

THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS (RMI)

NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLAN (NAP) APPROACH

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) is laying the foundation for its NAP process through the adoption of sustainable adaptation pathways that consider climate vulnerabilities within all major urban centres, intermediate centres, and outer atoll islands.

The RMI has established a participatory, “self-determining” consultative process that builds on existing policies, strategies,

plans and existing national outreach programmes (namely the bottom-up “Reimaanlok” Process) which embraces all atolls making up the RMI.

The NAP is being prepared as an umbrella document to help mobilize financial resources and from this, to polarise national policy into sustainable adaptation interventions for all island inhabitants.

NAP PROCESS MILESTONES

KEY OBSERVED & ANTICIPATED CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

- 2022** *Expected completion of the RMI NAP (June 2022)*
- 2021** *Climate vulnerability assessment for the Majuro Atoll (April 2021)*
Consultation Framework Plan delivery for eight neighbouring islands
World Bank atoll study Phase 2 (by June 2021)
Completion of approximately 10 sector statements (by May 2021)
Position paper on NAP (for COP 26 2021 in Glasgow in November)
- 2020** NAP funding provided under the Pacific Resilience Project – Phase II (PREP II) to strengthen early warning systems and climate-resilient investments in shoreline protection, and to provide immediate and effective responses to an Eligible Crisis or Emergency. NAP team formulated (national and international consultants).
- 2019** Climate Change Dialogue (Fiji) highlighted the urgent need for atoll nations (Maldives, the RMI, Tuvalu and Kiribati) to produce a NAP.
The Cabinet approved the Tile Til Eo* Committee (TTEC) process which provides oversight and direction of RMI's overall response to climate change as well as the individual activities of the three TTEC Working Groups (Mitigation, Adaptation and the NDC-Partnership) and prepares specific recommendations to Cabinet. This is the mechanism for coordinated policy advice and decision-making on RMI priorities.
- 2018** The RMI became the first country to formally submit an updated (second) Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).
Vision 2018 was the first piece of the RMI's long-term Strategic Development Plan Framework (2003–2018) and the principal policy instrument guiding the RMI's sustainable development.

Italics indicate work is planned or on-going.

** Tile Til Eo, means 'lighting the way' in Marshallese*



Sea-level rise



Loss of fresh water



Drought



Stronger cyclones and storms



Salinization of groundwater



Declining coral reef health



Reduced fish catch (coastal and pelagic)

PRIORITY SECTORS FOR ADAPTATION



Livelihood



Coastal resources



Fisheries



Food security



Education



Policy development



Infrastructure



Water



Health

KEY LESSONS ON THE NAP PROCESS

“ Impacts of climate change [are] hitting us faster and harder... Even me: I was living on an outer island and had to move to Majuro because we had run out of water. [Currently,] we have had three different disaster declarations for months. Now we have a dengue epidemic. We have COVID; we have drought. Soon we come into king tide period. The tides are different now. This morning, I was woken by the tide coming into my backyard. It never used to be like that.”

A Marshall Islands respondent describes the impact of climate change during an interview (October 2020)