

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW



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PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT



“In Our Hands Is Our Future”

This year the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands is pleased to present our first Voluntary National Review (VNR) towards the 2030 Global Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This report was designed on the basis of our National Strategic Plan (NSP) 2020-2030.

Our National Strategic Plan was updated in 2020 providing the Government with a roadmap for progress regarding our National priorities in the five Strategic Areas of Social Services and Cultural Identity, Economic Development, Infrastructure, Environment Awareness and Climate Change and Good Governance. The Policy Objectives in each Strategic Area are aligned to the Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030 and SAMOA Pathway.

As a small island state, our country faces unique challenges, including geographic isolation, rising sea levels and climate change impacts among others. The NSP is designed to provide guidance in meeting and overcoming these challenges through prioritizing available resources.

The VNR reporting offered an ideal opportunity for RMI stakeholders to reflect on progress made against the Policy Objectives and respective commitments in the NSP. Furthermore, the process underscored the value of partnership with local stakeholders and development partners and highlights the need for collective responsibility.

Together in our hands we will build a prosperous tomorrow.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Kabua'. The signature is stylized and includes a large circular flourish at the beginning.

H.E David Kabua
President
Republic of the Marshall Islands

| ACRONYMS | |
|-----------------|--|
| ABS | Access Benefit Sharing |
| ACWA | Addressing Climate Vulnerability in the Water Sector |
| AG | Attorney General |
| CBR | Correspondent Banking Relationship |
| CCD | Climate Change Directorate |
| CEA | Civil Engineering Adviser |
| CMI | College of the Marshall Islands |
| COA | Charts of Account |
| CVA | Coastal Vulnerability Assessment |
| DAMA | Demand Assessed Multiple Assign |
| DCA | Department of Civil Aviation |
| DRM | Disaster Risk Management |
| DUD | Delap Uliga Djarrit |
| EOC | Emergency Operations Center |
| EPA | Environmental Protection Authority |
| EPPSO | Economic Policy Planning and Statistics Office |
| FHB | First Hawaiian Bank |
| FMIS | Financial Management Information System |
| GCF | Green Climate Fund |
| GDP | Gross Domestic Product |
| GEF | Global Environment Facility |
| GHG | Green House Gas |
| GIZ | Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit |
| GRT | Gross Revenue Tax |
| ICAO | International Civil Aviation Organization |
| ICPD | International Conference on Population and Development |
| ICT | Information and Communication Technology |
| IMF | International Monetary Fund |
| IMO | International Maritime Organization |
| IOM | International Organization for Migration |
| IQBE | Improving Quality Basic Education |
| JICA | Japan International Cooperation Agency |
| KPI | Key Performance Indicators |
| M&E | Monitoring and Evaluation |
| MCT | Micronesia Conservation Trust |
| MEC | Marshalls Energy Company |
| MICNGO | Marshall Islands Council of NGO |
| MIDB | Marshall Islands Development Bank |
| MIMA | Marshall Islands Mayors Association |

| | |
|---------------|--|
| MIMRA | Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority |
| MIPD | Marshall Islands Police Department |
| MIRC | Marshall Islands Revised Code |
| MOCIA | Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs |
| MOEST | Ministry of Education, Sports and Training |
| MOF | Ministry of Finance |
| MOFAT | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade |
| MOHHS | Ministry of Health and Human Resources |
| MOTCIT | Ministry of Transportation, Communication and Information Technology |
| MTBIF | Medium-Term Budget and Investment Framework |
| MWSC | Majuro Water and Sewer Company |
| NAP | National Adaptation Plan |
| NCD | Non-communicable Disease |
| NCT | Nuclear Claims Tribunal |
| NDC | Nationally Determined Contribution |
| NDMO | National Disaster Management Office |
| NEMS | National Environmental Management Strategy |
| NEO | National Energy Office |
| NES | National Export Strategy |
| NIC | National Intelligence Committee |
| NIIP | National Infrastructure Investment Plan |
| NNC | National Nuclear Commission |
| NSP | National Strategic Plan |
| NTA | National Telecommunications Authority |
| NTC | National Training Council |
| OCIT | Office of Commerce, Investment and Tourism |
| OCS | Office of the Chief Secretary |
| PAN | Protected Area Plan |
| PDR | Pending to Disposal Ratio |
| PEFA | Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability |
| PFM | Public Financial Management |
| PIFS | Pacific Island Forum Secretariat |
| PIPAP | Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal |
| PIU | Program Implementation Unit |
| PNA | Parties to the Nauru Agreement |
| PO | Policy Objectives |
| POPs | Persistent Organic Pollutants |
| PREP | Pacific Resilience Project |
| PSS | Public School System |
| RECO | Research Education Communication Organization |
| RHDHV | Royal Haskoning DHV |

| | |
|---------------|---|
| RMI | Republic of the Marshall Islands |
| SAMOA | Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action |
| SDG | Sustainable Development Goals |
| SEC | Strategic Emergency Communication |
| SECP | Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation Plan |
| SGP | Small Grant Program |
| SOE | State-Owned Enterprise |
| SOEMU | SOE Management Unit |
| SOLAS | Safety of Life at Sea |
| SPREP | Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment |
| STAR | Systemic Transparent Allocation of Resources |
| STEM | Science, Technology and Mathematics |
| TTEC | Tile Til Eo Committee |
| TVET | Technical and Vocational Education and Training |
| ULAB | Used Lead Acid Batteries |
| UNCAC | United Nations Convention Against Corruption |
| UNCBD | United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNFCCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| USP | University of the South Pacific |
| UXO | Unexploded Ordnance |
| VNR | Voluntary National Review |
| WAM | Waan Aelon in Majol |
| WUTMI | Women United Together in the Marshall Islands |
| WIU | Work, Infrastructure and Utilities |
| WTE | Waste to Energy |

**RMI VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We have a clear vision for the Republic of the Marshall Islands:

“IN OUR HANDS IS OUR FUTURE”

This vision guides our efforts as a resilient, productive, and self-supportive nation. Embracing the inherent challenges faced as a small island developing state, including geographic isolation, rising sea levels, the impacts of climate change, and diseconomies of scale, we remain resolute to transform our development pathway, in a manner which maintains and enhances a united and inclusive Marshallese identity.

Our National Strategic Plan (NSP) provides a roadmap for our approach to sustainable development and inclusive growth. The NSP is aligned to the 2030 Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway, with relevant aspects of global initiatives already integrated in relevant national strategies and policies. The NSP prioritizes five pillars for development, 1) social services and cultural identity, 2) economic development, 3) infrastructure, 4) environmental awareness and climate change, and 5) good governance.

Achieving this will require building resilience to the damaging effects of climate change and global pandemics such as COVID-19, as well as addressing our social and well-being concerns. Moreover, we need to continue developing an economy that delivers effective public services and productive opportunities for all Marshallese children, women and men, living in the urban areas and the neighboring islands.

No One Left Behind

In line with national development priorities, we want equitable development across the country to ensure better access and social development. Rural-urban disparities continue to exist. This is the case in both the urban centers and neighboring islands, and there is a clear trend of urban migration, with Majuro and Kwajalein atolls now home to three-fourths of our population. The economies of the neighboring island communities have not fundamentally changed over the past century, with these communities relying mostly on copra and handicraft production, and limited commercial fisheries and farming activities for their livelihoods. Subsistence fishing and farming remain mainstays of daily life in the neighboring islands. As such we continue to address these disparities through diverse policies that promote improving access and livelihoods in both rural and urban centers through the **“One Nation Concept”** that is the unifying theme of the NSP.

Policies designed to address justice, fairness, and equity are at the heart of the NSP’s Strategic Area for Social Inclusion. There is increasing awareness about issues such as gender, disability and the more vulnerable in society. The Policy Objectives detailed in this Strategic Area focus on being inclusive and providing opportunities for all.

Challenges & Lessons Learned

Negative Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic

The RMI has successfully ensured the safety of our people from the COVID-19 pandemic. We have received budget support and supplies from our development partners and have provided support to our people and local businesses to ensure that the economic and social fabric of the Marshall Islands remains resilient. Despite this, COVID-19 has negatively impacted our economy and progress with regard to specific development priorities.

Geography & Climate Change

Our country will forever remain small and isolated, making transport and trade with major markets costly. While communication with the outside world has also been historically costly and inconsistent, the investment in submarine fiber optic cable in 2010 dramatically improved connectivity with the rest of the world. It is imperative that improvements continue in the domestic telecommunication and information technology. As a low-lying atoll nation vulnerable to the damaging effects of climate change and natural disasters, sea-level rise poses a direct threat to our very existence making the development of a competitive, productive economy all the more challenging.

High Reliance on External Resources and Imports

Reflecting our isolation and narrow resource base, the economy remains highly dependent on international support, mostly in the forms of grants, which has been equivalent to 35% of GDP over the past decade. Approximately half of our annual budget is funded from external sources. Additionally, due to our narrow resource base, access to international markets is crucial. We consistently import much more than we export, relying on imported supplies for food, consumer goods, machinery, and petroleum products with limited scope to produce much of these commodities locally.

Human Capital Remains Underdeveloped

At the heart of all development is the development of human capital. At the foundation of human capital development is early childhood and maternal health, nutrition, and overall healthcare. While our broad human development indicators such as infant and child mortality rates and educational attainment have steadily improved since independence, the overall progress in building human capital can still be improved. We need to redouble efforts to ensure that every child born in the RMI is provided the proper health, nutrition, and care especially in the first 1,000 days of life and that educational opportunities are accessible to all. Such an investment will have a broad impact on long term social, economic, and economic development.

VNR Focus

The Voluntary National Review (VNR) reporting provides for a reflection on progress made against the Strategic Areas and Policy Objectives in the NSP. The VNR process underscores the value of partnerships with local stakeholders and development partners, and highlights the need for collective responsibility in achieving desired results. The VNR illustrates achievements in issues of strategic importance detailed in the NSP, and relates these achievements to SDG

implementation. The VNR highlights results, challenges and opportunities regarding implementation of NSP and the alignment with the SDGs. The VNR focuses on SDGs 3, 8, 10, and 13 outlined in the following section.”

SDG 3. Ensure Healthy Lives and Well Being for All Ages



While our broad human development indicators such as infant and child mortality rates have steadily improved since independence, the overall progress in building healthy lifestyles can still be improved. Our strategy embraces the value of “Kumiti Ejmour” or “health is a shared responsibility”. The “kumit” lifestyle is one where every Marshallese supports one another in every effort to improve healthy lifestyles now and in the years to come.

The NSP articulates our vision for sustainable development, one that is people-centered, founded on human rights and forward looking to the realization of Sustainable Development Goal 3 “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages”. Universal health coverage, including universal access to sexual and reproductive health, increased immunization coverage and better protection for children and mothers, addressing non-communicable diseases, cancers and mental health are high priorities. Our ambition will be short-lived if we do not respond proactively to the adverse impact of climate change and pandemics such as COVID-19 as real threats to the survival of our people and to our efforts to ensure universal health coverage.

Community Lifestyle Program (SDG 3)

Canvasback Missions provide a range of programs that target medical issues, help manage chronic illnesses and create a culture of wellness within the community. One of their major focus targets lifestyle changes through diet and exercise. Trained wellness teams visit the communities to help monitor blood glucose levels, heart rate and blood pressure then provide counsel to reverse their health issues. One sustainable intervention is a Home Garden Program which provides training on how to grow fresh vegetables and produce that can adapt to the environment conditions. To date, over 200 home gardens have been established in Majuro with progress still on-going. Similar classes are also provided to the outer islands.

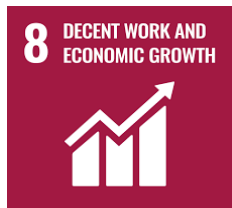
An islander, Lee Pero, shared this: “When I started the Canvasback program, the level of my sugar was high (299-350) and so was my blood pressure. After joining the program, my blood pressure went down to 109/70.” He also mentioned that he had difficulties in breathing but no longer has it.

Additionally, the *Healthy Islands* concept has remained an inspiration for the RMI and the Pacific. We remain committed to applying a *Healthy Islands* concept, and this has played a significant role in energizing the approach to Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). It has framed how our health leaders have engaged with other sectors, and framed the largely successful efforts in support of bringing global attention to the ongoing NCD epidemic. There is widespread consensus that the *Healthy Islands* concept is sound and should be maintained and supported. The breadth of this concept is only now being realized, with its weave of health, environmental, and Pacific cultural concepts. Without a healthy population, we cannot eradicate poverty, we cannot ensure quality education, we cannot achieve gender equality and women’s

empowerment, nor economic growth, provide decent work, reduce inequalities, ensure peaceful and inclusive societies and build genuine and durable partnerships.

Ensuring the last mile assurance for SDG target 3.7 “universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services”.

With the support of UNFPA, the Ministry of Health and Human Services is building national capacity and strengthening mechanisms to progress health logistics and supply chain management system. In advancing universal access to sexual and reproductive health, the MOHHS is conducting Supply Chain Management training for health workers with regular spot checks of health facilities using the newly deployed Tupaia MediTrak tool to compare with the baseline data observed in 2019 during the implementation of the RMI Health Facility Readiness and Service Availability Assessment. The spot checks are a key component of the Last Mile Assurance audit and to ensure a wide range of contraceptive choices are available for women, couples, persons with disabilities and young people even in the remotest atoll of the Marshall Islands



SDG 8. Promote Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth, Full and Productive Employment and Decent Work for All

Urban economies in Majuro and Kwajalein rely heavily on government bureaucracy and the Kwajalein missile base for employment and income. These economies are dominated by the wholesale and retail trade, construction, banking and insurance. The productive economy has evidenced great potential in harnessing the “blue economy” as seen in commercial fisheries as well as tourism, trade and investment.

Private sector inclusion in policy decisions is historically a proven pathway to self-sufficiency. This is evident with our people’s involvement in copra production since the 1850’s. Today the atolls are widely planted with coconut trees, however, copra currently accounts for only about 1% of GDP. Nevertheless, the coconut is still considered the “tree of life” with high potential to produce multiple valuable products, both for food security, energy security, and income generation. Consequently, the value chain of copra, and coconut plantation rehabilitation/replanting continues to be championed as key path ways to promote economic development and income generation.

As the economy becomes more and more engaged in fisheries, and develops into the most commercially valuable natural resource in the RMI, private sector inclusion will remain a cornerstone of long-term sustainable economic growth. Fees for commercial fishing have become one of the largest sources of government revenue. However, while tuna trans-shipments through the port of Majuro to other regions for processing has grown, this has not led to domestic growth in the post-harvest and processing sector. There is a need to continue efforts to maximize fishing revenues which currently accounts for about 12% of GDP. We need to consider the sustainability of fisheries and the needs of fishing companies and investors while increasing employment opportunities and trade and reducing social inequalities and environmental impacts. RMI will pursue opportunities for:

- Further private sector development and investment in fisheries-related activities.
- Public infrastructure and policy initiatives to stimulate increased economic activity via incentives to encourage greater trans-shipment, on-shore fish processing and vessel support services, and the promotion of tuna exports with the establishment of a Competent Authority, in particular.
- Continued participation with regional structures including the Parties to the Nauru Agreement's (PNA) Purse Seine and Longline Vessel Day Scheme.

Life Skill Training Program (SDG 8)

This program implemented by Waan Aelon in Majol (WAM) targets youths, families, local and international communities to preserve Marshallese culture and traditional through canoe building and sailing. Through cultural connections, individuals develop life skills and work ethics. As of the results for the life skill program, 60% aim to find employment, 28% wants to go back to school, and 12% wants to continue training.

Remoteness and small size lead to there being few education facilities in-country and a severe lack of specialised skills. The limited size of the job market means there are limited opportunities for employment. The close relationships and social structures of small island communities often bring challenges in managing employees. Our people are proud of our cultural roots and the government will ensure that it takes advantage of this heritage in all facets of development.

We embrace the future and exploit innovations in science and technology to complement our cultural strengths. In the RMI, the rate of adoption and integration of science and technology in socio-economic life is very low and the shortage of technically qualified professionals is visible at all levels. From now until 2030, we should invest in capacity building to have adequate, highly skilled scientists and technicians to satisfy the needs of the national economy. There is a need to generate, disseminate and acquire scientific skills as well as to develop technological innovations. We must integrate these innovations into social and economic development.



SDG 10. Reduce Inequality

Disparities between rural and urban areas continue to exist. The economies of the outer atoll communities have not fundamentally changed over the past century, with reliance on copra and handicraft production and limited commercial fisheries and farming activities for their livelihoods. An inclusive, “One Nation Concept” aims to integrate the unique development needs of each atoll. The NSP addresses outer island development through a cross-cutting approach in all five Pillars. It is a NATIONAL PLAN that is inclusive of the entire country. The Policy Objectives exemplify how the NSP addresses outer island development through the One Nation Development Concept outlined in RMI’s Vision 2018. Development of the outer islands is also outlined in several RMI National Policies including (but not limited to) the 2050 Long-Term Climate Strategy, National Adaptation Plan (NAP), Food Security Policy, National Infrastructure and Investment Plan (NIIP), and the National Environment Management Strategy_(NEMS)

Weto in Mour (A Place of Life) (SDG 10)

Weto in Mour (A Place of Life) commonly known in other jurisdictions as the “Safe House” is a project support service for the elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

Established in January 2016, it is the first support service for girls and women who are victims, survivors or threatened with violence.

This Program is implemented by the NGO “Women United Together in the Marshall Islands” (WUTMI)

Access to affordable financial services is important for people to manage their finances and for micro, small and medium enterprises to develop. Financial institutions need to tailor products and services that promote greater access to financial services that meet the social and economic development needs of all the people, both rural and urban.

The rule of law and justice are fundamental principles which underpin democratic governance. We continue to work to make the law more transparent and consultative, producing legislation that is in the interest of all our people. The government remains committed to fair and impartial administration of the law, with respect for human rights, and without discrimination, and every person may benefit equally from its administration.



SDG Goal 13. Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and its Impacts

Sea level rise combined with more frequent and severe periodic wave surges are creating tipping points for tolerability of habitation. Accelerated and targeted adaptation measures for well-being and livelihood of atoll communities are being pursued, with additional and accessible resources needed to support further climate proofing and resilience building efforts. At the same time, we continue to call for decisive global action, especially from the larger emitters, to reduce greenhouse gases.

While sea-level rise is an undeniably real threat for the people who live on islands in the Pacific, the likely impacts of climate change over the next 50 to 100 years are going to have repercussions for the atolls and islands of the Republic. This will be made more pronounced in some atolls by coastal erosion and by more frequent and extended droughts and contamination of fresh water lenses. RMI therefore faces the stark choice as a low-lying Pacific island nation: either relocate or find other options. The RMI is considering whether to relocate all 55,000 citizens (making them climate refugees) or to find other feasible options.

Understanding these risks atoll by atoll will be necessary to allow adaptation measures for well-being and livelihood measures to be established with local atoll and village groups. This would be done with a view to strengthen resilience, defer the tipping points and provide time to prepare for more extreme measures. The key principles that underpin our approach to climate change adaptation are found in the NEMS.

Tile Til Eo Committee and National Response to Climate Change

The Tile Til Eo Committee (TTEC) provides oversight of the Republic's response to climate change and reduction of climate and disaster risk in the Marshall Islands. The work of the TTEC is conducted through working Groups and Taskforces as appropriate. Initially there are three main working groups: mitigation, adaptation, and the RMI NDC-Partnership which integrates cross cutting inputs to the Mitigation and Adaptation Working Groups including: women's issues and gender, human rights, capacity building, climate financing, youth and children, and more. The TTEC provides guidance and advises on policy planning and national responses to implement the 2050 National Climate Strategy.

The Policy Objectives in the NSP entail greater climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts. These efforts focus on increasing renewable energy generation, increasing green investments, protecting biodiversity, improving waste management, and mainstreaming climate change and environmental consideration into frameworks, policies and plans. As such, we continue to take a holistic response to climate change including strengthened coordination and decision making by all stakeholders including government, private sector, and NGOs. Additionally, we continue to mainstream climate-related risks into planning and budgeting at all levels and in all relevant sectors. We seek to ensure relevant organizations are adequately resourced and avenues for sustainable financing are secured. This includes organizations supporting the Community Resource Management Plans. We focus on increased localization in environmental data collection to address the fact that over 95% of our islands still remain without data essential to manage the climate risks, and thereby inform narratives of self-determination of communities facing the climate crisis.

Commitment

We are committed to fully implementing the NSP, which integrates the SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway commitments. We acknowledge that reaching the targets in the NSP and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development remains a challenge, noting the capacity and resource constraints we face. It requires the collective efforts of all stakeholders, including those working on transboundary issues such as marine resource management and climate change which depend on global leadership and action. Notwithstanding, we strive to achieve our national development priorities for the benefit of all Marshallese people.

**RMI VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW
COMPREHENSIVE REPORT**

1. INTRODUCTION

We have a clear vision for the Republic of the Marshall Islands:

“IN OUR HANDS IS OUR FUTURE”

This vision guides our efforts as a resilient, productive, and self-supportive nation. Embracing the inherent challenges faced as a small island developing state, including geographic isolation, rising sea levels, the impacts of climate change, and diseconomies of scale, we remain resolute to transform our development pathway, in a manner which maintains and enhances a united and inclusive Marshallese identity.

How do we Marshallese envisage our future? What kind of society do we want to become? How can we maintain and enhance a united and inclusive Marshallese identity? What are the transformations needed to improve our social and economic situation? How can we ensure sustainable development in the face of the growing concerns for the survival of the country from the existential threat of climate change and sea level rise, in addition to the unresolved nuclear legacy we continue to endure?

The National Strategic Plan (NSP) 2020–2030 addresses the issues mentioned above in a contextualized manner, accounting for ground realities, and remains the master strategy for implementing the national development priorities and relevant regional and global development priorities, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The NSP is a result of a national consultative process among government ministries and agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) the private sector and all relevant stakeholders. It provides a broad consensus on the necessity for Marshallese to clearly define the future of the country. The process provided the basis upon which the NSP Vision, Objectives, Context and Strategies were developed.

The NSP is designed as a framework to coordinate the articulated long-term development goals and objectives of the RMI government at the national level. The NSP will be used as the *Roadmap for development and progress* in the medium to long-term (2020–2030). The NSP will be dynamic, and will be continually updated for use in meeting longer term development objectives as we move forward with meeting national priorities and objectives.

As one of only four atoll countries in the world, we face threats to our existence and national survival from a variety of issues including the impacts of climate change and sea level rise. The issue of the RMI’s nuclear past and its continuing legacy strikes a sensitive chord in our society. The NSP, takes cognizance of these issues and growing challenges in trying to chart out a development path for the country and our people.

This VNR report shares the NSP priorities, and accounts for progress made, including on the implementation of relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It highlights the policy and enabling environment in place to integrate and align the SDGs into national planning and policy frameworks, and outlines processes for policy formulation, implementation and monitoring. Vulnerable issues and disadvantaged groups are also identified, and special challenges faced have been highlighted. Challenges and constraints are discussed, together with forward looking opportunities for strengthening our means of implementation, and next steps.

2. METHODOLOGY, PROCESS AND PREPARATION

The VNR process began at the end of 2020 and focused on broad engagement including civil society, private sector and local government. A timeline of the process is located in **Annex 2**. A number of institutional and consultative mechanisms were used to prepare the VNR report. These are described below.

VNR Working Group

A VNR Working Group was established by the NSP-SDGs Steering Committee to oversee and coordinate the VNR process. The working group included members of Office of the Chief Secretary (OCS), Economic Planning and Statistics Office EPPSO, Ministry of Finance, Banking and Postal Services (MOFBPS), Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MOFAT), Climate Change Directorate (CCD), Office of Commerce, Investment and Tourism (OCIT), Ministry of Works Infrastructure and Utilities (WIU), Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs (MOCIA) and Civil Society representatives.

The mandate of the VNR Working Group was to provide guidance for the drafting of the VNR and all related deliverables of the VNR process. The Working Group was also responsible for coordinating information with stakeholders including the various Ministries. The VNR Working Group reports to the NSP-SDGs Steering Committee. The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Working Group includes:

- Provide guidance to the core VNR drafting team;
- Review and provide inputs to the VNR document and other related documents throughout the drafting process;
- Carry out public awareness on the VNR and relevant SDGs including updating stakeholders on VNR progress including holding stakeholder consultation(s) with Majuro and neighboring islands;
- Coordinate with the NSP SDGs Pillar Groups to ensure effective alignment of the status of NSP indicators with the VNR document; and
- Report and update the NSP/SDG Steering Committee on the VNR progress

NSP/SDG Committee

This Committee led the design and development of the NSP 2020-2030 and steered the design and development of the VNR, including the updates to progress for the SDGs.

NSP/SDG Committee Mandate and Tasks

The mandate of the NSP/SDG Steering Committee is to develop a joint systematic, coordinated and integrated approach to implementing, monitoring, and reporting on the NSP and SDGs. The expected result is to provide Ministry and interagency coordination and information sharing. The Committee is responsible for sharing and communicating results and milestones on status of NSP and SDG implementation to all stakeholders. Additionally, the committee is responsible for communication and awareness of the SDGs and NSP among stakeholders including:

- Ensuring a country driven process in tailoring the global indicators to national context by developing a Roadmap for localizing the SDGs;
- Tailoring the global SDGs indicators to the NSP to better reflect RMI context and improve ownership by providing an open and inclusive consultations processes accounting for national priorities;
- Developing a Communications Strategy on the NSP and SDGs for awareness raising and advocacy, including identifying SDGs champions;
- Identifying appropriate members for the 5 Thematic Taskforces ensuring there is a wide range of representation from stakeholders both at national and local levels and develop the functions of these Taskforces;
- Supporting the development of policy, legislative, administrative, budgetary support and other measures, including national strategic plans of action and monitoring tools, to progressively implement the NSP and the SDGs;
- Promoting the mainstreaming of the SDGs and targets relating to women, children, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups, into sectoral development plans and strategies;
- Promoting the participation of other stakeholders in national monitoring and ensure that the information gathered at local level is used in national SDGs monitoring and reporting;
- Supporting local governments in data collection, monitoring and assessment at local levels; and,
- Reviewing and monitoring implementation of the NSP and SDGs by providing information, updates, inputs and guidance to EPPSO on the development of the NSP Annual Report which will also report on progress of achievement of SDGs targets and indicators.

The NSP/SDG Committee includes five subcommittees, one for each NSP pillar:

- I. Social and Culture;
- II. Environment, Climate Change and Resiliency;
- III. Infrastructure Development;
- IV. Sustainable Economic Development; and
- V. Good Governance.

Each subcommittee is comprised of at least one representative from each Strategic Area included in that pillar.

SDG Database

An SDG database which is currently housed at EPPSO, contains information used to help with ongoing monitoring of SDG and NSP implementation

Key Documents

A number of key national policy and planning documents were considered while preparing this VNR report, including the following documents:

- RMI National Planning Framework (C.M. 123 (2019));
- National Strategic Plan 2020-2030;
- Various sector plans and strategies (listed in **Annex 3**);

- National Strategic Plan 2020-2030 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework;
- Public Financial Roadmap (2018-ongoing);
- Development Assistance Policy (2021 for Approval);
- Medium Term Budget and Investment Framework (2004-ongoing);
- Fiscal Responsibility and Debt Management Legislation (2021);
- Economic Policy Statement; and
- National Infrastructure Investment Plan (NIIP-2017-2026).

VNR Stakeholder Workshops

The VNR adopted a wide and inclusive consultative process. A government wide approach was adopted to ensure line ministries contributed and validated the VNR report.

Workshops were held with NGOs and the private sector (one for each set of stakeholders). The workshops were designed to: i) provide information about the VNR and the VNR process to the stakeholders and ii) gather input on the VNR content from the stakeholders. The stakeholders were provided an overview of the VNR process and content including:

- VNR background;
- VNR timeline;
- VNR content/outline;
- VNR key messages; and
- Templates for stakeholder engagement and input.

Participants joined focused group discussions related to the five NSP Pillars. Each group, using the template provided, was asked to work on alignment of the NSP Objectives, and the related ministry and agency activities to the SDGs. The groups presented their work at the end of the session. A list of participants and other stakeholders consulted is located in **Annex 4**.

VNR Write Workshop

A VNR Write Workshop was conducted with all relevant Ministry/Agencies, SOEs, NGOs and private sector stakeholders. The goals of the workshop included:

- Map the linkages between the NSP and SDGs;
- Provide progress updates on the four primary SDGs that will be covered in the National Voluntary Review Report;
- Provide summary updates on the remaining SDGs; and
- Update, where possible, the M&E Framework where there are still KPIs not in place.

While the focus of the workshop was to gather updates and information for the VNR Report, we also used this opportunity to review and update the NSP M&E Framework and further coordinate and provide updates to the Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) to be used for NSP M&E.

VNR Individual Pillar Meetings

Following the Write Workshop, individual follow up meetings with each of the five NSP pillar groups were held. These meetings focused on filling in any information gaps regarding progress

of the NSP Policy Objectives and to confirm alignment with the SDG Goals, Targets and Indicators. These meetings provided the final inputs to the VNR report.

Consultation with Mayors

The VNR Working Group met with the officers of the Marshall Islands Mayors Association (MIMA) to raise awareness and share materials on the VNR and gather input from the Local Governments. Each year MIMA convenes a conference meeting of all the mayors of the 24 atolls to dialogue with national government, civil society and other partners, addressing issues of concern to people living in the neighboring islands.

VNR Validation Workshop

A validation workshop was conducted on May 20 2021. A list of participants is found in **Annex 4**. The objective of the workshop was to facilitate the final formulation and review of the RMI's first country SDG report/Voluntary National Review in line with UN guidelines. The process was inclusive and used a multi-stakeholder approach to the validation format with a specific focus on inclusivity to allow all stakeholders to provide their views and inputs.

The central idea was to allow the SDG pillar groups to review and provide inputs to the draft VNR with specific questions to consider including:

- What are your views on the format?
- What do you think is still to be included or considered?

All inputs were submitted to the VNR drafting group to be included in the final revised report, prior to the report being presented to the Cabinet for approval.

UN Support

As part of the VNR preparatory and validation processes, UNESCAP Pacific Office provided ongoing technical inputs from the onset, including on: the overall approach; report outline; key messages; and overall report coverage against the UN Secretariat guidance on VNR preparations.

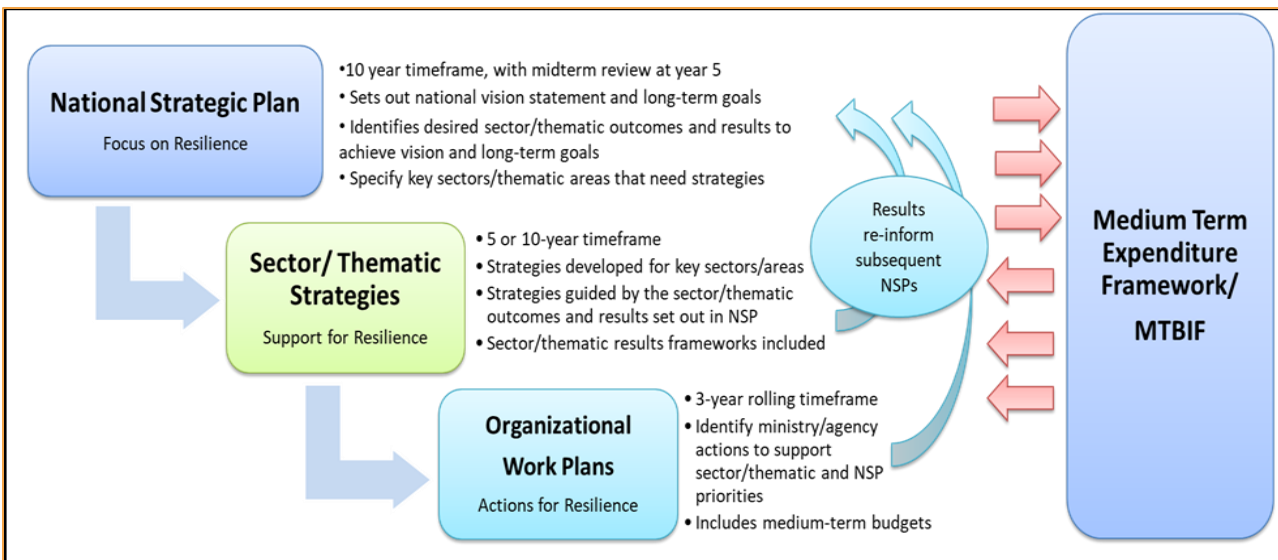
3. POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

RMI National Planning Framework (endorsed by Cabinet in 2019), reaffirmed the NSP as the apex planning document with a high-level strategic focus addressing all developmental priorities, including relevant regional and global priorities such as the SDGs. The Planning Framework guides sector and thematic level planning contributing to the alignment of all planning and budgeting with the NSP, including the implementation of Three-Year Rolling Planning and Budgeting at the Ministry (operational) Level (**Figure 1**).

The VNR report draws on the NSP, given its centrality in implementing the national development priorities and relevant SDGs, underscored by the key design components of the NSP 2020-2030 including:

- Sets the national vision and long-term development goals;
- Identifies Sector Over-Arching Goals;
- Provides for alignment (at the Ministry Level) with the SDGs;
- Specifies the Sectors, Strategic Areas and related Policy Objectives; and
- Provides a guide for the allocation of budget resources through the MTBIF and annual budget appropriations.

FIGURE 1: NSP FLOW DIAGRAM



Incorporation of the Sustainable Development Goals in NSP

The RMI NSP was developed through an extensive consultation process and is complemented by a National Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework. The goals and policy objectives are the guide for government planning and budgeting over the next 10 years. Furthermore, the M&E Framework aligns the NSP with our regional and international commitments including the Pacific Regional Framework, the Samoa Pathway, and the Global SDGs.

The necessary information for conducting monitoring and evaluation, and completing the Annual NSP Report, including alignment with the SDGs will form part of the M&E matrices in the M&E Framework. An example of the how SDGs are aligned with NSP Policy Objectives is illustrated in **Figure 2** (using Policy Objective in the Health Strategic Area)

FIGURE 2: LINKING SDGS TO NSP POLICY OBJECTIVES AND NSP TARGETS

| Pillar 1: Social and Culture | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| Strategic Area 1.1: Health | | | | | |
| Policy Objective | KPI SMART Indicators | Link to Ministry | Targets 2030 | Status of Indicators | SDG Targets/Indicators |
| Policy Objective S&C 1.1.1 Strengthened response to non-communicable diseases, including nutrition, mental health, and injuries | No. of Diabetic (NCD) related health complication | MOH Portfolio Budget Output 1.3.1 <i>To prevent, maintain, and manage NCD and tobacco-related diseases</i> | By 2024, the prevalence of diabetes amongst the adult population is reduced from the 2018 rate by XX % Diabetic related lower-limb amputations are below XX/year | Baseline: Data 26.8% prevalence rate (2018 Hybrid Survey) Lower Limb 2020 (13 total) | Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages 3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being 3.4.1 Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease |

The Ministry of Health and Human Services (MOHHS) is progressing Universal Health Coverage as strategic prerequisite to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 3 “Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages” and progressing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Marshall Islands. In the spirit of leaving no one behind when it comes to the right to the highest standard of physical and mental health throughout the life course, MOHHS is guided by the national health priorities and policy objectives in the NSP and seeks to (1) address non-communicable diseases, including nutrition, mental health, and injuries; (2) improved maternal, infant, child and adolescent health; (3) strengthened response and resilience to communicable disease, environmental health, and health emergency preparedness; (4) strengthened planning, management and administration of Human and Financial resources; (5) provision of quality health care infrastructure, especially cancer care, for all Marshallese; (6) strengthened outer island health services; and (7) address issues of climate change and human health. The Ministry adopts the Key Performance Indicators Annual Scorecard to regularly track localized SDG indicators and targets

Annex 6 includes a more detailed mapping and alignment of the SDG targets and indicators with the NSP Policy Objectives.

Operationalizing the NSP

As illustrated in **Figure 2** (above) linking the NSP to the ministry budgets is the principal method of operationalizing the NSP. The Annual Report, through the information provided in the reporting matrixes provides information on the status of the NSP with regard to the respective

KPIs and Targets aligned with each NSP Policy Objective. Ministry level budget and planning information is aligned to the NSP. Both the Ministry level annual planning/budgeting process and the Ministry level Strategic Planning process are used to operationalize, and align with the NSP. The NSP M&E Framework works to operationalize the NSP by:

- Aligning the implementation and reporting of the NSP against ministry level outcomes and budgets
- Aligning reporting of the NSP with both ministry level reporting (micro) and the SDGs (macro)
- Illustrating the linkages between ongoing operational budgets, the NSP Policy Objectives and the SDGs through NSP M&E Framework the RMI

The NSP Annual Report

This report is the principal means of communicating progress for the NSP and illustrating the linkages to the SDGs (and related SDG progress). The process of data collection and analysis to populate the annual report is still being designed and will be further embedded into the regular activities of line ministries. Ministries provide the baseline data, to best track progress against the targets and milestones. This will not only inform the annual report, but will also provide essential feedback to the people responsible for making decisions, programming activities, developing budgets and delivering services.

The Annual NSP Report provides the ongoing status for the Policy Objectives (as aligned with the NSP targets and indicators). Included in this reporting are the aligned SDG targets (and indicators) for the respective NSP Policy Objectives. This format provides insight into how RMI is operationalizing the NSP and also integrating the SDGs into the ongoing work of implementing the NSP.

NSP and SDGs Ownership and Awareness Pilot Projects

A fund was established under the Office of the President to support annual pilot projects that are designed to create awareness, ownership and align with the SDGs. The criteria for evaluation to determine project funding awards included:

- Linkage to SDGs;
- Short term/long term benefit;
- Linkage to ongoing sector projects or plans;
- Replication possibility; and
- Number of people impacted (and if possible per capita impact).

Project proposals were submitted by NGOs and other stakeholders for review by the NSP/SDG Committee. Some of the projects include:

KIO (Kora In Okrane) Dren in Mour Project

The Dren in Mour/Clean Water Initiative project aims to improve access to clean water for remote outer island as well as those without clean water in urban centers of Majuro and Ebeye. This project aligns with SDG 6 which calls for the achievement of universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

Good Governance Awareness Video

The purpose of the video was to raise awareness on SDGs 16 on good governance (transparency, accountability etc.). The video used an interview format and interviewed people from all backgrounds (including students, public servants, stay at home moms). The interviewers asked these questions:

- What does good governance mean to you?
- What issues concerning good governance do you think the government should address; and
- What are the important criteria a country/government must have to adhere to good governance?

The video was disseminated at the 2019 Government Employee Forum (with the President Heine and Cabinet members in attendance) along with PSC. The video was also disseminated through social media (<https://www.facebook.com/100023410238025/videos/365788620878143/>).

Laura Library Building Extension Project

Library expansion was designed to serve single mothers and children to provide a safe and secure learning environment.

MICNGOs SDG Survey with the NGOs

Project objective was to strengthen the partnership between the NGO Sector and the Government by carrying out development works and activities that are in alignment to the National Strategic Plan and Sustainable Development Goals which will contribute to the RMI VNR.

Gravity Lights

The gravity lights project is a joint partnership with Jo-Jikum and the National Energy Office that aims at providing low income households in Woja and Jeirok Community at Laura with a total of 500 gravity lights which utilizes kinetic energy through gravity to provide lighting. Lights were distributed to households that are not connected to the main power grid.

In addition to the pilot projects that are funded through the Office of the President, other pilot projects are being implemented in collaboration with our development partners. One such project is the Early Childhood Development Project (ECD) being implemented by the Public - School System (PSS) in coordination with the World Bank. The goal for the ECD project is that all young children, especially the most vulnerable, from conception to the age of school entry, achieve their development potential. The project contributes to SDGs 1, 2 and 4 and has four components:

- Component 1: Improved coverage of essential health and nutrition services (MOHHS);
- Component 2: Improved coverage of stimulation and early learning activities (MOEST);
- Component 3: Social assistance for early years families (MOCIA); and
- Component 4: Strengthening the Multisectoral ECD System (OCS/PIU).

No-One Left Behind

In line with national development priorities, equitable development across the country ensures better access and social development. Rural-urban disparities continue to exist. This is the case in both the urban centers and outer islands, and there is a clear trend of urban migration, with Majuro and Kwajalein atolls now home to three-fourths of our population. The economies of the outer island communities have not fundamentally changed over the past century, with these communities relying mostly on copra and handicraft production, and limited commercial fisheries and farming activities for their livelihoods. Subsistence fishing and farming remain mainstays of daily life in the outer islands. To address these disparities, a diverse range of policies are in place to promote improving access and livelihoods in both rural and urban centers through the “One Nation Concept”, that is the unifying theme of the NSP.

Furthermore, policies designed to address justice, fairness, and equity are at the heart of the NSP Strategic Area for Social Inclusion. There is increasing awareness about issues such as gender, disability and the more vulnerable in society. The Policy Objectives detailed in this Strategic Area focus on being inclusive and providing opportunities for all.

Structural Issues

A number of structural factors constrain development and growth prospects of RMI, like many other Pacific Small Island Developing States.

Geography presents challenges for development. RMI’s smallness and isolation, make transport and trade with major markets costly. While communication with the outside world has also been historically costly and inconsistent, the investment in submarine fiber optic cable in 2010 dramatically improved connectivity with the rest of the world. It is imperative that improvements continue in the domestic telecommunication and information technology services. As a low-lying atoll nation vulnerable to the damaging effects of climate change and natural disasters, with sea-level rise posing a direct threat to our very existence makes the development of a competitive, productive economy all the more challenging.

Geography also provides real opportunities. Our strategic location in the central Pacific, large ocean area, and natural resources, provide excellent platforms for a better economy for the people.

High reliance on external resources and imports. Reflecting our isolation and narrow resource base, the economy remains highly dependent on international support, mostly in the forms of grants, which has been equivalent to 35% of GDP over the past decade. Approximately half of our annual budget is funded from external sources. Additionally, as a small island economy with a narrow resource base, access to international markets is crucial. The RMI consistently imports much more than it exports, relying on imported supplies for food, consumer goods, machinery, and petroleum products with limited scope to produce much of these commodities locally.

Rural-urban disparities continue to exist. This is the case in both the urban centers and outer islands, and there is a clear trend of urban migration, with Majuro and Kwajalein atolls now home

to three-fourths of our population. The economies of the outer island communities have not fundamentally changed over the past century, with these communities relying mostly on copra and handicraft production and limited commercial fisheries and farming activities for their livelihoods. Subsistence fishing and farming remain mainstays of daily life.

Urban economies remain non-diversified. The urban economies in Majuro and Kwajalein rely heavily on government bureaucracy and the Kwajalein missile base for employment and income. These economies are dominated by the wholesale and retail trade, construction, banking and insurance, and commercial fisheries operations

4. ENABLING POLICIES AND STRATEGIES ON NSP PRIORITIES AND SELECTED SDGS

SDG 3. Ensure Healthy Lives and Well Being for All Ages



While our broad human development indicators such as infant and child mortality rates have steadily improved since independence, the overall progress in building healthy lifestyles can still be improved. Our strategy embraces the value of “Kumiti Ejmour” or “health is a shared responsibility”. The “kumit” lifestyle is one where every Marshallese supports one another in every effort to improve healthy lifestyles now and in the years to come.

The NSP articulates our vision for sustainable development, one that is people-centered, founded on human rights and forward looking to the realization of Sustainable Development Goal 3 “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages”. Universal health coverage, including universal access to sexual and reproductive health, increased immunization coverage and better protection for children and mothers, addressing non-communicable diseases, cancers and mental health are high priorities. Our ambition will be short-lived if we do not respond proactively to the adverse impact of climate change and pandemics such as COVID-19 as real threats to the survival of our people and to our efforts to ensure universal health coverage.

Community Lifestyle Program (SDG 3)

Canvasback Missions provide a range of programs that target medical issues, help manage chronic illnesses and create a culture of wellness within the community. One of their major focus targets lifestyle changes through diet and exercise. Trained wellness teams visit the communities to help monitor blood glucose levels, heart rate and blood pressure then provide counsel to reverse their health issues. One sustainable intervention is a Home Garden Program which provides training on how to grow fresh vegetables and produce that can adapt to the environment conditions. To date, over 200 home gardens have been established in Majuro with progress still on-going. Similar classes are also provided to the outer islands.

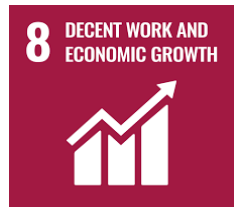
An Islander Lee Pero shared this: “When I started the Canvasback program, the level of my sugar was high (299-350) and so was my blood pressure. After joining the program, my blood pressure went down to 109/70.” He also mentioned that he had difficulties in breathing but no longer has it.

Additionally, the *Healthy Islands* concept has remained an inspiration for the RMI and the Pacific. We remain committed to applying a *Healthy Islands* concept, and this has played a significant role in energizing the approach to Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). It has framed how our health leaders have engaged with other sectors, and framed the largely successful efforts in support of bringing global attention to the ongoing NCD epidemic. There is widespread consensus that the *Healthy Islands* concept is sound and should be maintained and supported. The breadth of this concept is only now being realized, with its weave of health, environmental, and Pacific cultural concepts. Without a healthy population, we cannot eradicate poverty, we cannot ensure quality education, we cannot achieve gender equality and women’s

empowerment, nor economic growth, provide decent work, reduce inequalities, ensure peaceful and inclusive societies and build genuine and durable partnerships.

Ensuring the last mile assurance for SDG target 3.7 “universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services”.

With the support of UNFPA, the Ministry of Health and Human Services is building national capacity and strengthening mechanisms to progress health logistics and supply chain management system. In advancing universal access to sexual and reproductive health, the MOHHS is conducting Supply Chain Management training for health with regular spot checks of health facilities using the newly deployed Tupaia MediTrak tool to compare with the baseline data observed in 2019 during the implementation of the RMI Health Facility Readiness and Service Availability Assessment. The spot checks are a key component of the Last Mile Assurance audit and to ensure a wide range of contraceptive choices are available for women, couples, persons with disabilities and young people even in the remotest atoll of the Marshall Islands.



SDG 8. Promote Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth, Full and Productive Employment and Decent Work for All

Urban economies in Majuro and Kwajalein rely heavily on government bureaucracy and the Kwajalein missile base for employment and income. These economies are dominated by the wholesale and retail trade, construction, banking and insurance. The productive economy has evidenced great potential in harnessing the “blue economy” as seen in commercial fisheries as well as tourism, trade and investment.

Private sector inclusion in policy decisions is historically a proven pathway to a self-sufficiency. This is evident with our people’s involvement in copra production since the 1850’s. Today the atolls are widely planted with coconut trees, however, copra currently accounts for only about 1% of GDP. Never the less, the coconut is still considered the “tree of life” with high potential to produce multiple valuable products, both for food security, energy security, and income generation. Consequently, the value chain of copra, and coconut plantation rehabilitation/replanting continues to be championed as key pathways to promote economic development and income generation.

As the economy becomes more and more engaged in fisheries, and develops into the most commercially valuable natural resource in the RMI, private sector inclusion will remain a cornerstone of long-term sustainable economic growth. Fees for commercial fishing have become one of the largest sources of government revenue. However, while tuna trans-shipments through the port of Majuro to other regions for processing has grown, this has not led to domestic growth in the post-harvest and processing sector. There is a need to continue efforts to maximize fishing revenues which currently accounts for about 12% of GDP. We need to consider the sustainability of fisheries and the needs of fishing companies and investors while increasing employment opportunities and trade and reducing social inequalities and environmental impacts. RMI will pursue opportunities for:

- Further private sector development and investment in fisheries-related activities;
- Public infrastructure and policy initiatives to stimulate increased economic activity via incentives to encourage greater trans-shipment, onshore fish processing and vessel support services, and the promotion of tuna exports with the establishment of a Competent Authority, in particular; and
- Continued participation with regional structures including the Parties to the Nauru Agreement's (PNA) Purse Seine and Longline Vessel Day Scheme.

Life Skill Training Program (SDG 8)

This program implemented by Waan Aelon in Majol (WAM) targets youths, families, local and international communities to preserve Marshallese culture and traditional through canoe building and sailing. Through cultural connections individuals develop life skills and work ethics. As of the results for the life skill program, 60% aim to find employment, 28% wants to go back school, and 12% wants to continue training.

Remoteness and small size lead to there being few education facilities in-country and a severe lack of specialised skills. The limited size of the job market means there are limited opportunities for employment. The close relationships and social structures of small island communities often bring challenges in managing employees. Our people are proud of our cultural roots and the government will ensure that it takes advantage of this heritage in all facets of development.

We embrace the future and exploit innovations in science and technology to complement our cultural strengths. In the RMI, the rate of adoption and integration of science and technology in socio-economic life is very low and the shortage of technically qualified professionals is visible at all levels. From now until 2030, we should invest in capacity building to have adequate, highly skilled scientists and technicians to satisfy the needs of the national economy. There is a need to generate, disseminate and acquire scientific skills as well as to develop technological innovations. We must integrate these innovations into social and economic development.



SDG 10. Reduce Inequality

Disparities between rural and urban areas continue to exist. The economies of the outer atoll communities have not fundamentally changed over the past century, with reliance on copra and handicraft production and limited commercial fisheries and farming activities for their livelihoods. An inclusive, “One Nation Concept” aims to integrate the unique development needs of each atoll. The NSP addresses outer island development through a cross-cutting approach in all five Pillars. It is a NATIONAL PLAN that is inclusive of the entire country. The Policy Objectives exemplify how the NSP addresses outer island development through the One Nation Development Concept outlined in RMI’s Vision 2018. Development of the outer islands is also outlined in several RMI National Policies including (but not limited to) the 2050 Long-Term Climate Strategy, National Adaptation Plan (NAP), Food Security Policy, National Infrastructure and Investment Plan (NIIP), and the National Environment Management Strategy (NEMS).

Weto in Mour (A Place of Life) (SDG 10)

Weto in Mour (A Place of Life) commonly known in other jurisdictions as the “Safe House” is a project support service for the elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

Established in January 2016, it is the first support service for girls and women who are victims, survivors or threatened with violence.

This Program is implemented by the NGO “Women United Together in the Marshall Islands” (WUTMI)

Access to affordable financial services is important for people to manage their finances and for micro, small and medium enterprises to develop. Financial institutions need to tailor products and services that promote greater access to financial services that meet the social and economic development needs of all the people, both rural and urban.

The rule of law and justice are fundamental principles which underpin democratic governance. We continue to work to make the law more transparent and consultative, producing legislation that is in the interest of all our people. The government remains committed to fair and impartial administration of the law, with respect for human rights, and without discrimination, and every person may benefit equally from its administration.



SDG Goal 13. Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and its Impacts

Sea level rise combined with more frequent and severe periodic wave surges are creating tipping points for tolerability of habitation. Accelerated and targeted adaptation measures for well-being and livelihood of atoll communities are being pursued, with additional and accessible resources needed to support further climate proofing and resilience building efforts. At the same time, we continue to call for decisive global action, especially from the larger emitters, to reduce greenhouse gases.

While sea-level rise is an undeniably real threat for the people who live on islands in the Pacific, the likely impacts of climate change over the next 50 to 100 years are going to have repercussions for the atolls and islands of the Republic. This will be made more pronounced in some atolls by coastal erosion and by more frequent and extended droughts and contamination of fresh water lenses. RMI therefore faces the stark choice as a low-lying Pacific island nation: either **relocate or find other options**. The RMI is considering whether to relocate all 55,000 citizens (making them climate refugees) or to find other feasible options.

Understanding these risks atoll by atoll will be necessary to allow adaptation measures for well-being and livelihood measures to be established with local atoll and village groups. This would be done with a view to strengthen resilience, defer the tipping points and provide time to prepare for more extreme measures. The key principles that underpin our approach to climate change adaptation are found in the NEMS.

Tile Til Eo Committee and National Response to Climate Change

The Tile Til Eo Committee (TTEC) provides oversight of the Republic's response to climate change and reduction of climate and disaster risk in the Marshall Islands. The work of the TTEC is conducted through working Groups and Taskforces as appropriate. Initially there are three main working groups for mitigation, adaptation and the RMI NDC-Partnership which integrates cross cutting inputs to the Mitigation and Adaptation Working Groups including: women's issues and gender, human rights, capacity building, climate financing, youth and children, and more. The TTEC provides guidance and advises on policy planning and national responses to implement the 2050 National Climate Strategy.

The Policy Objectives in the NSP entail greater climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts. These efforts focus on increasing renewable energy generation, increasing green investments, protecting biodiversity, improving waste management and mainstreaming climate change and environmental consideration into frameworks, policies and plans. As such, we continue to take a holistic response to climate change including strengthened coordination and decision making by all stakeholders including government, private sector and NGOs. Additionally, we continue to mainstream climate-related risks into planning and budgeting at all levels and in all relevant sectors. We seek to ensure relevant organizations are adequately resourced and avenues for sustainable financing are secured. This includes organizations supporting the Community Resource Management Plans. We focus on increased localization in environmental data collection to address the fact that over 95% of our islands still remain without data essential to manage the climate risks, and thereby inform narratives of self-determination of communities facing the climate crisis.

Reimaanlok

The RMI established the National Conservation Area Plan called the Reimaanlok (Looking to the Future). With emphasis on a holistic conservation approach for sustainable development, the Reimaanlok provides a roadmap to achieve the ambitious targets of the Micronesia Challenge and links community efforts to international goals. To support the implementation of the Conservation Plan, the RMI Parliament passed the Protected Area Plan (PAN) Act in 2015, established the Protected Area Network (PAN) Office under the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA).

To finance the implementation of the Conservation Plan, the RMI established an Endowment Fund under the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) to support the establishment and facilitation of community-based conservation areas. With a target of US\$13million the RMI has raised a total of approximately US\$ 5million. Presently, we have conserved 30.7% of near shore marine resources and 18% of land resources. In 2018, we formally committed to increase its conservation targets to 30% Terrestrial Resources and 50% of near shore marine resources by 2030.

5. SDG PROGRESS SNAPSHOT

SDG Progress Snapshot

Progress for each of the 17 SDG's is presented in this section of the report. **Figure 3** (below) provides a 'stop light' snapshot summary of SDG Progress.

| FIGURE 3: SDG PROGRESS SNAPSHOT | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--------|
| SDG | PROGRESS AREAS | STATUS |
| SDG 1 | Poverty of "Access" mostly relating to infrastructure, health and education opportunities | |
| SDG 2 | Traditional and Sustainable Agriculture, Import Substitution | |
| SDG 3 | Healthy Islands Concept | |
| SDG 4 | ECD (Early Childhood Development) IBQE (Improving Quality Basic Education) | |
| SDG 5 | Gender Equality, Access to Opportunities | |
| SDG 6 | Water Resource Management, Water and Sanitation Strategic Plan (2017-2027) | |
| SDG 7 | National Energy Office, National Energy Policy and Energy Action Plan | |
| SDG 8 | Crosscutting Approach through Good Governance, Economic and Social Culture Pillars | |
| SDG 9 | Infrastructure, NIPP and Communications Projects Planned and Underway | |
| SDG 10 | Vulnerable Groups, Social Empowerment Strategies | |
| SDG 11 | DRM Preparedness and Response, Atoll DRM and resilience plans, NIIP | |
| SDG 12 | Multi-lateral Environment Agreements, Environmental Acts and Legislation (EPA) | |
| SDG 13 | National Adaptation Plan, National Environmental Management Strategy, Global Action | |
| SDG 14 | Reimaanlok, Micronesian Challenge, Protected Area Plan | |
| SDG 15 | RMI Environment Data Portal, CMAC, Atoll Resource Management Plans | |
| SDG 16 | PFM Roadmap, Law Enforcement, Access to Justice and Legal Services, | |
| SDG 17 | National Planning and Budgeting Framework, FRDM Act, SOE Reforms | |

| Key | |
|------------------------|--|
| Steady Progress | |
| Some/Limited Progress | |
| Cannot Assess Progress | |
| No Progress | |

SDG Progress Summary

For each SDG an overview of the alignment of SDG Targets with NSP Policy Objectives and a short narrative summary of implementation for the aligned NSP Policy Objectives is provided. The Focus SDGs (3, 8, 10 and 13) summaries are provided in **Section 9** of the VNR. The remaining SDG summaries are located in **Annex 1**.

For purposes of the VNR report, the alignment of the NSP Policy Objectives (PO) focuses on those PO's that provide the most direct alignment with the SDGs. However, the NSP M&E Framework is designed to capture all cross-cutting alignment and will provide a more detailed summary of SDD/NSP progress when the annual report is completed.

6. PROGRESS ON PRIORITY SDG'S (SDG 3, 8, 10 and13)

| SDG 3: Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote Well-Being for all at all Ages | |
|---|---|
| SDG Targets (Goal 3) | NSP Alignment/Policy Objective |
| (3.1) (3.2) (3.3) (3.4) (3.5) (3.6) (3.7) | (SC 1.1.1) (SC 1.1.2) (SC 1.1.3) |
| (3.8) (3.b) (3.c) | (SC 1.1.4) (SC 1.1.5) (SC 1.1.6) |
| | (GG 5.3.2) |

S&C 1.1.1 Strengthened response to non-communicable diseases, including nutrition, mental health, and injuries **(SDG Indicators 3.3.2, 3.3.3, 3.3.4, 3.3.5, 3.4.1, 3.5.1 3.8.1)**

Prevalence of stunting in children has not yet reached the target of less than 10% with a 2019 statistic showing 35%. The prevalence of overweight children (in 2019) was below the target of less than 5% with information showing 4% of children in the RMI are overweight. Responsible investment in agriculture contributes to food security and nutrition. An increase in locally produced food will ensure a healthier diet for the household and in the long term contribute to improving nutrition and decreasing incidence of NCD.

S&C 1.1.2 Improved maternal, infant, child and adolescent health **(SDG Indicators 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.2.1, 3.7.1, 3.7.2, 3.B.1)**

In progressing SDG Target 3.1 “reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births” by 2030, the Ministry of Health and Human Services has taken steps to ensure availability, accessibility and quality of care services to treat complications that may arise during pregnancy and child delivery. With a 99% Skilled Birth Attendance coverage in 2018, above the target of 95%, the Marshall Islands has seen a steady reduction in infant and maternal mortality in 2018 and 2019. Outreach awareness were conducted in urban and rural areas in developing the three-food guideline lunch program to public schools and in-patient meals.

As of 2019 infant mortality rate was 16/1000 live births and early childhood mortality (under 5) is 17/1000 live births. Infant mortality rate has remained steady with the baseline (2016), however this is short of the target of 12/1000. The early childhood mortality rate has surpassed the target of 25/1000 improving from 32/1000 in 2016 to 17/1000 in 2019. Improvements in early childhood health awareness and coverage continue to be implemented and progress is expected to continue.

Maternal Mortality

According to 63-year old Helen Jetnil-David, the oldest surviving midwife in RMI, the Ministry of Health has come a long way to reduce maternal and child mortality. At the celebration of the International Day of the Midwife in May 2021, Helen Jetnil-David’s 35 years of service was acknowledged by UNFPA. In the receipt of the Plaque for Longest Surviving Midwife in the Marshall Islands, Helen acknowledged the investments of the Ministry of Health in building the capacity and the pool of midwives since she started her midwifery care work in 1985. Continued efforts to strengthen capacity in a COVID-19 context, include optimizing on-line learning opportunities to strengthen midwifery faculty, curriculum and competencies, such as the Midwifery Faculty Development Program developed by UNFPA Asia Pacific and the Burnet Institute.

S&C 1.1.3 Strengthened response and resilience to communicable disease, environmental health, and health emergency preparedness **(SDG Indicators 3.3.2, 3.3.3, 3.3.4, 3.3.5, 3.8.1)**

Information regarding NCDs continues to remain flat, and at times moving in a negative direction (as of 2019). Diabetes and other NCDs remain prevalent. NCD response and awareness is a focus of the Ministry of Health through the *Healthy Islands Concept*. Outreach awareness were conducted in urban and rural areas in developing the three-food guideline lunch program to public schools and in-patient meals.

S&C 1.1.4 Strengthened planning, management and administration of human and financial resources **(SDG Indicators 3.8.1, 3.C.1)**

From the baseline of \$519/per capita spending (2016) RMI per capita spending was \$560 in 2019. The RMI target for per capita spending is yet to be defined. Health sector planning continues to monitor and focus on the issue of per capita health spending, especially during the current COVID 19 pandemic.

The NSP includes these targets 1) by the end of each fiscal year, 90% of medications on essential list in stock and are in place, 2) by the end of each fiscal year, staff attendance work rate is increased by 10% annually 3) by the end of each fiscal year, average purchase order, contract, personnel action processing times is reduced by 15% and 4) by the end of each budget period, budget and end-of-year utilization % (“burn rates”) is at least 90%.

S&C 1.1.5 Provision of quality health care infrastructure, especially cancer care, for all Marshallese **(SDG Indicators 3.8.1, 3.C.1)**

In 2019 the mortality rate attributed to cancer was 134/100,000. This continues to approach the target of 122. However, this is higher than the 2016 baseline of 128. Health care infrastructure has come to the forefront during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, health care facilities country wide, are being reviewed for needed improvements. The NSP specifies that at least four HPV campaign events will be completed annually.

S&C 1.1.6 Strengthened outer island health services **(SDG Indicators 3.8.1, 3.C.1)**

Information from 2019 indicates the RMI continues to improve regarding medical staff density. In 2019 the ratio for doctors was 1266:1 and for nurses was 243:1. The baseline shows a density of 1452:1 for doctors and 477:1 for nurses. However, the targets remain at a distance with targets of 600:1 for doctors and 4:1 for nurses. This issue can be partially attributed to the geographic isolation of the RMI and the problems with attracting qualified personnel. As part of the *Healthy Islands Concept*, health care infrastructure, specifically in the outer islands is being reviewed for needed improvements.

GG 5.3.2 Require robust and unbiased enforcement of laws, justice and regulatory processes **(SDG Indicators 3.5.2, 3.6.1)**

The NSP underscores our objectives to strengthen the abilities of law enforcement institutions to deliver personal security, particularly for vulnerable groups, using new and innovative approaches such as community policing and other best practices approaches.

SDG 8: Promote Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth, Full and Productive Employment and Decent Work for All

| SDG Targets (Goal 8) | NSP Alignment/Policy Objective |
|--|--|
| (8.1) (8.2) (8.3) (8.5) (8.6) (8.7) | (S&C 1.2.7) (S&C 1.4.3) (ECO 4.1.1) |
| (8.9) (8.10) (8.a) | (ECO 4.2.3) (ECO 4.4.1) (ECO 4.4.2) |
| | (ECO 4.4.3) (ECO 4.4.4) (ECO 4.4.5) |
| | (ECO 4.5.2) (ECO 4.5.3) (GG 5.1.4) |
| | (GG 5.2.1) (GG 5.2.5) (GG 5.3.2) |
| | (GG 5.3.3) |

S&C 1.2.7 Address TVET and Workforce Development issues through the NTC, and STEM program (**SDG Indicators 8.5.2, 8.6.1**)

The National Training Council's (NTC) mission is to equip all Marshallese with skills and attributes needed for gainful employment and to contribute to a more vibrant economy. Under its two programs, 1) Training and 2) Employment Preparation Program, NTC has extensively provided services such as funding of training programs relating to TVET/STEM, internship programs for jobseekers, one-stop center for employers to post job vacancies and workshops on work ethics that address issues such as youth unemployment and labor skill needs.

In addressing TVET, NTC reaches out to the high school graduates, urban community and neighboring island unemployed youths to align their interests with identified skills shortages in the country. Additionally, NTC works with the Labor Division to identify skills gap data, collaborate with training providers (CMI & USP) and other stakeholders to provide training. NTC also works with the private sector on Majuro and Ebeye to identify their immediate labor needs.

NTC does not only focus on TVET upskilling for employment but TVET for daily life skills, In the outer islands there is emphasis on upskilling youth on carpentry, sewing, fishnet making and repair, solar, traditional Marshallese artwork, canoe building, out board Engine repair among others. These skills can also be a form of income generation for youth who wish to venture in to entrepreneurship.

Recent Achievements

NTC funded a 3-year pilot TVET Summer Tailor Made Training program, for Majuro and Ebeye. This included programs such as automotive mechanics, carpentry, electrical, welding and soft-skill courses (Business Administration, Accounting, and Tourism & Hospitality). There were over 100 enrolled and meeting program completion requirements. NTC also coordinates annually with other diplomatic offices to provide training for interested youths overseas in the field of TVET. NTC also has worked with donors to organize certification programs for non-certified TVET workers in RMI in the fields of electrical and renewable energy.

Currently World Bank is engaged with NTC and PSS on a 5 year, 10-million-dollar project to enhance TVET Training. The funding will be used to develop appropriate TVET training curriculum at the high school and college levels. The project will also fund relevant infrastructure for training and equipment, consultants to assist in coordinating TVET Program, provide block grants to train

career counselors within the NTC Employment Preparation Division, high schools and colleges. The project also will provide funds for career and online training software for enhancing Internship Programs and support a mini day care center for mothers attending training. NTC conducted a training needs assessment for Kwajalein atoll and is currently developing a Career and Technical Education Strategic Plan to address the identified training needs.

S&C 1.4.3 Promote cultural industry, *amimono* (trademark) (SDG Indicators 8.2.1 8.3.1)

In the RMI we look to ensure our trademarks are registered especially for those products and industries related to culture and local products. In this way we look to export the “amimono” to other countries and increase revenue for our local industries and economy. This will also include providing handicraft retailers access to technology to sell or promote amimonos internationally as well as the use of electronic payment technology. Currently we look to Tobolar (Coconut processing) as a possible international exporter.

We emphasize providing our young people with the knowledge/experience on how to make amimonos and provide training for girls/boys on amimono for Majuro, Ebeye and Neighboring Islands. This includes a focus of providing international museums replicas of our traditional sailing canoes

ECO 4.1.1 Greater opportunities to utilize land for economic growth (SDG Targets 8.3.1)

We continue to look to provide opportunities for land owners to access secured transactions from MIDB (Marshall Islands Development Bank) to secure their lease loans. This opportunity is also provided to the private sector and for private individual loans. In order to do this, we continue to coordinate partnerships with the Council of Irooj, MIDB, OCIT (Office of Commerce Investment and Trade), Ministry of Finance Tax and Revenue.

Agriculture production represents a relatively small proportion of the RMI economy (around 4% of GDP), but is a critical source of livelihoods especially on the outer islands. There are some underutilized lands which offer potential for increased output of agricultural goods. The principal cash crop in the RMI is coconut. Examples of some potential crops in the RMI are breadfruit for flour making, pandanus fruit for juice making and coconut and pandanus leaves for hand crafting and weaving. Other products, such as wood, can be used for carvings and construction. Agriculture products supply raw materials to some of the value-adding industries.

ECO 4.2.3 Enhance capacity of agriculture sector stakeholders (SDG Indicators 8.3.1, 8.6.1)

ECO 4.4.1 Increase import substitution and production and export of locally manufactured goods (SDG Indicators 8.1.1, 8.2.1 8.3.1, 8.A.1)

In 2016, we prioritized trade and economic growth as the epicenter of the overall development of the nation. The National Export Strategy (NES), aligns with the aspiration of the vision and policies of the Government. Aside from concentrating on private sector growth and economic development, the NES will also assist RMI in employment generation, poverty alleviation and improving the overall standards of living of all Marshallese people, thereby helping RMI in meeting some of the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We target capacity building and training in the areas of Crop production, Livestock production, Agroforestry. Capacity building will also focus on value chains. It is estimated that currently 20% of the food supply is produced locally. This reliance on imported foods is a priority issue that needs to be addressed by increasing locally grown foods and improve the engagement of households in agricultural activities. An increase in locally produced foods delivers real economic benefits. Agriculture in the RMI may not be the backbone of the economy but it still plays some vital roles for the overall development of the country.

ECO 4.4.2 Establish more sustainable and eco-friendly tourism (SDG Indicators 8.2.1, 8.3.1 8.9.1, 8.9.2)

The RMI is blessed with great natural beauty and pristine environment that offers great potential for harnessing the “blue economy” as well as sectors such as tourism, and trade and investment. The tourism sector has untapped potential in contributing to income and employment creation. We will promote tourism around the beauty of our atolls for diving, surfing, sport fishing and other ecotourism attractions.

The NSP identifies targets for both overall tourism growth as well as investments in eco-friendly tourism including that by 2030 1) at least 10 new private sector investments in the sustainable and eco-friendly tourism sector 2) the number of high-end tourist arrivals increase to 50,000 (annually) and that the tourism industry should be 100% carbon neutral. The RMI established the Micronesian Center for Sustainable Transport (MCST) in 2018 as a regional center of excellence to prepare and implement a whole of country strategy to transition the RMI toward a low carbon transport future as a pilot and catalyst for other Micronesian and Small Island States.

Project Cerulean Wind Hybrid Ship Design

A major accomplishment of MCST is the approval of Phase II of the Cerulean Project to build and operate a low-carbon, low-cost and low-tech sailing vessel designed during Phase I, to carry commercial cargoes and support communities on outlying islands with little/no transfer infrastructure within the PICT area. The vessel, a 41-meter Wind Hybrid General Cargo 2-masted Ketch is planned to be built at a shipyard within the PICT area to build capacity and to be launched in Q1 of 2022.



ECO 4.4.3 Promote fair and friendly business environment (SDG Indicators 8.1.1, 8.2.1, 8.5.1, 8.5.2, 8.10.1)

As part of the ongoing Public Financial Management Reform (PFM) MOF continues to review the tax regime to explore ways to provide fair and equitable foreign investment. The tax reform also seeks to ensure an equitable business environment for the private sector. PFM reform is also exploring the idea of establishing E-commerce as a way to further improve the business

environment. The NSP has a stated goal of the RMI being ranked in the Top 20 in World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Report by 2030.

ECO 4.4.4 Promote MSMEs and women entrepreneurs (SDG Indicators 8.1.1, 8.2.1, 8.5.2, 8.6.1)

The NSP identifies full integration of MSME's into the formal sector as a way of contributing to both job growth and as a way of increasing revenue generation. The Office of Commerce and Investment is identified as a partner to assist MSMEs with funding and other issues., this includes a target of increasing women led business to at least 50% of the overall private sector by 2030.

ECO 4.4.5 Promote partnerships among public-private and Civil Society Organizations (SDG Indicators 8.2.1)

GG 5.1.4: Strengthen the connection and cooperation with civil society, private sector and outer islands (SDG Indicators 8.9.1)

The RM continues to focus on the development of private/public partnerships. The Office of Commerce and Investment (OCIT) provides services and information promoting foreign investment as well as providing opportunities for the private sector here in the RMI. OCIT functions combine the roles of an investment and trade promotion agency, and a government investment corporation i.e. to encourage and develop investments and to operate business enterprises on behalf of government.

A continued focus on cooperation between, national and local government and the private sector has the objective for developing resilient and sustainable populations centers throughout the country. Plans include an annual roundtable with civil society, private sector, and the Marshall Islands Mayors' Association.

ECO 4.5.2: Improve access to affordable and competitive financial services (SDG Indicators 8.10.1, 8.10.2)

Access to affordable financial services is important for micro, small and medium enterprises. The RMI encourages financial institutions to provide a range of products and services promotes greater access to financial resources. The Banking Commission provides and oversight to the banking sector and continues to work to increase access and opportunities for the RMI people. Targets include increasing the number of ATMs and PoS devices in the RMI by 2030 as well as ensuring lending interest rates are maintained at or below 24%., and that remittances costs are reduced to 3%-5% as a proportion of the amount remitted. We also focus on ensuring all employed population are covered by the pension scheme and have bank accounts.

ECO 4.5.3: Protect and develop links to the international financial system (SDG Indicators 8.10.1, 8.10.2)

Global connectivity of the financial system is critical to facilitate the flow of trade and payments, and correspondent banking relationships for local banks, need to be maintained. The Banking Commission continues to focus on strengthening the regulatory and supervisory oversight of the financial system to better address the challenges of money laundering and terrorist financing. The SDG Committee has funded pilot projects promoting financial literacy so as to impart financial "know how" allowing for effective utilization of financial services.

Specifically, we look to establish a centralized domestic check clearing system by 2023 and a domestic credit registry by 2025. An important piece of the banking system is to maintain BOMI's (Bank of Marshall Islands) CBR (Correspondent Banking Relationship) with FHB (First Hawaiian Bank) and to identify alternative channels to maintain links to the U.S financial system by 2025.

GG 5.2.1 Promote stable growth through responsible fiscal policy targeting stability in inflation (SDG Indicators 8.1.1, 8.2.1)

The NSP proposes a target for the underlying inflation rate (consumer price index) not to exceed .9 (IMF Baseline 2020). The RMI targets GDP Growth rate (annual/trends) to increase by 1.9% (based of 5-year historical data from IMF). The current is (-1.5%) in 2021 (IMF).

We have recently passed new legislation regarding Fiscal Responsibility and Debt Management under the ongoing PFM reforms. The purpose of the Act is to provide for enhanced public expenditure and financial accountability on all public funds. The Act provides for more stringent reporting of public funds to Nitijela and to the general public. It further provides for a more strategic and manageable approach to debt-financing by enabling the Government to establish benchmarks against which the net worth and debt level of the Government can be measured to make decisions on borrowing.

GG 5.2.5 Improve revenue generation (SDG Indicators 8.2.1)

We continue to explore ways to increase government revenue streams. Areas of focus include tax reform (PFM reforms), non-tax revenue generation including fishing revenues and attracting private sector investment. The NSP targets a 4% annual increase through 2030. As part of the ongoing PFM reforms work in the area of tax reform continues. The current emphasis is on seven work streams:

- Increased compliance with existing taxes (GRT and withholding tax), and with any new taxes to be adopted, including data matching, compliance risk management, compliance plan, audit, taxpayer services, staff training, review of Tax Division structural and institutional arrangements, communication and PR strategy;
- Improved collections of tax arrears;
- Consideration and advice regarding proposed new taxes (consumption tax, net profits tax, new income tax etc.);
- Improvements to tax and customs processes, including automation and inputs to a new FMIS;
- The design of processes and templates for revenue projections, and the review of tax forms.
- The introduction of an independent tax appeals mechanism; and
- Risk management and threat analysis.

Additionally, we have made significant progress in making better use of our sovereign resources. This has included substantial reforms to regional fisheries management (non-tax revenue), which have resulted in returns from fees to access our commercial tuna fisheries reaching 12% of GDP. We have also steadily increased revenues from our ship and corporate registries. In turn, this has allowed us to run a series of fiscal surpluses in recent years, and create space for us to make more investments that are needed to safeguard our future. To expand our revenue base, we will explore innovative ways to ensure that appropriate returns from our sovereign rights and

resources are secured for national development efforts, including reviewing all fees, fines, and charges that are currently levied.

GG 5.3.2 Require robust and unbiased enforcement of laws, justice and regulatory processes.
(SDG Indicators 8.7.1)

The NSP underscores our objectives to strengthen the abilities of law enforcement institutions to deliver personal security, particularly for vulnerable groups, using new and innovative approaches such as community policing and other best practices approaches.

GG 5.3.3 Implement effective systems of corporate regulation **(SDG Indicators 8.10.1)**

We target a 90% compliance ratio regarding the digitizing of all corporate files by 2023 in order to better maintain and monitor corporate files as required by law

NSP targets the creation of a website for a Corporate Registry and make ownership of companies available online by 2026 to ensure compliance with national legislation and international treaties. This is to be done in coordination with digitizing all corporate files by 2023 to better maintain and monitor corporate files as required by law.

| SDG 10: Reduce Inequality | NSP Alignment/Policy Objective |
|---|--|
| SDG Targets (Goal 10) (10.2) (10.3) (10.4) (10.5) (10.6) (10.b) (10.c) | (S&C 1.3.1) (S&C 1.3.2) (S&C 1.3.3) (S&C 1.3.4) (ECO 4.4.6) (ECO 4.5.1) (ECO 4.5.2) (ECO 4.5.3) (GG 5.2.1) (GG 5.2.2) (GG 5.2.4) (GG 5.5.3) |

S&C 1.3.1 Improve access to justice for RMI’s vulnerable populations **(SDG Indicators 10.3.1, 10.4.1)**

The NSP targets improving access to the public defender’s office for those most vulnerable groups, in an effort to provide a positive outcome. Additionally, a review of legal fees (per case) will provide a better picture of access to legal advice and representation.

The Community Development Division (MOCIA) is currently working on ongoing issues of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. Legislation passed (or in development) includes Domestic Violence, Prevention & Protection Act, 2015, Gender Equality Act, 2019, Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2015, Senior Citizens Act, 2018, Child Rights Protection Act, 2015, RMI National Youth Policy (final draft), 14th Triennial Conference for Pacific Women Outcome Document 2021. MOCIA ensures all services related to existing policies and legislations are carried out to communities in urban and rural areas and referred to service partners (ex WUTMI).

S&C 1.3.2 Ensure provisions and opportunities for equitable participation of all persons in society **(SDG Indicators 10.2.1 10.3.1, 10.4.1)**

Improving the employment rate for the most vulnerable (disabled, youth, women) is targeted in the NSP (with an expected increase in the overall employment rate by 2030). Included in this is attention to increasing the employment opportunities in the neighboring islands. As mandated under our legislation within MOCIA, capacity training/building is a priority within communities in the urban and rural areas.

The RMI is designing a National Employment Policy that addresses employment of persons with disabilities, the dropout rate youth and single mothers’ employment opportunities. The NSP also targets an increase in training opportunities through both national and local governments. The Disability Coordination Office under MOCIA has submitted the Consequential Amending Bill for the Rights of Persons with Disability to Parliament.

S&C 1.3.3 Build social empowerment strategies into nationwide frameworks **(SDG Indicators 10.2.1 10.3.1, 10.4.1)**

We are moving to integrate social empowerment strategies in sector and strategic plans so as to align with ongoing operational budgets (annual). This includes a review of current policies and strategies to assure social empowerment frameworks are addressed. The NSP targets that by 2030 all RMI national and sector policies will report on social empowerment indicators and that with appropriate policies in place these indicators should trend positive. The Bank of Marshall Islands has in place a micro credit loan scheme with a focus on women and vulnerable groups.

S&C 1.3.4 Strengthen actions for accessing restitution for those most affected by the RMI's nuclear legacy **(SDG Indicators 10.6.1, 10.b.1)**

We promote equality and justice for those impacted by the lingering effects of the RMI's nuclear legacy. This is a social justice and equality issue that is unique to the RMI. We seek to create outreach programs for awareness regarding health and assistance programs. The RMI is seeking the re-establishment of the Nuclear Claims Tribunal (NCT) to address these issues.

ECO 4.4.6 Enhancement and protection of consumer interests and rights **(SDG Target 10.4)****ECO 4.5.1** Strengthen financial sector oversight **(SDG Indicators 10.5.1)**

The RMI, as Small Island State has limited access to consumer products and services. Included in the NSP is the identification and review of the value of interest rates and charges of financial services and products as an area for attention.

We will introduce strengthened legislation, regulation and policies by 2025 that entails core principles for the effective regulation and supervision of financial institutions. This will provide improved regulation and supervision all financial institutions by 2030. In coordination with these improvements the banking commission plans to conduct offsite and onsite examination of all supervised financial institutions by 2030.

ECO 4.5.2: Improve access to affordable and competitive financial services **(SDG Indicators 10.2.1, 10.C.1)**

Access to affordable financial services is important for micro, small and medium enterprises. We encourage financial institutions to provide a range of products and services that promote greater access to financial resources. The Banking Commission provides oversight to the banking sector and continues to work to increase access and opportunities for the RMI people. Targets include increasing the number of ATMs and PoS devices in the RMI by 2030, as well as ensuring lending interest rates are maintained at or below 24%, and that remittances costs are reduced to 3%-5% as a proportion of the amount remitted.

ECO 4.5.3: Protect and develop links to the international financial system **(SDG Indicators 10.5.1, 10.6.1, 10.C.1)**

The Banking Commission continues to focus on strengthening the regulatory and supervisory oversight of the financial system to better address the challenges of money laundering and terrorist financing. The SDG Committee has funded pilot projects promoting financial literacy so as to impart financial "know how" addressing the effective utilization of financial services.

Specifically, we look to establish a centralized domestic check clearing system by 2023 and a domestic credit registry by 2025. An important piece of the banking system is to maintain BOMI's (Bank of Marshall Islands) CBR (Correspondent Banking Relationship) with FHB (First Hawaiian Bank) and to identify alternative channels to maintain links to the U.S financial system by 2025.

GG 5.2.1 Promote stable growth through responsible fiscal policy targeting stability in inflation (SDG Indicators 10.1.1)

The NSP proposes a target for the underlying inflation rate (consumer price index) not to exceed .9 (IMF Baseline 2020). The RMI targets GDP Growth rate (annual/trends) to increase by 1.9% (based of 5-year historical data from IMF). The current is (-1.5%) in 2021 (IMF).

We have recently passed new legislation regarding Fiscal Responsibility and Debt Management under the ongoing PFM reforms. The purpose of the Act is to provide for enhanced public expenditure and financial accountability on all public funds. The Act provides for more stringent reporting of public funds to Nitijela and to the general public. It further provides for a more strategic and manageable approach to debt-financing by enabling the Government to establish benchmarks against which the net worth and debt level of the Government can be measured to make decisions on borrowing.

GG 5.2.2 Strengthen budget management and financial oversight for planned priorities (SDG Indicators 10.B.1)

We continue to work to align planning and budgeting through Public Financial Management Reforms. Part of the reforms focuses on the alignment of annual budgets with the NSP through the Portfolio Budget Framework.

The focus during the FY21 budget cycle was to continue to implement the Budget Framework and better align planning, budgeting and reporting so that PFM reforms can be implemented and coordinated with updated FMIS and COA reforms. Several areas of the PFM Roadmap are the focus of the ongoing work including:

- Introduction of comprehensive corporate and sector planning processes;
- Linking strategic planning documents with budgets through the National Planning Framework Concept Note and the updated National Strategic Plan (NSP) Linkage of the NSP and the anticipated M&E Framework with the national budgeting process and framework including a revised Chart of Accounts (COA);
- Closer integration of capital budgeting with recurrent budgets for ongoing operation and maintenance costs;
- Expansion of budget classification to include functional and program/outcome/output dimensions to be included in the new FMIS;
- Improving budget documentation including budget comparatives, forward year estimates, macroeconomic outlook, macro-fiscal targets and strategy, sector strategies, new policy initiatives, savings measures, fiscal risks, commitments, guarantees and other contingent liabilities, program objectives, and performance indicators; and
- Preparing a new schedule to the budget summarizing funding for each Line Ministry and Agency from each funding source.

GG 5.2.4 Ensure public debt is sustainably managed and finances are directed towards projects with positive economic returns **(SDG Indicators 10.4.2, 10.5.1)**

In 2018 debt ratio was 33%. RMI has recently completed updating the Fiscal Responsibility and Debt Management Bill (2020). RMI obligates itself to be in compliance with the debt ratio as set forth in this legislation.

We have recently passed new legislation regarding Fiscal Responsibility and Debt Management under the ongoing PFM reforms. The purpose of the Act is to provide for enhanced public expenditure and financial accountability on all public funds. The Act provides for more stringent reporting of public funds to Nitijela and to the general public. It further provides for a more strategic and manageable approach to debt-financing by enabling the Government to establish benchmarks against which the net worth and debt level of the Government can be measured to make decisions on borrowing. This legislation includes the following:

- A requirement that the Government prepare the following:
 - Debt management strategy and update it every four years;
 - A fiscal strategy statement that outlines how the government is achieving the principles of the Act that is tabled with the annual budget; and
 - Key statements to the public and to Nitijela on debt.
- Adoption of the following five principles of fiscal responsibility:
 - Maintain prudential levels of recurrent expenditures within available revenues consistent with the objectives of the long-term fiscal strategy.
 - Manage debt prudently, including rules around non-concessional loan agreements.
 - Manage the tax regime to best fit the structure of the economy and to allow for predictability over time.
 - Manage reserves and insurance coverage to offset cyclical volatility, natural disasters and the impact of climate change.
 - Manage capital expenditures to achieve rising national net worth over time.

GG 5.5.3 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people **(SDG Indicators 10.7.1, 10.7.2)**

RMI is fully implementing the revised passport Act with a target date of 2022. An ongoing public awareness campaign continues throughout 2021.

| SDG 13: Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and its Impacts | |
|--|--|
| SDG Targets (Goal 13) | NSP Alignment/Policy Objective |
| (13.1) (13.2) (13.3) (13.a) (13.b) | (S&C 1.1.7) (ECC 2.1.3) (ECC 2.2.1) (ECC 2.2.2) (ECC 2.2.3) (ECC 2.2.4) (ECC 2.2.5) (ECC 2.2.6) (ECC 2.3.1) (ECC 2.3.2) (ECC 2.3.3) (ECO 4.2.2) |

S&C 1.1.7 Address issues of climate change and human health **(SDG Indicators 13.2.1)**

We have developed our Climate Change & Health Strategy for 2020 to 2025 and created a special position at the Ministry of Health & Human Services to address Climate Change related matters on health.

ECC 2.1.3 Meet obligations to relevant national, regional and international treaties, agreements and frameworks **(SDG Indicators 13.2.1)**

ECC 2.2.1: Adaptation and resilience actions to current and future impacts of climate change **(SDG Indicators (13.2.1, 13.3.2, 13.b.1))**

The NSP includes a target that 70% of relevant provisions of key MEAs (Multi-lateral Environment Agreements) are met. The RMI is Party to several MEAs, namely the Rio Convention the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the UNCBD (United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity), and the UNCCD (United Nations Convention Combat Desertification).

To date, we have submitted our Second National Communication (SNC) to the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework on Climate Change Convention) in 2014 and we have secured funds this year (2021) to begin on our Third National Communication (TNC) and our First Biennial Updated Report (FBUR). We have also submitted our Fifth National Report to the UNCBD (United Nations Convention Biological Diversity) in 2016 and our Sixth National Report in 2019. We have not made formal commitments to Land Neutrally Degradation (LDN) targets under the UNCCD (United Nations Convention Combat Desertification). We have submitted our Initial National Report under the Nagoya Protocol in 2017 and have secured resources this year (2021) to develop our Fourth National Report under the Cartagena Protocol.

The main regulatory responsibilities of EPA include environmental permits, development approval, environmental impact assessment and compliance and enforcement which are mandated under environmental Acts and legislations. These regulations are the Ozone Layer Protection Regulations (2004) under the Montreal Protocol and the Pesticides and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Regulations (2004), Solid Waste Regulations (1989) which addresses the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. **(See ECC 2.1.2 for additional information)**

In 2015, the RMI developed and submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) to the Secretariat of the UNFCCC. The RMI committed to a quantified economy-wide target to reduce its emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) to 32% below 2010 levels by 2025. The RMI further communicated to reduce its emissions of GHGs to 45% below 2010 levels by 2030.

We were the only Pacific country to identify domestic transport (land and shipping) as targeted sector. In 2018, we became the first Pacific country to develop and submit its long-term 2050 Climate Strategy to the Secretariat of the UNFCCC. The strategy local name is the “Til Til Eo”, which locally means, “lighting the way”. The 2050 Strategy sets out a clear framework for progressing towards net zero GHG emissions by 2050, as well as transitioning to an economy and society that is resilient and can adapt to the inevitable impacts of climate change.

In 2018, we became the first Pacific country to update its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) whereby the RMI enhanced its commitment to a quantified economy-wide target to reduce its emissions of GHG to at least 32% levels by 2025 and to at least 45% below 2010 levels by 2030. In 2018, the RMI adopted its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Partnership Plan and we are planning to support the mitigation and adaptation working groups on Gender and Human Rights, Capacity Building, Climate Finance and Global Leadership. In 2020, the RMI developed and submitted its Adaptation Communication to the Secretariat of the UNFCCC, before the Paris Agreement 5th year anniversary “midnight deadline”.

In 2018, we began working on its National Adaptation Plan, aka, the Survival Plan and consistent with the UNFCCC NAP Guidelines, we adopted a NAP log frame with the four key components. With a view to conducting community consultations in the neighboring islands, we are finalizing our NAP consultation framework, which was developed in collaboration with the Melbourne University. The consultation framework is aimed at collecting communities’ perspective on climate change, facilitate in identifying adaptation needs and prioritization of adaptation options. The consultation framework approach and context were developed and validated through several collaborations with atoll leaders, civil society groups, local communities and local women’s group. We are planning to conduct consultation on eight neighboring atolls this year and are working towards completing and adopting the NAP by COP-26, November 2021.

ECC 2.2.2 Mitigation of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions in pursuance of RMI's NDC targets and pathway to net zero emissions by 2050 (SDG Indicators 13.2.2)

Our target is defined as 45% reduction of economy-wide GHG emissions (by 2030 as part of the NSP), the Nationally Determine Contribution (NDC) (2018) to the Paris Agreement and the RMI Energy Roadmap (2018). The Roadmap provides a strategic framework for the RMI electricity sector to enable us to meet our climate change targets and to strengthen our role as climate leader. This Roadmap allows us and our development partners to work together to achieve a common vision for the electricity sector. Presently, we are undertaking an energy audit of all government facilities. This program looks at providing energy saving options and we are also looking at establishing several energy related bills on energy efficiency and clean petroleum.

ECC 2.2.3 Strong advocacy, diplomacy and regional/global leadership to enhance urgent global climate action (SDG Indicators 13.3.1, 13.a.1)

We formed the High Ambition Coalition in run-up negotiations at the UNFCCC to the Paris Agreement in 2015, helping to secure key elements of the deal, including the 1.5C temperature

goal, the net zero global emissions pathway by the second half of the century, and a five-year cycle for updating mitigation contributions.

Since then, the HAC has worked to realize the promises of the Paris Agreement it came together to deliver. The work has accelerated and expanded in scope, driving forward ambitious global climate action. And the science has only become clearer since Paris, underscoring the imperative of keeping global temperature increase below 1.5C if we are to avert the most severe impacts of climate change. RMI intends to continue to exert a strong global presence with regard to climate change at international meetings (virtual and face-to-face) and other regional forums.

We submitted an ambitious Proposal to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to establish a Universal Mandatory GHG Levy on International Shipping commensurate with a no more than 1.5-degree temperature trajectory to be presented at the Marine Environmental Protection Committee (MEPC76) in June 2021.

ECC 2.2.4 Strengthened security and survival of RMI to the existential threats of climate change (SDG Indicators 13.1.2, 13.3.1)

The survival of the Marshall Islands is dependent on devising and implementing solutions to the climate change threat. The CCD continues to work within the Marshall Islands and with external partners to develop innovative and practical solutions. The NSP targets that at least 80% of RMI security and survival related issues formally identified and addressed by 2030. The RMI received support from the UNSG to specifically address climate security. The program is focused on low-lying atoll nations to assess, better understand and address their critical climate security challenges. This will be achieved through the application of tailored climate security assessment approaches, inclusive youth and gender dialogues, partnerships with the range of stakeholders operating across the aspects of climate security and supporting the update of key findings in relevant national, regional and international policy and resourcing strategies.

ECC 2.2.5 Continued national advocacy, awareness and education on climate change and resilience building (SDG Indicators 13.3.1, 13.a.1)

We have set the goal of all public schools using climate change modules at middle and high school levels, with 100% now implementing the modules. The national government will continue to coordinate with local governments and civil society to increase awareness of the general public regarding the impacts of climate change and the adaptation measures being considered. We have established Climate Change Coordinators for both Majuro and Ebeye. They are collaborating with other key stakeholders on raising awareness at schools and other community forums.

With PREL's technical assistance, the K-12 Science Curriculum was being revised to integrate climate change adaptation & mitigation benchmarks. Training of teachers from around the country was done during the summer break for those that were able to come to Majuro. During the school year training was also done on outer islands school sites by the PSS Curriculum Specialists. Presently, we are already in the process of implementing climate change adaptation and mitigation curriculum in all Public Elementary and High Schools. We continue to conduct annual training for teachers on climate change since 2017 as new teachers join the Public-School

System. Purchasing of curriculum resources to support the teaching in the classroom had to be prioritized by PSS. Development of climate change local materials results in more active learning seen in students. The training of teachers' program has resulted in the improved understanding of the impacts and science of climate change.

The PREP team is currently working with the Public-School System (PSS) and the principals of the school in Ebeye on a youth initiative aiming at PREP II Project Youth Engagement Initiative.

This was initiated by the PREP team and aims at (i) strengthening the national youth's knowledge about climate change, resilience and disaster; (ii) to improving the capacity of the national youth to take action against climate change its effects through practical experience and tools: and (iii) to enhancing the youth's environmental safety awareness especially as it pertains to the dangers surrounding large scale contraction projects like the seawall in Ebeye. This initiative is complementary to the initiatives conducted with PSS on climate change.

ECC 2.2.6: Increased climate finances to enable necessary response to climate change impacts on RMI's socio-economic development **(SDG Indicators 13.1.2, 13.1.3, 13.2.1)**

The NSP includes a focus on ensuring financial protection for climate related incidents for the urban centers and neighboring islands. The RMI intends to continue to develop and design climate proof related projects that will have a positive impact on the socio-economic development of the RMI.

In an effort to support community-based programs. We have allocated 10% of its GEF-6 and GEF-7 STAR (Global Environment Facility/ Systemic Transparent Allocation of Resources) national allocation towards SGP (Small Grant Program). Under MIMRA, the RMI is also established the PAN Office to support communities to access funds under the RMI Endowment Fund at MCT (Micronesia Conservation Trust). The NDC (Nationally Determined Contribution) Partnership Plan convened a Climate Finance Management Workshop in 2019 and short-term and medium-term actions were identified in following areas: 1. Alignment of Government Plans and integrate approach, 2. Aid coordination, 3 Internal Coordination, 4. Donor Coordination, 5. Grants Mechanism, 6. Private Sector Engagement, 7. Coordinated Resources Mobilization Strategy and 8. Regional Approaches. The RMI NDC Partnership Plan also provided support for the development of RMI Development Aid Policy and is starting on aligning government plans and integrated approaches.

ECC 2.3.1 Enhanced resilience to disasters and risks **(SDG Indicators 13 1.2, 13.1.3, 13.2.1, 13.b.1)**

A key element to enhanced resilience is the understanding of disaster and climate risks and how these risks will change in a changing climate. Under the PREP II project, Coastal Vulnerability Assessments (CVAs) were (and are) conducted in the urban centers, and one of the outcomes includes inundation maps. A significant part of these CVAs focuses on future risks under different scenarios of sea level rise, in particular the impact of sea level rise on inundated areas and the frequency of coastal flooding. These CVA, as well as other studies provide information to help decision makers to prioritize adaptation and risk reduction actions to increase resilience. The

findings of these assessments and studies are integrated in national plans, such as the national adaptation plan and are also expected to inform sectoral and local adaptation plans, as well as the specific hazard resilience and DRM plans, currently in development. Adaptation and risk reduction planning is also extremely important to enhance resilience. We have reviewed our Joint National Action Plan 2014-2018 and are now developing a National Adaptation Plan and National Disaster Risk Management and Resilience Plan are.

Actions are already taken to reduce current risks of coastal inundation, for example the seawall to protect inhabitants and critical infrastructures in Ebeye. Due to the travel restrictions associated to the COVID-19 pandemic, the design of the seawall and its building have been delayed; however, the design of the seawall will make it resilient to projected sea level rise. A study by SPC is currently on-going to identify potential sustainable sources of aggregates for the building of additional coastal defenses.

ECC 2.3.2 Strengthened disaster preparedness, response and recovery (SDG Indicators 13.1.2, 13.3.1)

NDMO has worked and secured a mass text number (6366) with the National Telecommunication Authority for early warning message dissemination to all cellular users in Majuro & Ebeye. The mass text number (6366) has been tested on a real time basis where NDMO receives messages from National Weather Service and disseminate to the public or all cell-users in the RMI. In addition, the number 6366 represents the four beginning letters of National Disaster Management Office.

Under PREP II, the emergency communication and early warning system in RMI is being upscaled and upgraded to ensure all Marshallese receive a timely and actionable warning. This system is designed to be multi-hazard and to be able to expected more frequent and more intense hazards and disasters in a changing climate, in particular coastal inundation and drought. The disaster risk management arrangements in RMI have been revised in 2017 and will continue to be updated to include lessons learned from recent emergencies and disasters. Community training to operate and maintain the emergency communication equipment and to respond to the warnings will start this year, led by the International Organization for Migration in partnership with PREP and NDMO.

Under PREP II, NDMO has put in place a roadmap to improve its operations and equipment to be able to better lead and coordinate preparedness, response and recovery activities in a changing climate: communication, IT and safety equipment for first responders have been prioritized and are being procured. The DRM policy landscape is being updated with a national DRM and Resilience plan, specific hazard and local DRM and Resilience plan currently under development. In addition, a new NDMO building to host the National Emergency Operation Center is planned in Majuro. The design stage, currently in progress includes standards to ensure this is the last building standing during a disaster, including under projected climate change. Additional NDMO facilities in Majuro (warehouse and additional office space) and in Ebeye (local emergency operation center) are also planned and are at the design stage.

ECC 2.3.3 Greater coordination, nationally and internationally on DRM efforts (SDG Indicators 13.2.1)

A new governance structure for climate change has been put in place in RMI with the Tile Til Eo committee and its three working groups. This structure supports the integration of climate change adaptation, risk reduction and resilience in the different sectors and the exchange of information and coordination between the different stakeholders. At the regional level, RMI has approved the Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific and an online workshop on the review of the Pacific Resilient Standards was organized in Majuro in 2021.

ECO 4.2.2 Promote environmental sustainability (SDG Targets 13.2.2)

Sustainability of the environment we focus on increasing the number of trees planted (both traditional and exotic). We also target increasing the use of targeted compost (70%). This will align with improving agricultural biodiversity, targeting that a least 4 crops grown in farming systems and at least 2 crossbreds per livestock species are available and sustainable.

Agricultural innovations should be developed to bring about sustainable management of forests, soil, and water resources and their adaptation to climate change impacts and reduce agricultural pollution to manageable levels. Agriculture has roles to ratify regional and international conventions with initiatives related to agriculture and forestry development.

Reimaanlok Process

By utilizing the Reimaanlok, MIMRA's Coastal Department has managed to help develop and implement sustainable marine resource management plans with local governments and remote communities in the RMI. The resource management plans provide communities with multiple benefits including financial opportunities that will help find sustainable development projects and give the Marshallese more prospects for income generation. 5 communities on Majuro and 8 atolls have developed management plans, and more set to be developed.

7. MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Critical analysis of the NSP and SDG implementation progress indicates that gaps, constraints and opportunities remain in key means of implementation. A fundamental aspect regarding implementation is Government leadership and ownership, which remains firmly embedded. Our approach to ensuring all of government and society are included in the NSP has been in place since the start of the process.

The implementation of the SDGs, and alignment with the NSP brings both challenges and opportunities. Accelerating action and strengthening implementation, financing, capacity development, development of data, technology and partnerships all remain key priorities. RMI will fully optimize on all opportunities to strengthen means of implementation to advance the NSP, SAMOA Pathway, ICPD25 and the SDGs.

In strengthening data collection and statistical analysis to plan, design strategic programs and policies and to track the implementation of the NSP and the SDGs, we have aligned the annual monitoring of the NSP to tracking progress on the SDGs. The Economic Policy, Planning and Statistics Office (EPPSO), line ministries and the Office of Chief Secretary (OCS) are responsible for overseeing the monitoring and evaluation of the RMI NSP and SDGs.

We will harness the full potential of our partnerships and engagement with the private sector, civil society, women and youth-led organizations and networks as strategic agents to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. South-South Cooperation including among Pacific Small Islands Developing States and among CRMP Local Resource Committees will assist with strengthening community, national and regional capacities and encourage knowledge transfer.

In order to be successful in implementing the NSP, the related policy objectives and meeting the NSP and SDG goals and targets the following means of implementation need to be addressed:

- Effectively link planning and budgeting (Portfolio Budgets);
- Effectively link planning at all levels of Government (Ministry, Sector and Strategic);
- Ensure adequate Financing;
- Ensure donor partnerships are strong and in place;
- Ensure the availability of data and information; and
- Ensure data is used for effective monitoring and evaluation (NSP M&E Framework).

Additional areas that require focus to ensure effective implementation of NSP and relevant SDGs include:

- Public/private financing;
- Diversify sources of financing;
- Capacity building/human resource development;
- Reporting/monitoring/evaluation; and
- Statistics including baseline data and trends analysis.

8. WAY FORWARD AND CONCLUSION

Way Forward

Together with additional effort to strengthen the means of implementation issues highlighted earlier, Government will continue to improve the planning and budgeting systems. We have in place a Medium-Term Budget and Expenditure Framework (MTBIF) that can be used to align the NSP/Strategic Planning process with the budget process. This will eventually be coordinated through the implementation of a new Financial Management Information System (FMIS) at the Ministry of Finance as part of the ongoing Public Financial Management Reforms (PFM).

Public Financial Management

During the FY21 budget process priority was focused on improving the coordination of medium-term planning documents with budgeting (continued from FY19). The RMI budget template designed and put into place in FY19 has been used since that time. The template provides the ministries the capacity to develop three-year budgeting by outputs (medium term) in order to provide clear expectations of spending and results.

The result is that by requiring three-year planning and budgeting by outputs, RMI ministries can increase understanding of the alignment of spending and results over the medium term. Monitoring of progress and results can be better evaluated when measured against spending/costs across government. This will also provide the basis for better understanding of spending on outputs aligned with the NSP Policy Objectives and SDGs.

Several areas of the PFM Roadmap are being implemented that will continue to provide the government with increased capacity to identify where resources are being prioritized, the impacts of these resources, and where funding gaps occur. Critical areas of ongoing PFM implementation include:

- Introduction of comprehensive corporate and sector planning processes;
- Linking strategic planning documents with budgets through the National Planning Framework Concept Note (2019) and the updated NSP (2020);
- Linkage of the NSP and the M&E Framework with the national budgeting process and framework including a revised Chart of Accounts (COA) included in the anticipated new FMIS;
- Expansion of budget classification to include functional and program/outcome/output dimensions to be included in the new FMIS;
- Closer integration of capital budgeting with recurrent budgets for ongoing operation and maintenance costs;
- Improving budget documentation including budget comparatives, forward year estimates, macroeconomic outlook, macro-fiscal targets and strategy, sector strategies, new policy initiatives, savings measures, fiscal risks, commitments, guarantees and other contingent liabilities, program objectives, and performance indicators; and,
- Preparing a new schedule to the budget summarizing funding for each Line Ministry and Agency from each funding source.

Stakeholder Engagement

A continued focus on strengthening multi-stakeholder engagement (as has been seen throughout the NSP and VNR process) is another area that Government will address. The emergence of MICNGOs is providing strong support in ensuring all stakeholders, including non-state actors have a role in the process.

We see the continued involvement of NGOs with implementing projects and activities to vulnerable groups that provide impacts with regard to SDGs as very positive. These NGOs include Women United Together in the Marshall Islands, (WUTMI), Youth to Youth in Health, Kora In Okrane (KIO), Marshall Island Epidemiological Projects Initiatives (MIEPI), Marshall Islands Conservation Society (MICS).

NSP M&E Framework

Government is utilizing this VNR as a foundation for moving forward with the finalizing of the NSP M&E Framework. Once completed, the Framework will be used to complete the first update report on the NSP. As detailed in earlier sections of this report, the SDGs reporting is integrated into the NSP through the M&E Framework.

The M&E Framework forms a second part of the NSP and articulates key performance indicators and targets for monitoring and evaluating progress for the National Policy Objectives as detailed in each Strategic Area. These indicators underpin the NSP Policy Objectives. The realization of these goals and objectives depends on both government and the people it serves. It requires the active participation of civil society, the private sector, and our international development partners. The goals and policy objectives will be delivered through coordinated and interlinked government planning, budgeting and service delivery. The annual portfolio budgets of line ministries coordinate with the policy objectives for which they are responsible.

Ongoing monitoring and evaluation are critical to successful implementation of the NSP. All of the policy objectives are designed to be linked to specific measurable indicators, targets, and milestones which are to be detailed in the M&E Framework. Annual review evaluating baselines against the milestones and targets will help to identify and evaluate progress. This ensures timely and reliable information is available to inform ongoing planning and budgeting.

Conclusion

We view the VNR Report and the VNR process as a first step for establishing the foundation for ongoing (and regular) review of the NSP implementation progress. This includes ongoing review of the status and progress regarding the SDGs as aligned and coordinated with the NSP Policy Objectives.

This VNR report illustrates for the RMI the need for ownership by each Ministry of the implementation of the activities and tasks that will lead to the realization of the NSP Policy Objectives. It emphasizes the need for a strong reporting process and a strong data collection process. We continue to finalize the alignment of planning and budgeting so that reporting ensures that progress of the NSP and related SDGs can be effectively monitored and evaluated

at all levels of government (national, sector, ministry, local). We realize that the linking of planning and budgeting is critical to success. Some of the lessons learned through the VNR process (and the NSP process) include:

- The VNR process has provided an opportunity to strengthen stakeholder coordination with civil society and has provided the opportunity for greater participation of Marshall Islands NGOs (MINGOs) in the overall VNR process (refer to text box below);
- The scheduled consultation with Private Sector was not well attended. Therefore, Marshall Islands Chamber of Commerce leveraged its longstanding monthly meeting schedule to provide the Private Sector another opportunity to provide input after reviewing the VNR draft. The Chamber continued to be included in the NSP Pillar working group consultations;
- The VNR process demonstrates the need for a strong inclusive approach to planning, budgeting and reporting in order to ensure inputs are allocated to priorities;
- Ensure all stakeholders are included from the early stages of planning and reporting;
- Alignment of planning and budgeting is critical to achieving the goals and targets of the NSP and for achieving the aligned SDG goals and targets;
- While the SDGs are a set of global goals, it is important that these can be integrated and put in local context in order to align policy, planning and budgeting (refer to text box below); and
- The VNR process highlights how RMI is integrated into the global (and Pacific) context of development with a focus on culture, environment, governance and justice.

Localizing the SDGs: An Application and Lessons

SDGs must be localized in order to be meaningful. SDG targets and indicators do not always easily align with the Policy Objectives of the RMI. As such, tailoring SDGs in the RMI context is essential. Below we focus on SDG 13 to illustrate this concept

Climate Change and its Impacts

As one of only four atoll nations in the world RMI is uniquely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters, with sea-level rise posing a direct threat to our very existence. The islands are an average of 2 meters above sea level and nearly all the land consists of fragile, narrow atolls. Increasing frequency of inundation by seawater will likely contaminate fragile and vital freshwater lenses. For the RMI, climate change is not just a hardship but battle for survival.

Government Reaction

RMI firmly believes that there is no option, but to build resilience across the sectors, reduce disaster risks and support appropriate adaptation and mitigation measures. The RMI 2050 Climate Strategy sets out a clear framework for progressing towards net zero GHG emissions by 2050, as well as transitioning to an economy and society that is resilient and can adapt. In 2018, the RMI became the first Pacific country to update its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), and an associated Partnership Plan, through which we committed to an economy-wide target to reduce emissions of GHG to at least 32% levels by 2025 and to at least 45% below 2010 levels by 2030.

Localizing the SDGs: An Application and Lessons (continued)

In addition, RMI adopted a National Conservation Area Plan called the Reimaanlok (*Looking to the Future*), which provides a roadmap to achieve the targets of the Micronesia Challenge and links community efforts to international goals. To support implementation, the Protected Area Plan (PAN) Act in 2015, established a dedicated PAN Office. To finance the implementation, RMI established an Endowment Fund under the Micronesia Conservation Trust to support the establishment of community-based conservation areas. With a target of US\$13million the RMI has raised a total of approximately US\$5million. Presently, RMI has conserved around 31% of near shore marine resources and 18% of land resources.

NGO and Community Reaction

The Marshall Islands Council of NGOs (MICNGOs) was instrumental in collecting and organizing information on NGO projects and activities relating to the SDGs. MICNGOS is a member of the VNR Working Group and the NSP/SDG Committee. MICNGOS established a dedicated SDG Unit in order to provide inputs and data to inform the VNR report. NGOs continue to focus efforts and activities on climate change in the RMI context, and summary data of the various projects were organized by MICNGOS and provided to inform the VNR report.

Lesson Learned from VNR

Stakeholder input regarding SDG 13 is just one example of the significance of localizing SDGs and designing contextualized responses. The VNR write workshop, validation workshop and pillar group work sessions provided a series of opportunities to include all stakeholders in the VNR process. The VNR process has underscored the need address issues like climate change from both a global and local perspective and to tailor SDGs targets and indicators to design local solutions through the NSP and national sector policies.

Commitment

We are committed to fully implementing the NSP, which integrates the SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway commitments. We acknowledge that reaching the targets in the NSP and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development remains a challenge, noting the capacity and resource constraints we face. It requires the collective efforts of all stakeholders, including those working on transboundary issues such as marine resource management and climate change which depend on global leadership and action. Notwithstanding, we strive to achieve our national development priorities for the benefit of all Marshallese people.

ANNEX 1: SDG PROGRESS REMAINING SDGS

| SDG 1: End Poverty in all its Forms Everywhere | |
|---|--|
| SDG Targets (Goal 1) | NSP Alignment/Policy Objective |
| Target (1.1) (1.2) (1.3) (1.4) (1.5) | (S&C 1.4.4) (ECC 2.3.1) (ECC 2.3.2) (ECC 2.3.3) (INF 3.1.1) (INF 3.1.3) (INF 3.3.2) (INF 3.3.3) (ECO 4.1.1) (ECO 4.1.2) |

S&C 1.4.4 Maintain traditional consumption and production of food and medicine (**SDG Indicators 1.1.1, 1.2.1, 1.2.2**)

As a way of making our cities and villages more sustainable we promote the preparation of traditional food and medicine as well as a focus on raising local/traditional crops available for consumption. The NSP targets increasing the teaching of these local preparations and raising of crops (and trees). By consuming more local foods we encourage a more sustainable pattern of import substitution. The Agriculture Division of the Ministry Natural Resources and Commerce (NDC) will work to assist with identifying trees for medicine use and assist with planting and raising local produce.

The Local Government & Historic Preservation Office (MOCIA) has conducted food security capacity building in the Outer Islands on local food protection and preservation. Local governments have taken initiatives to develop ordinances on lagoon conservation regarding the safe and sanitary growing, harvesting, and selling of natural (water based) resources. HPO with the support of local governments, in both urban and rural areas, supports developing traditional fish traps (*Me*).

ECC 2.3.1 Enhanced Resilience to Disaster and Risk (**SDG Target 1.5**)

Under the PREP II project, the early warning system operating in RMI is being upgraded to ensure all Marshallese receive timely and actionable warning and messages. This includes development of an emergency communication strategy to be aligned with the national disaster risk management and resilience plan, procurement of equipment to reach all atolls and islands, training to operate and maintains this equipment and drills to ensure all community members including the most vulnerable, know how to respond to early warnings. The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), with their network of cluster members and other stakeholders prepare and conduct awareness campaigns to reduce risks to the population, for example on what to do to reduce the risk of dengue or COVID-19. In addition, campaigns led by or coordinated with NDMO are conducted to reduce risks, for example by reducing the mosquito population to reduce the risk of dengue outbreaks.

ECC 2.3.2 Strengthened disaster preparedness, response and recovery (**SDG Target 1.5**)

RMI disaster preparedness, response and recovery is organized following the cluster system and NDMO organizes workshops to build the capacity of cluster members and strengthen their preparedness, response and recovery. A new NDMO building is currently being designed to host the National Emergency Operation Center, and Warehouse and reinforce the capacity of NDMO

to conduct and coordinate preparedness, response and recovery activities. Strengthened disaster preparedness, response and recovery includes planning, preparing and delivering food and water supply to the affected Marshallese in the different atolls and islands, including the most isolated ones. These so called 'food basket' limit the impacts of disasters to the population, including the poor and most vulnerable, and support easier and faster recovery.

E.C.C 2.3.3 Greater coordination, nationally and internationally on DRM efforts **(SDG Target 1.5)**

In addition to the actions to increase national coordination nationally through the cluster system mentioned above, RMI is working with the Pacific Islands Emergency management Alliance and the Pacific Community to work on a National Strategic Roadmap Emergency Management that will support better regional coordination for Disaster Management.

INF 3.1.1 Efficient and reliable air and sea connectivity to the outer islands and the world **(SDG Targets 1.4.1)**

We continue to target the access opportunities for all neighboring islands. To do so we ensure that all islands (runways) meet at least minimum standard/recommended practices according to DCA regulations; and/or to meet required standard for both types of aircraft that RMI National air carrier currently is flying. For our international airport we maintain full compliance as per airport certificate holder. Additionally, we continue to ensure all airport (national and international) personnel meet required trainings and certification as per DCA regulations.

The RMI National Infrastructure and Investment Plan (NIIP) is currently being updated to include the construction of new Airport Terminal at Amata Kabua International Airport , construction of new boat ramps and docks in the neighboring islands and rehabilitation of five major neighboring islands airstrips by 2030 inclusive of purchasing new Cessna Planes to support the existing Air Marshall Islands fleet. The Sea Transport Sector also aims to purchase new vessels to serve the neighboring islands in addition to the GIZ funded project.

The on-going GIZ Low Carbon Sea Transport Project funded by Germany, not only supports the RMI target for affordable and clean energy transport and long term connectivity but will also provide new training facilities to RMI, for education and training of ship crew and researchers, as well as use of modern energy-efficient sailing technologies and renewable energy.

There is a continued effort to expand sea connectivity to the neighboring islands in cooperation with the private sector. There are twenty-nine (29) active commercial ships providing services to the neighboring islands GRMI – (8) and the private sector (21). The Maritime Investment program, being promoted by the World Bank, will ensure that marine infrastructures in the RMI Port of Entries and including neighbor islands marine structures are resilient to climate change. Special components in the program have been instilled to ensure that environmental and social safeguards are addressed, including the establishment of a public “grievance” mechanism that act as a tool to benefit the public.

INF 3.1.3 Reliable roads for efficient movement of people and goods and services (SDG Targets 1.4.1)

Plans for major road repairs in both Ebeye and Majuro are included in the National Infrastructure and Investment Plan (NIIP). The results are expected to minimize congestion of traffic in the Majuro urban area, and prevent further damage of the existing road and solve the flooding and drainage problems. In Ebeye the results will shorten travel and minimize damage to vehicles including school buses that service the main island of Ebeye to Kwajalein Atoll High School located in Guggegue. The Kwajalein Atoll Development Authority (KADA), is now on the final design process for the permanent paving of the causeway road from Ebeye to Guggegue, currently to be funded from its Kwajalein ESN and Impact Compact Funds. This is also inclusive of the repair of the existing roads and drainage on the main island of Ebeye.

In the neighboring islands, construction of Perimeter Roads is targeted for completion by 2030 as part of the Outer Islands Development Plan (by Local Government) in order to provide efficient movement of transportation of supplies, goods and reliefs to outer islands. This planned activity will coincide during the pavement projects of the airstrips as envisaged in the NIIP.

INF 3.3.2 Constant access to drinking water that meets World Health Organization standards (SDG Targets 1.4.1)

The Water and Sanitation Strategic Plan (2017-2027) establishing the most appropriate water and sanitation services for Majuro Atoll over the next 20 years has been developed. It is part of the first phase of a Capital Improvement Program by Majuro Water and Sewer Company (MWSC) to improve water and sanitation services to Majuro Atoll.

The Ebeye Water, Sewer and Sanitation (EWSS) Project, that started in 2016, supported the upgrade of water and sewage project on the main island of Ebeye. The project is now completed and is now providing reliable source of clean water via new RO Plants, increased water pressure to houses, upgrade of the existing fire hydrant system and sewage pumps and outfalls.

The Majuro Water and Sewer Company (MWSC) requested aid from the U.S. Department of the Interior's DOI's Office of Insular Affairs to identify and evaluate potential system improvements, including system monitoring and determining sources/locations of non-revenue water. To help provide a basis for decision making for improving the water systems on the Majuro Atoll, Reclamation's Technical Service Center (TSC) conducted an engineering assessment of the existing system, gathered data and information, and developed a hydraulic computer model and geographical information system (GIS) database. With additional proposed projects:

- Hydraulic Model Completion and Demonstration and GIS Training A second trip to Majuro for GIS training and model demonstration for MWSC staff and Board is planned. Reclamation will also include a mechanical engineer as part of the team traveling to Majuro. The mechanical engineer will work with MWSC on an evaluation of well pumps and can work with staff on making system improvements in the field.
- Hydraulic Modeling/Master Planning 2020-2040 Building off the current modeling work, Reclamation would carry out a master planning and analysis for the 2020-2040 timeframe for

the MWSC system improvements. This work would assist MWSC in strategic planning for their water system and identify projects that would-be cost-effective investments. Duration: 12 months. Study/Design Phase of this Scope of Work: This work would assist MWSC in strategic planning for their water system and identify projects that could be considered by MWSC for benefits provided and cost effectiveness. This task is not designing a specific project, but upon completion, the hydraulic model and master planning report would be used for a Feasibility Level Study and Final Designs

Although the technical team is not on island, virtual meetings are taking place monthly to ensure trainings and target projects are carry on to see to the completion of the project requested.

INF 3.3.3 Improved sanitation for better health and well-being (SDG Indicators 1.4.1)

NSP targets include the improved reliability and functionality to existing pump stations. By 2030 we expect to complete all upgrades of saltwater, sewerage network, and pump stations. Under the current World Bank Sustainable Energy Development (SEDeP) Project, the demand side energy efficiency plans for MWSC, the replacement sewage pumps Lift Stations # 2 & #3 on Majuro are on-going and is targeted to be completed by June 30, 2021.

The broken sewer outfall remains as an environmental and business liability and one that MWSC hopes to acquire and utilize development partner funding for a fix in the next 3 years. MWSC was recently notified by RMI-EPA of the non-compliance and will continue to work closely with all entities to see this issue remedied. MWSC has continue to work with RMIEPA to limit MWSC's potential penalty due to non-compliance and also constant in its public awareness campaign to limit public's risk of contamination. MWSC management and its Board met up with ADB Seniors Members and their commitment to the Delap Sewer Outfall with next steps. The target project approval is 2022 with recruitment of a consulting firm for engineering design and preparation of bid documents (for the civil works) has been delayed due to COVID 19 impacts but is ongoing.

Pumps and parts on the saltwater stations has been purchased from overseas with intermediate supply line impacted by Covid-19, MWSC resumes its replacement program once materials arrive on port. 50% of the parts have been received with on-going works installation and refurbishment on all saltwater pump stations continues as planned.

ECO 4.1.1 Greater opportunities to utilize land for economic growth (SDG Targets 1.3.1 1.4.2)

We continue to look to provide opportunities for land owners to access secured transactions from MIDB (Marshall Islands Development Bank) to secure their lease loans and other economic opportunities. This opportunity is also provided to the private sector and for private individual loans. In order to do this, we coordination partnerships with the Council of Irooj, MIDB, OCIT (Office of Commerce Investment and Trade), Ministry of Finance Tax and Revenue.

Agriculture production represents a relatively small proportion of the RMI economy (around 4% of GDP), but is a critical source of livelihoods especially on the outer islands. There are some underutilized lands which offer potential for increased output of agricultural goods. The principal cash crop in the RMI is coconut. Examples of some potential crops in the RMI are breadfruit for

flour making, pandanus fruit for juice making and coconut and pandanus leaves for hand crafting and weaving. Other product, such as wood, can be used for carvings and construction. Agriculture products will supply raw materials to some of the value-adding industries.

ECO 4.1.2 Promote greater awareness of land rights and opportunities through awareness and partnership **(SDG Targets 1.3.1 1.4.2)**

RMI National and Local Governments, continue to partnership with the Council of Irooj, MIDB, OCIT (Office of Commerce Investment and Trade), Ministry of Finance Tax and Revenue. The Office of Land Registration provides information regarding land tenure and land rights as specified in the Land Recording and Registration Act 2003.

| SDG 2: End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| SDG Targets (Goal 2) | | | | | | NSP Alignment/Policy Objective | | | |
| (2.1) | (2.2) | (2.3) | (2.4) | (2.5) | (2.A) | (2.B) | (S&C 1.1.1) | (S&C 1.1.2) | (S&C 1.2.1) |
| (2.C) | | | | | | | (S&C 1.4.4) | (ECC 2.1.1) | (ECO 4.1.1) |
| | | | | | | | (ECO 4.2.1) | (ECO 4.2.2) | (ECO 4.2.3) |
| | | | | | | | (ECO 4.4.1) | | |

S&C 1.1.1 Strengthened response to non-communicable diseases, including nutrition, mental health, and injuries **(SDG Indicators 2.1.1, 2.2.1, 2.2.2) &**

S&C 1.1.2 Improved maternal, infant, child and adolescent health **(SDG Indicators 2.1.1, 2.2.1, 2.2.2)**

SDG 2 seeks sustainable solutions to end hunger in all forms by 2030 and to achieve food security. The aim is to ensure everyone everywhere has enough good quality food to lead a healthy life. Responsible investment in agriculture contributes to food security and nutrition. An increase in locally produced food will ensure a healthier diet for the household and in the long term contribute to improving nutrition and decreasing incidence of NCD.

S&C 1.2.1 Improved early childhood development **(SDG Indicators 2.2.1, 2.2.2)**

The ECD (Early Childhood Development project, implemented by the Public-School System (PSS) has several objectives, including a focused effort to reduce Stunting. A total of \$3,6 million (US) is obligated to improved health and nutrition services. The recent Integrated Child Health & Nutrition Survey revealed that **1 in 10 children** in the RMI are severely stunted and **one-third** are at a low height for age.

S&C 1.4.4 Maintain traditional consumption and production of food and medicine **(SDG Indicators 2.4.1, 2.5.1)**

Traditional knowledge of how to farm and care for domestic and traditional plants is eroding. Even traditional forms of food preparation and preservation are unknown to many young people. Loss of traditional agroforestry knowledge has accompanied the decline in engagement in agriculture activities by the local households. The major challenge for forestry is the disappearance of native forest trees and traditional agroforestry systems. Sustainable growth

and development require minimizing the natural resources and toxic materials used, and the waste and pollutants generated, throughout the entire production and consumption process.

We focus on continuing our culture and traditions to ensure that citizens have access to traditional knowledge and access to media information on traditional knowledge. We also maintain traditional skills related to weaving (Jaki Ed), canoeing (through Waan Aelon in Majel) as well as farming, fishing, song and dance, food preparation. Moving forward we continue to assist the population maintain at least one or more of these traditional skills.

The Local Government & Historic Preservation Office (MOCIA) has conducted food security capacity building in the Outer Islands on local food protection and preservation. Local governments have taken initiatives to develop ordinances on lagoon conservation regarding the safe and sanitary growing, harvesting, and selling of natural (water based) resources. HPO with the support of local governments, in both urban and rural areas, supports developing traditional fish traps (*Me*)

ECC 2.1.1 Improved protection, conservation and sustainability of atoll environment and natural resources (**SDG Indicators 2.4.1, 2.5.1**)

Celebrating the achievements of the 2020 Micronesia Challenge and agreeing to new and ambitious 2030 targets, the RMI has formally committed to effectively conserve 30% of terrestrial resources and 50% of near shore marine resources. New protected areas are uploaded to the RMI-GIS map in the PIPAP and that goals are for all 33 outer islands have in place their Resource Management Plans (RMP) and all RMP are to be uploaded on to RMI Environment Data Portal. At the start of the effort work was led through the Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC), a multidisciplinary ad-hoc-working group that facilitates the development of community-based resource management plans, under which communities become responsible for the conservation and management of their own natural resources.

Reimaanlok

The RMI established the National Conservation Area Plan called the Reimaanlok (Looking to the Future). With emphasis on a holistic conservation approach for sustainable development, the Reimaanlok provides a roadmap to achieve the ambitious targets of the Micronesia Challenge and links community efforts to international goals To support the implementation of the Conservation Plan, the RMI Parliament passed the Protected Area Plan (PAN) Act in 2015, established the Protected Area Network (PAN) Office under the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA).

To finance the implementation of the Conservation Plan, the RMI established an Endowment Fund under the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) to support the establishment and facilitation of community-based conservation areas. With a target of US\$13million the RMI has raised a total of approximately US\$ 5million. Presently, we have conserved 30.7% of near shore marine resources and 18% of land resources. In 2018, we formally committed to increase its conservation targets to 30% Terrestrial Resources and 50% of near shore marine resources by 2030.

The PAN Amendment Act 2018 allowed PAN oversight by the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority, insertion Type IV – Traditional Mo to provide distinct value for traditionally protected

areas, and the formalization of the Coastal Management Advisory Council as the advisory and technical arm for the PAN. To complete the enabling environment, the RMI has also developed the PAN Regulations 2020 and the PAN Strategic Action Plan (2020-2025).

As of September 2020, the RMI has effectively conserved approximately 4273.14 Kilometers² of near shore marine resources, which equates to 30.7% and 32.48 Kilometers² of terrestrial resources, which equates to 18.5%.

Access Benefit Sharing

With support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the RMI received technical support from SPREP (Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program) to undertake a series of activities: legal review and analysis on existing laws and policies related to ABS (Access Benefit Sharing), conducted capacity building workshops, support on developing RMI's Initial National Report to the Protocol and development of RMI's ABS Policy. As a result of this GEF funded program with SPREP, the general understanding of the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol improved among government officials, we've identified our shortfalls in the existing laws and RMI's first policy on this Protocol was developed. A second phase program is earmarked to look at improving the enabling environment and further capacity building initiatives.

Agriculture

With regard to Agriculture some of the varieties of species like pandanus, taro, breadfruit, coconuts, dwarf banana, sources of traditional fruits and sources of traditional medicines are now endangered. The major challenge is protecting the genetic diversity of the crops from introduced pests and diseases and the effects of extreme weather events like droughts and severe cyclones. The most serious of these include insects' pests such as the breadfruit mealybug, coconut scale, and spiraling whitefly, which could cause severe damage to many food crops and seriously affect crop productivity and overall food security. The Agriculture sector has vital roles in disaster reliefs – from assessing the degree of damages to responses to food needs after a disaster and coordination of crop and livestock rehabilitation after a disaster.

Forestry

Our natural tropical forest ecosystems are traditionally used in the production of wood, food production through agroforestry and trees in home gardens, and non- timber forest products (notably pandanus fiber). Forests play essential roles regarding food security and climate change mitigation, strand vegetation and mangrove forests provide coastal stabilization, and forests provide shelter to many species.

Providing public policy guidelines from up-to-date and accurate forestry information is urgent to enable compliance with established priorities and targets. These include those recognized in the RMI National Strategic Plan (2020–2030), which identifies priority issues around biodiversity, food security, coastal reinforcement and urbanization. The priorities also support the achievement of various other targets under international agreements such as the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to 32% below 2010 levels by 2025 and to 45% below by 2030 defined in Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC), as well as actions within the National

Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Forests cover 70% of the Marshalls' land. The forests are privately owned and, as was established in previous inventories (Forest Inventory and Analysis – FIA 2008 and 2018), are highly under-examined with data and information gaps regarding biodiversity, importance, socioecological functions, uses, traditional management and geographical information.

Forest Action Plan

The Forest Action Plan raises concerns about developing a context specific standardized method with techniques and key questions to establish terrestrial baselines in the RMI from which management activities can be developed and against which the impact of such activities can be monitored. In order to implement more effective policies and include local communities and different types of knowledge sets such traditional ones into decision making at RMI, there are some recognized needs:

- Build the baseline data for the forestry/agriculture sector
- Develop a participatory GIS database of land use for agriculture and forestry
- Compile traditional land use management practices through participatory and integrated dialogue
- Comprehensive and accurate data to assess the Action Plan for the forest and agriculture sector
- Capacity enhancing and local community monitoring

ECO 4.1.1 Greater opportunities to utilize land for economic growth (SDG Targets 2.3.2, 2.4.1)

We continue to look to provide opportunities for land owners to access secured transactions from MIDB (Marshall Islands Development Bank) to secure their lease loans. This opportunity is also provided to the private sector and for private individual loans. In order to do this, we coordinate partnerships with the Council of Irooj, MIDB, OCIT (Office of Commerce Investment and Trade), Ministry of Finance Tax and Revenue.

Agriculture production represents a relatively small proportion of the RMI economy (around 4% of GDP), but is a critical source of livelihoods especially on the outer islands. There are some underutilized lands which offer potential for increased output of agricultural goods. The principal cash crop in the RMI is coconut. Examples of some potential crops in the RMI are breadfruit for flour making, pandanus fruit for juice making and coconut and pandanus leaves for hand crafting and weaving. Other products, such as wood, can be used for carvings and construction. Agriculture products will supply raw materials to some of the value-adding industries.

ECO 4.2.1 Improve production, supply and distribution of nutritious food (SDG Targets 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.3.1, 2.4.1, 2.B.1, 2.C.1) &

ECO 4.2.3 Enhance capacity of agriculture sector stakeholders (SDG Indicators 2.3.1, 2.3.2)

We target the reduced dependence on imported foods (50%) by 2030. To do this we focus on increasing home garden productivity, resulting in an increased consumption of locally produced

foods. We continue to focus on capacity building and training in the areas of Crop production, Livestock production, Agroforestry. Capacity building will also focus on value chains.

Prioritizing this objective means improving the economic well-being of lower-income groups and other disadvantaged groups, including women. Furthermore, it will perhaps lead to encouraging the economic development of the rural communities to reduce the internal migration of people to Majuro and Ebeye.

ECO 4.2.2 Promote environmental sustainability (SDG Targets 2.5.1)

Sustainability of the environment we focus on increasing the number of trees planted (both traditional and exotic). We also target increasing the use of targeted compost (70%). This will align with improving agricultural biodiversity, targeting that at least 4 crops grown in farming systems and at least 2 crossbreds per livestock species are available and sustainable.

Agricultural innovations should be developed to bring about sustainable management of forests, soil, and water resources and their adaptation to climate change impacts and reduce agricultural pollution to manageable levels. Agriculture has roles to ratify regional and international conventions with initiatives related to agriculture and forestry development.

Celebrating the achievements of the 2020 Micronesia Challenge and agreeing to new and ambitious 2030 targets, the RMI has formally committed to effectively conserve 30% of terrestrial resources and 50% of near shore marine resources. New protected areas are uploaded to the RMI-GIS map in the PIPAP and that goals are for all 33 outer islands have in place their Resource Management Plans (RMP) and all RMP are to be uploaded on to RMI Environment Data Portal. At the start of the effort work was led through the Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC), a multidisciplinary ad-hoc-working group that facilitates the development of community-based resource management plans, under which communities become responsible for the conservation and management of their own natural resources.

Food Security

Through the Readiness El Nino (RENI) project funded by the EU and implemented by RMI and SPC, two plant nurseries have been established and are made available to everyone. A disaster risk management plan was prepared for Ailuk (northern atoll) along with a model disaster management plan which will be used by other atolls and customized to meet their specific needs.

ECO 4.4.1 Increase import substitution and production and export of locally manufactured goods (2.A.1)

In 2016, the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands prioritized trade and economic growth as the epicenter of the overall development of the nation. The National Export Strategy (NES), aligns with the aspiration of the vision and policies of the Government. Aside from concentrating on private sector growth and economic development, the NES will also assist RMI in employment generation, poverty alleviation and improving the overall standards of living of

all Marshallese people, thereby helping RMI in meeting some of the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

It is estimated that currently 20% of the food supply is produced locally. This reliance on imported foods is a priority issue that needs to be addressed by increasing locally grown foods and improve the engagement of households in agricultural activities. An increase in locally produced foods will deliver real economic benefits. Agriculture in the Marshall Islands may not be the backbone of the economy but it still plays some vital roles for the overall development of the country.

| SDG 4: Ensure Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and Promote Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All | | | | | | |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| SDG Targets (Goal 4) | | | | NSP Alignment/Policy Objective | | |
| (4.1) | (4.2) | (4.3) | (4.6) | (4.7) | (4.A) | (4.B) |
| (4.C) | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
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S&C 1.2.1 Improved early childhood development (SDG Indicators 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.2.1, 4.2.2)

The goal for ECD is that all young children, especially the most vulnerable, from conception to the age of school entry, achieve their development potential. The project has 4 components:

Component 1: Improved coverage of essential health and nutrition services (MOHHS)

- **Success to Date includes:** Renovation completed for Labor and Delivery Ward (In process: MCH clinic, Ebeye clinic and offices spaces) and also procurement of ultrasounds

Component 2: Improved coverage of stimulation and early learning activities (MOEST)

- **Success to Date includes:** ECE classroom kits (ready), 2 classroom repairs (complete), Preschool Curriculum (on-track)

Component 3: Social assistance for early years families (MOCIA)

- **Success to Date includes:** Targeting Design, Eligibility Criteria, Conditionalities, (all completed/awaiting Steering Group approval)

Component 4: Strengthening the Multisectoral ECD System (OCS/PIU)

- **Success to Date includes:** Several components of the strategy are under development, the 5-year costed strategy for the RMI SBCC for ECD is **\$USD 1.5 million**

Implementation of the Universal Kindergarten Program (5 years old)

The objective of the universal kindergarten program is to increase the enrollment numbers of early childhood students and create a smooth transition into elementary grades aside from the PSS Act that makes education compulsory at age 5. Kindergarten level is available in all 79 public elementary schools within the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Please refer to S&C 1.2.2 (below) regarding the IQBE project.

S&C 1.2.2 Increased learning and student achievement in primary and secondary schools (**SDG Indicators 4.1.1, 4.1.2 4.6.1**)

Implementation of the Improving Quality Basic Education Project (IQBE) (PreK-3 grades) (PSS)

The RMI recognizes the need to improve the quality of basic education, even with the gains made in increasing access to education. Student performance is alarmingly low, with only 20% of sixth graders meeting or exceeding proficiency levels in mathematics and 19% meeting or exceeding proficiency levels in reading. Weak education outcomes stem from many factors, notably poor teacher quality. The Improving Quality in Basic Education (IQBE) project aims to improve primary education in the RMI through the following four outputs:

Output 1: Teachers in primary education are better prepared.

- Quality Pedagogy Framework (QPF) continues to be used as an agreed way of instruction in education coursework activities at both CMI and USP and in professional development training delivered by the IQBE Specialists and PSS Curriculum specialists. Understanding of the QPF continues to be effective with now over 400 K-8 teachers from Majuro and the neighboring islands to have been exposed to its six components.

Output 2: Strengthen capacity to use assessment to improve learning.

- A new National Student Assessment Framework is being developed with the intent to support students in improving the quality of their learning experiences. The formative assessment for K-6 students will measure students' level of proficiency in both Literacy and Numeracy and enable schools and stakeholders to rely on a sound and sustainable system to improve the quality of learning.

Output 3: Expand access and usage of teaching and learning resources and materials for Literacy and numeracy.

- Teaching and learning resources for all K-6 schools are being strengthened with the purchase of 40 bilingual readers while English grammar books and place-based Science books are already available in all primary schools on the project's four main atolls. The project is also focused on expanding the notion of resources beyond textbooks by purchasing e-books and shoring up the Ministry's Open Educational Resources for rural and remote areas.

Output 4: Strengthen educational leadership and management of schools, including Parent/Community engagement.

- Strong leadership in schools is being fostered through a new set of Principal Performance Standards that are being highlighted in educational leadership courses at USP. The Graduate Certificate in School Leadership (GCSL) supports and guides RMI school leaders through professional learning opportunities. Parental Engagement is also being included in the project to further support teacher quality and school leadership as it has the potential to consolidate parents' positive involvement in education and school readiness of their children.

The impact of the IQBE project in the RMI will be an improved quality of education in literacy and numeracy as measured by the Marshall Islands Standard Assessment Test (**MISAT**) results as outlined in the project outcome.

- **50% of grade 3 and 6 students** (of which 50% are male and 50% are female) meet or exceed proficient level on the MISAT for English reading by 2023 (2015 baseline: English Reading - 25% grade 3 and 19% for grade 6)

- **50% of grade 3 and 6 students** (of which 50% are male and 50% are female) meet or exceed proficient level on the MISAT for mathematics by 2023 (2015 baseline: mathematics 37% grade 3 and 20% for grade 6)

Implementation of Middle grade Math Transition Program (WAKA MANOA) (PSS)

This is a program that assist students in the 8-grade level across all public middle schools both on Majuro and Ebeye which will create a smooth transition and bridging the gap into the secondary level in relations to the Math subject. Over the years most middle school students obtain very low grade in the Math subject based on the MISAT scores and often time end up in the Pre-9th program. With such a transition program, more students will enter the regular 9 grade level.

Implementation of the PSS Staff Development Program (PSS)

The key responsibilities of the Staff Development Office (SD) are to provide training and development for employees, including teachers for the purpose of maintaining a qualified workforce. The SD Office continues to place its employees in both on-island and online trainings through its in-service programs.

The purpose is to upgrade teaching skills and comply with the Teacher Certification Regulations. There is a Director and an assistant whose main duties are to continuously upgrade approximately 850 teachers per the Teacher Certification Law. The main focus of the Director/assistant is upgrading teachers who either hold a high school diploma or a certificate in early childhood education. In order to accomplish such task, PSS has collaborated with several colleges internally and externally. Such in-service programs include College of the Marshall Islands (CMI); University of the South Pacific (USP); and UH Manoa (on-line program). Aside from upgrading teachers, the Director/assistant is also involved in preparing and conducting workshops, conferences, and trainings.

Implementation of the Math Transition Course Project at the Secondary Level (PSS)

This program is similar to the dual enrollment concept where CMI teachers worked with public secondary school teachers to prepare students as they transition into tertiary to be placed in credit level Math instead of falling into developmental levels. Data from CMI shows that most public secondary school students prior to the project entered CMI in the 3 developmental levels in Math. After implementation of the project, data shows that public secondary students are entering credit level Math courses.

S&C 1.2.3 Enhanced post-secondary and continuing education opportunities that provide in-country access to obtain qualifications such as certificates, diplomas, undergraduate and postgraduate degrees **(SDG Indicators 4.3.1)**

We are expanding Higher Education programs and services into the outer islands through distance education technology, in collaboration with our national telecommunications provider and the national College, distance education centers have been established on Ebeye, Jaluit, Wotje, and Kili island.

RMI-USP (University of South Pacific) Joint Education Program prepares Marshallese students for entry to degree, diploma and Certificate studies at any university. These universities include USP, universities in New Zealand, Australia and the United States as well as elsewhere in the world. The main streams of the program are Science, Commerce and Social Science. This ensures that RMI will be able to offer opportunities to its students to enter the widest range of tertiary level of training. Upon completion of their studies, these students will return to serve the people and the government of the RMI.

Impact to date (June 2021) for the USP Foundation Program

- *Since RMI-USP's establishment in 1996 to June 1, 2021 a total 358 students have successfully completed the Foundation Program with a Certificate in Foundation studies, indicating they have passed examinations in at least 8 subjects, which are recognized as University entrance requirements. These Foundation subjects are cross credited at the 100 level at University of Hawaii (Manoa), University of Hawaii (Hilo), HPU and BYU. 205 out of 358, (57%) of the students who completed Foundation Studies have either completed or are in the process of completing their tertiary studies. 191 graduates are in the RMI workforce serving in senior and middle management service roles.*
- *Since 2015 to date (June 1, 2021), 74 students successfully completed and earned a Certificate in Foundation Studies qualifying them for University entrance. 34 out of 74, (46%) of the students who completed Foundation Studies have either completed or are in the process of completing their tertiary studies. 55 out of 74 (74%) are currently active in their respective academic or vocational programs. 23 have entered into the RMI workforce serving in RMI Government Ministries and Agencies and the private sector.*

Continuity of Learning (COL) (PSS) Since COVID-19, methods of teaching and learning have changed. More and more, schools are switching from the traditional methods of teaching and learning to Blended Learning Concepts utilizing paper based and internet capabilities. PSS and NTA are currently working on an MOU to provide internet services to the Neighboring Islands through equipment such as the VSAT. To implement blended learning concept, PSS looks to invest in devices such as the Solar Spell which allows for storing learning instructions, learning materials, learning packets to be used off-line in schools. Such device uses solar to power itself. To access such devices, you need a laptop to connect to the Solar Spell device and access all learning materials.

S&C 1.2.4 Enhanced skills and attributes necessary for a dynamic workforce and resilient economy **(SDG Indicators 4.3.1, 4.4.1, 4.6.1)**

Workforce Development Program: In 2019, the RMIUSP (University of South Pacific) started to adopt the workforce development skills program to give opportunities to students who are in the Preliminary program who do not progress to Foundation program with other vocational opportunities and employable skills. To pilot this new initiative, the first cohort group of 5 students were enrolled in the Certificate IV in Accounting Program, 4 out of 5 (80%) students completed and progressed to Diploma V in Accounting program. 4 out of 4 (100%) successfully completed the program. Another cohort group of 13 students were enrolled in the Certificate IV

in Early Childhood Education and Care Program. All 13 students have successfully completed the program in 2020.

S&C 1.2.5 Ensure schools are well equipped with facilities, resources and quality teachers to foster a more effective learning environment (**SDG Indicators 4.a.1, 4.b.1, 4.c.1**)

Compact Capital Improvement Projects: PSS receives funding from the Compact Funds to Build, repair, renovate, and maintain schools throughout the RMI. Such funds are allocated, managed and expended under the Ministry of Works, Infrastructure & Utility (MOWIU). Every year, PSS and MOWIU meet to work out agreements on what schools to prioritize.

Japan Grassroot Projects: PSS works closely with the Japan Embassy in receiving grants from the Japan Grassroot Projects. The Associate Commissioner for Property and Maintenance is tasked to assist Principals of all public schools apply for such grant. Normally, Japan Grassroot grants are awarded to schools for new school building, new/extended classrooms, dormitories, plastic and concrete water catchments as well as school buses.

Early Childhood Development Component 2, Improved coverage of stimulation and early learning activities (MOEST); **Success to Date includes:** ECE classroom kits (ready), 2 classroom repairs (complete), Preschool Curriculum (on-track) (**See S&C 1.2.1**)

IQBE: Output 3: Expand access and usage of teaching and learning resources and materials for Literacy and numeracy (**see S&C 1.2.2**).

S&C 1.2.6 Incorporate sports as an important component of the school system (**SDG Indicators 4.a.1**)

The Division of Sports & Extracurricular Program (SEP) officially began on Feb. 5, 2018. SEP has two arms: 1- Sports Department (Elementary, Middle, High School, Community, National and International. The second is the Enrichment (After School Activities at schools and communities (SOMI, Music, Tutor, Homework, etc.).

- **Get Fit for Life through Proper Exercise and Nutrition Project:** Objectives of the are to: 1) Proper Exercise, to train students the basics of exercising and its health benefits; 2) Gardening to train students how to effectively grow their own healthy food in regards to the harsh environment. It includes preparing the area, planting, harvesting and maintaining the garden; 3) Eating Healthy, to teach students how to cook healthy foods by using the harvest from their gardens. This includes training on cooking in a simple yet healthy and nutritious way.
- **Financial Literacy for Life Project**
- **Implementation of Physical Education in School Curriculum:** The School Enrichment Program (SEP) staff are assigned to the schools on Majuro and Ebeye and they conduct PE during the school hours (8 am – 3 pm) and conduct sports activities after that.
- **School Sports:** Conducting Basketball, Volleyball, Softball, Track & Field and Table Tennis
- **Ministerial Sports:** Conducting Basketball, Volleyball and Softball
- **Community Sports:** Conducting Basketball, Volleyball, Softball, Track & Field, Table Tennis, Wrestling, Swimming, Tennis, Weightlifting, All-Around (fishing, climbing, husking, diving)

- **National Sports:** Conducting and participating in Basketball, Volleyball, Softball, Track & Field, Table Tennis, Wrestling, Swimming, Tennis, Weightlifting, All-Around (fishing, climbing, husking, diving)
- **International Sports:** Conducting and participating in Basketball, Volleyball, Softball, Track & Field, Table Tennis, Wrestling, Swimming, Tennis, Weightlifting, and All-Around (fishing, climbing, husking, diving)). International Sports also include Special Olympic Athletes participating in Track & Field games.

S&C 1.2.7 Address TVET and Workforce Development issues through the NTC, and STEM program (**SDG Indicators 4.3.1**)

The National Training Council's (NTC) mission is to equip all Marshallese with skills and attributes needed for gainful employment and to contribute to a more vibrant economy. Under its two programs, 1) Training and 2) Employment Preparation Program, NTC has extensively provided services such as funding of training programs relating to TVET/STEM, internship programs for jobseekers, one-stop center for employers to post job vacancies and workshops on work ethics that address issues such as youth unemployment and labor skill needs.

In addressing TVET, NTC reaches out to the high school graduates, urban community and neighboring island unemployed youths to align their interests with identified skills shortages in the country. Additionally, NTC works with the Labor Division to identify skills gap data, collaborate with training providers (CMI & USP) and other stakeholders to provide training. NTC also works with the private sector on Majuro and Ebeye to identify their immediate labor needs.

NTC does not only focus on TVET upskilling for employment but TVET for daily life skills, In the outer islands there is emphasis on upskilling youth on carpentry, sewing, fishnet making and repair, solar, traditional Marshallese artwork, canoe building, out board Engine repair among others. These skills can also be a form of income generation for youth who wish to venture in to entrepreneurship.

Recent Achievements

NTC funded a 3-year pilot TVET Summer Tailor Made Training program, for Majuro and Ebeye. This included programs such as automotive mechanics, carpentry, electrical, welding and soft-skill courses (Business Administration, Accounting, and Tourism & Hospitality). There were over 100 enrolled and meeting program completion requirements. NTC also coordinates annually with other diplomatic offices to provide training for interested youths overseas in the field of TVET. NTC also has worked with donors to organize certification programs for non-certified TVET workers in RMI in the fields of electrical and renewable energy.

Currently World Bank is engaged with NTC and PSS on a 5 year, 10-million-dollar project to enhance TVET Training. The funding will be used to develop appropriate TVET training curriculum at the high school and college levels. The project will also fund relevant infrastructure for training and equipment, consultants to assist in coordinating TVET Program, provide block grants to train career counselors within the NTC Employment Preparation Division, high schools and colleges. The project also will provide funds for career and online training software for enhancing

Internship Programs and support a mini day care center for mothers attending training. NTC conducted a training needs assessment for Kwajalein atoll and is currently developing a Career and Technical Education Strategic Plan to address the identified training needs.

Education Skills Development Project (PSS) (WB funded)

The objective of the Project is to improve equitable access to quality secondary, post-secondary technical and vocational education and training, and employment intermediation services. The Project consist of 4 parts and each part have several activities. **Part 1** is access to and quality of foundational and vocational secondary education. Activities are: 1) Foundational Skills in Secondary Schools; 2) Vocational and Island Skills in Secondary Schools; and 3) Equitable access to secondary education. **Part 2** is access to and quality of technical and vocational skills development. Activities are: 1) Market-relevant TVET and Skills Development Programs; and 2) Equitable Access to TVET and to skills Development Programs. **Part 3** is strengthening institutions for workforce development. Activities are: 1) Improved Labor Market Information; 2) Career Counselling and Job Matching Services; 3) Recognition of Prior Learning; and 34) Work Placement Program. **Part 4** is project implementation support, planning and monitoring and evaluation.

S&C 1.4.1 Undertake preservation of traditional knowledge-natural resources and historical sites (men ko bwinnir) (SDG Indicators 4.7.1)

We focus on continuing our culture and traditions to ensure that citizens have access to traditional knowledge and access to media information on traditional knowledge. We also maintain traditional skills related to weaving (Jaki Ed), canoeing (through Waan Aelon in Majel) as well as farming, fishing, song and dance, food preparation. Moving forward we continue to assist the population maintain at least one or more of these traditional skills. The Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs (MOCIA) also works with the US Office of historic preservation to ensure at least one traditional site is preserved in the RMI on an annual basis.

Traditional knowledge of how to farm and care for domestic and traditional plants is eroding. Even traditional forms of food preparation and preservation are unknown to many young people. Loss of traditional agroforestry knowledge has accompanied the decline in engagement in agriculture activities by the local households. The major challenge for forestry is the disappearance of native forest trees and traditional agroforestry systems. Sustainable growth and development require minimizing the natural resources and toxic materials used, and the waste and pollutants generated, throughout the entire production and consumption process.

S&C 1.4.2 Maintain and preserve Marshallese language (SDG Indicators 4.7.1)

Public School System (PSS) curriculum includes Marshallese language and students are instructed in Marshallese through grades K-8 (7.5 hours per week) and Grades 9-12 5 (hours per week). We continue to test for Marshallese Language skills in Grades 3, 6 and 8, with the aim of children having a conversational knowledge of the language (at a minimum). Our schools continue to implement the both the Marshallese Language Act (2010) & Customary Law and Language Commission Act (2004) as means to continue to maintain and preserve our language and customs through the public-school system.

S&C 1.4.4 Maintain traditional consumption and production of food and medicine **(SDG Indicators 4.7.1)**

As a way of making our cities and villages more sustainable we promote the preparation of traditional food and medicine as well as a focus on raising local/traditional crops available for consumption. The NSP targets increasing the teaching of these local preparations and raising of crops (and trees). By consuming more local foods we encourage a more sustainable pattern of import substitution. The Agriculture Division of the Ministry Natural Resources and Commerce (NDC) will work to assist with identifying trees for medicine use and assist with planting and raising local produce.

The Local Government & Historic Preservation Office (MOCIA) has conducted food security capacity building in the Outer Islands on local food protection and preservation. Local governments have taken initiatives to develop ordinances on lagoon conservation regarding the safe and sanitary growing, harvesting, and selling of natural (water based) resources. HPO with the support of local governments, in both urban and rural areas, supports developing traditional fish traps (*Me*).

| SDG 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls | |
|---|--|
| SDG Targets (Goal 5) | NSP Alignment/Policy Objective |
| (5.1) (5.A) (5.C) | (S&C 1.3.1) (S&C 1.3.2) (S&C 1.3.3) (ECO 4.1.1) (ECO 4.1.2) |

S&C 1.3.1 Improve access to justice for RMI’s vulnerable populations **(SDG Indicators 5.1.1, 5.C.1)**

The NSP targets improving access to the public defender’s office for those most vulnerable groups, in an effort to provide a positive outcome. Additionally, a review of legal fees (per case) will provide a better picture of access to legal advice and representation.

The Community Development Division (MOCIA) is currently working on ongoing issues of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. Legislation passed (or in development) includes Domestic Violence, Prevention & Protection Act, 2015, Gender Equality Act, 2019, Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2015, Senior Citizens Act, 2018, Child Rights Protection Act, 2015, RMI National Youth Policy (final draft), 14th Triennial Conference for Pacific Women outcome document 2021. MOCIA ensures all services related to existing policies and legislations are carried out to communities in urban and rural areas and referred to services partners (ex WUTMI).

S&C 1.3.2 Ensure provisions and opportunities for equitable participation of all persons in society **(SDG Indicators 5.1.1, 5.C.1)**

Improving the employment rate for the most vulnerable (disabled, youth, women) is targeted in the NSP (with an expected increase in the overall employment rate by 2030). Included in this is attention to increasing the employment opportunities in the neighboring islands. As mandated under our legislation within MOCIA, capacity training/building is a priority within communities in the urban and rural areas.

The RMI is designing a National Employment Policy that addresses employment of persons with disabilities, the dropout rate youth and single mothers' employment opportunities. The NSP also targets an increase in training opportunities through both national and local governments. The Disability Coordination Office under MOCIA has submitted the Consequential Amending Bill for the Rights of Persons with Disability to Parliament.

S&C 1.3.3 Build social empowerment strategies into nationwide frameworks (SDG Indicators 5.C.1)

RMI, moving forward will include social empowerment strategies in sector and strategic plans so as to align with ongoing operational budgets (annual). This includes a review of current policies and strategies to assure social empowerment frameworks are addressed. The NSP targets that by 2030 all RMI national and sector policies will report on social empowerment indicators and that with appropriate policies in place these indicators should trend positive. Additionally, the Bank of Marshall Islands has in place a micro credit loan scheme.

ECO 4.1.1 Greater opportunities to utilize land for economic growth (SDG Targets 5.A.1)

We continue to look to provide opportunities for land owners to access secured transactions from MIDB (Marshall Islands Development Bank) to secure their lease loans. This opportunity is also provided to the private sector and for private individual loans. In order to do this, we coordination partnerships with the Council of Irooj, MIDB, OCIT (Office of Commerce Investment and Trade), Ministry of Finance Tax and Revenue.

Agriculture production represents a relatively small proportion of the RMI economy (around 4% of GDP), but is a critical source of livelihoods especially on the outer islands. There are some underutilized lands which offer potential for increased output of agricultural goods. The principal cash crop in the RMI is coconut. Examples of some potential crops in the RMI are breadfruit for flour making, pandanus fruit for juice making and coconut and pandanus leaves for hand crafting and weaving. Other products, such as wood, can be used for carvings and construction. Agriculture products will supply raw materials to some of the value-adding industries.

ECO 4.1.2 Promote greater awareness of land rights and opportunities through awareness and partnership (SDG Targets 5.A.1)

RMI National and Local Governments, continue to partnership with the Council of Irooj, MIDB, OCIT (Office of Commerce Investment and Trade), Ministry of Finance Tax and Revenue. The Office of Land Registration provides information regarding land tenure and land rights as specified in the Land Recording and Registration Act 2003.

SDG 6: Ensure Availability and Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation for All

| SDG Targets (Goal 6) | NSP Alignment/Policy Objective |
|--|--|
| (6.1) (6.2) (6.3) (6.4) (6.5) (6.A) | (INF 3.3.1) (INF 3.3.2) (INF 3.3.3) (INF 3.3.4) (INF 3.3.5) |

INF 3.3.1 Effective management of fresh water resources **(SDG Targets 6.1.1, 6.4.2, 6.5.1)**

The NSP targets that by 2027, to increase the water storage capacity for Majuro in order to support resilience due to extreme droughts. Plans for projects to realign and expand the existing reservoir and to develop a new reservoir are currently ongoing between MWSC and JICA. This project aims to increase the volume of reserved water to the Majuro Reservoir by approximately 15m gallons. Additionally, plans regarding water meters and pipe fittings, to address revenue losses is planned.

A signing ceremony was held on September 17, 2020 between RMI and Japan on the new 16 Million reservoir project. The work is on-going between MWSC and JICA team. This project will help expand Majuro rainwater storage capacity, especially in extreme droughts where water is needed essentially. Agreement between Majuro Water and Sewer Company the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Consortium of Yachiyo Engineering Co., Ltd. and Japan Techno Co., Ltd. Japan regarding Consulting Services was introduced and accepted confirming pumps and parts for the new reservoir with Ministry of Finance already started drafting the Banking Agreement between related parties.

INF 3.3.2 Constant access to drinking water that meets World Health Organization Standards **(SDG Targets 6.1.1)**

The Water and Sanitation Strategic Plan (2017-2027) establishing the most appropriate water and sanitation services for Majuro Atoll over the next 20 years has been developed. It is part of the first phase of a Capital Improvement Program by Majuro Water and Sewer Company (MWSC) to improve water and sanitation services to Majuro Atoll.

The Ebeye Water, Sewer and Sanitation (EWSS) Project, that started in 2016, supported the upgrade of water and sewage project on the main island of Ebeye. The project is now completed and is now providing reliable source of clean water via new RO Plants, increased water pressure to houses, upgrade of the existing fire hydrant system and sewage pumps and outfalls.

The Majuro Water and Sewer Company (MWSC) requested aid from the U.S. Department of the Interior's DOI's Office of Insular Affairs to identify and evaluate potential system improvements, including system monitoring and determining sources/locations of non-revenue water. To help provide a basis for decision making for improving the water systems on the Majuro Atoll, Reclamation's Technical Service Center (TSC) conducted an engineering assessment of the existing system, gathered data and information, and developed a hydraulic computer model and geographical information system (GIS) database. With additional proposed projects:

- Hydraulic Model Completion and Demonstration and GIS Training A second trip to Majuro for GIS training and model demonstration for MWSC staff and Board is planned. Reclamation will

also include a mechanical engineer as part of the team traveling to Majuro. The mechanical engineer will work with MWSC on an evaluation of well pumps and can work with staff on making system improvements in the field.

- Hydraulic Modeling/Master Planning 2020-2040 Building off the current modeling work, Reclamation would carry out a master planning and analysis for the 2020 to 2040-time frame for the MWSC system improvements. This work would assist MWSC in strategic planning for their water system and identify projects that would-be cost-effective investments. Duration: 12 months. Study/Design Phase of this Scope of Work: This work would assist MWSC in strategic planning for their water system and identify projects that could be considered by MWSC for benefits provided and cost effectiveness. This task is not designing a specific project, but upon completion, the hydraulic model and master planning report would be used for a Feasibility Level Study and Final Designs

Although the technical team is not on island, virtual meetings are taking place monthly to ensure trainings and target projects are carry on to see to the completion of the project requested.

INF 3.3.3 Improved sanitation for better health and well-being (SDG Targets 6.2.1, 6.3.1)

NSP targets include the improved reliability and functionality to existing pump stations. By 2030 we expect to complete all upgrades of saltwater, sewerage network, and pump stations. Included in the target is that by 2023, replace and improve outfall in the Majuro urban center.

Under the current World Bank Sustainable Energy Development (SEDeP) Project, the demand side energy efficiency plans for MWSC, the replacement sewage pumps Lift Stations # 2 & #3 on Majuro are on-going and is targeted to be completed by June 30, 2021.

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The broken sewer outfall remains as an environmental and business liability and one that MWSC hopes to acquire and utilize development partner funding for a fix in the next 3 years. MWSC was recently notified by RMI-EPA of the non-compliance and will continue to work closely with all entities to see this issue remedied. MWSC has continue to work with RMIEPA to limit MWSC's potential penalty due to non-compliance and also constant in its public awareness campaign to limit public's risk of contamination. MWSC management and its Board met up with ADB Seniors Members and their commitment to the Delap Sewer Outfall with next steps. The target project approval is 2022 with recruitment of a consulting firm for engineering design and preparation of bid documents (for the civil works) has been delayed due to COVID 19 impacts but is ongoing.

Pumps and parts on the saltwater stations has been purchased from overseas with intermediate supply line impacted by Covid-19, MWSC resumes its replacement program once materials arrive

on port. 50% of the parts have been received with on-going works installation and refurbishment on all saltwater pump stations continues as planned.

INF 3.3.4 Comprehensive management of waste water (SDG Targets 6.2.1, 6.5.1, 6.A.1)

We target the improved reliability and functionality to existing pump stations in the urban areas. The NSP targets that by 2030, the upgrades of all saltwater, sewerage network, and pump stations leading to and increased sanitation rate from 80% to 100% in Majuro (DUD area).

MWSC has partaken in component No. 2 of World Bank's SEDeP Project under the Promotion of Energy Efficiency and Loss Reduction Program. The project aims to increase the share of renewable energy generation in the Recipient's territory, and enhance the reliability of electricity supply and improve energy efficiency in the Project Areas. The technical specifications and tender documents to retrofit the pumps at lift stations 1, 2, and 3 in MWSC water lift station were launched in May 2019. The contract of MWSC water pump was signed in early 2020. The pumps manufacture has been delayed due to COVID-19 pandemic. This affects the pumps shipping, which is delayed beyond the its initial schedule in September 2020, and retrofitting works are delayed beyond the expected completion date of December 2020.

In addition, MWSC has undergone changes in key staff for these works. In consequence, the MWIU-PMU will undertake the supervision and inspection of works. MWSC continues to work with the contractor (PII) on all installation and operational issues, including testing. While some work has been completed and tested, other work continues to awaits parts from overseas. Once they arrived on port, the repairs/replacement program will continue as planned.

MWSC submitted a Sanitation Cleaning Project and requested assistance through the supports from the Office of the Chief Secretary and Her Excellency US Madam Ambassador Roxanne Cabral to DOI's Office of Insular Affairs, the request was approved and MWSC is in the process for acquiring equipment and tools to haul and dispose sewage waste from home septic tanks to MWSC's sewer network safely and efficiently. Bid was made to general public. Vendors' submissions will be reviewed by the Bid committee to select awarded vendor to supply and provide project materials.

INF 3.3.5 Management of urban drainage and surface waters for safe public exposure (SDG Targets 6.2.1, 6.5.1, 6.A.1)

Currently, the ACWA, (*Addressing Climate Vulnerability in the Water Sector*) funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), is being implemented by RMI and UNDP as well as the Majuro Urban Integrated Service Improvement Project. The ACWA project aims to build resilience of drinking water resources and improving hygiene in the RMI. Planned improvements include household and community rainwater harvesting, storage structures, and prevention of saltwater intrusion to groundwater resources. Additionally, MWSC has initiated a Sanitation Cleaning Project, currently in the procurement stage with aims to efficiently dispose household sewage waste.

| SDG 7: Ensure Access to Affordable, Reliable, Sustainable and Modern Energy for All | |
|--|--|
| SDG Targets (Goal 7) | NSP Alignment/Policy Objective |
| (7.1) (7.2) | (INF 3.2.1) (INF 3.2.2) (INF 3.2.3) |

INF 3.2.1 Improved enabling frameworks for reducing dependence on imported fossil fuel for electricity generation **(SDG Targets 7.1.1)**

The 2016 National Energy Policy and Energy Action Plan identifies development under a new energy law including the design of Energy Sector Management Act by 2023. Additionally, the NSP targets the Establishment of a Petroleum Act (no yet completed) to review petroleum sector operational structure in order to 1) Set up Industry competency-based system, 2) Review manpower strength and develop staff skill and 3) Align tank farm staff to specific job demands. The National Energy Bill is in the final draft and awaiting approval by resolution.

INF 3.2.2 Increased energy efficiency in households, businesses, government, transport and other sectors **(SDG Targets 7.1.1, 7.1.2)**

The RMI aims to make households more energy efficient, targeting a 20% reduction on 2018 energy use level by 2030. We also are targeting government buildings with a goal of a 20% reduction of the 2018 energy usage level by 2030.

As an option for the households, the Solar Home Loan Program was established with the partnership of MEC, MIDB, and NEO to offer low interest rate loans to households for energy efficiency improvements and solar PV generation systems. This program is active with steady progress.

Marshall Islands Council for NGOs (MICNGOs) initiated an energy audit project for NGOs and Government Buildings. This project is currently on-going, awaiting initial report. With the report, the second phase of the implementation of the energy audits will be initiated to improve energy efficiency through retrofitting.

The Import Duties Act, which exempts Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency equipment (initially air conditioning units, refrigerators and freezers, LED lightings) which have an Energy Star Label or equivalent, imported to the RMI was amended in 2019 to include the exemption of electric vehicles imported to the RMI.

With regard to the transportation sector, we target a 20% efficiency improvement. We are establishing guidelines for the maintenance of government vehicles with adequate budget allocation while promoting awareness and creating incentives (in the private sector) on the use of energy efficient modes of transport.

The Electric Vehicle Pilot Project, funded by the World Bank, was initiated with the procurement of four electric vehicles along with charging stations. The Pilot Project is on-going and monitored.

For sea transport, a Solar Powered Electric motor-board initiative for boats, funded by the EU, with Waan Aelon in Majol (WAM) as the implementing agency. The electric motor will be in commission by June 2021 for inter-lagoon travel. In addition, the on-going GIZ Low Carbon Sea Transport Project funded by Germany, will fund a new vessel that is affordable and energy efficient to serve needed transport to the neighboring islands at minimum cost, and transitioning to Low-carbon Transport as part of the long term plan aimed to meet country's 0 emission reduction target by 2050.

A pilot project with a local NGO, RECO, was initiated to conduct a study and test on e-mobility, with the use of e-scooters and e-bikes. The Majuro Local Atoll Government Police, in partnership with the local NGO is currently implementing the use of the e-transport for patrolling services.

INF 3.2.3 Reliable, sustainable and affordable energy supply (**SDG Targets 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 7.2.1**)

On-Grid PV - The electrification rate for Majuro and Ebeye is 100% with the neighboring islands standing at well over 95% after distributing and installing more than 3,100 Solar Home Systems in the rural communities. Currently around 98 % of the electricity is generated in the Marshalls Energy Company's (MEC) & KAJURs diesel power station.

The remaining 2% of electricity is renewable energy or waste heat recovery from;

- 140 kW waste heat to power generator in the power plant
- 9 kW Majuro's MIMRA's Fish Base funded
- 600 kW United Arab Emirates funded PV system, located near the Airport
- 205 kW Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) funded PV system on the hospital roof
- 111 kW PV system at the College of Marshall Islands (CMI) (privately owned)
- 35 kW PV system at the University of South Pacific (USP) campus
- A few small privately-owned grid-connected PV systems (under 5 kW each)

The following projects are still on-going. If these projects are completed, it is estimated to increase the current 2% to 10% of electricity that is renewable energy;

- 600 kW Japan International Cooperation Agency funded PV to be built on Ebeye, KAJUR Power Plant (Delayed due to COVID)
- Up to 4 MW World Bank funded PV to be built on Majuro, in sixteen different sites (Delayed due to COVID)

Off-Grid PV - The goal for the outer islands from the NEP&EAP: "...ensure that all outer island energy development will be through the use of energy sources where technically practical." NEO in partnership with MEC started the program in 2003, where currently there are more than **3,100** units of 200W solar home systems installed throughout the Marshall Islands. Providing a total PV capacity over **580kWp**.

In addition to the program, NEO and MEC, partnered with PSS to install solar PV systems in the six primary schools in the neighboring islands. There are six (6) neighboring island schools with a total of **53.96 kW** of Solar PV installed with battery storage.

| SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation | |
|---|---|
| SDG Targets (Goal 9) | NSP Alignment/Policy Objective |
| (9.1) (9.3) (9.a) (9.b) (9.C) | (S&C 1.4.3) (ECC 2.2.1) (ECC 2.2.3) (INF 3.1.1) (INF 3.1.2) (INF 3.1.3) (INF 3.5.2) (INF 3.5.3) (INF 3.6.1) (ECO 4.5.2) (ECO 4.5.3) (GG 5.5.5) |

S&C 1.4.3 Promote cultural industry- amimono (trademark) (SDG Indicators 9.b.1)

In the RMI we look to ensure our trademarks are registered especially for those products and industries related to culture and local products. In this way we look to export the “amimono” to other countries and increase revenue for our local industries and economy. This will also include providing handicraft retailers access to technology to sell or promote amimono internationally as well as the use of electronic payment technology. Currently we look to Tobolar (Coconut processing) as a possible international exporter.

We emphasize providing our young people with the knowledge/experience on how to make amimono and provide training for girls/boys on amimono for Majuro, Ebeye and Neighboring Islands. This includes a focus of providing international museums replicas of our traditional sailing canoes.

ECC 2.2.1: Adaptation and resilience actions to current and future impacts of climate change (SDG Indicators 9.A.1)

In 2015, we developed and submitted our Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) to the Secretariat of the UNFCCC. We committed to a quantified economy-wide target to reduce its emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG) to 32% below 2010 levels by 2025.

We further communicated to reduce its emissions of GHGs to 45% below 2010 levels by 2030. The RMI was the only Pacific country to identify domestic transport (land and shipping) as targeted sector. In 2018, the RMI became the first Pacific country to develop and submit its long-term 2050 Climate Strategy to the Secretariat of the UNFCCC. The strategy local name is the “Til Til Eo”, which locally means, “lighting the way”. The 2050 Strategy sets out a clear framework for progressing towards net zero GHG emissions by 2050, as well as transitioning to an economy and society that is resilient and can adapt to the inevitable impacts of climate change.

In 2018, we became the first Pacific country to update its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) whereby the RMI enhanced its commitment to a quantified economy-wide target to reduce its emissions of GHG to at least 32% levels by 2025 and to at least 45% below 2010 levels by 2030. In 2018, the RMI adopted its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Partnership Plan and we are planning to support the mitigation and adaptation working groups on Gender and Human Rights, Capacity Building, Climate Finance and Global Leadership. In 2020, the RMI developed and submitted its Adaptation Communication to the Secretariat of the UNFCCC, before the Paris Agreement 5th year anniversary “midnight deadline”.

In 2018, we began working on its National Adaptation Plan, aka, the Survival Plan and consistent with the UNFCCC NAP Guidelines, we adopted a NAP log frame with the four key components. With a view to conducting community consultations in the neighboring islands, we are finalizing our NAP consultation framework, which was developed in collaboration with the Melbourne University. The consultation framework is aimed at collecting communities' perspective on climate change, facilitate in identifying adaptation needs and prioritization of adaptation options. The consultation framework approach and context were developed and validated through several collaborations with atoll leaders, civil society groups, local communities and local women's group. The RMI is planning to conduct consultation on eight neighboring atolls this year. This RMI is working towards completing and adopting the NAP by COP-26, November 2021.

ECC 2.2.3 Strong advocacy, diplomacy and regional/global leadership to enhance urgent global climate action (SDG Indicators 9.a.1)

We formed the High Ambition Coalition in run-up negotiations at the UNFCCC to the Paris Agreement in 2015, helping to secure key elements of the deal, including the 1.5C temperature goal, the net zero global emissions pathway by the second half of the century, and a five-year cycle for updating mitigation contributions. Since then, the HAC has worked to realize the promises of the Paris Agreement it came together to deliver. The work has accelerated and expanded in scope, driving forward ambitious global climate action. And the science has only become clearer since Paris, underscoring the imperative of keeping global temperature increase below 1.5C if we are to avert the most severe impacts of climate change. RMI intends to continue to exert a strong global presence with regard to climate change at international meetings (virtual and face-to-face) and other regional forums

RMI submitted an ambitious Proposal to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to establish a Universal Mandatory GHG Levy on International Shipping commensurate with a no more than 1.5-degree temperature trajectory to be presented at the Marine Environmental Protection Committee (MEPC76) in June 2021.

INF 3.1.1 Efficient and reliable air and sea connectivity to the outer islands and the world (SDG Targets 9.1.1, 9.1.2)

We continue to prioritize access opportunities for the neighboring islands. It is ensured that all islands (runways) meet at least the minimum standard/recommended practices according to DCA regulations; and/or to meet required standard for both types of aircraft that RMI National air carrier currently is flying. For the RMI international airport we maintain full compliance as per airport certificate holders. Additionally, all airport (national and international) personnel are ensured to meet required trainings and certification as per DCA regulations.

The RMI National Infrastructure and Investment Plan (NIIP) is currently being updated to include the construction of new Airport Terminal at Amata Kabua International Airport , construction of new boat ramps and docks in the neighboring islands and rehabilitation of five major neighboring islands airstrips by 2030 inclusive of purchasing new Cessna Planes to support the existing Air Marshall Islands fleet. The Sea Transport Sector also aims to purchase new vessels to serve the neighboring islands in addition to the GIZ funded project. The on-going GIZ Low Carbon Sea

Transport Project funded by Germany, not only supports the RMI target for affordable and clean energy transport and long term connectivity but will also provide new training facilities to RMI, for education and training of ship crew and researchers, as well as use of modern energy-efficient sailing technologies and renewable energy.

There is a continued effort to expand sea connectivity to the neighboring islands in cooperation with the private sector. There is a total of twenty-nine (29) active commercial ships providing services to the neighboring islands, eight from GRMI, and 21 from the private sector. The Maritime Investment program, being promoted by the World Bank, will ensure that marine infrastructures in the RMI Port of Entries and including neighbor islands marine structures are resilient to climate change. Special components in the program have been instilled to ensure that environmental and social safeguards are addressed, including the establishment of a public “grievance” mechanism that act as a tool to benefit the public.

INF 3.1.2 Compliance with all applicable (international) maritime and civil aviation safety standards for the ports (SDG Indicators 9.1.2)

Our partnership with our development partners in the aviation industry, more specifically our international airport, aims to address the impacts of climate change and sea level rise by retrofitting our shoreline protection structure to ensure protection of public infrastructures. At the same time expanding the footprint of airport infrastructures to ensure maximum compliance with international and domestic standards as may be required under international conventions.

We look to strengthen domestic air transport services by reforming and improving operations of Marshall Islands Shipping Corporation through construction of the of the Maritime Safety Standard and Training Center as referred to in the NIIP 2020 to 2030, funded by Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). This results in the establishment of Maritime and Safety Institute under the collaboration of the Maritime Working Group, GIZ, NTC and CMI (College of the Marshall Islands). We are a signatory to various international conventions in the air and sea transport sectors as follows:

- International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
- Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS)
- Law of the Sea Convention

INF 3.1.3 Reliable roads for efficient movement of people and goods and services (SDG Targets 9.1.1, 9.1.2)

Plans for major road repairs in both Ebeye and Majuro are included in the National Infrastructure and Investment Plan (NIIP). The results are expected to minimize congestion of traffic in the Majuro urban area, and prevent further damage of the existing road and solve the flooding and drainage problems. In Ebeye the results will shorten travel and minimize damage to vehicles including school buses that service the main island of Ebeye to Kwajalein Atoll High School located in Guggegue. The Kwajalein Atoll Development Authority (KADA), is now on the final design process for the permanent paving of the causeway road from Ebeye to Guggegue, currently to

be funded from its Kwajalein ESN and Impact Compact Funds. This is also inclusive of the repair of the existing roads and drainage on the main island of Ebeye.

In the neighboring islands, construction of Perimeter Roads is targeted for completion by 2030 as part of the Outer Islands Development Plan (by Local Government) in order to provide efficient movement of transportation of supplies, goods and reliefs to outer islands. This planned activity will coincide during the pavement projects of the airstrips as envisaged in the NIIP.

INF 3.5.2 Provide resilient platforms for efficient and affordable connectivity (SDG Indicators 9.C.1)

INF 3.5.3 Improve outer island connectivity (SDG Indicators 9.C.1)

Progress continues as the NTA (National Telecommunications Authority) works on upgrading the copper network infrastructure with fiber optic cable in order to provide higher data rate and consistent & stable connectivity. To date, work is completed: all on government ministries, consulates, major corporate while work continues on school and private homes. Work also continues on mobile broadband upgrades in the urban centers of Majuro and Ebeye (4G upgrades) to provide coverage for entire population centers.

Connectivity for the neighboring islands continues to be a priority of the NTA. The focus is on schools and health centers, so that each site has Internet broadband connectivity. There is a total of 58 school and 55 Health Centers. Progress is also being made by upgrading from Demand Assessed Multiple Assign (DAMA) technology to GSM mobile cellular service. To date (30%) sites have been completed and using the GSM cellular service with 49 sites targeted for completion by 2022. This will include an upgrade from 2G to 3G in 2022. Neighboring islands are also dependent on VHF Radios (1 VHF radio per community) All obsolete radios are being replaced with newer iCOM models.

INF 3.6.1 Strategic and resilient infrastructure planning and investment (SDG Indicators 9.1.1)

We continue to implement the National Infrastructure Investment Plan (NIIP) projects with approved funding sources (2017-2026). A total of 124 projects. During 2021 we are updating the NIIP to include new projects in the pipeline (2021-2030). To date 50 out of 124 projects have been implemented from 2017-2020. There remain 74 projects to be implemented through 2026 with additional projects targeted for completion by 2030. We also continue implementation of all Compact Infrastructure Projects planned for 2016-2023 (29 capital projects). To date 22 projects are Implemented (2016-20) with a remaining 7 projects targeted for completion by 2023.

RMI's development partners continue to push for resiliencies in marine and airport infrastructures, particularly in the context of climate change and sea level rise. Other emerging needs in the planning and investment sectors include safety and security of airports and ports in the RMI, and the management of wastes (solid wastes or sewage) discharge from either airplanes or marine vessels that call the international ports of entry in the RMI, namely Majuro Atoll, Ebeye/Kwajalein Atoll and Jaluit Atoll. It is more reason that marine and airport planning documents, including periodic updates, should be considered:

- Airport Masterplan 2012, scheduled for an update in FY 2022
- Ports Masterplan 2014, scheduled for an update in the pipeline
- Ports Strategic Planning under development in FY2022
- 2005 Outer Islands Transport Infrastructure Planning needs to be updated very soon

Indicators derived from the 4 planning documents will address:

- The impacts of climate change and sea-level rise in the RMI
- The expansion and retrofitting of airport and marine infrastructure footprints in the RMI
- The efficiency, safety and security of operations in the maritime and aviation transport sectors in the RMI
- Reliability and the delivery of services to the people of RMI
- Acquiring of low-carbon sea transportation vessel for the RMI
- Acquiring of fuel efficient, longer range and more payload types of airplanes for the RMI

ECO 4.5.2: Improve access to affordable and competitive financial services (SDG Indicators 9.3.1, 9.3.2)

Access to affordable financial services is important for micro, small and medium enterprises. The RMI encourages financial institutions to provide a range of products and services promotes greater access to financial resources. The Banking Commission provides and oversight to the banking sector and continues to work to increase access and opportunities for the RMI people. Targets include increasing the number of ATMs and PoS devices in the RMI by 2030 as well as ensuring lending interest rates are maintained at or below 24%, and that remittances costs are reduced to 3%-5% as a proportion of the amount remitted. We also focus on ensuring all employed population are covered by the pension scheme and have bank accounts.

ECO 4.5.3: Protect and develop links to the international financial system (SDG Indicators 9.3.2)

Global connectivity of the financial system is critical to facilitate the flow of trade and payments, and correspondent banking relationships for local banks, need to be maintained. The Banking Commission continues to focus on strengthening the regulatory and supervisory oversight of the financial system to better address the challenges of money laundering and terrorist financing. The SDG Committee has funded pilot projects promoting financial literacy so as to impart financial “know how” allowing for effective utilization of financial services.

Specifically, we look to establish a centralized domestic check clearing system by 2023 and a domestic credit registry by 2025. An important piece of the banking system is to maintain BOMI’s (Bank of Marshall Islands) CBR (Correspondent Banking Relationship) with FHB (First Hawaiian Bank) and to identify alternative channels to maintain links to the U.S financial system by 2025.

GG 5.5.5 Establish safe, secure and accessible cyber environment (SDG Indicators 9.C.1)

The National Intelligence Committee (NIC) will coordinate the effort to ensure a safe, secure and accessible cyber environment with an annual report by the NIC on the state of RMI’s cyber environment completed by 2021. This report will be used to establish a safe electronic environment legal framework on cybersecurity by 2022.

| SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable | |
|---|--|
| SDG Targets (Goal 11) | NSP Alignment/Policy Objective |
| (11.1) (11.2) (11.3) (11.4) (11.5) (11.6) (11.7) (11.a) (11.b) | (S&C 1.4.1) (S&C 1.4.2) (S&C 1.4.4) (ECC 2.3.1) (ECC 2.3.2) (ECC 2.3.3) (INF 3.3.4) (INF 3.4.1) (INF 3.4.2) (INF 3.4.3) (INF 3.4.4) (INF 3.6.1) (INF 3.6.2) (INF 3.6.3) (ECO 4.1.1) (GG 5.1.4) (GG 5.3.4) |

S&C 1.4.1 Undertake preservation of traditional knowledge-natural resources and historical sites (men ko bwinnir) **(SDG Indicators 11.4.1)**

We focus on continuing our culture and traditions to ensure that citizens have access to traditional knowledge and access to media information on traditional knowledge. We also maintain traditional skills related to weaving (Jaki Ed), canoeing (through Waan Aelon in Majel) as well as farming, fishing, song and dance, food preparation. Moving forward we continue to assist the population maintain at least one or more of these traditional skills. The Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs (MOCIA) also works with the US Office of Historic Preservation to ensure at least one traditional site is preserved in the RMI on an annual basis.

Traditional knowledge of how to farm and care for domestic and traditional plants is eroding. Even traditional forms of food preparation and preservation are unknown to many young people. Loss of traditional agroforestry knowledge has accompanied the decline in engagement in agriculture activities by the local households. The major challenge for forestry is the disappearance of native forest trees and traditional agroforestry systems. Sustainable growth and development require minimizing the natural resources and toxic materials used, and the waste and pollutants generated, throughout the entire production and consumption process.

S&C 1.4.2 Maintain and preserve Marshallese language **(SDG Indicators 11.4.1)**

Public School System (PSS) curriculum includes Marshallese language and students are instructed in Marshallese through grades K-8 (7.5 hours per week) and Grades 9-12 5 (hours per week). We continue to test for Marshallese Language skills in Grades 3, 6 and 8, with the aim of children having a conversational knowledge of the language (at a minimum). Our schools continue to implement both the Marshallese Language Act (2010) & Customary Law and Language Commission Act (2004) as means to continue to maintain and preserve our language and customs through the public-school system.

S&C 1.4.4 Maintain traditional consumption and production of food and medicine **(SDG Indicators 11.4.1)**

As a way of making our cities and villages more sustainable we promote the preparation of traditional food and medicine as well as a focus on raising local/traditional crops available for consumption. The NSP targets increasing the teaching of these local preparations and raising of crops (and trees). By consuming more local foods we encourage a more sustainable pattern of import substitution. The Agriculture Division of the Ministry Natural Resources and Commerce

(NDC) works to assist with identifying trees for medicine use and assist with planting and raising local produce.

The Local Government & Historic Preservation Office (MOCIA) has conducted food security capacity building in the Outer Islands on local food protection and preservation. Local governments have taken initiatives to develop ordinances on lagoon conservation regarding the safe and sanitary growing, harvesting, and selling of natural (water based) resources. HPO with the support of local governments, in both urban and rural areas, supports developing traditional fish traps (*Me*).

ECC 2.3.1 Enhanced Resilience to Disaster and Risk (SDG Targets 11.5 & 11.b)

Building codes to be used for new buildings in RMI are currently being developed to make new buildings resilient to hazards, in particular flooding and typhoons (cyclones). Flood risk is common issue with flooding caused by king tides, storm surges and rogue wave. The risk is expected to increase in the future due to sea level rise. A Coastal Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) for the urban center of Ebeye (Kwajalein Atoll) has been completed, and includes a series of proposed designs for risk reduction options. This CVA is currently being updated, using more precise LiDAR data from Ebeye. Following this CVA, a decision was made to build a seawall, funded by World Bank under the PREP program, to protect the inhabitants and critical infrastructures of Ebeye. Unfortunately, the travel restrictions to RMI, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, have delayed the project. A similar CVA is being conducted in Majuro and less detailed risk assessment for coastal flooding has been conducted for the other atolls in RMI.

RMI NDMO is currently working with the local government for different atolls to develop local DRM and resilience plans to enhance the resilience of communities to disaster risks. Other initiatives from the International Organization for Migration, The Marshall Islands Red Cross Society and the Ridge to Reef project visit communities in RMI to inform them of disaster risks and to build their resilience to disaster and climate change.

ECC 2.3.2 Strengthened disaster preparedness, response and recovery (SDG Targets 11.5 & 11.b)

E.C.C 2.3.3 Greater coordination, nationally and internationally on DRM efforts (SDG Targets 11.5 & 11.b)

The geography of RMI and the distance between the atolls makes it essential for each atoll to have a plan to organize preparedness, response and recovery actions. These plans identify main risks for the atolls and islands and organize community's actions for preparedness, response and recovery. NDMO has completed 2 local DRM and Resilience plan and 2 more are in progress, which corresponds to one quarter of the inhabited atolls/islands in RMI.

Tabletop and simulation exercises were conducted in the last few years to improve preparedness and response, in particular in the urban center of Majuro and NDMO is planning to organize exercises and drills more regularly in the other atolls and islands as well.

The development of local DRM and Resilience plan involves different stakeholders, in particular the local government and community organizations and groups. The plan is the result of a

participatory process. Local plans are also developed or implemented by partner organizations who coordinate with NDMO to ensure alignment of the plans with the national DRM and Resilience plan.

At the national level, the clusters are the key coordination mechanism and their terms of reference are being updated to ensure they address lessons learned from recent emergencies or disasters. Additionally, the cluster's standard operating procedures have been developed and used generically to encompass all types of disasters (i.e. natural, man-made and search & rescue).

Globally, RMI is one of the countries who adopted the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the country has reported its progress against the seven targets of the Sendai Framework using the online monitor tool.

INF 3.3.4 Comprehensive management of waste water (SDG Targets 11.1.1)

We target the improved reliability and functionality to existing pump stations in the urban areas. The NSP includes a target, that by 2030, the upgrades of all saltwater, sewerage network, and pump stations leading to an increased sanitation rate from 80% to 100% in Majuro (DUD area).

MWSC has partaken in component No. 2 of World Bank's SEDeP Project under the Promotion of Energy Efficiency and Loss Reduction Program. The project aims to increase the share of renewable energy generation in the Recipient's territory, and enhance the reliability of electricity supply and improve energy efficiency in the Project Areas. The technical specifications and tender documents to retrofit the pumps at lift stations 1, 2, and 3 in MWSC water lift station were launched in May 2019. The contract of MWSC water pump was signed in early 2020. The pumps manufacture has been delayed due to COVID-19 pandemic. This affects the pumps shipping, which is delayed beyond the its initial schedule in September 2020, and retrofitting works are delayed beyond the expected completion date of December 2020.

In addition, MWSC has undergone changes in key staff for these works. In consequence, the MWIU-PMU will undertake the supervision and inspection of works. MWSC continues to work with the contractor (PII) on all installation and operational issues, including testing. While some work has been completed and tested, other work continues to awaits parts from overseas. Once they arrived on port, the repairs/replacement program will continue as planned.

MWSC submitted a Sanitation Cleaning Project and requested assistance through the Office of the Chief Secretary and Her Excellency US Madam Ambassador Roxanne Cabral to DOI's Office of Insular Affairs, the request was approved and MWSC is in the process for acquiring equipment and tools to haul and dispose sewage waste from home septic tanks to MWSC's sewer network safely and efficiently. Bid was made to general public. Vendors' submissions will be reviewed by the Bid committee to select awarded vendor to supply and provide project materials.

INF 3.4.1 Enhance accessible community collection services (SDG Indicators 11.6.1)

In Majuro, there is full coverage of households with waste bins (4,012 HHs). There currently are 2,000 homes with waste bins with another 110 being procured in 2021. Additionally, all

commercial entities have access to waste collection bins. There currently are 150 commercial entities with bins, with an additional 10 to be procured in 2021.

For Ebeye, Kwajalein, the Ebeye Solid Waste Management Project (ESWMP), Project Readiness Financing was approved by ADB in 2019, to prepare this project and facilitate implementation for the upgrade of the existing Ebeye dump, improve collection and management, build high temperature incineration equipment and improved medical waste disposal at the Ebeye Hospital, to prevent spread of transmittable diseases.

INF 3.4.2 Assess and promote sustainable and sanitary landfill applications and operation (SDG Indicators 11.6.1)

We are implementing waste minimization programs that reduce the amount of waste going to landfills. A green waste facility in Laura (on Majuro Atoll) has been constructed. This has reduced the incoming green waste into the public landfill. The RMI has the goal of zero unauthorized dumpsites in Majuro. At the moment there is no official count of unauthorized dumpsites.

INF 3.4.3 Promote local recycling (SDG Indicators 11.6.1)

The RMI continues to face a huge challenge in managing solid waste, particularly on the primary centers of Majuro and Ebeye, where 90% of the RMI population resides. High costs of maintenance of equipment, limited capacity in terms of land and space.

The RMI primary centers of Majuro and Ebeye are undertaking several initiatives to prevent, reduce and recycle wastes. There are recycling facilities established on majority of schools throughout the primary centers where they are eventually processed at the Landfill sites. Both Majuro and Ebeye have developed Strategic Plans.

RMI is Implementing recycling program expansion. With the PacWastePlus project there is draft legislation to include other recyclable or salvageable items (tires, white waste, ULAB, (Used lead Acid Batteries) scrap metal etc.). We are also planning to increase the number of recycling points in the RMI. There currently is only one recycling point. There are ongoing plans to establish and open another recycling point on Ebeye.

INF 3.4.4 Carry out appropriate incineration for medical waste and waste to energy conversion (SDG Indicators 11.6.1)

A detailed study of utilizing an incinerator will be conducted thru ADB's PRF (Project Readiness Fund). The project team is awaiting the end of the travel ban. Additionally, a Waste to Energy (WTE) study has been conducted by ADB. We are awaiting now for a on island detailed design implemented by ADB's project readiness fund. The study will include detailed cost estimates.

INF 3.6.1 Strategic and resilient infrastructure planning and investment (SDG Indicators 11.1.1, 11.2.1)

RMI continues to implement the National Infrastructure Investment Plan (NIIP) projects with approved funding sources (2017-2026). A total of 124 projects. We are currently updating the NIIP to include new projects in the pipeline (2021-2030). To date 50 out of 124 projects have

been implemented from 2017-2020. There are 74 projects remaining to be implemented through 2026 with additional projects targeted for completion by 2030. We also continue implementation of all Compact Infrastructure Projects (Compact Infrastructure Plan) planned for 2016-2023 (29 capital projects). To date 22 are implemented (2016-2020) with a remaining 7 projects targeted for completion by 2023.

Our development partners continue to push for resiliencies in marine and airport infrastructures, particularly in the context of climate change and sea level rise. Other emerging needs in the planning and investment sectors include safety and security of airports and ports in the RMI, and the management of wastes (solid wastes or sewage) discharge from either airplanes or marine vessels that call the international ports of entry in the RMI, namely Majuro Atoll, Ebeye/Kwajalein Atoll and Jaluit Atoll. It is more reason that marine and airport planning documents, including periodic updates, should be considered:

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- The expansion and retrofitting of airport and marine infrastructure footprints in the RMI
- The efficiency, safety and security of operations in the maritime and aviation transport sectors in the RMI
- Reliability and the delivery of services to the people of RMI
- Acquiring of low-carbon sea transportation vessel for the RMI
- Acquiring of fuel efficient, longer range and more payload types of airplanes for the RMI

INF 3.6.2 Well-designed, built and maintained public facilities (roads, runways, buildings, amenities, schools, dispensaries, seawalls etc.) (SDG Indicators 11.1.1, 11.2.1)

We are developing a maintenance plan for major hospital facilities (Majuro & Ebeye) with plans completed by end of 2023. Additionally, there is a plan to hire Facilities Maintenance Engineers to provide the effective management of annual hospital budget and preventive and repair works based on standard engineering practice. We are developing maintenance plans for all schools and health centers (neighboring islands) to be completed by 2023. To date 13 atoll plans are completed with the remaining 10 targeted for 2022.

We are developing maintenance plans for other government assets (Airports and Airstrips). The Airport Maintenance Plan for to be completed by 2030 (29 Outer Islands Airports). Additionally, we are developing standard design (permanent pavement) of Outer Island Airports by 2022. Currently, two International Airports with existing maintenance plans and 4 out of 29 domestic airports were repaired and maintained. The objective is that all 29 Outer Island Airports will be paved permanently and are accessible without issues on repairs and maintenance.

RMI is developing maintenance plans for other government assets (roads and other public buildings) to be completed by 2030 in coordination with other Ministries and Local Government). This also includes an update of the Fixed Asset Registers by 2022 (MOF).

INF 3.6.3 Raise building standards through implementation of a Building Code **(SDG Indicators 11.1.1)**

An RMI National Building Code was developed (final draft) and is scheduled for approval by Cabinet in August 2021. The Code was reviewed to ensure all applicable building standards and regulations applicable and suitable to RMI were included. Moving forward the design and construction of Public Buildings will be regulated through the implementation of the New RMI National Building Code. We plan to introduce amendments and revisions to the Building Code to cover other buildings (Private and Residential) to ensure protection of public health, safety and general welfare as they relate to the construction and occupancy of buildings and structures.

ECO 4.1.1 Greater opportunities to utilize land for economic growth **(SDG Targets 11.3.1)**

We continue to look to provide opportunities for land owners to access secured transactions from MIDB (Marshall Islands Development Bank) to secure their lease loans. This opportunity is also provided to the private sector and for private individual loans. In order to do this, we coordinate partnerships with the Council of Irooj, MIDB, OCIT (Office of Commerce Investment and Trade), Ministry of Finance Tax and Revenue.

Agriculture production represents a relatively small proportion of the RMI economy (around 4% of GDP), but is a critical source of livelihoods especially on the outer islands. There are some underutilized lands which offer potential for increased output of agricultural goods. The principal cash crop in the RMI is coconut. Examples of some potential crops in the RMI are breadfruit for flour making, pandanus fruit for juice making and coconut and pandanus leaves for hand crafting and weaving. Other products, such as wood, can be used for carvings and construction. Agriculture products will supply raw materials to some of the value-adding industries.

GG 5.1.4: Strengthen the connection and cooperation with civil society, private sector and outer islands **(SDG Indicators 11.a.1)**

A continued focus on cooperation between, national and local government and the private sector has one objective the development of resilient and sustainable populations centers throughout the RMI. Plans include liaison and annual roundtable with civil society, private sector, and the Marshall Islands Mayors' Association.

GG 5.3.4 Strengthen the capacity and processes of law making, regulation, enforcement and oversight of relevant agencies **(SDG Indicators 11.7.2)**

Community surveys have been conducted to assess the impact of policing services with the assistance of the Australian Federal Police. As a result of the survey, public's comments, inputs, discrepancies all were included in the MIPD (Marshall Islands Police Department) strategic plan. We are anticipating another survey FY21 and this will provide input for the renewal of the MIPD Strategic Plan for 2022-2025.

Targets for MIPD include increasing the percentage of victims of crime reporting that they were “very satisfied” or “somewhat satisfied” with the initial police services they received when they were victims of crime (2% annually until at least 70%+ rate is achieved by 2030).

Trainings have been conducted since 2008 and have encompassed the range of ranks from officer level up to management level with topics ranging from investigations to the understanding and application of law, elements of crime, police procedures and departmental policies. Currently, trainings are provided by external providers, however on island trainers have been identified within the MIPD and have run 2 Police Recruit Courses since 2013. Domestic Violence Programs have been rolled out in FY15 with on island trainers conducting said trainings.

Currently MIPD is strengthening its relationship with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in investigations and forensics capabilities as well as developing a career pathway for identification of the path of professional growth in the workplace through meeting the required skills, knowledge and abilities of each personnel.

Targets are to increase by 5% trained personnel annually until 100% rate is achieved by 2025, in basic investigations and policing services with training in specialized areas of investigations increased by 50% by 2030 to increase community confidence in services provided by police.

| SDG 12: Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns | |
|---|---|
| SDG Targets (Goal 12) | NSP Alignment/Policy Objective |
| (12.1) (12.2) (12.4) (12.5) (12.6) | (S&C 1.4.4) (ECC 2.1.2) (ECC 2.1.3) (INF 3.4.3) (GG 5.2.5) |

S&C 1.4.4 Maintain traditional consumption and production of food and medicine **(SDG Indicators 12.1.1, 12.2.1)**

As a way of making our cities and villages more sustainable we promote the preparation of traditional food and medicine as well as a focus on raising local/traditional crops available for consumption. The NSP targets increasing the teaching of these local preparations and raising of crops (and trees). By consuming more local foods we encourage a more sustainable pattern of import substitution. The Agriculture Division of the NRC will work to assist with identifying trees for medicine use and assist with planting and raising local produce.

The Local Government & Historic Preservation Office (MOCIA) has conducted food security capacity building in the neighboring islands on local food protection and preservation. Local governments have taken initiatives to develop ordinances on lagoon conservation regarding the safe and sanitary growing, harvesting, and selling of natural (water based) resources. HPO with the support of local governments, in both urban and rural areas, supports developing traditional fish traps (*Me*).

ECC 2.1.2 Strengthened management of waste, chemicals, pollutants and nuclear radiation (SDG Indicators 12.4.1, 12.5.1)**INF 3.4.3 Promote local recycling (SDG Indicators 12.5.1)**

We continue to face a huge challenge in managing solid waste, particularly on the primary centers of Majuro and Ebeye, where 90% of the RMI population resides. High costs of maintenance of equipment and limited capacity in terms of land and space.

The RMI primary centers of Majuro and Ebeye are undertaking several initiatives to prevent, reduce and recycle wastes. There are recycling facilities established on majority of schools throughout the primary centers where they are eventually processed at the Landfill sites. Both Majuro and Ebeye have developed Strategic Plans.

RMI is Implementing recycling program expansion. With the PacWastePlus project there is draft legislation to include other recyclable or salvageable items (tires, white waste, ULAB (Used lead Acid Batteries), scrap metal etc.). We are also planning to increase the number of recycling points in the RMI. There currently is only one recycling point. There are ongoing plans to establish another recycling point in Ebeye.

The main regulatory responsibilities of EPA include environmental permits, development approval, environmental impact assessment and compliance and enforcement which are mandated under environmental Acts and legislations. These regulations include the Ozone Layer Protection Regulations (2004) under the Montreal Protocol and the Pesticides and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Regulations (2004), Solid Waste Regulations (1989) which addresses the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

These regulations enable the EPA to monitor and enforce the importation of any chemical brought into the Marshall Islands through annual permitting systems and regular monitoring by the Waste & Pollutants division. To date EPA have been involved in the development of plans to collect used lead batteries from the neighboring islands and exporting them out of RMI along with used oils. EPA have been involved in many incidences of oil spills for the past years and recently have been awarded oil spill kits from the government of Japan to aid in responding to such events in the future. These kits will also be used in Ebeye, Jaluit and Wotje atolls.

The RMIEPA along with its USEPA counterparts have been collaborating for the past two years to address the safe collection and disposal of expired chemicals from hospitals and schools. But due to this COVID-19 pandemic this important activity has been slightly delayed however, plans are underway to ship off chemicals from the two neighboring island high schools into Majuro for safe storage. From 2016 to 2018 EPA implemented a project to monitor unintentional persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in the environment and humans. This include air samples collected from Arno as well as human milk sampling from Majuro and Ebeye residents and these samples were sent to overseas laboratories for analyses of these POPs contamination.

One of the major achievements the EPA have accomplished was the development and passing of the Container Deposit Legislation that prohibits the importation of single use shopping plastic bags, plastic cups and plastic plates and promote the recycling of aluminum cans and glass bottles. This has contributed to the reduction of plastic wastes in the environment and being disposed of in the dump as well as contributed to the livelihood of the people of the RMI through the recycling program.

ECC 2.1.3 Meet obligations to relevant national, regional and international treaties, agreements and frameworks (SDG Indicators 12.4.1, 12.5.1)

The NSP includes a target that 70% of relevant provisions of key MEAs (Multi-lateral Environment Agreements) are met. The RMI is Party to several MEAs, namely the Rio Convention the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention Climate Change, the UNCBD (United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity), and the UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification).

To date, the RMI has submitted its Second National Communication (SNC) to the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) in 2014 and we have secured funds this year (2021) to begin on our Third National Communication (TNC) and our First Biennial Updated Report (FBUR). The RMI also submitted its Fifth National Report to the UNCBD (United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity) in 2016 and our Sixth National Report in 2019. We have not made formal commitments to Land Neutrally Degradation (LDN) targets under the UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification). The RMI has submitted its Initial National Report under the Nagoya Protocol in 2017 and have secured resources this year (2021) to develop our Fourth National Report under the Cartagena Protocol.

The main regulatory responsibilities of EPA include environmental permits, development approval, environmental impact assessment and compliance and enforcement which are mandated under environmental Acts and legislations. These regulations are the Ozone Layer Protection Regulations (2004) under the Montreal Protocol and the Pesticides and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Regulations (2004), Solid Waste Regulations (1989) which addresses the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions. **(See ECC 2.1.2 for additional information)**

GG 5.2.5 Improve revenue generation (SDG Indicators 12.6.1)

We continue to explore ways to increase government revenue streams. Areas of focus include tax reform (PFM reforms), non-tax revenue generation including fishing revenues and attracting private sector investment. The NSP targets a 4% annual increase through 2030. As part of the ongoing PFM reforms work in the area of tax reform continues. The current emphasis is on seven work streams:

- Increased compliance with existing taxes (GRT and withholding tax), and with any new taxes to be adopted, including data matching, compliance risk management, compliance plan, audit, taxpayer services, staff training, review of Tax Division structural and institutional arrangements, communication and PR strategy;
- Improved collections of tax arrears;
- Consideration and advice regarding proposed new taxes (consumption tax, net profits tax, new income tax etc.);

- Improvements to tax and customs processes, including automation and inputs to a new FMIS;
- The design of processes and templates for revenue projections, and the review of tax forms.
- The introduction of an independent tax appeals mechanism;
- Risk management and threat analysis.

Additionally, we have made significant progress in making better use of our sovereign resources. This has included substantial reforms to regional fisheries management (non-tax revenue), which have resulted in returns from fees to access our commercial tuna fisheries reaching 12% of GDP. We have also steadily increased revenues from our ship and corporate registries. In turn, this has allowed us to run a series of fiscal surpluses in recent years, and create space for us to make more investments that are needed to safeguard our future. To expand our revenue base, we will explore innovative ways to ensure that appropriate returns from our sovereign rights and resources are secured for national development efforts, including reviewing all fees, fines, and charges that are currently levied.

SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

| SDG Targets (Goal 14) | NSP Alignment/Policy Objective |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (14.2) (14.4) (14.5) (14.6) (14.7) | (ECC 2.1.1) (ECC 2.1.2) (ECO 4.3.1) |
| (14.B) (14.C) | (ECO 4.3.2) (ECO 4.3.3) (ECO 4.3.4) |

ECC 2.1.1 Improved protection, conservation and sustainability of atoll environment and natural resources (**SDG Indicators 14.2.1, 14.4.1, 14.5.1, 14.7.1, 14.b.1, 14.c.1**)

Celebrating the achievements of the 2020 Micronesia Challenge and agreeing to new and ambitious 2030 targets, the RMI has formally committed to effectively conserve 30% of terrestrial resources and 50% of near shore marine resources. New protected areas are uploaded to the RMI-GIS map in the PIPAP and that goals are for all 33 outer islands have in place their Resource Management Plans (RMP) and all RMP are to be uploaded on to RMI Environment Data Portal. At the start of the effort work was led through the Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC), a multidisciplinary ad-hoc-working group that facilitates the development of community-based resource management plans, under which communities become responsible for the conservation and management of their own natural resources.

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As of September 2020, the RMI has effectively conserved approximately 4273.14 Kilometers² of near shore marine resources, which equates to 30.7% and 32.48 Kilometers² of terrestrial resources, which equates to 18.5%.

Reimaanlok

The RMI established the National Conservation Area Plan called the Reimaanlok (Looking to the Future). With emphasis on a holistic conservation approach for sustainable development, the Reimaanlok provides a roadmap to achieve the ambitious targets of the Micronesia Challenge and links community efforts to international goals. To support the implementation of the Conservation Plan, the RMI Parliament passed the Protected Area Plan (PAN) Act in 2015, established the Protected Area Network (PAN) Office under the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA).

To finance the implementation of the Conservation Plan, the RMI established an Endowment Fund under the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) to support the establishment and facilitation of community-based conservation areas. With a target of US\$13million the RMI has raised a total of approximately US\$ 5million. Presently, we have conserved 30.7% of near shore marine resources and 18% of land resources. In 2018, we formally committed to increase its conservation targets to 30% Terrestrial Resources and 50% of near shore marine resources by 2030.

Access Benefit Sharing

With support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the RMI received technical support from SPREP (Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program) to undertake a series of activities: legal review and analysis on existing laws and policies related to ABS (Access Benefit Sharing), conducted capacity building workshops, support on developing RMI's Initial National Report to the Protocol and development of RMI's ABS Policy. As a result of this GEF funded program with SPREP, the general understanding of the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol improved among government officials, we've identified our shortfalls in the existing laws and RMI's first policy on this Protocol was developed. A second phase program is earmarked to look at improving the enabling environment and further capacity building initiatives.

Agriculture

With regard to Agriculture some of the varieties of species like pandanus, taro, breadfruit, coconuts, dwarf banana, sources of traditional fruits and sources of traditional medicines are now endangered. The major challenge is protecting the genetic diversity of the crops from introduced pests and diseases and the effects of extreme weather events like droughts and severe cyclones. The most serious of these include insects' pests such as the breadfruit mealybug, coconut scale, and spiraling whitefly, which could cause severe damage to many food crops and seriously affect crop productivity and overall food security. The Agriculture sector has vital roles in disaster reliefs – from assessing the degree of damages to responses to food needs after a disaster and coordination of crop and livestock rehabilitation after a disaster.

Forestry

Our natural tropical forest ecosystems are traditionally used in the production of wood, food production through agroforestry and trees in home gardens, and non- timber forest products (notably pandanus fiber). Forests play essential roles regarding food security and climate change mitigation, strand vegetation and mangrove forests provide coastal stabilization, and forests provide shelter to many species.

Providing public policy guidelines from up-to-date and accurate forestry information is urgent to enable compliance with established priorities and targets. These include those recognized in the RMI National Strategic Plan (2020–2030), which identifies priority issues around biodiversity, food security, coastal reinforcement and urbanization. The priorities also support the achievement of various other targets under international agreements such as the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to 32% below 2010 levels by 2025 and to 45% below by 2030 defined in Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC), as well as actions within the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Forests cover 70% of the Marshalls' land. The forests are privately owned and, as was established in previous inventories (Forest Inventory and Analysis – FIA 2008 and 2018), are highly under-examined with data and information gaps regarding biodiversity, importance, socioecological functions, uses, traditional management and geographical information.

Forest Action Plan

The Forest Action Plan raises concerns about developing a context specific standardized method with techniques and key questions to establish terrestrial baselines in the RMI from which management activities can be developed and against which the impact of such activities can be monitored. In order to implement more effective policies and include local communities and different types of knowledge sets such as traditional ones into decision making at RMI, there are some recognized needs to:

- Build the baseline data for the forestry/agriculture sector
- Develop a participatory GIS database of land use for agriculture and forestry
- Compile traditional land use management practices through participatory and integrated dialogue
- Comprehensive and accurate data to assess the Action Plan for the forest and agriculture sector
- Capacity enhancing and local community monitoring

Reimaanlok Process

By utilizing the Reimaanlok, MIMRA's Coastal Department has managed to help develop and implement sustainable marine resource management plans with local governments and remote communities in the RMI. The resource management plans provide communities with multiple benefits including financial opportunities that will help find sustainable development projects and give the Marshallese more prospects for income generation. 5 communities on Majuro and 8 atolls have developed management plans, and more set to be developed.

ECC 2.1.2 Strengthened management of waste, chemicals, pollutants and nuclear radiation (SDG

Indicators 14.2.1

The RMI continues to face a huge challenge in managing solid waste, particularly on the primary centers of Majuro and Ebeye, where 90% of the RMI population resides. High costs of maintenance of equipment and limited capacity in terms of land and space.

Our primary centers of Majuro and Ebeye are undertaking several initiatives to prevent, reduce and recycle wastes. There are recycling facilities established on majority of schools throughout the primary centers where they are eventually processed at the landfill sites. Both Majuro and Ebeye have developed Strategic Plans.

The main regulatory responsibilities of EPA include environmental permits, development approval, environmental impact assessment and compliance and enforcement which are mandated under environmental Acts and legislations. These regulations are the Ozone Layer Protection Regulations (2004) under the Montreal Protocol and the Pesticides and Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Regulations (2004), Solid Waste Regulations (1989) which addresses the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

These regulations enable the EPA to monitor and enforce the importation of any chemical brought into the Marshall Islands through annual permitting systems and regular monitoring by the Waste & Pollutants division. To date EPA have been involved in the development of plans to collect used lead batteries from the neighboring islands and exporting them out of RMI along with used oils. EPA have been involved in many incidences of oil spills for the past years and recently have been awarded oil spill kits from the government of Japan to aid in responding to such events in the future. These kits will also be used in Ebeye, Jaluit and Wotje atolls.

The RMIEPA along with its USEPA counterparts have been collaborating for the past two years to address the safe collection and disposal of expired chemicals from hospitals and schools. But due to this COVID-19 pandemic this important activity has been slightly delayed however, plans are underway to ship off chemicals from the two neighboring island high schools into Majuro for safe storage. From 2016 to 2018 EPA implemented a project to monitor unintentional persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in the environment and humans. This include air samples collected from Arno as well as human milk sampling from Majuro and Ebeye residents and these samples were sent to overseas laboratories for analyses of these POPs contamination.

One of the major achievements the EPA have accomplished was the development and passing of the Container Deposit Legislation that prohibits the importation of single use shopping plastic bags, plastic cups and plastic plates and promote the recycling of aluminum cans and glass bottles. This has contributed to the reduction of plastic wastes in the environment and being disposed of in the dump as well as contributed to the livelihood of the people of the RMI through the recycling program.

ECO 4.3.1 Maximize the long-term value from its fisheries for the benefit of the economy and people of RMI (SDG Indicators 14.6.1)

By 2030, we target to increase revenue through value adding opportunities, and therefore adding an increased contribution to national GDP. Between FY 2018-2020, the 3-year average revenue earned from RMI oceanic fisheries was \$32 million.

Additionally, we will continue to maintain and increase high number of trans-shipment events (177 trans-shipments and 30 unloading in Majuro port in FY 2020) and increase number of unloading (onshore developments, thus also adding to job creation).

The RMI observer program is active in training and deploying observers to sea in the regional collaboration to meet fishing vessel observer coverage. There were 131 purse seiner trips and 33 long liner trips were observed by RMI Observers in 2019. In 2020, there were only 20 purse seiner trips and 12 long liner trips observed by RMI Observers due to COVID-19 restrictions. MIMRA continues to explore low COVID-19 risk duties for its observers during this pandemic.

ECO 4.3.2 Conserve and manage the aquatic resources for current and future generations. (SDG Indicators 14.4.1, 14.5.1)

In an effort to conserve and improve fish populations, the Fish Harvest Regulations 2020 were developed to ban certain harvesting methods that are detrimental to the fish stock (spearfishing with scuba diving gear and the use of chemicals and/or explosives) and to enable the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority to regulate minimum fish size standards for commercial fishing operations and the commercial export of such fish and fish products through the appointed fish inspectors. These regulations combined with other conservation measures in the RMI intend to support efforts to ensure a healthy and sustainable fishery for future generations.

ECO 4.3.3 Enhance professionalism, transparency and accountability in the management of fisheries resources (SDG Indicators 14.B.1)

By 2030 MIMRA is reaching an estimated audience through various media of (1) Online/media - increase of 10% of FY2020, 2) Direct stakeholder engagement counts and 3) Radio implemented MIMRA radio program.

By 2030 we target 100% observer coverage maintained on Purse Seine and 100% observer coverage achieved for Long Line via human and/or Electronic as well as 100% of all transshipments in Majuro port are monitored by MIMRA. We look to establish and implement Community Resource Management Plans (CRMPs) through the Reimaanlok process so that by 2030 the number of CRMPs established and implemented in RMI is 24. This coordinates with the target of ensuring that by 2030 75% of Reimaanlok sites are supported by the PAN (Protected Area Network) Office and that by 2030, 50% of near-shore marine resources are protected

ECO 4.3.4 Maximize income and livelihood opportunities through sustainable coastal fisheries (SDG Indicators 14.7.1, 14.b.1)

Licensing & Transshipment Program: Currently, MIMRA has issued 185 domestic licenses for bunker and fishing vessels to operate in the RMI EEZ. In the past year, MIMRA shifted its license processing onto PNA FIMS to increase operational and functional use. Majuro port has consistently been one of the busiest tuna transshipment ports in the region but port entry has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. MIMRA continues to work towards low risk operational procedures to ensure continuing transshipment in Majuro port.

Coastal Fish Collection & Distribution Program: Through the network of fish bases our outer islands fishers have an opportunity to sell their catch to the public. This is also beneficial for local economies as well as the marine resources of the Marshall Islands. Currently, there are fish bases in the following atolls - Arno, Aur, Jaluit, Kwajalein, Likiep, Maloelap, Namu, Wotje and Utrik, that are brought into the domestic market through the MIMRA Fish Markets on Majuro and Ebeye.

Fishing Aggregating Devices (FAD) Program: The Coastal Division of MIMRA has been steadily implementing a program of deploying fish aggregating devices (FAD) for various atoll and island locations in the RMI. FAD deployment had been adhoc in nature, being implemented when funding opportunities arise. Through the WB RMI PROP and partnership with FAO to expand FAD work, MIMRA has now developed a National FAD Program aimed to deploy FADs to all local communities to improve livelihoods, food security and conserving the reef fisheries. Currently, FADs have been deployed in Aur, Ailuk, Jaluit, Kwajalein, Likiep, Lib, Majuro, Maloelap, and Mili.

Aquaculture: MIMRA programs continue to target communities to increase livelihood programs (e.g. giant clam and fish farming) and address food security issues. Currently, there are aquaculture facilities in Arno, Majuro, and Likiep; associations in Likiep, Aur, and Wotje.

SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

SDG Targets (Goal 15)

(15.1) (15.8)

NSP Alignment/Policy Objective

(ECC 2.1.1) (ECC 2.1.2)

(ECO 4.2.2) (ECO 4.3.2)

ECC 2.1.1 Improved protection, conservation and sustainability of atoll environment and natural resources **(SDG Indicators 15.1.2)**

Celebrating the achievements of the 2020 Micronesia Challenge and agreeing to new and ambitious 2030 targets, the RMI has formally committed to effectively conserve 30% of terrestrial resources and 50% of near shore marine resources. New protected areas are uploaded to the RMI-GIS map in the PIPAP and that goals are for all 33 outer islands have in place their Resource Management Plans (RMP) and all RMP are to be uploaded on to RMI Environment Data Portal. At the start of the effort work was led through the Coastal Management Advisory Council (CMAC), a multidisciplinary ad-hoc-working group that facilitates the development of community-based resource management plans, under which communities become responsible for the conservation and management of their own natural resources.

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ECO 4.2.2 Promote environmental sustainability (SDG Targets 15.1.1)

Sustainability of the environment we focus on increasing the number of trees planted (both traditional and exotic). We also target increasing the use of targeted compost (70%). This will align with improving agricultural biodiversity, targeting that a least 4 crops grown in farming systems and at least 2 crossbreds per livestock species are available and sustainable.

Agricultural innovations should be developed to bring about sustainable management of forests, soil, and water resources and their adaptation to climate change impacts and reduce agricultural pollution to manageable levels. Agriculture has roles to ratify regional and international conventions with initiatives related to agriculture and forestry development.

ECO 4.3.2 Conserve and manage the aquatic resources for current and future generations. **(SDG Indicators 15.8.1)**

In an effort to conserve and improve fish populations, the Fish Harvest Regulations 2020 were developed to ban certain harvesting methods that are detrimental to the fish stock (spearfishing with scuba diving gear and the use of chemicals and/or explosives) and to enable the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority to regulate minimum fish size standards for commercial fishing operations and the commercial export of such fish and fish products through the appointed fish inspectors. These regulations combined with other conservation measures in the RMI intend to support efforts to ensure a healthy and sustainable fishery for future generations.

Since aquaculture has been identified as one of many mechanisms (vectors) capable of transporting Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) around the world, the Aquaculture Regulations 2019 were developed to help prevent and minimize the introduction & spreading of AIS within the RMI. These regulations combined with our Biosecurity protocols has enabled MIMRA to manage and monitor (i) the domestic movement of fish and other marine species between atolls in commercial aquaculture operations and, (ii) importation of exotic live fish and live feeds into RMI intended for aquaculture purposes

| SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels | |
|--|--|
| SDG Targets (Goal 16) | NSP Alignment/Policy Objective |
| (16.1) (16.2) (16.3) (16.4) (16.5) | (S&C 1.3.1) |
| (16.6) (16.7) (16.8) (16.9) | (INF 4.5.1) (INF 4.5.4) |
| (16.10) (16.a) (16.b) | (GG 5.1.1) (GG 5.1.2) (GG 5.1.3) (GG 5.1.5) (GG 5.2.1) (GG 5.2.2) (GG 5.2.5) (GG 5.2.6) (GG 5.3.1) (GG 5.3.2) (GG 5.3.3) (GG 5.3.4) (GG 5.4.1) (GG 5.4.2) (GG 5.4.3) (GG 5.5.1) (GG 5.5.4) (GG 5.5.5) |

S&C 1.3.1 Improve access to justice for RMI’s vulnerable populations **(SDG Indicators 16.3.1)**

The NSP targets improving access to the public defender’s office for those most vulnerable groups, in an effort to provide a positive outcome. Additionally, a review of legal fees (per case) will provide a better picture of access to legal advice and representation.

The Community Development Division (MOCIA) is currently working on ongoing issues of gender equality and empowerment of women and girls. Legislation passed (or in development) includes Domestic Violence, Prevention & Protection Act, 2015, Gender Equality Act, 2019, Rights of Persons with Disability Act, 2015, Senior Citizens Act, 2018, Child Rights Protection Act, 2015, RMI National Youth Policy (final draft), 14th Triennial Conference for Pacific Women outcome document 2021. MOCIA ensures that all services related to existing policies and legislations are carried out to communities in urban and rural areas and referred to services partners (ex WUTMI).

INF 4.5.1 Strengthen legal and regulatory framework (ICT) SDG Indicators 16.10.2)**INF 4.5.4 Revise ICT Policy 2012 and existing telecom laws and regulations for greater relevance to current setting (SDG Indicators 16.10.2)**

A joint committee was established to review and revise the ICT policy between NTA (National Telecommunications Authority) and MoTCIT (Ministry of Transportation, Communication and Information Technology). The ICT Policy 2012 has yet to be revised but we are currently working with ITU to incorporate the digital transformation in the RMI to which the Policy would need minimal revisions. The following project activities are still ongoing:

- Digital RMI Project seeks to advance RMI's economic and social objectives through enhanced availability and quality of digital services across the Government and private sector
- On-going since August 2019; currently increasing stakeholder awareness
- The RMI Government and the US Aide are in collaboration on the RMI Cybersecurity Capacity Building Project
- Assist in establishing Government-wide policies and procedures that protects critical infrastructure and ICT from cybersecurity intrusion and malicious use

GG 5.1.1 Improve practices to achieve an effective, ethical, and transparent public service, local governments and related public agencies (SDG Indicators 16.6.1, 16.6.2)**GG 5.1.2: Enhance capacity of public servants and employees of public agencies, including in particular those in the outer islands (SDG Indicators 16.6.1, 16.6.2, 16.a.1)**

We have as an objective the development of a National Workforce Development Plan by 2022. The plan will include targets for training in the government workforce including appropriate reform programs for increased efficiency and coordination. There continues to be a focus on the development of 3-year workforce development plans, aligned to the NSP, through the Strategic planning process that is currently being implemented.

As part of the overall management of Government employees, we focus on implementation of a performance management framework with a target for full implementation by 2022 and applied universally through the public service and public agencies. As part of this framework the goal is an increased percentage of public servants and employees of public agencies, including outer islands, trained in good governance and ethics.

GG 5.1.3: Strengthen oversight, audit, alignment and coordination across and within the public service and related public agencies (SDG Indicators 16.6.1, 16.6.2)

As stated in the NSP the target is to complete & maintain 100% coverage of all audits required by statutes & treaties. The NSP also states the target of a 10% decrease of reported deficiencies annually from 2022 to 2030 with clean audit opinions with 0 material weaknesses or material misstatements.

Another NSP target is to complete annual audits of 6 main local governments and 40% of smaller local governments by 2022 with a goal to complete a cycle of local government audits by 2023 and to ensure that the findings and deficiencies identified from these audit cycles is reduced and improve local government accountability by 20% every year with an 80% increase in local government accountability and transparency.

The NSP also targets Performance and Management audits to increase by 10% in the next 5 years until 2030 while completing 8 major performance audits & 21 management audits, resulting in a 20% decrease of reported deficiencies in all performance and management audits in each audit cycle from FY2025 to FY 2030.

GG 5.1.5: Strengthen the capability of accountability and integrity institutions to address corruption and unethical practices (**SDG Indicators 16.5.1,16.5.2,16.6.1,16.6.2, 16.a.1**)

There will be a 5% increase based on FY21 budget allocation for training and capacity development programs for each accountability and integrity institutions to improve accountability, transparency and discourage corrupt practices in public administration. As a result, we will see more trained and possibly certified staff within the Government. An NSP target is to have at least 80% of government investigators, accountants and auditors to receive formal training in their respective fields in order to combat corruption and unethical practices.

We also plan to advocate for the creation of the Office of the Ombudsman in FY21 to further address corruption and unethical practices. There is a plan to create an anti-corruption legal framework to bring the RMI in line with international standards on anti-corruption and unethical practices by FY2022, with all recommendations from UNCAC reviews being implemented and a new RMI Ethics Law enacted.

We will design and implement financial incentives (via legislation) to encourage government investigators, accountants, and auditors to pursue professional certifications in their respective fields resulting in new legislation and at least 50% of investigators, accountants and auditors are certified in their respective fields (2022).

GG 5.2.1 Promote stable growth through responsible fiscal policy targeting stability in inflation (**SDG Indicators 16.6.1**)

The NSP proposes a target for the underlying inflation rate (consumer price index) not to exceed .9 (IMF Baseline 2020). The RMI targets GDP Growth rate (annual/trends) to increase by 1.9% (based of 5-year historical data from IMF). The current is (-1.5%) in 2021 (IMF).

We have recently passed new legislation regarding Fiscal Responsibility and Debt Management under the ongoing PFM reforms. The purpose of the Act is to provide for enhanced public expenditure and financial accountability on all public funds. The Act provides for more stringent reporting of public funds to Nitijela and to the general public. It further provides for a more strategic and manageable approach to debt-financing by enabling the Government to establish benchmarks against which the net worth and debt level of the Government can be measured to make decisions on borrowing.

GG 5.2.2 Strengthen budget management and financial oversight for planned priorities (**SDG Indicators 16.6.1**)

We continue to work to align planning and budgeting through Public Financial Management Reforms. Part of the reforms focuses on the alignment of annual budgets with the NSP through the Portfolio Budget Framework

The focus during the FY21 budget cycle was to continue to implement the Budget Framework and better align planning, budgeting and reporting so that PFM reforms can be implemented and coordinated with updated FMIS and COA reforms. Several areas of the PFM Roadmap are the focus of the ongoing work including:

- Introduction of comprehensive corporate and sector planning processes;
- Linking strategic planning documents with budgets through the National Planning Framework Concept Note and the updated National Strategic Plan (NSP) Linkage of the NSP and the anticipated M&E Framework with the national budgeting process and framework including a revised Chart of Accounts (COA);
- Closer integration of capital budgeting with recurrent budgets for ongoing operation and maintenance costs;
- Expansion of budget classification to include functional and program/outcome/output dimensions to be included in the new FMIS;
- Improving budget documentation including budget comparatives, forward year estimates, macroeconomic outlook, macro-fiscal targets and strategy, sector strategies, new policy initiatives, savings measures, fiscal risks, commitments, guarantees and other contingent liabilities, program objectives, and performance indicators; and,
- Preparing a new schedule to the budget summarizing funding for each Line Ministry and Agency from each funding source.

GG 5.2.5 Improve revenue generation (SDG Indicators 16.6.1, 16.6.2)

We continue to explore ways to increase government revenue streams. Areas of focus include tax reform (PFM reforms), non-tax revenue generation including fishing revenues and attracting private sector investment. The NSP targets a 4% annual increase through 2030. As part of the ongoing PFM reforms work in the area of tax reform continues. The current emphasis is on seven work streams:

- Increased compliance with existing taxes (GRT and withholding tax), and with any new taxes to be adopted, including data matching, compliance risk management, compliance plan, audit, taxpayer services, staff training, review of Tax Division structural and institutional arrangements, communication and PR strategy;
- Improved collections of tax arrears;
- Consideration and advice regarding proposed new taxes (consumption tax, net profits tax, new income tax etc.);
- Improvements to tax and customs processes, including automation and inputs to a new FMIS;
- The design of processes and templates for revenue projections, and the review of tax forms.
- The introduction of an independent tax appeals mechanism; and,
- Risk management and threat analysis.

Additionally, we have made significant progress in making better use of our sovereign resources. This has included substantial reforms to regional fisheries management (non-tax revenue), which have resulted in returns from fees to access our commercial tuna fisheries reaching 12% of GDP. We have also steadily increased revenues from our ship and corporate registries. In turn, this has allowed us to run a series of fiscal surpluses in recent years, and create space for us to make more investments that are needed to safeguard our future. To expand our revenue base, we will

explore innovative ways to ensure that appropriate returns from our sovereign rights and resources are secured for national development efforts, including reviewing all fees, fines, and charges that are currently levied.

GG 5.2.6 Strengthen dialogue between national and local government and the private sector, and enact a robust governance framework for effective partnership **(SDG Indicators 16.7.1)**

The NSP focuses on establishing an increased amount of public/private joint ventures by 2030. We aim to increase revenue generation, benefitting all parties involved.

GG 5.3.1 Enable accountable, professional and ethical law making **(SDG Indicators 16.10.2 16.7.1 16.b.1)**

In order to enhance further understanding of the principle of separation of powers and their respective duties as the legislative and executive branches of the Government, incoming Nitijela members will have 2 induction trainings by. AG's Office will work with the Office of the Legislative Counsel on said trainings. Additionally, there is a scheduled review of the Marshall Islands Revised Code (MIRC) every two years to ensure codification of all certified Bills.

GG 5.3.2 Require robust and unbiased enforcement of laws, justice and regulatory processes **(SDG Indicators 16.1.1, 16.1.2, 16.1.3, 16.1.4, 16.2.1,16.2.2,16.2.3, 16.3.1, 16.3.2, 16.4.1, 16.5.1, 16.5.2, 16.b.1)**

The target is to hire a full complement of attorneys and a Chief Prosecutor by end of 2022 so that all legal prosecutions to be commenced and adjudicated when there is evidence that criminal statutes have been violated. Additionally, we have targeted 2022 to complete annual ethics training of all enforcement personnel, with the training designed by the Government Ethics Board. The Government Ethics Board should be convened at least biennially to promote ethical issues and also re-introduce the Ethics in Government Bill by 2022. As part of Ethics in Government it will be required that all Government employees (PSC pay level 14 and above) and Public Officials disclose annual financial statements.

GG 5.3.3 Implement effective systems of corporate regulation **(SDG Indicators 16.6.1 16.6.2 1, 16.b.1)**

NSP targets the creation of a website for a Corporate Registry and make ownership of companies available online by 2026 to ensure compliance with national legislation and international treaties. This is to be done in coordination with digitizing all corporate files by 2023 to better maintain and monitor corporate files as required by law.

We target a 90% compliance ratio regarding the digitizing of all corporate files by 2023 in order to better maintain and monitor corporate files as required by law.

GG 5.3.4 Strengthen the capacity and processes of law making, regulation, enforcement and oversight of relevant agencies (SDG Indicators 16.3.1, 16.3.2, 16.5.1, 16.5.2, 16.6.1, 16.6.2, 16.7.1, 16.7.2, 16.10.2)

Community surveys have been conducted to assess the impact of policing services with the assistance of the Australian Federal Police. As a result of the survey, public's comments, inputs, discrepancies all were included in the MIPD (Marshall Islands Police Department) strategic plan. We are anticipating another survey FY21 and this will provide input for the renewal of the MIPD Strategic Plan for 2022-2025.

Targets for MIPD include increasing the percentage of victims of crime reporting that they were "very satisfied" or "somewhat satisfied" with the initial police services they received when they were victims of crime (2% annually until at least 70%+ rate is achieved by 2030).

Trainings have been conducted since 2008 and have encompassed the range of ranks from officer level up to management level with topics ranging from investigations to the understanding and application of law, elements of crime, police procedures and departmental policies. Currently, trainings are provided by external providers, however on island trainers have been identified within the MIPD and have run 2 Police Recruit Courses since 2013. Domestic Violence Programs have been rolled out in FY15 with on island trainers conducting said trainings.

Currently MIPD is strengthening its relationship with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in investigations and forensics capabilities as well as developing a career pathway for identification of the path of professional growth in the workplace through meeting the required skills, knowledge and abilities of each personnel.

Targets are to increase by 5% trained personnel annually until 100% rate is achieved by 2025, in basic investigations and policing services with training in specialized areas of investigations increased by 50% by 2030 to increase community confidence in services provided by police.

GG 5.4.1 Resolve judicial issues fairly, effectively, and efficiently (SDG Indicators 16.3.1, 16.3.2, 16.3.3 16.6.1, 16.6.2, 16.b.1)

We target customer service satisfaction. The first Bi-Annual Access & Fairness Survey was conducted in 2012. The results include the following satisfaction scores 1) Timeliness-95%, 2) Safety & Security-95% 3) Responsive to Information Requests 100% 4) Customers listened to & shown respect- 100% 5) Clear Signage – 96% 6) Outcomes Fair & Reasonable – 90% 7) Equality of Treatment – 98% 8) Clarity in Delivery of Services-100%

The workload tracker was started in October 2020. The results indicate the following Ratio of Pending to Disposed Rates (PDR) 1) Supreme Court-1.8, 2) High Court-0.6, 3) District Court-0.1 and 4) Community Courts-N/A.

The percentage of Court Annual Clearance Rates (5-year average) for the Supreme Court, High Court, & District Court results are as follows: 1) Supreme Court:105%, 2) High Court: Civil-99%, Probate-99%, Criminal-100%, & Juvenile-N/A, 3) District Court: Criminal-102%, Traffic-102%,

Juvenile-102%, Small Claims-125%, 4) Ebeye DC-Not available, 5) Community Courts-Not available.

Number of Traditional Rights Court (TRC)/land cases heard & decided per year Number of Decisions results are as follows: 1) Y2017-2, 2) Y2018- 9, 3) Y2019- 5, 4) Y2020- 2.

GG 5.4.2 Provide access to legal services that are affordable (SDG Indicators 16.3.1, 16.3.2, 16.6.1, 16.7.1, 16.7.2, 16.10.2)

We are working to increase the number of zoom hearings/remote court proceedings & facilities with the following results, Y2021- Outer island distant learning capability @ Jaluit & Wotje Atolls only and zoom hearings conducted for/on Santo and Ebeye Islands, Kwajalein Atoll only.

We look to increase and ensure accessibility to legal representation within the nation. In Y2021 there are 64 total active attorneys of which 46 are private and 11 are resident attorneys, 6 of 11 are Marshallese). In Y2021 there are 18 Marshallese attorneys (including Government attorneys).

We also look to find ways to create a greater judicial presence on outer islands in coordination with other stakeholders and currently all Community Court judge position filled (100%) with 1 Community Court Judge per atoll (Y2021-3 atolls not covered & 1 unallocated position).

GG 5.4.3 Ensure judiciary shall remain independent, yet transparent and accountable (SDG Indicators 16.3.1, 16.3.2)

We ensure transparency by ensuring annual reports including audited financial statements are to be published by June 30 of the following year, with all annual reports published since 2005.

Judicial and administrative independence of the Judiciary and its judges is still maintained, including non-interference in the decision-making process and upon control of court staff and the operations budget. Decisions are continued to be made based on facts and the law without fear or favor.

GG 5.5.1 Enhance diplomacy and international relations (SDG Indicators 16.3.1, 16.4.2, 16.8.1)

We target an increase in bilateral relations by at least 5% by 2025 to enhance cooperation and technical assistance. This includes increasing the RMI presence worldwide to advance RMI interests. We also are focusing on negotiations for post Compact funding, focusing on program support and the use and implementation of the Trust Fund 2023.

GG 5.5.4 Ensure safe, secure and resilient physical borders (SDG Indicators 16.2.2, 16.4.2, 16.8.1, 16.9.1)

We plan to complete a review of sustainability of Jaluit international point of entry as well as ensuring that all international points of entry are adequately staffed and resourced. This will coordinate with the strengthening of preparedness planning and response to emerging public health threats, including bioterrorism, disease outbreaks, and radiation/nuclear threats and fully implement NRC Quarantine policies and procedures throughout all points of entry.

GG 5.5.5 Establish safe, secure and accessible cyber environment (**SDG Indicators 16.2.2, 16.4.2**)
The National Intelligence Committee (NIC) will coordinate the effort to ensure a safe, secure and accessible cyber environment with an annual report by the NIC on the state of RMI's cyber environment completed by 2021. This report will be used to establish a safe electronic environment legal framework on cybersecurity by 2022.

| SDG 17: Strengthen the Means of Implementation and Revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development | |
|---|---|
| SDG Targets (Goal 17) | NSP Alignment/Policy Objective |
| (17.1) (17.2) (17.3) (17.4) (17.6) | (ECO 4.2.4) |
| (17.7) (17.9) (17.13) (17.14) (17.15) | (GG 5.2.1) (GG 5.2.2) (GG 5.2.3) |
| (17.16) (17.17) (17.18) (17.19) | (GG 5.2.5) (GG 5.2.6) (GG 5.2.7) |
| | (GG 5.5.2) |

ECO 4.2.4 Develop enabling policies and legislation for Agriculture (**SDG Indicators 17.7.1, 17.14.1**)

We target to design and implement policies and legislation in the areas of Soil Management, Crop production, Livestock production, Agroforestry through 2030. The Forest Action Plan looks at developing a context specific standardized method with techniques and key questions to establish terrestrial baselines in the RMI from which management activities can be developed and against which the impact of such activities can be monitored. In order to implement more effective policies there are some recognized needs to address:

- Build the baseline data for the forestry/agriculture sector
- Develop a participatory GIS database of land use for agriculture and forestry
- Compile traditional land use management practices through participatory and integrated dialogue
- Comprehensive and accurate data to assess the Action Plan for the forest/agriculture sector
- Capacity enhancing and local community monitoring

GG 5.2.1 Promote stable growth through responsible fiscal policy targeting stability in inflation (**SDG Indicators 17.4.1**)

The NSP proposes a target for the underlying inflation rate (consumer price index) not to exceed .9 (IMF Baseline 2020). The RMI targets GDP Growth rate (annual/trends) to increase by 1.9% (based of 5-year historical data from IMF). The current is (-1.5%) in 2021 (IMF).

We have recently passed new legislation regarding Fiscal Responsibility and Debt Management under the ongoing PFM reforms. The purpose of the Act is to provide for enhanced public expenditure and financial accountability on all public funds. The Act provides for more stringent reporting of public funds to Nitijela and to the general public. It further provides for a more strategic and manageable approach to debt-financing by enabling the Government to establish benchmarks against which the net worth and debt level of the Government can be measured to make decisions on borrowing.

GG 5.2.2 Strengthen budget management and financial oversight for planned priorities (SDG Indicators 17.1.1, 17.1.2, 17.15.1)

We continue to work to align planning and budgeting through Public Financial Management Reforms. Part of the reforms focuses on the alignment of annual budgets with the NSP through the National Planning and Budgeting Framework.

The focus during the FY21 budget cycle was to continue to implement the Budget Framework and better align planning, budgeting and reporting so that PFM reforms can be implemented and coordinated with updated FMIS and COA reforms. Several areas of the PFM Roadmap are the focus of the ongoing work including:

- Introduction of comprehensive corporate and sector planning processes;
- Linking strategic planning documents with budgets through the National Planning Framework Concept Note and the updated National Strategic Plan (NSP) Linkage of the NSP and the anticipated M&E Framework with the national budgeting process and framework including a revised Chart of Accounts (COA);
- Closer integration of capital budgeting with recurrent budgets for ongoing operation and maintenance costs;
- Expansion of budget classification to include functional and program/outcome/output dimensions to be included in the new FMIS;
- Improving budget documentation including budget comparatives, forward year estimates, macroeconomic outlook, macro-fiscal targets and strategy, sector strategies, new policy initiatives, savings measures, fiscal risks, commitments, guarantees and other contingent liabilities, program objectives, and performance indicators; and,
- Preparing a new schedule to the budget summarizing funding for each Line Ministry and Agency from each funding source.

GG 5.2.3 Enhance SOE financial performance and service delivery (SDG Indicators 17.17.1)

Ongoing reforms are continuing the focus on SOE compliance with the SOE Act and all other laws. The establishment of the SOE Management Unit (SOEMU) as part of the PFM reforms provides oversight and coordination for the SOE reform and compliance process.

The latter part of 2019 was capped by the success of receiving and reviewing 9 of 11 SOE business plans and SCI's, as required under sections 611 and 612 of the SOE Act. SOEMU assisted several SOEs extensively to accomplish this, but it marked an important milestone in reform, with planning documents being prepared and submitted in accordance with a newly designed comprehensive planning template. Additionally, the period following the year-end was to be the first with the full complement of SOE reporting obligations:

- An Annual Report for the just completed fiscal year (FY19);
- A Half-Year Report, due before the end of May, for the period to March, for the current fiscal year (FY20); and,
- The updated business plans and SCI's (on a 3-year rolling basis) for the next fiscal year (FY21). The first draft of this is due by 30 June and at the time of writing they are yet to be received.

Effective reporting is a work-in-progress and it is expected that lessons learned will ensure next year more effort will be directed at early preparation of financial statements and annual reports

Clearly, SOEs have been adversely impacted by the pandemic travel bans, with market opportunities restricted and revenues falling. Most SOEs have precarious financial status with heavy dependence on government support. As such, management effort is focused on financial issues and revenue generation.

GG 5.2.5 Improve revenue generation (SDG Indicators 17.1.1, 17.1.2)

We continue to explore ways to increase government revenue streams. Areas of focus include tax reform (PFM reforms), non-tax revenue generation including fishing revenues and attracting private sector investment. The NSP targets a 4% annual increase in revenues through 2030. As part of the ongoing PFM reforms, work on tax reform continues, with the current emphasis on seven work streams:

- Increased compliance with existing taxes (GRT and withholding tax), and with any new taxes to be adopted, including data matching, compliance risk management, compliance plan, audit, taxpayer services, staff training, review of Tax Division structural and institutional arrangements, communication and PR strategy;
- Improved collections of tax arrears;
- Consideration and advice regarding proposed new taxes (consumption tax, net profits tax, new income tax etc.);
- Improvements to tax and customs processes, including automation and inputs to a new FMIS;
- The design of processes and templates for revenue projections, and the review of tax forms.
- The introduction of an independent tax appeals mechanism; and,
- Risk management and threat analysis.

Additionally, we have made significant progress in making better use of our sovereign resources. This has included substantial reforms to regional fisheries management (non-tax revenue), which have resulted in returns from fees to access our commercial tuna fisheries reaching 12% of GDP. We have also steadily increased revenues from our ship and corporate registries. In turn, this has allowed us to run a series of fiscal surpluses in recent years, and create space for us to make more investments that are needed to safeguard our future. To expand our revenue base, we will explore innovative ways to ensure that appropriate returns from our sovereign rights and resources are secured for national development efforts, including reviewing all fees, fines, and charges that are currently levied.

GG 5.2.6 Strengthen dialogue between national and local government and the private sector, and enact a robust governance framework for effective partnership (SDG Indicators 17.17.1)

The NSP focuses on establishing increased number of public/private joint ventures by 2030. We aim to increase revenue generation through these joint ventures, benefitting all parties involved.

GG 5.2.7 Strengthen accountability and oversight in the PFM (SDG Indicators 17.13.1, 17.14.1, 17.15.1, 17.16.1, 17.17.1, 17.18.1, 17.19.1)

Based on the 2012, a Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) the RMI developed a PFM Reform Roadmap consisting of 30 reform components, including promoting better fiscal responsibility and debt management. The PFM National Steering Committee continues oversight

on the reforms and reviews and updates the roadmap accordingly, based on progress as reported by the Ministry of Finance which is being assisted by the ADB through the implementation of a PFM reform technical assistance project (ongoing since 2018) and a World Bank project (ongoing since 2019).

GG 5.5.2 Catalyze external support for development from traditional and new partners (SDG Indicators 17.2.1, 17.3.1, 17.6.1, 17.6.2, 17.9.1)

We are looking at several issues including Increased engagement with partners and participation in regional and international for a by 2023 as well as maintaining and enter into economic cooperation agreements/free trade agreements with new partners by 2030. We look to find increased support and new partners with regard to the Trust Fund of the People of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

ANNEX 2: VNR TIMELINE AND WORKPLAN

RMI 2021 VNR Process and Timeline



| Action | Activities/Timeline | Agencies |
|--|---|--|
| Phase 1: Planning & institutionalizing | | |
| <p>Initiate/leverage existing coordination process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appoint Members of the VNR WG Develop a TOR for the Working Group Develop a Timeline/Workplan Decide on the core team who will lead the writing of the report and corresponding report writing team members Decide on higher level stakeholder group involvement <p>Assess existing data sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess how data/statistics will be used in the production of the VNR report – review existing monitoring reports and check against relevant SDG indicators to help draft a narrative on key policy priorities <p>Develop communication material</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop some basic communication material that can be shared with stakeholders on substance and process Share VNR associated information sources with the core team (VNR handbook, guidelines) | <p>November 13, 2020</p> <p>1st VNR Working Group Meeting</p> | <p>VNR WG Members:</p> <p>Chair – Abacca Anjain-Maddison</p> <p>Vice Chair – Andrea Muller</p> <p>Social Pillar – Karina de Brum, Rebecca Lorennij/Joy Kawakami, PSS rep</p> <p>Environment Pillar – Tuvuki Ketedromo, Warwick Harris</p> <p>Infrastructure – Kenny Paul, Fritsad Reiher</p> <p>Economic – Rington Paul, Eseta Cama</p> <p>Good Governance – Ayako Yamaguchi-Eliou, Andrea Muller, Teri Elbon</p> <p>NGO – Laitia Tamata, Tony Alik</p> <p>Advisor – Chris Yanckello</p> <p>UNESCAP – Sanjesh Naidu</p> <p>Drafting Team: Abacca, Andrea, Chris, Ayako</p> |

| | | |
|---|--|--------------------|
| <p>Seek Cabinet Endorsement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek Cabinet endorsement of participants on reference/core writing group Provide Cabinet with an outline of key timelines for VNR process and production of report | <p>March 18, 2021</p> <p>Chair to lead with Cabinet Paper for Cabinet's endorsement of VNR WG, TOR and timelines</p> | <p>OCS</p> |
| <p>Stakeholder engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct stakeholder mapping, including public sector, CSO (can be led by civil society) and ensure targeted efforts to reach groups that are marginalized and at risk of being left behind | <p>March 17-18, 2021</p> <p>Two half day workshops with NGOs and Private Sector</p> <p>Andrea and Eseta to work with MICNGOS and OCIT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Confirm venue - Confirm participants - Arrange Morning Tea - Develop program | <p>MOFAT/EPPSO</p> |
| <p>Phase 2: Gather inputs and data</p> | | |
| <p>Define information needs and sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify/finalize focus of report Presentation on how data/statistics will be used in the production of the VNR report Presentation of the VNR Workplan, including stakeholder roles and expectations Identify agencies/bodies that will contribute information. Check on information at hand, particularly in national development plan monitoring reports and related sector reports. Prepare communication/information sharing documentation <p>Establish baseline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on monitoring NSP/SDG performance <p>Plan inputs from stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an engagement plan (can be meetings and online consultations) | <p>March 12, 2021</p> <p>VNR Working Group Meeting will go over Phase 2</p> | |
| <p>Phase 3: Writing and review of the VNR</p> | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping and Collect data/information | <p>Through March 31, 2021</p> <p>Pick the SDG targets that align with our NSP targets- identify who's responsible for providing information on that and have them send what they have, identify what they don't have and what they need</p> | <p>EPPSO</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize Key Messages with NSP-SDG Committee | <p>April 7, 2021</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare draft outline of VNR | <p>April 1, 2021- April 31, 2021</p> | |

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|--|--|---|
| ▪ Write first draft | May 3, 2021 | |
| ▪ Develop President's Message with Chris | May 4, 2021 | |
| ▪ Begin consultation process on the first draft | May 5, 2021 | |
| ▪ Develop second draft based on feedback received | May 17, 2021 | |
| ▪ Share report with Cabinet | May 20, 2021 | |
| ▪ Finalize report | May 31, 2021 | |
| ▪ Submit main messages (700 words) | May 3, 2021- Submit Main Messages | |
| ▪ Finalize report and submit electronic version to DESA | June 11, 2021- Submit VNR report to DESA | CMI Media/VNR Working Group Reach out to CMI Media and get a sense of timelines for storyboard, filming, editing, finalization |
| ▪ Produce videos or other visual materials for the VNR presentations (if desired, not compulsory) | June 18, 2021- Submit audio visual Presentation | |
| Phase 4: Prepare for the Presentation at the HLPF | | |
| ▪ Inform DESA/DSD of preferred presentation format (panel / individual), presenter, and composition of delegation. | TBC | |
| ▪ Select key messages for VNR presentation | | |
| Phase 5: Follow-up | | |
| ▪ Report to parliament/ cabinet on HLPF | TBC | |
| ▪ Report back to stakeholders | | |
| ▪ Agree on follow-up actions and define a time-plan | | |

ANNEX 3: LIST OF RMI NATIONAL AND SECTOR PLANS AND POLICIES

| DOCUMENT | STATUS |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| National Youth Policy | Under development |
| Nuclear Justice for Marshall Islands | 2020–2023 |
| Water and Sanitation Strategic Plan | 2017–2027 |
| National Energy Policy and Energy Action Plan | 2016 |
| National ICT Policy | 2012 |
| RMI Electricity Roadmap | 2018 |
| National Climate Change Policy Framework | 2011 |
| National Environment Management Strategy 2017-22 | 2017 |
| Long Term (2050) Climate Strategy | 2018 |
| National Environment Management Strategy | 2017–2022 |
| JNAP for DRM and CCA | 2014–2018 |
| MMRA Strategic Plan | 2019–2023 |
| Agriculture Strategic Plan | Under development |
| RMI Strategic Tourism Development Plan | Under development |
| National Infrastructure Investment Plan (NIIP) | 2017–2026 |
| RMI National Building Code | 2021 |
| Health and Human Services | Three year Rolling Plan 2017–2019 |
| Public School System | Strategic Plan 2017–2020 |
| National Training Council | Strategic Plan 2019–2021 |
| Office of the Auditor General | Strategic Plan 2014–2019 |
| Office of Commerce, Investment and Tourism | Business Plan 2019–2021 |
| Marshall Islands Police Department | Strategic Plan 2019–021 |
| Economic Policy, Planning and Statistics Office | Strategic Plan 2019–2021 |
| College of Marshall Islands | Education Master Plan 2019–2029 |
| Environment Protection Agency | Strategic Plan 2018–2021 |
| RMI Reimaanlok Conservation Area Plan | 2006-present |
| RMI Protected Area Network Act 2015 | |
| RMI Protected Area Network Regulations 2020 | |
| Marshall Islands Red Cross Society Strategic Plan | 2017-2022 |
| Ministry of Environment Act | 2018 |
| RMI Protected Area Network (PAN) Strategic Plan | 2018-2023 |
| RMI National Energy Bill | Pending resolution |
| RMI Energy Commission Bill | Pending resolution |
| National Testing Laboratory Bill | Pending resolution |
| Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) 2015 | 2015 |
| Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 2018 | 2018 |
| College of the Marshall Islands | Strategic Plan 2019-2023 |

ANNEX 4: CONSULTED ORGNIZATIONS, WORKSHOP CONTRIBUTORS AND PARTICPANTS

This is an indicative list of organizations and contributors that participated in Voluntary National Review consultations either through submission of material, engagement with Government agencies compiling inputs or attendance at Government or other forums. It is not an exhaustive list nor does inclusion here indicate the organization's endorsement of this VNR.

| VNR Consultation with NGO Date: March 23, 2021/Time: 9am Venue: Marshall Islands Resort (MIR) Melele Room | |
|---|---|
| Name | Office |
| Menty Tibon | Marshall Islands Council of NGO (MICNGO) |
| Nelinda Kattil | Marshall Islands Council of NGO |
| Lisdana Rilang | Marshall Islands Council of NGO |
| Hemrirose Henry | Marshall Islands Council of NGO |
| Brisalla Odenean | Marshall Islands Council of NGO |
| Daisy Alik-Momotaro | Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI) |
| Jelina Bujen | Deaf Flourish |
| Tony Alik | Waan Aelon in Majol (WAM) |
| Sai Turaga | Marshall Islands Council of NGO (MICNGO) |
| Neitaka Bikajela | Marshall Islands Council of NGO (MICNGO) |
| Helse John | Marshall Islands Council of NGO (MICNGO) |
| Shamanda Hanerg | REACH-MI/ KIO |
| Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner | Jo-Jikum |
| Julia Langmos | REACH-MI |
| Jim Ley | USAID-US Embassy |
| Andrea Muller | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade |
| Hilma Lemari | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade |
| Ayako Yamaguchi-Eliou | Ministry of Finance RCU |
| Chris Yanckello | Ministry of Finance RCU |
| Abacca Anjain-Maddison | Office of the Chief Secretary |
| Mark Stege | Marshall Islands Chamber of Commerce |
| Laitia Tamata | Marshall Islands Council of NGO (MICNGO) |
| Frederick J. de Brum | Economic Policy Planning and Statistics Office (EPPSO) |
| Eseta Cama-Joel | Economic Policy Planning and Statistics Office (EPPSO) |
| Ruthann Enos | Economic Policy Planning and Statistics Office (EPPSO) Intern |
| Leander Jennet | Economic Policy Planning and Statistics Office (EPPSO) Intern |
| VNR Consultation with Private Sector Date: March 24, 2021/Time: 9am Venue: Marshall Islands Resort (MIR) Melele Room | |
| Name | Office |
| Mark Stege | RMI Chamber of Commerce |

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|---|--|
| Rington Paul | Office of Commerce, Investment and Tourism (OFFICE OF COMMERCE, INVESTMENT AND TOURISM) |
| Andrea Muller | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade |
| Hilma Lemari | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade |
| Eseta Cama-Joel | Economic Policy Planning and Statistics Office (EPPSO) |
| Ruthann Enos | Economic Policy Planning and Statistics Office (EPPSO) Intern |
| Leander Jennet | Economic Policy Planning and Statistics Office (EPPSO) Intern |
| Abacca Anjain-Maddison | Office of the Chief Secretary |
| Strategic Plan and VNR Workshop Date: April 16, 2021/Time: 9am Venue: International Conference Center (ICC) Room A | |
| Name | Office |
| Sheerina Andrike | Land Rights Authority |
| Gee L. Bing | Ministry of Education, Sports and Training (MOEST) |
| Calimay Kelly Alik | Ministry of Finance - RCU |
| Terry Hazzard | Public Service Commission |
| Damiee Riklon | Office of the Auditor General |
| Asia Chong-gum | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade |
| Rinton Paul | Office of Commerce and Investment |
| Rommel Qunit | Office of Commerce and Investment |
| William Reiher | College of the Marshall Islands |
| Eric Jorban | Marshall Islands Police Department |
| Catalino Kijiner | Office of the Chief Secretary |
| Iseia Aiseia | Majuro Water & Sewer Company |
| Cathlinda Hermios | Air Marshall Islands |
| Andrea Muller | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade |
| Francis C. Domnick | Office of Commerce, Investment and Tourism |
| Carthney Laukon | Marshall Islands Shipping Corporation |
| Kanchi Hosia | Ministry of Education, Sports and Training - PSS |
| Rebecca Lorennij | Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs |
| Maxilynn Keton | Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs |
| Yoshi Kaneko | National Telecommunication Authority |
| Dora Heine Jekkar | Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs |
| Kathleen deBrum | Air Marshall Islands |
| Kimbar Rilometo | Environmental Protection Authority |
| Jaston Anjain | Office of the Auditor General |
| Calvin Myazoe | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade |
| Mautang Baireti | University of the South Pacific |
| Benson Langidrik | Climate Change Directorate |
| Junior Aini | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade |
| Helmar Lejjena | RMI Postal Service Authority |
| Walter Myazoe | Natural Resources and Commerce |

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|---|--|
| Leihani Anjain | Marshall Energy Company (MEC)/Kwajlein Atoll Joint Utilities Resources |
| Joy Kawakami | MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS |
| Florence Edwards | Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority |
| Deardre Korean | University of the South Pacific |
| Jim Philippo | TOBOLAR |
| Teri Elbon | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade |
| Keyoka P. Kabua | National Nuclear Commission |
| Tanya Bukida | National Training Council |
| Yolanda McKay | RMI University of the South Pacific |
| Norma Yleizah | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade |
| Dexter Jikit | Marshall Islands Postal Service Authority |
| Francyne Wase-Jacklick | Ministry of Health and Human Services |
| Kino S. Kabua | Office of the Chief Secretary |
| Abacca Anjain-Maddison | Office of the Chief Secretary |
| Chris Yanckello | Ministry of Finance RCU |
| Eseta Cama-Joel | Economic Policy, Planning and Statistics Office |
| Leander Jennet | Economic Policy, Planning and Statistics Office (Intern) |
| Ruthann Enos | Economic Policy, Planning and Statistics Office (Intern) |
| VNR Write-up Workshop | |
| Date: April 21, 2021/Time: 9am | |
| Venue: Marshall Islands Resort (MIR) Melele Room | |
| Name | Office |
| Joy Kawakami | |
| Barry Lokeijak | RMI Postal Service Authority |
| Tony Alik | Waan Aelon in Majol (WAM)/MICNGOS |
| Waylon Muller | Transportation, Communication & IT |
| Carthney Laukon | Marshall Islands Shipping Corporation |
| Catalino Kijiner | Office of the Chief Secretary |
| Mark Moncure | RMI Environmental Protection Authority |
| Eric Jorbon | Marshall Islands Police Department |
| Rod Kabua | Immigration Office |
| Rinton Paul | Office of Commerce, Investment and Tourism |
| Terry Hazzard | Public Service Commission |
| Kimber Rilometo | Environmental Protection Authority |
| Nia Andrike | Ministry of Finance (PREP II) |
| Laitia Iamata | Marshall Islands Council of NGO |
| Menty Tison | Marshall Islands Council of NGO |
| Junior Aini | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade |
| Rommel Qunit | Office of Commerce, Investment and Tourism |
| Kanchi Hosia | Ministry of Education, Sports and Training (Public School System) |
| Jim Philippo | TOBOLAR |
| Asia Chong-Gum | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade |
| Shamanda Hanerg | Ministry of Finance/REACH RMI |
| Abacca A Maddison | Office of the Chief Secretary |

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| Helkena Anni | Land Rights Authority |
| Lobaj Kaminaga | Ministry of Works, Infrastructure and Utilities/Project Management Unit (PMU) |
| Fritzad Reiher | Ministry of Works, Infrastructure and Utilities (PMU) |
| Teri Elbon | Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade |
| Cathleen Hainrick | Marshall Islands Shipping Corporation |
| Roger Muller | RED Cross |
| Barry Rilang | Environmental Protection Authority |
| Yolanda McKay | RMI University of the South Pacific |
| Mautari Baireti | RMI University of the South Pacific |
| Helse John | Marshall Islands Council of NGO |
| Nelinda Kattil | Marshall Islands Council of NGO |
| Miram deBrum | Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI) |
| Neitaka Bikajela | Marshall Islands Council of NGO |
| Lori | Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI) |
| Daisy Alik-Momotaro | Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI) |
| VNR Validation Workshop | |
| Date: May 20, 2021/Time: 1pm-5pm | |
| Venue: International Conference Center (ICC) Room A | |
| Name | Office |
| Warwick Harris | Climate Change Directorate |
| Eric Jorban | RMI Police Department |
| Bernard Adiniwin | Attorney General's Office |
| Barry Lokeijak | Marshall Islands Postal Service Authority |
| Janet N. Schmidt | Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs (Disability Unit) |
| Mercyba Balos | RMI Immigration Office |
| Roger Muller | Red Cross |
| Waylon Muller | Ministry of Transportation, Communication and IT |
| Maxilynn Keton | Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs |
| Ben Wakefield | National Energy Office |
| Lobaj Kaminaga | Ministry of Works, Infrastructure and Utilities |
| Helse John | Marshall Islands Council of NGO |
| Menty Tibon | Marshall Islands Council of NGO |
| William Reiher | College of the Marshall Islands |
| Angeline Reimers | National Energy Office |
| Tanya Bukida | National Training Council |
| Francyne-Wase Jacklick | Ministry of Health and Human Service |
| Miram de Brum | Women United Together Marshall Islands |
| Andrea Muller | Foreign Affairs and Trade |
| Ayako Yamaguchi-Eliou | Ministry of Finance RCU |
| Chris Yanckello | Ministry of Finance RCU |
| Frederick de Brum | Economic Policy, Planning and Statistics Office |
| Eseta Cama-Joel | Economic Policy, Planning and Statistics Office |
| Leander Jennet | Economic Policy, Planning and Statistics Office (Intern) |

ANNEX 5: LIST OF REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

1. National Strategic Plan 2020-2030, (March 2020) Economic Policy Planning and Statistics Office, Republic of the Marshall Islands
2. RMI Vision 2018 Master-plan 2003-2018 (2001), Office of the President, Republic of the Marshall Islands
3. National Strategic Plan 2015--2017, (2014) Economic Policy Planning and Statistics Office, Republic of the Marshall Islands
4. National Strategic Plan 2015--2017, (Stock Take) (2018) Economic Policy Planning and Statistics Office, Republic of the Marshall Islands

ANNEX 6: SDG TARGET AND INDICATOR ALIGNMENT WITH NSP POLICY OBJECTIVES

| SDG Target | SDG Indicator | NSP Alignment/PO |
|---|--|--|
| Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere | | |
| 1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day | 1.1.1 Proportion of population below the international poverty line, by sex, age, employment status and geographical location (urban/rural) | S&C 1.4.4 Maintain traditional consumption and production of food and medicine (SDG Indicators) |
| 1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions | 1.2.1 Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age | ECC 2.3.1 Enhanced Resilience to Disaster and Risk |
| | 1.2.2 Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions | ECC 2.3.2 Strengthened disaster preparedness, response and recovery E.C.C 2.3.3 Greater coordination, nationally and internationally on DRM efforts |
| 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable | 1.3.1 Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable | INF 3.1.1 Efficient and reliable air and sea connectivity to the outer islands and the world |
| 1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance | 1.4.1 Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services | INF 3.1.3 Reliable roads for efficient movement of people and goods and services |
| | 1.4.2 Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, with legally recognized documentation and who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and by type of tenure | INF 3.3.2 Constant access to drinking water that meets World Health Organization standards INF 3.3.3 Improved sanitation for better health and well-being |
| 1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters | 1.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people | ECO 4.1.1 Greater opportunities to utilize land for economic growth |
| | 1.5.2 Direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP) | ECO 4.1.2 Promote greater awareness of land rights and opportunities through awareness and partnerships |
| | 1.5.3 Number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies | |
| 1.a Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions | 1.a.1 Proportion of resources allocated by the government directly to poverty reduction programmes | |
| | 1.a.2 Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection) | |

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| <p>1.b Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions</p> | <p>1.b.1 Proportion of government recurrent and capital spending to sectors that disproportionately benefit women, the poor and vulnerable groups</p> |
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| SDG Target | SDG Indicator | NSP Alignment/PO |
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| Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture | | |
| <p>2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round</p> | <p>2.1.1 Prevalence of undernourishment 2.1.2 Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)</p> | <p>S&C 1.1.1 Strengthened response to non-communicable diseases, including nutrition, mental health, and injuries S&C 1.1.2 Improved maternal, infant, child and adolescent health</p> |
| <p>2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons</p> | <p>2.2.1 Prevalence of stunting (height for age <-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age 2.2.2 Prevalence of malnutrition (weight for height >+2 or <-2 standard deviation from the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards) among children under 5 years of age, by type (wasting and overweight)</p> | <p>S&C 1.2.1 Improved early childhood development S&C 1.4.4 Maintain traditional consumption and production of food and medicine ECC 2.1.1 Improved protection, conservation and sustainability of atoll environment and natural resources</p> |
| <p>2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non- farm employment</p> | <p>2.3.1 Volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size 2.3.2 Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status</p> | <p>ECO 4.1.1 Greater opportunities to utilize land for economic growth ECO 4.2.1 Improve production, supply and distribution of nutritious food ECO 4.2.2 Promote environmental sustainability</p> |
| <p>2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality</p> | <p>2.4.1 Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture</p> | <p>ECO 4.2.3 Enhance capacity of agriculture sector stakeholders ECO 4.4.1 Increase import substitution and production and export of locally manufactured goods</p> |
| <p>2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and</p> | <p>2.5.1 Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium or long-term conservation facilities 2.5.2 Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk, not-at-risk or at unknown level of risk of</p> | |

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| associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed | extinction | |
| 2.a Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries | 2.a.1 The agriculture orientation index for government expenditures | |
| | 2.a.2 Total official flows (official development assistance plus other official flows) to the agriculture sector | |
| 2.b Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round | 2.b.1 Producer Support Estimate | |
| | 2.b.2 Agricultural export subsidies | |
| 2.c Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility | 2.c.1 Indicator of food price anomalies | |

| SDG Target | SDG Indicator | NSP Alignment/PO |
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| Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages | | |
| 3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births | 3.1.1 Maternal mortality ratio | S&C 1.1.1 Strengthened response to non-communicable diseases, including nutrition, mental health, and injuries S&C 1.1.2 Improved maternal, infant, child and adolescent health S&C 1.1.3 Strengthened response and resilience to communicable disease, environmental health, and health emergency preparedness S&C 1.1.4 Strengthened planning, management and administration of human and financial resources S&C 1.1.5 Provision of quality health care infrastructure, especially cancer care, for all Marshallese S&C 1.1.6 Strengthened outer island health services |
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| 3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births | 3.2.1 Under-five mortality rate | |
| | 3.2.2 Neonatal mortality rate | |
| 3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases | 3.3.1 Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population, by sex, age and key populations | |
| | 3.3.2 Tuberculosis incidence per 1,000 population | |
| | 3.3.3 Malaria incidence per 1,000 population | |
| | 3.3.4 Hepatitis B incidence per 100,000 population | |
| | 3.3.5 Number of people requiring interventions against neglected tropical diseases | |
| 3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention | 3.4.1 Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory | |

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| and treatment and promote mental health and well-being | disease | GG 5.3.2 Require robust and unbiased enforcement of laws, justice and regulatory processes |
| | 3.4.2 Suicide mortality rate | |
| 3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol | 3.5.1 Coverage of treatment interventions (pharmacological, psychosocial and rehabilitation and aftercare services) for substance use disorders | |
| | 3.5.2 Harmful use of alcohol, defined according to the national context as alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in litres of pure alcohol | |
| 3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents | 3.6.1 Death rate due to road traffic injuries | |
| 3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes | 3.7.1 Proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15-49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods | |
| | 3.7.2 Adolescent birth rate (aged 10-14 years; aged 15-19 years) per 1,000 women in that age group | |
| 3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all | 3.8.1 Coverage of essential health services (defined as the average coverage of essential services based on tracer interventions that include reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and service capacity and access, among the general and the most disadvantaged population) | |
| | 3.8.2 Number of people covered by health insurance or a public health system per 1,000 population | |
| 3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination | 3.9.1 Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution | |
| | 3.9.2 Mortality rate attributed to unsafe water, unsafe sanitation and lack of hygiene (exposure to unsafe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All (WASH) services) | |
| | 3.9.3 Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisoning | |
| 3.a Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate | 3.a.1 Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older | |
| 3.b Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, | 3.b.1 Proportion of the population with access to affordable medicines and vaccines on a sustainable basis | |
| | 3.b.2 Total net official development assistance to medical research and basic health sectors | |

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| which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all | | |
| 3.c Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States | 3.c.1 Health worker density and distribution | |
| 3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks | 3.d.1 International Health Regulations (IHR) capacity and health emergency preparedness | |

| SDG Target | SDG Indicator | NSP Alignment/PO |
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| Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all | | |
| 4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes | 4.1.1 Proportion of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex | S&C 1.2.1 Improved early childhood development S&C 1.2.2 Increased learning and student achievement in primary and secondary schools |
| 4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education | 4.2.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age who are developmentally on track in health, learning and psychosocial well-being, by sex | S&C 1.2.3 Enhanced post-secondary and continuing education opportunities that provide in-country access to obtain qualifications such as certificates, diplomas, undergraduate and postgraduate degrees |
| | 4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex | |
| 4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university | 4.3.1 Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex | S&C 1.2.4 Enhanced skills and attributes necessary for a dynamic workforce and resilient economy |
| 4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship | 4.4.1 Proportion of youth and adults with information and communications technology (ICT) skills, by type of skill | S&C 1.2.5 Ensure schools are well equipped with facilities, resources and quality teachers to foster a more effective learning environment |
| 4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations | 4.5.1 Parity indices (female/male, rural/urban, bottom/top wealth quintile and others such as disability status, indigenous peoples and conflict-affected, as data become available) for all education indicators on this list that can be disaggregated | S&C 1.2.6 Incorporate sports as an important component of the school system S&C 1.2.7 Address TVET and Workforce Development issues through the NTC, and STEM program |
| 4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy | 4.6.1 Percentage of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex | S&C 1.4.1 Undertake preservation of traditional knowledge-natural resources |

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| <p>4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development</p> | <p>4.7.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development, including gender equality and human rights, are mainstreamed at all levels in: (a) national education policies, (b) curricula, (c) teacher education and (d) student assessment</p> | <p>and historical sites (men ko bwinnir) S&C 1.4.2 Maintain and preserve Marshallese language S&C 1.4.4 Maintain traditional consumption and production of food and medicine</p> |
| <p>4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all</p> | <p>4.a.1 Proportion of schools with access to: (a) electricity; (b) the Internet for pedagogical purposes; (c) computers for pedagogical purposes; (d) adapted infrastructure and materials for students with disabilities; (e) basic drinking water; (f) single-sex basic sanitation facilities; and (g) basic handwashing facilities (as per the WASH indicator definitions)</p> | |
| <p>4.b By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programs, in developed countries and other developing countries</p> | <p>4.b.1 Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships by sector and type of study</p> | |
| <p>4.c By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States</p> | | |

| SDG Target | SDG Indicator | NSP Alignment/PO |
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| <p>Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</p> | | |
| <p>5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere</p> | <p>5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex</p> | <p>S&C 1.3.1 Improve access to justice for RMI's vulnerable populations S&C 1.3.2 Ensure provisions and opportunities for equitable participation of all persons in society S&C 1.3.3 Build social empowerment strategies into nationwide frameworks</p> |
| <p>5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation</p> | <p>5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age</p> | <p>ECO 4.1.1 Greater opportunities to utilize land for economic growth</p> |
| | <p>5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by</p> | |

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| | age and place of occurrence | ECO 4.1.2 Promote greater awareness of land rights and opportunities through awareness and partnership |
| 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation | 5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20- 24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18 | |
| | 5.3.2 Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age | |
| 5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate | 5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location | |
| 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life | 5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments (Suggestions from UN Women/IPU: "Suggest ... modifying the indicator name slightly: "Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments"" and classifying the sub-components as Tier I and Tier III, respectively | |
| | 5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions | |
| 5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences | 5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15- 49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care | |
| | 5.6.2 Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee women aged 15-49 years access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education | |
| 5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws | 5.a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure | |
| | 5.a.2 Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control | |
| 5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women | 5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex | |
| 5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels | 5.c.1 Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment | |

| SDG Target | SDG Indicator | NSP Alignment/PO |
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| Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all | | |
| 6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all | 6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services | INF 3.3.1 Effective management of fresh water resources INF 3.3.2 Constant access to drinking water that meets World Health Organization Standards INF 3.3.3 Improved sanitation for better health and well-being INF 3.3.4 Comprehensive management of waste water INF 3.3.5 Management of urban drainage and surface waters for safe public exposure |
| 6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations | 6.2.1 Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water | |
| 6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally | 6.3.1 Proportion of wastewater safely treated | |
| | 6.3.2 Proportion of bodies of water with good ambient water quality | |
| 6.4 By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity | 6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time | |
| | 6.4.2 Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources | |
| 6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate | 6.5.1 Degree of integrated water resources management implementation (0 -100) | |
| | 6.5.2 Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation | |
| 6.6 By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes | 6.6.1 Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time | |
| 6.a By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programs, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies | 6.a.1 Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan | |
| 6.b Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management | 6.b.1 Proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management | |

| SDG Target | SDG Indicator | NSP Alignment/PO |
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| Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all | | |
| 7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services | 7.1.1 Proportion of population with access to electricity 7.1.2 Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology | INF 3.2.1 Improved enabling frameworks for reducing dependence on imported fossil fuel for electricity generation INF 3.2.2 Increased energy efficiency in households, businesses, government, transport and other sectors INF 3.2.3 Reliable, sustainable and affordable energy supply |
| 7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix | 7.2.1 Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption | |
| 7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency | 7.3.1 Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP | |
| 7.a By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology | 7.a.1 Mobilized amount of United States dollars per year starting in 2020 accountable towards the \$100 billion commitment | |
| 7.b By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programs of support | 7.b.1 Investments in energy efficiency as a percentage of GDP and the amount of foreign direct investment in financial transfer for infrastructure and technology to sustainable development services | |

| SDG Target | SDG Indicator | NSP Alignment/PO |
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| Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive & sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all | | |
| 8.1 Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries | 8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita | S&C 1.2.7 Address TVET and Workforce Development issues through the NTC, and STEM program S&C 1.4.3 Promote cultural industry, amimono (trademark) ECO 4.1.1 Greater opportunities to utilize land for economic growth ECO 4.2.3 Enhance capacity of agriculture sector stakeholders ECO 4.4.1 Increase import substitution and production and export of locally manufactured goods ECO 4.4.2 Establish more sustainable and eco-friendly tourism |
| 8.2 Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labor-intensive sectors | 8.2.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person | |
| 8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services | 8.3.1 Proportion of informal employment in non-agriculture employment, by sex | |
| 8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, global | 8.4.1 Material footprint, material footprint per capita, | |

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| <p>resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavor to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programs on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead</p> | <p>and material footprint per GDP 8.4.2 Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP</p> | <p>ECO 4.4.3 Promote fair and friendly business environment ECO 4.4.4 Promote MSMEs and women entrepreneurs ECO 4.4.5 Promote partnerships among public-private and Civil Society Organizations ECO 4.5.2: Improve access to affordable and competitive financial services ECO 4.5.3: Protect and develop links to the international financial system</p> <p>GG 5.1.4: Strengthen the connection and cooperation with civil society, private sector and outer islands GG 5.2.1 Promote stable growth through responsible fiscal policy targeting stability in inflation GG 5.2.5 Improve revenue generation GG 5.3.2 Require robust and unbiased enforcement of laws, justice and regulatory processes. GG 5.3.3 Implement effective systems of corporate regulation</p> |
| <p>8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value</p> | <p>8.5.1 Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities 8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities</p> | |
| <p>8.6 By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training</p> | <p>8.6.1 Proportion of youth (aged 15- 24 years) not in education, employment or training</p> | |
| <p>8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labor, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labor in all its forms</p> | <p>8.7.1 Proportion and number of children aged 5-17 years engaged in child labor, by sex and age</p> | |
| <p>8.8 Protect labor rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment</p> | <p>8.8.1 Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status 8.8.2 Increase in national compliance of labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labor Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status</p> | |
| <p>8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products</p> | <p>8.9.1 Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate 8.9.2 Number of jobs in tourism industries as a proportion of total jobs and growth rate of jobs, by sex</p> | |
| <p>8.10 Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all</p> | <p>8.10.1 Number of commercial bank branches and automated teller machines (ATMs) per 100,000 adults 8.10.2 Proportion of adults (15 years and older) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider</p> | |
| <p>8.a Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries</p> | <p>8.a.1 Aid for Trade commitments and disbursements</p> | |
| <p>8.b By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization</p> | <p>8.b.1 Total government spending in social protection and employment programs as a proportion of the national budgets and GDP</p> | |

| SDG Target | SDG Indicator | NSP Alignment/PO |
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| Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation | | |
| 9.1 Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all | 9.1.1 Proportion of the rural population who live within 2 km of an all-season road | S&C 1.4.3 Promote cultural industry-amimono (trademark) |
| | 9.1.2 Passenger and freight volumes, by mode of transport | ECC 2.2.1: Adaptation and resilience actions to current and future impacts of climate change |
| 9.2 Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries | 9.2.1 Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita | ECC 2.2.3 Strong advocacy, diplomacy and regional/global leadership to enhance urgent global climate action |
| | 9.2.2 Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment | |
| 9.3 Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets | 9.3.1 Proportion of small-scale industries in total industry value added | INF 3.1.1 Efficient and reliable air and sea connectivity to the outer islands and the world |
| | 9.3.2 Proportion of small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit | INF 3.1.2 Compliance with all applicable (international) maritime and civil aviation safety standards for the ports |
| 9.4 By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities | 9.4.1 CO ₂ emission per unit of value added | INF 3.1.3 Reliable roads for efficient movement of people and goods and services |
| 9.5 Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending | 9.5.1 Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP | INF 3.5.2 Provide resilient platforms for efficient and affordable connectivity |
| | 9.5.2 Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants | INF 3.5.3 Improve outer island connectivity |
| 9.a Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States | 9.a.1 Total official international support (official development assistance plus other official flows) to infrastructure | INF 3.6.1 Strategic and resilient infrastructure planning and investment |
| 9.b Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities | 9.b.1 Proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added | ECO 4.5.2: Improve access to affordable and competitive financial services |
| | | ECO 4.5.3: Protect and develop links to the international financial system |
| | | GG 5.5.5 Establish safe, secure and accessible cyber environment |

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| 9.c Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020 | 9.c.1 Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology | |
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| SDG Target | SDG Indicator | NSP Alignment/PO |
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| Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries | | |
| 10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average | 10.1.1 Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population | S&C 1.3.1 Improve access to justice for RMI’s vulnerable populations |
| 10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status | 10.2.1 Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by age, sex and persons with disabilities | S&C 1.3.2 Ensure provisions and opportunities for equitable participation of all persons in society S&C 1.3.3 Build social empowerment strategies into nationwide frameworks |
| 10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard | 10.3.1 Proportion of the population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed within the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law | S&C 1.3.4 Strengthen actions for accessing restitution for those most affected by the RMI’s nuclear legacy |
| 10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality | 10.4.1 Labor share of GDP, comprising wages and social protection transfers | ECO 4.4.6 Enhancement and protection of consumer interests and rights |
| 10.5 Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations | 10.5.1 Financial Soundness Indicators | ECO 4.5.1 Strengthen financial sector oversight |
| 10.6 Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions | 10.6.1 Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations | ECO 4.5.2: Improve access to affordable and competitive financial services ECO 4.5.3: Protect and develop links to the international financial system |
| 10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies | 10.7.1 Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of yearly income earned in country of destination 10.7.2 Number of countries that have implemented well-managed migration policies | GG 5.2.1 Promote stable growth through responsible fiscal policy targeting stability in inflation GG 5.2.2 Strengthen budget management and financial oversight for planned priorities GG 5.2.4 Ensure public debt is sustainably managed and finances are directed towards projects with positive economic returns |
| 10.a Implement the principle of special and differential | 10.a.1 Proportion of tariff lines applied to imports from | GG 5.5.3 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people |

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| treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements | least developed countries and developing countries with zero-tariff | |
| 10.b Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes | 10.b.1 Total resource flows for development, by recipient and donor countries and type of flow (e.g. official development assistance, foreign direct investment and other flows) | |
| 10.c By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent | 10.c.1 Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted | |

| SDG Target | SDG Indicator | NSP Alignment/PO |
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| Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable | | |
| 11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums | 11.1.1 Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing | S&C 1.4.1 Undertake preservation of traditional knowledge-natural resources and historical sites (men ko bwinnir) |
| 11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons | 11.2.1 Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities | S&C 1.4.2 Maintain and preserve Marshallese language S&C 1.4.4 Maintain traditional consumption and production of food and medicine |
| 11.3 By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries | 11.3.1 Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth rate | ECC 2.3.1 Enhanced Resilience to Disaster and Risk |
| | 11.3.2 Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically | ECC 2.3.2 Strengthened disaster preparedness, response and recovery E.C.C 2.3.3 Greater coordination, nationally and internationally on DRM efforts |
| 11.4 Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage | 11.4.1 Total expenditure (public and private) per capita spent on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by type of heritage (cultural, natural, mixed and World Heritage Centre designation), level of government (national, regional and local/municipal), type of expenditure (operating expenditure/ investment) and type of private funding (donations in kind, private non-profit sector and sponsorship) | INF 3.3.4 Comprehensive management of waste water |
| | | INF 3.4.1 Enhance accessible community collection services INF 3.4.2 Assess and promote sustainable and sanitary landfill applications and operation INF 3.4.3 Promote local recycling INF 3.4.4 Carry out appropriate |
| 11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths | 11.5.1 Number of deaths, missing | |

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| <p>and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations</p> | <p>persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people</p> | <p>incineration for medical waste and waste to energy conversion</p> |
| <p>11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management</p> | <p>11.5.2 Direct disaster economic loss in relation to global GDP, including disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services</p> | <p>INF 3.6.1 Strategic and resilient infrastructure planning and investment</p> |
| <p>11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities</p> | <p>11.6.1 Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated, by cities</p> | <p>INF 3.6.2 Well-designed, built and maintained public facilities (roads, runways, buildings, amenities, schools, dispensaries, seawalls etc.)</p> |
| <p>11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning</p> | <p>11.6.2 Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)</p> | <p>INF 3.6.3 Raise building standards through implementation of a Building Code</p> |
| <p>11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels</p> | <p>11.7.1 Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities</p> | <p>ECO 4.1.1 Greater opportunities to utilize land for economic growth</p> |
| <p>11.c Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials</p> | <p>11.7.2 Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months</p> | <p>GG 5.1.4: Strengthen the connection and cooperation with civil society, private sector and outer islands</p> |
| <p>11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning</p> | <p>11.a.1 Proportion of population living in cities that implement urban and regional development plans integrating population projections and resource needs, by size of city</p> | <p>GG 5.3.4 Strengthen the capacity and processes of law making, regulation, enforcement and oversight of relevant agencies</p> |
| <p>11.b By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels</p> | <p>11.b.1 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030</p> | |
| <p>11.c Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials</p> | <p>11.b.2 Number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies</p> | |
| <p>11.c Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials</p> | <p>11.c.1 Proportion of financial support to the least developed countries that is allocated to the construction and retrofitting of sustainable, resilient and resource- efficient buildings utilizing local materials</p> | |

| SDG Target | SDG Indicator | NSP Alignment/PO |
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| Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns | | |
| 12.1 Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programs on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries | 12.1.1 Number of countries with sustainable consumption and production (SCP) national action plans or SCP mainstreamed as a priority or a target into national policies | S&C 1.4.4 Maintain traditional consumption and production of food and medicine |
| 12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources | 12.2.1 Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP | ECC 2.1.2 Strengthened management of waste, chemicals, pollutants and nuclear radiation |
| | 12.2.2 Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP | ECC 2.1.3 Meet obligations to relevant national, regional and international treaties, agreements and frameworks |
| 12.3 By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses | 12.3.1 Global food loss index | INF 3.4.3 Promote local recycling |
| 12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment | 12.4.1 Number of parties to international multilateral environmental agreements on hazardous waste, and other chemicals that meet their commitments and obligations in transmitting information as required by each relevant agreement | GG 5.2.5 Improve revenue generation |
| | 12.4.2 Hazardous waste generated per capita and proportion of hazardous waste treated, by type of treatment | |
| 12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse | 12.5.1 National recycling rate, tons of material recycled | |
| 12.6 Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle | 12.6.1 Number of companies publishing sustainability reports | |
| 12.7 Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities | 12.7.1 Number of countries implementing sustainable public procurement policies and action plans | |
| 12.8 By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature | 12.8.1 Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development (including climate change education) are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher education; and (d) student assessment | |
| 12.a Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards | 12.a.1 Amount of support to developing countries on research and development for sustainable | |

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| more sustainable patterns of consumption and production | consumption and production and environmentally sound technologies | |
| 12.b Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products | 12.b.1 Number of sustainable tourism strategies or policies and implemented action plans with agreed monitoring and evaluation tools | |
| 12.c Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities | 12.c.1 Amount of fossil-fuel subsidies per unit of GDP (production and consumption) and as a proportion of total national expenditure on fossil fuels | |

| SDG Target | SDG Indicator | NSP Alignment/PO |
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| Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts | | |
| 13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries | 13.1.1 Number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies | S&C 1.1.7 Address issues of climate change and human health ECC 2.1.3 Meet obligations to relevant national, regional and international treaties, agreements and frameworks ECC 2.2.1: Adaptation and resilience actions to current and future impacts of climate change ECC 2.2.2 Mitigation of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions in pursuance of RMI's NDC targets and pathway to net zero emissions by 2050 ECC 2.2.3 Strong advocacy, diplomacy and regional/global leadership to enhance urgent global climate action ECC 2.2.4 Strengthened security and survival of RMI to the existential threats of climate change ECC 2.2.5 Continued national advocacy, awareness and education on climate change and resilience building ECC 2.2.6: Increased climate finances to |
| | 13.1.2 Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people | |
| 13.2 Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning | 13.2.1 Number of countries that have communicated the establishment or operationalization of an integrated policy/ strategy/plan which increases their ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development in a manner that does not threaten food production (including a national adaptation plan, nationally determined contribution, national communication, biennial update report or other) | |
| | 13.3.1 Number of countries that have integrated mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning into primary, secondary and tertiary curricula | |
| 13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning | 13.3.2 Number of countries that have communicated the strengthening of institutional, systemic and individual capacity- building to implement adaptation, mitigation and technology transfer, and | |

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| <p>13.a Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible</p> | <p>development actions 13.a.1 Mobilized amount of United States dollars per year starting in 2020 accountable towards the \$100 billion commitment</p> | <p>enable necessary response to climate change impacts on RMI's socio-economic development ECC 2.3.1 Enhanced resilience to disasters and risks ECC 2.3.2 Strengthened disaster preparedness, response and recovery ECC 2.3.3 Greater coordination, nationally and internationally on DRM efforts</p> |
| <p>13.b Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities</p> | <p>13.b.1 Number of least developed countries and small island developing States that are receiving specialized support, and amount of support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, for mechanisms for raising capacities for effective climate change-related planning and management, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities</p> | <p>ECO 4.2.2 Promote environmental sustainability</p> |

| SDG Target | SDG Indicator | NSP Alignment/PO |
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| <p>Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development</p> | | |
| <p>14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution</p> | <p>14.1.1 Index of coastal eutrophication and floating plastic debris density</p> | <p>ECC 2.1.1 Improved protection, conservation and sustainability of atoll environment and natural resources</p> |
| <p>14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans</p> | <p>14.2.1 Proportion of national exclusive economic zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches</p> | <p>ECC 2.1.2 Strengthened management of waste, chemicals, pollutants and nuclear radiation</p> |
| <p>14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels</p> | <p>14.3.1 Average marine acidity (pH) measured at agreed suite of representative sampling stations</p> | <p>ECO 4.3.1 Maximize the long-term value from its fisheries for the benefit of the economy and people of RMI</p> |
| <p>14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics</p> | <p>14.4.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels</p> | <p>ECO 4.3.2 Conserve and manage the aquatic resources for current and future generations. ECO 4.3.3 Enhance professionalism, transparency and accountability in the management of fisheries resources ECO 4.3.4 Maximize income and livelihood opportunities through sustainable coastal fisheries</p> |
| <p>14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available</p> | <p>14.5.1 Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas</p> | |

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| scientific information | |
| 14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation | 14.6.1 Progress by countries in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing |
| 14.7 By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism | 14.7.1 Sustainable fisheries as a percentage of GDP in small island developing States, least developed countries and all countries |
| 14.a Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries | 14.a.1 Proportion of total research budget allocated to research in the field of marine technology |
| 14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets | 14.b.1 Progress by countries in the degree of application of a legal/regulatory/ policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries |
| 14.c Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of "The future we want" | 14.c.1 Number of countries making progress in ratifying, accepting and implementing through legal, policy and institutional frameworks, ocean-related instruments that implement international law, as reflected in the United Nation Convention on the Law of the Sea, for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources |

| SDG Target | SDG Indicator | NSP Alignment/PO |
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| Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss | | |
| 15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements | 15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area 15.1.2 Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type | ECC 2.1.1 Improved protection, conservation and sustainability of atoll environment and natural resources ECC 2.1.2 Strengthened management of waste, chemicals, pollutants and nuclear radiation |
| 15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally | 15.2.1 Progress towards sustainable forest management | ECO 4.2.2 Promote environmental sustainability ECO 4.3.2 Conserve and manage the aquatic resources for current and future generations |
| 15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world | 15.3.1 Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area | |
| 15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development | 15.4.1 Coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity 15.4.2 Mountain Green Cover Index | |
| 15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species | 15.5.1 Red List Index | |
| 15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed | 15.6.1 Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits | |
| 15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products | 15.7.1 Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked | |
| 15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species | 15.8.1 Proportion of countries adopting relevant national legislation and adequately resourcing the prevention or control of invasive alien species | |
| 15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values | 15.9.1 Progress towards national targets established in | |

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| into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts | accordance with Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 | |
| 15.a Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems | 15.a.1 Official development assistance and public expenditure on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems | |
| 15.b Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation | 15.b.1 Official development assistance and public expenditure on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems | |
| 15.c Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities | 15.c.1 Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked | |

| SDG Target | SDG Indicator | NSDP Alignment/PO |
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| Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels | | |
| 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere | 16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age | <p>S&C 1.3.1 Improve access to justice for RMI's vulnerable populations</p> <p>INF 4.5.1 Strengthen legal and regulatory framework (ICT)</p> <p>INF 4.5.4 Revise ICT Policy 2012 and existing telecom laws and regulations for greater relevance to current setting</p> <p>GG 5.1.1 Improve practices to achieve an effective, ethical, and transparent public service, local governments and related public agencies</p> <p>GG 5.1.2: Enhance capacity of public servants and employees of public agencies, including in particular those in the outer islands</p> <p>GG 5.1.3: Strengthen oversight, audit, alignment and coordination across and within the public service and related public agencies</p> <p>GG 5.1.5: Strengthen the capability of accountability and integrity institutions to</p> |
| | 16.1.2 Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause | |
| | 16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months | |
| | 16.1.4 Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live | |
| 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children | 16.2.1 Proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month | |
| | 16.2.2 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation | |
| | 16.2.3 Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18 | |
| 16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all | 16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms | |
| | 16.3.2 Unsensitized detainees as a proportion of overall | |

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| <p>16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime</p> | <p>prison population</p> <p>16.4.1 Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars)</p> <p>16.4.2 Proportion of seized small arms and light weapons that are recorded and traced, in accordance with international standards and legal instruments</p> | <p>address corruption and unethical practices</p> <p>GG 5.2.1 Promote stable growth through responsible fiscal policy targeting stability in inflation</p> <p>GG 5.2.2 Strengthen budget management and financial oversight for planned priorities</p> |
| <p>16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms</p> | <p>16.5.1 Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months</p> <p>16.5.2 Proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials during the previous 12 months</p> | <p>GG 5.2.5 Improve revenue generation</p> <p>GG 5.2.6 Strengthen dialogue between national and local government and the private sector, and enact a robust governance framework for effective partnership</p> <p>GG 5.3.1 Enable accountable, professional and ethical law making</p> |
| <p>16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels</p> | <p>16.6.1 Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)</p> <p>16.6.2 Proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services</p> | <p>GG 5.3.2 Require robust and unbiased enforcement of laws, justice and regulatory processes</p> <p>GG 5.3.3 Implement effective systems of corporate regulation</p> |
| <p>16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels</p> | <p>16.7.1 Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions</p> <p>16.7.2 Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group</p> | <p>GG 5.3.4 Strengthen the capacity and processes of law making, regulation, enforcement and oversight of relevant agencies</p> <p>GG 5.4.1 Resolve judicial issues fairly, effectively, and efficiently</p> <p>GG 5.4.2 Provide access to legal services that are affordable</p> |
| <p>16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance</p> | <p>16.8.1 Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations</p> | <p>GG 5.4.3 Ensure judiciary shall remain independent, yet transparent and accountable</p> |
| <p>16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration</p> | <p>16.9.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age</p> | <p>GG 5.5.1 Enhance diplomacy and international relations</p> <p>GG 5.5.4 Ensure safe, secure and resilient physical borders</p> |
| <p>16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements</p> | <p>16.10.1 Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months</p> <p>16.10.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information</p> | <p>GG 5.5.5 Establish safe, secure and accessible cyber environment</p> |

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| 16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime | 16.a.1 Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles | |
| 16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development | 16.b.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law | |

| SDG Target | SDG Indicator | NSP Alignment/PO |
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| Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation & revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development | | |
| 17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection | 17.1.1 Total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source | ECO 4.2.4 Develop enabling policies and legislation for Agriculture GG 5.2.1 Promote stable growth through responsible fiscal policy targeting stability in inflation GG 5.2.2 Strengthen budget management and financial oversight for planned priorities GG 5.2.3 Enhance SOE financial performance and service delivery GG 5.2.5 Improve revenue generation GG 5.2.6 Strengthen dialogue between national and local government and the private sector, and enact a robust governance framework for effective partnership GG 5.2.7 Strengthen accountability and oversight in the PFM GG 5.5.2 Catalyze external support for development from traditional and new partners |
| | 17.1.2 Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes | |
| 17.2 Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance (ODA/GNI) to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries | 17.2.1 Net official development assistance, total and to least developed countries, as a proportion of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee donors' gross national income (GNI) | |
| | 17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources | |
| 17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources | 17.3.1 Foreign direct investments (FDI), official development assistance and South-South Cooperation as a proportion of total domestic budget | |
| | 17.3.2 Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP | |
| 17.4 Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress | 17.4.1 Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services | |
| | 17.5 Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries | |
| 17.5 Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries | 17.5.1 Number of countries that adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries | |
| 17.6 Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular | 17.6.1 Number of science and/or technology | |

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| regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism | cooperation agreements and programmes between countries, by type of cooperation | |
| | 17.6.2 Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed | |
| 17.7 Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed | 17.7.1 Total amount of approved funding for developing countries to promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies | |
| 17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology | 17.8.1 Proportion of individuals using the Internet | |
| 17.9 Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity- building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North- South, South-South and triangular cooperation | 17.9.1 Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries | |
| 17.10 Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda | 17.10.1 Worldwide weighted tariff- average | |
| 17.11 Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020 | 17.11.1 Developing countries' and least developed countries' share of global exports | |
| 17.12 Realize timely implementation of duty- free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access | 17.12.1 Average tariffs faced by developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States | |
| 17.13 Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence | 17.13.1 Macroeconomic Dashboard | |
| 17.14 Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development | 17.14.1 Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development | |
| 17.15 Respect each country's policy space and | 17.15.1 Extent of use of country- owned results | |

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| leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development | frameworks and planning tools by providers of development cooperation | |
| 17.16 Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries | 17.16.1 Number of countries reporting progress in multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the sustainable development goals | |
| 17.17 Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships | 17.17.1 Amount of United States dollars committed to public-private and civil society partnerships | |
| 17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts | 17.18.1 Proportion of sustainable development indicators produced at the national level with full disaggregation when relevant to the target, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics | |
| | 17.18.2 Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics | |
| | 17.18.3 Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding | |
| 17.19 By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries | 17.19.1 Dollar value of all resources made available to strengthen statistical capacity in developing countries | |
| | 17.19.2 Proportion of countries that (a) have conducted at least one population and housing census in the last 10 years; and (b) have achieved 100 per cent birth registration and 80 per cent death registration | |