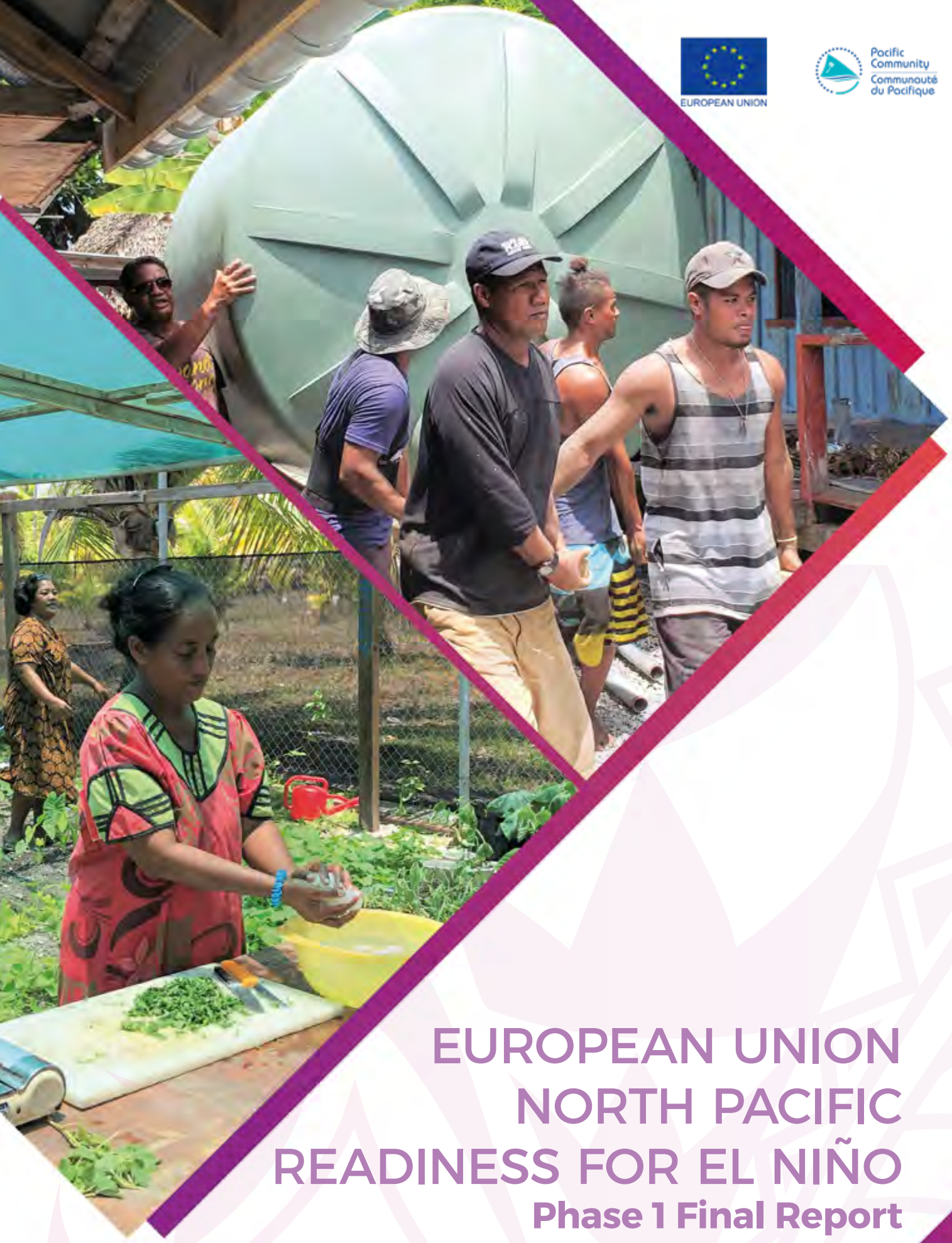

EUROPEAN UNION

Pacific Community
Communauté du Pacifique

EUROPEAN UNION NORTH PACIFIC READINESS FOR EL NIÑO

Phase 1 Final Report

Communities securing food
and water resources ahead of drought

EUROPEAN UNION NORTH PACIFIC READINESS FOR EL NIÑO

Phase 1 Final Report

October 2021

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List of abbreviations

ACP African, Caribbean and Pacific countries

AVGF Automatic valveless gravity filter

BPW Bureau of Public Works, Palau

COVID-19 Coronavirus disease 2019

CRE-COM Cooperative Research and Extension Department, College of Micronesia, FSM

CRGA SPC – Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations

CWC Canvasback Wellness Center, RMI

DECEM Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management, FSM

DRM Disaster risk management

EPA Environmental Protection Agency, Yap State, FSM

EPS Ecological purification system

EU European Union

EUD European Union – Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific

FSM Federated States of Micronesia

FRSP 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 project

GEM Geosciences, Energy and Maritime Division, SPC

IOM International Organization for Migration

ISACC Institutional Strengthening for Adaptation to Climate Change project

LOA Letter of Agreement

LRD Land and Resources Division, SPC

MICCO19 Micronesia COVID-19 response

MIOFA Marshall Islands Organic Farmers Association

MOHHS Ministry of Health and Human Services, RMI

MNRC Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce, RMI

MOU Memorandum of understanding

MRO Micronesia Regional Office, SPC

NEMO National Emergency Management Office, Palau

NDMO National Disaster Management Office, RMI

NGO Non-governmental organisation

PacTVET Pacific Technical Vocational and Education Training project

PDNA Post Disaster Needs Assessment, RMI

PEUMP Pacific European Union Marine Partnership

PLANET Participation, Link to rights, Accountability, Non-discrimination, Empowerment, Transforming social norms

PPUC Palau Public Utilities Corporation

RENI European Union – North Pacific — Readiness for El Niño project

R&D Resources and Development Department, Yap State, FSM

RFP Request for proposals

RFQ Request for quotations

RMI Republic of the Marshall Islands

RRRT Regional Rights Resources Team, SPC

RWH Rainwater harvesting

ROM Results oriented monitoring

SDG Sustainable Development Goals

SDP Social development programme, SPC

SODIS Solar disinfection

SPC Pacific Community

SPL Strategy Planning and Learning Programme, SPC

TTM Taiwan Technical Mission, RMI

TNC The Nature Conservancy

UN United Nations

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

USD United States dollar

WUTMI Women United Together Marshall Islands

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The action entitled: European Union – North Pacific – Readiness for El Niño was implemented through Delegation Agreement FED/2017/386734 (RMI), FED/2017/386901 (FSM), FED/2017/387030 (PW), between the European Union and the Pacific Community. The action was supported with a budget of EUR 4.5 million from the European Union under the Pro-Resilience Special Measures in response to food insecurity in the African, Caribbean, Pacific Group of States under the 11th European Development Fund. The action was implemented over a period of three years and four months, between 6 July 2017 and 5 November 2020 by the Pacific Community in collaboration with the governments and peoples of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Palau. The action was implemented within the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific 2017–2030.

The project was divided into four phases: (i) inception and recruitment of the core team (8 months); (ii) project planning and design (9 months); implementation (24 months); and (iv) closure (4 months). The project's core team consisted of four technical and financial professionals, and three national coordinators.

A scientific and evidence-based approach was adopted to deliver the **overall objective**, namely, to enhance the resilience of the peoples of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Palau to the shocks and insecurities resulting from extreme El Niño events. Following inception visits in August and September 2017, the project core team and country partners engaged in a consultative process to identify the key sector, either food or water security, and the focus communities within the identified islands. Concept notes were prepared and technical assessments conducted. Consultations with the beneficiaries were held to select the activities, and project design documents were prepared. The process provided for a project based on sound science and delivered with a combination of diverse capacity-building modalities, supported by planned communication measures.

Capacity building was achieved through different delivery mechanisms including direct training, hands-on activities such as involvement in construction and maintenance, and participation in decision-making. Capacity building and training activities and on-the-job training were key components for the entire action. Over the course of the action there were 139 consultations and training events, involving 3865 people (2031 females and 1834 males).

The **specific objective** was to strengthen readiness for future El Niño events and this was achieved through the use of a multi-stakeholder and multi-sector approach. This was especially successful in the Republic of the Marshall Islands where the project partnered with five government agencies and five non-government organisations to implement the project activities in two outer atolls. The beneficiary communities were fully involved throughout the RENI phase 1 project, from the design through to final evaluation.

Recognising the decline in atoll agriculture over recent years and the very limited variety of foods available to people living in the outer atolls, the project integrated different sectors including atoll agriculture and water security with health and wellness activities. Establishing the linkage between growing and eating local crops, combined with exercise and health checks, contributes to improved health and wellness. This integrated approach is now being scaled up in another project working in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Output 1 sought to strengthen the uptake of key individual and community behaviours to support El Niño readiness. Working with its technical divisions, the Regional Rights Resource Team and the Social Development Programme, the Pacific Community designed a people-centred approach. These technical divisions provided training and assisted the project team and the national partners and stakeholders over the course of the project to apply a rights-based approach to development projects. A checklist was developed that included the following core principles: participation, link to rights, accountability, non-discrimination, empowerment and transforming social norms. The checklist was tested and revised over the course of the project. The principles that were most often applied in the project were participation, non-discrimination and empowerment. The checklist proved to be a very practical and effective tool and is now being used by the Pacific Community for other actions.

A second tool was developed consisting of a methodology to assess the impact of completed projects from a community perspective. The methodology consists of tools to consult the community to learn about the impact of a past project completed several years ago and with the objective of learning how similar projects could be better delivered in the future. Using this methodology, a water security project in an outer island of the Federated States of Micronesia was assessed in 2019, five years after the measures had been completed, and the findings were then applied to the delivery of the El Niño readiness action. The methodology has been published in the Pacific Community's 2019 results report and is being used by other projects.

Output 2 aimed to implement local area structural measures to support resilience, especially in outer islands, and paying particular attention to the rights of women and vulnerable groups. In the Federated States of Micronesia, water storage systems were constructed in one outer island and in the main island of one state. These consisted of rainwater harvesting measures and ecological purification systems (EPS). A total of 261.2 kilolitres of additional water storage was provided, benefiting 1247 people, 500 of whom resided in one of the most remote outer islands in the country, Kapingamarangi. Learning from the impact assessment conducted under Output 1, special attention was paid to the involvement of the community in the design and construction of the measures and in the maintenance training.

Food security was the main focus of the action in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Two plant nurseries were constructed and equipped in Ailuk and Santo, 45 kilolitres of additional water storage was provided, benefiting 1200 people.

Extensive training in atoll agriculture was provided together with agricultural tools.

Women's groups in each country were empowered to undertake activities in water conservation and agricultural pest control measures. The measures were designed to focus on the more vulnerable groups, such as the youth, the sick and the elderly, as well as those living in the most remote outer islands.

A larger scale water storage measure was planned for one of the larger rivers in Palau, which would have indirectly benefited 8000 people as a point source for water during drought. The procurement process for this measure was closed without acceptance of a bid, leaving insufficient time to re-advertise and complete the measure.

Output 3 centred on national institutional, planning and technical measures to support resilience to future El Niño events. In Palau, hydrological assessments and an environmental impact assessment of the planned water storage system were conducted. These informed the selection and confirmation of the proposed site.

In the Federated States of Micronesia, a hydrogeological assessment and monitoring of underground water supplies was conducted of one of the main aquifers. The information was used in 2020 by the water authorities to manage water supply during the 10th most severe drought on record. A memorandum of understanding has been signed between the Pacific Community and the state government agencies and water authorities to continue to support the technical monitoring of the underground water resources.

In the Republic of the Marshall Islands, a "living" community disaster management plan was developed for Ailuk Atoll and this became the foundation of a model plan for the other atolls.

Relative to the overall logical framework (log frame) contained in the Delegation Agreement, 11 indicators were achieved or exceeded, and three indicators were partially achieved.

Communications and visibility were an important part of the entire action and were guided by a communication plan prepared in 2017 and subsequently updated. Social media, including Facebook and Twitter were used extensively, together with newspaper articles and radio interviews, to share project updates and highlights. Seven media releases were issued. Analytical monitoring data showed that on average a media release was picked up by 15–20 different outlets, while a social media post on Twitter was evidenced to get over 1000 impressions and engagement from close to 80 people through retweets. One technical report and three booklets were published along with four posters. A series of eight short videos was prepared and distributed over the course of the project receiving 8724 views on YouTube. A project branding was designed and used for visibility products, such as banners, folders, stickers, T-shirts and water bottles.

The action contributed to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as follows:

Goal 2: Zero hunger – end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

Goal 3: Good health and well-being – ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

Goal 5: Gender equality – achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation – ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Goal 13: Climate action – take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts by regulating emissions and promoting developments in renewable energy.

Three major international events were planned for 2020 to share lessons emerging from the action; however, these had to be cancelled due to the 2020 travel ban resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The events were substituted with a series of 14 smaller events, during the four-month period, August to November 2020, and involving 153 participants (72 females and 81 males), to share experiences from the action. The schedule involved a mixture of physical and virtual meetings with each event lasting about 90 minutes. The exchanges were a useful opportunity for the participants to learn from each other and the outcome was a series of wise practices relating to project design and project implementation.

The major challenges were delays resulting from disease outbreaks and project design at the national level. In the Republic of the Marshall Islands, there was an outbreak of dengue fever from August to December 2019, resulting in a ban on travel from the main island to the outer islands and causing a delay in the delivery of the action. All the Pacific Island countries and territories closed their borders from March to December 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This resulted in the cancellation of three major international events and the replacement or downscaling of other activities.

The second major challenge relates to the design of the activities in each country. Overall, the action was designed to strengthen the capacity of communities, especially in outer islands, to prepare for the next El Niño extreme event. One country, Palau, adopted a larger scale, national measure, designed to benefit as many people as possible, but was unfortunately not implemented. As discussed in the final evaluation of RENI phase 1, the careful scrutiny of the risk management sections of project design documents to ensure country- and project-specific risks are identified and addressed could, in the future, contribute to more favourable outcomes.

The external evaluation of the action, completed in January 2021, showed that the significant majority (77%) of planned activities were delivered.

The financial report showed an expenditure rate of 61% (EUR 2,729,830). The underspend in the budget was largely a result of: (i) the cancellation of the international events planned for 2020 and the downscaling of activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic travel ban; and (ii) the structural measures planned for Palau not being implemented.

The largely successful delivery of the project reflects the hard work of the national partners and stakeholders, the project teams in each of the three countries, the divisions and programmes in the Pacific Community and especially the Micronesia Regional Office. It also attests to the continual support and advice of the Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific, particularly their guidance throughout the implementation period.

1.
INTRODUCTION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE PROJECT

1.1 Introduction

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 RENI phase 1 project was implemented over the period 6 July 2017 to 5 November 2020. The project was supported with a budget of EUR 4.5 million from the EU under the Pro-Resilience Special Measures in response to food insecurity in African, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) countries under the 11th European Development Fund, which was signed on 3 November 2016. The RENI project was 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.

→ *Raising awareness about El Niño, Pohnpei, FSM, April 2016*

The overall objective of the RENI phase 1 project was to enhance the resilience of the people of FSM, RMI and Palau to the shocks and insecurities resulting from extreme El Niño events. The specific objective was to strengthen the implementation of a sustainable, multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder approach to readiness for future El Niño events.

The project addressed three key outputs:

(i) uptake of key individual and community behaviours that support El Niño resilience
(ii) local area structural measures to support El Niño resilience building and paying special attention to the rights of women and vulnerable groups in outer islands
(iii) national measures – institutional, planning and technical – to support readiness for future El Niño events.

This report covers the activities implemented over the period 6 July 2017 to 5 November 2020. There are five main sections. The first section covers the overall management of the project and includes amendments to the Delegation Agreement, the project's log frame, implementation schedule, evaluations, financial and activity reporting, and staffing. Section two covers the project's achievements at the regional level and assesses the extent to which the project's log frame indicators were met. Section 3 focuses on national activities and assesses them against the national indicators. The fourth section addresses major issues and challenges and how they were addressed. Lessons learnt are presented in the fifth section, and the sixth and final section presents conclusions.

Addendum 2 to the Delegation Agreement was signed on 20 November 2020, extending the implementation period to 31 December 2021 and adding a phase 2 to the project, which was named Micronesia-COVID-19 Response (MICCO19). Four additional outputs were added: strengthen capacity of biosecurity services in the context of COVID-19; upgrade sustainable production in the context of COVID-19; integrate people-centred approach across the work to improve food security; and support local-level governance on people-centred food security and COVID-19 response. Delivery of these additional outputs will be the subject of a separate report to be prepared in 2022.

1.2 Introduction to the North Pacific countries

Figure 1 shows a map of the three North Pacific countries in the northwest Pacific Ocean. All three countries are archipelagic states and are characterised by small land areas and large ocean jurisdictions, small populations, and remoteness from major cities and land areas. RMI consists only of small, low-lying atoll islands, while FSM and Palau consist of a mixture of low-lying and higher islands. (The table in Figure 1 shows the main physical and demographic characteristics of each country.) Fisheries and subsistence agriculture are key activities in these three countries, while Palau also has a vibrant tourism industry. All the countries are extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, specifically rising air and sea temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, changes in the frequency and magnitude of extreme weather events, rising sea levels and ocean acidification.

All three countries were seriously affected by the 2015–2016 severe El Niño event, and states of emergency were declared in early 2016. The low rainfall amounts resulted in a critical shortage of drinking water and a slightly delayed food shortage, and seriously affected the health and education sectors. The outer islands were especially affected, and residents were dependent on emergency shipments of food and water for several months in 2016.

Figure 1. Location and characteristics of the three North Pacific countries

Country	Population	Date of census	Number of states	Number of islands	Land characteristics
FSM	102,843	2010	4	607 islands	Low-lying atolls and higher islands
RMI	53,158	2011	0	29 atolls and 5 islands	Low-lying atolls and single islands
Palau	17,661	2015	16	340	Low-lying atolls and higher islands

1.3 Delegation Agreement

The EU Commission Decision on the special measure in favour of people in situations of food insecurity in several African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries to be financed from the 11th European Development Fund was signed on 3 November 2016. This decision identified a provision of EUR 4.5 million for the three North Pacific countries to be implemented by SPC through the RENI project.

The Delegation Agreement (FED/2017/386734 (RMI), FED/2017/386901 (FSM), FED/2017/387030 (PW)) between the EU and SPC outlined the terms and responsibilities for SPC's implementation of the action, entitled "European Union – North Pacific – Readiness for El Niño (RENI) project". The Delegation Agreement was signed on 5 July 2017.

There was one addendum to the contract over the period 6 July 2017 to 5 November 2020:

- **Addendum 1**, signed on 7 December 2017, SPC to apply its own procurement procedures and its own rules for the award of grants, as assessed in the ex-ante pillars assessment (institutional compliance standard).

As described in Section 1.1, Addendum 2 was signed on 20 November 2020 to cover activities under phase 2 "Micronesia–COVID-19 Response (MICCO19)".

1.4 Project logical framework

The project's log frame was included in the Delegation Agreement and is shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Project logical framework

Intervention logic	Indicators	Baselines (2017)	Targets (2020)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Overall objective: To enhance the resilience of the people of FSM, Marshall Islands, and Palau to the shocks and insecurities resulting from extreme El Niño events	• Reduction in cost to address future severe El Niño events in selected sectors and areas • Capacity of national stakeholders to address climate and disaster risk strengthened	• Marshall Islands – cost of drought in 2016 was USD 4.9 million • Institutional framework assessments from Institutional Strengthening for Adaptation to Climate Change (ISACC) and Climate Ready projects (2016–2017); National Climate Change Finance Assessments (2012–2016) • 2017/18 questionnaire surveys	• 2% cost reduction in selected sectors and areas • 30 national stakeholders	• Marshall Islands – Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) (2016) and estimates for FSM and Palau • Reporting on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), especially SDGs 2, 6, 13 • Reporting on Sendai Framework and Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific priorities • Reporting on SPC's development and strategic goals • Reporting on national and sector policies and plans • Baseline questionnaires • Capacity surveys and interviews • Workshop/training reports and evaluations and impact reports • Pre and post surveys • Presentations and media interviews given by national specialists; changes in national job descriptions	

Intervention logic	Indicators	Baselines (2017)	Targets (2020)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Specific objective : To strengthen the implementation of a sustainable, multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder approach to readiness for future El Niño events	• Number of mechanisms to involve the private sector in readiness and resilience building for El Niño events trialled • Number of women and vulnerable persons with enhanced decision-making and governance skills enhanced • Number of plans/ training modules prepared to expand the behavioural/ rights-based/ gender-sensitive approach to El Niño readiness beyond the target communities	• Capacity assessment of private sector (2017) • Gender stocktakes – SPC 2014–2016; Rights-based assessments – RRRT; Resilience capacity assessments – SPC-PacTVET 2015–2016 • Institutional framework assessments from ISACC and Climate Ready projects (2016–2017)	• One mechanism • 20 persons in each country • One plan/ training module	• Reporting on Sendai Framework priorities • Reporting on national and sector policies and plans • 2017 review of private sector suppliers • Monitoring reports on uptake of measures and supplies for structural activities by the private sector • Pre and post surveys and interviews • Training and workshop reports • Documentation of regional events where lessons learnt were shared	• Beneficiary governments and stakeholder groups are committed to taking action to build El Niño resilience and focus on joint activities in outer islands • Climate change adaptation and disaster risk management remain as high priorities for the countries
Output 1 : Uptake of key individual and community behaviours that support El Niño resilience strengthened	• Key behaviours identified to strengthen readiness for future El Niño events • Education and awareness activities designed and implemented to trigger sustainable uptake of the key behaviours • Lessons learnt about readiness for future El Niño events shared	• Community and vulnerability assessments, disaster risk management plans, and island development plans for the selected geographical areas (to be identified in 2017–2018)	• Three key behaviours • Three education and awareness activities • One lessons learnt meeting	• Reporting on national and sector policies and plans • Pre and post surveys and interviews • Documentation and impact of education and behavioural change activities (inter-personal, written, visual and video) • Training and workshop reports • Meeting minutes including specific meetings and seminars to share lessons learnt • Documentation of regional events where lessons learnt were shared • Project report	• Country beneficiaries are committed to taking action to build El Niño resilience and willing to adopt the behavioural change, gender- and rights-based approaches

Intervention logic	Indicators	Baselines (2017)	Targets (2020)	Sources and means of verification	Assumptions
Output 2 : Local area structural measures implemented to support El Niño resilience building and paying special attention to the rights of women and vulnerable groups in outer islands	• Structural measures designed and implemented for El Niño resilience building • Activities designed and implemented by women and vulnerable groups • Local area/sector plans revised to include monitoring and maintenance	• Community and vulnerability assessments, and disaster risk management plans, and island development plans for the selected geographical areas (to be identified in 2017–2018)	• One structural measure/country • Three activities for vulnerable groups • Two local area/ sector plans revised	• Assessments of ongoing and past related activities • Reports on consultations • Community plans and island plans • Annual reports from government sectors • Procurement plan • Concept notes and design documents for any structural measures • Evaluation and completion reports relating to structural measures • Asset registers and handover reports • Project reports	• Governments and communities willing to proceed with project implementation • Sufficient local resources and skills available to implement and maintain the interventions, especially in view of the number of other interventions supported by development partners • Natural and man-made hazards do not adversely affect project implementation and delivery
Output 3 : National measures – institutional, planning and technical – implemented to support resilience for future El Niño events	• A multi-sectoral approach to El Niño readiness building initiated and/or strengthened • Sector plans strengthened to build resilience and empower vulnerable groups • Technical tool or study developed/ undertaken to address El Niño–related information gaps in local resource knowledge base in outer islands	• Existing disaster risk management plans (2016 or before) • Existing disaster risk management plans, island development plans, sector and national development plans (2016 or before) • Scientific and technical literature (2016)	• Two multi-sectoral approaches • Two plans/policies • One tool	• Desktop review of plans and policies addressing El Niño • Desktop review of physical constraints influencing outer islands' capacity to accommodate severe El Niño events • National policies, plans and budgets • Community and island plans • Annual reports from government sectors • Reports and other evidence showing sector collaboration • Letters of agreement between SPC and country; job descriptions for national coordinators • Project reports	• Beneficiary governments, especially the line ministries and island councils, are open to multi-sectoral approaches, and are willing to strengthen policies, plans and budgets where appropriate • Required professional skills and equipment are available within the project time frame • Further severe El Niño events do not occur during project time frame

1.5 Project schedule

The project had a duration of three years and four months. Figure 3 shows the overall project schedule. Figure 4 shows the dates when the major milestones were reached.

Figure 3 Overall project schedule

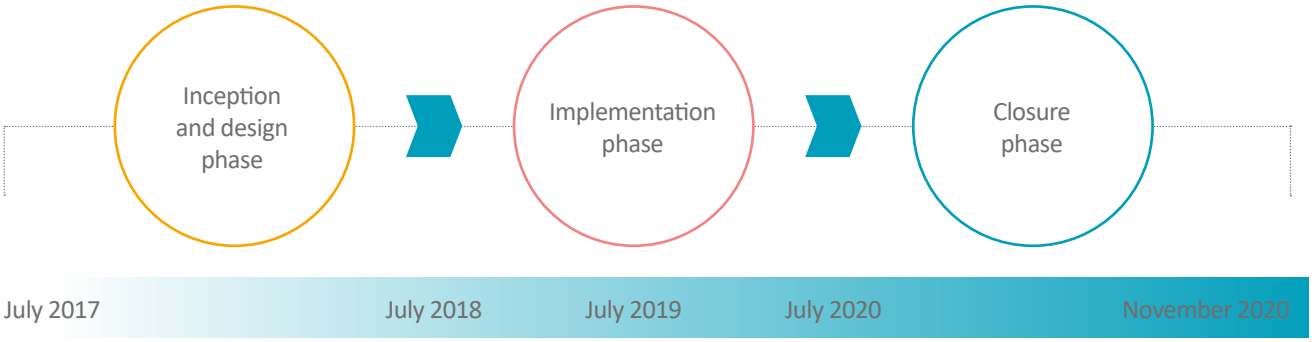


Figure 4 Project schedule and milestones

Date	Key Milestone	Stage
2017		**Inception and recruitment = 8 months**
July 2017	Delegation Agreement signed	
2018		
March 2018	Core team recruited and in place	
April 2018	Sectors and geographical areas selected and concept notes finalised	**Planning and design = 9 months**
April 2018	First steering committee meeting held in Pohnpei, FSM	
October 2018	All project design documents signed	
November 2018	All national coordinators in place	
2019		**Implementation = 24 months**
All year	Implementation activities: procurement, structural installation, training and technical activities	
April 2019	Second steering committee meeting held in Majuro, RMI	
August–December 2019	Travel restriction to RMI outer islands (dengue fever epidemic)	
December 2019	External audit for the period July 2017 to June 2019 completed	
2020		
January–November 2020	Implementation activities: structural installation, training and technical activities	
March–December 2020	International travel restrictions in place in Pacific Islands and territories due to COVID-19 (and continues to 2021)	
March 2020	SPC office closes due to COVID-19 (24 March 2020 to 22 April 2020); working from home arrangement in place	
March 2020	Revised work plan with cancellation and downscaling of some activities approved by EUD	
May 2020	Third steering committee meeting and lessons learnt meeting cancelled due to COVID-19 travel restrictions	
July 2020	All grants and contracts signed by contracting deadline (D+3)	
October 2020	All national on-the-ground activities completed*	
August–November 2020	14 lessons learnt meetings completed	
November 2020	End of the implementation period as specified in the Delegation Agreement	
December 2020	External audit for the period July 2019 to September 2020 completed	
2021		**Closure = 4 months**
January 2021	Final RENI phase 1 project evaluation completed	
March 2021	Final RENI phase 1 report submitted	

*One exception was the installation of the ecological purification systems (EPS) in Yap Proper which were not completed until April 2021.

Overall, the project was divided into four phases with some overlap between the phases:

- Phase 1: Inception and recruitment (8 months)
- Phase 2: Planning and design (9 months)
- Phase 3: Implementation (24 months)
- Phase 4: Closure (4 months).

The project was planned and designed with the understanding that measures had to be completed within the project time frame and there was no opportunity to extend this time frame.

During the implementation phase there were two major setbacks. In 2019, travel to the outer islands of RMI was banned from August to December due to the dengue fever outbreak. This resulted in a significant delay in the delivery of the activities in Ailuk. (During this period travel was still permitted to Santo, which is part of Kwajalein Atoll). Secondly, in March 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic spread, all international travel in the Pacific Island region was stopped. This situation has continued to the beginning of 2021.

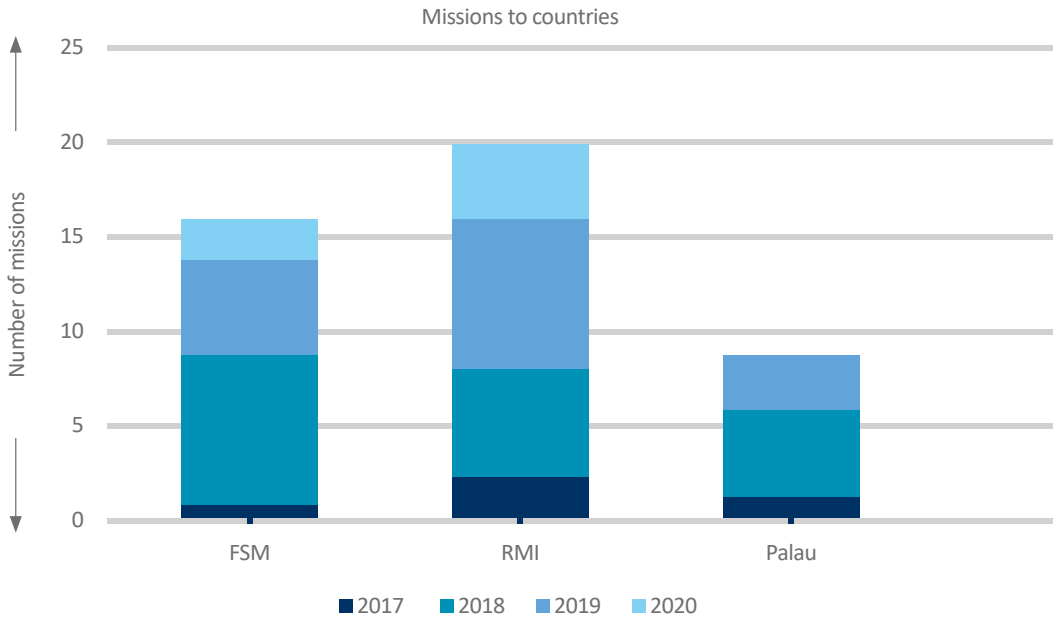
In March 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic spread, SPC requested an extension of the contracting deadline (D+3) for the RENI project. The EUD confirmed that co-financing would be required to extend the D+3 deadline. Subsequently SPC undertook a detailed review of the remaining activities against the likelihood that travel restrictions would remain in place until at least the end of 2020 and possibly longer. It was decided to complete the remaining activities to the extent possible within the project's existing time frame. This involved the cancellation of the third steering committee and lessons learnt meeting, and the cancellation of a major farmers training meeting in RMI. Other activities were revised or downscaled. Country partners were advised accordingly.

During the period April to November 2020, the national coordinators played a vital role, coordinating and leading the delivery of the remaining activities with remote oversight and virtual support from the Suva team. Especially in FSM, the national coordinator played an important role in the delivery of the remaining technical and structural activities.

Not included in the schedules shown in Figures 3 and 4 are the numerous missions to countries undertaken by the Suva project team. These were usually for durations of one to two weeks, although occasionally, as in Kapingamarangi, one mission lasted four weeks. A total of 45 missions were undertaken over the project time frame, as shown in Figure 5. Most missions involved one or two members of the Suva project team and the national coordinator. In FSM and RMI some of the missions to outer islands in 2019 and 2020 involved only the national coordinator, since national, but not international, travel was permitted.

These missions were invaluable in helping countries address issues on a regular basis, ensuring activities were on schedule and to the required quality, and generally maintaining project momentum. They also provided opportunities for capacity building, training and information exchange. Detailed reports were prepared after each country mission and shared with country partners.

Figure 5 Missions to countries



1.6 Project steering committee meetings

Project steering committee meetings were scheduled on an annual basis. The first meeting was held in Pohnpei, FSM, in April 2018 and the second meeting in Majuro, RMI in April 2019. The third meeting scheduled for May 2020 had to be cancelled because of the COVID-19 travel ban.

The characteristics of each meeting are shown in Figure 6.

Figure 6 Characteristics of steering committee meetings

Characteristic	First meeting in FSM	Second meeting in RMI	Pre-planning meeting in RMI
Date	23–27 April 2018	1–3 April 2019	28–29 March 2019
Venue	Tuna Commission, Pohnpei, FSM	International Conference Centre, Majuro, RMI	Robert Reimers Hotel, Majuro, RMI
Number of participants	25	42	11
Organisations represented	• National and state government agencies • Local government representatives and island councils • EUD • GEM, MRO, RRRT, SDP • RENI Suva team	• National and state government agencies • Local government representatives and island councils • EUD • Community representatives • NGOs • GEM, MRO, RRRT, SDP • RENI Suva team and national coordinators	• GEM, RRRT, SDP • RENI Suva team and national coordinators
Meeting objectives	• Review progress • Future work planning • Training in PLANET • Training in communications • Panel discussion on outer island migration	• Review progress • Future work planning • Training in PLANET • Training in communications • Sharing community perspectives	• Detailed work planning to November 2020 • Review of application of PLANET in RENI activities

The meetings were scheduled for three to four days, involved other partners, and were held in different countries so as to allow the host country to showcase their activities. The review of the project's progress, as well as planning of future activities, were key components. Prior to the second meeting in RMI in 2019, a short pre-planning session was held over two days with key partners. All meetings were interactive and participatory.

Demonstrating a physical model of an EPS system at the second steering committee meeting, Majuro, RMI, April 2019

The meetings were also used to introduce the rights-based/gender-sensitive approach and the use of the PLANET (Participation, Link to rights, Accountability, Non-discrimination, Empowerment, Transforming social norms) checklist. A variety of different interactive tools were used to introduce and test this approach. The project team was joined by a team from the Regional Rights Resources Team (RRRT) and SDP who led this activity. During the pre-planning meeting in Majuro in 2019, the project team worked with RRRT and Social Development Programme (SDP) to review the extent to which the approach had been applied in each country over the course of the RENI project. This is further detailed in Sections 2 and 3 of this report.

Power walk activity to understand how different members of the community are disadvantaged, first steering committee meeting, Pohnpei, FSM

1.7 Evaluation of the project

A request for quotations for a consultancy to conduct an external evaluation of the RENI project was advertised in July 2020. Six bids were received and the Pacific Research and Evaluation Associates from Australia were selected to conduct the evaluation between September and November 2020.

Overall, the evaluation concluded: "The RENI Project delivered the significant majority (77%) of planned country–project activities and outputs as outlined in the project design. Considering the impacts of the international COVID-19 pandemic and measles and dengue outbreaks in RMI, and Palau's withdrawal from the RENI Project, this is overall a very positive result." (p. 4)[1].

The evaluation report also commended the following key activities:

- the model designed and used by the project to undertake small impact assessments of relevant activities implemented by previous projects using a defined impact assessment methodology, and then applying the lessons learnt to the current project
- the number and quality of the communication products, especially the video stories
- the scientific evidence-based approach to select structural measures and site locations based on research such as hydrological assessments in Palau and FSM, water catchment assessments in Kapingamarangi, and agricultural assessments in Ailuk, RMI
- introduction of an output focused on relevant behavioural change to support structural measures that promote increased resilience to drought.

1.8 Project reporting

Six-month progress reports and annual reports were prepared and reviewed by EUD. These reports documented the progress for the relevant period. Regular meetings with colleagues at the EUD provided the project team with advice and guidance, which was invaluable in addressing the challenges in project implementation.

The national coordinators provided monthly progress reports using a template designed to focus on the key outputs from the national project design documents (PDDs).

The project core team met weekly to plan and implement the activities. Other divisions within SPC were also involved in specific activities, especially the GEM water team, Land and Resources Division (LRD), RRRT, SDP and the Strategy Planning and Learning Programme (SPL). Close contact was maintained with the director and team at the SPC Micronesia Regional Office (MRO) who provided invaluable support with all aspects of the project.

1.9 Financial management

The Delegation Agreement allowed for SPC to use its own financial management rules and regulations, as well as to apply its own accounting, internal control and audit systems, all of which had been positively assessed in the ex-ante pillars assessment. After Addendum 1 was signed on 7 December 2017, SPC was also authorised to apply its own procurement procedures and its own rules for the award of grants. (Prior to this date, the Contracting Authority's rules for grant and procurement procedures had to be applied.)

All the procurement for the RENI project was carried out by SPC. The project team members and the three national coordinators were recruited and paid by SPC. Technical support from SPC's divisions was provided and paid for on the basis of time sheets. SPC entered into a grant agreement with the government agencies responsible for finance in RMI and Palau for small-scale activities and office support for the national coordinators. SPC also entered into one grant agreement with a women's group in RMI. SPC's procurement procedures were used to secure consultancy services, the supply and delivery of equipment and materials, and the construction of structural work.

Asset registers were compiled for each country and the assets were formally transferred to each country at the end of 2020.

Two external audits were undertaken covering the period August 2017 to September 2020. Figure 7 shows the audits and the pre-financing instalments received from EUD.

[1] European Union – North Pacific – Readiness for El Niño (RENI project) Evaluation Report. Pacific Research and Evaluation Associates. 2021. http://ccprojects.gsd.spc.int/eu-north-pacific-reni/

Figure 7 Audits and payments

Audit number	Period covered by audit	Date audit completed	Total expenditures including commitments (EUR)	Payment type	Date received by SPC	Amount (EUR)
Audit 1	6 July 2017 to 30 June 2019	13 December 2019	1,312,629	Pre-financing	21 August 2017	1,778,858
Audit 2	1 July 2019 to 30 September 2020	23 December 2020	2,728,469	Further pre-financing	2 December 2019	1,508,111
Total						3,286,969

The special conditions of the Delegation Agreement referred to a total cost of the action as EUR 4.5 million. However, Annex 1, Description of the action, referred to specific allocated amounts for each country as shown below:

- FSM, EUR 1.8 million, (CRIS number: FED/2017/386901)
- RMI, EUR 1.575 million, (CRIS number: FED/2017/386734)
- Palau, EUR 1.125 million, (CRIS number: FED/2017/387030)

In July 2018, SPC was advised that the country allocations had to be respected.

Figure 8 shows the RENI phase 1 final statement of income and expenditure for the period 1st July 2017 to 30th June 2021. The financial reports for each country are shown in Annex 1.

Overall, the total project expenditure on RENI phase 1 was EUR 2,729,830, which represents a 61% expenditure rate. The main reasons for the low expenditure rate were: (i) the structural measures planned for Palau were not implemented; and (ii) the international events planned for 2020 were cancelled and the activities were downscaled due to the COVID-19 travel ban. This is discussed further under Sections 2, 3 and 4 of this report.

→ *Nimar Weloy Dancer performing Yap Traditional Bamboo Stick Dance*

Figure 8 RENI phase 1 final statement of income and expenditure for the period 1st July 2017 to 30th June 2021

SPC
PRIVATE MAIL BAG, SUVA , FIJI
TELEPHONE: (679) 3370 733 - FAX: (679) 3370 021

EU - NORTH PACIFIC - READINESS FOR EL NIÑO PROJECT -RENI- Phase 1
FINAL STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE PERIOD 6TH JULY 2017 TO 30TH JUNE 2021

INCOME

Funds Received

PROJECT BUDGET LINE	General budget	Year 1 & 2 Budget
DIRECT COST		
1. Project Team		
Project Manager	443 540,00	391 580,00
Engineer	265 898,00	265 898,00
Project Finance Officer	338 269,00	217 458,00
Communications & Liaison Officer	241 688,00	215 191,00
Office equipment costs	50 000,00	45 000,00
Office consumables	58 000,00	46 000,00
Evaluations & audits	80 413,00	20 000,00
Sub-total I: Project team	1 477 808,00	1 201 127,00
Output 1:Uptake of behaviours to support El Nino resilience		
National & local-based consultations; gender & rights-based training; recruitment & payment of project officers/national coordinators	321 850,00	300 000,00
Education and awareness and visibility	133 000,00	100 000,00
Sharing of results & lessons learnt,	187 500,00	125 000,00
Travel for project team to implement activities in country	117 336,00	100 860,00
Sub total II: Output 1 Uptake of behaviours to support El Nino resilience	759 686,00	625 860,00
Output 2: Structural measures to support El Nino resilience		
Structural on-the-ground measures	1 258 110,00	840 963,39
Parallel "soft engineering" measures	40 000,00	18 000,00
Monitoring and maintenance*	15 000,00	12 000,00
Visibility	34 000,00	25 000,00
Travel for project team to implement activities in country	100 063,00	50 000,00
Sub-total III: Output 2 Structural measures to support El Nino resilience	1 447 173,00	945 963,39
Output 3: Planning and technical measures to support El Nino readiness		
Local level disaster risk plans enhanced	70 453,00	70 000,00
National and/or sector plans enhanced	100 000,00	70 000,00
Technical studies to address applied research gaps	100 000,00	80 000,00
Visibility	33 000,00	30 000,00
Travel for project team to implement activities in country	90 900,00	45 000,00
Sub-total IV: Output 3 Planning and technical measures to support El Nino readiness	394 353,00	295 000,00
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS	4 079 020,00	3 067 950,39
INDIRECT COST		
Project Management (7%)	285 531,00	218 819,00
Contingencies (3.3%)	135 449,00	-
TOTAL INDIRECT COSTS	420 980,00	218 819,00
		-
TOTAL	4 500 000,00	3 286 769,39
BALANCE OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FROM FUNDS RECEIVED		
FUNDS TRANSFERRED TO MICCO 19**		
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE ON HAND AFTER TRANSFER		
PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE OVER FUNDS RECEIVED AS AT 30TH JUNE 2021		

* Materials for maintenance were included in the supply contracts for the structural on the ground measures
**Transfer to be allocated to each country using the ratio: FSM 0.40|RMI 0.35|PALAU 0.25

Notes
The pre-paid tickets were cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19 travel restrictions and approximately EU 22,468 of credit notes less taxes needs to be refunded.
Once it is refunded it will be credited in the project account which will affect the expenditure, PM fees, and also balance of funds available
These adjustments can be reflected in the consolidated report when RENI phase 2 - MICCO19 ends

DONOR AGENCY : EUROPEAN UNION
PROJECT TITLE : EU - North Pacific - Readiness for El Niño Project
CRIS NUMBER : FSM FED/2016/39693, RMI FED/2016/39692, PAL FED/2016/39694
SPC REFERENCE NUMBER : J00073
REPORTING CURRENCY : EURO

INCOME PERIOD			
21/08/2017	04/12/2019	15/12/2020	TOTAL INCOME
1 778 858,00	628 279,75	-	**2 407 137,75**
-	879 631,64	-	**879 631,64**
1 778 858,00	**1 507 911,39**	**0**	**3 286 769,39**

EXPENDITURE PERIOD			TOTAL ACTUAL EXPENDITURE	BUDGET AVAILABLE *(based on Overall budget)*	EXPEND. RATE *(based on Overall budget)*
06/07/2017	**01/07/2019**	**01/10/2020**			
30/06/2019	**30/09/2020**	**30/06/2021**			
182 236,83	81 752,50	5 478,55	269 467,88	**174 072,12**	61%
104 083,70	98 450,41	(20 197,48)	182 336,63	**83 561,37**	69%
52 692,81	74 142,16	(4 911,11)	121 923,86	**216 345,14**	36%
69 044,43	48 222,67	2 473,97	119 741,07	**121 946,93**	50%
12 527,17	13 991,58	207,27	26 726,02	**23 273,98**	53%
6 573,05	8 088,05	619,36	15 280,46	**42 719,54**	26%
-	3 038,30	39 957,63	42 995,93	**37 417,07**	53%
427 157,99	327 685,67	23 628,19	778 471,85	699 336,15	53%
158 634,86	103 256,87	16 041,41	277 933,14	**43 916,86**	86%
6 265,84	3 748,36	14 929,35	24 943,55	**108 056,45**	19%
76 524,40	8 727,69	1 254,57	86 506,66	**100 993,34**	46%
53 992,56	27 185,36	(10 824,56)	70 353,36	**46 982,64**	60%
295 417,66	142 918,28	21 400,77	459 736,71	299 949,29	39%
188 692,73	605 081,14	133 694,85	927 468,72	**330 641,28**	74%
11 565,05	9 146,82	1 410,84	22 122,71	**17 877,29**	55%
-	-	-	-	**15 000,00**	0%
-	32 940,37	1 932,18	34 872,55	**(872,55)**	103%
20 049,46	78 036,10	78,13	98 163,69	**1 899,31**	98%
220 307,24	725 204,43	137 116,00	1 082 627,67	364 545,33	25%
24 019,05	2 451,58	-	26 470,63	**43 982,37**	38%
5 845,20	16 506,58	-	22 351,78	**77 648,22**	22%
16 661,02	83 448,35	2 365,55	102 474,92	**(2 474,92)**	102%
-	2 728,95	4 627,50	7 356,45	**25 643,55**	22%
3 921,20	86 250,48	(18 418,63)	71 753,05	**19 146,95**	79%
50 446,47	191 385,94	(11 425,58)	230 406,83	163 946,17	42%
993 329,36	1 387 194,32	170 719,38	2 551 243,06	1 527 776,94	37%
69 531,03	97 470,58	11 585,40	178 587,01	106 943,99	37%
-	-	-	-	135 449,00	100%
69 531,03	97 470,58	11 585,40	178 587,01	242 392,99	42%
1 062 860,39	1 484 664,90	182 304,78	2 729 830,07	1 770 169,93	61%
				556 939,32	
				400 000,00	
				156 939,32	
			83%		

Certificate Correct :

Rupen Nand

Finance Manager

Date: 7/10/2021

1.10 Project team

The project core team positions are listed below:

- project manager
- project engineer
- project finance officer
- project communications and liaison officer.

Three national coordinators were recruited, one in each country. Short-term administrative staff were hired on an as-needed basis (e.g. during intense procurement and accounting periods).

Members of the project team, national coordinators and steering committee participants, Majuro, RMI, April 2019

Two of the positions, the project manager and the communications and liaison officer, were shared across a sister programme, the Global Climate Change Alliance Plus Scaling up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA) project from January 2019 onwards. This was a pilot arrangement for SPC in the management and implementation of EU-funded projects and was managed through time sheets.

There were some significant benefits.

- The arrangement provided for fast tracking the new GCCA+ SUPA project in the three North Pacific countries. Having experience and up-to-date contacts for government and private sector personnel in the North Pacific countries allowed for rapid advancement of the selection and design of activities for GCCA+ SUPA.
- The sharing arrangement also facilitated rapid recruitment of the GCCA+ SUPA team.
- Shared country missions addressed the needs of both projects, resulting in savings in the time spent travelling and the cost of travelling.
- Synergies were developed across the two projects e.g. the community impact assessment methodology trialled in the RENI project was also applied in the GCCA+ SUPA project, and health and atoll agricultural activities trialled in the RENI project were scaled up in the GCCA+ SUPA project.

However, there were some disadvantages such as an increased workload for the two position holders, and this requires careful assessment before being adopted as a model for SPC to follow.

The project was fortunate in retaining the core team over the duration of the project. This facilitated the continuity of project activities and systems. The names, positions, titles and contract durations of the core team and the national coordinators are listed in Annex 2.

The project was housed in the GEM Division and specifically within the Disaster and Community Resilience Programme. This provided for close interaction with other projects and programmes working in the disaster management and resilience-building domains.

2.
OVERALL ACHIEVEMENTS

2.1 Planning and implementation process

On 16 December 2016, SPC formally advised their member countries of the signing of the Commission Decision on the Pro-Resilience Special Measure in response to food insecurity in ACP countries and that a Delegation Agreement for the delivery of the RENI project was being prepared. A media release was issued in July 2017 announcing the signing of the RENI Delegation Agreement.

Inception visits were made to each country between August and September 2017 to introduce the project and meet with key stakeholders. Government agencies responsible for disaster risk management were the first point of entry in each country:

- FSM: Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECEM)
- RMI: National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and Chief Secretary's Office
- Palau: National Emergency Management Office (NEMO).

There followed a national consultative process whereby countries identified the key sector (food security or water security), the geographical area where the project would focus, and then prepared two- to four-page concept notes, which were endorsed by EUD.

→ *Consultation with mayor and members of the Island Council, Ailuk, RMI, April 2017*

By the time the first steering committee meeting was held in April 2018, all three countries had completed concept notes. Technical assessments were then conducted to provide the scientific evidence to support final selection and design. National consultations to design and cost the planned activities were held, involving government and non-government organisations (NGOs), state and island councils, and community leaders.

PDDs were then drafted, reviewed by EUD, finalised and signed by SPC and key representatives of government implementing agencies and ministries of finance. The PDDs followed the same logical framework as the overall RENI project. Each PDD included the following sections:

- country background including geographical setting, vulnerability and climate change projects, national policies and strategies, ongoing projects relating to the selected sector (either food or water security);
- description of the overall RENI project and how the project interfaces with national strategies and policies;
- description of the consultative process leading up to the design of activities;
- overall and specific objectives and key outputs. (These were aligned to those contained in the Delegation Agreement);
- log frame;
- indicative budget;
- institutional arrangements;
- risk management;
- exit strategy.

The PDDs represented the project blueprint for the implementation of activities in each country.

By November 2018, all the PDDs had been finalised, and the national coordinators recruited and in place in the key implementing agencies.

2.2 Overall project achievements

This section of the report discusses the overall achievements of the RENI project as they relate to the project's logical framework. Further details relating to each country's achievements are discussed in Section 3 of this report.

Overall objective: to enhance the resilience of the people of FSM, Marshall Islands, and Palau to the shocks and insecurities resulting from extreme El Niño events.

Adopting a scientific and evidence-based approach

Recognising the short time frame for the RENI project, and the remoteness of many of the island communities, the countries decided at the start of the project to adopt a focused approach and concentrate activities on communities in specific outer islands and states rather than applying an all-of-country approach. Countries selected their sector focus and their geographical focus in the early months, and these were discussed and confirmed at the first steering committee meeting in April 2018.

A consultative approach was adopted throughout the project. Stakeholders from government, NGOs, private sector and communities met together and sometimes communities met on their own. In all cases social norms and customs were observed and special care was taken to give everyone a voice, for example, by meeting with some groups, such as women, separately.

The selections of specific activities and sites were based on scientific assessments. For example, in RMI, agricultural assessments were undertaken in Ailuk and Santo prior to designing the specific activities. Similarly, in Yap Proper, the selection of communities for the enhancement of rainwater harvesting measures was based on water assessments. The two sites for placement of EPS systems were selected after assessment of seven potential sites.

The project followed a process of preparing concept notes, followed by more detailed PDDs for each country. These laid out the activities, budget, time frame, log frame and risk matrix for the activities. The log frames provided the monitoring and evaluation framework for the project. Detailed engineering designs were prepared for all the structural measures including specifications and bill of quantities.

The process provided for a project based on sound science and delivered with a combination of diverse capacity building modalities, supported by planned communication measures. Capacity building was achieved through a number of different delivery modalities including direct training, hands-on activities such as involvement in construction and maintenance, and participation in decision-making. Capacity building, training events and on-the-job training were key components for the entire project. Over the course of the project there were 139 consultations and training events, involving 3865 people (2031 females and 1834 males).

In Palau, month-long disaster preparedness activities in each of the 16 states were conducted during 2018 and 2019. Youth and adults were involved in education and awareness of disaster preparedness, practice drills and training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid.

→ *Community disaster risk outreach in Palau, (top: roadside campaign, September 2018, bottom: community meeting 2019)*

Community representatives in Yap Proper, FSM, were involved in hands-on training in the maintenance and monitoring of water storage systems, while in Kapingamarangi, community members assisted with the construction and installation of the water storage systems. In RMI, hands-on training in agricultural practices was provided to community members and agricultural extension officers in Ailuk and Santo.

Regional steering committee meetings were another mechanism for delivering training and capacity building in implementing a people-centred approach, communication skills, and financial reporting. These regional meetings involved national and local government stakeholders, NGOs and community representatives.

Specific objective: to strengthen the implementation of a sustainable, multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder approach to readiness for future El Niño events

Adopting a multi-stakeholder approach
→ *Project partners in RMI*

A multi-stakeholder approach was adopted in all countries. This was especially successful in RMI where the project recognised from the start that partnerships with local stakeholder groups would bring collective expertise and valuable local knowledge to the project and ensure sustainability beyond the project time frame.

Government partners in RMI played a critical leadership and support role, including the Chief Secretary's Office, MNRC, NDMO, the Ministry of Health and Human Services (MOHHS) and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Culture. The MNRC was the lead organisation for the government. NGO partners also assisted in implementation providing valuable expertise that could be shared in the local language and was especially relevant to the local context. These included: Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI), Canvasback Wellness Centre (CWC), Marshall Islands Organic Farmers Association (MIOFA), Taiwan Technical Mission (TTM) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Hardware suppliers, tank manufacturers and contractors from the RMI supplied the materials and undertook the installation of water and agricultural infrastructure.

Similarly, in FSM, local suppliers and contractors provided most of the materials and installed the water security measures, although specific items such as first flush diverters had to be procured from overseas.

The services of local consultants provided technical assistance in FSM, RMI and Palau.

Maximising a multi-sector approach

While activities in Palau and FSM focused mainly on the water sector, RMI adopted a more integrated approach involving the food, water and health sectors. Recognising the decline in atoll agriculture over recent years and the very limited variety of food available to people living in the outer atolls, the project integrated atoll agriculture with health and wellness activities.

With the assistance of CWC, health and wellness activities were combined with atoll agriculture and enhanced water security measures to establish the linkage between growing and eating local crops, combined with exercise and health checks, which together contribute to improved health and wellness of the community.

The extent to which this has been successful can only be determined in the years after project completion. However, it is interesting to note that a sister project, GCCA+ SUPA, has adopted a similar approach in other RMI atolls.

Output 1: Uptake of key individual and community behaviours that support El Niño resilience strengthened

Developing and applying a people-centred approach

During the design phase of the RENI project, SPC drew on the expertise of its divisions, and in particular RRRT and SDP, to ensure a people-centred approach was incorporated into the design phase.

Throughout the implementation of the RENI project these divisions assisted the RENI project team and the countries with the application of a people-centred approach. Firstly, they provided training to the RENI Suva team. This was then extended to country partners at specific events and during the regional steering committee meetings in 2018 and 2019. The training was interactive and effective.

The RRRT and SDP, assisted by the RENI team, worked together to prepare and test a PLANET checklist for development projects, described in Annex 3. The PLANET principles are listed below.

- Participation is the extent to which people affected by the project are able to participate in the project.
- Link to rights is the extent to which the activities link to national and international human rights standards.
- Accountability is the extent to which project implementers are accountable to the people affected by the project.
- Non-discrimination involves taking into account how the project might affect different groups of people.
- Empowerment involves building knowledge and skills of the affected people.
- Transforming social norms relates to how projects affect, positively or negatively, social relations and norms in the affected communities.

The checklist has proved a very practical and effective tool and is now being used widely by SPC in the application of a people-centred approach in other development projects, for example GCCA+ SUPA and the Pacific–European Union Marine Partnership Programme (PEUMP).

During the RENI project the most applied PLANET principles were participation, non-discrimination and empowerment, and there are specific examples described in the country achievements in Section 3 of this report. In addition, specific discussions on applying the PLANET principles in each country are available on the website.

→ *Training in rights-based approaches in Ailuk, RMI, April 2018 (top: men's group, bottom: women's group)*

Developing a methodology to assess project impact several years after completion

The normal practice in the Pacific Island countries and territories is to evaluate project activities in the final implementation phase using prescribed monitoring and evaluation procedures. The RENI project went further and developed a methodology for determining the impact of past projects, from the beneficiaries' (community) perspective, several years after completion. The objective of this work was to learn how similar projects could be better delivered in the future.

The methodology was based on employing a consultative approach, meeting separately with different groups (men, women, elders, chiefs, youth) and discussing, in the local language, some simple questions such as those below.

- What worked well?
- What should have been done differently?
- What did not work well?
- What would you change if the project were to be repeated?

Section 3 includes a discussion of a specific case in Fais Island, an outer island in Yap State, FSM, where the impact methodology was used and the results were applied to the delivery of the water security measures in Kapingamarangi, Pohnpei State, under the RENI project. The most useful findings from such an impact assessment are negative impacts, because these represent areas of intervention that can be improved in the future.

→ *Consultation in Fais Island, FSM, February 2019 (top: women's groups, bottom: all participants)*

The RENI project also developed some tools relating to this type of impact assessment. These included a fact sheet, a video and a results story, which was published in the SPC 2019 results report. This methodology is now being applied in other projects such as the GCCA+ SUPA project.

Output 2: Local area structural measures implemented to support El Niño resilience building and paying special attention to the rights of women and vulnerable groups in outer islands

Installing structural resilience-building measures in outer islands

In both FSM and RMI the structural measures were focused on outer islands. In FSM, the structural measures and other activities were conducted in Kapingamarangi, an outer island, and other structural measures were implemented in Yap Proper, which is the main island of Yap State. In RMI, Ailuk and Santo-Kwajalein were the two outer atolls where the structural measures were implemented. In Palau, the measures were planned for Ngatpang State, which is not an outer island but is separated by a bridge from the most populated state of Koror.

Focusing on outer islands posed particular challenges for the project, as these islands are remote and poorly served by shipping routes. For example, Kapingamarangi in Pohnpei State, FSM, is 700 km from the main island, has no airport and is served by a government vessel three to four times a year. The vulnerability of people living in outer islands is often greater than for those living in main islands. For this reason, the RENI project focused on communities in outer islands, despite the challenges.

→ *Top: Completed plant nursery in Ailuk, RMI, July 2020, bottom: rainwater harvesting systems, Tamil school, FSM, November 2019*

While the structural measures were successfully installed in FSM and RMI, unfortunately this was not the case in Palau, where the national RENI committee opted to install a large-scale water storage system on one of the major rivers in Babeldaob, the Tabecheding River. In September 2019, the procurement process closed without the award of a contract, and subsequently in February 2020, Palau decided not to proceed with alternative measures and to opt out of the RENI project. This is discussed further in Section 4 of the report, Challenges.

Paying particular attention to vulnerable groups

In Kapingamarangi, and in consultation with the communities, the chiefs, and the local government representatives, the project focused on the youth and the sick, providing new rainwater harvesting systems for community buildings at the school and the dispensary. In addition, an individual water line and tap was provided to the residence of the oldest female resident on the island, a 70-year old lady. In Yap Proper, the new measures focused on women and youth with two new rainwater harvesting systems installed at elementary schools and one at a women's community building.

→ *A direct water connection was installed for the oldest lady in Kapingamarangi, FSM, September 2019*

In RMI, a new plant nursery was constructed at the school on Santo, and in Ailuk, women and youth were the focus of home gardening activities. The new plant nursery established by the project in Ailuk was near the airport where all the community could gain access.

Empowering vulnerable groups

In FSM and RMI the project went beyond the immediate technical confines of the project to build the knowledge and skills of women. For example, the project issued a call for proposals in 2018 for women's groups to access grants to enhance food security in the northern atolls. WUTMI successfully responded to this call for proposals and received a grant to assess fruit and crop pests. They worked with their local WUTMI chapters in the atolls and a local NGO (MIOFA) to undertake a pest assessment and to trial some biological pest control measures. This was an area outside their normal expertise, and the implementation of this grant built their knowledge and skills in the area of food security. Also notable was the inclusion of food security as an agenda item in the 2019–2020 WUTMI annual general meeting.

In Yap Proper, FSM, initial consultations with community-based women's groups showed that many of the groups were informal, without proper registration and so were not eligible for SPC grants. A local consultant was hired to work with one women's group, the Tamil Women's Association, to build their organisational and planning skills so that they are now in a stronger position to access small grants and implement projects in the future.

Output 3: National measures – institutional, planning and technical – implemented to support resilience for future El Niño events

Expanding the technical understanding of water security

During the early consultative phase of the RENI project, two of the countries selected technical measures to support resilience.

In Palau, the RENI committee elected to undertake technical hydrological assessments that would inform the design of the structural measures, and a hydrological assessment of the Tabecheding and Ngerderar watersheds was conducted. This assessment in 2018 informed the selection of the Tabecheding watershed as the most viable source for water storage measures.

→ *Collecting a water sample from the Tabecheding River, Palau, August 2018*

In Yap State, the project focused on investigating one of the major underground water reserves, the Gagil-Tomil aquifer in Yap Proper. The work included hydrogeological assessments, pumping tests, installation of a rain gauge and the monitoring of water levels in the extraction bores over a six-month period, which coincided with the 10th most severe drought on record. The results and management recommendations for water conservation during drought were shared with Yap State agencies and the water authorities during a series of five virtual meetings between May and October 2020. (A scheduled visit to Yap Proper was cancelled due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions.)

Collecting groundwater data, Yap Proper, FSM, September 2019

The partnership between SPC and the Yap State agencies and water authorities will continue after the RENI project. This involves Yap partners continuing to maintain the monitoring equipment and to share the data with SPC, while SPC will analyse the data trends and share the findings with Yap partners. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in November 2020 to confirm this partnership between SPC and the Yap State agencies and water authorities to continue the effective management of the underground water reserve.

Supporting resilience at the local level

Consultations in RMI in 2017 and 2018 showed that the national resilience planning framework was fairly robust, and that while some areas required updating, other funding had been secured to fill these gaps. As a result, it was decided with the support of the NDMO to focus activities on community disaster management plans.

Under a contract with IOM, a community disaster management plan was established for Ailuk and a framework model plan was developed for use by the other atolls. (A community plan was already in place for the Kwajalein Atoll where Santo is located.)

The preparation process involved several meetings with the community to discuss their needs and gather information. The IOM team drafted the disaster risk management plan in collaboration with the community and prepared several innovative communications tools. These were then tested and handed over to the community. Testing of the plan involved a whole of community drill with women, men, children and persons with disabilities participating. The drill highlighted the "living" nature of the plan such that all community members are aware of and understand the plan and will continue future drills together with the disaster committee.

Slogan for Ailuk's disaster management plan, RMI, March 2019

Figure 9 shows a summary of the achievements against the indicators in the overall log frame. Ten indicators were achieved or exceeded and four were partially achieved. The partially achieved indicators relate mainly to outputs 2 and 3. Palau's preference to focus on one large structural measure, which unfortunately was not constructed, was one factor influencing the reduced level of achievement. The other factor was the national preferences to focus on behavioural and technical activities rather than sector plans.

Figure 9 Summary of overall achievements

Overall objective: To enhance the resilience of the people of FSM, Marshall Islands, and Palau to the shocks and insecurities resulting from extreme El Niño events.	
Indicators and targets	**Result achieved**
• Indicator: Reduction in cost to address future severe El Niño events in selected sectors and areas • Target: 2% reduction in selected sectors and areas (Indicator requires assessment in the post-project period)	✓ **Partially achieved: unable to accurately assess if target was achieved** - Reduced costs to transport water to outer islands during drought (Fais Island during Typhoon Maysak and Kapingamarangi during the drought in quarter one of 2020) - Anticipated reduction in cost of transporting food to Ailuk during future droughts
• Indicator: Capacity of national stakeholders to address climate and disaster risk strengthened • Target: 30 national stakeholders	✓ **Exceeded** - FSM: Hydrogeological assessments (10); installation and maintenance of water systems (44); water conservation (5). - RMI: Atoll agriculture/home gardening (40); health education (15). - Palau: Disaster preparedness activities (911).
Specific objective: To strengthen the implementation of a sustainable, multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder approach to readiness for future El Niño events	
Indicators and targets	**Result achieved**
• Indicator: Number of mechanisms to involve the private sector in readiness and resilience building for El Niño events trialled • Target: One mechanism	✓ **Achieved** - Private sector involved in multi-sector approach in RMI
• Indicator: Number of women and vulnerable persons with enhanced decision-making and governance skills • Target: 20 persons in each country	✓ **Exceeded** - FSM: Exceeded – community consultations, consultations with women's groups, capacity building for Tamil Women's Association - RMI: Exceeded – rights-based training with women in Ailuk, grant agreement managed by WUTMI, involvement of local government women representatives in design, development of disaster management plan in Ailuk - Palau: Achieved – involvement in decision-making in national steering committee meetings, environmental assessment and disaster preparedness activities
• Indicator: Number of plans/training modules prepared to expand the behavioural/rights-based/gender- sensitive approach to El Niño readiness beyond the target communities • Target: One plan/ training module	✓ **Achieved** - Development, testing and application of the PLANET checklist
Output 1: Uptake of key individual and community behaviours that support El Niño resilience strengthened	
Indicators and targets	**Result achieved**
• Indicator: Key behaviours identified to strengthen readiness for future El Niño events • Target: Three key behaviours	✓ **Achieved** - All countries: Involving beneficiary community in design of project activities - FSM: Communities assess the impact of activities after projects are completed - FSM and RMI: communities participate in installation and maintenance of structural measures
• Indicator: Education and awareness activities designed and implemented to trigger sustainable uptake of the key behaviours • Target: Three education and awareness activities	✓ **Exceeded** - Palau – school disaster preparedness drills and training in CPR and first aid - FSM – student water conservation essay competition - RMI – youth pumpkin growing competition - Eight videos on project activities
• Indicator: Lessons learnt about readiness for future El Niño events shared • Target: One lessons learnt meeting	✓ **Exceeded** - Two national lessons learnt meetings (FSM and RMI) and two meetings with Suva diplomatic representations - 10 lessons learnt sharing sessions in Suva

Output 2: Local area structural measures implemented to support El Niño resilience building and paying special attention to the rights of women and vulnerable groups in outer islands	
Indicators and targets	**Result achieved**
• Indicator: Local area structural measures implemented to support El Niño resilience building and paying special attention to the rights of women and vulnerable groups in outer islands • Target: One structural measure per country	✓ **Partially achieved:** - FSM: 10 water systems installed - RMI: Two plant nurseries constructed - Palau: No measures installed
• Indicator: Activities designed and implemented by women and vulnerable groups • Target: Three activities for vulnerable groups	✓ **Achieved** - RMI: Assessment of pests in outer atolls by WUTMI - RMI: Inclusion of food security in WUTMI annual general meeting - FSM: Tamil Women's Association water conservation awareness activities
• Indicator: Local area/sector plans revised to include monitoring and maintenance • Target: Two local area/sector plans revised	✓ **Partially achieved** - Maintenance checklists provided for five communities in Yap Proper and for the three systems in Kapingamarangi
Output 3: National measures – institutional, planning and technical – implemented to support resilience for future El Niño events	
Indicators and targets	**Result achieved**
• Indicator: A multi-sectoral approach to El Niño readiness building initiated and/or strengthened • Target: Two multi-sectoral approaches	✓ **Achieved** - RMI: Integrated approach involving agriculture, water and health - FSM: Integrated approach involving water, meteorology and environment
• Indicator: Sector plans strengthened to build resilience and empower vulnerable groups • Target: Two plans/policies	✓ **Partially achieved** - RMI: One community disaster risk management plan and one model plan
• Indicator: Technical tool or study developed/undertaken to address El Niño–related information gaps in local resource knowledge base in outer islands • Target: One tool	✓ **Achieved** - Hydrogeological assessment of the Gagil-Tomil aquifer to inform the management of groundwater resources

2.3 Lessons learnt meetings

Three major events were planned for 2020 to share lessons emerging from the RENI project. The third steering committee was scheduled for May 2020 in combination with a lessons learnt meeting for all countries. A farmers' lessons learnt meeting was scheduled to be held in Ailuk, RMI, in April 2020 to involve farmers from the northern atolls of RMI. Finally, a water security lessons learnt meeting was planned for FSM in 2020 to showcase some of the project's activities to the other states of FSM. Due to the COVID-19 travel ban, which came into existence at the end of February 2020, all three activities were cancelled and replaced by other meetings.

The Suva project team decided to share experiences through small sessions with key partners in Suva between August and November 2020. Twelve meetings were held and Figure 10 shows the schedule and target groups. Two additional lessons learnt meetings were held in October in 2020 in FSM and RMI, led by the national coordinators and described in more detail in Section 3 of this report. The RENI project experiences were shared with 153 persons.

Figure 10. Details of lessons learnt meetings

Organisation	Date in 2020	Number of participants		
		Total	Males	Females
1. EUD	17 August	3	3	0
2. GCCA+ SUPA project team	21 August	5	2	3
3. MRO and ISACC project	4 September	6	3	3
4. GEM: Georesources and energy programme	15 September	12	6	6
5. RRRT and SDP	18 September	9	4	5
6. GEM: Oceans programme	18 September	8	6	2
7. GEM: Disaster and community resilience programme	22 September	19	10	9
8. SPC Strategy Planning and Learning Division	7 October	8	2	6
9. SPC Land and Resources Division	15 October	26	13	13
10. FSM Diplomatic Representation, Suva	19 October	1	1	0
11. RMI Diplomatic Representation, Suva	19 October	5	3	2
12. RMI partners meeting	21 October	28	19	9
13. FSM partners meeting	22 October	15	7	8
14. SPC Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability and SPC-EU-Project Management Unit	4 November	8	2	6
Total		153	81	72

The schedule involved a mixture of physical and virtual meetings. The RENI project team started each meeting with a 35-minute presentation on five project highlights and their corresponding challenges. The highlights were customised for each meeting depending on the target audience's interests. After the presentation, there was a period of up to one hour for questions, discussions and sharing experiences. The format was a useful opportunity for all participants and the RENI team to learn from each other, and the small size of some of the groups allowed for open and frank discussions. Section 5 of this report presents the key lessons learnt.

2.4 Overall communications and visibility

The overall objective for communications and visibility was to ensure widespread and consistent messaging and uniform branding across the RENI regional project and its national activities that conformed with guidelines contained in the *Communication and visibility manual for European Union external actions* and supported the broader objectives of the Pacific Community Climate Change Communications Plan.

The RENI communications plan (2017) identified key target groups as audiences in the Pacific Island countries and territories and especially FSM, RMI and Palau. Other key stakeholder groups included international audiences and especially those in EU member countries. The plan sought to provide information on project activities; raise awareness of the project; provide partner visibility to the EU, SPC and national governments; and provide education materials on disaster risk management and climate change adaptation for communities in the Pacific.

National coordinators played a key role in the delivery of the communication activities. They were trained in communications activities during their inception visits to Suva, Fiji, in 2017.

Key visibility products included a website, fact sheets, posters, local and regional events, technical assessments, community-focused booklets and guides, posts on social media, media releases, a series of short videos and other common project collateral items.

Media releases, social media, newspaper articles and radio interviews

Media releases were delivered as joint releases with the EU and were mainly used for announcing significant project milestones. This is in line with the recommendation from journalists at the Regional Climate Finance Media Training Forum in Fiji in June 2019, where it was highlighted that products such as press releases should be limited to significant actions, as they are often very technical and difficult to understand. Seven media releases were issued over the course of the project.

Social media, including Facebook and Twitter, were used extensively to share project updates and highlights.

Monitoring reports were prepared after each media release. Analytical data was also collected after some social media posts. These reports showed that on average a media release is picked up by 15–20 different outlets while a social media post on Twitter is evidenced to get over 1000 impressions and engagement from close to 80 people through retweets. Interviews were also aired by international media organisations such as the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) and RNZ (Radio New Zealand) and articles published in local newspapers. Annex 4 presents the list of media releases and their reach.

Videos

The RENI communication products focused especially on the preparation of short videos since these are very well received by the countries. A nine-part RENI project video series, Addressing climate and disaster risk in North Pacific countries, is available on YouTube: https://bit.ly/37df9Xu. The video series was completed with footage collected over the three-year duration. The videos showcase examples of community-based solutions implemented through the RENI project. The videos have had a total of 8,724 views on YouTube, see Annex 4. The video titles are listed below:

Background :

- Experiences from the 2013 and 2016 droughts in the Marshall Islands
- Outer island migration – a socioeconomic or climate change issue or both?
- Understanding the unique challenges of water security in the outer islands of the North Pacific

Applying lessons learnt :

- Applying our learning to integrated approaches: the RENI experience
- Securing water for the most vulnerable Pacific Islanders: Kapingamarangi, FSM (two versions)
- Managing water demand during drought, Yap State, FSM
- Communities securing food resources and adopting healthy lifestyles: Marshall Islands
- The RENI project and the European Green Deal.

Fact sheets

A series of fact sheets summarising project activities regionally and in the three countries were prepared and distributed. These fact sheets were revised and updated regularly. An additional fact sheet on the methodology and results of the Fais Island, FSM, community-based impact assessment was also prepared to accompany the report of the impact assessment and video.

Visibility products

Various regional, national, and steering committee banners were designed and distributed. RENI branded folders and USB sticks were also produced and distributed. Specially designed stickers were prepared for large infrastructure items such as tanks. RENI branded water bottles and bags featuring the message “Save water, save lives” have been prepared and distributed in all three countries.

Publications

The following publications were prepared :

- Technical report on groundwater resources assessment, Gagil-Tomil, Yap State, FSM (English).
- Booklet on growing vegetables in Ailuk Atoll, RMI, initially designed for Ailuk Atoll and later revised to cover all RMI's atolls (English and Marshallese).
- Booklet on homemade remedies for pest control and identification of major pests and diseases in RMI (English).
- Booklet on cooking vegetables in RMI (English and Marshallese).

Posters

Four posters have been prepared and distributed to countries and project partners.

- Helping the most vulnerable ahead of drought (Kapingamarangi, FSM)
- Communities securing water resources ahead of drought (Kapingamarangi, FSM)
- Monitoring water resources ahead of drought (Yap Proper, FSM)
- Communities securing food resources ahead of drought (Ailuk, RMI).

Website

All project information and documents are on the RENI website, http://ccprojects.gsd.spc.int/eu-north-pacific-reni/ and information on the project can also be found on the GEM website https://gem.spc.int/projects/reni

In summary, relative to the project size and duration, the RENI project created a large number of communications and visibility products that effectively captured project objectives, outcomes and shared lessons learnt, while also recognising partners' involvement and contributions through written acknowledgements, audio content, and logos on printed products. The project's communication strategies and actions have significantly contributed to the overall impact of the project.

3. NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

The RENI achievements for each country are described and assessed in this section. The log frame in the PDD for each country was aligned closely with the overall log frame, so the objectives and outputs in the national log frames were more specific versions of those in the overall log frame.

This section shows for each country:

- a timeline showing the main activities and results;
- selected project highlights based on the discussions held during the lessons learnt meetings;
- an assessment of the results achieved relative to the indicators and targets shown in the log frame in the PDD;
- the results of national lessons learnt meeting;
- a timeline showing the various communications, visibility and awareness activities.

→ *Community members assisting with the installation of the rainwater harvesting systems in Kapingamarangi, FSM, September 2019*

3.1 FSM activities

FSM activity timeline

September 2017	Inception visit
April 2018	Concept note finalised identifying water security activities in Yap Proper, Yap State and Kapingamarangi, Pohnpei State, as the focus.
May 2018	Technical assessment of water security measures in Yap Proper
June 2018	Technical assessment of water security measures and consultations with community and island council in Kapingamarangi
July 2018	RENI national coordinator hired, based in Yap State R&D Department and EPA
August 2018	Consultation with women's groups in Yap Proper
August 2018	Consultation with government agencies, NGOs and communities in Yap Proper
October 2018	Project design document signed
November 2018	Report on feasibility of SODIS in Kapingamarangi completed
January 2019	First shipment of materials to Kapingamarangi
February 2019	Community impact assessment of past water security project in Fais Island, Yap State, completed
May 2019	Preliminary hydrogeological investigation of the Gagil-Tomil aquifer
June 2019	Water security assessment Woleai, Yap State
September 2019	Rainwater harvesting measures installed in Kapingamarangi
October 2019	Detailed hydrogeological investigation of the Gagil-Tomil aquifer and establishment of monitoring equipment
December 2019	Four community rainwater harvesting measures installed in Yap Proper
January 2020	Maintenance training and inspection of rainwater harvesting measures in Yap Proper
February 2020	Maintenance training and inspection of rainwater harvesting measures in Kapingamarangi
March–December 2020	International travel ban due to COVID-19
May 2020	Results of hydrogeological monitoring of Gagil-Tomil aquifer shared with Yap State partners and water authorities
September 2020	Water conservation awareness activities delivered by Tamil Women's Association
October 2020	Lessons learnt meeting held in Yap Proper
November 2020	MOU between SPC and Yap State government agencies and water authorities signed
February 2021	EPS systems completed in Yap Proper

RENI project highlights in FSM

Assessing the impact of a completed water security project in Fais Island, Yap State

A climate change adaptation project, completed in 2015, provided 250 kilolitres of additional water storage and easy access to pumped water for the 300 people living on Fais Island, Yap State, FSM.

Over a three-day period in February 2019, 86 community members took part in a series of community consultations led by a team from Yap State government and the private sector.

The consultations showed that improved health and hygiene were among the positive impacts. The community also had sufficient water storage during the 2016 drought. Negative impacts included tank defects, and the community had inadequate skills to maintain the systems.

The findings were applied to the installation of new water systems to Kapingamarangi in 2019 under the RENI project. Such community-based impact assessments provide critical information for the design and implementation of future projects.

Assisting the most vulnerable in Kapingamarangi Pohnpei State

In 2019 the RENI project successfully installed 193 kilolitres of water storage in Kapingamarangi, one of the most vulnerable atoll communities in Micronesia. By adopting a people-centred approach, the most vulnerable members of the community were targeted – namely the youth, the sick and the elderly. A total of 24 community members were involved in the installation of the water systems, providing them with the skills for maintenance and repair in the future.

Monitoring groundwater during drought in Yap Proper, Yap State

In 2019 an SPC technical team conducted a hydrogeological assessment of one of the main underground water reserves in Yap Proper, FSM – the Gagil-Tomil aquifer. Equipment to monitor the level of water in the water bores was installed. The data record provided valuable information to the Yap State government agencies and the water authorities to help manage water conservation during the 10th most severe drought on record, from January to April 2020. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed in November 2020 to continue this partnership between SPC and Yap State agencies and the water authorities to effectively manage the underground water reserve.

Assessment of the results

In FSM the RENI project exceeded expectations. The review of the log frame showed:

- targets were exceeded for six indicators
- targets were achieved for four indicators
- the target was partially achieved for one indicator.

A lessons learnt meeting was held in Yap Proper, Yap State, in October 2020.

The project results are discussed in detail below.

Overall objective: To enhance the resilience of those living in Yap Proper and Kapingamarangi, FSM, to the shocks and insecurities resulting from droughts	
Indicators and targets	**Result achieved**
• Indicator: Capacity of national stakeholders to address disaster and climate risk strengthened • Target: 30 stakeholders	✓ **Exceeded** - 86 persons in Fais Island; 24 community members in Kapingamarangi; 20 community members from Balabat, Kaday, Gachpar and Tamil villages in Yap Proper
• Indicator: Capacity of women to assume leadership roles enhanced • Target: One water security activity designed and led by women	✓ **Achieved** - Five women from the Tamil Women's Association equipped with the skills to conduct water conservation awareness activities for youth

The approach in FSM was to refurbish and expand existing water sources. In Yap Proper this included "point water sources" such as community wells and water catchment systems so that these resources would be shared during drought. In Kapingamarangi the approach was to expand rainwater harvesting systems.

• Indicator: Capacity of stakeholders to address disaster and climate risk is strengthened.

In Fais Island, Yap State, 86 community members participated in a series of consultations held over three days, to identify and discuss what had worked well with previous water security projects and what could have been done better. Separate consultations were held for the chiefs, men, women and youth, after which all the groups met together. Positive impacts were identified together with some negative impacts. This learning was then applied to the implementation of water security measures in Kapingamarangi. The methodology to conduct the impact assessment has been shared and documented in a fact sheet and is being used by other projects.

In Kapingamarangi, 24 community members participated in the installation of the water security measures. Through this process they came to understand the importance of appurtenances such as leaf eaters to filter off material from the roof catchments, and first flush diverters to filter sediment and fine-sized debris away from the water storage tanks. They were also trained in maintenance procedures. Measures were put in place with designated leaders to monitor and manage the storage and use of the water during dry periods when household sources were insufficient.

In Yap Proper, 20 community members, men and women, participated in maintenance training of the community rainwater harvesting systems.

• Indicator: Capacity of women to assume leadership roles enhanced.

An initial consultation was held in August 2018 and an assessment was conducted of women's groups in Yap Proper. The results showed that very few of the groups would be eligible for a grant from SPC due to constraints such as not being formally registered. As a result, it was decided to adopt an alternative approach.

A local consultant was hired in February 2019 to consult with existing women's groups in Yap Proper and to guide up to three groups to design and implement community-based water conservation activities. Unfortunately, the contract had to be terminated in August 2019 because of a slow delivery rate.

A second local consultant was hired in December 2019 to work with the Tamil Women's Association and assist them with conducting education and awareness activities targeted toward the youth and relating to water conservation. During 10 month in 2020, a total of 84 people attended water conservation awareness events, and four schools entered an essay competition with 64 valid entries. By October 2020, the Tamil Women's Association had the necessary skills (record keeping, minuting meetings, financial management, networking and partnering with government agencies, work planning and implementing outreach activities) to conduct similar activities in the future.

• Indicator: EPS for low-cost, high-quality water introduced to Yap Proper.

Specific objective: To strengthen water security using a sustainable, multi-sector and gender-sensitive/rights-based approach	
Indicators and targets	**Result achieved**
• Indicator: EPS for low-cost, high-quality water introduced to Yap Proper • Target: One EPS system installed and operational	✓ **Achieved:** - EPS systems installed and operational in Amin and Dugor villages, Yap Proper
• Indicator: Government and non-governmental agencies collaborate to enhance water security • Target: Two drought preparedness measures publicised using different media formats	✓ **Exceeded:** - Project oversight meetings - Presentations, two fact sheets, two technical reports, three posters, two media releases, five videos

Two EPSs have been installed and are operational in Yap Proper, one in Amin and one in Dugor village. An EPS is a low-cost, environmentally friendly water treatment method. Water from a stream or underground source flows under gravity through three tanks where gravel, sand and algae remove the impurities in the water. EPS systems have been successfully installed in many communities in Fiji.

At the beginning of 2019, meetings were held with the communities in Dugor and Rumuu, and MOUs were signed setting out the community's role, the government's role and confirming the ownership of the land and the EPS system. The MOUs clearly defined the responsibility of the community to maintain the system and to allow public access to water from the system during any drought. Procurement of the materials was undertaken during the second half of 2019.

In November 2019, the leader of the Dugor community raised a concern about the use of community labourers to construct the EPS measures. The community preferred to do the installation themselves rather than having a local contractor do the installation. As a result of this concern the signing of contracts for the materials was delayed. The issue was satisfactorily resolved when the communities were assured that the local contractor would be hiring labourers from the community. To further reassure the communities, the project engineer and an EPS expert from the Fiji Government Ministry of Waterways and Environment visited Yap Proper and the two communities in January 2020. A physical model of the EPS system was set up and discussed with the communities, and they each confirmed their acceptance of the systems.

Despite this, the Rumuu community raised further concerns and in April 2020, the Rumuu community declined to have the EPS system in their village. The Rumuu site was replaced by one in the Amin community. The same process of consultation and signing of an MOU was conducted with the Amin community.

These discussions, while extremely important, delayed the contracting and shipment process, and the delivery of all the materials was not completed until August 2020 due to the travel restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Installation of the measures was completed in February 2021. The project engineer prepared a video and supporting material on the installation process for the contractor and provided further support through weekly Zoom meetings.

Special conditions were included in the installation contract for the hire and payment of community members to help with the installation. However, despite some initial interest at the beginning of the installation process, the community members did not actively participate in the installation process. The main reason was that many had alternative daytime employment.

Information about EPS was shared with the other FSM states at the Joint National Environment and Risk Resilience Platform Meeting from 17 to 21 September 2018 in Pohnpei. There was significant interest from the other FSM states and a workshop was planned to showcase the EPS systems in Yap Proper in 2020. However, this activity was cancelled because of the COVID-19 travel restrictions..

- Indicator: Government and non-governmental agencies collaborate to enhance water security.

Partners from state agencies and other organisations in Yap State met regularly to oversee and guide the RENI project activities. These meetings were combined with oversight of the Adaptation Fund project in Yap State and the Ridge to Reef project. This joint oversight of different projects facilitated interaction between the different projects.

Four presentations on the RENI project were delivered in FSM:

- Women leading climate action in Melanesia, Micronesia and Alaska, The Nature Conservancy in Yap Proper, June 2018;
- Joint National Environment and Risk Resilience Platform Meeting, September 2018;
- Second RENI Steering Committee Meeting in RMI, April 2019;
- Micronesian Teachers Education Conference in Pohnpei, FSM, July 2019.

A lessons learnt meeting was conducted in Yap Proper in October 2020, involving 28 people from state agencies, NGOs, community representatives and the private sector.

The project activities were shared widely using various media formats and included two fact sheets, two technical reports, three posters, two media releases, and five videos. These items are listed individually under the timeline for FSM awareness, communications and visibility.

Output 1: Individual and community behaviours around drought resilience enhanced	
Indicators and targets	**Result achieved**
• Indicator: Community residents contribute to the design of water storage systems • Target: Four community consultations documented	✔ **Exceeded** - Yap Proper: Two consultations in 2018, four consultations in 2019, numerous consultations with Amin, Duror and Rumuu villages in 2019–2020 - Kapingamarangi: three consultations
• Indicator: Mechanism in place to share water resources during drought • Target: Four communities sign MOUs to share water resources during drought	✔ **Exceeded** - MOUs signed with seven communities in Yap Proper: Balabat, Kaday, Gachpar, Tamil, Amin, Dugor and Rumuu

• Indicator: Community residents contribute to the design of water storage systems.

In Yap Proper, a consultation was held with community leaders, NGOs, government agencies and community members on 24 August 2018 to discuss the needs of the communities and some of the ongoing water security projects. There were 26 participants (5 females and 21 males).

In Yap Proper, a consultation was held with women's groups on 25 August 2018 to discuss the activities that could be implemented by women's groups through the RENI project. There were 10 participants (8 females and 2 males).

In Yap Proper, individual consultations were held with the communities of Balabat, Kaday, Gachpar and Tamil villages in 2019 to discuss the community rainwater harvesting systems.

In Yap Proper, numerous consultations were held with the communities of Amin, Duror and Rumuu villages in 2020. In addition, a presentation on the EPS system was delivered by the project engineer and an expert from Fiji government in January 2020.

During all of these meetings, community members contributed to the design and placement of the proposed measures.

In Kapingamarangi, community consultations relating to the design, placement and installation of the rainwater harvesting systems were held in June 2018, January 2019, September 2019 and February 2020. Additional meetings relating to the design were held with the elected representatives of the Kapingamarangi municipality based in Pohnpei.

• Indicator: Mechanism in place to share water resources during drought.

MOUs have been signed with seven communities. These provide for the use of the water security measures by the community and by the general public during drought. The sharing of resources is based on traditional norms and was a key aspect of the overall design of the RENI project activities in Yap Proper. Each MOU also covers the responsibility of the government and the community and also covers ownership of the water measure and the land on which it is positioned. A template MOU is attached as Annex 5. The communities and the dates on which the MOUs were signed are as follows:

- Amin 18 May 2020
- Balabat 28 July 2019
- Dugor 8 February 2019
- Gachpar 8 July 2019
- Kaday 8 January 2019
- Rumuu 31 July 2019
- Tamil 8 February 2019

A similar MOU for the water security measures in Kapingamarangi was signed on 9 April 2019.

Output 2: Water security measures to support drought resilience implemented	
Indicators and targets	**Result achieved**
• Indicator: Community rainwater catchment systems expanded and refurbished • Target: Four community rainwater catchment systems expanded/ refurbished	✓ **Exceeded** - Nine community rainwater harvesting systems installed/ expanded in Yap Proper and Kapingamarangi - Two EPS systems installed in Yap Proper, providing a total additional storage capacity of 261,170 litres (261 kilolitres)
• Indicator: Capacity of communities to maintain refurbished water systems enhanced • Target: Four communities trained and equipped to maintain water systems	✓ **Exceeded** - Maintenance trainings and equipment provided to 11 communities in Yap Proper and Kapingamarangi
• Indicator: Access to refurbished water systems for all persons including those with disabilities • Target: Four refurbished community water systems with access for the public including for persons with disabilities	✓ **Partially achieved** - Access available to all persons at 11 community water systems - One rainwater harvesting system at Balabat, Yap Proper, has a wheelchair ramp - One direct water connection for one elderly lady in Kapingamarangi

• Indicator: Community rainwater catchment systems expanded and refurbished.

Nine community rainwater catchments systems were installed or expanded. All the systems were fully installed with appurtenances such as mosquito nets, first flush diverters and leaf eaters. In some cases roof catchments had to be replaced.

- In Yap Proper, five systems were installed with a total capacity of 73,816 litres at
  Weloy Community Building, Kaday Village,
  Gagil Elementary School, Gachpar Village,
  Balabat Community Hall, Balabat Village,
  Tamil Elementary School, Tamil Village,
  Women's Community Centre, Tamil Village.

- In Kapingamarangi, three systems were installed with a total capacity of 34,069 litres at
  Community Church in Souhou,
  Kapingamarangi Hospital in Souhou,
  Kapingamarangi Elementary School in Welua.

- Also in Souhou, Kapingamarangi, an existing concrete cistern, which had been refurbished by the FSM Adaptation project was connected to the catchment, providing additional storage of 130,573 litres.

Two EPS systems were installed in Yap Proper, providing additional storage capacity of 22,712 litres.

• Indicator: Capacity of communities to maintain refurbished water systems enhanced.

Each of the 11 communities received maintenance materials such as spare taps, PVC fittings and silicone glue. In Yap Proper these maintenance materials are stored at the EPA Office and each community can access the materials as needed.

Training was also provided in maintenance to each community after the systems had been installed. In most cases this involved the project engineer and/or the national coordinator visiting the community and demonstrating the maintenance operations.

All of the systems in Yap Proper and Kapingamarangi were fenced and can only be accessed with a key. This allows for control of the water resources especially during drought and periods of water rationing. Each community designated a representative to hold the key and carry out the maintenance.

A simple checklist for the operation and maintenance of rainwater harvesting systems was prepared and shared.

During the visit to Fais Island, Yap State, in 2019 the community advised that they had established the Taremal Fais Organization to oversee regular maintenance of household tanks and community tanks by fixing leaks and repairing gutters.

• Indicator: Access to refurbished water systems for all persons including those with disabilities.

As described under Output 1, all the new and refurbished water systems are available for the use of the community and by members of the general public during drought and water rationing conditions. The sharing of resources is based on traditional norms and was a key aspect of the overall design of the RENI project activities in Yap Proper.

One wheelchair ramp was installed at the system at Balabat, Yap Proper.

In Kapingamarangi, one individual water connection and tap was installed for the oldest woman in the community.

Output 3: Planning and technical measures undertaken to support El Niño readiness	
Indicators and targets	**Result achieved**
• Indicator: Knowledge base on underground water resources expanded • Target: One hydro-geological assessment of the Gagil-Tomil aquifer	✓ **Achieved** - Assessment of Gagil-Tomil aquifer completed, monitoring equipment in place, MOU signed with SPC to continue to support analysis of the monitoring data after the project finishes
• Indicator: Feasibility of irradiation for solar disinfection assessed in FSM • Target: One scientific study on irradiation amounts for FSM	✓ **Achieved** - Scientific assessment of suitability of SODIS for Kapingamarangi completed

• Indicator: Knowledge base on underground water resources expanded.

A hydrogeological assessment of the Gagil-Tomil aquifer, the largest aquifer in Yap Proper, was conducted by technical experts from SPC in collaboration with Yap State partners. The objective was to provide technical guidance to government and water supply operators on the operation and future development of the Gagil-Tomil aquifer, for improved water security.

In 2019 the Water Resources team of the Pacific Community made two visits to Yap Proper. In May 2019 a reconnaissance visit was undertaken. In September to October 2019 a longer visit was undertaken to conduct a hydrological assessment of the Gagil-Tomil aquifer by use of pumping tests to understand the impact of the current abstraction from existing production bores and to determine the capacity of the aquifer. Groundwater assessment using electrical resistivity tomography was also undertaken to identify potential locations for new bores.

Pressure transducer-type loggers were installed in each of the five monitoring bores to record the changes in water level at these locations over time. The data from these loggers provided a valuable insight into the long-term impacts of climate variability and, potentially, the long-term groundwater abstraction from production bores on the Gagil-Tomil aquifer of the Monguch and Eyeb valleys.

In 2020 a rain gauge was installed in Central Tomil.

Water levels in the wells and bores were monitored over the period October 2019 to April 2020. This monitoring yielded especially valuable information as it coincided with the 10th most severe drought on record. April 2020 marked Yap's fourth consecutive month of extreme drought with precipitation totals below 102 mm.

The results of the hydrogeological assessment are documented in the technical publication Groundwater resources assessment: Gagil-Tomil, Yap State 2020.

A third visit to Yap Proper to share the results with the Yap State government agencies and the water authorities was scheduled for April–May 2020 but had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions in the Pacific Island region.

Over the period May to September 2020, five virtual meetings were held with partners in Yap Proper to share the findings and to map out the next steps. Key participants were from the following agencies:

- Yap State EPA
- Yap State Department of Resources and Development
- Yap State Weather Service Office
- Gagil-Tomil Water Authority
- Yap State Public Services Corporation
- Tamil Resources Conservation Trust
- RENI Project Team (Suva, Fiji)
- SPC's Water Resources Team, GEM Division, Suva, Fiji.

Key future management options include remedial work to repair leakages in the distribution pipeline, rationing the supply during drought and provision of additional surface storage. During the meetings, the results were shared using slide show presentations followed by discussions.

An MOU was signed in November 2020 between Yap State agencies, the Yap State water authorities and SPC to continue collecting, analysing and sharing the data from the monitoring equipment. This will assist in improving the understanding of the behaviour of the aquifer and in more effectively managing the water supply.

• Indicator: Feasibility of irradiation for solar disinfection assessed in FSM.

A technical assessment of the potential for solar disinfection (SODIS) in Kapingamarangi, FSM, and in Ailuk Atoll, RMI, was completed in September 2018 and showed that SODIS would be effective in both locations.

However, during the second project steering committee meeting in Majuro in 2019, IOM demonstrated a simple water purification system using a 0.1 micron Sawyer filter attached to a bucket, which provided similar results to SODIS. Since IOM were in the process of installing this system throughout RMI and potentially FSM in the future, it was decided not to duplicate effort by installing SODIS in either location.

Lessons learnt meeting

- A lessons learnt meeting was held on 22 October 2020 in Yap Proper, attended by 28 people from state government agencies, NGOs, other projects, private sector, water authorities and community representatives.
- The main recommendations and lessons learnt were:
  - use of a standard design for rainwater harvesting measures;
  - incorporation of cultural norms and local settings into project planning;
  - community engagement at all stages of the project (hence building sustainability and ownership); and
  - inclusion of arrangement for the funding of long-term maintenance into all projects.
- Also worthy of note is the sharing of water security technical and practical information with the Adaptation Fund project in Kapingamarangi and Woleai (an outer island of Yap State).

Timeline showing awareness, communications and visibility actions relating to the RENI project in FSM

Presentations at meetings and conference	
June 2018	RENI project presented at the learning exchange: Women leading climate action in Melanesia, Micronesia and Alaska; The Nature Conservancy in Yap Proper
September 2018	RENI project presented at DECEM platform meeting in Pohnpei, FSM
April 2019	Demonstration of EPS and SODIS water security measures at second RENI Steering Committee Meeting in RMI
July 2019	Sharing of RENI water education and awareness activities at Micronesian Teachers Education Conference in Pohnpei, FSM
December 2019	Community-based impact assessment methodology presented at SPC Results Workshop and published in the SPC 2019 Results Report under Organisational Objectives

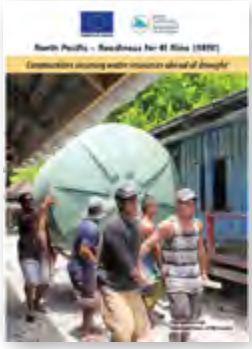
Publications	
September 2018	Assessment of the potential for SODIS in Kapingamarangi, FSM, and in Ailuk Atoll, RMI
December 2018	Fact sheet: Securing water resources ahead of drought in FSM (updated 2020)
December 2019	Fact sheet: Assessment of project impact: a methodology to determine the beneficiaries' viewpoint
October 2020	Technical report: Groundwater resources assessment, Gagil-Tomil, Yap State, FSM

Visibility products	
September 2020	T-shirts featuring water conservation (Tamil Women's Association)

Posters	
October 2020	Helping the most vulnerable ahead of drought
October 2020	Communities securing water resources ahead of drought
October 2020	Monitoring water resources ahead of drought

Media releases	
November 2019	New water systems for the most vulnerable Pacific Islanders
May 2020	Assisting Yap State manage water supply through the current drought

Videos	
December 2018	Outer island migration – A socio-economic or climate change issue or both?
November 2019	Understanding the unique challenges of water security in the outer islands of the North Pacific
November 2019	Securing water for the most vulnerable Pacific Islanders: Kapingamarangi, FSM
December 2019	Short version: Securing water for the most vulnerable Pacific Islanders: Kapingamarangi, FSM
September 2020	Managing water demand during drought: Yap State, FSM



Photos FSM activities

Measuring water depth in a well in Yap Proper, FSM July 2018

Ecological purification system under construction, Amin, Yap Proper, FSM, February 2021

Students taking part in a water conservation survey, Yap Proper, FSM, April 2020

Floating water tanks ashore in Kapingamarangi, FSM, September 2019

3.2 RMI achievements

→ *Women cooking and exercising in newly established nursery, Ailuk, RMI, July 2020*

RMI activity timeline

August 2017	Inception visit
December 2017	National consultation to select focus atolls
April 2018	Concept note finalising food security activities in Ailuk Atoll and Santo-Kwajalein Atoll
April 2018	Ailuk – Agricultural assessment conducted Ailuk – Gender-sensitive/rights-based training
June 2018	Consultation with Ailuk Council and community members
June 2018	National consultation with government agencies, NGOs and community representatives
July 2018	Project design document signed
July 2018	Santo – Women's consultation
September 2018	RENI national coordinator hired, based in MNRC
October 2018	Santo – Community consultations and preliminary agricultural assessment
October 2018	Ailuk – Refurbishment of old plant nursery commenced and water assessment conducted
November 2018	Grant agreement signed with WUTMI to conduct agricultural pest assessments in the northern atolls of RMI
March 2019	Ailuk – Agricultural capacity assessment and agricultural training; nursery refurbishment completed
March 2019	Training of agricultural extension agents completed by TTM in Majuro
March 2019	Ailuk and Santo – Contract signed with MIOFA to establish women's home gardening
June 2019	Ailuk – Community disaster management plan completed, drills and training completed, model plan developed for use by other atolls
July 2019	Ailuk – Agricultural training conducted
August–December 2019	Travel ban to outer islands (except Santo)
October 2019	Santo – Second agricultural assessment (MIOFA)
December 2019	Santo – Consultations with women's groups and local leaders
January 2020	Ailuk – Health checks conducted by CWC
February 2020	Ailuk – Agricultural training
March 2020	Majuro – Training in biological pest control for outer island mayors
March–December 2020	International travel ban due to COVID-19
April 2020	Ailuk – Second visit by CWC for health checks, cooking classes and exercise clubs
June 2020	Ailuk – Agricultural training (MIOFA)
June 2020	Ailuk – Water storage systems installed
August 2020	Santo – Plant nursery completed
August 2020	Ailuk – Final health visit by CWC
October 2020	Lessons learnt meeting held
November 2020	Materials for raised agricultural beds distributed to farmers

RENI project highlights in RMI

Incorporating PLANET principles into the project's activities

During a desk assessment in 2020, activities were identified showing the use of five of the PLANET principles in the project's activities. First, participation – representatives from the local government and the community participated in all stages of the project from the consultative phase to the final assessment of lessons learnt. Second, link to rights – consultations on human rights were conducted in Ailuk Atoll in April 2018, during which key issues around violence against women and children were discussed. Third, accountability – all consultations and most of the training were conducted in the local language. Fourth, non-discrimination – specific activities were designed and implemented to address the needs of women and youth, for example, women's home gardens and a pumpkin-growing competition for youth. Fifth, empowerment – community members were empowered, not only to cultivate crops, but also to care for their well-being through healthy eating, regular exercise and health checks.

Applying an integrated approach

Recognising the decline in atoll agriculture over recent years and the very limited variety of food available to people living in the outer atolls, the project integrated atoll agriculture with health and wellness activities.

The atoll agriculture activities included the re-establishment and training of extension agents, establishment of community nurseries, installation of additional water storage, provision of tools and equipment, establishment of biological controls for pests, and extensive hands-on training supported by simple guides in the local language.

As the project evolved, the assistance of a locally based NGO was sought, to conduct the health and wellness activities in Ailuk Atoll, including basic health checks, health education and outreach, establishment of exercise clubs and cooking classes. Establishing the linkage between growing and eating local crops, combined with exercise and health checks, will contribute to improved health and wellness.

Partnering with local stakeholder groups

The project recognised from the start that partnerships with local stakeholder groups would bring collective expertise and valuable local knowledge to the project and ensure sustainability beyond the project time frame. With this in mind, several government partners played a critical role, led by the MNRC, and including the Chief Secretary's Office, NDMO, MOHHS and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Culture. NGO partners also assisted in implementation, providing valuable expertise that was especially relevant to the local context. These partners included WUTMI, CWC, MIOFA, TTM and IOM.

Assessment of the results

In RMI the RENI project achieved expectations. The review of the log frame showed that:

- targets were exceeded for four indicators
- targets were achieved for 12 indicators
- the target was not achieved for one indicator.

The results are discussed in detail below.

Overall objective: To enhance the resilience of those living in selected outer islands of the Marshall Islands to the shocks and insecurities resulting from droughts	
Indicators and targets	**Result achieved**
• Indicator: Framework for enhanced food security in outer atolls tested • Target: One framework in place for a test atoll	✓ **Achieved** - The framework is in place for one rural atoll, Ailuk, and one semi-urban atoll, Santo For Santo the framework had to be refocused towards the youth
• Indicator: Capacity of national stakeholders to address climate and disaster risk strengthened in selected outer islands • Target: 30 outer island stakeholders	✓ **Achieved** - A total of 41 men and 36 women were involved in the initial consultations in Ailuk in March 2017, and introduced to the project concept, use of a gender-sensitive/rights-based approach and drought resilience Subsequent consultations and training focused on some of this same group
• Indicator: Capacity of women to assume leadership roles enhanced • Target: One food security activity designed and led by women	✓ **Achieved** - WUTMI secured and implemented a grant to undertake food security activities in the northern atolls

The northern atolls are the most vulnerable to drought and fall under RMI's drought zone 1. Recognising that subsistence agriculture in the atolls had declined over past decades, the RENI project sought to determine the feasibility of re-establishing atoll agriculture in a rural atoll and in a semi-urban atoll.

- Indicator: Framework for enhanced food security in outer atolls tested.

  - A framework for enhanced food security was tested in Ailuk and Santo atolls using a people-centred approach. The framework consisted of conceptualisation, agricultural and socio-economic assessments, consultation, implementation and evaluation. A key component of the framework is to involve community members from start to finish.
  - In Ailuk, a rural atoll, there was enthusiasm for the re-establishment of atoll agriculture. Over the two-year period from April 2018 to June 2020 (less the eight months when travel to the outer islands was restricted) eight visits were made to Ailuk to conduct on-the-job training on all aspects of atoll agriculture for men, women and youth in Ailuk. Training covered areas such as compost making, plant care and biological pest control. Around 30 people were involved in each visit and 12 youths. Home gardens, a plant nursery and water storage systems were established. The results showed that there is high potential for the re-establishment of atoll agriculture in a rural atoll, although significant support is required from the government and development partners for at least the first three to five years.
  - In Santo, a semi-urban atoll, where most residents have full-time jobs, six visits were made over the same period. Four of these visits focused on consultations and assessments. Overall, there was little interest in re-establishing atoll agriculture, with the exception of the principal and staff at the school. The project established a plant nursery at the school. Given that the residents have jobs and access to better food and supplies at the US base, it was concluded that re-establishing atoll agriculture in a semi-urban atoll is not feasible at the present time.

- Indicator: Capacity of national stakeholders to address climate and disaster risk strengthened in selected outer islands

  - A total of 41 men and 36 women were involved in the initial consultations and preparation of community profiles in Ailuk in March 2018, during which they were introduced to the project concept, use of a gender-sensitive/rights-based approach and drought resilience. Subsequent visits for consultation and training focused on some of this same group.
  - Over the period November 2018 to March 2019, 149 persons (female = 62, male = 87) were involved in the preparation of a disaster management plan for the Ailuk community. The plan was tested in the field and updated as a "living" disaster management plan and was supported with various communication tools.

- Indicator: Capacity of women to assume leadership roles enhanced

  - WUTMI successfully responded to a call for proposals issued in 2018 for small grants for women's groups to enhance food security in the northern atolls of RMI.
  - Their proposal focused on assessing fruit and crop pests in the northern atolls.
  - The NGO worked with their chapters in the different atolls, together with the mayors and a local NGO, MIOFA, to assess the crop pests and deliver biological pest controls.
  - Food security was a new area for WUTMI to venture into and the activity enhanced their capacity to apply for and deliver activities relating to food security. Food security was included as an agenda item in their 2019/2020 annual general meeting.

Specific objective: To strengthen food security using a sustainable, multi-sector and gender-sensitive/rights-based approach	
Indicators and targets	**Result achieved**
• Indicator: Number of sectors and NGOs actively involved in RENI design and implementation • Target: Three sectors; three NGOs	✓ **Exceeded** - Four sectors were involved – agriculture, disaster risk management, health and water - Five NGOs were actively involved: CWC, IOM, MIOFA, TTM, WUTMI
• Indicator: Number of women and vulnerable persons with enhanced resilience skills • Target: 20 persons	✓ **Exceeded** - 18 women developed home gardens in Ailuk; two women council members from the northern atolls were involved in biological pest control training; 36 women involved in people-centred approach; 62 women trained and participated in the Ailuk disaster management plan
• Indicator: Lessons learnt about applying a behavioural/rights-based/gender-sensitive approach to climate and disaster risks projects documented and shared • Target: One sharing event	✓ **Achieved** - The application of the approach was documented and the most used components of the PLANET approach were participation, link to rights, accountability, non-discrimination and empowerment - The lessons learnt were shared during a sharing event in October 2020

- Indicator: Number of sectors and NGOs actively involved in RENI design and implementation

  - Four sectors were involved in the RENI project in RMI. The sectors were agriculture (MNRC), water (Majuro Water and Sewer Company), health (MOHHS) and disaster risk management (NDMO). All these organisations were involved in the conceptualisation, design and implementation. MNRC was the lead agency.
  - Five NGOs played an active role in the implementation of the RENI project:
    - CWC conducted three visits to Ailuk to undertake health checks, training and outreach in health education, cooking classes and exercise clubs.
    - IOM were contracted by SPC to prepare the Ailuk community disaster management plan and a model plan.
    - MIOFA were contracted by SPC to establish women's home gardening in Ailuk and Santo.
    - TTM provided training to the agricultural extension officers and supported the agricultural training in Ailuk.
    - WUTMI were contracted by SPC to conduct pest assessments in the northern atolls.
  - The multi-stakeholder approach was a key part of the success of the RENI project in RMI.

- Indicator: Number of women and vulnerable persons with enhanced resilience skills.

  - Two women council members from the northern atolls were involved in biological pest control training and 18 women had developed home gardens in Ailuk.
  - A total of 36 women were involved in the initial consultations and preparation of community profiles in Ailuk in March 2018, during which they were introduced to the project concept, the use of a gender-sensitive/rights-based approach and drought resilience.
  - In the preparation and testing of the Ailuk community disaster management plan, 62 women were involved.

- Indicator: Lessons learnt about applying a behavioural/rights-based/gender-sensitive approach to climate and disaster risks projects is documented and shared.

  - The activities in RMI applied particular attention to five components of the PLANET approach: participation, link to rights, accountability, non-discrimination and empowerment.
  - This is documented on the website with specific examples.
  - The approach and the findings were shared during the lessons learnt event in October 2020, as well as during both regional steering committee meetings.

Output 1: Individual and community behaviours around drought resilience enhanced, especially in outer islands	
Indicators and targets	**Result achieved**
• Indicator: Key behaviours identified to strengthen readiness for future drought events • Target: Two key behaviours	✓ **Achieved** - The key behaviours identified from the gender-sensitive/rights-based approach: participation, link to rights, accountability, non-discrimination and empowerment, were incorporated into all the project's activities
• Indicator: Education and awareness activities designed and implemented to trigger sustainable uptake of the key behaviours • Target: Three education and awareness activities	✓ **Exceeded** - Twelve youth were involved in gardening competitions - Ten women were involved in cooking classes and exercise groups - A total of 149 members of the Ailuk community were involved in disaster preparedness - Seven agricultural training visits to Ailuk - Three educational booklets
• Indicator: Community knowledge around women's rights enhanced • Target: Training events conducted	✓ **Achieved** - Community consultations to share ideas on human rights and gender were conducted in Ailuk in 2018 with men/boys and with women/girls - Roles, responsibilities and coping mechanisms were discussed

- Indicator: Key behaviours identified to strengthen readiness for future drought events.

  - The key behaviours are those identified from the gender-sensitive/rights-based approach: participation, link to rights, accountability, non-discrimination and empowerment, for example:
    - participation: full participation of the mayors and the community in the selection of the activities;
    - link to rights: consultations on human rights in Ailuk in 2018;
    - accountability: preparing the cooking and agricultural guides in the local language;
    - non-discrimination: addressing the specific needs of women and youth in Ailuk;
    - empowerment: adopting an integrated approach to combine agriculture and health to change behaviour in Ailuk.

- Indicator: Education and awareness activities designed and implemented to trigger sustainable uptake of the key behaviours.

  - Youth were trained to grow vegetables and involved in a gardening competition in Ailuk.
  - Women were involved in cooking classes, exercise groups, health education and outreach in Ailuk.
  - A total of 149 persons in Ailuk were involved in disaster management training, drills and the preparation of the community disaster management plan.
  - Three educational agriculture booklets prepared, two were in both English and Marshallese.
  - Seven agricultural training visits to Ailuk (October 2018; March, June, August 2019; February, March, June 2020).

- Indicator: Community knowledge around women's rights enhanced.

  - Community consultations to share ideas on human rights and gender were conducted in Ailuk in April 2018 with men/boys and with women/girls. Roles, responsibilities and coping mechanisms were discussed.
  - Women's rights addressed through application of the people-centred approach in all the consultations in Ailuk and Santo and in the two regional steering committee meetings.
  - Women's rights enhanced through the project activities, for example, the pest control assessment led by WUTMI, and the women's home gardens established in Ailuk.

Output 2: Food security measures implemented to support drought resilience especially in outer islands	
Indicators and targets	**Result achieved**
• Indicator: Additional food crops established in Ailuk • Target: Two additional crops	✓ **Achieved** - Several additional crops were established in Ailuk including Chinese cabbage and tomatoes
• Indicator: Women's home gardening established in Ailuk and Santo • Target: 40 household home gardens	✓ **Achieved** - 18 home gardens were established by women in Ailuk - The activity in Santo was replaced with a school garden and nursery since most residents had full-time jobs
• Indicator: Lessons learnt shared with other northern atolls • Target: One lesson learnt event with three northern atolls	✓ **Achieved (with substitute activities)** - Planned meeting had to be cancelled because of the COVID-19 travel ban. - Biological pest control measures were shared with residents of Maleoelap, Likiep and Wotje Atolls, and the Mayor of Aur, and training provided in raised bed farming
• Indicator: Rainwater catchment systems in Ailuk enhanced and properly maintained • Target: Four communal rainwater catchment systems	✓ **Exceeded** - Five communal rainwater catchments were established in Ailuk and one in Santo
• Indicator: Water quality improved at the household level. • Target: SODIS in 20 houses	✗ **Not achieved** - It was decided not to establish SODIS in Ailuk, since IOM were already establishing an alternative technique for water quality in the atolls

- Indicator: Additional food crops established in Ailuk

  - Several additional "new" crops were tested in Ailuk. These included tomatoes, okra, corn, beans, pumpkin, gourd, eggplants and Chinese cabbage. It is too early to claim they have been established and it was noticeable that some crops thrived better than others.

- Indicator: Women's home gardening established in Ailuk and Santo

  - Eighteen home gardens were established in Ailuk. This activity in Santo was replaced with the establishment of a plant nursery near the school, since there was little interest in home gardens.
  - Due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions, there was insufficient time to provide training to the teachers and students. MIOFA have indicated that they will continue to support the activities in Santo.

- Indicator: Lessons learnt shared with other northern atolls

  - A lessons learnt and training event was scheduled for April 2020 to involve farmers from six northern atolls and to be held in Ailuk. This would have been an opportunity to showcase the activities in Ailuk. Unfortunately, the event was cancelled due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions.
  - Alternative sharing events were substituted in 2020, such as the training in Majuro in March 2020 for the council representatives from Maleoelap, Likiep and Wotje Atolls, and the Mayor of Aur.
  - Additionally, training was provided in raised-bed farming (wicking systems) by MIOFA in March 2020 to 20 persons in Majuro. Some of the funds for the Ailuk lessons learnt event, which had to be cancelled, were used to purchase materials for 20 raised beds, which have been distributed to outer atolls in January 2021.

- Indicator: Rainwater catchment systems in Ailuk enhanced and properly maintained

  - Five new rainwater harvesting catchment systems have been established in Ailuk to provide additional water storage for the community and the agricultural activities.
  - 45,000 litres of additional storage installed at the Island Nursery, the Airport building, the Island Hospital, the United Church of Christ building and the Assembly of God building in Ailuk.
  - Training in maintenance and maintenance materials was also provided.

- Indicator: Water quality improved at the household level

  - A technical assessment of the potential for solar disinfection (SODIS) in Kapingamarangi, FSM, and in Ailuk Atoll, RMI, was completed in September 2018 and showed that SODIS would be effective in both locations.
  - However, during the second project steering committee meeting in Majuro in 2019, IOM demonstrated a simple water purification system using a 0.1 micron Sawyer filter attached to a bucket, which provided similar results to SODIS. Since IOM were in the process of installing this system throughout RMI and potentially FSM in the future, it was decided not to duplicate effort by installing SODIS in either location. Installing two similar systems, each with different methods for purification, would have caused confusion amongst potential users in remote atolls.

Output 3: Drought readiness mainstreamed into atoll disaster management plans	
Indicators and targets	**Result achieved**
• Indicator: Atoll-specific disaster management plan prepared applying a gender-sensitive/rights-based approach • Target: One atoll-specific plan	✓ **Achieved** - One community disaster risk management plan prepared for Ailuk
• Indicator: A model plan for disaster management in an atoll prepared applying a gender-sensitive/rights-based approach • Target: One model plan	✓ **Achieved** - One model plan prepared
• Indicator: Technical study on the feasibility of SODIS in RMI prepared • Target: One SODIS study for RMI	✓ **Achieved** - One SODIS study completed for RMI

- Indicator: Atoll-specific disaster management plan prepared applying a gender-sensitive/rights-based approach.

  - Between November 2018 and March 2019, the Ailuk Atoll Disaster Management Plan was prepared and tested. This activity was led by IOM and executed in collaboration with the NDMO.
  - A community profile was prepared, and the plan was prepared in collaboration with the people of Ailuk; 149 people took part, 62 females and 87 males. It was tested through community drills and supported by communications materials including a slogan "Ailuk, I prepare, I take action" as well as posters, stickers and t-shirts.
  - The Marshall Islands Red Cross Society participated in the activity and provided training in CPR and first aid.

- Indicator: A model plan for disaster management in an atoll prepared applying a gender-sensitive/rights-based approach

  - Following the preparation of the Ailuk disaster management plan, a model plan was prepared and shared with the NDMO. This will provide a guideline for other atolls wishing to prepare their own community disaster risk plan.

- Indicator: Technical study on the feasibility of SODIS in RMI was prepared

  - A technical assessment of the potential for solar disinfection (SODIS) in Kapingamarangi, FSM, and in Ailuk Atoll, RMI, was completed in September 2018 and showed that SODIS would be effective in both locations.

Lessons learnt meeting

- A lessons learnt meeting was held in Majuro on 21 October 2020, attended by 15 persons from government and NGOs.
- The main recommendations and lessons learnt are listed below.
  - All partners should be included at regular meetings over the course of the project.
  - Challenges remain on how to maintain project activities in the outer atolls.
  - Establishment of small home gardens in the outer atolls is more practical than large nurseries and plantations.
  - The linkage between agriculture and nutrition should be expanded to other outer atolls.

Timeline showing awareness, communications and visibility actions relating to the RENI project in RMI

Presentations at meetings and conference	
April 2019	Demonstration of EPS and SODIS water security measures at second RENI Steering Committee Meeting in RMI
December 2020	The integrated approach applied in RMI was presented at the SPC 2020 Results workshop

Publications	
September 2018	Report: Assessment of the potential for solar disinfection (SODIS) in Kapingamarangi, FSM, and in Ailuk Atoll, RMI
December 2018	Fact sheet: Outer island communities in RMI securing food resources ahead of drought (updated 2020)
January 2020	Booklet: Growing vegetables in the Marshall Islands (English and Marshallese)
July 2020	Booklet: Home-made remedies for pest control and identification of major pests and diseases (English)
November 2020	Booklet: A guide to cooking vegetables in the Marshall Islands (English and Marshallese)

Visibility products	
March 2019	T-shirts, stickers, poster and slogan featuring the Ailuk community disaster management plan

Posters	
October 2020	Communities securing food resources ahead of drought

Media releases	
July 2018	Republic of Marshall Islands strengthens food security measures ahead of future drought
May 2020	Women influencing healthy lifestyles while building climate resilience in the Marshall Islands

Videos	
March 2018	Experiences from the 2013 and 2016 droughts in the Marshall Islands
May 2020	Communities securing food resources and adopting healthy lifestyles: Marshall Islands

Photos RMI activities

→ *Learning about biological pest controls, Majuro, RMI, August 2019*

→ *Youth in Ailuk learning about healthy eating and nutrition, February 2020*

→ *Winner of the youth pumpkin growing competition*

→ *One of the home gardens, Ailuk, RMI, February 2020*

3.3 Palau achievements

→ *Roadside campaign for disaster preparedness, Koror, Palau, September 2018*

Palau activity timeline

August 2017	Inception visit
April 2018	Concept note finalising water security activities in Ameliik and Ngatpang States
August 2018	Hydrological assessments of the Ngerderar and Tabecheding watersheds completed
August 2018	Palau Steering Committee select the installation of the AVGF system at the Tabecheding River as the site for the water security activities
September 2018	Disaster preparedness month activities
October 2018	Project design document signed
October 2018	PPUC confirm maintenance arrangements for the Tabecheding system
November 2018	RENI national coordinator hired, based in NEMO
January 2019	Consultancy for women's groups to conduct water conservation awareness activities closed with no proposals
January 2019	Community consultation in Ngatpang State
January 2019	Grant agreement signed to provide support to NEMO and BPW
March 2019	Land use rights secured for installation of Tabecheding system
April 2019	Full design of Tabecheding system completed by BPW
April 2019	30 September 2019 confirmed as the cut-off date for the award of a contract for implementation of the Tabecheding system
April 2019	Environmental assessment of the Tabecheding system completed
June 2019	Request for proposals for the Tabecheding system advertised
July 2019	Pre-bid meeting and site visit held for contractors in Palau
July 2019	Permit for the Tabecheding system issued by Environmental Quality Protection Board
September 2019	Disaster preparedness month activities
September 2019	Procurement process for the Tabecheding system closed without awarding a contract
October–December 2019	Discussions concerning project activities between EUD, Palau government representatives and SPC
February 2020	Government of Palau advised the EUD that they wished to be excused from the RENI project
March–December 2020	International travel ban due to COVID-19

RENI project highlights in Palau

Establishing a steering committee for the RENI project in Palau

In 2017, at the start of the RENI project, the Office of the Vice President of Palau established the RENI project steering committee, a subset of the National Emergency Committee. The steering committee included government and private sector representatives. The government agencies represented were the Ministries of Finance and State, NEMO, National Weather Service, Public Information Service, Bureau of Public Works (BPW), Palau Public Utilities Corporation (PPUC) and the Environmental Quality Protection Board (EQPB). Private sector members included the Red Cross Society and the Bureau of Commerce.

The committee was chaired by the National Weather Service representative and played an important coordination and oversight role in the design and selection of the activities for Palau and in all decision-making.

Assessing the hydrological potential of selected watersheds to inform site selection

The Tabecheding and the Ngerderar Rivers were identified as suitable locations for the construction of large-scale water storage facilities. These rivers continued to flow during the 2016 drought, unlike many other water courses in Babeldaob that dried up.

In September 2018, the GEM water team completed a preliminary hydrological assessment of these two watersheds. The assessment showed that during low flow conditions, there was an insufficient volume of water flowing down the Ngerderar River for extraction and storage. However, low flow conditions for the Tabecheding system were sufficient to support water extraction and storage while also maintaining the aquatic river environment. Based on this assessment, the RENI project steering committee decided to proceed with the water storage measure at the Tabecheding River.

Preparing a full design and environmental impact assessment for the Tabecheding water storage system

The full design for the Tabecheding water storage system was prepared by BPW over the period November 2018 to April 2019. While this was in progress, the environmental assessment was conducted by a consultancy firm based in Palau. Extensive environmental surveys and interviews were conducted, and the assessment showed that with appropriate mitigative measures there would be minimal adverse environmental impact. Subsequently the necessary approvals were obtained and on 1 July 2019 the EQPB issued the permit for the construction of the new Tabecheding water supply system.

Assessment of the results

In Palau the RENI project did not achieve expectations. The review of the log frame showed:

- targets were exceeded for one indicator
- targets were achieved for three indicators
- the target was partially achieved for four indicators
- the target was not achieved for five indicators.

The results are discussed in detail below.

Overall objective: To enhance the resilience of those living in Koror and the southern states of Babeldaob, Palau, to the shocks and insecurities resulting from droughts	
Indicators and targets	**Result achieved**
• Indicator: Recommendations and lessons learnt from the 2015–2016 drought assessment reports implemented and tested • Target: Two recommendations/lessons learnt applied and assessed	✓ **Partially achieved** - The 2016 drought assessment reports identified the purchase of water tanker trucks and the establishment of emergency water storage sites in the states as two of the recommendations, and these were included in the PDD
• Indicator: Capacity of national stakeholders to address disaster and climate risk strengthened. • Target: 30 stakeholders	✓ **Exceeded** - Disaster preparedness month activities in 2018 and 2019; visits were made to each of the 16 states to conduct drills and deliver other awareness activities (A total of 911 persons involved in 2018 and a similar number in 2019)
• Indicator: Capacity of women to assume leadership roles enhanced • Target: One water security activity designed and led by women	✗ **Not achieved** - A consultancy for women's groups to undertake water conservation awareness activities was advertised, but no local proposals were submitted

- Indicator: Recommendations and lessons learnt from the 2015–2016 drought assessment reports implemented and tested.

  - The 2016 drought assessment report was the basis of the design of activities for the RENI project. Based on its recommendations, the Palau steering committee prepared a matrix of seven proposed activities for the RENI project in 2017.
  - Two of the measures were eventually included in the PDD; these were the water tanker trucks and the Tabecheding water storage system.
  - Specifications were prepared for the water tanker trucks, and estimates were obtained. However, proposals for supply of the water tanker trucks were not sought, as the steering committee decided to retain all the project funding for the Tabecheding water storage system.
  - After full design, proposals were requested for the Tabecheding water storage system, but there were no successful bids.

- Indicator: Capacity of national stakeholders to address disaster and climate risk strengthened

  - In August 2018, September was declared a National Preparedness Month by Presidential Proclamation 18-241.
  - In September 2018 and in September 2019 the RENI project provided support to NEMO to conduct disaster preparedness activities in the 16 states of Palau. Activities included outreach, school drills, training in first aid and CPR, and radio talk shows. A total of 911 persons were involved in 2018 and a similar number in 2019.
  - In September 2018, a national preparedness parade and fair was attended by 146 people and a similar event was held in 2019. The fairs also provided an opportunity to raise the visibility of the RENI project.

- Indicator: Capacity of women to assume leadership roles enhanced

  - A consultancy for women's groups to undertake water conservation awareness activities was advertised in November 2018.
  - Despite being advertised regionally and in the local media, there were no suitable applications.
  - The funding for this item was moved to the Tabecheding water storage system budget line.

Specific objective: To strengthen water security using a sustainable, multi-sector and gender-sensitive/rights-based approach	
Indicators and targets	**Result achieved**
• Indicator: Persons in Koror and the southern states of Babeldaob have additional access to water during drought • Target 1: One new water storage system • Target 2: Measures publicised using two different media formats	✗ **Not achieved** - The Tabecheding system was not constructed
• Indicator: Government and non-governmental agencies collaborate to enhance water security • Target 1: Regular meetings of Technical Working Group during implementation • Target 2: Minimum three meetings/year of RENI Steering Committee	✓ **Achieved** - Meetings of the Palau RENI steering committee were frequently held over the period 2018–2020 as the planning and procurement process evolved

- Indicator: Persons in Koror and the southern states of Babeldaob have additional access to water during drought

  - This indicator was not achieved. The procurement of the Tabecheding water storage system was closed at the end of September 2019 without awarding a contract.
  - The measure was not re-advertised because there was insufficient time to complete the construction.
  - Between September and December 2019, there was ongoing discussion between the RENI steering committee, government of Palau, EUD and SPC. Palau was dissatisfied with the procurement process and decided not to take up the proposal to procure alternative "off-the-shelf" items. In February 2020, the government of Palau opted out of the RENI project. (This is discussed further in Section 4, Challenges).

- Indicator: Government and non-governmental agencies collaborate to enhance water security

  - In 2017, at the start of the RENI project, the Office of the Vice President of Palau established the RENI project steering committee.
  - This consisted of government ministries and agencies, including the Ministries of Finance and State, NEMO, National Weather Service, Public Information Service, Bureau of Public Works, Palau Public Utilities Corporation and the Environmental Quality Protection Board.
  - Non-government members included the Red Cross Society and the Board of Commerce. Other members were invited to meetings on an as-needed basis.
  - The committee met regularly throughout 2017–2020 and they played an important coordination and oversight role. The committee was the main decision-making body for the RENI project in Palau.

Output 1: Individual and community behaviours around drought resilience enhanced	
Indicators and targets	**Result achieved**
• Indicator: Residents of Ngatpang State contribute to the design of water storage systems • Target: Two community consultations documented	✓ **Partially achieved** - One community meeting was held in Ngatpang State
• Indicator: RENI project activities effectively coordinated and delivered • Target: One project coordinator hired	✓ **Achieved** - Project coordinator hired and based in the NEMO Office from November 2018 to August 2020

- Indicator: Residents of Ngatpang State contribute to the design of water storage systems

  - In May 2018, the RENI Suva team and NEMO representatives met with the Governor from Ngatpang State and Vice Speaker of Aimeliik State. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss the RENI project and to understand the background of the two proposed sites – the Ngerderar watershed, Aimeliik State, and Tabecheding watershed, Ngatpang State. The state representatives expressed enthusiasm about the project.
  - As planning progressed in 2018, and the hydrological assessments were conducted, it was decided not to hold community consultations until the site had been confirmed.
  - After confirmation and preliminary design of the Tabecheding site, a community consultation was held in Ngatpang State on 29 January 2019 and attended by 37 residents. There was considerable discussion about the design.
  - After this meeting, land ownership issues had to be clarified. Confirmation of the use of the land for construction of the Tabecheding water storage system was confirmed in March 2019.

- Indicator: RENI project activities effectively coordinated and delivered

  - The RENI project coordinator was based in NEMO from November 2018 to August 2020. One of their roles was to coordinate the project activities and to report regularly to the RENI Suva office and to the NEMO Director.

Output 2: Water security measures to support drought resilience implemented	
Indicators and targets	**Result achieved**
• Indicator: Rolling stock of PPUC to supply water to vulnerable persons during drought increased • Target: One water tanker truck that can access vulnerable groups	✗ **Not achieved** - After the procurement of the Tabecheding water storage system closed without a contract being issued, the steering committee decided not to proceed with the purchase of readily available items like water tanker truck(s)
• Indicator: Capacity of PPUC to maintain Tabecheding water storage system enhanced • Target: Two training sessions with maintenance personnel	✓ **Partially achieved** - On 25 October 2018 a letter of assurance was obtained from PPUC for maintenance
• Indicator: Persons in Ngatpang State have improved access to water all year round and especially during drought • Target: Water storage system constructed at Tabecheding with easy access for residents and persons with disabilities	✗ **Not achieved** - The water storage system was not constructed

- Indicator: Rolling stock of PPUC to supply water to vulnerable persons during drought increased

  - Due to the high estimated costs for the Tabecheding water storage system, it was decided to delay procuring the water tanker truck(s) until the final cost for the construction was known.
  - After the procurement for the Tabecheding system closed without awarding a contract, the steering committee decided not to proceed with the purchase of readily available items such as the water tanker trucks.

- Indicator: Capacity of PPUC to maintain Tabecheding water storage system enhanced

  - In October 2018, the PPUC provided a letter of assurance regarding their future maintenance of the Tabecheding water storage system once installed.
  - In the design phase of the project when other water storage designs were being considered (such as the EPS) the existing experience of Palau's water technicians with maintaining AVGF systems was a key factor.

- Indicator: Persons in Ngatpang State have improved access to water all year round and especially during drought.

  - The residents of Ngatpang State did not have improved access to water as a result of the RENI project, since the system was not constructed.
  - The final design did include easy access for all residents and for persons with disabilities.

Output 3: Planning and technical measures undertaken to support El Niño readiness	
Indicators and targets	**Result achieved**
• Indicator: Design of water storage systems informed by technical and environmental studies • Target: Hydrological assessments conducted of two catchments • Target: Environmental assessment conducted	✓ **Achieved** - One hydrological assessment conducted of two watersheds to inform the design - One environmental assessment conducted
• Indicator: Palauan residents more knowledgeable about a minimum of one preparedness measure • Target: One "new" preparedness measure familiar to 30% of Palauan residents	✓ **Partially achieved** - Month-long disaster preparedness activities conducted in 2018 and 2019 reaching 17% of residents in each year
• Indicator: New water conservation measure adopted by Palauan residents • Target: One measure adopted by 5% of Palauan residents	✗ **Not achieved** - No proposals submitted for the water conservation activities

- Indicator: Design of water storage systems informed by technical and environmental studies

  - The Tabecheding and the Ngerderar Rivers were identified as suitable locations for the construction of large-scale water storage facilities.
  - In September 2018, GEM completed a preliminary hydrological assessment of these two watersheds.
  - The report showed that during low flow conditions, there was an insufficient volume of water flowing down the Ngerderar River for extraction and storage.
  - Based on this assessment, a decision was made by the RENI project steering committee to proceed with the water storage measure at the Tabecheding River only.
  - Between November 2018 and July 2019, an environmental assessment of the Tabecheding watershed was conducted by a consultancy firm based in Palau, and the necessary permits were obtained.
  - Extensive environmental surveys and interviews were conducted, and the assessment showed that with appropriate mitigative measures there would be minimal adverse environmental impact. Subsequently the appropriate permits to construct were obtained.

- Indicator: Palauan residents more knowledgeable about a minimum of one preparedness measure.

  - More than 2000 state residents were involved in the disaster preparedness activities in September 2018 and September 2019. The activities involved youth and adults and included preparedness drills and training in CPR and first aid.
  - Together with the preparedness fairs, around 3000 people or 17% of Palau's population were involved in the preparedness activities.

- Indicator: New water conservation measure adopted by Palauan residents

  - From December 2018 to January 2019, a request for proposals for a community water conservation programme was advertised regionally and in the local Palau media.
  - Since there were no applications from Palau-based consultants, the funds for this measure were diverted towards the construction of the Tabecheding water storage system.

Photos Palau activities

→ *Preparedness fair, Koror, Palau, September 2018*

→ *Representative from Palau speaking at first steering committee meeting , FSM, April 2018*

→ *Compact road bridge and Tabecheding River, Palau, May 2018*

4.
CHALLENGES

4.1 Design of the overall project

- The RENI project was included as part of the Pro-Resilience Special Measure in response to food insecurity in several ACP countries, which was signed on 3 November 2016 with an implementation period of 48 months. The Delegation Agreement with SPC was signed on 6 July 2017 with an implementation period extending to 5 November 2020. In retrospect, a time frame of three years and four months is a very short time period and especially for projects focused on activities in the outer islands of the North Pacific. The short and limited period for implementation was emphasised to SPC and to project partners at regional events and other meetings.
- The Delegation Agreement contains one overall budget. However, in April 2018, SPC was advised by EUD that financial reporting was required for the overall project amount of EUR 4.5 million and that, in addition, country allocations had to be respected: FSM – EUR 1.80 million, RMI – EUR 1.575 million, Palau – EUR 1.125 million. Such an arrangement poses financial reporting challenges when delivering a regional project. In addition, opportunities are lost for moving funds between countries that fully deliver activities and those that fail to deliver.

4.2 Special challenges in the North Pacific countries

- Key challenges relate to limited human resources in the three northern Pacific countries, which is exacerbated by the free flow of movement between the three countries and the USA. Government agencies and NGOs experience challenges in staff recruitment as well as donor-funded projects such as RENI.
- Competing for human resources with the large number of donor-driven interventions in the three northern Pacific countries is another issue that influences human resources.

4.3 Disease outbreaks

- The PDDs for each country included a risk matrix. However, at the time of preparation of these documents, in 2018, disease outbreaks were not foreseen as a risk.
- In RMI between August and December 2019 there was an outbreak of dengue fever resulting in a ban in travel from the main island, Majuro, to the rural outer islands such as Ailuk. This resulted in significant delay in the delivery of activities in RMI.
- The COVID-19 pandemic spread across the world in January and February 2020. By early March 2020, the Pacific Island countries had closed their borders and as a result international travel was restricted, and in some cases too, inter-island transport. In addition, organisations such as SPC and EUD closed their offices and staff worked from home.
- During March 2020, the RENI project team embarked on a detailed project planning exercise, which was influenced by the following factors:
  - Before the border closure in March, travel restrictions for passengers and cargo had been in place in the North Pacific countries since January 2020.
  - It was not foreseen that travel restrictions would ease before the end of the year.
  - Populations residing in the outer islands of the North Pacific have very limited access to health care.
  - The health and safety of the RENI project team had to be ensured.
- Against this background, and after detailed discussions, it was agreed for SPC to complete, replace and downscale the remaining activities and issue all contracts by 5 July 2020, and complete the revised activities by the end of the implementation period, 5 November 2020. A revised work plan and budget projection was submitted to the EUD.
- Several major activities had to be cancelled. These included the farmers meeting in Ailuk, RMI, (involving farmers from the outer atolls), the third steering committee and lessons learnt meeting and the showcasing of water security measures in Yap State. All of these events had been planned to include regional and national participants. Their cancellation contributed to the underspend in the project budget.
- With the help of national partners, both government and non-government, and the project's national coordinators in the three countries, measures were put in place to substitute alternative activities to replace those that could not be completed due to the travel restrictions.
- The national coordinators played a vital role in completing the activities under the guidance of the project team. The guidance was provided virtually using specially prepared videos and presentations, step-by-step checklists, frequent virtual meetings and discussions. With the full participation of all partners, the project deliverables were, for the most part, completed by November 2020.

4.4 Design of national activities

- The RENI project, as described in the Delegation Agreement, was designed to strengthen the capacity of communities in specific islands to prepare for the next El Niño extreme event. This community focus was maintained by FSM and RMI. Palau adopted a larger scale, national approach, selecting measures that would benefit as many people as possible. This approach posed risks in view of the project's time frame and budget. These risks were discussed during the design process and prior to the finalisation of the PDD in November 2018. They were judged acceptable risks.

- Palau's focus was to construct a 114,000-litre (30,000-gallon) automatic valveless gravity filter (AVGF) water storage facility on the Tabecheding River, in Ngatpang State. This would provide a point source of water during times of drought for the people of Ngatpang State as well as the large population centres in Koror and Airai States. The construction of a reticulated water distribution system for the people of Ngatpang State was beyond the scope of the RENI project.

- A request for proposals was advertised in June 2019 and the SPC procurement process closed in September 2019 without the acceptance of a bid.

- Over the three-month period from October to December 2019, discussions were held between the government of Palau, SPC and the EUD. The government of Palau expressed dissatisfaction with the procurement process and refused to consider the substitution of readily available items in place of the AVGF water storage system. In February 2020, the government of Palau advised SPC that they wished to be excused from the RENI project. This was one of the major factors contributing to the underspend in the budget.

- The final external project evaluation, completed in 2021, discussed the non-delivery of activities in Palau in detail and recommended that SPC increase their scrutiny of the risk management sections in PDDs to ensure country- and project-specific risks are identified and addressed. A further recommendation was made to assess the risk of specific activities in PDDs, so that mitigative actions can be specified and agreed in advance for high-risk activities and appropriate trigger points identified.

→ *Tabecheding River near proposed intake site, Palau, February 2019*

5.
LESSONS LEARNT

This chapter discusses the lessons learnt from the implementation of Phase 1 of the RENI project. Lessons learnt may also be viewed as wise practices that can be adopted for future projects.

Wise practices for project design

The first set of wise practices relate to the design of specific activities and selection of sites for project implementation.

- *Conduct community-based impact assessments of previous completed projects:* The community-based impact assessment methodology designed and tested in FSM under the RENI project provided an opportunity for community members to voice their opinions about previous projects in a non-judgemental setting. Community members were able to discuss what they liked and disliked about a previous project and to move on to identify ways the project could be improved if it were to be repeated.

  Such an assessment provides important information for delivery of a new project, possibly in a different location. The community-based impact assessment in Fais Island, FSM, provided important information to better deliver the RENI project's water security measures in Kapingamarangi.

- *Technical assessments inform and guide the selection of detailed project activities and sites:* Conducting a technical assessment of the particular sector in the general location proposed by national stakeholders is vital for the delivery of a successful project. Despite adding additional time to the design phase, this activity should never be skipped or shortened.

  Technical assessments of community underground water resources in Yap Proper, FSM, combined with local observations and historical records, provided important information to guide the selection of suitable sites for EPS systems. Similarly in Palau, technical assessments guided the selection of a suitable watershed for water storage measures.

- *Expanding the risk management section of PDDs:* It is recognised that all PDDs contain a risk management section, and this section should be expanded to contain risks specific to the project in question. Projects, or particular activities, graded as medium to high risk should provide specific contingency measures linked to trigger assessment points, which can also be included in work plans.

  For example, if a particular activity is graded as medium to high risk, then a particular trigger can be identified when the project would move to substitute an alternative measure.

- *Identifying the risks associated with project implementation in outer islands:* Previous projects have identified the higher costs and longer time frames required to implement activities in outer islands as compared to main islands. The RENI project showed that there is a need to assess the magnitude of the risk in relation to specific geographic parameters.

  Kapingamarangi is one of the most remote, inaccessible islands in FSM, and the cost of delivering and installing rainwater harvesting systems to Kapingamarangi was more than twice the costs of delivering comparable measures to other outer islands of FSM and RMI.

Wise practices for project implementation

The second set of wise practices relate to the implementation of specific activities.

- *Implementing a people-centred approach:* The successful delivery of development projects requires a multitude of skills, disciplines and behaviours as well as knowledge and experience relating to the local and international contexts. It can sometimes be daunting to deliver on everything in a limited time frame. Application of a practical tool, such as the PLANET checklist for development projects, allows a project to deliver its specific objectives and outputs, while also adopting a people-centred approach that incorporates a rights-based and gender-sensitive framework.

- *Promoting the leadership of local non-governmental partners for delivery of project activities:* Government partners play an important role in the leadership and oversight of project activities, and the promotion of non-governmental partners to lead and implement specific project activities provides for capacity building, continuation and sustainability of project activities, and fuller community involvement.

  This was clearly seen in FSM with the Tamil Women's Association now able to take on project management roles, and in RMI with WUTMI embarking on food security, an area where they had not previously been involved. A project such as RENI can provide a "learning by doing" opportunity for such groups, which leads to enhanced local capacity.

- *Inclusion of national technical experts in procurement of technical expertise, goods and works contracts:* SPC's procurement policy does allow for the involvement of national government experts in the technical review of proposals submitted by bidders upon approval of the Director of Finance. Involvement of national government professionals in the procurement process provides for a fuller understanding of the local context in which the particular measure will be implemented as well as providing for openness and confidence in the procurement process.

- *Sharing of experience throughout the project time frame:* There are many opportunities for sharing experiences and lessons learnt during a project, such as at national and regional steering committee meetings, and at other specific events.

  The RENI project had planned three large events in 2020 that had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. Smaller events were substituted, usually involving less than 20 people, and these provided for sharing experiences between projects and different groups. Individuals in a smaller event often speak more freely about measures that worked as well as those that failed, and this is where the real sharing of experiences takes place.

6. CONCLUSIONS

Overall, the project was successful in achieving its objectives, namely, to enhance the resilience of communities in FSM, RMI and Palau to extreme El Niño events using a sustainable, multi-sector and multi-stakeholder approach. Eleven of the 14 indicators in the overall log frame were achieved or exceeded and three were partially achieved.

On a national basis the project was very successful in FSM and RMI. The lessons learnt from the low rate of success in Palau are important for future projects, and in particular, the need to address project risks on a national basis and to identify and agree on mitigative measures in the design phase.

The project had a 61% expenditure rate. The low expenditure rate was due to the low level of activity delivery in Palau and the cancellation of three major regional events in 2020 due to the COVID-19 travel ban.

The RENI project contributed to the SDGs as follows:

Goal 2 : Zero hunger – end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.

Goal 3 : Good health and well-being – ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

Goal 5 : Gender equality – achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Goal 6 : Clean water and sanitation – ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Goal 13 : Climate action – take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts by regulating emissions and promoting developments in renewable energy.

The largely successful delivery of the project reflects the hard work of the national partners and stakeholders, the project teams in each of the three countries, the divisions and programmes in SPC and especially the Micronesia Regional Office. It also attests to the continual support and advice of the EUD. In particular, the project team appreciates the timely advice and guidance provided by the EUD throughout the implementation period and acknowledges the important role this played in the project delivery.

7.
ANNEXES

Annex 1 Country financial reports
RENI phase 1 statement of income and expenditure for FSM for the period 1st July 2017 to 30th June 2021

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EU - NORTH PACIFIC - READINESS FOR EL NIÑO PROJECT -RENI- Phase 1
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR FSM
FOR THE PERIOD 6TH JULY 2017 TO 30TH JUNE 2021

INCOME
Funds Received

PROJECT BUDGET LINE	General budget	Year 1 & 2 Budget
DIRECT COST		
1. Project Team		
Project Manager	177 416,00	156 632,00
Engineer	106 359,20	106 359,20
Project Finance Officer	135 307,60	86 983,20
Communications & Liaison Officer	96 675,20	86 076,40
Office equipment costs	20 000,00	18 000,00
Office consumables	23 200,00	18 400,00
Evaluations & audits	32 165,20	8 000,00
Output 1:Uptake of behaviours to support El Nino resilience		
National & local-based consultations; gender & rights-based training; recruitment & payment of project officers/national coordinators	128 740,00	120 000,00
Education and awareness and visibility	53 200,00	40 000,00
Sharing of results & lessons learnt,	75 000,00	50 000,00
Travel for project team to implement activities in country	46 934,40	40 344,00
Output 2: Structural measures to support El Nino resilience		
Structural on-the-ground measures	503 244,00	336 385,36
Parallel "soft engineering" measures	16 000,00	7 200,00
Monitoring and maintenance*	6 000,00	4 800,00
Visibility	13 600,00	10 000,00
Travel for project team to implement activities in country	40 025,20	20 000,00
Output 3: Planning and technical measures to support El Nino readiness		
Local level disaster risk plans enhanced	28 181,20	28 000,00
National and/or sector plans enhanced	40 000,00	28 000,00
Technical studies to address applied research gaps	40 000,00	32 000,00
Visibility	13 200,00	12 000,00
Travel for project team to implement activities in country	36 360,00	18 000,00
INDIRECT COST		
Project Management (7%)	114 212,40	87 527,60
Contingencies (3.3%)	54 179,60	-
	1 800 000,00	1 314 707,76
BALANCE OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FROM FUNDS RECEIVED		
PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE OVER FUNDS RECEIVED AS AT 30TH JUNE 2021		

* FSM requested funding allocated for Output 3 budget lines (disaster risk, sector plans and technical studies) be applied to detailed technical studies of groundwater which would inform disaster risk and sector planning in the future.

Notes:
Nearly all the travel missions were combined including two or more countries
Cost per Country for travel has been calcluated using the ratio: FSM 0.40|RMI 0.35|PALAU 0.25
The supporting financial documentation reflects the cost of the overall combined missions

DONOR AGENCY : EUROPEAN UNION
PROJECT TITLE : EU - North Pacific - Readiness for El Niño Project
CRIS NUMBER : FSM FED/2016/39693
SPC REFERENCE NUMBER : J00073
REPORTING CURRENCY : EURO

INCOME PERIOD		
21/08/2017	04/12/2019	TOTAL INCOME
711 543	251 312	**962 855**
	351 853	**351 853**
711 543	**603 165**	**1 314 708**

EXPENDITURE PERIOD			TOTAL ACTUAL EXPENDITURE	BUDGET AVAILABLE *(based on Overall budget)*	EXPEND. RATE *(based on Overall budget)*
06/07/2017	**01/07/2019**	**01/10/2020**			
30/06/2019	**30/09/2020**	**30/06/2021**			
72 895	32 701	2 191	107 787	**69 629**	61%
41 633	39 380	(8 079)	72 935	**33 425**	69%
21 077	29 657	(1 964)	48 770	**86 538**	36%
27 618	19 289	990	47 896	**48 779**	50%
5 011	5 597	-	10 608	**9 393**	53%
2 629	3 245	248	6 122	**17 078**	26%
-	1 215	15 987	17 202	**14 963**	53%
61 482	38 510	16 041	116 034	**12 706**	90%
2 506	1 909	5 063	9 478	**43 722**	18%
27 430	3 491	534	31 455	**43 545**	42%
14 136	2 592	-	16 728	**30 207**	36%
50 186	347 530	73 273	470 989	**32 255**	94%
2 806	13 892	1 411	18 109	**(2 109)**	113%
-	-	-	-	**6 000**	0%
-	16 339	773	17 112	**(3 512)**	126%
6 488	30 184	78	36 750	**3 275**	92%
-	-	-	-	**28 181**	0%
-	1 292	-	1 292	**38 708**	3%
12 575	82 791	2 366	97 732	**(57 732)**	244%
-	2 497	1 851	4 348	**8 852**	33%
-	47 488	(11 562)	35 926	**434**	99%
27 812	38 988	4 634	71 435	42 778	63%
-	-	-	-	54 180	0%
376 285,32	758 587,20	103 834,20	1 238 706,72	561 293,28	69%
				76 001,04	
			94%		

RENI phase 1 statement of income and expenditure for RMI for the period 1st July 2017 to 30th June 2021

SPC
PRIVATE MAIL BAG, SUVA , FIJI
TELEPHONE: (679) 3370 733 - FAX: (679) 3370 021

EU - NORTH PACIFIC - READINESS FOR EL NIÑO PROJECT -RENI- Phase 1
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR RMI
FOR THE PERIOD 6TH JULY 2017 TO 30TH JUNE 2021

INCOME
Funds Received

PROJECT BUDGET LINE	General budget	Year 1 & 2 Budget
DIRECT COST		
1. Project Team		
Project Manager	155 239,00	137 053,00
Engineer	93 064,30	93 064,30
Project Finance Officer	118 394,15	76 110,30
Communications & Liaison Officer	84 590,80	75 316,85
Office equipment costs	17 500,00	15 750,00
Office consumables	20 300,00	16 100,00
Evaluations & audits	28 144,55	7 000,00
Output 1:Uptake of behaviours to support El Nino resilience		
National & local-based consultations; gender & rights-based training; recruitment & payment of project officers/national coordinators	112 647,50	105 000,00
Education and awareness and visibility	46 550,00	35 000,00
Sharing of results & lessons learnt,	65 625,00	43 750,00
Travel for project team to implement activities in country	41 067,60	35 301,00
Output 2: Structural measures to support El Nino resilience		
Structural on-the-ground measures	440 338,50	294 337,19
Parallel "soft engineering" measures	14 000,00	6 300,00
Monitoring and maintenance*	5 250,00	4 200,00
Visibility	11 900,00	8 750,00
Travel for project team to implement activities in country	35 022,05	17 500,00
Output 3: Planning and technical measures to support El Nino readiness		
Local level disaster risk plans enhanced	24 658,55	24 500,00
National and/or sector plans enhanced	35 000,00	24 500,00
Technical studies to address applied research gaps	35 000,00	28 000,00
Visibility	11 550,00	10 500,00
Travel for project team to implement activities in country	31 815,00	15 750,00
INDIRECT COST		
Project Management (7%)	99 935,85	76 586,65
Contingencies (3.3%)	47 407,15	-
	1 575 000,00	1 150 369,29

BALANCE OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FROM FUNDS RECEIVED		
PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE OVER FUNDS RECEIVED AS AT 30TH JUNE 2021		

Notes:
Nearly all the travel missions were combined including two or more countries
Cost per Country for travel has been calcluated using the ratio: FSM 0.40|RMI 0.35|PALAU 0.25
The supporting financial documentation reflects the cost of the overall combined missions

DONOR AGENCY : EUROPEAN UNION
PROJECT TITLE : EU - North Pacific - Readiness for El Niño Project
CRIS NUMBER : RMI FED/2016/39692
SPC REFERENCE NUMBER : J00073
REPORTING CURRENCY : EURO

INCOME PERIOD		
21/08/2017	04/12/2019	TOTAL INCOME
622 600	219 898	**842 498**
	307 871	**307 871**
622 600	**527 769**	**1 150 369**

EXPENDITURE PERIOD			TOTAL ACTUAL EXPENDITURE	BUDGET AVAILABLE *(based on Overall budget)*	EXPEND. RATE *(based on Overall budget)*
06/07/2017	**01/07/2019**	**01/10/2020**			
30/06/2019	**30/09/2020**	**30/06/2021**			
63 783	28 613	1 917	94 314	**60 925**	61%
36 429	34 458	(7 069)	63 818	**29 246**	69%
18 442	25 950	(1 719)	42 673	**75 721**	36%
24 166	16 878	866	41 909	**42 681**	50%
4 385	4 897	135	9 417	**8 083**	54%
2 301	2 825	217	5 342	**14 958**	26%
-	1 063	13 983	15 046	**13 098**	53%
53 362	25 769	-	79 132	**33 516**	70%
2 193	1 436	8 377	12 006	**34 544**	26%
24 876	3 055	720	28 651	**36 974**	44%
26 328	24 259	(10 825)	39 762	**1 306**	97%
117 107	249 390	56 091	422 588	**17 751**	96%
2 883	1 131	-	4 014	**9 986**	29%
-	-	-	-	**5 250**	0%
-	10 757	676	11 434	**466**	96%
9 507	38 863	-	48 370	**(13 348)**	138%
24 019	2 452	-	26 471	**(1 812)**	107%
-	-	-	-	**35 000**	0%
621	384	-	1 005	**33 995**	3%
-	469	1 620	2 089	**9 461**	18%
-	38 017	(6 857)	31 160	**655**	98%
24 336	34 115	4 055	62 505	37 430	63%
	-	-	-	47 407	0%

434 737,04	544 780,51	62 188,27	1 041 705,82	533 294,18	34%

				108 663,46
			91%	

RENI phase 1 statement of income and expenditure for PALAU for the period 1st July 2017 to 30th June 2021

SPC
PRIVATE MAIL BAG, SUVA , FIJI
TELEPHONE: (679) 3370 733 - FAX: (679) 3370 021

EU - NORTH PACIFIC - READINESS FOR EL NIÑO PROJECT -RENI- Phase 1
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR PALAU
FOR THE PERIOD 6TH JULY 2017 TO 30TH JUNE 2021

INCOME
Funds Received

PROJECT BUDGET LINE	General budget	Year 1 & 2 Budget
DIRECT COST		
1. Project Team		
Project Manager	110 885,00	97 895,00
Engineer	66 474,50	66 474,50
Project Finance Officer	84 567,25	54 364,50
Communications & Liaison Officer	60 422,00	53 797,75
Office equipment costs	12 500,00	11 250,00
Office consumables	14 500,00	11 500,00
Evaluations & audits	20 103,25	5 000,00
Output 1:Uptake of behaviours to support El Nino resilience		
National & local-based consultations; gender & rights-based training; recruitment & payment of project officers/national coordinators	80 462,50	75 000,00
Education and awareness and visibility	33 250,00	25 000,00
Sharing of results & lessons learnt,	46 875,00	31 250,00
Travel for project team to implement activities in country	29 334,00	25 215,00
Output 2: Structural measures to support El Nino resilience		
Structural on-the-ground measures	314 527,50	210 240,85
Parallel "soft engineering" measures	10 000,00	4 500,00
Monitoring and maintenance*	3 750,00	3 000,00
Visibility	8 500,00	6 250,00
Travel for project team to implement activities in country	25 015,75	12 500,00
Output 3: Planning and technical measures to support El Nino readiness		
Local level disaster risk plans enhanced	17 613,25	17 500,00
National and/or sector plans enhanced	25 000,00	17 500,00
Technical studies to address applied research gaps	25 000,00	20 000,00
Visibility	8 250,00	7 500,00
Travel for project team to implement activities in country	22 725,00	11 250,00
INDIRECT COST		
Project Management (7%)	71 382,75	54 704,75
Contingencies (3.3%)	33 862,25	-
	1 125 000,00	821 692,35

BALANCE OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FROM FUNDS RECEIVED		
PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE OVER FUNDS RECEIVED AS AT 30TH JUNE 2021		

Notes:
Nearly all the travel missions were combined including two or more countries
Cost per Country for travel has been calcluated using the ratio: FSM 0.40|RMI 0.35|PALAU 0.25
The supporting financial documentation reflects the cost of the overall combined missions

DONOR AGENCY : EUROPEAN UNION
PROJECT TITLE : EU - North Pacific - Readiness for El Niño Project
CRIS NUMBER : PAL FED/2016/39694
SPC REFERENCE NUMBER : J00073
REPORTING CURRENCY : EURO

INCOME PERIOD		
21/08/2017	04/12/2019	TOTAL INCOME
444 715	157 070	**601 784**
	219 908	**219 908**
444 715	**376 978**	**821 692**

EXPENDITURE PERIOD			TOTAL ACTUAL EXPENDITURE	BUDGET AVAILABLE *(based on Overall budget)*	EXPEND. RATE *(based on Overall budget)*
06/07/2017	**01/07/2019**	**01/10/2020**			
30/06/2019	**30/09/2020**	**30/06/2021**			
45 559	20 438	1 370	67 367	**43 518**	61%
26 021	24 613	(5 049)	45 584	**20 890**	69%
13 173	18 536	(1 228)	30 481	**54 086**	36%
17 261	12 056	618	29 935	**30 487**	50%
3 132	3 498	72	6 702	**5 798**	54%
1 522	2 018	155	3 694	**10 806**	25%
-	760	9 988	10 747	**9 356**	53%
43 912	38 978	-	82 890	**(2 427)**	103%
1 566	404	1 489	3 459	**29 791**	10%
24 218	2 182	-	26 400	**20 475**	56%
13 529	335	-	13 864	**15 470**	47%
21 400	8 160	4 331	33 892	**280 636**	11%
5 876	(5 876)	-	-	**10 000**	0%
-	-	-	-	**3 750**	0%
-	5 844	483	6 327	**2 173**	74%
4 055	8 989	-	13 044	**11 972**	52%
-		-	-	**17 613**	0%
5 845	15 215	-	21 060	**3 940**	84%
3 464	274	-	3 738	**21 262**	15%
-	(237)	1 157	920	**7 330**	11%
3 921	746	-	4 667	**18 058**	21%
17 383	24 368	2 896	44 647	26 736	63%
-	-	-	-	33 862	0%
251 838,03	181 297,19	16 282,31	449 417,53	675 582,47	40%
				372 274,82	
			55%		

Annex 2 Staff positions within the RENI project

(a) Project core team

Position	Position holder	Start date	End date	Time allocated to the RENI project
Project manager	Gillian Cambers	01.08.17	31.10.20	2017 and 2018 100% time 2019 50% time 2020 70% time
Project engineer	Tofinga Fakasao	12.03.18	30.06.20	100%
Project finance officer	Swastika Raju	13.11.17	31.12.20	100%
Project communications and liaison officer	Zhiyad Khan	01.11.17	31.10.20	2017 and 2018 100% time 2019 50% time 2020 70% time

(b) National coordinators

Position	Position holder	Start date	End date	Time allocated to the RENI project
FSM National coordinator	Sean Kadannged	08.07.18	31.10.20	100%
RMI National coordinator	Newton Ira Lajuan	24.09.18	23.09.20	100%
Palau National coordinator	Patrick Maurice Termeteet	24.11.18	23.08.20	100%

Annex 3 PLANET checklist for applying a rights-based approach to development projects

This checklist 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?

Goal	Is the realisation of human rights central to the goal of the project? Does the project document utilise human rights language?
Process	Does the process respect human rights principles?
Outcome	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?

Participation	• To what extent are the people affected by the project able to participate in the project? ▪ 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 versus 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 forums? ▪ Does the project respect existing local leadership structures? ▪ To what extent can participation change the project? What parameters are set in stone rather than 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?
Link to rights	• To what extent does the project link to national and international human rights standards? ▪ 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?
Accountability	• To what extent are the project implementers accountable to the people affected by the project? ▪ How can affected people access information about the project (project documentation, budgets, evidence of decision-making)? What information is available in local languages? ▪ 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 and Evaluation of the project? Does the results framework take account of the subjective views of affected people?
Non-discrimination	• Does the project take into account how it might affect different groups of people? ▪ These might include, for example, women, children, people with disabilities, elderly people, religious or linguistic minorities, survivors of violence against women, migrant workers, displaced persons, outer island communities, nuclear legacy victims. ▪ Does the project take account of differential access of these groups? ▪ Considering these different groups, are the benefits of the project equitable?
Empowerment	• Does the project include building the knowledge, skills or other capacities of the affected people? ▪ Does this capacity building go beyond the immediate technical confines of the project to consider a broader spectrum of empowerment (e.g. knowledge of law or rights, *as well as* how to repair a water pump)? ▪ Does the project link, or could it link, to existing work around human rights in any aspect?
Transforming social norms	• Does the project affect, positively or negatively, social relations and norms in the affected communities? ▪ 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 or tension within or among communities? ▪ Is there potential for the project to model positive social norms in the way it is structured and implemented?

Annex 4 Monitoring data for uptake of media releases and videos

Media release monitoring data

Title	Date	Reach
EU and SPC Agreement supports FSM, Marshall Islands and Palau to build resilience to El Niño	20.07.17	**SPC/EU Media release** re-transmitted by several news and media organisations across the region including Pac News, Radio New Zealand, Pacific Islands Development Programme, Island Times (Palau), SPC, EU, Pacific Cooperation Foundation, among others.
Securing food and water security ahead of drought in remote communities in the North Pacific	30.04.18	**SPC/EU Media release** re-transmitted by several news and media organisations across the region including Relief Web, EU Delegation, Wadem, The Circular Economist, Humanitarian News, Micronesia.com, SPC sites. See links below. https://reliefweb.int/report/world/securing-food-and-water-security-ahead-drought-remote-communities-north-pacific https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/fiji/43774/securing-food-and-water-security-ahead-drought-remote-communities-north-pacific_en https://thecirculareconomist.com/securing-food-and-water-security-ahead-of-drought-in-remote-communities-in-the-north-pacific/ http://humanitariannews.org/20180430/securing-food-water-security-ahead-drought-remote-communities-north-pacific https://www.spc.int/updates/news/2018/04/securing-food-and-water-security-ahead-of-drought-in-remote-communities-in-the https://twitter.com/spc_cps/status/990719700375031808 https://www.facebook.com/spc.int/posts/1773019992789625 http://ccprojects.gsd.spc.int/securing-food-and-water-security-ahead-of-drought-in-remote-communities-in-the-north-pacific/
Republic of Marshall Islands strengthens food security measures ahead of future droughts	18.07.18	**SPC/EU Media release** re-transmitted by several news and media organisations across the region including Relief Web, EU Delegation, Prevention Web, Island Times, Micronesia.com, SPC sites. See links below. https://www.preventionweb.net/news/view/59376 https://reliefweb.int/report/marshall-islands/republic-marshall-islands-strengthens-food-security-measures-ahead-future https://reliefweb.int/report/marshall-islands/women-influencing-healthy-lifestyles-while-building-climate-resilience https://www.facebook.com/HungerNotes/posts/1981082918797602 https://eeas.europa.eu/diplomatic-network/marshall-islands/49159/republic-marshall-islands-strengthens-food-security-measures-ahead-future-droughts_en https://www.spc.int/updates/news/2018/07/republic-of-marshall-islands-strengthens-food-security-measures-ahead-of https://www.facebook.com/spc.int/posts/1886594848098805 https://twitter.com/spc_cps/status/1019436116074622976 http://ccprojects.gsd.spc.int/republic-of-marshall-islands-strengthens-food-security-measures-ahead-of-future-droughts/
New water systems for the most vulnerable Pacific Islanders	22.11.19	**SPC/EU Media release** re-transmitted by several news and media organisations across the region https://www.spc.int/updates/news/2019/11/new-water-systems-for-the-most-vulnerable-pacific-islanders

Title	Date	Reach
Women influencing healthy lifestyles while building climate resilience in the Marshall Islands	09.05.20	**SPC/EU Media release** re-transmitted by several news and media organisations across the region. See links below. **Fiji One News** https://www.facebook.com/fijionenews/posts/3187494331316087 **Office of the President, Republic of Marshall Islands (10,183 members)** https://www.facebook.com/PresidentOfficeRMI/posts/2592970890975973 **The Kwajalein Hourglass**, *Volume 61, Number 21, p. 9:* access link **Relief Web** https://reliefweb.int/report/marshall-islands/women-influencing-healthy-lifestyles-while-building-climate-resilience **SPC website and social media platform including SPC mailing list:** **https://www.spc.int/updates/news/media-release/2020/05/women-influencing-healthy-lifestyles-while-building-climate** **RiMajol Online (4,590 members)** https://www.facebook.com/RiMajolonline/posts/2906801462721923 **RMI Embassy Tokyo** https://www.facebook.com/rmiembassy.tokyo/posts/1333733846819345 **V7AB Radio Marshalls (13,427 members)** https://www.facebook.com/groups/1664181420501222/permalink/2505075326411823/ **Pacific Agriculture Community (3,459 members)** https://www.facebook.com/agriculturepacific/posts/2963675007009334 **Organic Pasifika (10,050 members)** https://www.facebook.com/organicpasifika/posts/1250963685108745 **Pacific Island Health Officers Association** https://www.facebook.com/PIHOASecretariat/posts/2670648323149875
Assisting Yap State manage water supply through the current drought	31.05.20	**SPC/EU Media release** re-transmitted by several news and media organisations across the region. See links below. **Fiji One News** https://www.facebook.com/fijionenews/photos/a.1534332880555555/3244479945617525/?type=3&source=57 **Island Times** https://islandtimes.org/assisting-yap-state-manage-water-supply-through-the-current-drought/ **SPC website and social media platform including SPC mailing list:** https://www.spc.int/updates/news/media-release/2020/06/assisting-yap-state-manage-water-supply-through-the-current
Securing food and water resources for the Pacific's most remote communities showcased in documentary series launched today	10.12.20	**SPC/EU Media release** re-transmitted by several news and media organisations across the region https://www.spc.int/updates/news/2020/12/securing-food-and-water-resources-for-the-pacifics-most-remote-communities

Video viewing data

Video title	Website link	Number of views on YouTube.
Experiences from the 2013 and 2016 droughts in the Marshall Islands	https://youtu.be/T0JNp3mLOpU	600
Outer Island Migration -A Socio-economic or Climate Change Issue or Both?	https://youtu.be/f_Mm37siQtM	212
Applying our Learning to Integrated Approaches: The RENI Experience	https://youtu.be/2UHPH_cjFXg	125
Securing water for the most vulnerable Pacific islanders: Kapingamarangi, FSM	Longer version: https://youtu.be/kGtFi95_GW0 Shorter version: https://youtu.be/ki7y33guT-k	2,407 653 for the shorter version
Understanding the unique challenges of water security in the outer islands of the North Pacific	https://youtu.be/PbEnlXfILKM	346
Communities securing food resources and adopting healthy lifestyles: Marshall Islands	https://youtu.be/MapVsCKMgGI	4,282
Managing water demand during drought: Yap State, Federated States of Micronesia (posted Nov, 2020)	https://youtu.be/G2D2xxLNLK0	87
The RENI Project and the European Union Green Deal (posted Dec, 2020)	https://youtu.be/EoWK4IclSOI	12
Total views		8,724

Annex 5 Template for MOU in FSM

RENI PROJECT
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is made and entered as of this ___ day of _____, 2018, by and between the Yap State Department of Resources and Development (the "government") and _____ (the "community beneficiary") (collectively, the "Parties").

BACKGROUND

The Yap State Department of Resources and Development ("R&D") is the State focal agency for the European Union-funded North Pacific –Readiness for El Niño Project ("RENI Project") in the Federated States of Micronesia. The RENI Project is implemented by the Pacific Community ("SPC") in collaboration with the governments and people of the FSM.

The purpose of the RENI Project is to secure water resources ahead of drought in the FSM. The RENI Project plans to use various means to improve water security within the State, including installing rainwater harvesting systems, providing communities with water storage tanks and accessories, and restoring or improving village ground water wells. R&D is working with local communities in Yap State to assess needs with the State and designate project sites within communities.

The Parties hereby agree as follows:

1. RENI Project Site:

The Parties agree that pursuant to a site visit and assessment, a RENI Project site has been identified in _____ village, _____ municipality, Yap State, FSM (the "project site").

2. The Government's Role:

On behalf of the RENI project, the Government agrees to provide the following:

- Consultation(s) with members of the community beneficiary;
- A water system designed by SPC for the project site;
- Water catchment tanks and all other necessary materials to construct the water system;
- Contractor to construct, install and complete the water system;
- Oversight and training on maintenance practices, including hands-on workshops and training for members of the community beneficiary throughout the duration of the RENI project; and
- Monitoring and evaluation of the project site and corresponding water system.

3. The community beneficiary's role:

The community beneficiary agrees to the following:

- To secure land usage rights for the property site;
- To ensure members of the community beneficiary attend all necessary trainings provided by the government related to the RENI project and project site;
- To properly maintain the installed water system according to the specifications provided by the RENI project;
- To regularly clean the project site and ensure proper usage of the water system; and
- To allow public access to water from the system during any drought, for the purposes of water security.

The community beneficiary further agrees that water from the project site system will not be used to generate income at any time, nor will any individual be restricted from accessing water from the project site.

4. Ownership of project site land:

The community beneficiary and government have received permission from the landowner(s) of the project site to use the project site for the RENI project. The project site land will remain under the ownership of the landowner(s). The project site will be dedicated to the purpose of water security for the village and community, and to the general public during drought.

5. Ownership of water system:

The community beneficiary will be the owner of the water system and related accessories installed on the project site. The community beneficiary will be responsible for the maintenance of the water system. The water system will be dedicated to provide water security to the general public during times of drought.

For the Government,

_____ _____
Director, R&D Date

For the Community Beneficiary,

_____ _____
Village Chief Date

_____ _____
Municipal Chief Date

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