



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

RENI PROJECT CONSULTATION – YAP STATE, FSM

YapCAP Conference Room, Colonia, FSM

24 August 2018



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 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

In FSM the project is focusing on water security in Yap Proper, Yap State; and Kapingamarangi in Pohnpei State.

This RENI Project Consultation brought together government representatives, community representatives, NGOs and the RENI Project team to discuss preliminary planning for the project in Yap Proper, and to hear the views from community representatives about proposals and ideas for water security in their areas and their experiences during the last drought.

The agenda is shown in Annex 1 and the participants list in Annex 2. There were 26 participants (F=5, M=21).

(It should be noted that a separate consultation with women's groups had been held the previous day, 23 August 2018).

Opening

The meeting was opened by the Director of the Resources and Development Division, Mr James Lukan. He noted that several sites were being considered under the RENI project and that this consultation was part of a selection process. He also advised the community representatives not to be concerned if their village was not selected for water security measures under the RENI project because there were several other opportunities in the pipeline.

Participants then introduced themselves.

Presentations and discussion

Gillian Cambers, RENI Project Manager gave a presentation on the overall RENI project and the particular focus areas in Yap Proper.

- Uptake of community behaviours to support drought resilience
 - Community consultations
 - Education and awareness
 - Behavioural change – Impact assessment of the recently installed (2015) water security measures in Fais Island
- Local area measures to support water security
 - Refurbish/replace community well water resources
 - Refurbish/replace community rainwater catchments
 - Empower women’s groups to design and implement small scale measures that support water security
- Planning/technical measures to support drought readiness
 - Hydrogeological assessments of critical aquifers
 - Strengthen drought component in the 2017 Yap State Disaster Preparedness Plan

Discussion points were as follows:

- Maintenance of the refurbished well and catchment systems: this is a major issue that is being considered at the preliminary design phase and agreements will be entered into at the selection phase on ways to maintain the refurbished water systems.
- NGOs present were asked to think about ways in which they could complement the RENI activities.
- Catholic Relief Services noted that drought is a hazard that is nearly always mentioned in their community consultations.

Tofinga Fakasao, RENI Engineer, gave a presentation on the measures proposed for refurbishment of the well water systems so that they provide potable water. Water quality testing showed that the well water requires treatment before drinking, and he outlined a low maintenance “Ecological Purification System” (EPS) that is widely used in rural communities in Fiji and is proposed for use in Yap Proper.

Discussion points were as follows:

- Maintenance of the tanks and frequency of changing the sand filter was discussed (sand needs to be changed every 6 years).
- Use of concrete or plastic tanks. Existing tanks can be incorporated into the EPS system if they are in good condition.
- Request to add another site for consideration – Rumung.
- It was emphasized that whichever sites were selected, the water was not only for that community, rather residents from Yap Proper could access the water.

Participants then divided into smaller community groups to discuss their existing systems and proposals for the future.

Results of the community group discussions

Nimaar

This well/stream water source has year-round water and was accessed by the public in the 2015-2016 drought although the water may be turbid during drought. The water catchment system is 50%

completed and the system is ten years old. The site is near Colonia and there is road access. The existing tanks are concrete and clean although need plastering inside. A filter system would be needed as some red/orange cultures form at times. 800-1000 people would benefit from this system.

Rumuu

This well source is potentially a good source and does not dry up during drought. The tank needs to be relocated. The underwater pipes from the neighbouring island are old but thought to be in good condition.

Yinnuf

This stream system continued to flow during the last two droughts and it is thought that the stream is fed by an underground source. It is close to Colonia and at present only two homes are using the water. It is close to the High School and COM-FSM campus.

Maap

Some village water sources dried up during the last drought so rationing was introduced. At Palaw and Qamin some maintenance is needed because the pipe is broken and leakages need to be repaired.

Tamil

All houses are connected to piped water but water conservation measures have to be put in place during drought. Their main concern is the aquifer which supplies >50% of the people of Yap Proper and they would like to see an assessment of the aquifer since they are concerned about saltwater intrusion.



Following the presentations from the communities, there was further general discussion. The main points were as follows:

- Maintenance was a major discussion issue and there is a need for training in maintenance, which should also include women.
- Communities need to take ownership of the refurbished water measures and to show that they want the measures and are prepared to maintain them.
- Village chiefs will need to agree to land easement arrangements.

- Water testing kits are needed.
- Local knowledge plays an important role in the detailed design.
- The special needs of people with disabilities needs to be considered.

Sean Kadannged, RENI Coordinator, then gave a presentation on plans for education and awareness and RENI plans to work with the education and awareness of other NGOs and projects, e.g. “Water for Life”. It was noted that 16 October in the International Day for Disaster Reduction.

Collaboration RENI and NGOs/Projects

The NGOs present outlined some of their work that could relate to RENI:

- PREL are working with a Women’s Leadership Action programme, a kids with learning disabilities programme, and other traditional/cultural/community interactions.
- CoM have been working with water security in communities, including water bladders and first flush diverters. They have received funding from the Italian Government to help with rain water harvesting in outer island communities in Yap Proper and this project will start in October 2018. Their approach is to develop a maintenance plan at the start of their work with a particular community.
- Catholic Relief Services – their project focuses on Adaptive Community Transformation working in 5 municipalities and 6 outer islands to prepare community disaster risk management plans and eventually to move to household disaster risk management plans. They are also introducing a savings system whereby communities save for disasters – Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC).
- IOM focuses mainly on recovery efforts. However, they also do awareness work on water conservation, implement gender sensitive approaches, and work on water quality safety which is tied to sanitation.

The meeting was closed and a short evaluation was conducted. The results are shown in Annex 3. Eighteen participants completed the evaluation. Overall the participants were highly satisfied with the Consultation. Several participants noted that there should have been more women present, but they were maybe unaware that a separate consultation had been held with women’s groups the previous day. The general feeling can be summarised by this comment: *“Today’s consultation is good and informative. I do think however, that for any water site solution, once a site is selected, it would be best to work with the community on the best way to construct and implement the water system.”*

Annex 1 Agenda



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

RENI PROJECT CONSULTATION – YAP STATE, FSM

YapCAP Conference Room, Colonia, Yap State, FSM

24 August 2018

Time	Activity/Topic	Lead Person
Facilitator: Sean Kadannged, RENI Coordinator, Yap State		
09:00-09:30	Welcome Introductions Objectives of the workshop	R&D, James Lukan
09:30-10:00	Outline of the RENI Project in the North Pacific and in FSM Discussion	SPC – Gillian Cambers
10:00-10:30	Improving water storage in selected communities Discussion	SPC – Fakasao Tofinga
10:30-11:30	Small group sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experiences from past droughts Experiences with maintaining community water storage systems – how to do better? 	All
11:30-12:00	Preparing for the next drought: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning activities Women’s led activities Education and awareness around drought preparedness 	Sean Kadannged,
12:00-12:30	Sharing experiences on water conservation and drought preparedness ongoing in Yap State.	Organizations present
12:30	Closing and Next Steps Evaluation	Sean Kadannged
	LUNCH	

Annex 2 Participants list

European Union - North Pacific - Readiness for El Nino (RENI) Project			
RENI Project Consultation - Yap State, FSM			
YapCAP Conference Room, Colonia, Yap State			
24-Aug-18			
Sign-in Sheet			
	Name and Organisation/Community	Telephone #	
		Email	
1	Tamagyer Phillip/Amin Maap	350-4812	
2	Ganangred, Nazarius/ Amin Maap	350-3908	
3	Jason Ruw/Palaw Maap	350-4968	
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20	Stanis Flamngar/ Nimar Weloy		
21	Victor B Moonfel/DCO Yap	350-2182	
22	Alphonso Ganang/Maap Water Authority	350-8728	
23	Siyou/Dugor Weloy		
24	Ruwamin/Dugor Weloy		
25	Sean Kadannged	952-5175	seank@spc.int
26	Gillian Cambers		gillianc@spc.int

Annex 3: Evaluation of the Consultation

18 participants evaluated the Consultation (3 female, 9 male, 6 persons did not mark this box).

1. Was the consultation informative? Average rating: 4.6 (1 being lowest, 5 being highest)

Comments on the usefulness of the consultation

- Community sharing water sources
- It is wonderful to have an opportunity to hear about the RENI project and future plans
- Yes, community input and sharing by partner organizations to assist and lead planning and coordination by government.
- Good
- Clear information on project intent and identification of potential sites.
- Obtain information on what RENI can do for the community

2. Was your voice heard? Average rating: 4.6

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

- All of the organizations were given an opportunity to speak about their projects and ideas for collaboration
- Input from the communities was important in terms of coordination by various organizations and partners and needs being brought up to be planned for by my agency and government.
- Good
- It would be better to have more community groups including women
- Yes

3. Improvement for future consultations

Comments on how today's consultation could have been improved

- This water project needs to improve the existing situation
- Need a really good sustainable maintenance plan for the new water catchment systems
- Today's consultation is good and informative. I do think however, that for any water site solution, once a site is selected, it would be best to work with the community on the best way to construct and implement the water system.
- Refreshments/food on time and coffee early in the morning.
- It was OK.
- More women
- Format and items on the agenda e.g. sharing by partners and especially community consultations are an important part of the project.
- More often.
- Include members of women's groups as well.
- Please translate evaluation form into Yapese version so elders of the community can understand.
- More time to meet with communities and not just to get information from the government on sites
- Provide action approach at next consultation regarding projects.

(Note – a women's consultation was held separately on 23.08.18).