

## **REPORT**

### **RENI PLANNING MEETING 28-29 MARCH 2019**

#### **Introduction**

The main objective of the meeting was:

- (1) Conduct detailed work planning for the remaining 15-months implementation period of the RENI project.
- (2) Review the application of the gender sensitive/rights based approach in the implementation of the RENI project activities.

The meeting was held at Robert Reimers Enterprises, Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), from 28-29 March 2019, and just prior to the Second Regional Planning and Steering Committee Meeting of the RENI project.

Participants included the RENI National Coordinators from FSM and RMI (the Coordinator from Palau was not able to attend the meeting due to urgent personal issues), the RENI project team from Suva, and members of SPC's Regional Rights Resources Team (RRT) and the Social Development Programme (SDP). Participants names are listed in Annex 1.

The agenda is presented as Annex 2.

#### **Results**

The first day's discussion focused on country activities.

The first session involved getting feedback from the National Coordinators. Items discussed included:

##### *RMI*

- Challenges with engaging with partners in MNRC in RMI.
- Contracts with the agricultural extension agents
- Payments under the grant agreements
- Recommendation for the national Coordinator to have more responsibility

##### *FSM*

- Using the SPC procurement and purchasing system was better than using government processes.
- Time taken to collaborate with partners
- Need help with communication activities.
- SPC office on Pohnpei very helpful

##### *Generic items*

- Payments for work done by the community in implementing project activities. It was agreed that this is a difficult issue and needs to be discussed on an individual basis. Asking community members to contribute their time freely to the project is preferable, but in certain cases this may not be possible.

The work plans in the Project Design Documents were used as a starting point for discussion and over the course of the 2 days, they were revised. (The revised work plans were then discussed at the RENI Planning and Steering Committee Meeting, 1-3 April, and endorsed and are included as an Annex in the Report on the Steering Committee Meeting).

The morning of the second day was devoted to a session led by the RRRT and SDP to review progress with applying a gender sensitive/rights based approach.

Some of the discussion items were as follows:

- Key elements of a rights based approach in the view of the National Coordinators were:
  - Locally relevant community led solutions
  - All to take responsibility so as to provide sustainability.
- There was discussion over the terminology in the rights based approach, e.g. that **all** vulnerable groups and individuals in a community need to be consulted and involved. In the context of a project time frame, **all** may not be a feasible target.

The RRRT and SDP teams then worked with the participants and the RENI team taking them through the Reflection tool and the template. (Results still to be compiled).

On the afternoon of the second day, participants shared their lessons learnt from the project so far. The compilation is shown below:

#### *Scheduling and logistics*

- The short duration of the project and the challenges of shipping to outer islands should be considered in the project design.
- Shipping costs to outer islands are very high,
- Procurement of goods and services and the sources of materials needs to be carefully planned, taking into account the short duration of the RENI project and the different time frames for review between an RFQ and a RFP in SPC's system.
- Need to bring forward the maintenance training and re-schedule it, so it is not just left to the last 3 months.

#### *Communication*

- Meetings are more effective than other communication modalities such as emails.
- There is a need for more and better communication with the Suva based RENI team and more responsibility should be delegated to the National Coordinators
- Coordination and communication with other agencies is very time consuming, and there is a need to strengthen communication paths between the National Coordinators and the national agencies.
- With multiple contracts, grant agreements, partners, there is a need for better coordination and communication.

#### *Rights based/gender sensitive approach*

- The rights based approach is very useful to ensure that all target stakeholders are included, especially when planning activities.
- The issues of gender sensitivity, health, social norms are as important to consider as the big issues such as climate change.
- Help of RRRT/SDP teams helpful in keeping the RBA at the forefront.
- In the RENI project, we need to state that we are applying **aspects** of a rights based/gender sensitive approach, we are not doing it all.

The meeting closed on the afternoon of 29<sup>th</sup> March. The meeting evaluation completed by the National Coordinators is attached as Annex 3.

## Annex 1 List of Participants

Country	Name	Sex	Organisation	Position	Email
FSM	Sean Kadannged	M	Yap State Resources & Development/Environmental Protection Agency and SPC	FSM RENI National Coordinator	<a href="mailto:seank@spc.int">seank@spc.int</a>
RMI	Newton Ira Lajuan	M	Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce and SPC	RMI RENI National Coordinator	<a href="mailto:newtonl@spc.int">newtonl@spc.int</a>
Fiji	Albert Seluka	M	SPC-Regional Rights Resources Team	Senior Human Rights Adviser	<a href="mailto:alberts@spc.int">alberts@spc.int</a>
Fiji	Rose Martin	F	SPC-Regional Rights Resources Team	Senior Human Rights Adviser	<a href="mailto:rosem@spc.int">rosem@spc.int</a>
FSM	George Isom	F	SPC – Micronesia Regional Office	Country Focal Officer	<a href="mailto:georgezi@spc.int">georgezi@spc.int</a>
RMI	Kathryn Relang	F	SPC-Regional Rights Resources Team	Country Focal Officer	<a href="mailto:kathrynr@spc.int">kathrynr@spc.int</a>
Vanuatu	Kim Robertson	F	SPC- Social Development programme	Statistics Adviser (Gender Equality)	<a href="mailto:kimr@spc.int">kimr@spc.int</a>
Fiji	Fakasao Tofinga	M	SPC – RENI Project	Engineer	<a href="mailto:tofigaf@spc.int">tofigaf@spc.int</a>
Fiji	Swastika Raju	F	SPC – RENI Project	Finance Officer	<a href="mailto:swastikar@spc.int">swastikar@spc.int</a>
Fiji	Gillian Cambers	F	SPC – RENI Project	Project Manager	<a href="mailto:gillianc@spc.int">gillianc@spc.int</a>
Fiji	Zhiyad Khan	M	SPC – RENI Project	Communication & Liaison Officer	<a href="mailto:zhiyadk@spc.int">zhiyadk@spc.int</a>

## Annex 2 Agenda

### Planning Meeting for RENI-Suva Team and National Coordinators only

#### Agenda

28-29 March 2019

Robert Reimers (RRE), Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands

27 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	
	RENI-Suva team and National Coordinators from Palau and Yap Proper arrive in Majuro
28 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	
9.00-10.00	Discussions with all National Coordinators <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review of overall implementation</li><li>• Feedback from National Coordinators about challenges</li></ul>
10.00—11.30	One-on-one discussion on RMI activities, finances, communications, and future planning, Newton Lajuan, RMI and SPC Suva Team.
11.30 -1.00	One-on-one discussion on FSM activities, finances, communications, and future planning, Sean Kadannged, FSM and SPC Suva Team
1.00 – 2.00	Lunch
2.00-3.30	One-on-one discussion on Palau activities, finances, communications, and future planning, Patrick Termeteet, Palau and SPC Suva Team
3.30 – 4.00	Professional Development (PDS)
29 <sup>th</sup> March 2019	
9.00 – 12.00	Review with SPC-RRRT and SDP teams on <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How a gender sensitive/rights based approach has been applied to date</li><li>• How the approach can be enhanced over the next 12 months</li></ul>
12.00 – 1.00	Lunch
1.00-2.00	Lessons learnt to date: National Coordinators and SPC Suva Team
2.00 – 3.00	Overall planning for RENI activities through to November 2020
3.00-3.30	Wrap-up, evaluation

### Annex 3 Meeting evaluation

#### RENI Planning Meeting 28 - 29 March 2019

#### Evaluation Form

<p>1. In what way was the meeting useful for your work as a National Coordinator?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I got a better understanding of what my neighbours in Micronesia encounter as they try to implement the project in their country, i.3. challenges solutions.</li><li>• Presentation by RRRT very enlightening. I am now more aware of rights.</li><li>• It is great to meet with the team and update and build our plan together.</li><li>• Great to learn about their challenges and lessons learnt and work on addressing them.</li></ul>
<p>2. How could the meeting have been improved?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No improvement needed</li><li>• I like the setting and approach</li></ul>
<p>3. Identify two highlights you take away from this planning meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The need to pre-plan before any major meeting.</li><li>• The more people engaged and participating, the more likely solutions to potential problems will be reached.</li><li>• Gender/rights based approach</li><li>• Work plan for the next 15 months.</li></ul>