

**Local Program Appraisal Committee Meeting  
12<sup>th</sup> July 2013  
UNDP Conference Room, Kadavu House**

**Summary of the Meeting**

**In attendance:** Asenaca Ravuvu (Chairperson), Ruth Verevukivuki, Sainimili Nabou (UNDP), Logotonu Waqainabete (Secretariat for Pacific Commission - SPC); Henry Capelle (Director Ministry of Agriculture, Marshall Islands), Terry Keju (CDM UN JPO - Marshalls), Sainimili (SPC – currently in Majuro, Marshall Islands).

Apologies: Valerie Tuia (SPC).

**1. The documents presented to the meeting**

Project Document:

- Drought Recovery & Resilience In the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI)

**2. Summary of the comments and discussion**

Comments & responses	Action
<p><b>1. Background on Project proposal:</b> <b>Title: Drought recovery and resilience in RMI:</b> The project is an Early Recovery project, a short term (12 months) aimed at supporting the government for recovery activities. Funds sought from Bureau for Conflict Prevention &amp; Recovery (NY) to be implemented within the 12 months to qualify as early recovery. The current draft has been developed in consultation with Government, FAO, SPC. To note that this will be a pilot phase and that results will be documented and used to leverage potential donor support for future phases, especially extending to more drought-affected atolls.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The formal local project appraisal committee meeting (LPAC) is needed for endorsement of the project by all partners (RMI Government, UNDP, SPC, FAO) leading to the signing of</li></ul>	<p>Refer project document page 1-6</p>

<p>the project document.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minutes of the LPAC will be finalized amongst parties and attached to signed project document;</li> <li>▪ Letter from RMI Government supporting direct implementation modality (see Management arrangements below) will be part of key documents submitted to BCPR for release of the funds.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Strategy:</b> Total funding of \$120,000 is not sufficient to directly address the need of the drought-affected atolls. It was agreed that drought resistant seedlings and seeds be established on one pilot site and community trained on soil conservation practices that would help them to help themselves in the future (looking at longer term sustainability of food security).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The project will complement existing Government Plans (National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management) and other related work. Therefore, in this project, it will support the Government of RMI with</li> <li>▪ 1. introduction and care of drought-resilient and saline-tolerant staple crops in RMI</li> <li>▪ 2. Establishment of water and soil conservation practices and training</li> <li>▪ 3. Knowledge sharing and communication for community drought resilience. A pilot site to start this work needs to be identified.</li> </ul>	<p>Minutes sent on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2013.</p> <p>Followed up on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2013.</p> <p>Refer project document page 6-9</p>
<p><b>3. Management Arrangements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ DIM (direct implementation) modality is the most appropriate for several reasons, of which the most important is the pressure of the short</li> </ul>	<p>Refer project document pages 14-15</p>

time period of one year that requires planning ahead to mitigate usual bottlenecks (e.g. release of advance awaiting reports, etc. which holds up implementation, etc. as per experience in other NIM (nationally implemented projects). In summary, it is not ensure delivery is achieved as planned.

- DIM, modality does not change decision-making or leadership of project. This remains with Government, whose substantive contributions to planning and review of activities is still required. The only change is that DIM modality lessens the burden for Government in the day to day management and coordination of project, recruitment and procurement processes, financial management and reporting, and monitoring quarterly and annually. UNDP will be responsible and will report to Government through the Project Board (see Management arrangements)

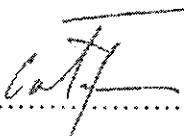
**4. Demonstration site:**

- FAO/UNDP/SPC have discussed and agreed on some technical criteria on the selected sites.
- The demo site to be selected is to be one atoll that is not affected by the drought . This is the first phase so that plants can be grown there for replication to the affected islands. The plants will take 6-9 months then can be harvested.
- The island atoll to be selected outside of the main centre Majuro yet close enough to minimize the costs of transportation and logistical arrangement required to transfer those plants/resilient crops.
- Consideration also to be given to locations

<p>that have related projects underway and where communities are interested and will be committed. Arno community had proposed some food security initiatives and reference was made to the Integrated framework that UNJPO had been implementing with Government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Political will and support would be key considerations. UNDP shared recent visit and discussions with Senator Kabua requesting support for food security and resilience support for Arno that coincided with the focus of this project. He also emphasized the commitment to provide support and ensure school children, parents and community leaders to be involved in the decision making process which will enable the successful implementation of the project.</li> <li>▪ Reference given to previous assessments already undertaken by the Government of RMI, FAO and other donors partners that will feed into the final selection of the site. Final selection will depend on the government; however factors that have been mentioned above could guide the final selection. Of the atolls suggested, Arno seemed to provide the strongest possibility.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5. Engagement of communities/traditional leaders with national government:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Based on the point raised on link from national to local government, the usual government system processes will be followed. However, it would be necessary to develop a Memorandum of Understanding with landowners of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consultations with MRD and UNDP to be undertaken to finalize arrangements once implementation begins.</li> </ul>

<p>identified site to ensure that plants raised, and training and skills shared will be available to share to other atolls where work will be replicated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SPC explained that agreements have been signed by the Deputy Secretary (government representative) and SPC, particularly the plants that had been delivered by SPC this week.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Summary of follow up and next steps:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Briefing will be convened with the Chief Secretary by Terry and Henry the outcomes of today's (Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July ) meeting and proposed Monday agenda.</li> <li>2. DIM request support to be processed.</li> <li>3. Project document: Inclusion of Chief Secretary in the project document in addition to the Permanent Secretary for MRD.</li> <li>4. Project Document changes (point 4 above) to be incorporated in version to be signed by Government.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Message received of Chief Secretary's endorsement of the proposal on 15 July.</li> <li>2. DIM support letter to be sent to UNDP with the signed prodoc asap.</li> <li>3. Refer Project Document page 2</li> <li>4. Refer Project Document page 2</li> </ol>

The meeting ended at 1.30pm .

Endorsed by Chairperson: .....  .....

Date: ..... 2nd September 2013 .....