



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

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

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2018, Ailuk Working Group Consultation**



## **Background**

A preliminary visit was made to Ailuk from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018 to:

- Present and discuss the RENI project's community-led and bottom-up approach to the establishment of tangible on-the-ground food security measures that will enhance community resilience ahead of the next drought.
- Understand the women's and the men's experiences and hardships during the 2013 and 2016 droughts.
- Listen to the community's ideas on how to enhance food security in readiness for the next drought, recognizing that this will include some water security activities.
- Raise awareness and conduct training on gender and human rights so as to facilitate the engagement of women, youth and people with disabilities in the design and implementation of the RENI project.
- Listen to the communities' needs for drought resilience
- Conduct an agricultural assessment.

Following this visit and some further investigations, preliminary planning and costing of project activities in Ailuk was undertaken.

The purpose of this working group consultation was (i) to share with the community the proposed RENI activities; (ii) to explain why some of the communities' requested activities could not be implemented by the RENI project and (iii) to agree on the activities.

## **Logistics**

The RENI project supported the travel and stay of the Ailuk Mayor and Councillors to Majuro. The agenda is presented in Annex 1. Nineteen persons participated in the consultation (5 were female and 14 were male). The list of participants is presented in Annex 2. Most of the consultation was conducted in Marshallese with some English translation.

Powerpoint presentations on the Ailuk agricultural assessment and the gender/rights-based assessment were presented and are available on request.

## **Highlights of the Discussion**

### *Gender and rights-based approaches*

- Gender equality is the term the community in Ailuk often hear about.
- Domestic violence and use of violence against children for discipline is still practiced and an important issue.
- There is a need to share information about women's rights so women can better understand their rights in the future.

### *Food crops, nursery and livestock*

The participants discussed in small groups the following:

- Why did the previous nursery fail?
- Responses: No tools, no seedlings, not enough water and the water is salty, soil is not good, workers didn't know how to use the tools/equipment, not enough shade and pests.

- How do we ensure a new nursery is successful?
- Responses: Training, equipment and composting
  
- Who is going to look after the nursery? What are roles for women? What are the roles for men?
- Responses: Extension agent and local government, men and women and 2 local farmers. Women's role – make food, men's role- keep the nursery going.
  
- Where should the tools be kept and who will look after them?
- Responses: People manning the nursery will take care of the tools and the Council will also be responsible. Stored in tool shed. People can sign out tools to use.
  
- How can we encourage residents to grow their own crops?
- Responses:
  - Awareness;
  - Ordinance to encourage people to grow their own food,
  - Local government to make incentives to keep people interested in maintain their gardens (every 3 years),
  - Economic incentive (but sometimes the food will go bad and if everyone sets up their garden, we won't see the economic benefits, and transportation is a major problem)
  - Food preservation techniques

There was further discussion around whether awareness and education were sufficient to change people's behaviour, and among the ideas proposed was to link food crops with health benefits:

- Training on the health benefits of the food being planted
- Contribute vegetables to the school hot lunch program

### ***Water resources***

During a discussion with Halston DeBrum, Operation Manager of the Majuro Water and Sewer Company, the following points were emphasised:

- R.O units require large investment for cost and maintenance.
- Rule of thumb: annual maintenance costs are around 10% of the total cost of the unit.
- Only 3 R.O. technicians in the Majuro Water and Sewer Company.
- In Ailuk and the outer atolls, it was recommended to focus on rainwater catchment systems and to enhance, refurbish and add to these. These would then be the primary drinking water source and the well water could then be used for washing and other uses. Emergency, portable R.O units are available for shipment and use in droughts.
- There is a need for a comprehensive water assessment to be conducted in Ailuk, and the RENI project will undertake this before further work is done with the rainwater catchment systems.

## **Concluding Remarks**

During the closing it was made clear that RENI is only one of many projects, and there are further opportunities for the Mayor and Council of Ailuk to seek funding for R.O. units. This point was also raised to Mr Ben Graham, Chief Secretary, at the “Overall Consultation and Endorsement of all RENI Activities” on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. During his opening remarks, he indicated that the Government may be able to assist in getting an R.O. technician from Ebeye to go over to Ailuk to inspect and repair the two R.O. Units that are not working.

The consultation concluded with thanks to all the participants for their valuable input.

A short evaluation was conducted which showed the participants were highly satisfied with the consultation. The results of the consultation are presented in Annex 3. One participant noted in the evaluation: *“Very useful to have good planning and be involved before the start of the project and voice out what we think about the project.”*

## Annex 1 Agenda



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

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

#### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2018, Ailuk Working Group Consultation

#### AGENDA

Time	Activity
<b>Day 1: Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018 – Ailuk Working Group Consultation</b> <b>Objective: to prioritise and schedule RENI activities in Ailuk Atoll</b>	
9.00 – 9.30am	Introduction <i>Gillian Cambers, SPC-RENI Project Manager</i>
9.30 – 10.15am	Re-cap of consultation in Ailuk (2-9 April) and discussion <i>Poasa Nauluvula and Kathryn Relang, SPC</i>
10.15 – 10.30am	Morning tea
10.30 – 12.00pm	Small group discussion: Proposed food security measures in Ailuk: Identifying and addressing the risks
12.00 – 12.30pm	Groups report back
12.30 – 1.30pm	Lunch
1.30 – 2.30pm	Small group discussion continued: Proposed food security measures in Ailuk: Identifying and addressing the risks
2.30 – 3.00pm	Groups report back
3.00 – 3.15pm	Afternoon tea
3.15 – 4.00pm	Recap of day's results and next steps Evaluation

## 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	<a href="mailto:rufina.jack@gmail.com">rufina.jack@gmail.com</a>
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. Nemina Nysta	Observer, Ailuk		
9. Henry Capelle	Chief of Agriculture & Quarantine, Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce (MNRC)	455-4920	<a href="mailto:kikurto@yahoo.com">kikurto@yahoo.com</a>
10. Kennedy Glanry	National Disaster Management Office (NDMO)	455-5569	<a href="mailto:Kennysunshine63@gmail.com">Kennysunshine63@gmail.com</a>
11. Timmy Langrine	Director, National Disaster Management Office (NDMO)	625-5150	<a href="mailto:ndmodirector@gmail.com">ndmodirector@gmail.com</a>
12. John Paul	Kalgov Council Mayor	456-6625	<a href="mailto:Anthonyshipaul@gmail.com">Anthonyshipaul@gmail.com</a>
13. Kathryn Relang	RRRT RMI focal point, Pacific Community	456-0686 425-8718	<a href="mailto:kathrynr@spc.int">kathrynr@spc.int</a>
14. Lajkit Rufus	Forestry Officer, Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce (MNRC)	625-4020/3206	<a href="mailto:lrufus@hawaii.edu">lrufus@hawaii.edu</a>
15. Veronica Wase	Likiep Atoll- Local Government	455-0389	<a href="mailto:nikamwase@gmail.com">nikamwase@gmail.com</a>
16. Stephen Lepton	Agriculture Division, Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce (MNRC)	675-3206	<a href="mailto:Stephen1lepton5519@gmail.com">Stephen1lepton5519@gmail.com</a>
17. Poasa Nauluvula	LRD, Pacific Community	691-9258135	<a href="mailto:poasan@spc.int">poasan@spc.int</a>
18. Gillian Cambers	RENI, Pacific Community	456 1007	<a href="mailto:gillianc@spc.in">gillianc@spc.in</a>
19. Zhiyad Khan	RENI, Pacific Community	679-9256751	<a href="mailto:Zhiyadk@spc.int">Zhiyadk@spc.int</a>

### **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

