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**Annual Project Report 2018**

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| **Project title:** Mainstreaming global environmental priorities into national policies and programmes | | | | | |
| **Country:** Palau | **Implementing Partner:** Office of Environmental Response and Coordination (OERC) | | | **Management Arrangements:** NIM | |
| **Atlas Project ID/Award ID number:** 00087532 | | | **Atlas Output ID/Project ID number:** 00094498 | | |
| **UNDP-GEF PIMS ID number:** 5049 | | | **GEF ID number:** 5579 | | |
| **Project start date (= ProDoc signature date):**  7-May-2015 | | | **Original Planned project closing date:** 6-May-2018 | | |
| **Revised project closing date:** 6 Nov 2019 | | |
| **Financing Plan & Expenditures** | | | | | |
| Total GEF Grant (U$S): 550,000 | | | Total Co-financing (as planned in CEO endorsement request) (U$S): 630,000 | | |
| GEF Grant Disbursed as of 14/09/2018 (U$S):  232,078.36 | | | GEF Grant Annual Expenditures (U$S):  2015: 29,359.73  2016: 94,572.94  2017: 90,803.10  2018: 17,342.59 | | |
| **Project Contacts and Links** | | | | | |
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| *Project website, etc.* | | *N/A* | | | |
| *Links to media coverage* | | *None* | | | |
| **Brief project summary:** | | | | | |
| This project is in line with the following CCCD Programme Objectives: i) CD 2 to generate, access and use information and knowledge; and ii) CD 5 to enhance capacities to monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends. It is also aligned with the first objective of the GEF-6 CCCD strategy that is to integrate global environmental needs into management information and monitoring systems. It is a direct response to the GEF-funded National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) project conducted in Palau during the period of 2006-2007, which identified environmental information as a constraint for good environmental decision-making and that there was a need for more comprehensive datasets to be made available to stakeholders including decision-makers and also a greater capacity of stakeholders for analyzing and using this information in related policy and programme making. Through a learning-by-doing process, this project will harmonize existing information systems, and integrate internationally accepted measurement standards and methodologies, as well as consistent reporting on the status of the environment in Palau. It will target the development of capacities at the individual and organizational level, strengthening technical skills to manage data and transform this information into knowledge. The project will also support activities to strengthen the coordination between key sectors to address biodiversity, climate change and land degradation issues at systemic and institutional levels. Under the first component, the project will improve existing management information systems to measure achievements towards global environmental objectives. Under the second component, the project will strengthen technical capacities to monitor and evaluate the state of the environment in Palau to use improved data and information for strategic decision-making in the interest of meeting global environmental obligations. Finally, under the third component, the project will focus on enhancing the institutional sustainability of capacities developed under the project, including strengthening the institutional linkages of data and information systems across agencies and stakeholder organizations. Lessons learned and best practices will be shared in the region. | | | | | |
| **Link to Project QA assessment implementation report for the reporting period:** | | | [https://intranet.undp.org/sites/PLW/project/00087532/SitePages/ProjectQAHomeV2.aspx?year=2018](https://emea01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fintranet.undp.org%2Fsites%2FPLW%2Fproject%2F00087532%2FSitePages%2FProjectQAHomeV2.aspx%3Fyear%3D2018&data=02%7C01%7Cloraini.sivo%40undp.org%7Ccdd4a2a4104e4c0adf7d08d65aecf05b%7Cb3e5db5e2944483799f57488ace54319%7C0%7C0%7C636796371013989710&sdata=e2ekzIXnvTnBijEesYlAKaihdaTDGtUOiW2MOBVCrSc%3D&reserved=0) | | |

# **I. Executive Summary**

Based on the recommendations from the National Capacity Self-Assessment (CB1), this project aims to improve data and information management as a way to strengthen Palau’s capacity to more effectively meet and report on national and international environmental commitments. The database is expected to be operational by June 2019. The database will have environmental data needed by Palau to report on / Rio Conventions (especially UNCBD where data is available) and it will also be used to populate our State of the Environment Reports. To this end, several documents have been completed through this project. These include reports reflecting the baseline of current information and data management and inter-agency data sharing systems; the status of Palau’s efforts in national environmental coordination; and the state of the environment. Collectively, these outputs have improved existing information systems by documenting the baseline for information management systems in Palau as well as provide a foundation from which future progress and achievements can be systematically measured. Progress made to date on the three outcomes of this project are summarized below:

**Outcome 1: Improved management information system for the global environment**. A total of 5 documents consisting of baseline assessments (e.g., Inventory of Environmental Datasets and Review of Assessment Protocols for Environmental Data Sharing) and reporting on environmental activities and progress (e.g., State of the Environment Report and NEPC 2016 Annual Review) have been produced. Additionally, a recently endorsed National SDG Core Indicators List can be included here, as this list will be used in the design of the Environmental Central Database, as well as determining monitoring needs and capacities to operationalize and maintain this Database. There are also plans to utilize an existing online SPREP portal for ‘Inform Project’ that can still meet the country’s environmental database needs. A consultant will be recruited to focus on other national database needs for PALARIS, which at present is mostly focused on land ownership and domestic/international boundary issues.

**2018 Update**

1. With the creation of several NEPC theme-based Working Groups since the SOP was approved, the NEPC has directly influenced the advancement of two legislations – the ABS bill which was passed in August and the Sustainable Tourism bill, which is still being reviewed in congress.
2. NEPC held a mini-retreat to basically go over NEPC’s By-laws and SOP to ensure members are familiar with them; to discuss content for NEPC’s annual report to be submitted to the Office of the President at the end of this year; and to prepare the 2019 Work Plan. See attached pdf mini-retreat agenda for reference.
3. Through CB2 funding support, another capacity building retreat for the Bureau of Budget and Planning (BBP), within which PALARIS and NEPC sit, has been under discussion to take place in early Dec (1st week of Dec 2019). BBP is the bureau responsible for producing the HIES and Census reports, among other national reports. With the government reorganization in 2016 when BBP ‘inherited’ PALARIS and NEPC, who are leading the State of the Environment Report and now the SDG localization effort and VNR reporting in 2019, BBP is in a critical need of an institutional assessment, build staff camaraderie and instill a stronger sense of team spirit so that all the different departments can help each other meet these urgent deadlines, especially the 2nd State of the Environment Report (SOE) and the SDG VNR 2019.
4. NEPC (through the Secretariat) recently became an official member of the Planning Board for the GEF 6 project in October, when the UNDP team was in Palau for the Inception Workshop.

**Outcome 2:** **Strengthened technical capacities for monitoring and evaluating the state of the environment.** Outputs produced here involved an analysis of needed training, providing the requested Excel training to several key personnel; updating the Environmental Assessment database managed by the Environmental Quality Protection Board (EQPB) and developing PALARIS’ 5-Year Strategy and Action Plan (still in draft form). Additional progress consists of identifying information gaps to inter-agency data sharing and initiation of the development of data-sharing MOUs. These outputs reflect improved capacity at both personnel and institutional, which make up the initial steps towards improving existing databases and information systems to a level that will enable better access to environmental data and information which is needed to improve monitoring and reporting on the state of the environment in Palau.

**2018 Update**

1. NEPC bylaws and SOP were approved.
2. An updated 5-year Strategic Plan and Action Plan for PALARIS (Palau Automated Land and Resource Information System) have been completed.
3. EQPB’s (Environmental Quality Protection Board) EIA database has been updated by PALARIS’ personnel.
4. 2nd NES was held on Sept 28, followed with a Leadership Presentation which also produced several identified environment-related policy, implementation and information management gaps. Some of these gaps will be presented by the Minister of Natural Resources, Environment, and Tourism, Hon. F. Umiich Sengebau, at the upcoming Mechesil Belau Conference. This is an annual conference hosted and organized by Palau’s traditional female leaders and this 25th year, it has become one of the biggest national events in Palau. (See attached 2nd NES program and other associated documents). 2nd NES report will be in the form of videos and a printed report. 2nd NES conference package included: a) 1st NES Report; b) USB containing all presentations’ abstracts and ppt presentations; c) folder with note pads, pen, 2nd NES program, and Question Cards; and d) Double-insulated flasks with “2nd NES” and “Environment-Health Nexus” written on each one. For the pre-registered participants, their flasks were personalized with their first names written on them.
5. IT consultant has been finally secured to work with PALARIS on the Central Database design. Due to a new GEF-funded project with SPREP (Inform Project), Palau’s CB2 project will utilize the database already designed through Inform project so this IT consultant will focus more on working with PALARIS to improve their existing data management.

**Outcome 3: Improved decision-making mechanisms for the global environment institutionalized.**  An institutional evaluation of the National Environmental Protection Council (NEPC) was completed with recommendations for improvement which will guide the development of NEPC’s Internal Operational Guide.

Inter-agency effort (i.e., partnership) has been the core foundation in producing all the completed outputs for this project, with no discrimination of sex or gender of agency representatives. Challenges encountered this year have primarily be limited key staffs’ capacity to implement all intended activities (e.g., development of data-sharing MOUs and hiring of a database designer) in time, due to several other responsibilities for the Bureau of Budget and Planning. Lessons learned from this is to acknowledge the shortage of staff and the difficulty of hiring additional staff, and then re-prioritize and possibly delegate some of the Bureau’s responsibilities to other agencies.

**2018 Update**

1. The IT specialist has been secured and will be in Palau for two months (September 30 - November 30).
2. The Central Database will no longer be designed from scratch, as planned. We are running out of time and needed this Central Database to help us prepare for and develop the 2nd State of the Environment Report, which ideally should be completed in draft form by December this year. This will allow NEPC members and key partners to review the draft and finalize the report by April 2019, in time for the President’s State of the Republic Address (SORA).
3. Instead of designing the Central Database, we will utilize an existing, recently completed database from Inform Project, implemented by SPREP. SPREP personnel visited Palau last August and showed us what they have completed and the design meets our objectives of being able to enter relevant information that will feed into the next SOE and other CBD-related reports. The current plan is to use as much information as possible from the database for the 2nd SOE, even without the training and use the support from SPRAP staff. The training timeframe is to be decided soon.
4. With regards to limited staff capacity, in relation to our work demand (e.g., NEPC Secretariat duties and SDG localization efforts), progress made includes securing funding support from UNDP to hire a consultant to help us with the SDG localization work, including preparations for Palau’s Voluntary National Review (VNR) presentation in 2019, as well as a new permanent staff expected to come on board in October. Hiring process is unfortunately delayed and planned to start in 2019.

# **Implementation Progress**

## ***Progress toward Development Objective:***

*For each indicator, the Project Manager should enter the cumulative progress since project start directly into the box in the far right column.*

| **Objectives and Outcomes** | **Indicator** | **Baseline** | **Targets**  **End of Project** | **Status of Implementation** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Objective:** to strengthen Palau's capacities to meet national and global environmental commitments through improved management of environmental data and information | 1. Reported availability of better environmental information | * Collection and use of up-to-date environmental management information is ad-hoc and poorly coordinated | * Up-to-date environmental information is being used by policy-makers and also by the public | * Tangible outputs attained (provided as Annexes) * 5 Reports:   Annex 1. Inventory of environmental information data sets  Annex 2. Report on environmental information gaps, policy and legislative gaps, and environmental information needs of key stakeholders  Annex 3. Review and assessment of protocols for environmental data sharing and identification of environmental reporting obligations  Annex 4. NEPC 2016 Annual Review  Annex 5. Palau’s State of the Environment (SOE) Report 2017  Annex 6. National Core SDG Indicators   * Conference: 1st National Environment Symposium   This project has provided several systematic platforms for key environmental players – mostly from national government, and some active CBOs and NGOs to interact and work together (e.g., preparation of the above reports, along with planning and hosting the 1st National Environment Symposium, which will become a regular event).  Today we now know who are the current ‘go-to’ players for which environmental sector; a better understanding of the varying capacity needs for each key institution, and newly established platforms (reports and events) on which we have agreed to continue to collectively work together to disseminate and share ongoing environmental issues and priorities. |
| **2018 Progress**  The list below summarizes how we are improving environmental data and information management in three general categories:   1. Tools – Central Database, SOE Report content, National Environment Symposium presentations (i.e., issues, interventions, findings and recommendations) 2. Central Database will no longer be designed by CB2 project – we will instead utilize a recently completed online-based database by Inform Project. Therefore, needed capacity building will revolve around this database. Initially, PMU staff (Charlene and Amanda), along with selected PALARIS technical personnel will be trained on this database by SPREP and by the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism personnel who are executing Inform Project. After our initial training, we will then train other stakeholders so they can populate it for the 2nd SOE Report. At the moment the staff is using the database to populate 2nd SOE report without the training, as the timing for training by MNRET is yet to be determined. The SPREP staff is providing guidance if needed.   Update Dec 5: The SPREP Team did hold a training in Palau. However, since PALARIS was not going to be the local manager of the database but a different agency (Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism), because they wanted to use it to focus on biodiversity, we did not prioritize the training, but let them take the lead and then train us. The CB2 PMU (Charlene and Amanda) did not attend the training, but PALARIS sent a representative to this training in Palau, as well as to another training in Samoa the following month. For the purposes of us using the Inform online platform, our consultant, Ms. Anu Gupta who will be helping us with the 2nd SOE is the one who will be populating the online platform. In short, we are still moving forward with the Inform platform as the starting point for our environmental database and then expanding it to add climate change and SDG components into it post-CB2.   1. State of the Environment (SOE) Report – 1st SOE Report was disseminated last April; next report is due in April 2019. We have not yet invested much time on this yet, due to other priority activities but will now focus on it, starting with familiarizing ourselves with the Inform Project database. 2. Both 1st and 2nd National Symposium (NES) Reports will be used to guide our priority interventions at the local level. 1st NES’ report has been completed and has been disseminated (both electronic and hard copy). Recommendations made from the 2nd NES were presented to the President, his cabinet and members of our National and State Government Congress, as well as traditional leaders two days after the symposium event. We continued working with some of these leaders (e.g., Minister of Natural Resources, Env. And Tourism; President’s lawyer and the women’s group) to pass a bill to reduce the use of single-use plastics; provide more support to developing small home gardens and increase funds to improve water quality to homes in rural areas). 3. Coordination Mechanism - NEPC body & its recently established Working Groups; Palau Conservation Consortium; SDG government and non-government stakeholders 4. The NEPC has been more effective in advancing legislations and in networking since we passed our bylaws and SOP last April. 5. Working with an informal national body consisting of conservation practitioners, the Palau Conservation Consortium, both national bodies have successfully organized and hosted the 2 national environment symposiums. With the CB2 PMU’s increasing role in coordinating SDG localization efforts, we are now adding another layer of stakeholders to these national bodies via the SDGs. 6. Outputs – SOE and National Environment Symposium Reports, national legislations (e.g., Access and Benefit Sharing law, Sustainable Tourism bill and SDG M & E Executive Order) 7. Above are examples of delivered (or in the pipeline) outputs. See attached copy of 1st SOE and 1st NES Reports. 8. We are adding a new output item – media. In the past, we have not utilized the media as much, and realized this gap during the May 2018 RSD Coordinators’ meeting. Thus, with the 2nd NES, videos were taken of all the presentations, so we can show them on national TV and also use them as materials for ongoing awareness and advocacy efforts. Note: The FB activities were led by summer interns who are Palauan college students who were home for the summer doing internships via various programs funded by the Palau National Scholarship Board, India Grant and the private sector. After their departure, Amanda is expected to pick up on this effort. | | | |
| 1. Key environmental organizations stated as the primary sources for environmental information in Palau by a significant number of national, regional and international development partners | * Capacity of key stakeholders for translating environmental data into information useful by decision-makers is low and dispersed over many organizations | * 50% of stakeholders have benefitted from capacity development activities for better use of this information in decision-making and policy-making | * The 16-member CB2 Ad Hoc Committee agreed in early 2016 that to get the most out of this project towards improving national environmental data and information management, it will focus on the “Top Tier” agencies, who together essentially manage about 80% of environmental information in Palau. These were identified to be Bureau of Agriculture (BOA), Bureau of Marine Resources (BMR) and Environmental Quality Protection Council (EQPB).   To this end, all three (100%) Top Tier agencies have received training on Excel (i.e., BMR and BOA), while EQPB received technical support to update their central environmental assessment database, which is used to guide approval of building and earth moving permits.     * In addition to the three Top Tier agencies, PALARIS and NEPC (which is housed within PALARIS) have also benefitted from this project in terms of institutional capacity development. * NEPC’s role in coordination and information management (the CB2 PMU) have been largely supported by this project in terms of hosting meetings, daily operations and producing the above-mentioned reports. * PALARIS has been able to develop its first Strategic Plan and determine a way to reorganize its internal structure with new critical positions, moving forward in anticipation of the creation of the Central Environmental Database, which is one of the anticipated outputs of this project. |
| **2018 Progress**   * There has been a shift in the capacity building focus for agencies which are sources of information. Initially, the focus went towards the Top Tier agencies (i.e., Bureau of Ag, Bureau of Marine Res, and EQPP. After the initial requested capacity building activities were done for each agency, excel training for the two bureaus and EIA database updates for EQPB were done, additional capacity building needs were pending completion of the Central Database. * As we tried to secure the IT to design the Central Database, we turned the capacity building focus on the PMU agencies: PALARIS and NEPC. PALARIS had its 5-Year Strategy and Action Plan updated and NEPC approved its Bylaws and SOP. These outputs have significantly helped both agencies/bodies to be more effective by enabling them to be able to plan better and thus able to coordinate and bring other stakeholders on board to work together to achieve specific targets (e.g., organizing the 2nd NES and getting the ABS law passed). * With the Central Database design having recently been recently dropped, because it’s no longer necessary, with the Inform Project online database filling in for this role, the next capacity building focus is to learn how to use the Inform Project database. Initial participants will be PMU staff and later on, all other agencies that have the needed environmental data. Immediate use of the Central Database is to provide information for the 2nd SOE Report, expected to be disseminated to the leaders and the public in April 2019. | | | |
| 1. Quality of environmental monitoring reports and communications to measure implementation progress of the Rio Conventions | * Current reports are produced with limited data, weak analysis and weak trend analysis and are not fully responding to national and international requirements. | Reports present adequate disaggregated data at local level, are informative and present environmental trends over time | * The preparation and publication of the above mentioned reports demonstrate the progress achieved for this target. Many of these reports have not been done before. With their completion, Palau now has a common ‘baseline’ from which to improve on.   Below is a list of those reports:   * Tangible outputs attained (provided as Annexes) * 5 Reports:   Annex 1. Inventory of environmental information data sets  Annex 2. Report on environmental information gaps, policy and legislative gaps, and environmental information needs of key stakeholders  Annex 3. Review and assessment of protocols for environmental data sharing and identification of environmental reporting obligations  Annex 4. NEPC 2016 Annual Review  Annex 5. Palau’s State of the Environment (SOE) Report 2017  Annex 6. National Core SDG Indicators   * Conference: 1st National Environment Symposium |
| **2018 Progress**   * The delayed completion of the Central Database makes it difficult to demonstrate systematically how well we have achieved this objective because there is still no concrete output to show this. * However, small but significant incremental progress have been made and they are demonstrated by:  1. Completion of 1st SOE and 1st NES reports – in addition to serving both as a guide and initial templates for future reports, the experience that went into producing these reports has built all key players’ capacity in development of future reports. Furthermore, in developing these reports, we now know the “go-to” personnel within each key agency for specific information. 2. The publication of these reports also provide a baseline from which future reports will be picking up on and thus have established the needed enabling condition towards progressive reports instead of several “baselines” or “pilot project reports”. 3. Public access to these reports also provide an opportunity for broader groups of stakeholders to provide input, question and/or challenge what is being reported. For example, because of the 1stS report, when This broader engagement of stakeholders will also further enhance the scope, breadth and quality of future reports. Public access is enabled via distribution of printed copies to the leaders at the State of the Republic Address (1st SOE report) and distribution of the 1st NES report during the 2nd NES in their conference package. 4. In addition to the SOE and NES reports, there is also an initial list of Palau’s National SDG Core Indicators List which will ensure a direct link between national and UN-related reporting. | | | |
| 1. Capacity development scorecard rating | Capacity for:   * Engagement: 4 of 9 * Generate, access and use information and knowledge: 8 of 15 * Policy and legislation development: 5 of 9 * Management and implementation: 3 of 6 * Monitor and evaluate: 3 of 6   (Total score: 23/45) | Capacity for:   * Engagement: 6 of 9 * Generate, access and use information and knowledge: 12 of 15 * Policy and legislation development: 6 of 9 * Management and implementation: 4 of 6 * Monitor and evaluate: 4 of 6   (Total targeted score: 32/45) | Capacity for CB2 and NEPC Members’ Organizations   * Engagement – NEPC has 21 members; CB2 Ad Hoc Committee has 16, of which 10 members are also NEPC members. * The State of the Environment Report and the 1st National Environment Symposium was made possible with several agencies updating their data quality and reportability. In addition, the completed report, helps all of them to further improve their performance in generating, accessing and using because an agreed national baseline has been established and made publicly available via hard copies and in electronic format. * Presently, I cannot directly link this project’s efforts to policy and legislation development – * Recommendations for policy and legislation have been shared at the Env. Symposium and also captured in the SOE. While they have been made available, however, at present we cannot claim direct link between this project’s outputs to policy and legislation development yet. * M & E of ongoing efforts will be taking place next year when we are preparing for the next Env Symposium and initiate the second SOE report. Presently, we don’t have a basis for M&E of ongoing efforts. |
| **2018 Progress**   * Improvements have been made here with the NEPC – with the passing of the bylaws and SOPs, which led to the creation of the NEPC Working Groups, it is now possible to make a direct link between NEPC’s contribution to legislations. | | | | |
| **OUTCOME 1: Improved management information system for the global environment** | | | | |
| **Output 1.1:** Harmonized collection and measurement methodologies of key data and information.  **Output 1.2:** Existing databases and information systems are strengthened and networked to improve access to environmental data and information.  **Output 1.3:** Agencies' data management protocols are revised to improve access. | 1. Adequate national standards, norms, procedures for collecting and storing environmental data are officially in place | * There is limited unified set of standards, norms and procedures to collect data, conduct observations and make sampling | * Adequate official standards, norms and procedures are in place and use by the relevant organizations | * Preparation for the SOE initiated this effort to harmonize key data and information related to Palau’s environment. * Additionally, Palau has established a National SDG Core Indicators list, composed of selected global SDG indicators, plus Palau’s own indicators, which will be monitored and reported on a regular basis. * The planned Central Environmental Database (one of this project’s outputs) will incorporate SOE and SDG indicators.   At present, the project will focus on populating data for the SOE along with relevant/related env. SDG data. The current Inform platform will not expand to include non-environmental data, as we were planning for the Central DB, since it’s now managed by the Min of Env. New database managed by PALARIS will include both environmental and SDG data. |
|  | | | |
| 1. An environmental data repository architecture in place | * No data architecture is in place to structure environmental information at national level in Palau | * Environmental data is collected and stored by key organizations in a harmonized and structured way and easily accessible | * The Central Environmental Database is anticipated to be developed towards the end of this year. A consultant has been identified to help us with its design. * PALARIS has agreed to take on the management responsibilities of this Database.   Dec 5: The envisioned CED was to initially start with env data and specifically designed around supporting development of env-related reports to national and international commitment (e.g., Rio Conventions and SOE). Then we will expand it and include the SDGs as well. The limitation with database of ‘Inform Project’ is that it will only end with environmental data - we will have to import data from it to a new database (CED) that will be managed by PALARIS (not Min of Env as at the moment) and thus will include SDGs and all other national priorities that we can and want to report on. The timeframe for finalizing and populating of a new Database (managed by PALARIS) is planned for June 2019. |
| 1. Information technologies in place to collect, store and share giving access to up-to-date environmental information | * Limited technology is in place to support data management for an effective sharing of environmental information | * Hardware, communication and networking equipment is in place to collect and store environmental data and provide easy access to this environmental information | * All requested equipment and hardware from the Top Tier agencies have been secured. Additional equipment still needed are mostly for the Central Environment Database. * Website for the Central Env Database is planned to be established by June next year.   The 2nd SOE is due to April 2019 and it will be used for populating of the database and, in turn, the website. |
| 1. Agreements for data sharing in place | * Information is shared on an ad-hoc basis among institutions mostly on an informal basis | * 3-4 agreements are in place between key environmental organizations and 3-4 agencies/institutions to formally share data on a regular basis | * MOUs with Top 3 agencies are being developed and will be finalized by end of October. |
|  | **2018 Progress**   * MOUs that were anticipated to be developed in conjunction with the Central Database (DB) development have not been drafted, as they were pending the completion of the Central Database. However, with Inform Project taking over Central DB role, we will now proceed to draft these as we will now be requesting data from relevant agencies to populate this online database. | | | |
| **OUTCOME 2: Strengthened technical capacities for monitoring and evaluation of the global environment** | | | | |
| **Output 2.1:** Training on new and improved data and information collection and measurement methodologies.  **Output 2.2:** Training on analytical skills to analyze/measure environmental trends. | 1. An in-service training programme for public servants include course(s) covering environmental information management | * There is no training programme for public administrators on environmental information management | * Course(s) on environmental information management is institutionalized as in-service training for public administrators | The training for ‘Inform Project’ database was done at no cost by CB2, since we were not going to be the local managers  The Top 3 Tier agencies have not identified additional training needs since they received Excel training in the 1st year of implementation. Other agencies received capacity building support, albeit not in data collection but more focused on institutional strengthening (i.e., PALARIS, NEPC and more recently, Bureau of Budget and Planning with the planned staff retreat for early Jan 2019). All of these institutional capacity building efforts may not be directly related to data collection, but they are critical to information management and reporting, which is one of the central tasks of all of these agencies. |
| 1. Number of Environmental Officers trained by taking the course(s) developed with the support of the project | * 0 | * 50 Environmental Officers are trained using the new training programme | * Have not yet identified training program |
| 1. Use up-to-date environmental information in decision-making and policy-making | * Limited environmental information is used to develop policies and programmes | * 3-4 policies, programmes or plans are developed using up-to-date environmental information | * Food Security proposal to Green Climate Fund - ongoing * Palau Energy Master Plan – ongoing * Decision to lift harvest restriction on two fish species based on their increasing/recovering population |
| * Presently, the only identified training need is to utilize the Project Inform database. MNRET (Min of Nat. Resources, Env. And Tourism) will be providing the technical expertise here but CB2 may be hosting the training. Discussions on our respective roles still need to be clarified. | | | | |
| OUTCOME 3: Improved decision-making mechanisms for the global environment institutionalized | | | | |
| **Output 3.1:** Key agencies and OERC mandates have been revised and strengthened to catalyze improved decision-making for the global environment. | 1. An operational inter-sectorial coordination mechanism that build on existing instruments such as OERC, NEPC, PNRC, NPC, etc. | * Existing mechanisms are operational, however there is very little inter-sectorial coordination | * Coordinating MEAs implementation including a broader stakeholder involvement | * A newly created informal national body, called Palau National Climate Working Group, composed of key agencies representing environmental group (NEPC) energy group (Palau National Energy Committee) and National Emergency Committee (NEC) was established in July 2017 to improve inter-sectoral coordination. * The SDG indicators and Central Environmental Database will also strengthen coordination and improve reporting quality.   **2018 Progress**   * Creation of NEPC Working Groups - done * Creation of SDG Implementation and M & E – almost done. Draft Executive Order has been completed and expected to be signed by the President this month. |
| 1. Endorsed action plans for implementing MEAs supporting government's MEA obligations. | * Existing action plans are operational but are focused on specific sectors with limited multi-sectoral approaches | * Renewed commitments to implement MEAs in annual work plans with specific budgets and an improve multi-sectoral approach * Greater national budget allocation to the environment sector | * The national government underwent a reorganization which was operationalized in early 2016. Direct results from this reorganization include:  1. Creation of a dedicated Office of Climate Change to lead the implementation, coordination and reporting of UNFCCC obligations. 2. Creation of the Palau Energy Administration under Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Industries and Commerce. Prior to this, the office was relying on 100% outside grants to carry out their mandates. 3. Creation of the NEPC Unit under PALARIS with dedicated full-time Secretariat. Prior to this, the NEPC has not been very active for several years.   **2018 Progress –** no new changes |

## ***Key outputs delivered during reporting period:***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project Outcome** | **Key Outputs** |
| Improved management information system for the global environment | * 5 CB2 Project Reports:  1. Inventory of environmental information data sets 2. Review and assessment of protocols for environmental data sharing and identification of environmental reporting obligations 3. Report on environmental information gaps, policy and legislative gaps, and environmental information needs of key stakeholders 4. Palau’s State of the Environment (SOE) Report 2017 5. NEPC 2016 Annual Review   2018   1. 1st National Environment Symposium Report 2. Established and endorsed National SDG Core Indicators containing 127 global SDG indicators, of which 90 (70%) are shared with the Pacific Headline Indicators and 33 (35%) are MDG indicators. Of the 90 shared indicators, 44 have data points. |
| Strengthened technical capacities for monitoring and evaluation of the global environment | 1. Training needs analysis for identified Top Tier agencies was completed and 2 of the 3 agencies needed training on Excel. 2. Training for 2 of the 3 Top Tier CB2 project agencies (i.e., Bureau of Agriculture and Bureau of Marine Resources) on Excel completed. 3. Key sharing information gaps have been identified and as a first step to fill these gaps is to target the Top Tier agencies by developing MOUs between them and PALARIS for data sharing. This has also been delayed to next quarter. |
| Improved decision-making mechanisms for the global environment institutionalized | 1. NEPC Institutional evaluation completed with proposed recommendations to improve membership participation and to be more engaged in policy development. 2. Development of NEPC Internal Operations Guide based on results of the institutional evaluation has been initiated with securing technical expert assistance, but development of the Guide has been delayed to next quarter.   2018   1. NEPC By-Laws and SOP endorsed. 2. NEPC is a member of the GEF 6 Planning Board Cmte 3. NEPC is mandated to review grant proposals to ensure they meet national priorities and are clearly linked with various sector 4. NEPC mini-retreat held in November to review and refresh members of byaws and SOP, to conduct self-evaluation and Secretariat evaluation, plus draft 2019 work plan (1st NEPC work plan) 5. Initiated planning for upcoming Bureau of Budget & Planning team-building retreat. |

# **III. Project Implementation Challenges**

*Please identify and analyse project critical risks and project issues that:*

*1) had an impact on project deliverables (quality, schedule) during the reporting period, or*

*2) were newly identified during the reporting period and are being addressed by the project (in the case of risks, describe project prosed means to mitigate their effects or decrease the likelihood of impact in the future, and in the case of issues, how to resolve them).*

* Delays in project start (PMU creation, hiring PM) – PMU was initially going to be OERC (Office of Environmental Response and Coordination) in the Office of the President, but it was dismantled coordination duties were picked up by a newly established NEPC (National Environmental Protection Council) Unit, in Ministry of Finance. Several factors related to the new gov’t structure contributed to the delayed PMU creation:

1. Transition period of delegating OERC duties to other agencies. Despite the new organizational structure’s endorsement in 2015, the NEPC Unit was not fully operationalized for several months during which time the two PMU personnel were still involved with former OERC duties.
2. Transition period of the Bureau of Budget and Planning to adjust to the new organizational structure, which increased the size of its personnel by almost 100%, along with many additional new responsibilities (e.g., national environmental coordination, national GIS management and project management, which includes small-scale community based stakeholders.

* Delays in project implementation

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the PMU – around the time of this transition (early 2016), Palau also initiated its SDG localization process, which was led by the Bureau of Budget and Planning. This task was delegated to the CB2 PMU team, for which its demands also contributed to some delays in CB2 implementation efforts. We did not expect the SDG localization approach to last until 2017. We have just completed our 2nd SDG National Consultation at the end of June this year and now working on the 1st SDG National Report.

***a. Updated project risks and actions***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Project Risk Description** | **Type** | **Date identified** | **Mitigation Measures** |
| *No critical risks* |  |  |  |

***b. Updated project issues and actions***

*Explain the main implementation issues encountered in the course of implementation during the year and the proposed actions to solve the issues.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project Issue Description** | **Mitigation Measures, Actions Taken** |
| Enter a brief description of the risk | What actions will be taken to mitigate this risk |
| The main issue is just not enough people to do the work and not enough time for the few of us to carry them out. | Need to discuss formal rearrangement of responsibilities for all the staff under the Bureau of Budget and Planning so that we will more freely work outside of our respective silos. Presently, while we (different offices) are already helping each other out, it’s not as effective nor efficient as it could. As long as there is still a way to further improve our collaboration and cooperation, we should explore this. Discussions with other colleagues reveal that they are also in agreement with this idea, but we have yet to bring it up with our Director. Hopefully we will before the end of October. |
| The delayed implementation of this project will result in many incomplete activities by the project’s official end date. The anticipated risks include insufficient gov’t funding to fully support remaining CB2 activities beyond this point. | IP requested 14 month no cost extension after the project was expected to get closed by 6 May 2018.  After the RTA review, a maximum length of 18 months no-cost extension was granted to the project and it is expected to get operationally closed by 6 Nov 2019.  The Implementing Partner notes only one extension per project is allowed and will intensify the efforts and project management and execution roles to close the project in time. The workplan for the extended period is annexed to the attachments of this report and the progress will be closely monitored by UNDP CO to make sure any issues and risks of potential delays are promptly addressed. UNDP-GEF team will be kept informed accordingly and requested for support as deemed necessary. |
| The transition to the new government structure placed a significant burden on the Bureau of Budget and Planning, Ministry of Finance, which inherited PALARIS from another ministry and created 3 new offices (i.e., Office of Climate Change [OCC], Office of Project Management [OPM] and NEPC-Unit). Given that we’re all in this bureau, the NEPC staff (who are also the PMU team) are assisting the other offices with their work. | Given that we all need to help each other’s offices since we all share the common limited staff, actions that can be taken to reduce this risk will involve turning the risks into opportunities:   * 1. Incorporate the SDG implementation into the CB2 project to help streamline standardization of information management and reporting;   2. Office of Climate Change serves as the UNFCCC Focal Point and leads the implementation of Palau’s Climate Change Policy – one of the cross-sectoral policies which often face similar challenges with implementing the SDGs. In working with them, we will learn from each other how to better navigate these overlapping and sometimes conflicting national priorities.   Office of Project Management is currently leading the national effort to assess the financial landscape, which helps the SDG work to better identify and prioritize the national priorities, at least those that are linked to the selected Core SDG Indicators, that are most in need of urgent government funding support, to be allocated through the national budgetary process. |

# **IV. Annexes**

*Meetings/workshops minutes/reports, Knowledge products, Lessons Learnt, Gender analysis, etc.*

1. *1st SOE Report, available upon request*
2. *1st NES Report, available upon request*
3. *2nd NES Call for Abstract, available upon request*
4. *2nd NES Information Note, available upon request*
5. *NEPC Bylaws and SOP, available upon request*
6. *Workplan for extended period (2019)*

*Workplan for extended period (2019)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Outputs** | **Planned activities** |  | | | | | |  |
|  |  | Jan-19 | Feb-19 | Mar-19 | Apr-19 | May-19 | Jun-19 | 2019 |
| **Outcome 1** | **Improved management information system for the global environment** | | | | | | | |
| Output 1.1: Harmonized collection and measurement methodologies of key data and information | 1.1.1 Undertake an inventory of environmental information data sets compiled in Palau. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1.1.2 Identify the environmental reporting obligations in Palau |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1.1.3Identify environmental information needs of key stakeholders |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1.1.4Identify environmental information gaps |  |  |  |  |  |  | 5,000 |
| 1.1.5Develop and implement an action plan |  |  |  |  |  |  | 10,000 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Subtotal 1.1 | | | | | | | | **15,000** |
| Output 1.2: Existing databases and information systems are strengthened and networked to improve access to environmental data and information | 1.2.1Identify the information technologies (IT) used |  |  |  |  |  |  | 5,000 |
| 1.2.2Develop an IT architecture |  |  |  |  |  |  | 5,000 |
| 1.2.3Implement activities to address key IT architecture gaps |  |  |  |  |  |  | 14,175 |
| Subtotal 1.2 | | | | | | | | **24,175** |
| Output 1.3: Agencies' data management protocols are revised to improve access | 1.3.1Review the protocols in place for environmental data sharing |  |  |  |  |  |  | 10,000 |
| 1.3.2 Address the key sharing arrangement gaps |  |  |  |  |  |  | 10,000 |
| Subtotal 1.3 | | | | | | | | **20,000** |
| TE portion |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **10,000** |
| **Total Outcome 1** | | | | | | | | **69,175** |
| **Outcome 2** | **Strengthened technical capacities for monitoring and evaluation of the global environment • This project has not yet begun work on a formal training, but there is an opportunity to work with another project which is focused on climate-related data which will be explored in the next quarter (Oct-Dec 2017)** | | | | | | | |
| Output 2.1: Training on new and improved data and information collection and measurement methodologies. | 2.1.1 Conduct a training needs analysis |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.1.2 Develop a training programme |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.1.3Deliver training activities |  |  |  |  |  |  | 15,000 |
| Subtotal 2.1 | | | | | | | | 15,000 |
| Output 2.2: Training on analytical skills to analyze/measure environmental trends | 2.2.1 Conduct a training needs analysis |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2.2.2 Develop a training program |  |  |  |  |  |  | 15,000 |
| 2.2.3 Deliver traning activities |  |  |  |  |  |  | 13,000 |
| Subtotal 2.2 | | | | | | | | 28,000 |
| TE portion |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 10,020 |
| **Total Outcome 2** | | | | | | | | **53,020** |
| **Outcome 3** | **Improved decision-making mechanisms for the global environment institutionalized** | | | | | | | |
| Output 3.1: Key agencies and OERC mandates have been revised and strengthened to catalyze improved decision-making for the global environment. | 3.1.1 Structure and support activities of a working group |  |  |  |  |  |  | 3,720 |
| 3.1.2 Review institutional mandates |  |  |  |  |  |  | 12,000 |
| 3.1.3 Implement identified key opportunities |  |  |  |  |  |  | 11,732 |
| Subtotal 3.1 | | | | | | | | 27,452 |
| TE portion |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 5,000 |
| **Total Outcome 3** | | | | | | | | **32,452** |
| **Other Cost Sharing Activities** |  | | | | | | | |
| Audit |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 7,000 |
| Terminal Evaluation | draft TOR |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Advertise TOR |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Complete recruitment |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Evaluation mission |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| draft TE |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Final TE report |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total Other Costs |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **7,000** |
| Total for all Technical Activities |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 161,647 |
| Project DPC |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 942 |
| Operations |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 4,163.00 |
| Total across project |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **166,752.00** |