



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



## First Planning and Steering Committee Meeting Report

23 – 27 April 2018  
Tuna Commission, Kolonia, Pohnpei,  
Federated States of Micronesia



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## **List of Abbreviations**

ACP	Africa, Caribbean, Pacific grouping
BSRP	Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific project
CROP	Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific
EDF	European Development Fund
EUR	euros
EU	European Union
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
FRDP	Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific
GCCA: PSIS	Global Climate Change Alliance: Pacific Small Island States project
MIOFA	Marshall Islands Organic Farmers Association
NCD	non-communicable diseases
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NOAA	National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency (USA)
PACRES	Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience Building, GCCA+ Intra-ACP Pacific Action
PIEMA	Pacific Islands Emergency Management Association
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PLANET	Applying a rights-based approach (People, Local, Accountability, Non-discrimination, Empowerment, Transforming).
PPUC	Palau Public Utilities Corporation
RENI	EU – North Pacific – Readiness for El Niño project
RMI	Republic of the Marshall Islands
RRRT	Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT)
SODIS	Solar disinfection of water
SPC	The Pacific Community
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USP	University of the South Pacific

## Executive Summary

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

The first project steering committee was hosted by the Government of FSM in Kolonia, Pohnpei from 23 – 27 April 2018 and participants from each project country representing national disaster management offices, technical agencies responsible for food and water security, local government, and the national weather service offices took part, together with development partners and the SPC-RENI team.

The meeting was successful in achieving all its objectives:

1. Endorse the role of the Steering Committee and its procedures
2. Review progress to date with implementation of the RENI project
3. Review and endorse the 2018 work plan
4. Review the project's overall budget
5. Share information on (a) financial reporting requirements and (b) communication & visibility guidelines
6. Share information and skills on implementing a gender-sensitive/rights-based approach throughout the RENI project
7. Share ideas through a panel discussion on “Outer island migration – a socio-economic or climate change issue – or both?”

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

The panel session on “Outer island migration – a socio-economic or climate change issue – or both?” was another highlight and provided an opportunity for the North Pacific countries to share their views and experiences on this very important issue. Overall the panel discussion concluded that outer island migration in the North Pacific countries was largely driven by socio-economic factors and that climate change has, up to the present, only been a contributory factor.

Other important sessions included the country presentations on national experiences in the 2016 drought, work planning, financial management and communications. Participants particularly enjoyed the sessions on making their own short videos on food and water security issues.

Overall the meeting provided participants with a comprehensive perspective of the RENI project and in particular all that needs to be achieved in the next two years.

*“It was very useful and I am so glad we had this meeting to see where we are now and to get some more information on how and what to do next and what is expected of us”. (Quote from the final evaluation).*

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## Background



*Group photo of Steering Committee Meeting participants*

## Introduction

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

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

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

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

The three key outputs for the RENI project are:

- Uptake of key individual and community behaviours that support El Niño resilience.
- Local area structural measures implemented to support El Niño resilience building in water and food security and paying special attention to the rights of women and vulnerable groups in outer islands.
- National measures - institutional, planning and technical – implemented to support readiness for future El Niño events

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

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

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

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



The First Planning and Steering Committee Meeting of the RENI project was held at the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, Kolonia, Pohnpei, FSM, from 23 -27 April 2018.

### **Meeting objectives**

The meeting had the following objectives:

1. Endorse the role of the Steering Committee and its procedures
2. Review progress to date with implementation of the RENI project
3. Review and endorse the 2018 work plan
4. Review the project's overall budget



5. Share information on (a) financial reporting requirements and (b) communication & visibility guidelines
6. Share information and skills on implementing a gender-sensitive/rights-based approach throughout the RENI project
7. Share ideas through a panel discussion on “Outer island migration – a socio-economic or climate change issue – or both?”

## **Meeting agenda**

The meeting agenda is presented as Annex 1. Besides the official steering committee meeting, participants were also introduced to the application of a gender-sensitive/rights-based approach, use of SPC’s financial management and procurement procedures, and various ways to communicate the project activities. Countries also advanced the planning of their 2018 activities. At the mid-point of the 5-day meeting, 25<sup>th</sup> April, there was a panel discussion on “Outer island migration – a socio-economic or a climate change issue – or both?”, and in the afternoon there was a field trip to the Department of Agriculture’s nursery and the Republic of China in Taiwan farm.

## **Meeting participants**

The meeting participants included:

- Participants from each project country representing national disaster management offices, technical agencies responsible for food and water security, local government, and the national weather service representations;
- Representatives from development partners:
  - European Union (EU);
  - SPC-Micronesia Office
  - SPC-Regional Rights Resource Team (RRRT)
  - SPC-Social Development Programme
- SPC-RENI project team.

The list of participants is presented as Annex 2.

## **Meeting logistical arrangements**

Special thanks are due to the FSM National Government for hosting the meeting and the excellent arrangements that were put in place for the meetings.

**Day 1, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018: Official Opening;  
Ensuring the Sustainability of RENI Project Outcomes**



*Opening Ceremony (left to right) Ms Maire Dwyer, Mr Adrian Nicolae and Mr Andrew Yatilman*

### **Official Opening**

Maire Dwyer, Gender Equality Adviser, SPC, welcomed the participants and mentioned the advantages and benefits that ensue when the countries in the North Pacific work together. She commended the RENI project for its design and particularly the involvement of the community from the very start. She also noted that this was one of the first opportunities when SPC's Social Development Programme and Regional Rights Resource Team had combined their skills and expertise in this way to focus on mainstreaming their combined approach into a climate change/disaster risk project.

Adrian Nicolae, Team Leader Climate Change, Energy and Circular Economy, Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific, noted the continued partnership between the EU and the North Pacific countries to address climate change and support resilient development. The RENI project builds on the lessons learnt from the GCCA: PSIS project and focuses on the three North Pacific countries impacted by the 2015/2016 El Niño drought. It is important for the project to move into the implementation phase as soon as possible, taking into account the strict timeline for the RENI project and the October 2020 deadline. The project is a good example of bringing climate change and disaster risk actions together and it is important for the North Pacific countries to use the project to invest in long term solutions.

Andrew Yatilman, Secretary, Department of Environment, Climate and Emergency Management, expressed appreciation for the RENI project to the EU on behalf of the North Pacific countries. He noted that Government of FSM had decided to focus most of the RENI project activities in Yap State because of their record in delivering a successful water security project in Fais Island under the GCCA: PSIS project. The success of this project was evident during the 2015/2016 El Niño drought when Fais Island was the only outer island in the State not requiring emergency water supplies. He further noted that learning and exchanging is an important part of the meeting and expressed the hope that participants



would set reasonable targets for their RENI activities and by so doing demonstrate their capacity for project planning and management.

Following the opening remarks, participants introduced themselves. This was followed by a group photograph.

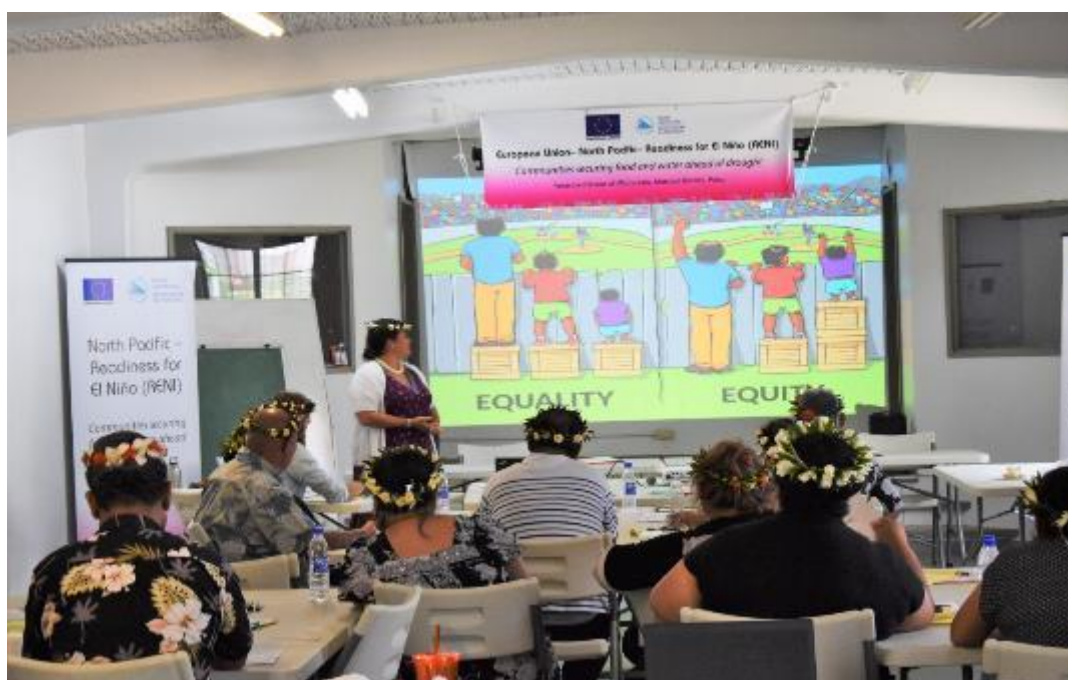
## **Overview and discussion of the RENI Project**

Gillian Cambers gave a power point presentation showing the overall framework of the RENI project. This included a description of the three key outputs illustrated schematically, an assessment of the progress to date, a timeline with milestones for future implementation, and a description of the sites selected for RENI activities in each country.

### *Discussion*

- Since the timeline for implementation is very short, the countries and the project team will closely monitor the project schedule and budget, whilst also selecting feasible activities.
- In RMI, two atolls (Ailuk and Santo-Kwajalein) were selected for RENI activities. If the activities in these two atolls are completed ahead of time, then any remaining funds can be applied to related activities in the other four atolls, which were initially included in the priority list provided by RMI (Mejit, Wotho, Utrik and Enewetek).

## **Applying a gender-sensitive/rights-based approach to planning and implementation of disaster and climate risk projects**



*Kathryn Relang explaining “equality” and “equity”*

This session, which was delivered by Maire Dwyer of the SPC Social Development Programme; and Nicol Cave, Martin Child, George Isom, Kathryn Relang, and Albert Seluka of the SPC Regional Rights

Resource Team, was entitled “Rights, Responsibilities and Resilience – Applying people centred, community led, rights based approaches to sustainable development outcomes.”

The session encompassed the first day and continued into the beginning part of Tuesday. There were six inter-connected parts:

- Island 1033B – an interactive group session involving planning an island and the significance of removing people’s human rights.
- Inclusion, equity and equality – an interactive session involving a power walk and cookie game
- Applying a gender lens – a presentation interspersed with group activities
- PLANET:
  - People centred participation
  - Local solutions and local action
  - Accountability and transparency
  - Non-discrimination and inclusion
  - Empowerment and equality
  - Transforming social norms
- Empowerment and participation – tools illustrating positive power and how to start a movement
- Me, RENI and PLANET – reflection on ways to apply PLANET to jobs and RENI

The session involved activities, discussions and activities in groups and with partners and as such, have not been recorded in this report. Some of the issues raised during the final reflection session on the application of PLANET to RENI and jobs were:

- In Palau, NGOs may be the most appropriate organisations to apply equal rights based approaches as Palau’s constitution does not guarantee equal rights to non-citizens.
- In Palau, there is a need for *empowerment* of men in the workplace, in contrast to many Pacific island countries.
- In RMI, local governments wish to see more *transparency and accountability* in the use of the funds dedicated to outer islands.
- In Yap State, FSM, *people centred participation* was identified as a need, especially ways to get more women involved.



*Exercise relinquishing rights while planning Island 1033B*

## **Day 2: Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018, Steering Committee Meeting**

### **Election of chair person**

Kenneth Uyehara proposed Andrew Yatilman as Chairperson for the meeting and this was seconded by Maria Ngemaes.

### **Review of Steering Committee guidelines**

The draft guidelines were reviewed and endorsed with one exception. The fourth function of the Committee was revised to read as follows:

d) Ensure that RENI activities are harmonised with other national and regional disaster risk management and climate change adaptation activities.

The final guidelines are included as Annex 3. The venue for future steering committee meetings was discussed and it was proposed that the other two countries (Palau and RMI) would have first option for offering to host these meetings.

### **Viewing of RMI video**

Zhiyad Khan introduced the video entitled “Experiences and Lessons Learnt from the 2013 and 2016 Droughts in RMI.” Footage for this video was collected by SPC’s Audio Visual team during a visit to RMI in December 2017 to film gender mainstreaming activities. (Footage was also collected in Ailuk in early April 2018 but there has been insufficient time to process and edit this footage).

#### *Discussion*

- The video featured the importance of empowering and connecting people, which is very relevant to the discussions on the rights-based approach.
- A request was made to include the video on the usb sticks to be distributed at the end of the meeting.

### **Disaster and climate risk in the North Pacific**

Ileana Miritescu gave an overview of EU activities in the North Pacific.

- RENI project was part of a large (€150 million) EDF 11 response to the food crisis caused by the 2015/2016 El Niño event and other factors. RENI was modelled on the GCCA: PSIS project, which provided many good lessons and was one of the first climate change adaptation projects to focus on outer islands.
- EU supports hard and soft measures. Through the PACRES (Pacific Resilience) project EU is supporting SPREP, SPC, USP and PIFS to operationalise the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP).
- EU also supports the Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific (BSRP) project, which is funded under EDF 10. The Pacific Island Emergency Management Alliance (PIEMA) is one of the most important outputs of the BSRP project.
- The EU is looking for synergy and complementarity across all its climate change/disaster risk projects in the Pacific.

- RENI is part of the EU's flagship programme and as such the EU wants to see sustainable results.

#### *Discussion*

- PIEMA was endorsed as a useful mechanism for connecting disaster management agencies and emergency responders across the Pacific.

### **Overview of RMI's 2013 and 2016 drought context and initial planning activities for the RENI project and Conducting gender sensitive/rights-based consultations in Ailuk, RMI – Experiences and lessons learnt**

Henry Capelle gave a power point presentation on RMI's organisational structure for drought management and response, highlighting the role of the food security and agriculture cluster. This was followed by a presentation by Kathryn Relang on the gender sensitive/rights-based consultations recently conducted in Ailuk Atoll, RMI.



*Community consultations in Ailuk, RMI, with the women (left) and with the men (right)*

Observations from the consultations were as follows:

- Three consultations were held: With the men on gender and human rights, with women on gender and human rights, and with men and women combined on gender and disaster risk management. There was good participation especially from the men. People with disabilities were also involved.
- The roles of men and women are clearly defined, but there are areas of overlap between the two groups, e.g. both men and women collect water in times of drought.
- Islanders often view human rights as a foreign concept, but in actual fact many elements of human rights exist in their own culture.
- Men consider they have a right to use violence against women. This is compounded by the fact that women often justify this right.
- Regarding gender and disaster risk management: droughts affect the groups differently, e.g. handicraft production is impacted because it requires rainwater, men have to travel further afield to find food.
- Out-migration is a serious issue with people wanting better opportunities and jobs despite wanting to stay in their island.

Key lessons learnt:



- The mayor and the island council played a key role in organising and supporting the consultations and visit in general.
- Whilst some level of pre-planning for a team visit is essential, it is impossible to finalise such plans until arriving in the outer island.



*Consulting with the mayor and councillors in Ailuk, RMI*

#### *Discussion on the RMI presentations*

- Food insecurity may exist even when a drought is over. This is partly a result of dependence on imported food e.g. spam, tinned vegetables, rice, flour, and an irregular shipping schedule.
- The dependence on imported food started under the Trust Territories in the 1970s when food from the USDA was given to the Trust Territories (except for the Yap District, which refused the food). This has resulted in a well-established preference for imported food over local food.
- Having a female presenter for a consultation with men did not cause an issue, at least partly because the presenter was well known. Added to which there are no male gender experts in RMI.
- Out-migration exists from the outer islands to Majuro and from Majuro to the USA. Few people return.
- In Yap State, FSM, island Chiefs play an important role in outer island development. In RMI the traditional chiefs are usually part of the island council.
- The question was raised as to whether the promotion of food security is a feasible project activity in a remote outer island with poor soil and a small population, which is declining due to out migration. Some of the discussion around this question was as follows:
  - With the high rate of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in the Pacific, people are more aware about the need to have a healthy diet. Groups such as the Marshall Islands Organic Farmers Association (MIOFA) are promoting healthy eating habits and providing cooking lessons. Vegetable prices in Republic of China (Taiwan) outlets have been lowered to promote healthy eating habits.

- A child health and nutrition survey mobilised concern and action about the need for healthy eating. However, a major challenge in RMI is to coordinate all the different initiatives.
- RMI plan to revive a previous programme whereby one extension agent is based in each atoll. This will commence on a pilot basis.
- Communities are noticing the changing seasons, e.g. the timing of the traditional pandanus festival in RMI had to be changed due to this phenomenon.
- In Palau, the Governors Association has promoted the use of local foods for schools in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. Other measures include greenhouses, school gardens and household table gardens.
- In Angaur State, Palau, out migration is being reversed as a result of efforts over the past few years to improve the quality of life in Angaur, e.g. improving water supply, providing medivac facilities. This was facilitated by the donation of a Progetti reverse osmosis plant, which has been working for 3 years and local technicians have been trained to maintain the plant.
- Partnerships with other organisations are essential for the sustainability of RENI food security activities beyond project life.
- Income generation may be another incentive for the promotion of agriculture in outer islands.
- Reference was made to the behavioural change approach used to establish a solar disinfection (SODIS) method for water purification in a community in Kiribati under the GCCA: PSIS project. The success of the activity was due to the intensity of support, which established local champions and used local languages throughout. It was noted that behavioural change is different to awareness raising and education.

### **Overview and discussion of Palau's 2016 drought context and initial planning activities for the RENI project**



*Low levels at Ngerimel Dam, Palau, on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016*



A power point presentation was given by Maria Ngemaes, Kenneth Uyehara, Tanya O. Rengulbai and Anthony Rudimch. This covered the convening of the National Emergency Committee; the falling levels in the Ngerimel Dam; the impacts of the drought on health, education and tourism; the declaration of the state of emergency and the extensions of the declaration; and the measures taken during the drought. Following the drought a Palau State Action Plan was developed with defined thresholds for declaring a water shortage. A RENI project steering committee has been established, and a comparative matrix for improving infrastructure prepared. Subsequent to this, three measures have been identified for the RENI project activities.

### *Discussion*

- In Yap State of FSM, there is only one reservoir that has never run dry, however, Yap Proper has a smaller population than Palau. Furthermore, Palau receives more than a 130,000 visitors a year.
- The issuing of a state of emergency for a slow onset event such as a drought differs from that of a rapid onset event such as a typhoon.
- Water for tourism needs is a major concern for Palau. There has been a decline in tourism numbers in Palau since the drought, and water conservation measures have not been displayed in hotels due to the importance of maintaining tourism revenue.
- Water conservation is being achieved through the repair of leakages in the distribution lines in Koror.

### **Overview and discussion of FSM's 2016 drought context and initial planning activities for the RENI project**

A presentation was given by Tony Neth, Andrew Yatilman, Christina Fillmed and Caleb Gamule. This covered the water conservation measures taken on advice from NOAA on the arrival of the El Niño event; and the declaration of a state of emergency by the national government, followed by the state governments. The national government analysed the rainfall records and projections to determine which outer islands needed to be assisted with water supplies and then mobilised ships to deliver the water. In Yap State, they were late to prepare for the drought and experienced six months with virtually no rain. Water restriction measures were imposed by two of the water authorities, and had the drought lasted another month the situation would have become critical. Some communities approached Yap State to re-establish old community water sources during the drought, however, this proposal was not implemented. With other donor funding sources focusing on supporting outer islands and outer island communities living in Yap Proper, it has been decided to use the RENI funding to refurbish some of the old community water resources. Three communities have initially been identified subject to hydrological assessments and further communities may be added. Finally, Kapingamarangi, a small atoll with less than 300 people in Pohnpei State and lying just north of the equator, will utilise RENI funding to refurbish and replace rainwater catchment systems for the community buildings.



Andrew Yatilman (left) and Christina Fillmed (right), FSM, describing the 2016 drought in FSM

### **Overview of the project's budget**

Swastika Raju gave a power point presentation on the total value of the budget; the budget breakdown by country and output; the rate of expenditure; and the milestones to be achieved. The key take home messages were to increase the rate of project implementation and expenditure whilst also following prescribed policies and procedures.

#### *Discussion*

- Processes and procedures will be similar to that used in the GCCA: PSIS project and SPC procedures have to be used in all grant agreements.
- In FSM all grants are subject to Congressional approval, which may cause significant delays, so for the recruitment of a national coordinator, FSM have elected for SPC to undertake the hiring.

The day was concluded with a dinner at Ocean View Hotel.

### **Day 3, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018: Panel discussion and field excursion**



The formal minutes from the Day 2 discussions were reviewed and endorsed by the Steering Committee.

#### **Panel discussion “Outer island migration – a socio economic or climate change issue – or both?”**

The discussion was chaired by Albert Seluka.

#### **Presentation by Andrew Yatilman**

People have been moving from Yap outer islands to Yap Proper for decades. Most of the land in Yap Proper is privately owned (96%), so where do the outer islanders stay? In the 1970s the Catholic Mission provided a place for outer islanders to stay when in Yap Proper for medical treatment – it was called Madrich. However, Madrich became very crowded and became known as Chinatown. It was subsequently destroyed by Typhoon Sudal in 2004. The government also leased some land for outer islanders, but the issue of land tenure and where to stay remains to the present day. Nowadays people are mainly moving for better job opportunities. However, the Yapese are very attached to their land – it is like an umbilical cord, and they usually tend to come back even if they do leave.

Outer islanders are very resilient and have been living in their islands for thousands of years. On occasion they have temporarily migrated because of typhoons, e.g. in the early 1900s some islanders moved to Saipan after a big storm, but as soon as their islands became habitable again, they moved back. In 2008 after a storm surge seriously impacted Kosrae, a state of emergency was issued and the US Federal Emergency Management Agency encouraged the people of Lele to relocate. However the islanders refused because of their attachment to their ancestral land.

In Satawal, one of the most remote islands of Yap, families used to send their children to Yap Proper for “fattening,” since in Yap thinness equates to malnourishment and in Micronesia fat is beautiful.

It is the policy of the Council of Traditional Chiefs in Yap that if outer islanders have no reason to be in Yap Proper, such as work or medical treatment, then they should move back to their islands.

People are not moving because of climate change, although it may be a contributory factor.

#### *Discussion*

- There was agreement from other Yapese that migration was not due to climate change. While climate change is impacting outer islands, climate change by itself is not part of any conscious effort to move.
- There was little information on gender differences in migration.
- In Yap, migration is a choice, it is not forced displacement.
- In FSM there is no restriction on moving between states.

#### **Presentation by Evelyn Adolph, Coordination Specialist, UN Joint Presence Office**

Despite the fact that there are no legal barriers to people moving between states, there is limited internal movement. In Pohnpei State, people tend to live on their own land and it is very expensive to lease land or rent property.

Drawing on a 2014 monograph on non-climate change migration, most migration is to the USA and a smaller number of females migrate. This is resulting in younger and older people being left in the outer islands. Most people migrate for education and job opportunities. Migration increases during times of economic difficulties e.g. 1991-1992 and again in 1997. Most of the higher income earners live in urban areas. There are less income opportunities in outer islands.

#### *Discussion*

- In outer islands people have different needs. There is always enough food to eat, so defining poverty with an income index may be misleading. For example one in three Micronesians is living below the basic needs poverty line, but how useful is this statistic when there is always enough food to eat in outer islands?
- Improving the quality of life is one main reason for migration. But in reality a better quality of life does not necessarily equate to a higher income and the use of the word “poor” has to be carefully defined.. It is impossible to survive on a minimum wage in the USA and the “American dream” is not necessarily the “Island dream”.

#### **Presentation by Mr. Roseo Marquez, Senior Grants Office, Micronesia Conservation Trust**

Pacific islanders have long had a history of moving and migrating. Pohnpei has a history of welcoming people from outer islands, e.g. from Kapingamarangi, and they have places where outer islanders can settle. In Pohnpei State the first step is for outer islanders to move to the main island, and the second step is for them to move to the USA. Sometimes people come to FSM to interview people about climate change induced migration but Mr Marquez had never heard anyone say they had migrated because of climate change.

In FSM people take the view that we are “not drowning because of climate change” rather that our people are fighting. We understand that climate change is happening now and that it will continue and at the Micronesia Conservation Trust we help communities become resilient to the impacts of climate change.

### *Discussion*

- There was discussion as to whether outer islanders have the same rights in the main island and it was noted in Pohnpei that some outer islanders have bought land and have fully integrated into society in the main island.
- Around the discussion on whether outer islanders have the skills to obtain jobs in main islands, it was clarified that there are two high schools in Yap outer islands and young people do have the skills to match job needs in the main island. In the past and as recently as the 1970s, high school graduates often took up the role of teachers, but now all new teachers are required to have the necessary certification and training.
- In Palau the population is shrinking as people migrate to take low level jobs in the USA. The advice from the Palau Community College is to go to the USA to further your education and then to come back to work in Palau. However, children born in the USA often have a difficult time when/if they return to Palau.
- Several typhoons in the past few years have affected the quality of life but this not the primary reason for moving.
- In response to a wrap-up question on whether the panellists see any hope for a reversal in the migration trend, with more people moving to the outer islands:
  - Andrew Yatilman noted that the response depends on place. As a Satawalese, he thinks the trend will reverse itself or that the out migration will stop when areas available for settlement are full in the main island. The outer islands of Yap are very conducive for living, although some of the outer islands in Chuuk state have more challenging conditions. When islands have no big trees that is a sign that conditions for settlement are challenging.
  - Roseo Marquez noted that one day Kolonia Town in Pohnpei will face over-population and then people will migrate back to the outer islands, especially if good incentives and development plans are in place.

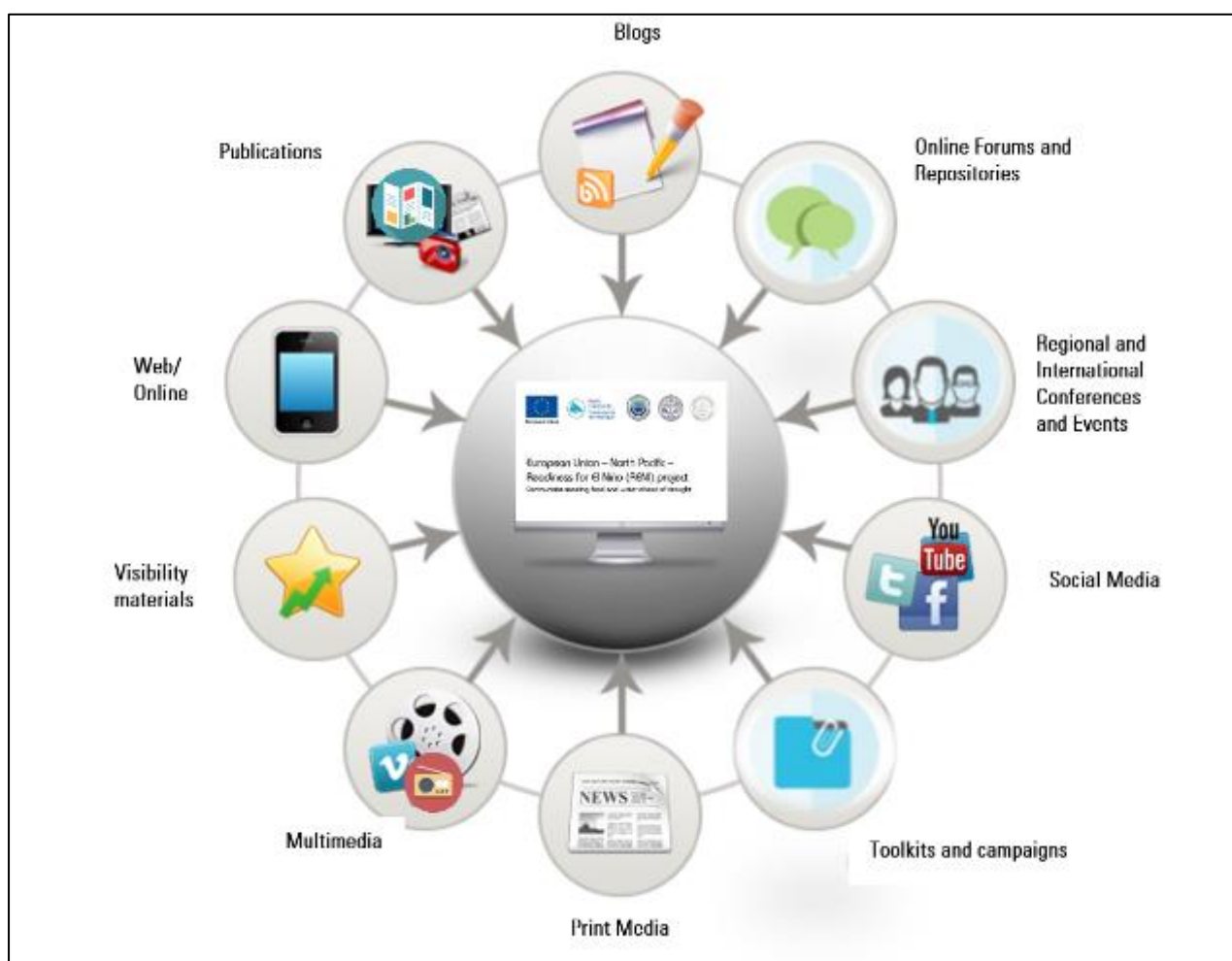
Overall the panel discussion concluded that outer island migration in the North Pacific countries was largely driven by socio-economic factors and that climate change has, up to the present, only been a contributory factor.

### **Field trip to visit food security interventions in Pohnpei**

During the afternoon participants had the opportunity to visit two sites:

- Participants visited the Agriculture Section of the Department of Resources and Development in Kolonia and were briefed about their food security activities.
- An extensive pilot farm in Madolenihmw where Chinese agrarian specialists from the Republic of China in Taiwan demonstrated how to raise different kinds of vegetables and fruits as well as pigs and hens.

## Day 4: Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018 – Planning 2018 RENI activities



*Schematic showing different communication tools*

### **RENI work planning**

The RENI project's overall work plan for 2018 was reviewed and minor changes added. The overall work plan for 2018 was endorsed by the Steering Committee, and is included as Annex 4 to this report.

Using a standard template, country representatives worked on scheduling specific activities for the remainder of 2018 and the first three months of 2019. During this planning session they were asked to identify specific activities that incorporated elements of the gender-sensitive/rights-based approach that had been introduced on Day 1. Proposals included the following:

- Consult with the most vulnerable groups during design and implementation – this had not been included in many projects previously. (Palau).
- Focus on activities requested and designed by women, e.g. home gardening and food preservation. (RMI).
- Relate to the “A” of PLANET – accountability – especially accountability to the communities (RMI)
- Consult with all groups including the most vulnerable (FSM)
- Involve the communities in developing a maintenance plan for the water security measures (Yap, FSM).



- Consult with communities as to the impact of previous water security projects (Fais Island, Yap, FSM).

The proposed activities centred particularly around the P, L, A, N components of the PLANET approach:

- People centred participation
- Local solutions and local action
- Accountability and transparency
- Non-discrimination and inclusion

### **Key messages for RENI communications and visibility**

Zhiyad Khan gave a power point presentation on the different aspects of the RENI Communications and Visibility Plan. This included the key message or “boilerplate” that should appear on all project materials:

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

#### *Discussion*

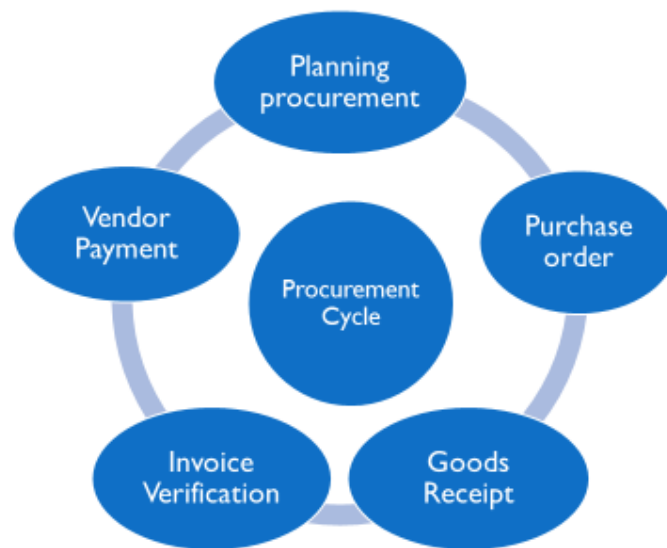
- It is very important to follow the visibility guidelines that are included in the RENI Communications and Visibility Plan – this is a particular concern for the EU as they have to justify the aid funding to their constituencies in Europe.
- Education and awareness do not necessarily equate to behavioural change. An individual who is well educated and aware of the health dangers of smoking may still continue smoking. The behavioural change model involves addressing a particular issue and then identifying the behaviours that have to change to address the issue or concern, e.g. in the GCCA: PSIS project in Kiribati, the particular concern was the high mortality rate in the under-5 year-olds due to diarrhoea and the behavioural change sought was to encourage parents, in particular, to use solar disinfection (SODIS) to provide clean, safe drinking water.

Participants also worked in country groups to identify the key media channels they planned to use in the RENI project.

### **Overview of financial and reporting procedures for the RENI project**

Swastika Raju gave a power point presentation on financial and reporting procedures for the RENI project. This covered procurement and payment procedures and the required documentation.

## PROCUREMENT CYCLE



*Schematic showing the procurement cycle*

### *Discussion*

- Once the project is completed any assets will be signed over to the government, up till the project closure all assets remain the property of SPC. Asset registers need to be maintained.
- One of the planned activities in Palau is to purchase water tanker trucks. In preparing the specifications for procurement it is necessary to consider the low quality diesel fuel that is available in Palau.
- It is very important to get the national coordinators on board as soon as possible so as to expedite activities.

### **Making your own short video on food and water security**

The day concluded with a training session on: Making your own short video on food and water security, led by Zhiyad Khan. The session commenced with a demonstration on how video was a good media for conveying key messages and that more people retained messages from a video than from a page of printed material. The presentation took participants through the various stages of preparing a storyboard, after which they divided into groups to start preparing their own short videos using their smart phones.

**"THE STORY CANVAS"**

STORY NAME:

Purpose:

Audience:

Key Messages:

Call To Action:

Story:

People & Places:

Style & Tone:

Campaign:

Outcomes:

Indicators:

Acknowledgement: The Story Canvas (TSC) is based on the popular Business Model Canvas (BMC), developed by Alex Osterwalder. The BMC is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported License. TSC is subsequently licensed under the same CC Attribution: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>

*A simple storyboard template for planning a video production*

## Day 5: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018 – Communicating results of RENI and meeting closure



*Traditional sailing canoe, Ailuk, RMI*

The video session was continued and the two groups presented their videos, one on food security and one on water security.

The meeting was then concluded by Andrew Yatilman who, on behalf of all the participants, thanked the EU for the funding provided for the RENI project.

Ileana Miritescu, on behalf of the EU, thanked the host country and said that the meeting was very successful and stressed how important it was to hear the voice of the countries at this meeting. She mentioned the need to speed up implementation and that the EU was prepared to help and advise wherever possible.

Other participants also provided final comments. There was an exchange of gifts and the meeting closed at 11am with some participants departing for the airport.

### **Meeting evaluation**

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

The day session on a gender sensitive/rights-based approach was well received with most respondents identifying and relating to the PLANET concept:

*“On my island, women are shy and afraid to show their rights in front of men according to biblical recommendation. Therefore women depend solely on men to make decisions for them. With the new concepts learnt from this session, it would be interesting to educate my people”.*

*“It was very useful as we can now apply rights-based approaches to projects. It allows us to consider the people involved in the project, for both implementation and completion, instead of just the project itself”*

Participants appreciated the clear, well presented, information on financial procedures:

*“Finance handling protocols are a “must” and should be practised throughout all actions. If not, then corruption of government can be the result”.*

Participants were very enthusiastic and the communications and video sessions:

*“Presentations were great. Communication through the media is a powerful and effective way of relaying the message. I like the planning concept of making it short, simple and concise. Had much fun in creating our own video and role playing”.*

*“It was a great opportunity to apply video production to our current work; video is a very powerful medium to convey key messages and inspire actions relevant to our shared goals”.*

Overall the meeting provided participants with a comprehensive perspective of the RENI project and in particular all that needs to be achieved in the next two years.

*“It was very useful and I am so glad we had this meeting to see where we are now and to get some more information on how and what to do next and what is expected of us”.*

## Annex 1 Agenda



European Union



Pacific  
Community  
Communauté  
du Pacifique



### European Union – North Pacific – Readiness for El Niño (RENI) project

#### First Planning and Steering Committee Meeting

23-27 April 2018

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission,  
Kolonja, Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia

#### Agenda

Time	Activity
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2018</b>	
6.00 – 8.00pm	Evening Reception at Mangrove Bay (pick-up from hotel at 5.30pm)
<b>Day 1: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018 – Official Opening Ensuring the sustainability of RENI project outcomes</b>	
9.00 – 10.00	Official opening of the First Planning and Steering Committee Meeting Chairperson: <i>Ms Elina Paul, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECCEM)</i> Welcome remarks: <i>Ms Maire Dwyer, Gender Equality Adviser, SPC</i> Remarks: <i>Mr Adrian Nicolae, Team Leader Climate Change, Energy and Circular Economy, Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific</i> Address and welcome: <i>Mr Andrew Yatilman, Secretary, DECCEM</i> Introduction of participants Group photo
10.00 – 10.15	Morning tea
10.15 – 10.45	Overview and discussion of the RENI project <i>Gillian Cambers, SPC-RENI Project Manager</i>
10.45 – 4.00pm	Applying a gender-sensitive/rights-based approach to planning and implementation of disaster and climate risk projects <i>SPC – Regional Rights Resources Team and Social Development Programme</i>
12.30 – 1.30	Lunch
1.30 – 4.00pm	Continuing: Applying a gender-sensitive/rights-based approach to planning and implementation of disaster and climate risk projects <i>SPC – Regional Rights Resources Team and Social Development Programme</i>
<b>Day 2: Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2018 – Official opening and steering committee meeting</b>	



Time	Activity
9.00 – 10.30	Election of Chair-person for the meeting Review of steering committee procedures <i>Gillian Cambers</i>
10.30 – 11.00	Morning tea
10.30 – 11.00	Disaster and climate risk in the North Pacific <i>European Union representative</i>
11.00 – 12.00	Overview and discussion of RMI's 2013 & 2016 drought context and initial planning activities for the RENI project <i>Representative from RMI</i>
11.30 - 12.30	Conducting gender-sensitive/rights-based consultations in Ailuk, RMI – Experiences & lessons learnt <i>Kathryn Relang, SPC-RRRT Focal Point, Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs, RMI</i>
12.30 – 1.30	Lunch
1.30 – 2.30	Overview and discussion of Palau's 2016 drought context and initial planning activities for the RENI project <i>Representative from Palau</i>
2.30 – 3.30	Overview and discussion of FSM's 2016 drought context and initial planning activities for the RENI project <i>Representative from FSM</i>
3.30 – 4.00	Overview of project's budget <i>Swastika Raju, Project Finance Assistant, SPC-RENI</i>
7.00 – 8.30pm	Dinner hosted by SPC at Ocean View Hotel (pick-up from hotel at 6.30 pm)
<b>Day 3: Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018 – Panel discussion and field excursion</b>	
9.00 - 10.00	Review and endorsement of formal report on the Steering Committee Meeting.
10.00 – 10.30	Morning tea
10.30- 12.30	Panel session on “Outer island migration – a socio-economic or climate change issue – or both?” <i>Chairperson: Albert Seluka, Regional Rights Resource Team</i> <i>Panellists: Ms Evelyn Adolph, Mr. Roseo Marquez, Mr Andrew Yatilman</i>
12.30 – 1.30	Lunch
1.30 – 4.30	Field excursion
<b>Day 4: Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2018 – Planning 2018 RENI activities</b>	
9.00 – 9.30	Review of 2018 RENI work plan <i>Gillian Cambers</i>
9.30 – 10.30	Country planning on detailed activities and expected results for 2018 <i>Country group sessions</i>
10.30 – 11.00	Morning tea
11.00 – 11.30	Continuing: Country planning on detailed activities and expected results for 2018 <i>Country group sessions and reporting back</i>

Time	Activity
11.30 – 12.30	Key messages for RENI communications and visibility <i>Introduction by Zhiyad Khan, SPC-RENI Communications and Liaison Officer and country group session</i>
12.30 – 1.30	Lunch
1.30 – 1.40	Review of agreed text on work plan for inclusion in formal report on the Steering Committee Meeting
1.30 – 3.00	Overview of financial and reporting procedures for the RENI project <i>Swastika Raju</i>
3.00 – 4.00	Making your own short video on food and water security <i>Led by Zhiyad Khan and country group work</i>
<b>Day 5: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018 – Communicating results of RENI and meeting closure</b>	
9.00 – 10.30	Continuing: Making your own short video on food and water security <i>Led by Zhiyad Khan and country group work</i>
10.30 – 11.00	Morning tea
11.00 – 11.30	Meeting closure Final evaluation RMI participants depart to airport
12.00 – 1.00	Lunch
<b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2018</b>	
	Other participants depart

## Annex 2: RENI Planning and Steering Committee Meeting - Participants List

Country	Name	Position, Organisation and Address	Email	Telephone
FSM				
Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)	Christina Fillmed	Executive Director, Yap State Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), P.O. Box 178, Colonia, Yap State, FSM	<a href="mailto:cfillmed2@gmail.com">cfillmed2@gmail.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:epayap@mail.fm">epayap@mail.fm</a>	691 350 2113/2317
Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)	Senator John Masiwemai	Senator, Woleai, Yap State, FSM	<a href="mailto:masiwemaij@gmail.com">masiwemaij@gmail.com</a>	691 350 2401 691 950 1849
Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)	Andrew Yatilman	Secretary, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECCEM),	<a href="mailto:andrewy@mail.fm">andrewy@mail.fm</a> ; <a href="mailto:oeemdir@gmail.com">oeemdir@gmail.com</a>	691 320 8814/8815
Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)	Mayor Caleb Gamule	Mayor Kapingamarangi, Pohnpei State, FSM	<a href="mailto:cgamule@yahoo.com">cgamule@yahoo.com</a>	691 320 8096
Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)	Tony Neth	Public Assistant Officer. Department of Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Management (DECCEM),	<a href="mailto:aneth2008@gmail.com">aneth2008@gmail.com</a>	691-320-8814
Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)	Elina Paul	Department of Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Management (DECCEM)	<a href="mailto:epaul.oeem@gmail.com">epaul.oeem@gmail.com</a>	691-320-8814 691-320-8815

RMI				
Country	Name	Position, Organisation and Address	Email	Telephone
Marshall Islands (RMI)	Mr. Kennedy Glanry	National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), P.O. Box 15, Majuro, MH 96960, Marshall Islands.	<a href="mailto:kennysunshine63@gmail.com">kennysunshine63@gmail.com</a>	692 625 3206, 625 4020; Cell - 692 455 4920
Marshall Islands (RMI)	Henry Capelle	Chief of Agriculture and Quarantine, Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce, P.O. Box 1727, Majuro, MH 96960, Marshall Islands	<a href="mailto:kikurto@yahoo.com">kikurto@yahoo.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:hencapelle@gmail.com">hencapelle@gmail.com</a>	692 625-3206/4020; Cell - 692 455 4920
Marshall Islands (RMI)	Mayor Rufina N. Jack	Mayor of Ailuk	<a href="mailto:rufina.jack@gmail.com">rufina.jack@gmail.com</a>	Cell - 692 455 0719
Palau				
Palau	Dilwei Maria Ngemaes	Meteorologist in Charge, NOAA National Weather Service, Koror, Palau 96940	<a href="mailto:maria.ngemaes@noaa.gov">maria.ngemaes@noaa.gov</a>	680 488 1034/6287, cell 680 775 0555
Palau	Anthony Rudimch	Palau Public Utilities Corporation, PO Box 10207, Koror, Palau 96940	<a href="mailto:arudimch@ppuc.com">arudimch@ppuc.com</a>	680 488 3870
Palau	Tanya O. Rengulbai	Administrative Officer, National Emergency Management Office, Office of Vice President, P.O. Box 100, Koror, Palau 96940	<a href="mailto:nemo@palaugov.org">nemo@palaugov.org</a>	680 587 6366/67 Cell 680 775 3733

Country	Name	Position, Organisation and Address	Email	Telephone
Palau	Governor Kenneth Uyehara	Governor Angaur State, Palau,	<a href="mailto:ken.uyehara@valuepacific.net">ken.uyehara@valuepacific.net</a>	680 - 775 2323
<b>EU Representatives</b>				
Fiji	Adrian Nicolae	Team Leader, Climate Change, Energy, and Circular Economy, Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific, Private Mail Bag, GPO, Suva, Fiji.	<a href="mailto:adrian.nicolae@eeas.europa.eu">adrian.nicolae@eeas.europa.eu</a>	679 331 3633 Ext.104
Fiji	Ileana Miritescu	Development Cooperation Coordinator, Climate Change, Energy, and Circular Economy, Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific, Private Mail Bag GPO, Suva, Fiji.	<a href="mailto:Ileana.MIRITESCU@eeas.europa.eu">Ileana.MIRITESCU@eeas.europa.eu</a>	679 331 3633 Ext.124
<b>SPC Staff Members based in Fiji, FSM and RMI</b>				
Fiji-SPC	Gillian Cambers	Project Manager, RENI Project, SPC, PMB, Suva, Fiji	<a href="mailto:gillianC@spc.int">gillianC@spc.int</a>	679 337 9450; cell 679 805 7277
Fiji-SPC	Zhiyad Khan	Communications & Liaison Officer, RENI Project, SPC, PMB, Suva, Fiji	<a href="mailto:zhiyadK@spc.int">zhiyadK@spc.int</a>	679 337 9349
Fiji-SPC	Swastika Raju	Finance and Project Assistant, RENI Project, SPC, PMB, Suva, Fiji	<a href="mailto:swastikaR@spc.int">swastikaR@spc.int</a>	679 337 9370
Fiji-SPC	Fakasao Tofinga	Engineer, RENI Project, SPC, PMB, Suva, Fiji	<a href="mailto:tofingaf@spc.int">tofingaf@spc.int</a>	679 337 9

Country	Name	Position, Organisation and Address	Email	Telephone
Fiji-SPC	Martin Child	Senior Human Rights Adviser, Regional Rights Resource Team, SPC, PMB, Suva, Fiji	<a href="mailto:martinch@spc.int">martinch@spc.int</a>	679 337 9284
Fiji-SPC	Nicol Cave	Team Leader - Human Rights Training, Regional Rights Resource Team, SPC, PMB, Suva, Fiji	<a href="mailto:nicolc@spc.int">nicolc@spc.int</a>	679 337 9212
Fiji-SPC	Albert Seluka	Senior Human Rights Adviser, Regional Rights Resource Team, SPC, PMB, Suva, Fiji	<a href="mailto:alberts@spc.int">alberts@spc.int</a>	679 337 9269
RMI-SPC	Kathryn Relang	Country Focal Officer-RMI- Regional Rights Resource Team, Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs, P.O.Box 18, Majuro, RMI, MH 96960	<a href="mailto:kathrynr@spc.int">kathrynr@spc.int</a> <a href="mailto:kainok2@gmail.com">kainok2@gmail.com</a>	692 625 824
FSM-SPC	George Isom	Country Focal Officer-FSM- Regional Rights Resource Team, SPC, Pohnpei, FSM	<a href="mailto:georgezi@spc.int">georgezi@spc.int</a>	691 320 7523 ext 32123
FSM-SPC	Maire Dwyer	Gender Equality Adviser, SPC, Pohnpei, FSM	<a href="mailto:maired@spc.int">maired@spc.int</a>	691 320 7523 ext 32124



### Annex 3: Steering Committee Guidelines



European Union



#### **European Union – North Pacific – Readiness for El Niño (RENI) Steering Committee Guidelines**

### **Background**

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

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

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

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

The three key outputs for the RENI project are:

1. Uptake of key individual and community behaviours that support El Niño resilience.
2. Local area structural measures implemented to support El Niño resilience building in water and food security and paying special attention to the rights of women and vulnerable groups in outer islands.
3. National measures - institutional, planning and technical – implemented to support readiness for future El Niño events

The activities in each country will focus on water security, or water and food security.

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

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

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

### **Organisation and set-up of RENI**

The project is implemented under the terms of a Delegation Agreement between the EU and SPC. The Project Team is housed within SPC's Geoscience, Energy and Maritime Division (GEM) and consists of a Project Manager, Project Engineer, Communication and Liaison Officer and a Finance and Project Assistant.

The Project Steering Committee will provide overall guidance and assessment of project activities and work plans.

### **Membership of the Steering Committee**

The membership shall be made up of:

- 3 national representatives, one each from FSM, Marshall Islands, and Palau
- 1 senior representatives from SPC (Director Geoscience, Energy and Maritime Division or Director of the Micronesia Office or their representative).
- 1 representative from EU
- RENI Project Manager

Other stakeholders may be invited to attend as observers.

### **Function and responsibilities of the Committee**

The Committee will undertake the following functions:

- a) Provide guidance and input on the design of the project activities.
- b) Provide guidance on the planning, coordination, facilitation and implementation of the project activities.
- c) Address any potential gaps in the existing and proposed activities and reach consensus on how these may be addressed.
- d) Ensure that RENI activities are harmonised with other national and regional disaster risk management and climate change adaptation activities.
- e) Endorse annual work plans.

### **Procedures**

1. The Committee will meet at least once a year in person and more often virtually, as required.
2. Meetings will be quorate when 4 of the 5 members, or their proxies, are present.
3. Meeting members may identify proxies.

4. The Steering Committee Meetings are normally chaired by the representative of one of the three countries, most often the host country.
5. The Project Manager is responsible for meeting minutes. Draft minutes to be provided to the meeting members within ten working days of the meeting.
6. The Committee will make decisions on a consensus basis wherever possible. Where consensus cannot be reached, a majority vote will determine specific outcomes.
7. These guidelines may be altered by consensus of all Committee members.

Annex 4. Endorsed 2018 Work Plan - RENI				
Activity	Year 2 2018 - Implementation			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>Project Management</b>				
Detailed work planning				
Gender integration plan	Review			
Procurement plan	Review			
M&E plan	Review			
Communications plan	Review			
Risk management & exit strategy	Review			
Grant agreements with countries				
National coordinators recruited				
External audits				
Annual & 6-monthly reports				
ROM missions				
Final evaluation				
<b>Output 1: Uptake of key individual and community behaviours that support El Niño resilience strengthened.</b>				
1.1 Consultations to identify key behavioural changes				
1.1.1 Conduct local area consultations and assessments in three countries				
1.1.2 Preliminary design and costing of activities in each country				
1.1.3 National endorsement of project activities				
1.2 Training for women and vulnerable groups in good governance				
1.2.1 Include women and vulnerable groups in local area consultations and assessments (Activity 1.1.1)				
1.2.2 Provide training in gender sensitive/rights based approaches at 1st Steering Committee Meeting to national partners				
1.2.3 Design training activities for women and vulnerable groups				
1.2.4 Commence implementation of training for women and vulnerable groups				
1.3 Design & implement education & awareness measures				
1.3.1 Review the communications action plan for 2018 (see Communications Plan) at 1st Steering Committee Meeting				
1.3.2 Implement the Communications targets as contained in the Communications Action Plan for 2018; these cover branding, awareness, online visibility, multimedia products, workshops and events.				
1.3.3 Provide training for national partners in communications skills at 1st Steering Committee Meeting				
1.4.1 Hold 1st Steering Committee Meeting in Pohnpei, FSM				
1.4.2 Compile lessons learnt at 1st Steering Committee Meeting				
1.4.3 Compile lessons learnt on an ongoing basis and share with partners as opportunities arise				
<b>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</b>				
2.1 Review existing interventions & local area consultations conducted under output 1 to identify & design structural measures				
2.2 Based on the local area consultations and in parallel with activity 2.1, identify & design activities in which women & vulnerable groups can take a leadership role.				
2.3 Start procurement and implementation of structural measures and parallel measures for women and vulnerable groups				
2.4.1 Based on discussions held in 2017, hold further discussions to design specific activities involving the private sector, and start implementation if timely.				
2.5 Provide training in monitoring & maintenance needs of proposed activities				
2.5.1 In parallel with activity 2.1 and 2.2 design monitoring and maintenance measures including training.				
<b>Output 3: National measures -institutional, planning and technical - implemented to support resilience for future El Niño events</b>				
3.1 Review El Niño readiness and approaches in policies & plans (national, sub-national & island level)				
3.2 Identify gaps and needs				
3.3 Consultations to design/strengthen policies/plans (ongoing as Outputs 1 and 2 are advanced)				
3.4 Preliminary discussions of the preparation of a plan to expand the behavioural/ gender sensitive/ rights based approach beyond target communities				

## Annex 5: Evaluation of the meeting

### RENI Steering Committee Meeting

#### Evaluation Form Analysis

**Gender:** Female respondents = 4 Male respondents = 7

Total respondents = 11

<b>1. WORK PLANNING IN GROUPS</b>	5 (highest)	4	3	2	1 (lowest)
On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest, please rate whether the group work has helped you with the planning and budgeting of project activities.	11				
<p>Comments on how the work planning sessions could be improved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All of the sessions as well as the group work were good with practical exercises to help the groups and their jurisdictions.</li><li>• The seating arrangements in the venue could be improved to be more group work friendly, especially during planning sessions.</li><li>• The work plan is dependent on the engineers to undertake the assessments, but the FSM has poor transportation, sometimes the vessels to the outer islands only goes every 4-6 months. Recommendation is for SPC to confirm with the FSM transportation schedule before making arrangements.</li><li>• Milestones should be established to chart expectations on items to be accomplished.</li><li>• RENI did an excellent job in all areas.</li><li>• I liked the planning and budgeting activities.</li></ul>					
<b>2. NATIONAL PRESENTATIONS</b>	5 (highest)	4	3	2	1 (lowest)
On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest, how useful were the presentations from the countries. (1 person did not score this question)	4	6			

Mention 2 highlights from the presentations that you found interesting and why were they interesting?

- Each of the presentations were very informative to help one another with developing work plans and getting a sense of planning activities and challenges.
- (a) Early consultative steps taken in RMI; (b) harnessing opportunities for traditional knowledge on food preservation (RMI).
- Palau and FSM power point presentations were good, FSM did not show a power point presentation.
- Exchange of ideas is always beneficial. Each country had different goals and projects.
- (a) How the countries compared the issues we are facing today and how it was in the old days; (b) the movement of people to look for opportunities abroad; (c) how people value their traditional practices with regards to drought in the past and present.
- Please ask countries to do a visual presentation so that we can see what things they are doing and have accomplished. It is better to visualise than to hear.

<b>3. SESSIONS ON RIGHTS-BASED/GENDER SENSITIVE APPROACHES</b>	5 (highest)	4	3	2	1 (lowest)
On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest, how useful were the session on rights-based/gender sensitive approaches (1 person did not score this question)	6	3	1		

Please identify one new concept that you heard at this session and how you plan to use this in your future work.

- In terms of gender mainstreaming our country has been implementing gender issues, equality, inclusion (PLANET concept). We are very concerned with the vulnerable people and they are the first priority in every project that we implement. Sometimes people are isolated in their communities, for many reasons, and we need to find ways to reach them. The group session was refreshing and an eye opener for other issues to be noted and considered.
- Equality and equity was very much an eye opener for me as sometimes we tend to think they are the same.
- Another eye opener was that I should not take my basic rights for granted.
- Would like to see the sessions conveyed more clearly.
- Equality & equity; PLANET
- PLANET
- On my island, women are shy and afraid to show their rights in front of men according to biblical recommendation. Therefore women depend solely on men to make decisions for them. With the new concepts learnt from this session, it would be interesting to educate my people.
- PLANET.
- PLANET to be used as a standard for future projects.
- It was very useful as we can now apply rights-based approaches to projects. It allows us to consider the people involved in the project, for both implementation and completion, instead of just the project itself.
- Changing people's values to a modern way of living.
- I need to make time when I go back to get my male workers to talk and make decisions on their own.

<b>4. SESSIONS ON PROJECT FINANCE</b>	5 (highest)	4	3	2	1 (lowest)
On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest, how useful was the session on project finance for your future planning?	8	3			
<p>Which part of this session did you find most useful and are there areas where would you like more information?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Informative, well presented and very relevant. Since there is no possible extension of RENI, we should have discussed more the assumptions and what to do if something goes wrong.</li> <li>• All of the presentation was well developed, clear and informative.</li> <li>• Fantastic session – refreshed memory and provided an update on the current procurement process.</li> <li>• It was very interesting and enlightening, however, not my field.</li> <li>• Finance handling protocols are a “must” and should be practised throughout all actions. If not corruption of government can be the result.</li> <li>• Procurement procedures.</li> <li>• All.</li> <li>• I understand that SPC/EU are now more strict.</li> </ul>					
<b>5. SESSIONS ON COMMUNICATIONS AND VISIBILITY</b>	5 (highest)	4	3	2	1 (lowest)
On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest, how useful was the session on communications and visibility for communicating project activities.	10	1			
<p>Which activity in these sessions did you find most useful and where can we improve?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentations were great. Communication through the media is a powerful and effective way of relaying the message. Like the planning concept of making it short, simple and concise. Had much fun in creating our own video and role playing.</li> <li>• Gives a good sense of how to plan the important things to keep in mind, and the importance of creating a clear message and communications plan.</li> <li>• Great opportunity to apply video production to current work; video a very powerful medium to convey key messages and inspire actions relevant to shared goals.</li> <li>• Definition of two types of audiences as well as the different components of the communications plan.</li> <li>• Communications are very important especially on remote atolls. The only way to obtain disaster relief is through communications. Communications are most essential if you expect the project to be completed on time. Communications provide effective measures to local individuals to do their expected job.</li> <li>• Excellent ideas and process to tell our story.</li> <li>• I love how we worked on the video clip for our campaign, whether it is water or food security. It helped us to further our knowledge on planning our own awareness/outreach programme.</li> </ul>					
<b>6. OVERALL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	5 (highest)	4	3	2	1 (lowest)



On a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest and 1 the lowest, how useful was the entire Steering Committee Meeting to your work on the project at the national level	9	2			
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The steering committee meeting was very helpful.</li> <li>• Sharing ideas is very useful for preparing and implementing our needs for the project.</li> <li>• Good for overall understanding of the project</li> <li>• Sharing of ideas and experiences among the countries and the SPC team.</li> <li>• It was very useful and I am so glad we had this meeting to see where we are now and to get some more information on how and what to do next and what is expected of us.</li> </ul>					
<b>7. ANY OTHER GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT THE MEETING</b>					
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The meeting was great but there are a few comments on the arrangements. Would like to see the per diem clearly itemised in the logistical information; and could there be options for the participants to choose their own arrangements.</li> <li>• Planning, logistics and all the assistance were very well appreciated.</li> <li>• Should provide review of previous project.</li> <li>• All information related to the project was well presented.</li> <li>• All the speakers and presenters were very entertaining.</li> <li>• Meeting was outstanding for the exchange of ideas.</li> <li>• It is very relevant to have internet connection at the meeting venue. Thank you very much for the hospitality received from the host country.</li> </ul>					