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Project Information Document (PID)

Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 07-Feb-2023 | Report No: PIDA34484

BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Project ID	Project Name	Parent Project ID (if any)
Marshall Islands	P178544	Republic of the Marshall Islands: Pacific Islands Regional Oceanscape Program - Second Phase for Economic Resilience	
Region	**Estimated Appraisal Date**	**Estimated Board Date**	**Practice Area (Lead)**
EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC	31-Jan-2023	23-May-2023	Environment, Natural Resources & the Blue Economy
Financing Instrument	**Borrower(s)**	**Implementing Agency**	
Investment Project Financing	The Republic of the Marshall Islands	Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority	

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The Development Objective of the Series of Projects is to strengthen the shared management of selected Pacific Island oceanic and coastal fisheries, and the critical habitats upon which they depend.

For the Republic of Marshall Islands second phase's project ("RMI PROPER"), the proposed Project Development Objective (PDO) is to strengthen regional collaboration and national capacity for the management and the sustainable development of the oceanic and coastal fisheries sector in the Marshall Islands.

Components

Strengthening Policy and Institutions
Strengthening Regional Collaboration and National Capacity for Oceanic Fisheries
Strengthening Regional Collaboration and National Capacity for Coastal Fisheries and Conservation of Critical Coastal Habitats
Project management

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US$, Millions)

SUMMARY

Total Project Cost	18.00
Total Financing	18.00

of which IBRD/IDA	18.00
Financing Gap	0.00

DETAILS

World Bank Group Financing

International Development Association (IDA)	18.00
IDA Grant	18.00

Environmental and Social Risk Classification

Moderate

Decision

The review did authorize the team to appraise and negotiate

Other Decision (as needed)

B. Introduction and Context

Regional Context

1. The Western and Central Pacific Ocean (WCPO) region covers 11 percent of the world's ocean and is home to 22 small island countries and territories, and the geography of the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) creates common challenges and opportunities. The PICs are small, with limited natural resources and narrowly based economies, and are distant from major markets. They are also vulnerable to external economic and environmental shocks, such as the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The region has a high concentration of fragile states, and in 2019 a quarter of Pacific Islanders were estimated to live below "basic needs poverty lines" according to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. While fisheries are the single most important revenue source for many PIC economies and are an essential source of food and income for households, the coastal and archipelagic ecosystems of PICs are under increasing global threats from climate change and local threats from increasing human populations and urban expansion, associated with solid waste and water pollution, as well as local overfishing and habitat degradation from land use conversion and reef mining for construction material. PICs are among the economies of the world most vulnerable to the effects of climate change and disasters, with the World Risk Index 2020 ranking six PICs among the top 20 most at-risk countries.

2. Fisheries are the single most important revenue source for PICs' economies and are an essential source of food and income for households. WCPO PICs' public revenue from oceanic tuna license fees amounted to US$465 million in 2016, representing more than 40 percent of government revenue for six of the ten countries, according

to the Pacific Community (SPC)[1]. PICs' revenues depend on oceanic resource productivity, in particular tuna, and on regional and national capacities to enforce fisheries management and access rules, and to anticipate and adapt to climate change impacts on fisheries' resources and habitats. The well-being of island populations depends on coastal fisheries productivity and national and local capacities to manage these resources sustainably, while promoting alternative sources of livelihoods to reduce pressure on fish stocks based on lessons learned and expertise shared at the regional level. Their well-being would also benefit from addressing competition and promoting synergy with non-consumptive uses of living aquatic resources and habitats for tourism.

National Context

3. The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) is one of the world's smallest, most isolated, and vulnerable nations. It is made up of 29 coral atolls, five isolated islands (24 of which are inhabited) and has a total land mass of 181 square kilometers (km²) in the WCPO, with an exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of about 2 million (M) km², the 19th largest in the world. About half of its EEZ borders international waters to the north and the other half borders three other PICs (Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, and Kiribati) to the south. The population was estimated at 58,412 in 2018,[2] of which the two largest urban centers, Majuro (the capital) and Ebeye, account for about 28,000 and 9,600, respectively, while the remaining 35 percent of the population reside in rural neighboring islands. The country's small size makes it difficult to achieve economies of scale, its remoteness further raises the cost of economic activities due to added transport costs and affects competitiveness in export markets.

4. The RMI is a middle-income country with Gross National Income of US$4,838 per capita. Over the past 15 years, the real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has grown by a modest 1.5 percent on average per year, with fluctuations in growth related to changes in the construction, public service, and fisheries sectors. Except for fisheries, the country has limited natural resources. Fisheries' contribution to GDP in 2014 was estimated at 14.5 percent or US$26.3 M.[3] Key industries include production of copra and craft items, tuna processing, construction, and tourism. The private sector is responsible for the delivery of most core goods and services. The public sector accounts for around 40 percent of GDP and employs half of the formal labor market.

5. The government took swift and bold precautionary actions immediately after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic to protect the population, however with significant economic impacts**.** International borders were closed in February 2020, with limited imported cases and no community transmission recorded until August 2022. The decline in economic activity contracted domestic activity and productivity, and the expected fiscal shock has been limited by revenue from the fisheries sector and grants from development partners.[4] Although no long-term negative effects of the pandemic are expected on the fisheries sector, in the short-term the decline from tuna export and related vessel services has driven the economy into recession.

6. The poverty headcount is estimated at 7.2 percent of the population based on the 2019-2020 Household Income and Expenditure Survey. About 70 percent of the poor households live in rural areas, while the remaining are spread evenly between Majuro and Ebeye. The poverty rate is consequently lowest in Majuro (2.3 percent of individuals) and highest in rural areas (21.2 percent).[5]

7. The RMI is considered as a fragility, conflict and/or violence-affected (FCV) country because of inadequate state

[1] https://iwlearn.net/resolveuid/5f5bfe20-4169-48ef-bf59-f4b35f576aa5
[2] https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL?locations=MH
[3] https://www.fao.org/fishery/en/facp/mhl?lang=en
[4] World Bank. 2021. RMI Country Economic Memorandum and Public Expenditure Review
[5] https://www.rmieppso.org/eppso_files/HIES2021/RMI-Poverty-Chapter.pdf

capacity and constant vulnerability to external shocks. RMI's fragility stems from geography and limited economic viability, youth unemployment, poor land governance, and gender-based violence.

The RMI is facing increasing exposure and extreme vulnerability to the impacts of climate-change. These impacts are further exacerbated by very high population density, particularly in Ebeye and Majuro. The Marshall Islands face a high risk of cyclones, and the low-lying islands are susceptible to coastal floods and tsunamis. Extreme heat and drought conditions have also recently affected the islands. In late 2015/early 2016, below average rainfall, exacerbated by El Niño, induced local drought conditions and water shortages. The potential for disaster risk in the RMI is high due to the combination of economic and physical vulnerability and the islands' proneness to natural hazards (while previous nuclear testing on some of the atolls has made them uninhabitable) and is further exacerbated by climate change and variability.[6] As a result, the RMI ecosystems would face extreme pressure, with potential loss of marine and terrestrial species in the absence of effective conservation measures. Because of the anticipated increasing exposure to induced hazards and associated longer-term impacts, the government has indicated that for the country to survive transformational adaptation and resilience measures are required.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

8. Within the PICs, fisheries underpin the revenue source of their economy and are vital for food, nutrition, and livelihoods. The well-being of island populations across the Pacific region depends on the productivity of fish stocks and regional, national, and local capacities to manage these resources sustainably, while promoting alternative sources of livelihoods to reduce pressure on shallow water depleted fish stocks. Their well-being would also benefit from addressing competition and promoting synergy with non-consumptive uses of living aquatic resources and habitats for tourism.

9. Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are on the front line of the global climate crisis, bearing the brunt of more frequent and intense extreme weather events, increasing temperatures and sea level rise, all of which threaten people's livelihoods and food security. Climate and weather-related events such as droughts, landslides, typhoons, storm surges, and sea level rise pose stress on the already vulnerable ecosystems of Pacific SIDS. Climate change projections for the Pacific predict temperature increase, more extreme rainfall days, sea level rise, and El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) events to continue, and typhoons to be more intense. Frequent natural disasters and climate change will continue to impose high costs and may even threaten the physical viability of some areas. Such events can and do cause severe damage to infrastructure and other economic assets and have adverse impacts on livelihoods. Saltwater intrusion from rising sea levels and more extreme storm surges has the potential to damage crops and contaminate freshwater supplies, while people living within the coastal zones are becoming more vulnerable to climate related changes in precipitation, sea level, storms and coastal erosion. In addition, drought and sea level rise generated through ENSO processes have required atoll communities to rely on imported food and water during times of stress, while intense coastal inundation associated with sea level rise and extreme king tides are causing damages to taro beds, soil, agroforestry, and critical infrastructure particularly on low lying atolls islets.5 All fisheries and aquaculture activities in the region are likely to be affected by climate change.

[6] World Bank, 2021 Climate Risk Country Profile: Marshall Islands

10. WCPO tuna fisheries account for more than half of the global catch, representing a major source of revenue and foreign exchange, while coastal fisheries are essential for population wellbeing. As such, fisheries management is key to maintain those benefits. Economic benefits from oceanic tuna license fees paid by fishing vessels to the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) members amounted to US$550 M in 2019, representing more than 40 percent of governments' revenue, and were close to five times the fees paid in 2009 (US$114 M). In addition, oceanic tuna fisheries are estimated to provide 25,000 jobs in PICs. Their revenues depend on oceanic resource productivity and on regional and national capacities to enforce fisheries management and access rules.

11. Tuna fishery continues to play a pivotal role in generating revenue in the RMI. RMI has seen an increase in economic benefits from tuna fishery in the past 10 years, with revenue increasing from US$3 million in 2010 to US$35 million in 2020. For the period 2015-2018 the average annual tuna-fishing access fees totaled US$31 million, 47.8 percent of government revenue. While management could secure continuous and higher revenues by increasing the productivity of fish stocks and fisheries, other sources of revenue are explored by a better domiciliation and domestication of fishing and ancillary activities. Increasing the local nutritional and livelihood benefits of the development of domestic tuna fisheries and markets, for instance with the expansion of the anchored fish aggregating device (FADs) network and the use of the by-catch and discards from the industry.

12. Coastal fisheries play a crucial role in supporting local livelihoods, national food sovereignty and security, nutrition, and dietary health, with women playing a major role in the sector; this role is, however, jeopardized by anthropogenic pressure, climate change, and inadequate management. Coastal, reef, and lagoon fishing activities provide 50 to 90 percent of animal protein in the diet of Pacific Islanders, and the first or second source of income for 50 percent of coastal households. The wellbeing of PICs' populations depends on coastal fisheries productivity, and national and local capacities to manage them effectively while promoting alternative sources of livelihoods to reduce pressure on fish stocks. However, nearshore marine resources show growing signs of local overexploitation, as well as impact from pollution near urban centers and more densely populated islands. These anthropogenic impacts are further exacerbated by the impacts of climate change, such as ocean acidification, increased intensity of weather events, sea level rise, and storm surges. PICs will not be able to maintain the fish consumption of its people, considering a population growth of 50 percent by 2035 and dwindling marine resources due to overfishing and climate change. Women's livelihoods will be particularly affected in the Pacific, as their participation in fisheries is estimated to be over 50 percent, when gleaning and subsistence fishing are included. Despite their dependence on coastal fisheries for economic opportunities, women remain underrepresented in decision-making bodies in the sector.

13. For both oceanic and coastal fisheries, anticipating and adapting to climate change impacts on fisheries resources and habitats will be essential to sustain socio-economic benefits, and management remains the best approach to build fish resources and the resilience of fisheries. Management of fish resources and fisheries will therefore contribute to the economic resilience of PICs, and secure sustaining or creating public and private revenues, employment and livelihood opportunities. In coastal fisheries it will require the creation of conditions for future access control to ensure that fishing pressure can be adjusted to resource carrying capacity. Such adjustments could also benefit the tourism industry, by ensuring the protection of biodiversity and abundance of fish for recreational purposes.

14. Healthy coral reefs, seagrass beds, mangroves, and coastal wetland habitats play a vital role in climate resilience

and adaptation by offering protection from increasing threats from sea level rise, floods, and storm events, and help mitigate climate change through carbon sequestration. Coastal ecosystems in the PICs further produce some of the world's most significant marine biodiversity, yet ecosystem health is diminishing with the decrease in water quality from erosion, runoffs, and marine pollution.

15. Fisheries management is also a "no regrets" approach that builds resilience to climate change for the fish populations, for sensitive habitats such as coral reefs, and for dependent communities and nations, with the added bonus of creating wealth and economic growth, and strengthen economic resilience of coastal states, and their fisher and fishworker groups, for the benefit of the wider population. The uncertainties around the severity of climate change in the Pacific region call for a robust adaptive fisheries management system for both oceanic and coastal fisheries to tackle future changes of in the marine environment and the fish stocks supporting these fisheries. Generally, recovery and maintenance of fisheries resources closer to the larger stock sizes provide greater stability in fish recruitment and stock productivity, in management parameters (such as allowable catch and/or fishing effort, and noncompliance by fishers) and, in the long-run, catches, while it also lowers the probability of stock decline and the need for drastic management intervention. Consequently, maintaining or restoring stocks to levels that can increase their productivity, such as the "maximum sustainable yield," contributes to adaptation to the effects of climate change and greater robustness to the effects of climatic variability (but also other shocks such as pandemics). It benefits fishers through more sustainable and less uncertain catches and potentially greater profits, and ultimately benefits all value chain operators and consumers. Different climate-adaptive fisheries management scenarios have been modelled showing that the economic losses can be mitigated and, in some cases, economic gains from transboundary fisheries can be realized, if management is applied at the highest level (through, for example, stringent and frequent data collection, real-time catch monitoring, and yearly/seasonal allocation of catch or effort quotas in relation to the status of stock).

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Development Objective(s) (From PAD)

16. The Development Objective of the Series of Projects is to strengthen the shared management of selected Pacific Island oceanic and coastal fisheries, and the critical habitats upon which they depend.

17. For the Republic of Marshall Islands second phase's project ("RMI PROPER"), the proposed Project Development Objective (PDO) is to strengthen regional collaboration and national capacity for the management and the sustainable development of the oceanic and coastal fisheries sector in the Marshall Islands.

Key Results

18. Achievement of the PDO will be measured by the following PDFO level indicators:

    i. Fisheries management is informed by timely access to data by national and regional stakeholders, as: (a) number of data collection, integration, and processing systems automated; (b) number of fish base and aquaculture sites with organized data collection systems and information retrieval; (c) percentage of Observers and Port Monitors' data transmitted in real-time into MIMRA's fisheries information

management system (MIFIMS)

ii. Minimum number of companies approved by the Competent Authority for export to the European Union market

iii. Minimum number of new communities adopting a resource management plan with marine element through the Reimaanlok process

iv. Minimum number of communities earning positive net income from piloted alternative livelihood initiatives under RMI PROPER

D. Project Description

Component 1: Strengthening Policy and Institutions. (US$6.0 M: US$2.0 M national IDA, US$4.0 M regional IDA)

19. This component will provide institutional support to MIMRA for the national fisheries program in the RMI for better regional, national, sub-national, including cross sectoral, coordination and management and development of fisheries. It will also strengthen the capacity of the departments under MIMRA through training for fisheries related research, data and information mining, analysis, storage and use for strategic decision making to inform economic growth.

Subcomponent 1.1 Improving capacity for policy design, implementation and evaluation (approximately $2.6 M)

20. Subcomponent 1.1 will support addressing climate change issues through improving the capacity of MIMRA to effectively manage and maintain the sustainability of the RMI's fisheries. The food security, livelihood, and biodiversity outcomes of most concern as a result of climate change can be mitigated to a great degree through the implementation of climate-adaptive fisheries management.[7] This subcomponent would finance: (i) capacity development for MIMRA staff to meet current and future regional and national obligations; (ii) consultancies for economy, statistics, data analysis, legal, training, civil engineering, coastal fisheries and gender specialists to inform fisheries management and development, including fishing access negotiations, market access, domestic development and building legal capacity; (iii) consultancies for assessment, development and improvement , determination of secure and designing an optimized integrated data collection and processing systems for their automation and enhanced information, analysis and usage, and hardware and software for implementation in remote outer atoll sites[8], including previous Reimaanlok site under PROP Phase 1; and (iv) consultancies for annual assessments of fish marketing flows from all sources, and regular collection and analysis of fish consumption data for the development of human health guidelines..

Subcomponent 1.2 Strengthening seafood and environmental health monitoring (approximately $2.4 M)

21. The Project would finance (i) consultancies, training, goods and operational costs to complete the establishment and implementation of the sanitary CA and new seafood toxicology laboratory, including for monitoring ciguatera, particularly in reef fishes in remote locations, and (ii) consultancy and workshops for a Task Force to assess and develop a management regime for pollution sources within Majuro Lagoon.

Subcomponent 1.3 Improving infrastructure and their operation (approximately $1.0 M)

22. This subcomponent would finance (i) goods for renewing and enhancing of information and communication

[7] Bahri, T., Vasconcellos, M., Welch, D.J., Johnson, J., Perry, R.I., Ma, X. & Sharma, R., eds. 2021. *Adaptive management of fisheries in response to climate change.* FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper No. 667.Rome, FAO. https://doi.org/10.4060/cb3095en

[8] New sites will be selected using the Reimaanlok framework.

technology (ICT) infrastructure for MIMRA headquarters; (ii) consultancy to conduct an audit on all MIMRA infrastructure, including Fish Bases and aquaculture sites, for energy efficiency, climate resilience, and ; (iii) and procurement of goods and small works for implementing recommendations at MIMRA headquarters. An initial energy efficiency audit carried out during project preparation of MIMRA headquarters indicates that energy and carbon savings will be greater than 20 percent through the implementation of energy efficient measures and renewable energy installation.

Component 2: Strengthening Regional Collaboration and National Capacity for Oceanic Fisheries. (US$1.8 M: approx. US$0.6 M national IDA, US$1.2 M regional IDA)

23. The component will specifically address a selected set of MIMRA Strategic Actions that aim to strengthen regional and national capacity for the management and sustainable development of oceanic fisheries and their value chains with two subcomponents.

Subcomponent 2.1 Consolidating oceanic fisheries management (approximately $1.6 M)

24. The subcomponent will support oceanic fisheries management and addressing climate change adaptation through financing: (i) the recruitment and onboarding of two Fisheries Inspectors; (ii) consultants services and goods for trialing commercially available technologies for MCS; (iii) consultants services and goods for expansion of EM; (iv) consultants services, goods and operating costs for improving connectivity for real time transmission of Observer and Port Monitor data; and (v) a study tour (including tickets, per diem, and potential costs of a consultant to organize the tour in recipient country) , and consultancy services for the establishment of an ePort system for PSM obligations. These activities will contribute to the effective implementation of the VDS and are recognized as an effective adaptation measure by reducing overcapitalization and excessive fishing. The cumulative and synergistic effects of climate change and other non-climate drivers must be recognized in the ongoing management of the fisheries.[9]

Subcomponent 2.2 Harnessing of oceanic fisheries to regional economy (approximately $0.2 M)

25. This subcomponent would support studies to identify opportunities in the aquaculture value chain through a consultancy to identify feed analysis equipment to be procured in support of nutrient analysis for locally sourced and produced aquaculture feeds. The studies will identify opportunities in the aquaculture value chain to diversify livelihoods and reduce the pressure on coastal fisheries through over exploitation, a key climate change adaptation. The equipment will also be able to facilitate other nutritional analysis applications in the RMI. The feed analysis equipment identified by the study will be purchased under the Project including training in the operations and maintenance of procured equipment. The equipment will also contribute to food security and the health of the population through expanded nutrient analysis capabilities.

Component 3: Strengthening Regional Collaboration and National Capacity for Coastal Fisheries and Conservation of Critical Coastal Habitats. (US$7.2 M: US$2.4 M national IDA, US$4.8 M regional IDA)

26. The component would specifically address a selected set of Strategic Actions that aim to strengthen regional collaboration and national capacity for the management and sustainable development of coastal fisheries and their value chains with two subcomponents.

Subcomponent 3.1. Strengthening coastal fisheries and habitat management (approximately $2.4 M)

27. Subcomponent 3.1 will support climate change adaptation by actively managing coastal resources in anticipation

[9] Bahri et al. 2021.

of modelled decline in species and distribution of fish, and the loss and degradation of coral reef ecosystems through ocean acidification. This subcomponent will focus on three key areas to strengthen coastal fisheries and habitat management by financing; (i) consultant services and operating costs for developing the research capacity to inform management; (ii) training, operating costs, and community demand driven (CDD) activities for strengthening and expanding the *Reimaanlok* network; and (iii) consultant services, goods, operating costs for strengthening compliance in coastal areas management

Sub-Component 3.2 Developing and diversifying livelihoods in support of fisheries management (approximately $4.8 M)

28. The sub-component will support fish products' preservation, value-addition and marketing and to help alleviate pressure on reef species for sustainable long-term socio-economic benefits through sustaining outer island infrastructure; and accelerating the uptake of income generating opportunities. The Project would finance: (i) consultant services, small construction work, and goods for the rehabilitating and greening nine Fish Bases and two markets; and (ii) consultant and non-consultant services, trainings, goods, and operating costs for accelerating the uptake of income generating opportunities, such as aquaculture, FADs, and value addition to aquatic products.

Component 4: Project management. (US$3.0 M: US$1.0 M national IDA, US$2.0 M regional IDA)

29. This component will finance consultant services, goods, workshops, and operating costs to support day-to-day management and implementation of the Project, and reimbursing project preparation. This will include procurement, financial management (FM), environmental and social (E&S) instruments implementation, and preparation of annual work plans and organization of audit reports; coordination between regional and national activities as well as local governments in the outer islands of the RMI. It will provide institutional support and capacity development for project management, coordination, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system to report on the Project's expected results (disaggregating by gender, where appropriate) and systematize the Project's lessons learned. As required, it will also cover the costs of ICT and finance activities for citizen engagement (CE).

Legal Operational Policies

	Triggered?
Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50	No
Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60	No

Summary of Assessment of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

30. The overall E&S risk rating is Moderate, with mostly temporary impacts which would be managed through conventional E&S risk management approaches. The project is expected to have a largely positive environmental impact through improved management and sustainability of fisheries. International and local Social and Environmental specialists are already in place within the CIU and will provide E&S support for the proposed project preparation and implementation. An E&S Officer is included in the project, to be recruited by MIMRA, and will provide in-house support.

31. Risks associated with the renovations of the fish bases and markets, though minimal, may potentially include handling and disposal of hazardous materials, waste, community and worker health and safety impacts, contamination of water sources and marine water, dust and noise nuisance, soil erosion, and unsustainable sourcing of materials/use of finite resources. Operational impacts could include minor pollution risks, consumption of power and water (to be mitigated through resource use efficiency practices), and OHS risks. Procurement of equipment and technology will require end of life management of e-waste. In general, there is potential for downstream impacts (overfishing, generation of waste) associated with coastal FADs. The potential deployment of additional coastal anchored FADs by the project, for use by small scale fishers using selective fishing gears, may have positive impacts through additional habitat creation and shelter, and reduction of fishing pressure on coastal areas, including fragile habitats like coral reefs. FADs reduce emissions and other waste from boats searching large areas for stocks, and contribute to improved sea safety due to known locations and reduce pressure on coastal fish stocks, for which higher risks of overexploitation exist. The social risks identified include potential inequities in accessing project benefits, risks associated with project labor and working conditions, and minor risks related to temporary relocation of livelihood activities.

32. Capacity building, support to the Reimaanlok Framework, and community awareness activities will have a positive impact for the management of fisheries. TA environmental impacts are expected to be positive via improved fisheries management including sustainability, development of alternative fishing grounds through anchored FADs to reduce pressure on nearshore fish stocks, and increased capacity in national and sub-national regulatory institutions.

33. To address and manage environmental and social risks and impacts, the project has prepared an Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), and a Labor Management Procedure (LMP). The ESMP includes the requirement to prepare a Contractor ESMP (CESMP) for all Low and Medium risk works, and CESMP templates have been included in the ESMP. The LMP establishes labor guidelines for all categories of project workers and includes a grievance mechanism for receiving and managing workplace-related grievances. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) identifies key project stakeholders including fishing communities and Reimaanlok network communities and outlines measures to ensure meaningful consultation with stakeholders throughout the project. Land can be a complex issue in RMI, however for this project all planned land use relates to existing facilities on government land and no land acquisition is anticipated. The ESCP, ESMP, SEP and LMP were disclosed on the Bank website on [xxx].

34. The risk of sexual exploitation and abuse/sexual harassment (SEA/SH) is assessed as low as the project involves only minor civil works with measures to readily manage risks provided in the LMP. This includes the requirement for workers to be orientated on and sign a workers Code of Conduct, and good oversight/supervision to ensure adherence to these measures. The Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) provided in the SEP includes a referral pathway to the Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI) for SEA/SH related grievances. WUTMI were consulted during project preparation.

E. Implementation

Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

31. MIMRA is a statutory authority set up by an Act of 1988 to run the exploration, exploitation, regulation, corporation and management of marine resources in RMI. MIMRA will implement the Project and will house the PMU responsible for day-to-day project implementation. The PMU, under the leadership of the MIMRA Director, will consist of a Project Coordinator, Deputy Project Coordinator, a Project Finance Officer (FO), an E&S Officer, and a Project Assistant as minimum staffing to be maintained throughout implementation. An M&E Specialist will also be a part of the PMU. The RMI also has a Central Implementation Unit based within the MOF under the Division of International Development Assistance (DIDA), staffed with a Procurement Specialist, an Environmental Specialist, a Social Specialist and Finance specialists that can provide back stopping support to the project when required.

32. Project oversight will be carried out by the Working Group (WG) that was established under the PROP first phase. The WG is chaired by the Deputy Director, Coastal and Community Affairs with the RMI PROPER Project Coordinator as Secretariat, and representatives from MIMRA and the PMU as members. The WG will meet on a quarterly basis to review Project implementation progress to ensure continued alignment with RMI's NSP 2020–2030 and MIMRA's SG.

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