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Resilient nations.*

RMI R2R PROJECT REPORT

Project Update: Quarter 3 2018

[Abstract](#)

The third quarter report detailed the current achievement and way forward, and financial undertakings since operationalization of the project in July 2018.

RMI R2R 3rd quarter report
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ACRONYMS

CMAC:	Coastal Management Advisory Council (RMI)
CMI:	College of Marshall Islands
EPA:	Environmental Protection Authority (RMI)
HPO:	Historic Preservation Office
MIMRA:	Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority
MICS:	Historic Preservation Office
IOM:	Institute of Migration
OEPPC:	Office of Environment Planning and Policy Coordination.
PIU:	Project Implementation Unit
WUTMI:	Women United Together Marshall Islands
HACT:	Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfe

1. PROJECT BACKGROUND

The RMI R2R project is a five-year project (2017-2022) designed to strengthen natural resource management in atoll communities, to protect biodiversity and sustain livelihood, employing an integrated management approach. The project will be implemented in five outer islands of Aur, Mejit, Likiep, Wothe and Ebon (refer Figure 1 below).

Figure 1: shows the five project sites.



The project has three components:

- Component 1: Expanding and sustaining RMI protected area network
- Component 2: Improved governance for integrated atoll management
- Component 3: Knowledge Management

2. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENT

The project is the first of national STAR R2R project to use the direct implementation modality (DIM) where the implementation is directly facilitated by UNDP Pacific Office in Suva, Fiji. The staff of the project hold UNDP contracts, and are both based in Suva and RMI.

3. PROJECT TEAM

The project team, hereby known as the Project Implementation Unit (PIU), consists of: Project Manager, Deputy Project Manager and Project Associate, Admin and Finance Officer, Project Support Officer, and five site coordinators. The Deputy Project Manager and Project Associate are based in UNDP Pacific Office in Suva, Fiji while the remaining staffs are based in country.

In July 2018, the Project Manager and the Fiji based staffs were recruited; while the recruitment of the remaining staff members of the PIU is still underway.

The priority of the Project Team in 2018 is the setting up of the Project Unit, setting up of the office space in the OEPPC Office in Majuro and recruitment of the above-mentioned staffs that will be based in Majuro and in the five outer island sites.

Currently, a building contractor has been recruited to renovate the existing space at the OEPPC Office, for the PIU. Procurement of office equipment, including the project vehicle is in progress.

4. PROGRESS TO DATE

4.1 Planning Meeting

On 2-3 October 2018, the project team conducted its planning meeting in Majuro, inviting all partners from the government and non-government institutions to: review the project activities and identify partners to implement activities of the project.

As an outcome of the planning meeting, the team was able to identify the partners, and is in the process of meeting with partners to finalize the agreements. There are activities in the project which require engagement of consultants, recruitment will be facilitated by the project team together with the Procurement unit at UNDP.

Table 1 below summarizes the activities and partners responsible for implementation. PS: The table excludes activities where the Chief Technical Adviser will be involved because he has a direct role on activities that are clearly spelt out in the project document.

Table 1: Summary of activities versus agency responsible for implementation.

Outcome 1 Conservation areas delineated, declared, and efforts sustained in 5 priority outer islands to meet Reimaanlok targets and contributing to the Micronesia Challenge and Aichi targets.			
Output 1.1 Marine and terrestrial biodiversity and socioeconomic surveys conducted (or updated) in 5 outer islands to assess status and threats and serve as a guide in the delineation of conservation areas and spatial planning.			
Activities		By Who?	Indicative Cost¹
1.1.1	Adapt the marine survey made under the PROP project for Aur, Ebon and Wotho, for inclusion in the integrated profile of the outer island. Survey conducted for Likiep and Mejit.	MIMRA	80,000
1.1.2	Terrestrial biophysical survey at five sites.	MICS	100,000
	Flood Risk Assessment in five sites.	CMAC/SPC	100,000
1.1.3	Perform an updated socioeconomic assessment of the outer island.	CMAC (IOM/WUTMI)	100,000
	Adopting Cultural Survey conducted by HPO	HPO	10,000
1.1.4	Hydrogeological survey at one outer island.	EPA	50,000
1.1.5	Consolidate the findings of the surveys into an integrated profile of the outer island.	National Consultant.	42,000
Total for Output 1.1			\$482,000
Output 1.2: Conservation areas delineated and declared in 5 outer islands following Reimaanlok guidelines: Type I (subsistence non-commercial use) and Type II (high level of protection) areas; coarse-scale, fine-scale and species conservation targets; land-sea interactions.			
Activities		By Who?	Indicative Cost
1.2.1	Community consultations with respect to delineation of key conservation areas.	PIU	50,000
1.2.2	Delineate key terrestrial and marine conservation areas.	MIMRA, MICS	150,000

¹ These indicative costs are approximate, accurate costs will be submitted by partners at the LoA level.

1.2.3	Facilitate declaration of the delineated key conservation areas as terrestrial and marine protected areas.	PIU	10,000
	Total for Output 1.2		\$210,000
Output 1.3: Integrated management plans developed or updated and implemented in 5 outer islands following the Reimaanlok process and balancing livelihood considerations.			
Activities		By Who?	Indicative Cost
1.3.1	Carry out a feasibility study that balances conservation and livelihood considerations- in all five sites.	National Consultant	30,000
1.3.2	Develop (or update) integrated management plan, underpinned by traditional knowledge	National Consultant	30,000
1.3.3	implement field interventions, including but not limited to agroforestry, sustainable agriculture, mariculture, animal husbandry, small-scale fisheries, ecotourism, or handicrafts for at least 1 site	WUTMI/IOM	50,000
	Total for Output 1.3		\$110,000
Outcome 2: Supportive policies, institutions and communities in place to ensure successful implementation of the Reimaanlok vision			
Output 2.4: Capacity building on integrated approaches for conservation and livelihoods benefitting key national government agencies, community leaders and residents in all 24 outer islands in the entire country; participation by key project stakeholders in regional training programs conducted by the Pacific R2R program support project			
Activities		By Who?	Indicative Cost
2.4.1	Support higher education providers in developing coursework and testing a curriculum for an Agroforestry/Terrestrial Certification Program at the college. The coursework will include regionally accepted sampling and estimation procedures and Open Education Resources development.	CMI	10,000
2.4.2	Facilitate stakeholders from each of the 24 outer islands to participate in the Pacific R2R Network online learning modules and other trainings.	PIU/Regional R2R	20,000

2.4.3	Support one RMI environmental professional in completing a post-graduate program organized by the R2R regional program.	PIU/Regional R2R	30,000
	Total for Output 2.4		\$60,000
Outcome 3: Accessible data and information systems and improved linkages and collaboration with regional initiatives to support adaptive management of the biodiversity in RMI			
Output 3.4 Coordination established with the Pacific R2R program – regional program support project and other national R2R projects – in terms on monitoring and evaluation and south-south collaboration			
Activities		By Who?	Indicative Cost
3.1.1	Enhance the formulation of the GIS-based MIS, by supporting the National Spatial Analytic Facility monitoring and evaluation platform that is accessible to both the public and policy makers.	CMAC/CMI	20,000
3.1.2	Provide hardware and software support for sustaining use of the MIS.	PIU	100,000
3.1.3	Organize a MIS training course, in conjunction with activities under Outputs 3.2 and 3.3.	PIU/MIMRA	10,000
	Total for Output 3.4		\$130,000
Output 3.3: Support for expansion / continuation of education and awareness programs at the local and national levels, e.g., the ‘Just Act Natural’ initiative; complementary awareness programs implemented using various forms of media to mobilize support for conservation and livelihoods			
3.3.1	Participate in relevant regional activities organized by the Pacific R2R program including training, cross site visits in the region, provision of data for program level reporting, linking project website with regional R2R project website, among others.	PIU	10,000
3.3.2	Support development and maintenance a project website, and dissemination of information via social media platforms.	PIU	50,000
3.3.3	Contribute to the IW: LEARN knowledge management platform through sharing results by posting information on the website, contributing to newsletters, or by other means.	PIU	5,000
	Total for Output 3.3		\$65,000
	Total Indicative Costs for 2019		\$1,057,000

4.2 Recruitment of Chief Technical Adviser

The project will recruit a Chief Technical Adviser, an international staff that will provide technical support on the project. The Deputy Project Manager is currently working on the Terms of Reference. CTA is expected to join PIU in Quarter I 2019. This is similar for the local consultants.

4.3 Project Office

As mentioned in 3 above, the PIU is finalizing recruitment of Building contractor to renovate the office space that will house the PIU Team. The project printer has already been procured, project vehicle will be delivered when the shipment arrived. Procurement for other office equipment are also in progress with some already delivered.

5. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

The PIU is anticipating starting the implementation phase by Quarter 1 of 2019. Currently the team is working with partners to finalize and signed the agreement, tentatively by December 2018.

5.1. Letter of Agreement

The PIU is now conducting bilateral meetings with partners on the agreement before the Letter of Agreement (LOA) is signed between UNDP and the partners. This is anticipated to be completed and in place by end of December 2018. This will involve HACT assessment, if necessary.

6. BUDGET

The approved budget for the project for 2018 in ATLAS was **USD 968,338**. Because of unforeseen circumstances, operationalization of the project was delayed resulted in the budget revision. The revised amount for the 2018 budget is **USD 315,000**.

Below is the financial transaction details to date.

6.1 Budget Utilization Rate to Date

Table 2: summary of budget utilization to date.

Component	Revised Amount	Utilized Amount	Un-Utilized Amount to Date
Component 1	231,000.00	66,935.33	219,902.85
Component 2	70,000.00	157.38	
Component 3	14,000.00	28,004.44	
TOTAL	315,000	95,097.15	

6.2 Procurement Forecast:

Table 3: procurement forecast for 2018.

Activity	Expected Cost (USD)
Office Renovation for PIU Team	\$ 24,000.00
Project Vehicle	\$ 24,495.00
Project Board Meeting	\$ 10,000.00
Travel & DSA	\$ 15,000.00

7. Issues/Challenges:

- a) **Recruitment of Project Staff:** After three job advertisement sent out for the remaining positions, UNDP HR Department still hasn't received any application, and making it more challenging is the need to recruit locally-based site coordinators.

As a way forward, the job advertisement will re-open until the position is filled and candidates are required to manually submit application. There is consideration for 'head-hunting' where capable candidates will be identified and requested to apply, in case if no applications received.

- b) **Communications:** Because of geographical spread and little or no internet and telephone reception, communication with the community can be a challenge.

8. Risks

The table below itemizes the identified risks that the project may encounter during the project implementation period. To date, these risks remain, PIU will progressively update on the status of the risks, moving forward.

Table 3: project risk: update

Description	Type	Impact & Probability	Mitigation Measures	Owner	Risk Update 2018
Limited pool of qualified individuals to lead or carry out projects activities.	Operational	The effectiveness and timeliness of delivering project outputs and outcomes would be affected. Impact: 3 Probability: 3	Focus on capacity development to build human resource pool; explore national and international recruitment; agree on realistic timetables for implementation due to potential delays in recruitment; back-stopping and recruiting through CMAC agencies; utilize technical advisors and counterparts.	Implementing Partner	No change This is truly reflected in the attempt to even recruit project staff and site coordinators for PIU.
Weak coordination among project partners; government partners are overloaded; limited coordination with outer island leaders	Organizational	If cross-sectoral collaborative structures do not function efficiently, the requisite enabling conditions might not be in place to foster delivery of project results. Impact: 3 Probability: 3	CMAC, interagency committees created and meet regularly; senior staff participating; workplan endorsed by Chief Secretary; foster strong ownership of the project by mainstreaming project objectives into government process.	Responsible Party	No change
Poor communications and limited travel to outer islands	Operational	Monitoring and evaluation of project activities would be hindered. Impact: 2 Probability: 3	Budget for and purchase cell phones (where service) or SSB/HF radio with antenna. Use ship when airlines down. Consult with atoll leaders through use of mobile and other communications if face-to-face meetings are limited. Travel costs allocated in project budget, including annual retreat with all 5 site coordinators and other PIU staff.	PIU	No change
Weak enforcement of laws	Regulatory	If the regulatory framework is unreliable,	Assess and address reasons why specific laws are not respected or	Implementing Partner	No change

		stakeholders might be discouraged to participate in the integrated approaches advocated by the project. Impact: 2 Probability: 2	enforced. Include issues of enforcement in education and awareness campaigns.		
Limited understanding and appreciation of natural ecosystems and their services	Environmental	Designs of integrated natural resource management plans might not be representative. Impact: 3 Probability: 2	Biodiversity surveys to be conducted to assess status and improve understanding; a higher education providers could be a partner in these surveys.	PIU	No change
Climate change events hinders implementation and limits impacts of projects	Environmental	incentives for participating in sustainable use of natural resources would be negated by the adverse impacts of climate change on the ecosystem goods and services that the incentives are based upon. Impact: 3 Probability: 3	Collaborate with other national and regional projects on improving resilience to climate change and to mitigate the negative impacts on biodiversity conservation. The strengthening of the RMI Protected Areas Network is envisioned to improve resilience of the natural ecosystems to climate change	PIU	No change
Relatively higher costs of project implementation in a geographically spread-out country	Organizational	The costs of implementation outweigh the potential benefits delivered. Impact: 2 Probability: 4	Plan for higher costs. Explore more cost-efficient partnerships with other projects and stakeholders through joint undertaking of activities	PIU	No change