determine any necessary or recommended changes in the implementation strategy
- Provide a forum for dialogue between UNDP, donors and other stakeholders on the project's approach and program of activities to promote the objective of the project
- Facilitate discussion and seek suggestions for more effective implementation of the project's key outputs
- Advise the project and UNDP on innovative approaches, best practices and lessons learned, which could be incorporated in project strategies and activities
- Strengthen the relationships between the project and key stakeholders with an interest in sustainable livelihood strategies.
- Share information about efforts and inroads made in promoting the project in the Pacific
- The Steering Committee will hold meetings on a quarterly basis and during the mid term and final evaluation or for a special meeting if necessary. Any partner or the PM may call for a special steering committee meeting, to be held should the need arise.

Minutes of LPAC
RMI SL Strategy Development
22 April 2004

Present:

- Hans de Graaff – DRR & Chair
- Linda Petersen – Team Leader, Thematic Division
- Jeff Liew – Programme Manager PSLP
- Asenaca Ravuvu – Team Leader, Development Services Unit
- Shahsikant Nair – Governance Specialist
- Mabel Msika – UNV Programme Officer
- Ravindra Kumar – Governance Analyst
- Ritsu Nacken – Resident Coordinator Analyst
- Patrick Tuimaleali’ifano – Programme Portfolio Manager
- Virisila Raitamata – Poverty Analyst

Overview

This project is a revision of the earlier draft of July 2003. It became obvious that Government was not in a position to commit to agreements reached earlier in terms of cost sharing due to overestimation of their budget allocation, so project budget is now reduced to a more realistic level (from USD900,000 to USD422,000). Relevant Govt. sector and NGO partners have signed MOUs to confirm their cost-sharing commitment to this project. This project now focuses on the strengths of these partner NGOs and government sectors who are active players and/or have the potential to advance progress in the area of sustainable livelihoods.

The objective of the project is to enhance livelihoods opportunities of selected outer island communities, disadvantaged women and unemployed youths through the attainment of the following indicators:

- i) increasing income generating opportunities for women on outer islands.
- ii) improving coordination of services and resources aimed at disadvantaged groups.
- iii) strengthening capacity of vocational training centers to support unemployed youths towards skilling for job markets.
- iv) strengthening capacities of NGOs in management and implementation of activities for disadvantaged groups.

Discussions


- i) RMI like most other Pacific Island countries continue to struggle with issues of high school dropouts, high income disparity and high unemployment, there is a need for consistent strategies. The previous UNDP and its project partners did not have the scope to work directly with disadvantaged communities given the cost of the Business advisor was very high and this resulted in limited activities and the lack of commitment and capacity within the responsible agency.

- ii) Current government strategy needs to be highlighted in the prodoc as well as the work undertaken by ADB and future plans in the context of the poverty assessment conducted last year and corresponding strategies.
- iii) It was noted that the aim is to have at least one viable income generating project up and running in each outer island community by project end.
- iv) The issue of linking this project with other donor activities was discussed and whether these donors currently operate in RMI have been consulted in terms of this project. Discussions with the European Union confirmed that their funds have been locked for certain development activities hence there was no window of opportunity there. ADB in addition to working on infrastructure development (upgrading airports) is also working on poverty assessments and strategies hence the need to highlight the linkages to this project.
- v) The Programme Manager for this project will be based at the Ministry of Economic Policy, Planning and Statistics Office (EPPSO). This was viewed as an advantage given the high level of interaction/partnership that has been forged with the host ministry. However, the PM's TOR needs to be clearly outlined in terms of specific responsibilities and outputs given past experience has shown that the PM could be heavily drawn into other tasks of the host ministry which may result in an overload and diversion from real tasks. This risk needs to be minimised.
- vi) It was noted that two government ministries will host a component each of the project as outlined - EPPSO and Ministry of Resources and Development (R & D).
- vii) There is a need to change the outcome of the EPPSO component – currently it looks too broad and further identify relevant activities to also link with PM's TOR and tentative MDG process national plans . The PM can ideally be the focal point for MDG, given the relevant project link to the MDGs and by virtue of being based within the lead Ministry for MDGs. Revised TOR to reflect this and to ensure this project works in coordination with the RMI plans on the MDG national monitoring & reporting process which now includes the SPC RMI mission scheduled for October this year.
- viii) Need to reorganize situation analysis under sub-topics such as women, youth, support to EPPSO, etc...to assist in flow of information.
- ix) To remove reference to sea level rise and replace with vulnerabilities.
- x) The results matrix in the workplan need to be revised, outcomes to be reflected as results, rather than activities and these to be accompanied by benchmarks and indicators.
- xi) It was noted that PSLP will be the technical advisor to the project and will play a backstopping role.

- xii) Need to prepare TOR of the Steering Committee, indicate MEPPSO as Chair and timeframes for meetings.
- xiii) Provide sources for statistics used.
- xiv) Need a glossary for acronyms.
- xv) Remove UN SURF given we no longer have such position given recent changes.
- xvi) Need to use most recent statistics, UNICEF report on RMI could be useful – to request copy from UNICEF to compliment 2002 ADB data which are currently being used in this prodoc.

Next steps:

- i) Revise document and circulate with LPAC minutes.
- ii) Endorsed to be submitted for approval/signing.


Virisila Raitamata
Thematic Division
22 April, 2004