



REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
and
SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC
COMMUNITY

JOINT COUNTRY STRATEGY

2008–2010

September 2007

Table of Contents

1 Introduction..... 3

2 The RMI Strategic Development Plan Framework..... 3

3 The RMI–SPC Forward Programme..... 5

4 Development Partnerships and Synergies 7

5 RMI–SPC Joint Country Strategy Monitoring Framework..... 7

Annex 1: Proposed SPC Assistance to the Republic of the Marshall Islands under the Joint Country Strategy..... 9

Annex 2: Guide to SPC Services..... 19

Annex 3: RMI Development Context and Country Facts..... 21

1 Introduction

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) Joint Country Strategy (JCS) is designed to guide the provision of SPC technical assistance and other support services over the next three to five years. It is firmly based upon the RMI Strategic Development Plan Framework 2003–2018, also known as VISION 2018, and takes into consideration SPC’s capacity and comparative advantage in relation to previously supported activities and future priorities as described in the SPC Corporate Plan 2007–2012.

SPC and the RMI recognise that the RMI development challenges as outlined in the VISION 2018 are very broad and will require substantial time and the involvement of many sectors, to a far greater extent than what SPC offers through this JCS. With this understanding, the JCS is founded on an established and fruitful partnership, and reflects the intentions for a long-term relationship between SPC and a valued SPC member country.

The timing of the RMI–SPC JCS 2008–2010 is significant for both parties. For the RMI, it coincides with the early stages of implementation of the VISION 2018. At this time, VISION 2018 is starting to make an impact as key government departments are in reform mode and moving towards monitoring their programmes systematically in line with the development plan framework’s expectations. For SPC, the JCS coincides with a new Corporate Plan 2007–2012, which reflects the same focus on providing support to meet the needs of small island state (SIS) members.

The RMI–SPC JCS 2008–2010 document has four main components:

1. The RMI Strategic Development Plan Framework (Section 2) provides the foundation for the JCS, as the priorities in VISION 2018 guide SPC services.
2. The RMI–SPC Forward Programme (Section 3) highlights aspects of current SPC assistance to the RMI, as well as the proposed future assistance during the period 2008–2010, as the basis for the RMI–SPC JCS.
3. Development Partnerships and Synergies (Section 4) refers to the special relationship that the RMI, as an SIS, has with development partners. This section explores aspects of the partnership that have influenced the relationship with SPC since 1983, when the RMI was welcomed as a full SPC member.
4. The RMI–SPC JCS Monitoring Framework deals with monitoring arrangements for this JCS.

Several key documents and tables are annexed as additional, contextual information to supplement issues raised in the main text.

The RMI–SPC JCS 2008–2010 has been developed with inputs from both the RMI and SPC programme staff. The design process included a short visit to the RMI by an SPC team in order to address the SPC Corporate Plan 2007–2012 mandate to develop joint country strategies with member countries and territories. During the design phase, the Director of the RMI Economic, Policy, Planning and Statistics Office (EPPSO) had specific inputs into drafting the JCS during a visit to Noumea. The RMI–SPC JCS 2008–2010 therefore represents the basis on which the SPC programme of technical assistance and other support services is to be jointly implemented and monitored over the next three-year period, from 2008 to 2010, and beyond.

2 The RMI Strategic Development Plan Framework

VISION 2018 reflects the RMI’s Strategic Development Plan Framework covering the period 2003–2018. In order to achieve the VISION 2018 goals and objectives, the Government of the RMI has identified 10 enabling conditions, which include a commitment to VISION 2018, harmonised development, and effective partnerships between government and civil society.

Of the 10 goals and objectives articulated in VISION 2018, many have components consistent with the sectors of SPC expertise. The goals and objectives are aligned with broad strategies to guide the implementation of VISION 2018 priorities, which include a focus on the macroeconomic framework, human resources development, outer island development, culture and traditions, as well as the productive sectors such as agriculture and fisheries.

Since the completion of Vision 2018 in 2002, some major events have further aided the refinement and implementation of the RMI Government's development strategy, primarily in regard to health, education, environment, infrastructure and natural resources. These events include the adoption of two important tools: the Medium Term Budget and Investment Framework; and performance budgeting in the Ministries of Health, Education, Resources and Development, as well as in the Environmental Protection Authority, College of the RMI and the National Training Council. In addition, the RMI Government has committed itself to establishing performance-based budgeting throughout the public sector by 2012. In 2003 the RMI Government fully established EPPSO to help coordinate these activities and promote economic development policies. EPPSO assists the ministries in monitoring RMI priority developments and reform objectives, advises on how best to make positive changes using public sector funds, and encourages the participation and enhancement of the RMI's private sector.

The Medium Term Budget and Investment Framework provides an overview of the budget. In addition, using whatever relevant information is available, it aims to anticipate issues that the government will need to deal with in the future, in order to respond to them as much as possible immediately. It also sets out government expenditure strategies over the medium term. The RMI Government has adopted this framework, along with performance budgeting, in line with the amendment of the Compact of Free Association with the United States of America in 2003. The new emphasis on performance and outcomes has also resulted in the major improvements in both the quantity and quality of data, information, statistics and policy advice from many offices within the RMI Government since 2004.

The RMI Government has made a firm policy decision that the largest component of the US Government "Compact" grant will be allocated to improve the RMI's education system, as illustrated in the RMI's Medium Term Budget and Investment Framework for 2002–2007 (financial years) and again for 2006–2010 (financial years). For example, in the first year of the amended Compact, education sector expenditures increased by 42 per cent. Currently, the Ministry of Education is the primary focus of the implementation of a performance management and finance system.

The domestic-based fishing industry and related industries have provided significant impetus to the economy in recent years. The reforms of the RMI Marine Resources Authority and its fisheries-related policies in the mid to late 1990s are now delivering tangible results.

In terms of specific VISION 2018 priorities that are directly relevant to SPC programmes and service delivery, economic sector priorities are:

- Goal 2: Enhanced socio-economic self-reliance
- Goal 5: A productive people
- Goal 10: Environmental sustainability

Similarly, social sector priorities relevant to SPC programmes and service delivery are:

- Goal 3: An educated people
- Goal 4: A healthy people

3 The RMI–SPC Forward Programme

The current level of SPC assistance to the RMI is, on average, approximately USD 500,000 per year over the four years from 2005 to 2008 (see Section A3.4 in Annex 3). This figure is an underestimate of the real value of the SPC programme services and support in that it does not include the actual SPC staff costs involved with delivering the technical assistance, nor the costs involved when Marshallese counterparts are engaged in regional activities funded by SPC.

All SPC sectors are involved in providing SPC programme services and support to the RMI. As might be expected, however, some sectors are more heavily involved as their activities have been given a greater emphasis or higher priority. For example, over the past two years the Statistics and Demography Programme has been working with its counterparts in the RMI to undertake a comprehensive demographic and health survey, for which considerable programme funds have been expended. Additionally, it has provided funding for a range of training activities including a PopGIS workshop, capacity building in project management, training attachments in Honiara and Noumea, and a population data utilisation workshop. Similarly, the Public Health Programme has been active in supporting a range of training activities, including staff attachments and other skills development, and in developing behaviour change communication materials. It has also helped to develop a seafarer community drop-in centre and has provided direct financial grants relating to adolescent reproductive health workplan activities.

The RMI has received considerable assistance from SPC's Land Resources Division (LRD) to support a range of agricultural activities. Most of these activities are associated with the Development of Sustainable Agriculture in the Pacific (DSAP) project, which promotes and implements sustainable agriculture to improve food production, address food security and enhance income generation. These activities include pest surveys, assistance with biosecurity legislation, and various training activities including a forestry policy network workshop, on-the-job training, a regional workshop on import risk analysis and quarantine training.

Like the other programmes of SPC, the Regional Maritime Programme is helping to meet the needs of the RMI. Recently it assisted the RMI to upgrade its maritime regulations so that they are now consistent with the international standards required by the international community. Other recent activities include technical assistance relating to legal issues, a Pacific Island Maritime Legislations and Regulations review workshop, a port security audit, a seminar on International Maritime Organization Standards of Training, and a Certification of Watchkeepers seminar. In addition, a variety of training activities covered Classes 4 and 5 deck and engine, search and rescue, and maritime security.

During the same period, the main activities of the Oceanic Fisheries Programme have concerned technical assistance to implement the port fisheries sampling programme, support to the fisheries database system and tuna data processing. Its training activities have included a fisheries stock assessment workshop and fisheries observer training courses.

The Coastal Fisheries Programme has assisted the RMI with fishbase assessments and fish surveys. Various training courses have dealt with aquaculture economics, tuna handling, fisheries legislation and community-based fisheries management.

Over the past few years, the majority of the Human Development Programme's assistance to the RMI has consisted of support training activities relating to gender sensitivity, leadership and governance, as well as to the National Women's Forum in 2007. From the time that it became a member of SPC, the RMI has greatly benefited from the work of the Community Education Training Centre (CETC). Many women from the RMI, like many women from other SPC member countries and territories, have had the opportunity to attend the CETC course and, on their return,

have applied their new skills and the knowledge in actively contributing to many communities in the RMI. Today many of these women are still improving the well-being of the Marshallese people.

The proposed SPC support to the RMI over the next three years, as reflected in the RMI–SPC JCS 2008–2010, reflects the priorities of the VISION 2018 concerning agriculture, including agroforestry, fisheries and public health. The strategy to deliver assistance in these areas will involve direct technical assistance. In some cases, other partners, such as the United Nations World Health Organization (WHO), will provide inputs in order to supplement capacity where particular skills are not available within SPC. In other cases, SPC will undertake capacity building activities in the form of on-the-job training, specific attachments and workshops, both in-country and at the regional level.

In contributing to the agriculture sector, the RMI–SPC JCS 2008–2010 – with an emphasis on food production – will harness DSAP technical assistance and support the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Atoll Agriculture to provide agricultural and aquaculture extension advice. Linkages to the public health activities, especially concerning growing and preparing nutritious foods, are included in DSAP’s activities. To help the RMI Government to achieve a vibrant and competent agriculture sector, DSAP plans to assist in developing a land use policy, train staff in monitoring and evaluation, as well as support the development of a new strategic plan for agriculture and agroforestry. Also planned is the provision of expertise concerning agricultural production development and trade facilitation services. In addition, the SPC Land Resources Division will support capacity building in the environment sector through workshops and production of awareness materials. It will also provide technical assistance to select and propagate salt-tolerant tree species, as well as in other areas of coastal management and agroforestry in collaboration with the Centre of Excellence for Atoll Agriculture.

The main focus of activities in the fisheries sector will be on improving overall fisheries management through on-the-job training and formal workshops at regional and in-country levels. Technical assistance to the RMI Fisheries and Nautical Centre, including syllabus revisions, is also planned. Training activities will cover longline fishing, bottom fishing, resource assessment in the deep-sea snapper fishery, and fisheries aggregation device (FAD) development and deployment. Assistance to fisheries management will include ordinance development, community ecosystem fisheries management (CEFM), inshore survey assessments and the finalisation of a marine aquarium policy. Development of a national management plan for mariculture is also planned. Support to aquaculture will take the form of further assistance to develop a strategic plan for pearl aquaculture, establishment of a national pearl farmers’ association and the provision of training in larval trapping for selected fish species and giant clam farming. Planned economic feasibility studies will focus on seaweeds, trochus and other ornamental species. The Oceanic Fisheries Programme will provide observer and port sampling training, assistance with stock assessment and support in establishing a national plan of action concerning sharks, bycatch and seabirds. Assistance to the maritime sector will consist of support to activities relating to the Standards of Training and Certification for Watchkeepers audit, a shipping seminar, and various human resources development activities, including search and rescue training, a legal workshop, and in-country technical assistance as requested.

As VISION 2018 emphasises the importance of primary health care, a strong health institutional structure and improved health outcomes, these areas will be the focus of the assistance to the RMI public health sector that SPC intends to provide over the next few years. Planned activities include support for policy development and improved governance in the area of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), placing more SPC public health staff in the northern Pacific, regular yearly meetings between SPC and the Ministry of Health staff, and assistance to review the National Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plan. Capacity building activities will include training relating to aspects of

tuberculosis (TB) management, health data collection and management, and support to improve service delivery for HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Youth-related activities, particularly the establishment and management of a youth-friendly health clinic, will be another area of public health support.

In regard to culture, VISION 2018 is concerned with preserving, strengthening and promoting Marshallese language, traditional skills, knowledge, values and customs to maintain the cultural identity of all Marshallese people. To contribute to these goals, SPC will assist with youth activities, including a review of the RMI national youth policy. Similarly, it will help to develop the national women's policy, and to compile a report to the United Nations concerning the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) via the Human Development Programme. It is also proposed to continue the CETC training in Suva for nominated women leaders, and to implement a Train the Trainers course in-country and/or at a regional location.

4 Development Partnerships and Synergies

Due to the development environment and the VISION 2018 priorities outlined in Section 2, the RMI currently relies on development partners to supplement its national budget. Of major importance is the financial grant arrangement between the Governments of the USA and RMI. The RMI's relationship with the USA is formalised through the Compact of Free Association, an agreement that went into effect in 1986, was subsequently amended in 2004 and has been negotiated to extend until 2024. The Compact provides funding for the health, education, environment and infrastructure sectors, as well as for capacity building and private sector development. Additional funds are provided on an annual basis for the RMI Intergenerational Trust Fund. An important provision of the Compact allows Marshallese to live and work in the USA with little restriction. Unfortunately, although approximately 15,000 Marshallese reside in the USA, remittances are only a small component of the RMI's national economic accounts, primarily because of the substantial human development challenges in the areas of health and education.

The development partner aid flows to RMI in financial terms are estimated to be approximately 69 per cent of current national budget revenues. In the upcoming budget for the 2008 financial year, the USA is contributing approximately USD 70 million and Taiwan USD 10 million. Other development partners include SPC, the European Union, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Japan, AusAID, NZAID, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission, the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, the Forum Fisheries Agency, the Pacific Islands Development Program, the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and WHO.

However, the basis of development partner support is not just pecuniary, as some donor assistance is not channelled through the national accounts. For example, regional development partners provide substantial direct technical and other support. These partners include the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) agencies, to which SPC and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat are significant contributors. The assistance provided by CROP agencies generally involves technical assistance for capacity building and capacity supplementation.

5 RMI-SPC Joint Country Strategy Monitoring Framework

The RMI-SPC JCS 2008-2010 has been designed to allow its activities to be monitored so that performance can be mutually assessed at the programme level. Although several planned activities could be categorised as foundation-building, the impact of the implementation of many others will be apparent reasonably quickly over the life of the three-year strategy.

The appropriate section of the RMI Government to monitor the RMI-SPC JCS 2008-2010 is EPPSO, located in the Office of the President. The SPC counterpart section is the Planning Unit,

located within the SPC Executive Branch. It is suggested that the RMI–SPC JCS 2008–2010 be formally reviewed once a year, as part of the formal high-level consultations held between SPC and the RMI. These consultations are part of the SPC Corporate Plan initiative to realise the SPC Executive’s vision to improve communications and collaboration with national decision-makers and officials through senior management visits to member countries and territories, including small island states.

EPPSO in the RMI and the Planning Unit in SPC will be responsible for gathering information from their respective counterparts, concerning the implementation of JCS activities. This information will form the basis of the performance discussions during the annual high-level consultations mentioned above. It is emphasised, however, that this annual exercise will not be a substitute for monitoring and evaluation arrangements at the activity level. It will be essential that both SPC and RMI counterpart staff maintain their own performance management arrangements, which will importantly feed into the annual joint monitoring process.

Following the monitoring exercise at the annual high-level consultations, EPPSO and the Planning Unit will prepare a joint report for both the RMI Government and SPC for tabling at the Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (CRGA) the same year. This report will highlight relevant issues raised during the annual high-level consultations and will detail progress against the performance framework over the past 12 months, or the period since the previous annual high-level consultations. Where appropriate, the report will recommend revisions to the RMI–SPC JCS 2008–2010 based upon the lessons learnt in implementing it, the RMI Government budget, emerging development priorities, the strategic plans of RMI government departments and SPC programmes, and the relevant experiences of other development partners.

<p>percentage of underutilised land for agricultural purposes.</p>		<p>c. diagnostic and control of pests and diseases.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Provide technical support and equipment. 3. Provide technical support in the drafting of the new Biosecurity Bill. 4. Provide public awareness materials e.g. leaflets, posters, media releases. 5. Provide information on exotic pests. 6. Provide information on pests and diseases within RMI. 7. Provide technical support on pest and disease surveillance. 8. Training of biosecurity officers in identification of major pest species. 9. Provide information on technical support for emergency response plan. <p>(MRD SAP 2005–2010)</p> <p>A3. Agriculture policy and planning</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assist in developing a land use policy for RMI. 2. Assist in developing the new strategic plan for agriculture and agro-forestry and in training of staff in monitoring and evaluation 3. Collaborate with the FAO Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands in capacity building on agriculture and agroforestry policy and planning. 4. Assist in developing legislation as required. <p>(MRD SAP 2005–2010)</p> <p>B1. Product development services</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collaborate with other partners e.g. FAO to build capacity of agribusinesses targeting export market (FACT). 2. (FACT) Collaborate with University of the South Pacific or others on undertaking training in value adding. 3. (FACT) Training of relevant staff and personnel on Pacific organic standards (LRD and International Fund for Agricultural Development). <p>(MRD SAP 2005–2010)</p>
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<p>Fisheries</p> <p>Objective 1: Maximise rents from fisheries resources within sustainable limits.</p> <p>Objective 2: Develop income opportunities in sustainable coastal fishing activities for fishers.</p> <p>Objective 3: Develop sustainable management plans based on stock assessment of fisheries resources prior to any development activities.</p> <p>Objective 4: Strengthen the Fisheries Nautical & Training Centre (FNTC) and diversify the</p>		<p>B4. Trade facilitation services</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regularly update Pest List Database (PLD). 2. Provide information and training to biosecurity officers on export certification and import inspection and certification. 3. Provide information on biosecurity and trade facilitation as requested. <p>(MRD SAP 2005–2010)</p> <p>SPECIAL PROGRAMME Coconut “Tree of Life” Development</p> <p><i>i. Capacity building through workshops and training:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. value-added products 2. handicrafts 3. bio-fuel 4. livestock feed 5. utilisation of senile trees 6. propagation and appropriate varieties of coconut <p><i>ii. Technical assistance through consultation:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. socio-economic analysis 2. environmental impact analysis – coconut value chain studies <p>C. Coastal fisheries</p> <p>1. Fisheries development</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Review fishbases to provide options for sustainable future operations. 1.2 Revise the fisheries part of the syllabus of the FNTC. 1.3 Conduct training in longline fishing. 1.4 Conduct training in bottom fishing and resource assessment in deep-sea snapper fishery. 1.5 Conduct training on FAD development and deployment, including FAD fishing. <p>2. Fisheries management</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Conduct yearly follow-up to review progress of CEFM programme. 2.2 Develop fisheries management ordinances for local governments. 2.3 Conduct refresher workshop on CEFM. 2.4 Assess inshore survey.
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<p>employment opportunities for graduates.</p> <p>Objective 5: Enhance the capacity of the sector to increase production, processing, trade and exports in a sustainable manner.</p>		<p>2.5 Finalise RMI marine aquarium policy and management framework.</p> <p>3. Aquaculture</p> <p>3.1 Assist in further development of a strategic plan for pearl aquaculture. 3.2 Help to establish a National Pearl Farmer Association. 3.3 Develop genetic programme for hatchery-reared spats – improving quality of pearl. 3.4 Conduct training in pearl seeding. 3.5 Conduct training in marketing of pearls. 3.6 Conduct training in larval trapping and rearing (rabbit fish and ornamentals). 3.7 Conduct training in farming of groupers. 3.8 Conduct training in giant clam farming and rearing. 3.9 Undertake economic feasibility study on seaweeds, trochus and ornamental species. 3.10 Develop national management plan for mariculture, including aquarium trade.</p> <p>4. Oceanic fisheries</p> <p>4.1 Conduct observer training. 4.2 Conduct port sampling training. 4.3 Provide training on and assistance with stock assessment. 4.4 Establish a national plan of action for sharks, bycatch, seabirds, etc.</p>

VISION 2018 Goal 2: Enhanced Socio-economic Self-reliance

Improved decision-making through the development of statistics and demography to support evidence-based policy development, planning and priority setting.

RMI VISION 2018 objectives	RMI strategies relating to national goals	Proposed SPC activities
<p>Vision 2018 Objective 12: Ensure the existence of a statistical database adequate for planning, implementation and monitoring of sustainable and self-reliant development policies and programmes.</p> <p>Objective 1: National and sectoral policy development, strategy frameworks and development plans are based on quality and up-to-date social and economic data and information.</p> <p>Objective 2: Consolidate and improve statistical data collection and information management across all sectors, with a particular focus on strengthening EPPSO and addressing key RMI development concerns (sectors): health, education, natural resources (marine, agriculture/forestry).</p>	<p>1.1 Undertake comprehensive policy (situation) analyses to precede development of all policy and strategy frameworks.</p> <p>2.1 EPPSO to develop statistical master plan, outlining implementation plan for its regular collection of social and economic statistics, including population census and household surveys.</p> <p>2.2 Ministry of Health to consolidate/improve its vital registration system, with a</p>	<p>1.1.1 Given the importance of demographic processes, and of overall population and development interactions in the RMI, collaborate with EPPSO and UNFPA on comprehensive population policy analysis.</p> <p>1.1.2 In collaboration with EPPSO and UNFPA, plan and undertake comprehensive policy dialogue, involving key public sector agencies and civil society.</p> <p>1.1.3 In collaboration with EPPSO and UNFPA, and in consultation with key public sector agencies and civil society, develop population and development policy.</p> <p>2.1.1 Collaborate with EPPSO (and other interested partners/agencies, such as ADB, AusAID–Australian Bureau of Statistics) through dedicated technical assistance programme, which includes on-the-job training.</p> <p>2.1.2 Continue technical assistance and capacity building with 2007 demographic and health survey (DHS) and 2009 population census across broad spectrum of census/survey planning, implementation management, data capture and processing, analysis and dissemination.</p> <p>2.1.3 Plan for HIES to follow on from census activities in 2010.</p> <p>2.1.4 Ensure population censuses and household surveys address data and information requirements pertaining to key sectors, and associated outputs address important cross-sectoral issues, such as gender and youth.</p> <p>2.1.5 Facilitate attendance of EPPSO staff at regional technical workshops with a focus on data collection and information management.</p> <p>2.1.6.5 Develop programme of technical assistance and capacity building in economic statistics (national accounts, balance of payments, trade), once Social Development Programme economic statistics capacity is strengthened.</p> <p>2.2.1 Collaborate with Health Planning and Statistics unit in improving system and procedures, including joint review of all existing data sources dating back to 1999.</p>

<p>Objective 3: Build and strengthen national capacity in data analysis, including policy analysis.</p> <p>Objective 4: Improve data dissemination and increase utilisation.</p>	<p>particular emphasis on outer-island reporting.</p> <p>2.3 Consolidation of information management systems in other key line departments, such as Education and Natural Resources.</p> <p>3.1 Engage in collaborative partnerships with regional and international technical agencies to undertake joint analyses, ensuring dual spin-offs of (a) on-the-job-training, and (b) stronger sense of ownership.</p>	<p>2.2.2 Facilitate attendance of EPPSO staff at regional technical workshops with a focus on data collection and information management.</p> <p>2.2.2 Assist Ministry of Health in production of annual demographic and health indicators for its annual reports.</p> <p>2.3.1 Provide RMI government departments, through EPPSO, with annual population and demographic indicator updates.</p> <p>3.1.1 Continue technical collaboration with EPPSO and MOH in analysing and reporting of DHS data.</p> <p>3.1.2 Pursue similar arrangement in the analysis of the 2009 census of population and housing, and of other survey and administrative databases.</p> <p>3.1.3 Provide formal training in data analysis to EPPSO and MOH staff (as well as staff from other key government agencies).</p> <p>3.1.4 Provide short-term and tailored training attachment for EPPSO and MOH staff with Social Development and Public Health programmes in Noumea.</p> <p>3.1.5 Facilitate attendance of EPPSO and MOH staff at regional technical workshops and seminars with a focus on data analysis.</p> <p>4.1.1 Update RMI-PopGIS with 2006 community survey and 2007 DHS data</p> <p>4.1.2 Conduct PopGIS user workshop for MOH staff in Majuro and Ebeye to use system for health activity and progress monitoring.</p> <p>4.1.3 In collaboration with EPPSO, plan and conduct DHS/census data debriefing and user workshops for targeted audiences (key government agencies; private sector; civil society/ specific NGOs).</p> <p>4.1.4 In collaboration with EPPSO, ensure that national and sectoral development policies are based on the same and most up-to-date population data and demographic indicators.</p>
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VISION 2018 Goal 4: A Healthy People

Build capacity of each community, family, and individual to care for their own health through quality primary health care programme and to provide high quality, effective, affordable and efficient health services to Marshallese.

RMI VISION 2018 objectives	RMI strategies relating to national goals	Proposed SPC activities
<p>Objective 1: Achieve an enhanced dynamic primary health care programme to create greater awareness by empowering our people in order to motivate them to take initiatives in partnership to promote preventative healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>Objective 2: Achieve high level of locally qualified and skilled health personnel to provide effective and sustainable health services upon which the people of the RMI would become confident and live healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>Objective 3: Establish the required basic levels of quality health services and facilities in our country in order to reduce the incidence of medical referrals overseas and at the same time increase the confidence of our people in our own health services.</p> <p>Objective 4: Enable the families of the RMI to acquire the basic needs and structure for an average, and comfortable family home where the level of hygiene and sanitation are comparable to world standards and at the same time promote effective nationwide home improvements programme.</p> <p>Objective 5: Enhance an acceptable reproductive health programme to assist the people to be able to provide adequate resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods for every citizen of the RMI.</p> <p>Objective 6: In terms of population,</p>	<p>Form multisectoral (government and NGOs) National Task Force for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases.</p> <p>Develop national strategy to prevent and control NCDs.</p> <p>National Disaster Management Plan, including avian flu and other disease outbreaks</p> <p>HIV/AIDS National Plan</p> <p>National Tuberculosis Management Plan</p>	<p>Policy and good governance</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SPC to take the initiative to clarify the relationship with Centers for Disease Control and WHO concerning roles and responsibilities in provision of health services to RMI. 2. SPC through Healthy Pacific Lifestyle Section to provide technical assistance in the development of NCD strategy. 3. Assist MOH in working with NCD Task Force to implement NCD strategy. 4. Regular yearly meeting between SPC and MOH to develop and share workplan. 5. More SPC health personnel to be stationed close by at the Pohnpei SPC centre serving the northern region. 6. Review the National Influenza Preparedness Plan and assist with testing the plan. <p>Capacity building</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct training on NCDs as required. 2. Provide direct training in and assistance with record and reporting of DOTS and TB management. 3. Provide training in and assistance with Global Fund proposals. 4. Provide outer island health workers with training in data collection, reporting and analysis (health and demography). 5. Continue working with HIV/STI in-country team to improve communication, including concerning follow-up visits. 6. Assist in implementation of national plans, and monitor and evaluate activities as required. 7. Assist Youth to Youth programme in Health. 8. Strengthen communication/media programme.

<p>maintain the growth of our population at a manageable level consistent with our development aspirations stipulated in this VISION 2018.</p>		<p>9. Facilitate and support youth-friendly health clinic.</p> <p>10. Provide technical assistance on design of baseline data collecting system at the different levels of the public health information system, including surveillance data in collaboration with WHO.</p> <p>11. Provide support to assess and strengthen early warning and response capacities according to international health regulations requirements.</p> <p>12. Assist in infection control strengthening.</p> <p>13. Assist in personal protective equipment and drug procurement issues in order to face avian and pandemic influenza.</p> <p>Advocacy and social marketing</p> <p>1. Assist in developing of social marketing strategy for healthy lifestyle – e.g. SPC Healthy Lifestyle Champion of the Year Award.</p> <p>2. In collaboration with United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), strengthen communication strategy with regards to avian and pandemic influenza.</p>
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Vision 2018 Goal 5: A Productive People

Policies for social inclusion, development and equity in the areas of youth and gender.

RMI VISION 2018 objectives	RMI strategies relating to national goals	Proposed SPC activities
<p>Objective 3: Ensure productivity of all individuals in the society is developed and sustained at its full potential.</p>	<p>Work with EPPSO and Attorney General’s office, and through Ministry of Internal Affairs.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and support for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - policy review and update; - consultative processes on policy, including planning and providing technical resources for a national forum; - development of an implementation plan; and - training in gender awareness and analysis for government officials and parliamentarians. 2. Support CEDAW implementation and reporting (with other partners such as United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and UNDP), including technical assistance and training, for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – raising awareness on CEDAW; – translation into the local language; – compiling initial CEDAW report; include through a wide stakeholder and consultative process; and – ongoing efforts to develop programmes to implement CEDAW. 3. Provide technical assistance and support to ensure that activities integrate, address and include the participation and concerns of women, youth and families of the RMI. 4. Provide technical input to ensure that the gender/social dimensions of policy and plans are considered and reflected (access issues).

VISION 2018 Goal 10: Environmental Sustainability

(i) Developing a regulatory system that can be enforced with a high degree of compliance at all levels, in order to achieve the sustainable development of our natural resources, while protecting our environment from any adverse impact.

(ii) Strengthen the relevant institutions and improve procedural mechanisms so as to be able to secure the optimal support from both international and regional efforts, in minimising the adverse impact of climate change.

RMI VISION 2018 objectives	RMI strategies relating to national goals	Proposed SPC activities
<p>Objective 1: Enhance the level of awareness and commitment among all people in the community to contribute towards the minimisation of environmental degradation.</p> <p>Objective 2: Achieve the highest degree of compliance with environmental laws and regulations.</p> <p>Objective 3: Reinvigorate our cultural and traditional environmental conservation practices to harmonise development with environmental sustainability.</p>		<p>1. Build capacity building through workshops and training and production of awareness materials: – selection and propagation of salt-tolerant tree species (in collaboration with Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees and Atoll Centre of Excellence).</p> <p>2. Provide technical assistance on coastal management: – design and implementation of planting programmes.</p>

Annex 2: Guide to SPC Services

Our vision for the region is a secure and prosperous Pacific Community, whose people are educated and healthy and manage their resources in an economically, environmentally and socially sustainable way.

Our mission is to help Pacific Island people position themselves effectively to respond to the challenges they face and make informed decisions about their future and the future they wish to leave for the generations that follow.

SPC **services** are provided primarily in the form of technical assistance, training and research. These services are available in both French and English, its two official languages. The focus of SPC's work can and does change over time in response to evolving regional needs and regional collaborative arrangements with other organisations. The organisation currently focuses on three sectors: Land Resources, Marine Resources and Social Resources.

Land Resources Division provides advice, expertise, technical support and training to member countries on all aspects of agriculture and forestry, through its agricultural and forestry programmes.

- The **Agriculture Programme's** key objectives are to increase efficiency and sustainability of agriculture, improve food security and public health, facilitate trade in agricultural products, and reduce the impact of natural disasters. The programme includes:
 - the Regional Animal Health and Production Services,
 - the Crop Improvement Service
 - the Development of Sustainable Agriculture in the Pacific (DSAP)
 - Plant Protection Service
- The **Regional Forestry Programme's** main objective is to enhance the capacity of Pacific Island countries and territories to manage their forest and tree resources in a sustainable manner. It responds to the needs of 22 SPC member countries and territories by providing technical and advisory support in a region where forests are very diverse, ranging from rich highland rainforests to vulnerable low-lying mangrove and atoll forests. It focuses mainly on the following activities:
 - sustainable forest management (SFM)
 - agroforestry
 - sustainable utilisation of forest products
 - conservation and management of forest genetic resources
 - participatory land-use planning

Marine Resources Division includes coastal, oceanic fisheries and maritime programmes.

- The goal of the **Coastal Fisheries Programme** is to help Pacific Community members optimise the social and economic values of small-scale fisheries and aquatic living resources, over the long term. The programme includes:
 - fisheries information
 - coastal fisheries management
 - aquaculture
 - fisheries development
 - fisheries training
 - reef fisheries observatory

- The **Oceanic Fisheries Programme** works to provide members with the scientific information and evidence they need to rationally manage pelagic fisheries (specifically those fisheries that exploit the region's tuna, billfish and related fish species). The programme includes:
 - fishery statistics and monitoring
 - stock assessment
 - tuna ecology and biology
- The **Regional Maritime Programme** focuses on the maritime transport sector, working to strengthen the capacity of Pacific Islanders to manage, administer, regulate, control and gain employment in the sector.

Social Resources Division focuses on the following areas:

- **Public Health Programme** assists members in developing healthier Pacific Island communities.
- The **Statistics and Demography Programme** works to improve the availability, analysis and utilisation of socio-economic data.
- The **Human Development Programme** assists members to empower Pacific Island women and young people and build strong cultural identities.
- The **Regional Media Centre** aims to promote the benefits of increased participation by Pacific people and governments in the media.

Annex 3: RMI Development Context and Country Facts

A3.1 RMI development background

The Republic of the Marshall Islands is the epitome of a developing country by virtue of its categorisation as a small island developing state, its small, vulnerable economy and its status as a Pacific Island Forum Secretariat member small island state or micro-state. The population of RMI is estimated to be approximately 52,230. The total land area of 181 square kilometres gives the RMI the distinction of being amongst the 10 smallest nations in the world. Other key statistics may be found in Section A3.3.

RMI maintains close relations with a number of Pacific Islands Forum countries, including Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. It also has close relations with the USA, Taiwan and Japan. RMI maintains official overseas representation in Honolulu, Suva, Taiwan, Tokyo, the United Nations in New York, and Washington DC. As well as being a member of SPC, RMI is a member of the Forum Fisheries Agency, Pacific Islands Development Program, Pacific Islands Forum, Pacific Regional Environment Programme, South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission, University of the South Pacific, Asian Development Bank, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, United Nations Educational and Scientific Organisation, United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization, World Bank and WHO. RMI became a full member of the United Nations in 1992.

The main economic and social challenges facing the RMI include the following:

- Majuro continues to experience high urban migration from outer islands. All aspects of national planning and development must account for this population trend (infrastructure, environment, services, job creation, etc.), especially on Majuro.
- Fertility rates are slowly declining but remain high relative to other Pacific Island countries and territories. Dramatically lower fertility rates in the early 1990s indicate that more effective family planning is possible in the RMI.
- Unemployment in urban and rural areas remains a serious (and possibly growing) problem, as demonstrated by both the unemployment estimates and people's responses to the social issues and problems in various surveys. Job creation via private sector growth is considered the only way to adequately resolve this growing problem.
- A notable percentage of households in the RMI have no members in paid employment and are therefore at high risk of hardship. This risk is at critical levels in the urban areas of Majuro and Ebeye, where subsistence is no longer an option for most residents.
- Emerging environmental issues are affecting rural areas like solid waste and resource management problems. In urban centres, solid waste management (and sewage management for Ebeye and Eniburr on Kwajalein atoll) and coastal erosion are major challenges.
- Educational attendance and attainment have improved in most areas, but student and teacher test scores indicate serious deficiencies in the quality of the education system. Nevertheless, most households have ranked provision of education among the top responsibilities of government and virtually all households consider that completing elementary school is important for their children. Low levels of attainment in human development are significantly reducing the income opportunities for the average household.
- Migration to the USA is becoming increasingly commonplace among people of the RMI.
- More families are now headed by females with no male support.
- Increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of the public and preventative health system needs to become an urgent priority.

A3.2 RMI–SPC partnership

SPC assistance to RMI fits neatly into the VISION 2018 priority areas concerning fisheries, land resource, human development and public health. It is not surprising, therefore, that SPC's proposed assistance for 2008 and 2010 – like its past assistance, particularly over the past two years – will include substantial support in these areas.

Over the 24 years since the RMI formally became a full member of SPC, the RMI–SPC relationship has matured and developed to the extent that RMI is one of the older small island states among SPC members. SPC has provided technical assistance and other programme services to enable RMI to fully participate in the broad spectrum of SPC activities. These activities have included various meetings organised by SPC, such as ministerial meetings, Conference of the Pacific Community meetings, CRGA meetings and other regional meetings hosted by SPC.

All SPC programme areas have supported capacity building activities for RMI counterparts in a broad range of sectors, including oceanic fisheries, coastal fisheries, maritime services, statistics and demography, as well as women's and youth affairs. In the public health sector, SPC has assisted the RMI in addressing issues relating to communicable and noncommunicable diseases, including tuberculosis, sexually transmitted infections, adolescent reproductive health and influenza pandemic preparedness.

SPC's support to the RMI agriculture and forestry sector has involved livestock and crop production activities, as well as assistance with quarantine and biosecurity measures. Much of the capacity building assistance provided by SPC has been in the form of direct technical assistance, as well as providing RMI counterpart staff with on-the-job training and opportunities to attend regional workshops. Where SPC provides financial grants to its members, the grant is limited and normally given for the specific purpose of procuring essential equipment and hardware that is linked to, or based upon supporting capacity building outcomes. The same may be said about research activities.

A3.3 RMI – country facts

RMI is an island republic in the North Pacific Ocean. It is located approximately 400 kilometres north of the equator. Its nearest neighbours are Kosrae in the Federated States of Micronesia to the west, Hawaii to the northeast and Kiribati to the south.

Official name	Republic of the Marshall Islands
Head of State and President	H.E. Litokwa Tomeing
Governance and legal status	Self-governing in free association with the United States of America
	Constitution established in 1979
	Independence gained on 1 May 1986
Population (2006 estimate)	52,230
Exclusive economic zone	2,131,000 sq km
Land area	181 sq km
Population 16+ years (2006 estimate)	30,816
Density (people per sq km)	289
Population growth rate (2006 estimate)	0.5% from 1999–2006
Consumer price index (2006 EPPSO estimate)	111.7
Overseas trade in 2003 (USD '000,000s) (exports / imports / balance) (EPPSO/PFTAC estimate)	21.6/ -77.7/ -56.1
Real GDP (2006 EPPSO estimate)	USD 129,334,000
Real GDP per capita (2006 EPPSO estimate)	USD 2,454
Real GDP growth (2006 EPPSO estimate)	1.4%
Crude birth rate per 1,000	32.6
Crude death rate per 1,000	6.5
Total fertility rate	4.4 children per woman
Infant mortality rate per 1,000	30
Life expectancy at birth (male / female)	63.7 / 67.4 years
Urban population (1999 Census)	34,578 or 68%
Dependency ratio (15–64) (1999 Census)	82.2
Median age	17.8 years
Youth aged 15–25 years (2006 estimate)	30.7%
Labour force participation rate (1999 Census)	51%
Capital city	Majuro, Majuro Atoll
Religion (1999 census)	Protestant, Roman Catholic
Official languages	Kajin Majol, English
Currency	United States dollars

Source: SPC Statistics and Demography Programme unless otherwise indicated.

A3.4 Summary of SPC assistance to the RMI, 2005–2008

Sector/type of assistance	Cost by year (USD)				Total cost (USD)
	2005	2006	2007*	2008*	
Coastal Fisheries					
Technical assistance	0	5,800	10,800	5,000	21,600
Training activities (national, regional and attachments)	12,722	6,210	9,775	0	28,707
Research activities	0	0	78,800	0	78,800
Participation at meetings, workshops, etc.	1,436	6,523	11,000	5,500	24,459
Sector total	14,158	18,533	110,375	10,500	153,566
Human Development					
Technical assistance	unvalued	0	0	unvalued	0
Training activities (national, regional and attachments)	0	14,665	15,809	22,059	52,533
Participation at meetings, workshops, etc.	0	0	20,615	4,844	25,459
Sector total	0	14,665	36,424	26,903	77,992
Land Resources					
Technical assistance	7,000	21,375	40,644	37,287	106,306
Training activities (national, regional and attachments)	18,700	14,200	53,511	34,148	120,559
Research activities	6,000	7,500	500	10,500	24,500
Direct financial grants	2,500	2,500	3,000	14,000	22,000
Participation at meetings, workshops, etc.	11,351	59,322	50,202	45,200	166,075
Sector total	45,551	104,897	147,857	141,135	439,440
Maritime					
Technical assistance	10,586	5,130	23,625	11,810	51,151
Training activities (national, regional and attachments)	15,541	8,761	13,676	3,730	41,708
Research activities	0	0	1,243	0	1,243
Participation at meetings, workshops, etc.	5,595	7,305	10,142	3,730	26,772
Sector total	31,722	21,196	48,686	19,270	120,874
Oceanic Fisheries					
Technical assistance	19,689	43,319	34,396	44,396	141,800
Training activities (national, regional and attachments)	10,417	13,880	12,149	12,149	48,595
Direct financial grants	21,684	19,685	20,685	20,685	82,739
Participation at meetings, workshops, etc.	0	16,020	4,000	8,000	28,020
Sector total	51,790	92,904	71,230	85,230	301,154
Public Health					
Technical assistance	10,400	9,975	27,850	9,450	57,675
Training activities (national, regional and attachments)	3,000	11,445	0	15,000	29,445
Research activities	0	2,500	2,000	3,000	7,500

Direct financial grants	35,500	40,900	102,440	102,440	281,280
Participation at meetings, workshops, etc.	15,230	23,815	26,106	28,000	93,151
Sector total	64,130	88,635	158,396	157,890	469,051
Statistics and Demography					
Technical assistance	0	17,559	83,294	10,211	111,064
Training activities (national, regional and attachments)	32,399	31,990	23,884	0	88,273
Research activities	0	0	335,000	0	335,000
Participation at meetings, workshops, etc.	5,020	10,266	10,111	0	25,397
Sector total	37,419	59,815	452,289	10,211	559,734
Grand total USD	244,770	400,645	1,025,257	451,139	2,121,811

*Projected