

EUROPEAN UNION – NORTH PACIFIC– READINESS FOR EL NIÑO (RENI) PROJECT



2nd Planning and Steering Committee Meeting Report

1 – 3 April 2019

International Conference Centre, Majuro,
Republic of the Marshall Islands



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List of Abbreviations

ACP	Africa, Caribbean, Pacific grouping
ACSE	Adapting to Climate Change and Sustainable Energy
BSRP	Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific project
CROP	Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific
EDF	European Development Fund
EUR	euros
EU	European Union
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
FRDP	Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific
GCCA: PSIS	Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States project
GCCA+ SUPA	Global Climate Change Alliance Plus Scaling up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA)
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MIOFA	Marshall Islands Organic Farmers Association
MNRC	Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce (RMI)
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NCD	non-communicable diseases
NEMO	National Emergency Management Office (Palau)
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NOAA	National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency (USA)
PACRES	Intra ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building
PIEMA	Pacific Islands Emergency Management Association
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PLANET	Applying a rights-based approach (Participation, Link to rights, Accountability, Non-discrimination, Empowerment, Transforming social norms).
PPUC	Palau Public Utilities Corporation
PREL	Pacific Resources for Education and Learning
RENI	EU – North Pacific – Readiness for El Niño project
RMI	Republic of the Marshall Islands
RRRT	Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT)
SILC	Savings and Internal Lending Communities
SODIS	Solar disinfection of water
SPC	The Pacific Community
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	United States dollar
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USP	University of the South Pacific
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WUTMI	Women United Together Marshall Islands

Executive Summary

The European Union (EU) – North Pacific – Readiness for El Niño (RENI) project is about communities working to secure food and water resources ahead of drought. The three-year (2017 - 2020) project is funded with €4.5 million from the EU and implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC) in collaboration with the governments and peoples of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and Palau.

The second planning and steering committee meeting was hosted by the Government of RMI in Majuro from 1 – 3 April 2019. Participants from each country, representing national disaster management offices, technical agencies responsible for food and water security, local government, national weather service offices, non-governmental organisations and community representatives took part, together with development partners and SPC representatives.

The meeting was successful in achieving all its objectives:

1. Review progress with implementation of the RENI project.
2. Conduct detailed work planning to project closure in 2020.
3. Review progress with implementing a gender sensitive/rights based approach.
4. Provide opportunities for community representatives to share experiences.
5. Plan communication products.

Among the highlights was the sessions on sharing ways to incorporate a gender-sensitive/rights-based approach into the design and implementation of the RENI project, which has involved communities from the outset. The RENI project is one of the first projects where SPC's Social Development Programme and Regional Rights Resource Team have combined their skills and expertise to integrate a people-focused approach into a climate change/disaster risk project from inception through to final delivery.

A session on “Communities preparing for drought and building resilience” was one of the highlights of the meeting. The session opened with an RMI youth representative telling his story of how sea level rise was impacting his island and his life. Other experiences about drought followed from the Women United Together Marshall Islands and the Marshall Islands Organic Farmers Association. Community representatives from FSM and Palau also described their experiences about community action, preparedness and customs. Presentations also highlighted simple ways to purify water including the ecological purification system, solar disinfection, and a bucket filter system used in RMI. An impact assessment of water security measures in Fais Island, Yap State, FSM, emphasised the need for more attention to be placed on maintenance of water infrastructure and the increased involvement of community members in the on-the-ground implementation of projects. The session closed with a description of the Ailuk community's disaster management plan.

Participants also prepared and endorsed detailed work plans for the period April 2019 to June 2020, when all project implementation activities have to be completed. The need to complete all activities in country by 30 June 2020 was emphasised throughout the meeting. A session on lessons learnt drew out some of the key experiences to date, and participants also had the opportunity to plan key messages and focus areas for the national videos, which will be prepared over the period June 2019 to June 2020.

Background to the 2nd RENI Planning and Steering Committee Meeting



Group photo of steering committee meeting participants

Introduction

The El Niño extreme weather event in 2015 - 2016 affected countries and regions around the world with events such as protracted droughts and floods. On 3 November 2016, the European Commission, through the 11th European Development Fund, allocated EUR 150,135,000 million to 21 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries for the Pro-Resilience Special Measure in response to food insecurity. Of this total amount, EUR 4.5 million was reserved for the North Pacific ACP countries, namely, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and Palau.

The global objective of the Pro-Resilience Special Measure is to structurally and sustainably reduce food and nutrition insecurity by tackling the root and underlying causes of vulnerability and reducing the negative impacts of stresses and shocks.

The European Union (EU) – North Pacific – Readiness for El Niño (RENI) project is about communities working to secure food and water resources ahead of drought. The three-year (2017 - 2020) project is implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC) in collaboration with the governments and peoples of FSM, RMI and Palau.

The overall objective of the EU – North Pacific – Readiness for El Niño (RENI) project is to enhance the resilience of the people of the FSM, RMI and Palau to the shocks and insecurities resulting from extreme El Niño events. The specific objective is to strengthen the implementation of a sustainable, multi sectoral, multi stakeholder approach to readiness for future El Niño events.

The three key outputs for the RENI project are:

- Uptake of key individual and community behaviours that support El Niño resilience.
- Local area structural measures implemented to support El Niño resilience building in water and food security and paying special attention to the rights of women and vulnerable groups in outer

islands.

- National measures - institutional, planning and technical – implemented to support readiness for future El Niño events

The activities in each country focus on water security, or water and food security, since the shortage of fresh water has been identified as the most severe stress.

Building on the activities linked to El Niño readiness already implemented in the countries and the region supported by EU and other development partners, the project utilises a rights-based, gender sensitive approach focusing on water and food security primarily in outer islands.

By strengthening readiness for future El Niño events, the three countries will be in a better position to respond to such events and it is anticipated that the adverse impacts of these events on human lives will be lessened.

The action will enhance the capacity of national and sub-national government and civil society stakeholders, and contribute to the *Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP)*, the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*, the *Paris Agreement to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, and the *Sustainable Development Goals*, especially Goal 2: zero hunger, Goal 6: clean water and sanitation and Goal 13: climate action.



The Second Planning and Steering Committee Meeting of the RENI project was held at the International Conference Centre, Majuro, RMI, from 1 – 3 April 2019. Prior to the main meeting a pre-planning meeting was held with the National Coordinators from 28 – 29 March 2019, at Robert Reimers Enterprises.

Meeting objectives

The meeting had the following objectives:

1. Review progress with implementation of the RENI project.
2. Conduct detailed work planning to the project closure in 2020.
3. Review progress with implementing a gender sensitive/rights based approach.
4. Provide opportunities for community representatives to share experiences.
5. Plan communication products.

Meeting agenda

The meeting agenda is presented as Annex 1. Sharing experiences between the countries was a key theme throughout the meeting. One of the main objectives was to review the progress undertaken to date and to prepare work plans for completing all the outstanding activities by June 2020 when project activities in the countries close. An afternoon session on sharing community stories about building resilience to drought was another highlight. Other agenda items included assessing the progress with

implementing a gender sensitive/rights based approach, and planning the content of national videos highlighting the project activities.

Meeting participants

The meeting participants included:

- Participants from each project country representing national disaster management offices, technical agencies responsible for food and water security, local government, and the national weather service were joined by community representative.
- Representatives from development partners:
 - European Union (EU);
 - SPC-Micronesia Office
 - SPC-Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT)
 - SPC-Social Development Programme (SDP)
- SPC-RENI project team.
- Several other organisations were represented on the second day of the meeting, including the Marshall Islands Organic Farmers Association (MIOFA), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Taiwan Technical Mission, and Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI).

The list of participants is presented as Annex 2.

Meeting logistical arrangements

Special thanks are due to the government of the RMI for hosting the meeting and the excellent arrangements that were put in place for the meeting.



International Conference Centre, Majuro, RMI

**Day 1, 1st April 2019: Official Opening;
Ensuring the Sustainability of RENI Project Outcomes**



*Mr Walter Myazoe, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce,
opening the meeting*

Official opening

Following a prayer, Walter Myazoe, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce (MNRC), RMI, opened the meeting. He noted that this is the second regional meeting for the European Union – North Pacific – Readiness for El Niño project (RENI), the first was held in Pohnpei, FSM in April 2018. The government of the RMI is pleased to host this meeting and share with partners from Palau and FSM the many different activities being undertaken. As North Pacific countries, we share many common bonds, and this project is an opportunity to build on those bonds and strengthen our resilience to climate change and natural disasters. The RENI project has passed the halfway point, yet each country still has many activities to implement and complete. So this meeting is an opportunity to review our work plans and focus on those activities that can be completed within the project time frame. I understand from the RENI Project team that all activities have to be completed by June 2020, so that leaves us 15 months – and I am sure those months will fly past. So I urge you to prepare for a lot of hard work.

Here in the RMI, our RENI project activities focus on food security in two outer islands – Ailuk Atoll and Santo-Kwajalein and we are pleased to have participants from each of those atolls present and participating at this meeting. Our activities focus on women's home gardening, improving the sandy soil, building a nursery in Ailuk, and establishing drought resistant crops and trees. All these activities have a strong element of training and capacity building. Here in the Marshall Islands, the RENI project plans to work with our Wellness Program and our School Nutrition Program, to strengthen the linkages between food security, healthy eating and wellness. The MNRC is also partnering with other agencies in RMI to deliver the project activities, including MIOFA, WUTMI and IOM.

This meeting has a varied agenda, and includes the sharing of information and challenges between countries, and listening to stories from our North Pacific communities about how community members have coped with drought in past years. As climate change continues to dominate our national agendas, and too the international agenda, we must continue to support our communities with specific on-the – ground actions that enhance our resilience to climate change. I see you have a lot to do and I wish you well with your meeting.

Mr. Adrian Nicolae, Team Leader Climate Change, Energy and Circular Economy, Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific, noted the continued partnership between the EU and the North Pacific countries to address climate change and support resilient development. The RENI project is a response measure for a particular EL Niño drought event that took place from 2015-2016. Other EU interventions include ocean governance, waste management, and climate change adaptation (Global Climate Change Alliance Plus Scaling up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA) and the Intra ACP GCCA+ Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building (PACRES)). The RENI project is supported from a specific EU budget line and has to be finalised by November 2020. The EU understands the challenges this poses especially in view of the risk of an EL Niño event occurring later this year. However, it is understand that much of the major procurement will be well underway by the middle of 2019, leaving 12 months for installation and implementation.

The EU is looking forward to this meeting and hearing about the progress that has been made to date, especially as members of the Delegation do not often get the opportunity to visit the North Pacific countries.

The opening ceremony finished with a round of introductions and a group photo.



Participants listening to the opening ceremony speakers

RENI project overall progress

Gillian Cambers, Project Manager, RENI project, gave a power point presentation showing the overall progress of the RENI project. This included an outline of each country's achievements to date and the work remaining to be completed. Emphasis was placed on the fact that there are 15 months remaining to implement and complete the activities. The closing date for activities in country is 30th June 2020; this leaves the final four months for the project team to close the project including final narrative and financial reports, evaluations and audits.

Discussion

- The question was raised as to whether there was a “Plan B” should the North Pacific countries experience an El Niño drought later this year and continuing into next year. The Plan B measure is already being implemented, namely to get all the equipment purchased and delivered to the sites and outer islands during quarters 2 and 3 of 2019, so that should sea transport be directed solely to addressing drought needs (water and food) in the outer islands, at least the materials for the RENI measures would be in place.
- RENI partners were also encouraged to look for partnerships and complementarity with other projects, so as to contribute to sustainability of the measures.
- The RENI food security measures in RMI are adopting a combination of reviving traditional practices as well as introducing more drought resilient crops.
- An update of the activities in Ailuk showed that while they are still awaiting more materials, 12 home gardens are flourishing, which are helping to supply the school nutrition programme. However, the supply of water remains a problem.

After this session, participants divided into country groups and reviewed and revised their work plans through to 30 June 2020. (Draft work plans had been prepared during a Planning Meeting with national coordinators, 28-29 March 2019).



*Tommy Langrine, Director, RMI National Disaster Management Office,
discussing the possibility of another drought*

Swastika Raju, Finance Officer, RENI project, then gave a presentation showing the overall project budget and how the funds were allocated. At the 1st Steering Committee Meeting in April 2018 it had

been mentioned that there was a possibility of moving funds between the country allocations if required. She clarified that this was not possible, as the funding envelopes for each country, identified in the Contribution Agreement, were absolute and could not be re-allocated.

Discussion

- There was discussion about using local suppliers wherever possible. SPC undertakes international procurement. The RENI team takes extra effort to ensure local suppliers receive procurement requests, where relevant.
- The budget does include a contingency provision, however, EU approval is required before the contingency can be utilised. If the contingency funding line is not used, it is returned to the EU at the end of the project.
- RMI is facing the possibility of drought and is shipping portable, solar powered, reverse osmosis units to the outer islands. There is the need for funding support for contingency planning. The EU representative clarified what while this was possible in the previous drought using funds from other disaster management projects funded by the EU, in the case of the RENI project the situation was different, in that there were three separate funding envelopes within an overall regional project.
- Sourcing materials from the South Pacific countries (e.g. Australia and New Zealand) sometimes causes problems as the metric system used in the southern countries differs from the imperial system used in the North Pacific countries and materials may not be compatible.
- Funding for communication materials and visibility products is included in the budget for each output.

Reviewing progress in applying a rights-based and gender sensitive approach

Albert Seluka, Senior Rights Adviser, SPC Regional Rights Resources Team (RRRT) gave a refresher presentation on applying a people centred and rights based approach, using the PLANET model (P=Participation, L=Link to rights, A= Accountability, N=Non-discrimination, E= Empowerment, T=Transforming social norms). This was followed by a Power Walk activity, which helped participants to see the importance of understanding the needs, the rights and the vulnerabilities of the different groups making up communities.

Kim Robertson, Statistics Adviser (Gender Equality), SPC Social Development Programme, gave a presentation on gender equality, which took the form of a gender quiz using social statistics from the North Pacific countries. Many of the participants were surprised by the inequality displayed in the statistics.

Discussion

- How relevant are international standards in small communities and societies, which have their own social norms? If things are working now – do we have to change? It was pointed out that the Power Walk activities illustrated that while things may be working now for some members of the community – it is not necessarily the case for everyone in the community.
- Younger generations may be more open to social changes than older generations.
- The rights based approach is asking everyone to be mindful of the hidden people – those who are not seen or heard.
- There was discussion as to whether the principles of equity and equality, as displayed in the rights-based approach, can be applied in other areas such as the allocation of funds in a regional development project.



Starting the power walk activity

Progress in applying the application of a rights based approach in each country was reviewed by the countries in small groups. (This activity was actually undertaken on Day 3 of the meeting, but is reported in this section for coherence and logical flow).

Countries used the PLANET Reflection Tool, which consists of a list of questions about project activities as they relate to the PLANET principles (see Annex 3) to complete a PLANET template for assessment of project progress (see Annex 4).

In the short time for discussion, both FSM and RMI decided to focus more on the Participation aspect of PLANET in the remaining 15 months of the project. Palau elected to focus of the Accountability aspect of PLANET and specifically to be more accountable to the Ngatpang State community and include community representatives on the Palau RENI Steering Committee. Discussion also included the Transforming social norms aspect of PLANET and restoring the “self-help” capacity of communities.

The day closed with a evening networking reception at the Marshall Islands Resort.

Day 2: Tuesday 2nd April 2019, Steering Committee Meeting

Updates on project progress from FSM, Palau and RMI

FSM

Sean Kadannged, FSM RENI Project National Coordinator, gave a power point presentation on the progress of RENI activities in FSM. His presentation described in detail the water security activities that are underway in six communities in Yap Proper, and in the community of Kapingamarangi in Pohnpei State. He also outlined the results of an impact assessment of past water security project activities completed in Fais Island, Yap State. During his presentation, he described several ways in which the project is collaborating with other partners, e.g. Catholic Relief Services and Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL).

Discussion

- There was significant discussion around the importance of partnerships and building on past projects. Examples include:
 - In Yap working with Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) partners, Yap State Resources and Development, International Organization for Migration, and Catholic Relief Services.
 - Partnering with the EU-GIZ Adapting to Climate Change and Sustainable Energy (ACSE) water security activities in Yap State.
- Options for funding maintenance issues were discussed, including the development of MOUs with the benefitting communities, assistance from the Yap State Government, and microfinance schemes such as the Catholic Relief Services' Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC).
- The benefitting communities will share their water resources during times of drought, and this has been confirmed during consultations with the Yap Chiefs.
- As part of Yap's disaster management efforts, they are planning to ship water in drums to outer islands in future droughts, so as to reduce the problems faced by outer islands on how to dispose of all the plastic bottles.
- Radio talk shows are being used to inform the people of Yap about drought preparedness measures.



FSM team discussing work planning

Palau

Waymine Towaii, Coordinator, Palau National Emergency Management Office, described the progress made with water security measures in Palau. Palau's response to the 2016 drought had cost the country USD 11 million. During the RENI project design phase, they decided to focus on two states: Ngatpang and Ameliik States. A hydrological assessment of the main watershed in these two states, the Tabecheding and Ngerderar watersheds, showed the Ngerderar watershed had insufficient flow during drought to provide for extraction. Thus the Tabecheding watershed in Ngatpang State was selected for the construction of a water storage system that would be accessible to the people of that state as well as the larger populations in Koror and Airaii during drought. During the project there was a change in state administration, which caused some delays. A community consultation has been held and land ownership issues have been clarified.

Mr John Techitong, Ngatpang State Legislator, described how Ngatpang State was fortunate to have the Tabecheding watershed, the largest river in Babeldaob. The river was used to supply water to Koror during the 2016 drought. The State welcomed the opportunity to help other states in Palau.

Discussion

- Ways in which Palau's vibrant tourism industry coped with the 2016 drought included water conservation messaging in hotels and guesthouses; and some of the larger resorts had their own reservoirs. Private companies trucked water from the Tabecheding River to resorts.



Palau team discussing work planning

RMI

Mr Newton Lajuan, RMI RENI National Coordinator, gave a power point presentation on the RENI project activities in RMI. The presentation described the food security activities that were underway in Ailuk and Santo atolls. Like FSM, the importance of partnerships was a prominent part of the presentation, including partnering with IOM, MIOFA, Taiwan Technical Mission, WUTMI, School Nutrition Program and the Wellness Program, as well as the communities in Ailuk and Santo.

Mayor Rufina Jack added some further insight. In 2016 the Taiwan Technical Mission constructed the first nursery in Ailuk and this has been renovated by the RENI project. The agricultural extension agents have been recruited and trained and the school nutrition programme is active. More training for the ladies in cooking and preservation of local crops is required.

Discussion

- The potential for the outer islands to supply surplus food to Majuro was discussed. While this is one of the goals of the MNRC, given the geography of the RMI, transportation of the food crops to market will be a major problem. Involvement of the private sector may present opportunities for transportation, e.g., using fishing boats to transport the produce between islands.
- There is mass production of copra in the islands of FSM, and with the technical help of the College of Micronesia, the husks are used for agriculture.
- The Ailuk community disaster management plan has been tested by a drill, and every disaster represents an opportunity to test the plan.
- Looking forward there are a lot of opportunities for food security and better nutrition in the RMI, and there is a need for a repository of ideas.



RMI team discussing their work plan

Interactive small group session on lessons learnt

Participants divided into small groups to discuss their own experiences and the country presentations and to develop some lessons learnt. The discussions have been grouped into themes.

Adopting consultative and inclusive approaches

- All stakeholders (national and state leaders, traditional leaders, NGOs, local communities) must be included for successful project implementation.
- Building awareness and participation decreases dependency on development aid.
- RENI in-country project coordinator to hold quarterly meetings for effective and efficient project implementation across all sectors.
 - Participants recognised the difficulties associated with getting all participants together during implementation, especially given people's busy schedules. One possible solution is to hold focused one-on-one meetings. Another solution, adopted by Yap State, is to have one steering committee for oversight of three different projects.
- Hold a regional meeting to discuss/share agricultural projects and best practices.

Build ownership of project activities

- Build community ownership and local government/state ownership of projects by adopting a consultative approach.
- Defining roles and responsibilities enables greater ownership.
- Establish MOUs with communities to guarantee access to land and resources

Observe cultural norms

- Ensure that all local, cultural, gender and traditional protocols are followed for effective and sustainable project implementation.
- Recognise and utilise traditional ecological knowledge and incorporate it into project solutions.

Plan effectively

- Coordinate with all relevant stakeholders to schedule transport and logistics, and look for opportunities to combine resources and share cost.
- Setting priorities, and visiting/revisiting milestones is especially important given the logistical challenges.
- Conduct a stocktake of existing projects.
- Hold regular meetings of stakeholders to understand procurement processes to eliminate delays with project implementation.
- Take needed time and proper consultation in screening local contractors so that installation of water infrastructure can be improved.

Communities preparing for drought and building resilience

During the first part of this session participants heard from community representatives their stories about preparation for drought.

Izerman Kotton, a youth representative from RMI, inspired participants with his account of how climate change was affecting him. He told participants how he used to play in the tide pools at low tide about five years ago when he was smaller. But now he can no longer do this because of rising sea levels.

Karness Kusto, Director of MIOFA, described some of MIOFA's activities, which included their nursery in Lara, provision of training in making natural compost, use of copra cakes, and using local foods for participants at regional meetings. He emphasised there is a need to support MIOFA as there are only 12 organic farmers in Majuro.

Marie Maddison, Executive Director of WUTMI, described how WUTMI was made up of 24 chapters and each chapter had a club of at least ten women. Their purpose was to represent the voice of Marshallese women, and violence against women and climate change were among their key issues. Following a regional consultation in Yap in 2018, they prepared a proposal on addressing crop pests on papaya and breadfruit, and have received a grant from the RENI project to implement the project. Drought resilience will be a theme at the WUTMI 2019 Conference as this is a new area for WUTMI.

James Lukan, Community representative from Dugor, Yap State, FSM, described the conservative nature of the Yapese and their ethic of helping their neighbours before they helped themselves. Yap experienced severe droughts in 1988, 1996 and 2016. In Yap the community elders often know how to read environmental signs and predict changes ahead of time, however, with climate change happening it is harder to predict the natural changes.

John Techitong, Legislator, Ngatpang State Government, Palau, described how their community work together to clean the area around the community water source. Households are also used to sharing the water e.g. by taking showers at different times.

Following the story telling session, there was a second session on “Working together to build community resilience”, during which several innovative practices were demonstrated and information was shared.

Tofinga Fakasao, RENI Project Engineer, demonstrated the ecological purification system, which is a chemical free, ecological system for water purification, that is successfully being used in more than 90 rural communities in Fiji. As part of the RENI project, this system is going to be used for water purification in two communities, Rumuu and Dugor, in Yap Proper.

Zhiyad Khan, RENI Communications and Liaison Officer, demonstrated the Solar Disinfection (SODIS) method for water purification. This method uses solar energy to destroy pathogenic micro-organisms that cause waterborne diseases. The method has been used successfully in Kiribati, and scientific studies conducted as part of the RENI project show it is also suitable for FSM and RMI.

Sean Kadannged, FSM RENI National Coordinator, gave a presentation on an impact assessment of water security measures in Fais Island, Yap State. The water security measures were implemented under a previous Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States (GCCA: PSIS) project that was completed in 2015. Key findings included the need to involve the community in the installation of the water security measures and to provide more training and materials for maintenance.

Angela Saunders, Head of RMI Office, and Maya Sam, Programme Assistant, IOM, gave a presentation in English and Marshallese, on the preparation of a community disaster management plan for Ailuk, RMI. This work was undertaken as part of the RENI project. Activities included a mapping of hazard vulnerability by the community and the preparation of an action plan that was then made into a poster with the slogan: “Ailuk, I prepare, I take action.” They also provided a demonstration of a water purification system using a simple filter system that can be attached to a bucket, and is being introduced to the outer atolls of the RMI.

Photos of the Session on “Communities preparing for drought and building resilience”



Participants listening to Marie Maddison from WUTMI during the story telling session



Tofinga Fakasao presenting a model of the ecological purification system



Angela Saunders presenting the Ailuk Community Disaster Management Plan



Izerman Kotton telling his story about climate change in RMI

Day 3: Wednesday 3rd April, RENI Steering Committee Meeting

The session was opened with a morning prayer.

Communications

Zhiyad Khan gave an update on the delivery of the RENI communications plan. He emphasised the power and reach of videos as a story telling medium. Based on successes with previous projects, videos of national RENI activities will be an important way to share the project's activities and findings.

Prior to this meeting, national coordinators had been asked to collect some video footage and put together short amateur videos on the RENI project activities in their country.

Following a viewing of these amateur videos, participants broke into country groups to discuss the purpose and key messages they would like to see portrayed in their national videos. These key messages are summarised below.

FSM

- Videos to show the effort that our people are putting into resilience. Our so called “Natural Paradise” is prone to natural disaster, and now there is the increased impact resulting from climate change. Examples to include tidal surge, frequent typhoons and extreme droughts.
- Remind people about what needs to be done during drought and the impacts of drought.
- Let put away our “water and food security hats” and focus on cleanliness.
- Encourage our local government to take responsibility of financing future maintenance of infrastructure put in place by the RENI project. This is a key aspect of sustainability of the project, and there needs to be clarity about who is responsible for maintenance
- Continue community awareness.

RMI

- Water shortage and very low rainfall in the northern atolls, including Ailuk and Santo.
- People, animals, food crops greatly affected by drought and dry conditions.
- Drought affects people's health, education, and living conditions.
- There is often delayed response by the national government to drought. (During drought small mobile reverse osmosis units are provided by the national government as part of their response to drought).
- There are some home gardens, and the number will be increased as part of the RENI project activities.

Palau

- Drought of 2016 impacted all stakeholders throughout the country, and had serious economic impacts. Water conservation measures were adopted throughout the country. Seriously affected areas included areas Ngarchelong, Ngirwal, Koror, South-west states.
- Ngatpang State community efforts including preparedness and experiences during drought.
- Response to drought is organised by the National Emergency Committee.
- Water conservation partners include Palau Public Utilities Corporation (PPUC), NEMO, the National Weather Service, Bureau of Public Works, Ministry of the Environment and others.

Next steps and meeting closure

During the final session of the meeting, the work plans developed on Day 1, were finalised and endorsed by the meeting participants. These work plans are shown in Annex 5.

In the closing statement, all three countries acknowledged:

1. All project activities in the countries need to be completed by 30 June 2020.
2. Recognising the risks of an extreme event such as a typhoon or drought, the RENI project team in Suva will work closely with the three countries to try and complete all procurement and delivery of materials to the countries as soon as possible and by 31st December 2019 at the latest.
3. Draft national work plans for the period April 2019 – June 2020 were endorsed by each of the three countries (presented in Annex 5).
4. The third and final steering committee meeting will likely be held between June and July 2020 in Palau and will focus on lessons learnt.
5. Each country will endeavour to scale-up people-centred approaches to the implementation and delivery of all activities, especially in the area of community engagement.

Mr Walter Myazoe closed the meeting and expressed thanks to all the participants for a successful meeting. Gillian Cambers and Adrian Nicolae also expressed their thanks to the government of RMI and the participants. There was then an exchange of gifts.

Meeting evaluation

Nineteen participants completed individual evaluation forms; these have been compiled in Annex 6. The majority of participants scaled the individual sessions as either a 4 or 5, with 5 being the highest score. The meeting objectives were fully met. Comments given by the participants provided some useful insights.

The sessions focusing on stories from the community and ways to build community resilience were very much appreciated by all the participants. In particular the model of the ecological purification system, which is particularly appropriate for providing communities with clean drinking water and is chemical free, received much attention and comment.

“The ecological purification system was very interesting, it is new to us and I would like to see it in our country.”

The benefits of sharing experiences was highlighted in the comments:

“I feel better knowing other countries are facing similar challenges to ours and learning how they are planning to address these challenges gives us some new ideas.”

This meeting also focused on not just introducing a gender sensitive/rights based approach, but actually assessing how it is being implemented as the RENI project activities are rolled out. It was interesting to read in the comments that participants were thinking proactively about how to do this:

“Please provide guidelines for including those with disabilities, not just in meetings and consultations, but in other activities.”

Annex 1: Agenda



European Union



Pacific
Community
Communauté
du Pacifique



RENI 2019 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Agenda

1 – 3 April 2019

International Conference Centre, Majuro, Republic of Marshall Islands

1 st April 2019	
Official opening	
9.00-10.00	<p>Official Opening Prayer Welcome Remarks: Mr. Walter Myazoe, Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources & Commerce, RMI. Opening Remarks: Mr Adrian Nicolae, Team Leader, Climate Change, Energy and Circular Economy, European Union Delegation for the Pacific. Introductions Group photo</p>
10.00-10.30	<i>Morning tea</i>
RENI Project – Overall progress including budget, schedule, milestones and closure	
10.40 – 12.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RENI Project overall progress, including schedule, milestones and closure: <i>Gillian Cambers, RENI Project Manager.</i> Small group sessions to prepare national milestones Discussion
12.00 – 12.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project budget: <i>Swastika Raju, Finance Officer</i> Discussion
12.30 – 1.30	<i>Lunch</i>
Reviewing progress in applying a rights-based and gender sensitive approach	
1.30 – 3.00	<p>Refresher session on applying the rights based and gender sensitive approach: <i>Albert Seluka, Rose Martin and Katie Relang, SPC Regional Rights Resource Team; and Kim Robertson, SPC-Social Development Programme</i></p>
3.00 – 3.30	Review of progress in applying a rights based/gender sensitive approach to date in the three countries
3.30 – 4.00	Plans and discussion for future application of a rights based/gender sensitive approach

5.30-7.00	Networking Reception, Marshall Islands Resort
2nd April 2019	
Updates on project progress from RMI, Palau and FSM	
9.00 - 10.00	RMI: Presentation of activities and discussion by the RMI team
10.00 - 11.00	Palau: Presentation of activities and discussion by the Palau team
11.00 - 11.15	<i>Morning tea</i>
11.15 - 12.15	FSM: Presentation of activities and discussion by the FSM team
12.15 - 12.30	Snapshots: What we have learnt from each other?
12.30 - 1.30	<i>Lunch</i>
Communities preparing for drought and building resilience	
1.30 – 3.00	<p><i>Stories from the community: Preparing for drought</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RMI: Stories from communities in Ailuk, Santo, Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI), Marshall Islands Organic Farmers Association (MIOFA) and others on preparing for drought. • FSM: Stories from communities in Yap State and Pohnpei State on preparing for drought • Palau: Stories from communities in Ngatpang State on preparing for drought.
3.00 – 4.00	<p><i>Working together to build community resilience</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing the impact of water security measures in Fais Island, Yap State, FSM, <i>FSM-Yap State Team</i> • Introducing Solar Disinfection (SODIS) to Ailuk, RMI and Kapingamarangi, FSM: <i>Zhiyad Khan, RENI Project</i> • Introducing ecological purification systems to communities in Yap State, FSM, <i>Tofinga Fakasao, RENI Project</i> • Preparing community disaster risk management plans, Ailuk, RMI, <i>International Organization for Migration and National Disaster Management Office</i>
3rd April 2019	
Communications	
9.00 – 11.00	<p>Session facilitated by <i>Zhiyad Khan, RENI Communications and Liaison Officer</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating national videos highlighting RENI activities. • Viewing the informal national video clips prepared by the countries in preparation for this meeting. • Group sessions on planning content of national videos on drought readiness to be produced by the 2020 Final Meeting.
11.00 – 11.15	<i>Morning tea</i>
Lessons learnt	

11.15 – 12.30	Interactive small group sessions on lessons learnt.
12.30 – 1.30	<i>Lunch</i>
Next steps and meeting closure	
1.30 – 2.00	Review and endorsement of official meeting minutes
2.00 – 2.30	Review of milestones to June 2020
2.30 – 3.00	Closing and evaluation

Annex 2: List of participants

RENI 2nd STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

1 – 3 April 2019

International Conference Centre, Majuro, Republic of Marshall Islands

Country	Name	Sex	Organisation	Position	Email
Yap, FSM	James G Lukan	M	Community Representative	Weloy - Dugor Community Representative	jameslukan@yahoo.com
Yap, FSM	Christina Fillmed	F	Yap State Environmental Protection Agency	Executive Director	cfillmed2@gmail.com
Yap, FSM	Victor Bamog	M	Yap State Resources & Development	Disaster and Climate Change Officer	yapdco@gmail.com
Yap, FSM	Steven Ken	M	Community Representative	Fanif Rumuu Community Representative	
Pohnpei, FSM	Caleb, D. Gamule	M	Community Representative	Kapingamarangi Community Representative	cgamule@yahoo.com
Yap, FSM	Sean Kadannged	M	Yap State Resources & Development/Environmental Protection Agency and SPC	FSM RENI National Coordinator	seank@spc.int
Yap, FSM	Caroline Bagusiy	F	Pacific Resources for Education and Learning	Coordinator	tinidabugsiy@gmail.com
RMI	Timmy Langrine	M	Chief Secretary's Office ,	National Disaster Management Office Director	ndmodirector@gmail.com

Country	Name	Sex	Organisation	Position	Email
RMI	Kennedy Glanry	M	Chief Secretary's Office	National Disaster Management Office Officer	Kennysunshine63@gmail.com
RMI	Iva Reimers-Robert	F	Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce	Secretary	iva1909@yahoo.com
RMI	Walter Myazoe, Jr.	M	Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce	Deputy Secretary	wmyazoe@gmail.com
RMI	Newton Ira Lajuan	M	Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce and SPC	RMI RENI National Coordinator	newtonl@spc.int
RMI	Rufina N. Jack	F	RMI Local Government	Mayor Ailuk	rufina.jack@gmail.com
RMI	Alfred Maynard	M	RMI Local Government	Ailuk Senator	
RMI	Kaious Augustine	M	Office of the President		
RMI	Molly Helkena	F	Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs	Assistant Secretary	mhelkena@gmail.com
RMI	Ted Watak	M	Santo		
RMI	Joseph Joseph	M	Santo		
RMI	Abon Arelong	M	Santo		
RMI	Julita Mita Leijjena	F	Santo		
RMI	Angela Saunders	F	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Head RMI Sub Office	aksaunders@iom.int
RMI	Maya Sam	F	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Programme Assistant	msam@iom.int

Country	Name	Sex	Organisation	Position	Email
RMI	Mr. Yen Jen. Lin	M	Taiwan Technical Mission	Leader	y.j.lin@icdf.org.tw
RMI	Mr Karness Kusto	M	Marshall Islands Organic Farmers Association (MIOFA)	Director	kustokarness@gmail.com
RMI	Marie Maddison	F	Women's United Together in Marshall Islands (WUTMI)	Executive Director	wutmi26@gmail.com
RMI	Izerman Kotton	M	Young Climate Change Activist		
Palau	John Techitong	M	Ngatpang State Government	Legislator	jrtechitong@gmail.com
Palau	Riders Emesiochl	M	Community Representative	Ngatpang Community Representative	
Palau	Waymine Towai	M	National Emergency Management Office (NEMO)	NEMO Coordinator	nemo.coordinator@palaugov.org
Palau	Maria Ngemaes	F	Palau National Weather Service	Meteorologist-in-Charge	maria.ngemaes@noaa.gov
European Union					
Fiji	Adrian Nicolae	M	Climate Change, Energy, and Circular Economy, Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific	Team Leader	adrian.nicolae@eeas.europa.eu
Fiji	Adrien Bullier	M	Climate Change, Energy, and Circular Economy, Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific	Programme Manager	Adrien.BULLIER@eeas.europa.eu
SPC					
Fiji	Albert Seluka	M	SPC-Regional Rights Resources Team	Senior Human Rights Adviser	albertks@spc.int
Fiji	Rose Martin	F	SPC-Regional Rights Resources Team	Senior Human Rights Adviser	rosem@spc.int

Country	Name	Sex	Organisation	Position	Email
FSM	Lara Studzinski	F	SPC – Micronesia Regional Office	Director	laras@spc.int
Pohnpei, FSM	George Isom	M	SPC-RRRT	Country Focal Officer	georgezi@spc.int
RMI	Kathryn Relang	F	SPC-Regional Rights Resources Team	Country Focal Officer	kathrynr@spc.int
Vanuatu	Kim Robertson	F	SPC- Social Development programme	Statistics Adviser (Gender Equality)	kimr@spc.int
Fiji	Fakasao Tofinga	M	SPC – RENI Project	Engineer	tofigaf@spc.int
Fiji	Swastika Raju	F	SPC – RENI Project	Finance Officer	swastikar@spc.int
Fiji	Gillian Cambers	F	SPC – RENI Project	Project Manager	gillianc@spc.int
Fiji	Zhiyad Khan	M	SPC – RENI Project	Communication & Liaison Officer	zhiyadk@spc.int



PLANET Reflection for applying a Rights-Based Approach to Development Projects

This reflection tool is intended to help guide project plans to incorporate a people-centred and rights-based approach, to ensure maximum inclusion, equitable benefits and sustainability.

Does the project include the three basic elements of the Rights-Based Approach?

<u>Goal</u>	Is the realisation of human rights central to the goal of the project? Does the project document utilise human rights language?
<u>Process</u>	Does the process respect human rights principles?
<u>Outcome</u>	Does the outcome include the increased capacity of duty-bearers to meet their obligations, and of rights-holders to claim their rights?

To what extent does the project incorporate the six PLANET Principles?

<u>P</u>articipation	<p>❖ To what extent are the people affected by the project able to participate in the project?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What consultations have been planned or conducted? How are people being consulted (taking account of groupthink, elite capture, gender and other power dynamics)? How does the project respond to consultations (tokenism vs adaptation)? ➤ Does the project use local labour and knowledge? ➤ To what extent can people participate in decision-making? At what phase of the project are they being involved? Are they represented on the project steering committee or in other relevant decision-making fora? Can women and people from marginalised segments of the community participate in decision-making? ➤ Does the project respect existing local leadership structures? ➤ To what extent can participation <u>change</u> the project? What parameters are set in stone vs being flexible and able to respond to community input and preferences? ➤ To what extent do local people own and control the project? At what point (if ever) does the local community have full ownership? Does ownership extend to women and people from marginalised segments?
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<u>Link to Rights</u>	<p>❖ To what extent does the project link to national and international human rights standards?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are considered and affected? ➤ What provisions of international conventions to which the project country is a State party (e.g. CEDAW, CRC, CRPD etc.) are considered and affected? ➤ Does the project align to provisions of the National Bill of Rights or other guiding national human rights standards? ➤ Does the project respond to recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), or to those of UN Treaty Body Committees? ➤ Does the project align to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?
<u>Accountability</u>	<p>❖ To what extent are the project implementers accountable to the people affected by the project?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How can affected people access information about the project (project documentation, budgets, evidence of decision-making)? What information is available in local languages? ➤ Can people access information equally including women and people from marginalised segments of the community? ➤ If affected people are dissatisfied with the project, what channels are available to them to voice their concerns? ➤ To what extent are affected people involved in the Monitoring & Evaluation of the project? Does the results framework take account of the subjective views of affected people, including women and people from marginalised segments?
<u>Non-Discrimination</u>	<p>❖ Does the project take into account how it might affect different groups of people?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Including, for example, women, children, people with disabilities, elderly, religious or linguistic minorities, VAW survivors, migrant workers, displaced persons, outer island communities, people affected by nuclear legacy. ➤ Does the project take account of differential access of these groups? ➤ Considering these different groups, are the benefits of the project equitable? Who benefits most, who is better off, and is anyone worse off?
<u>Empowerment</u>	<p>❖ Does the project include building the knowledge, skills or other capacities of the affected people?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Does this capacity building go beyond the immediate technical confines of the project to consider a broader spectrum of empowerment (e.g. knowledge of the right to water <i>as well as</i> how to repair a water pump)?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Does the project link, or could it link, to existing work around human rights in any aspect?
<u>T</u>ransforming Social Norms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Does the project impact, positively or negatively, social relations and norms in the affected communities? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Is there potential for the project to reinforce harmful social norms, for example in the way resources are allocated and used? ➤ Is there potential for the project to generate or exacerbate conflict tension within or among communities or families? ➤ Is there potential for the project to model positive social norms in the way it is structured and implemented?

Annex 4: PLANET template for assessment of project progress

DOES THE PROJECT INCORPORATE A RIGHTS BASED APPROACH TO ENSURE MAXIMUM INCLUSION, EQUITABLE BENEFITS AND SUSTAINABILITY?

		WE HAVE EXAMPLES TO SHOW	WE EXPECT SHOW MORE EXAMPLES SOON	WE NEED TO DO MORE
GOAL	Is the realisation of human rights central to the goal of the project?			
PROCESS Does the process respect human rights	PARTICIPATION – Are the people affected by the project able to participate in the project? P			
	LINK TO RIGHTS – Does the project link to national and international human rights? L			
	ACCOUNTABILITY – Are the project implementers accountable to the people affected by the project?			

A			
NON-DISCRIMINATION – Does the project take into account how it might affect different groups of people? N			
EMPOWERMENT – Does the project include building the knowledge, skills and other capacities of the affected people? E			
TRANSFORMING SOCIAL NORMS – Does the project impact, positively or negatively, social relations and norms in the affected communities? T			

<p>OUTCOME</p>	<p>Does the outcome include the increased capacity of duty-bearers to meet their obligations, and of rights-holders to claim their rights?</p>			
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Annex 5: Endorsed work plans for FSM, RMI and Palau

FSM: Schedule of Activities April 2019 - June 2020 (Endorsed at 2nd Regional Planning and Steering Committee Meeting)																
	2019										2020					
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
YAP PROPER																
Water conservation education activities																
Fais Island impact assessment of completed water security activities																
Procure and supply ecological purification system (EPS) for Dugor and Rumuu																
Procure, supply and install solar powered pumps at Dugor and Rumuu																
Install EPS at Dugor and Rumuu																
Training of communities in maintenance of EPS & provision of maintenance kits																
Procure and supply community rainwater harvesting systems in Rull, Weloy, Gagil, Tamil																
Install community rainwater harvesting systems in Rull, Weloy, Gagil, Tamil																
Training of communities in maintenance and provision of small-scale equipment																
Parallel measure to support drought preparedness designed and led by Women's groups																
Hydrogeological assessment of Tamil-Gagil aquifer																
KAPINGAMARANGI																
Purchase and supply community rainwater catchment systems to Pohnpei																
Ship materials																
Installation																
Training in monitoring and maintenance																
Exchange visit 2 Fais Islanders (1 male, 1 female) to visit Kapingamarangi																
Establishment of solar disinfection (SODIS) in Kapingamarangi																

RMI Schedule of activities April 2019 - June 2020 (Endorsed at 2nd RENI Steering Committee Meeting, Majuro, RMI)																
	2019										2020					
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
Output 1: Individual and community behaviours around drought resilience, especially in outer islands, enhanced																
Influence individual behaviours by linking food security and healthy living -2 wellness events in Ailuk; Oct 2019 to coincide with WFD and May 2020 to coincide with the farmer to farmer learning event in Ailuk																
Output 2: Food security measures implemented to support drought resilience especially in outer islands																
A. Ailuk																
2.1 Increase availability of food crops																
Training in soil improvement practices																
Establish community nursery																
Sourcing and purchasing of additional agricultural tools and equipments																
Training in agroforestry																
2.2 Establish women's home gardening																
Provide training and establish home and school gardens																
Provide training in cooking/preservation																
Implement incentives scheme e.g. competition																
2.4 Enhance existing water resources																
Ship materials																
Refurbish/enhance existing communal water catchment systems																
Conduct training in the use of SODIS																
B. Santo																
2.5 Establish women's home gardening																
Purchase and ship equipment to Santo																
Provide training and establish home gardening																
Provide training in cooking/preservation																
Implement incentives scheme e.g. competition																
C. Sharing experiences, lessons learnt, agricultural training and provision of small tools with other four atolls (Mejit, Wotho, Enwetek and Utrik)																
Lessons learnt & training workshop with farmers from 4 islands held in Ailuk																
D. Empowering women to design and implement a food security activity																
WUTMI pest assessment and control in northern atolls																
Output 3: Drought readiness mainstreamed into atoll disaster management plans																
3.1 Design & prepare atoll specific disaster management plans																
3.1.2 Prepare a model and 1 specific disaster management plan which incorporate a gender-sensitive/rights-based approach and are "living plans"																

Palau Schedule of Activities April 2019 - June 2020 (Endorsed at 2nd RENI Regional Planning and Steering Committee Meeting)																
	2019										2020					
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
Output 1: Individual and community behaviours around drought resilience enhanced																
Conduct community consultations in Ngatpang State																
Output 2: Water security measures to support drought resilience implemented																
Procure, purchase and deliver one 8,000 litre water tanker truck (dependent on final contract amount for Tabecheding water storage system)																
Finalise design, costing & specifications of the Tabecheding water storage system (PWD & RENI Team)																
Preparation of procurement documents																
Procurement of Tabecheding water storage system (SPC)																
Milestone: if bid(s) are viable and fit with time and budget schedule, continue with contracting for Tabecheding water storage system; if not move to an alternative plan to purchase "off-the-shelf" water security items.																
Complete contract with successful bidder to supply and deliver the Tabecheding water storage system																
Construction of Tabecheding water storage system																
Supervision of the construction of the water storage system (PWD)																
Parallel measure to support drought preparedness designed and led by women's group ?																
Training in monitoring and maintenance																
Output 3: Planning and technical measures undertaken to support El Niño readiness																
Environmental assessments and permits for the Tabecheding watershed																
Design and implement activities for Preparedness Month (September 2019)																

Annex 6: Evaluation of the meeting

The form was completed by 19 participants, 9 males, 4 females, while 6 participants did not indicate their gender.

1. PLANNING RENI ACTIVITIES TO JUNE 2020	Mean rating
On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest, please rate whether this 3-day meeting has helped you plan the project activities through to 30 June 2020 by which time national activities have to be completed.	4.3
Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excellent presentations (2)• The country will ensure the project is successfully implemented within the given time frame.• Steps that can be taken to enhance the rights based approach through RENI.• Good planning.• Clearer picture of way forward, challenges, people participating and final goal.• Keep it up, keep everyone in the loop of development• Overall it was very good, and I now know some of the activities in the RENI project.• Good to see people participating.• Financial presentation and breakdown of budget	
2. NATIONAL PRESENTATIONS	Mean rating
On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest, how useful were the presentations from the countries (Tuesday morning)	4.4

<p>Identify 2 highlights from other countries' presentations that you found interesting and why were they interesting?</p> <p>All country presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How outer islands are facing some challenges and how these challenges are being addressed. • Learning how other countries are doing. • Feel better knowing other countries are facing similar challenges and how they are planning to address them. (3) • Ways women are participating • Learning more about communities - the consultations and their willingness and the commitments made for the project activities (2) • Understanding how the projects are being implemented • Ways country have identified their priority activities given the numerous challenges facing each county <p>FSM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSM – new initiatives that work well within their own community, clear presentation (2) • Coordination between partners <p>RMI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing water for everyone in RMI. • Agricultural activities and food security from RMI which showcase the different activities (5) • Efforts taken given transportation challenges <p>Palau</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palau – plan forward is clear and relevant to the country • How Palau is progressing 	
3. SESSIONS ON RIGHTS-BASED/GENDER SENSITIVE APPROACHES	Mean rating
On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest, how useful were the session on rights-based/gender sensitive approaches (Monday afternoon)	4.1

Please identify one **new** way a rights based/gender sensitive approach can be included in future RENI activities in your country.

- Implementing RBA activities in all community activities especially consultations (2).
- Please provide guidelines for including those with disabilities
- Assess the traditional and cultural practices and approaches regarding rights
- Gender issue is very sensitive
- Including community members on national activities
- Including persons with disabilities in meetings

4. STORIES FROM THE COMMUNITY ON PREPARING FOR DROUGHT

Mean rating

On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest, how useful was the session on Stories from the community on preparing for drought?
(First part of Tuesday afternoon)

4.4

Identify one story you found especially interesting and why?

- Sharing stories will help us improve our implementation of the RENI project (2)
- Traditional practices
- Stories emphasised partnerships

RMI:

- Stories from RMI and how the government assists the outer islands
- Story from RMI on planting and how all the stakeholders cooperated (1), teaching on cooking and food preservation (1), planting of drought resilient crops (1), planting of indigenous plants (1)
- Story from RMI women's group about eradication of pests
- Story from RMI youth

FSM:

- Story from Yap (2) because it illustrated the ways of living in the past

5. WAYS TO BUILD COMMUNITY RESILIENCE	Mean rating
On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest, how useful was the session on Ways to build community resilience? (Last part of Tuesday afternoon)	4.6
Identify one resilience building activity that was new and interesting for you. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RMI water filter (4) • Ecological purification system (8) – new to us and would like to see it in our country • Solar disinfection (3) 	
6. SESSIONS ON COMMUNICATIONS	Mean rating
On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest, how useful was the session on communications (Wednesday morning)	4.4
Which activity in these sessions did you find most useful and where can we improve? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications targeting the communities (2) • Interviews with different partners to highlight the lessons learnt • Would like more information on communication methods and visibility (2) • What to consider when making a video and seeing the difference between the countries in their key messages (2) 	
7. OVERALL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING	Mean rating
On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest, how useful was the entire Steering Committee Meeting to your work on the project at the national level	4.4

Comments:

- We need to get our project going fast
- Overall all the comments here indicated it was a well-planned and successful meeting