



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

**RENI PROJECT DESIGN CONSULTATION
International Conference Centre, Majuro, RMI**

Thursday 7th June, 2018, Overall Consultation and Endorsement of all RENI Activities



*(Top photo: Chief Secretary Mr Ben Graham (left) and Mr Timmy Langrine, Director NDMO, (right)
at the Consultation Opening*

Lower two photos: Participants at the Consultation)

Background

Following the Ailuk Working Group Consultation on 6th June 2018, the feedback from the Senator, Mayor and Councillors, as well as from other participants was analysed and an activities and budget matrix was prepared for the RENI activities in RMI. The main objective of this overall consultation was to present key components of the RENI project to a wider audience of partners and obtain their endorsement of the activities matrix.

Logistics

The RENI project supported the travel and stay of the Ailuk Mayor and Councillors to Majuro for this consultation. The agenda is presented in Annex 1. Twenty one persons participated in the consultation (4 were female and 17 were male). The list of participants is presented in Annex 2. Besides government agencies, non-government partner agencies included the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Marshall Islands Organic Farmers Association (MIOFA), Taiwan Technical Mission and the Red Cross. Marshallese was the main language of the consultation with some translation into English.

Opening

The meeting was opened by the Chief Secretary, Mr Ben Graham.

He noted the importance of the RENI project and that although the project is not a huge one, the knowledge gained about food security for the RMI will be very important. RENI is essentially a learning project for the RMI. There are several ongoing and pipeline projects dealing with water security but fewer focusing on food security. The two atolls were carefully selected, Ailuk being a very remote, rural atoll, while Santo-Kwajalein is a semi urban atoll.

Referring to the discussions among the Ailuk community on the previous day about their RO plants being out of commission and needing repair, he proposed getting the assistance of a technician from Ebeye to assist with repair and maintenance.

He also mentioned that the government is presently preparing the budget for 2019 and that there was the possibility of helping the atolls with specific items relating to RENI and food security.

Presentations and Discussion

The participants viewed the video “Experiences and lessons learnt in the 2013 & 2016 droughts in Marshall Islands”.

Kathryn Relang, SPC-Regional Rights Resource Team Focal Point for RMI, then gave a presentation on applying a gender sensitive and rights based approach in the RENI project, which was well received. She emphasised particularly that a rights-based approach is not **what** you do in your project, rather it is about **how** you do your project.

Following this, Poasa Nauluvula, SPC Land and Resources Division, recapped the activities that were planned for Ailuk, based on the previous day’s consultation. Among the discussion points were the following:

- The Taiwan Technical Mission offered their support to the project. They have a supply of seedlings that can be provided free to the outer atolls.
- It was recommended not to use chemical fertilizers in the outer atolls.
- It is proposed to introduce yams because they do well on the drier islands of Fiji and Tonga and they can be kept for a few months.
- Open pollinated seed varieties will be used for home gardening and training will be provided on how to store the seeds.
- MIOFA offered to help with introducing different livestock breeds that can be inbred with the local breeds.

Gillian Cambers, RENI Project Manager, then gave an overview of the matrix of activities and budget allocations for the RENI activities. The discussion included the following:

- The RENI project model can be used for other projects. The Catholic Church is preparing a proposal to address climate change in the islands where there is a Catholic Church. Churches are often used as emergency shelters.
- Soil improvement and technical experience with soil pH is critical for the RENI project – SPC Land and Resources Division has experience in this area.

The matrix as presented and agreed on here will now be developed into a Project Design Document and a draft will be sent to Government for review in the coming days.

In his closing remarks, Timmy Langrine, Director of the National Disaster Management Office, thanked the Ailuk community and all the participants on behalf of the Chief Secretary's Office. He also urged the Ailuk Mayor to send in any proposals to the Chief Secretary's Office, as had been mentioned in the opening remarks.

A short evaluation was conducted, which showed the participants were highly satisfied with the Consultation. One participant noted: "*The RENI project seems to be a project delivering on a sustainable approach, (evident) through the project planning and design.*"

Annex 1: Agenda



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AGENDA

Day 2: Thursday 7th June 2018: Overall Consultation and Endorsement of all RENI Activities Objective: to share, discuss and endorse proposed RENI activities	
10.00 – 10.30am	Introduction to consultation <i>Chief Secretary's Office</i>
10.30 – 10.45am	Viewing of RMI video: "Experiences and lessons learnt in the 2013 & 2016 droughts in Marshall Islands"
10.45 – 11.15am	Applying a gender sensitive and rights based approach in the RENI project <i>Kathryn Relang, SPC-RRRT Focal Point, RMI</i>
11.15 – 11.45pm	Recap of Day 1 Ailuk Working Group Consultation <i>Zhiyad Khan and Poasa Nauluvula, SPC</i>
11.45 - 12.30pm	Proposed RENI activities: Presentation for discussion and endorsement <i>Gillian Cambers, SPC-RENI Project Manager</i>
12.30 – 12.45pm	Wrap up and closing- <i>RMI government</i> Evaluation
12.45- 1.45pm	Lunch

Annex 2: Participants List

Name	Position and Organisation	Telephone Number	Email
1. Jaynard Alfred	Nitjela	455-5811	
2. Rufina Jack	Mayor, Ailuk Atoll	455-0719	rufina.jack@gmail.com
3. Johnny Janer	Ailuk Councillor		
4. Tokjen Takju	Ailuk Councillor		
5. Winta Alfred	Ailuk Councillor		
6. Jim Alfred	Ailuk Councillor		
7. Mill Janer	Ailuk Councillor		
8. Carrol de Brum	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	625-4707	cdebrum@iom.int
9. Yen- Jen Lin	Taiwan Technical Mission	455-8233	y.j.lin@icdf.org.tw
10. Yi- An Chon	Taiwan Technical Mission	456-8067	Chou.yi.an@icdf.org.tw
11. Roger Muller	Communications Officer, Marshall Islands Red Cross	455-0581	roger.muller@rmiredcross.org
12. Jabukja Aiknp	MIOFA	455-5800	Jabukja1959@gmail.com
13. Joseph Maddison	MIOFA	455-5280	Joseph.maddison@gmail.com
14. Henry Capelle	Chief of Agriculture & Quarantine, Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce (MNRC)	455-4920	kikurto@yahoo.com
15. Kennedy Glanry	National Disaster Management Office (NDMO)	455-5569	Kennysunshine63@gmail.com
16. Timmy Langrine	Director, National Disaster Management Office (NDMO)	625-5150	ndmodirector@gmail.com
17. Kathryn Relang	RRRT RMI focal point, Pacific Community	456-0686 425-8718	kathrynr@spc.int
18. Lajkit Rufus	Forestry Officer, Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce (MNRC)	625-4020/3206	lrufus@hawaii.edu
19. Stephen Lepton	Agriculture Division, Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce (MNRC)	675-3206	Stephen1lepton5519@gmail.com
20. Poasa Nauluvula	LRD, Pacific Community	691-9258135	poasan@spc.int
21. Gillian Cambers	RENI Project Manager		GillianC@spc.int

Name	Position and Organisation	Telephone Number	Email
22. Zhiyad Khan	RENI Communications and Liaison Officer		zhiyadk@spc.int

Annex 3: Evaluation of the Consultation

10 participants evaluated the Consultation (2 female, 8 male).

1. Work planning, Average rating: 5 (1 being lowest, 5 being highest)

Comments on the usefulness of the work planning

- RENI project seems to be a project delivering on a sustainable approach, (evident) through the project planning and design
- Very good planning
- The goals and objectives are good and relevant
- All the talk about the RENI project has been good and useful and true to have Ailuk on the listing
- No issues with work planning, it went really good
- Very useful to have good planning/be involved before the start of the project and voice out what we think about the project
- All the information provided was good and useful and made me understand more. But please still need R.O unit
- The work planning was great. Hope the focus group understand the project is only to help them mitigate food and water security and to provide for their personal needs
- No comments

2. Was your voice heard? Average rating: 4.7

Comments on whether there was sufficient time and opportunity for you to speak and share

- Yes, but more participants and sharing of information from groups
- To have more time to speak and share concerns
- Yes, it was good
- It was all good and important
- No issues and spoke my mind
- Yes, it was heard
- Yes, I was able to speak and participate
- Although only an observation, I believe there was plenty of time for questions and answers. Maybe the focus group did not understand the whole concept that they were to voice their thoughts and opinions
- No comments (2)

3. Improvement for the future

Comments on how today's working group consultation could have been improved

- Very well done
- Satisfied with the group work because Ailuk local council members took this time to share their experiences and needs to ensure that the project will be a successful one. It was also good that the member of parliament, the senator from Ailuk was also present and took part in the sessions. Kommata SPC team!
- It was really good because it was helpful
- Lots of respect and thanks because these are great ideas to prepare Ailuk for the next drought
- I believe if we reach our goal, it will be really great
- Thank you SPC team
- Maybe more time needed
- There's nothing else. All the information provided was really good, except the session on water was in English so I did not understand fully.
- Explain activity fully and make sure they understand their part
- No comment

