



Republic of the Marshall Islands

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND POLICY

COORDINATION (OEPPC)

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CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGIC PLAN (2006)

**REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS:
PROGRAM A: CLIMATE CHANGE SHORT TERM STRATEGIC PLAN
(2005-2008)**

Our long term Vision is that RMI meets its external and internal challenges and is able to mitigate the threats to our sustainable development and livelihood and indeed our very survival from the effects of climate change/global warming to our biodiversity, lands and people by impacts from degradation and sea level rise. (ref: RMI VISION 2018)

<p>Short Term Strategies</p>	<p>The following focus areas are reflective of the Vision 2018 and needs based on experiences through group discussions, public consultations, regional discussions and general needs assessments by the newly created OEPPC-Office of the President in 2003 and 2004. The following focus areas reflect short term strategies which are central basis to establishing a longer-term strategy for Climate Change for RMI. Furthermore, the following must be addressed if the Republic is to consistently focus on climate change in the context of its own sustainable development and the livelihood of its people as well as its addressing its global commitments through its overwhelmingly many International treaties and agreements.</p>
<p>Strategic Focus Areas</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1: Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building 2: Initial support to existing energy programs in the context of Climate Change 3: Meet RMI's Obligations under the United Nations Framework on Climate Change 4: Clearing House Mechanism 5: Public Awareness 6: Link Climate Change to Development through Policy 7: Building capacity in adaptation to climate change and develop a plan

1: Institutional Strengthening in the context of Climate Change	
Objectives	Build capacity and enable the RMI Government to effectively respond to climate change at the national and international levels.
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Established physical Office, strengthened human resources and effective execution of its Climate Change program by 2008 ✓ Quality reporting of RMI's obligations under the UNFCCC ✓ Improved Government understanding and thereby integration of climate change into public policies for development by end 2008 ✓ Increased participation of the public for climate change in their livelihoods due to meaningful understanding for basic needs ✓ Strengthened participation of RMI at the international levels ✓ Stronger partnerships with international partners ✓ Establish the RMI Climate Change Steering Committee
Background	<p>As part of the RMI's general strategies to address climate change, the President and Cabinet approved the creation of the Office of Environmental Planning and Policy Coordination (OEPPC) in 2002 following the call by the RMI people for Government to improve its understanding of climate change and enable itself to deliver messages to the communities on the threats of climate change. Furthermore, the people called for Government to give higher priority to climate change to be at the highest level. The RMI participants at the Second National Economic and Social Summit (NESS) ask that RMI gives high priority to Environmental Issues and strengthen Offices dealing with Environmental matters.</p> <p>In mid 2003 through considerable preparations and negotiations in the period of 4 months, a Bill for legal establishment was submitted to and approved by Cabinet. At the end of 2003, the RMI Nitijela (Parliament) unanimously approved the legislative establishment of the OEPPC.</p> <p>In 2004, the OEPPC began initial preparations for operation with 2 professional local staff and 1 administrative staff. Most of the work carried out in 2004 included Office preparations, multi-tasking to establish relations with other offices and international partners, assessing RMI's treaty needs and obligations and securing funds for initial operation.</p>
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use 2004 to assess Office needs, Identify and secure the transfer of 1 professional staff and 1 administrative staff from the RMIEPA to work with Director OEPPC to help prepare assessments of office needs, and identify sources of funds at the national level to secure and renovate an Office Space to be the Headquarters of the OEPPC ▪ Assessment of basic needs as well as long-term needs for a long-term well-established functioning Office; ▪ Build and harness good relations at the national and community levels ▪ Complete the renovations of an environmentally physically well functioning Office for long-term use and create the Climate Change Unit within OEPPC ▪ Identify programs needed to be carried out under its mandate ▪ Secure some funds to implement selected programs and overall operations ▪ Secure funds to recruit professional staff or develop human resources to work on

	<p>climate change matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Select Climate Change, Biodiversity and Desertification Conventions and SPREP to be the main focus of activities mandated by the OEPPC Act 2003 and clarify OEPPC as National Focal Point ▪ Clarify its role as GEF Operational Focal Point
Key Stakeholders and Partners	<p>President and Cabinet National Government Offices A number of local governments Selected Community leaders Global Environmental Facility (UNDP) UNDP Regional CROP Agencies</p>
Total Costs	<p>Costs to this focus area for 2005-2008 is approximately \$250,000 to enable the CC Office to function effectively and carry out its basic operational costs.</p>
Possible Issues/ Constraints	<p>While the OEPPC was established by Government, there is a lack of funding for operations from the Government to ensure the each of the programs are consistency strong and effective. Also, as a new Office, IT Involves a significant support to being the focal point by Cabinet as mandated by the OEPPC Act 2003.. Clarifications of its roles with other Offices must be established as early as possible otherwise programs such as that of Climate Change will encounter major bearacratc difficulties and RMI will not progress as intended towards its Vision 2018. As well, financial security poses a constraint since Government does not directly give funds to OEPPC's operations any of its programs i.e. Climate Change. Therefore, OEPPC is forced to depend on international co-financing to help fund basic office needs and program implementation. Thus, delays in project proposal reviews and constraints due to lack of professional staff will be a constant challenge for OEPPC.as a whole which would then affect its ability to implement its programs..</p>

	Activity	Partners	Timing	Responsibility	Outputs/ Measures
	Finalize transfer Climate Change Program to OEPPC	EPPSO and Cabinet	Yr 1	Director OEPPC and RMIEPA	IEnable OEPPC to begin studying needs assessments for OEPPC and secure relations with key national and international and financing partners
	Assess Office Needs and infrastructure	EPPSO	Yr 1	Director and Deputy Director OEPPC	Prioritized needs integrated into strategy
	Transfer to MIDB 5 th floor, Secure funding for and renovate new Office for OEPPC	Government, ROC, various GEF Offices	Yr 1to Yr 2	Director OEPPC	Office renovations completed and improved performance and improved information management
	Build and harness relationships with national and international key partners	National partners, SPREP, GEF, UNDP	Yr 1 and Yr 2	Director and Deputy Director OEPPC	OEPPC as a whole gain positive impacts through good partnerships with many national offices

					and established relationship with UNDP and more known to GEF. Became focal point for SPREP
	Prepare a general assessment to initially secure partnerships with key Ministries and local partners with direct link to Climate Change	Cabinet, Ministry of R&D, MEC, EPPSO, Ministry of Finance	Yr 1 (Qtrs 1-4)	Director OEPPC	Identified Major program for Climate Change on through Renewable Energy and allocated time and energy into RE Project preparation for GEF
	Develop GEF proposal to acquire funds to finance its communications and administrative operations for 2007 and 2008	Government and GEF Projects	Yr 1 Qtr 1 and Yr 2 Qtrs 1-3	OEPPC Management Team	Overall Office communications and administration is generally maintained for 2005 and 2006
	Identify, recruit and train staff to begin implementation of Climate Change Program	Government, Public, Key regional and International Partners	Yr 3 (Qtrs 3 and 4) Yr 4 on-going	OEPPC Management Team	Established procedures, improved public awareness, improved management of info for climate change
	Establish the RMI National Committee on Climate Change	Government Offices, Private Sector, Non-governmental partners	Yr 3 (2 nd qtr)	OEPPC Management Team	

Program A2: 2: Initial support to existing and on-going energy programs in the context of Climate Change at the national level	
Objectives	To assist the RMI Government implement the energy policy by participating in the development and other energy services in a way that contributes to the social and economic development of the Marshall Islands.
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Strengthened partnership with key local stakeholders ✓ Improved linkages between Climate Change and Energy ✓ Increased execution of OEPPC mandate ✓ Capacity strengthened in large project development on Renewable Energy for co-financing for GEF ✓ Increased focus of RMI Government to rural communities while dramatic support for Renewable Energy and less GHG energy fuels.
Background	RMI Government, through the Ministry of Resources and Development (MRD), has supported an Energy Policy and is currently working with partners and stakeholders to assist RMI community Outer Islands gain access to electricity by using Renewable Energy sources which would provide a way out of its heavy dependence on imported fuel for its energy supply. Currently, a gallon of gas costs is approximately \$3 or more on island and \$5-\$7 in the outer islands.
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cabinet to appoint OEPPC to be on the Energy Committee ▪ Assist Committee develop 1st Medium Size Grant (MSP) of 1million dollars for RMI to co-finance and compliment existing activities on RE ▪ Participate at the International levels to gain effective support for RMI's RE program ▪ Link Climate Change Unit to Energy Department at MRD and MEC
Key Stakeholders and Partners	MRD MEC EPPSO Ministry of Finance Private sector SOPAC SPREP GEF UNDP

#	Activity	Partners	Timing	Responsibility	Outputs/ Measures
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare paper work and discuss with Minister in Assistant and President relevance for Cabinet to appoint OEPPC to be on the Energy Committee - Get appointed 	Office of the President, MRD, MEC, EPPSO	Yr 1 (Qtr 2)	OEPPC Director	Established link for Climate Change and Renewable Energy
2.	Assist RMI prepare its 1 st RE	MRD, MEC,	Yr 1 (Qtrs	OEPPC	MSP final

	MSP Proposal for GEF Funding	EPPSO, MOF, UNDP, GEF, SPREP	1-4) Yr 2 Qtrs 1 and 4)		document prepared and submitted for GEF March 2006 and possible funding in 2007
3.	Link Climate Change to current Energy Policy	MRD, SPREP, UNDP, MEC, EPPSO, Cabinet	Yr 3 and Yr 4	OEPPC and partners	Data for GHG established and RE data used for Policy development
4.	Participate at the International Levels to promote CC and RE	MRD, OEPPC, RMI Government	Yr 1-4	OEPPC and Partners	MSP Proposal approved, strong linkages to financing partners, successful delivery of program activities
Possible Issues/ Constraints	Very limited professional staff. Funding is not secured for main operations. Project proposal is taking a long time to be approved by the GEF and long review periods for UNDP. Delays in delivery of services due to MOF's delays in PR reviews.				

Program A: 2: Address RMI's International Obligations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Objectives	To enable the RMI to prepare its Second National Communications to the UNFCCC
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Strengthened partnership with key local stakeholders ✓ Improved linkages between Climate Change and Energy ✓ Public and local partnership participation increased ✓ Capacity strengthened on Climate Change responses ✓ Increased focus of RMI Government and public on climate change to development issues ✓ Improved and increased effectiveness of participation at the global levels ✓ Strengthened human resources to address climate change at the local and international levels, particularly on UNFCCC matters and the Kyoto Protocol
Background	<p>As a Party to the UNFCCC, the RMI is obligated to prepare and submit its report on its National Communications which contains its vulnerability situation, GHG emissions, needs assessment and adaptation strategies. The RMI submitted its Initial National Communications in 1999 with the Second National Communications due thereafter.</p> <p>For its Second National Communications, the RMI does not have the funding and lacks technical expertise to carry out this 3-4 year exercise, similar to the Initial National Communications. In this regard and as a developing country Party to the UNFCCC, the RMI is able access funds by preparing a proposal for submission to the GEF to fund the necessary activities to produce its SNC. The RMI will be submitting its SNC proposal end of December 2006.</p>
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review and collate key studies on CC, Socioeconomic and Energy related information, Community and stakeholder past participations, Vision 2018 review, Regional agreements and programs as foundation to a CC proposal ▪ Prepare and submit proposal for GEF funds through UNDP Dec 2006 ▪ Once SNC approved, use funds to <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. prepare Green house Gas Emmission Report 2. Prepare Vulnerability and Adaptation Report 3. Capacity building in project management and data collection, analysis 4. Use SNC funds to co-finance the operations of the CC Office while Government decides on financial support to the OEPPC to effectively carry out mandate for CC and other environmental development matters. Funding would support CC activities for 2007-end of 2009 5. prepare a RMI Climate Change Policy using national personnel and international partners
Key Stakeholders and Partners	<p>MRD MEC EPPSO Ministry of Finance Private sector SOPAC SPREP GEF</p>

	UNDP
Costs	The approximate cost to preparing the SNC would be around \$405,000 including human resources for 2007-2009. The cost for institutional strengthening is also included.
Possible Key Constraints	Very limited professional staff. Funding is not secured for main operations due to delays in reviews of proposal by international partners. And delays at the national level of processing of PRs once funding is secured. Beauracratc difficulties due to lack of clarity regarding focal point for climate change.

#	Activity	Partners	Timing	Responsibility	Outputs/ Measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gather information and assess, review socio-economic studies, Initial National Communications and related reviews Committee, review NCSA Stocktaking exercise, review ADMIRE Stocktaking Exercise, Review Vision 2018 - 	Office of the President, MRD, EPPSO, MEC, UNDP, GEF	Yr 2 (qtr 4) And Yr 3	OEPPC Director	Information ready for preparation of Project Proposal
	Prepare and submit SNC project proposal to UNDP for review for GEF funds	MRD, MEC, EPPSO, MOF, UNDP, GEF, SPREP	Yr 2 (Qtr 4) Yr 3 Qtrs 1	OEPPC	SNC Project is submitted for review and subsequent approval by GEF and ready for implementation 3 rd qtr 2007 (funding CC program as no funding from RMI)
	Once SNC proposal approved, prepare green house gas report to comply with UNFCCC	MRD, MEC, EPPSO, MOF, NGOs UNDP, GEF, SPREP	Yr 3 and 4	OEPPC and CC Committee	Formulates part of the SNC Report
	Prepare Vulnerability and Adaptation Report	SNC Committee	Yr 3-4	OEPPC	Formulates part of the SNC Report
	Adaptation assessment needs and options	MRD, MEC, EPPSO, MOF, NGOs UNDP, GEF, SPREP	Yr 3-4	OEPPC	Formulates part of the Report
	Once SNC proposal approved, use these to fund the operations of the CC Program and prepare SNC Report to the UNFCCC	MRD, MOFA, EPPSO, MOF, MEC, Weather,	Yr 3(3 rd qtr and on-going to 2009)	OEPPC and SNC -Unit	Capacity strengthened on climate change and RMI better able to respond, quality SNC submitted to the

		UNDP, GEF, SPREP			UNFCCC allowing RMI to meet its obligations, CC Unit strengthened
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Program A: 4: Establish a Clearing House Mechanism (CHM)	
Objectives	The establishment of a CHM will enable RMI to host a central information on climate change/global warming issues to ensure information is readily available to RMI Government and public
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Strengthened partnership with key local stakeholders ✓ Improved linkages between Climate Change and Energy, NCSA, Biodiversity, Coastal/land management, etc ✓ Public and local partnership participation increased ✓ Capacity strengthened on Climate Change responses ✓ Increased focus of RMI Government and public on climate change to development issues ✓ Increased effectiveness of participation at the global levels ✓ Improved means for effective policy decision making ✓ Improved access to information on climate change for Public
Background	A Clearing House Mechanism is needed to ensure better means for collection of data, and access to information by public and other partners. This will increase the portfolio of climate change internally and internationally and will allow RMI Government to be able to manage climate change data
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review and collate key studies on CC, Socioeconomic and Energy related information, Community and stakeholder past participations, Vision 2018 review, Regional agreements and programs as foundation to a CC proposal ▪ Prepare a CHM General Strategy ▪ Use funds from SNC to organize and hire expertise to assist RMI create and train staff to maintain CHM ▪ Work with SPREP to assist OEPPC with Information Systems Management to link CC to other sustainable development information i.e. Biodiversity
Key Stakeholders and Partners	Climate Change Steering Committee UNDP GEF SPREP
Costs	50,000 will be needed to create and maintain CHM for 2007-2009
Possible Key Constraints	Very limited professional staff. Funding is not secured for main operations due to delays in reviews of proposal by international partners. And delays at the national level of processing of PRs once funding is secured. Beauracratc difficulties due to lack of clarity regarding focal point for climate change.

#	Activity	Partners	Timing	Responsibility	Outputs/ Measures
	Gather information and assess, review socio-economic studies, Initial National Communications and related reviews Committee, review NCSA –	Office of the President, MRD, EPPSO, MEC, UNDP, GEF	Yr 3 (qtr 2)	OEPPC	Information ready to incorporate to CC CHM
	Prepare General Strategy/Plan for CHM	SNC Committee	Yr 3 (qtr 2-3)	OEPPC	Detailed actions and overview of CHM and linkages to other sustainable development issues
	Identify expertise to create CHM and establish CHM	SNC Committee	Yr 3(Qtr 4) Yr 4 Qtrs 1	OEPPC	CHM Establish
	Work with Regional Agencies i.e. SPREP to establish a Information Systems Management	SNC Committee SPREP	Yr 3-Yr 4	OEPPC	Established procedures for information accessing nationally and regionally
	Create a monitoring strategy	SNC, OEPPC	Yr 3 (qtr 4)	OEPPC	Outcomes and objectives of CHM met

Program A: 5: Public Awareness	
Objectives	Establishment of a dedicated public awareness component for climate change will increase and improve understanding of and attention to Climate Change issues at the national level
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Strengthened partnership with key local stakeholders ✓ Improved linkages between Climate Change and Energy, NCSA, Biodiversity, Coastal/land management, etc ✓ Public and local partnership participation increased ✓ Increased understanding of climate change ✓ Increased focus of RMI Government and public on climate change to development issues ✓ Increased effectiveness of participation at the global levels ✓ Increased and effective participation on environmental-climate change issues at in schools
Background	
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prepare a Public Awareness General Strategy ▪ Use funds from SNC to organize and strengthen public awareness unit focus on climate change and links to other sustainable development issues, and implement public awareness strategy ▪ Work with regional organizations to strengthen CC public awareness at the regional levels
Key Stakeholders and Partners	Climate Change Steering Committee UNDP GEF SPREP
Costs	60,000 will be needed to create and maintain an effective public awareness program for 2007-2009
Possible Key Constraints	Very limited professional staff. Funding is not secured for main operations due to delays in reviews of proposal by international partners. And delays at the national level of processing of PRs once funding is secured. Beauracratc difficulties due to lack of clarity regarding focal point for climate change.. no commitments from partners and no commitments at all political levels

#	Activity	Partners	Timing	Responsibility	Outputs/ Measures
	Secure funds for public awareness technical assistance and admin needs -	Government, UNDP, GEF, others (?)	Yr 2 (qtr 3)	OEPPC	At least one technical assistant gained for PA
	Prepare General Strategy/Plan for Awareness	SNC Committee	Yr 2 (qtr 3)	OEPPC	Detailed actions and overview of Awareness

					and linkages to other environmental education issues
	Work with Regional Agencies i.e. SPREP for information management and awareness	SNC Committee SPREP	Yr 2-Yr 4 Yr 3	OEPPC	
	Create a monitoring strategy	SNC, OEPPC	Yr 3 (qtr 4)	OEPPC	Outcomes and objectives of PA met

Program A: 5: Link Climate Change Policy to development and environmental management	
Objectives	Establishing an effective climate change policy will give clear directions to RMI's views,
Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Strengthened partnership with key local stakeholders ✓ Improved linkages between Climate Change and Energy, NCSA, Biodiversity, Coastal/land management, and Development ✓ improved clarity of priority activities ✓ Increased understanding of climate change ✓ Increased focus of RMI Government and public on climate change to development issues ✓ Increased effectiveness of participation at the global levels ✓ Improved clarity of climate change directions at the international levels
Background	Information collected from the first climate change enabling project in 1999 to present indicate that an overall climate change national policy is necessary to give clearer direction or process for RMI in its progress for development. Additionally, In order to carry out this task, capability building, institutional strengthening and human resources development will be crucial throughout this process. The national policy will be linked to an updated energy policy to ensure activities carried out to develop the RMI are complimentary on energy. Finally, the climate change policy will be incorporated into development considerations.
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify list, Gather and review information ▪ Hold consultations with National committee ▪ sustainable development issues, and implement public awareness strategy ▪ Work with regional partner organizations to assist where necessary and appropriate, preparing and designing the policy ▪ Prepare and submit Cabinet paper for endorsement of Policy
Key Stakeholders and Partners	Climate Change Steering Committee UNDP GEF SPREP
Costs	20,000 will be needed to carry out the necessary activities for over a period of 12 months 2007-2008
Possible Key Constraints	Very limited professional staff in Country. Funding constraints to fund technical assistance. Beauracatic difficulties due to lack of clarity regarding focal point for climate change.. no commitments from partners and limited or no commitments at all political levels.

#	Activity	Partners	Timing	Responsibility	Outputs/ Measures
	Prepare a general workplan with	Climate Change	Year 2 (2 nd qtr)	OEPPC	A detailed workable schedule

	timeframes for this activity	Committee, OEPPC staff			
	Gather information and assess, review socio-economic studies, Initial National Communications NCSA, energy, land management and other necessary information –	National Government Offices, NGOs, Academic Institutions, International partners	Yr 2 (qtrs 3)	OEPPC	Information ready for use to designing a National Policy
	Hold various consultations with national stakeholders	SNC Committee	Yr 3 (qtr 3)	OEPPC	Identified activities for action
	Identify technical expertise to assist with policy development	CC Committee, appropriate CROP Agency	Yr 2(Qtr 3-4)	OEPPC	Draft national policy developed
	Prepare and submit Cabinet paper on policy for approval	SNC Committee SPREP	Yr 2 (qtr 4)	OEPPC	Endorsement of Policy