

Applying the PLANET principles in Palau

The rights-based, gender-sensitive approach used throughout the RENI project is based on SPC's PLANET checklist:

- P = Participation
- L = Link to rights
- A = Accountability
- N = Non-discrimination
- E = Empowerment
- T = Transforming social norms

Training in applying the PLANET approach has been provided at all regional meetings and the approach is referred to often during consultations, national meetings and is incorporated into the Project Design Document for Palau.

The activities in Participation applied particular attention to three components of the PLANET approach: Participation, Accountability and Non-discrimination:

- Participation is the extent to which people affected by the project are able to participate in the project.
- Accountability is the extent to which project implementers are accountable to the people affected by the project.
- Non-discrimination involves taking into account how the project might affect different groups of people.

Participation

The planning and oversight of project activities was conducted by the RENI Steering Committee which was appointed by the National Emergency Committee. The representatives were mainly from government agencies together with the Palau Red Cross and the Chamber of Commerce. Consultations were held with representatives of the State governments for Aimeliik and Ngatpang States in 2018.

State representatives attended both Steering Committee Meetings and a representative from Ngatpang State participated in the 2019 Steering Committee Meeting.

Once the selection and design of the water storage measures for the Tabecheding River in Ngatpang State were designed, a community consultation was held in January 2019.



Ngatpang community representative and Ngatpang State Legislator at the 2019 Steering Committee Meeting (left and centre); Ngatpang community consultation 2019 (right)

A request for quotations targeting women's groups was advertised in December 2018 for a consultant to develop information in the local language to promote women and heads of households to take action to conserve water at the community level. There were no successful tenders submitted.

Accountability

Following the absence of a successful tender in September 2019 for the Tabecheding Water Storage System, the RENI Palau Steering Committee requested the RENI Project Manager visit Palau to discuss the outcome. Arrangements were immediately made to travel to Palau. (Due to conflicting schedules the meeting was actually held in Nadi, Fiji).

Non-discrimination

In Palau the initial design of the project as confirmed in the Project Design Document, was to increase water availability and accessibility to as many people as possible. New water storage systems in Aimeliik and Ngatpang States would be available to nearby communities, and during drought, residents of the major population centres in Koror and Airai could also access these water storage systems. Additional water tanker trucks would also be purchased to facilitate the distribution of water during future droughts, particularly to households where people, such as the elderly and those with disabilities, could not access communal water distribution systems.

With the assistance of national partners, the consultations with the communities were conducted in the local language.