

SGP Country Programme Strategy for utilization of OP5 grant funds

Country: Republic of the Marshall Islands

Resources to be invested: US1,000,000 ¹

¹ The level of SGP OP5 resources is a combination of the approved STAR resources, estimated OP5 core grants, as well as other sources of third party co-financing.

List of Acronyms

ABS	Areas of Biodiversity Significance
AusAID	Australian International Aid Agency
CBOs	Community-based Organizations
CCA	Community Conservation Area
CMAC	Coastal Management Advisory Council
CPMT	Central Programme Management Team
CPS	Country Programme Strategy
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
IW	International Waters
MCT	Micronesia Conservation Trust
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MICNGOs	Marshall Islands Council of Non Government Organizations
MICS	Marshall Islands Conservation Society
NAPA	National Action Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NC	National Coordinator
NGOs	Non-governmental Organizations
NSCs	National Steering Committees
NZAID	New Zealand International Aid Agency
PEF	Pacific Environment Fund
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
RMCs	Resource Management Committees
RMI	Republic of the Marshall Islands
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SGP	Small Grants Programme
UNCBD	UN Convention on Biodiversity
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

1. SGP country programme

1.1 Summary background

Since the mid 1990s, the governments of numerous Small Island Developing State (SIDS) from the Pacific have called for participation in the GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP). Initial discussions for the SGP to be extended to more Pacific Islands, including the Micronesia Sub-region, began in 2004.

During the second quarter 2004, representatives of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Government held a series of informal meetings with the Marshall Islands Council of NGOs on the SGP. In June of the same year, President Note expressed strong support for the establishment of the SGP. Following these meetings, the Government, through the GEF Operational Focal Point within the Office of Environmental Planning and Policy Coordination (OEPPC), endorsed the RMI participation within a Micronesia sub-regional structure for the SGP.

In September 2004, the RMI attended the first formal discussions on SGP in Pohnpei with representatives from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Republic of Palau (ROP), UNDP and the GEF. As a result, all three countries agreed to a Micronesia sub-regional modality consisting of the FSM, ROP and RMI. From the first sub-regional meeting in the FSM, the Micronesia Sub-Regional Steering Committee (SRSC) was formed alongside a set of National Focal Groups (NFG) in each participating country.

Since the initiation of the SGP, 18 projects have been implemented in RMI. Under the present SGP 5th Operational Phase (OP5, running from 2011-2014), SGP RMI has been converted into a “stand alone” SGP country programme with both a National Steering Committee (NSC), as well as a full-time National Coordinator (NC) hosted by the UN Joint Presence Office (JPO) in Majuro. In this context, the previous RMI NFG has been transformed into a National Steering Committee (NSC) in line with other SGP country programmes. During OP5, the main role of the NSC will be strategic orientation of the SGP at the country level, as well as review and approval of project proposals. As of mid-2013, the RMI NSC comprises of 7 members from areas that include academia, government sectors, NGOs and youth groups.

1.2 Key baseline considerations

Twenty-nine low-lying coral atolls and five solitary low coral islands rise over 6,000 meters (20,000 feet) from the abyssal plain to no more than a couple of meters above the surface of the equatorial Pacific and comprise the islands known to the Marshallese as *Aelon Kein*. The Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Marshall Islands is over 2 million km² (770,000 sq. miles) and a mere fraction of that – less than 0.01% (183 km² or 70 sq. miles) – islands. A total of 1,225 individual islands and islets make up the *Ratak* (Sunrise) chain in the east, and the *Ralik* (Sunset) chain in the west. The atolls consist of biotic limestone on a deep basalt core, built over millions of years by living coral organisms that grew as the basalt core slowly subsided, creating a marine environment extremely rich in productivity, diversity and complexity. The entirety of the Marshall Islands lies in the central western part of the Conservation International Polynesia/Micronesia Hotspot (MICS).

In terms of population, the recent census shows that the population is approximately 52,000 with two-thirds of the residents in the two district centers, Majuro the capital, and Kwajalein; and the other one-third living in the outer islands. The population of the RMI is young with 42.9% of the population under the age of 15. The RMI illustrates some of the highest population densities in the Pacific region.

The economic profile of the RMI is largely dependent on the US economy with the official currency being the US dollar. Since the end of World War II, the RMI has retained close social, economic and political ties with the US. Since 1986, this relationship has been formalized in the form of the two subsequent Compacts of Free Association, outlining US assistance and diplomatic ties to the RMI. As a result of the compacts, the US retains the right to maintain a military missile testing base on Kwajalein, while RMI citizens have access to the US and certain education, health and welfare services. As a result of the compacts of free association, the RMI's national budget and therefore the economy is largely dictated by the scope and content of economic assistance outlined within the compacts. In the past decade, the RMI has significantly increased its access to other sources of assistance from the Republic of China (ROC), to a lesser extent from Japan, as well as loans from the ADB. While the financial assistance is seriously needed to assist RMI meet its development goals as well as cooperate at the international level by working towards meeting the MDGs, the RMI still seeks to be able to sustain its own economy.

Similar to most SIDS, the RMI encounters serious constraints imposed by its small size, geographical distance from major international markets, vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters, and limited resources base. As the RMI aims toward achieving a self-sustaining economy, the country faces challenges in reconciling traditional ways with requirements of 'modern democracy' and a market economy.

Pursuing the three pillars of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental - poses many challenges for the Marshall Islands. In 2001, the RMI held its 2nd National and Social Summit. As a result, the national 'Vision 2018' on sustainable development was formulated to guide the RMI in meeting development goals. This document, including other documents such as the National Environmental Management Strategies, form the basis of the Marshall Islands' long term sustainable development plans. The priority areas for RMI include:

- ✓ Climate Change
- ✓ Biodiversity Conservation
- ✓ Water Access and Quality
- ✓ Fisheries
- ✓ Trade
- ✓ Tourism
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Health
- ✓ Human Resource Development
- ✓ Institutional Strengthening
- ✓ Waste Management

Two major cross cutting areas are public awareness and poverty reduction.

While there are significant efforts conducted at the national level, there are also major gaps and difficulties addressing these priority areas due to limited capacities, both human and institutional, lack of technical know-how, and limited or lack of finances to adequately address these priority areas. In this context, Marshall Islands continues to seek opportunities to form partnerships that will assist in the practical implementation of its sustainable development priorities and plans.

2. SGP country programme niche

Recognizing the numerous community livelihood and associated environmental threats, the RMI has implemented a broad approach through government-NGO-CBO collaboration to address the challenges. In 2002, the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) was established and is an all-important funding mechanism that enables the continued implementation of the NBSAP and other relevant biodiversity work within the nation. The institution is currently working towards building a \$20 million endowment to provide long-term support for biodiversity conservation efforts in the region, largely through the Micronesia Challenge.

Under the Micronesia Challenge, the Marshall Islands has agreed to have 30% of Nearshore Marine Resources and 20% of Terrestrial Resources under “Effective Conservation” by 2020. The definitions that follow are the result of several workshops, meetings and discussions with government and communities during 2006 and 2007, culminating in a 3-day planning workshop where these were discussed in depth and finalized. These definitions intend to provide an interpretation of the Micronesia Challenge commitment (Reimaanlak, 2008).

Non government organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), along with local and state governments will share responsibility in implementing all OP5 projects. GEF SGP will encourage CBOs to take lead for their own development as they will make sure that the activities are done according to the communities plans and needs. The planning of their own development with the help of NGOs and local government will help to ensure participation, transparency and responsibility. The following areas are prioritized as main intervention areas where grantee community and local NGOs, in partnership with governments, can participate with RMI SGP financial and technical support:

In the GEF focal area of **Biodiversity**, OP5 activities will be in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and the major objective will be to secure biodiversity protection at high priority sites through the development of state protected area networks, and eventually a nation-wide Protected Areas Network. In addition, emphasis will be placed on addressing and alleviating critical threats to biodiversity within these high priority sites. Projects that employ strategies that preserve and mainstream traditional knowledge (TK) and traditional management approaches will be prioritized for support.

In **Climate Change**, the SGP will focus on long-term mitigation measures by removing barriers to the adoption of efficient renewable technologies and energy efficiency at the village level. With the support of other donors (such as AusAID), efforts will be focused on developing and implementing adaptation strategies to assure a sufficient supply of fresh and clean water in outer islands, as well as developing alternative agricultural strategies on isolated outer islands and vulnerable coastal areas to

assure coastal stability and food security into the foreseeable future. Energy efficiency and reduction of emissions in the area of transport will be addressed.

In **International Waters**, the SGP will support community-based land-use and coastal area planning, promote the reduction and proper disposal of solid wastes, and improve the management of surface catchments and aquifers to meet projected water supply demands, including educational programs for landowners and other key stakeholders.

In the **Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)** focal area, the issues of dioxins and furans and sustainable agriculture will be addressed. Partnerships with government (Ministry of Resources and Development) on activities to dispose of and reduce imports of POPs would be pursued. Awareness raising and education on POPs will be a primary aspect of activities under this focal area.

For the **Land Degradation** focal area, RMI will focus on sustainable agriculture, rehabilitation and restoration of relatively large areas that have been degraded due to natural or anthropogenic processes. This area would be pursued in connection with the other GEF focal areas given the limited land resources of the RMI.

The GEF SGP method in the RMI is established on the belief that local solutions to global environmental problems are achievable. This will be realized through focusing on projects consistent with GEF criteria, increased capacity building at the village level, technical assistance, monitoring and evaluation, and effective public outreach. The RMI programme will respond to community interests and needs and support activities that promote sustainable livelihoods while benefiting the local, national, and the global environment.

2.1 List of relevant conventions and frameworks

Table 1. List of relevant conventions and national/regional plans or programmes

Rio Conventions + national planning frameworks	Date of ratification / completion
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	1992
CBD National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)	2000
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	1992
UNFCCC National Communications (1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd)	1 st - 1999, 2 nd & 3 rd – N/A
UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA)	N/A
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	1998
UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAP)	N/A
Stockholm Convention (SC)	N/A
SC National Implementation Plan (NIP)	N/A
World Bank Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)	N/A

GEF National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)	N/A
GEF-5 National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE)	N/A
Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for shared international water-bodies	N/A

2.2 OP5 resource utilization modality and coordination

The RMI SGP will continue to offer a fundamental role in the development and strengthening of the civil society and community sectors within the nation. Working with the financial and technical assistance of national and regional NGOs and local and state governments, the SGP Country Programme will continue to support NGOs and CBOs at the grass-roots level through: (i) the provision of strategic and conservation action plan training; (ii) project cycle management support (proposal preparation and revision); (iii) project implementation (reporting and financial management); and (iv) the facilitation of other development partner technical and financial support. This effort will be geared toward actual resource users and owners taking part in national and state development goals at a sustainable level of activity, in line with national commitments to the major international conventions on biodiversity, climate change and land degradation.

With assistance from RMI's extensive network, the SGP will assist grantees to work closely with various national committees (e.g. Coastal Management Advisory Council, Office of Environmental Planning and Policy Coordination, Environmental Protection Agency, etc); at the state level in coordination with local Resource Management Committees (e.g. Namdrik Atoll Local Resource Management Committee, Majuro Atoll Local Government); as well as with local associations and cooperatives, women's and youth councils and associations, and with traditional leaders.

RMI SGP will continue to coordinate and communicate with respective grantees in relation to ongoing national meetings throughout each of the atolls of the RMI that are related to actions and programs of the major Rio Conventions, especially within the environmental and community-based arenas. In this way NGOs and CBOs will become up to date on latest developments, assist in the decision-making process, and actively assist in implementation of key projects. The RMI SGP will continue to facilitate partnerships between government, NGOs, CBOs, and where feasible, the private sector, in order to create lasting benefits to communities, and for sustainability of actions over time.

Beyond this, continuous support and promotion of the RMI SGP projects – both in planning and implementation – by the country programme office will be ongoing as a means to both achieving the national priorities, and continuing to bolster and build capacity within the communities.

2.3. Map of RMI



2.4. OP5 global project objectives, national priorities and country programme niche.

OP5 project objectives	National priorities	SGP niche
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 1:</u> Improve sustainability of protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas through community-based actions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrate all management plans and protected area programs with community/resource owner participation activities, including enforcement. - Incorporate large conservation areas to include more than one ecosystem (e.g. mangroves, seagrass beds, lagoon systems and reefs). - Improved scenery on land from trees and native vegetation in targeted communities (especially in urban islands- Majuro and Kwajalein). - To identify and conserve critical watershed areas. <p>Develop and implement programs for</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State Conservation NGOs and CBOs will take the lead, working closely with state government agencies, with close support from RMI SGP. - Large conservation areas that include more than one ecosystem is ongoing through the Micronesia Challenge initiative through MICS and CMAC through community based implementations. - Community-oriented programs have been ongoing, targeting certain economically valuable marine species such as giant clams, sponges, corals, etc. that are being aquacultured.

OP5 project objectives	National priorities	SGP niche
	the restoration of degraded aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, prioritizing those of endemic, endangered and threatened species.	
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 2:</u> Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors through community initiatives and actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Incorporate and develop the concepts of biodiversity conservation into all future National, State and Municipal social and economic policies and development strategies. - Incorporate a population policy providing information pertaining to environmental and resource carrying capacities and poverty alleviation. - Provide advice and technical information pertaining to the development of policies that fall within the NBSAP framework. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poverty alleviation and income generation are standard priorities for the RMI SGP.
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 3:</u> Promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote and support environmentally sound development of natural energy sources at all levels of the nation and including National and State strategies for energy safety and efficiency. - Promote renewable energy resources and provide incentives for their use. - Promote and provide technical information to develop alternative energy sources using solar, wind, water and hydrogen cells for power generation. - Promote technology that contributes to energy conservation. - Develop management plans to allow sustainable use of the nation's forests for energy sources, especially mangrove forests. - Reduce green house gas (GHG) emissions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National and local governments (Cabinet and MIMA) are actively pursuing renewable energy and energy efficiency applications; RMI SGP will seek to fill gaps at the grass-roots level where possible. - Provision of grants (an incentive) for small scale renewable energy production at the community/family level. - RMI SGP will seek to pursue pilot projects for alternative energy sources, with potential for scaling up and replication. - Promote energy efficient projects and energy conservation and capture. - Provide capacity building and training in management planning, development and implementation. - NSC will seek to provide assistance to projects that either directly reduce GHGs, or help in the sequestration of carbon (e.g. protection of seagrass meadows, native forests, swamps, coral reefs, etc.)

OP5 project objectives	National priorities	SGP niche
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 4:</u> Promote and support energy efficient, low carbon transport at the community level</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrate environmental concerns and regulations into all related energy-related plans and projects, including transportation, power supply, and building codes. - Encourage implementation and markets for environmentally clean technologies and alternative fuels for transportation by using non-fossil fuels in both new and existing vehicles and other modes of transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for projects that include or promote traditional, clean methods of transport (e.g. traditional transport through canoe- Waan Aelon in Majol) - Support for projects implementing renewable energy methods such as solar and wind powered energy.
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 5:</u> Support the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrate ecosystem valuation as an integral component of all land use and coastal use planning. - Sustainable Use of Ecosystems: to develop and implement effective management programs that promotes income-generating activities and use of biodiversity resources sustainably within all RMI's ecosystems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for alternative/sustainable use of resources within proposals. - Support to establishment of protected areas or landscapes with management focusing on climate change mitigation and limited use of resources and alternative income generating opportunities.
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 6:</u> Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop and implement training programs to enhance and strengthen public and community knowledge of the understanding, awareness and commitment to sustainable agricultural practices. - To develop and ensure the effective implementation of appropriate conservation measures for the sustainable use of agrobiodiversity and agro-ecosystems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to CBOs and NGOs with an agricultural component or mission. - Focus on small-scale home-gardening and agriculture, afforestation and tree planting (e.g. mangroves), and recycling programs that are submitted to the NSC for consideration. - Assist NGOs/CBOs work in partnership with governments and other agencies in composting schemes and other methods of producing local, organic fertilizers.
<p><u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 7:</u> Reduce pressures at community level from competing land uses (in the wider</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further develop and implement management plans for the existing marine and terrestrial conservation areas within the nation. - Identify, develop, design and implement management plans for 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide capacity building and training in management planning, development and implementation by conservation NGOs and CBOs.

OP5 project objectives	National priorities	SGP niche
landscapes).	new aquatic and terrestrial conservation areas within the nation while collaborating with CMAC, especially in areas that are currently poorly represented, contain unique habitats, or have high levels of threats.	
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 8:</u> Support transboundary water body management with community-based initiatives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify and conserve critical watershed areas. - Ensure secure access to safe and clean drinking water and that the use of freshwater resources is planned in a manner that maximises the benefits of this scarce and fragile resource. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for community-led projects that include watershed protection and management (Namdrik Atoll Local Resources Management Committee). - Consideration for any water-related projects that secure and protect water drinking sources, especially for rural areas and outer-islands.
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 9:</u> Promote and support phase out of POPs and chemicals of global concern at community level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop and implement waste collection, storage and disposal programs for residential and commercial premises throughout the nation. - Develop and implement programs for the importation, handling, use and safe disposal of hazardous wastes (including lead batteries, pesticides, fertilizers, and chlorine) both within and outside the country. - Develop and implement monitoring legislation and enforcement programs to prevent unauthorized use and misuse of hazardous chemicals including incorrect storage and disposal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimization or disposal of hazardous chemical use. - Awareness programs and projects. - Pilot projects. - Clean up programs in communities.
<u>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 10:</u> Enhance and strengthen capacities of CSOs (particularly community-based organizations and those of indigenous peoples) to engage in consultative processes, apply knowledge management to ensure adequate information flows,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop and strengthen the capacity of resources owners, traditional leaders, communities, technical staff and policy makers in the coordination and implementation of conserving, preserving and sustainably utilizing and developing the biodiversity of the RMI. - Develop and implement local capacity building and strengthening programs on correct waste management usage and disposal, including removal of hazardous 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Institutional strengthening and capacity building for NGOs and CBOs, as well as local governments. - Youth-to-Youth environmental awareness program in schools, in collaboration with ongoing NGO programs. - Support to WUTMI network. - Collaborate with Ministry of Internal Affairs Wa Kuk Wa Jimor Project (Integrated Resource Household Management)

OP5 project objectives	National priorities	SGP niche
implement convention guidelines, and monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends	waste products (e.g. machinery and toxic products) and recycling. - Develop and implement local capacity building and strengthening programs on alternative ecologically friendly industries and energy conservation and management.	- Implementation of recycling projects in RMI, especially urban islands. - Energy conservation, low energy and renewable energy projects, especially if they are a quality demonstration-type project that can be replicated.
<u>Cross-Cutting Results:</u> Poverty reduction, livelihoods and gender	- Eradicate hardship and poverty. - Promote gender equality and empower women. - Develop government-community partnership for development.	- Support to low-income communities. - Support for alternative income generating projects. - Support to women’s groups and associations. - Support to youth groups.

3.1. Ways of addressing capacity development, livelihood and gender

All projects must include components of capacity development, livelihood improvement, and gender. In addressing capacity development, the country programme encourages participatory planning, implementation, reporting, and monitoring and evaluation of projects. All of these elements will be integrated into projects. In addition, trainings, individual meetings and workshops will be conducted in order to enhance the technical capacity on environment-related issues.

RMI SGP will also seek to have grantees and the NGO/CBO network within the RMI participate in various donor-training programs from the major development partners based within the region (e.g. China, U.S., Japan, Australia, European Union, etc.). In addition, short-term trainings (1-2 week trainings) in the fields of environmental sciences, marine biology, computer technologies (e.g. GIS) and others will also be promoted and supported.

During project concept note/proposal preparation, the country programme provides pre-information on the overall aspect and modality of RMI SGP to potential proponents. This encourages CBOs/NGOs to submit proposals having the necessary information about RMI SGP.

In terms of improving livelihood and local benefits, RMI SGP will encourage grantees to follow diversification of activities; promote equitable benefit sharing from protected areas/benefit sharing from access to land, materials and knowledge; encourage and support nature-based enterprises; facilitate access to finance for community members; and provide trainings related to livelihood improvement. Sustainability of livelihood benefits like income generation, marketing and business skills improvement, will be expected to go beyond life of the project.

In view of addressing gender, RMI SGP will continue to give priority to those projects proposed to be implemented by women focus groups, as well as projects which seek to adopt a gender sensitive

approach to the target outcomes. The RMI SGP encourages the submission of projects from marginalized communities, as well as the engagement of both women and men in the problem analysis of a project, its implementation, and in reporting, monitoring and evaluation. An employee of ‘Women United Together in the Marshall Islands’ (WUTMI), a national NGO for the empowerment of women is a member of the NSC.

The fact that NGOs and CBOs implement projects will ensure better continuity of community-initiated activities because it is based on their felt needs and inputs into the overall projects. Project results will be retained in the community since many of the activities will be linked with income-generating activities. Government’s active participation and involvement in project implementation is also another important element to sustain the projects and build capacity in the process.

OP5 country outcomes, indicators and activities

Table 3. Results Framework

Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 1: Improve sustainability of protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas (ICCAs) through community-based actions.			
SGP BD Outcome 1.1: Improved community-level actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts on biodiversity resources in and around protected areas, and indigenous and community conservation areas.	- At least one (1) community conservation area in each of the RMI will have <i>improved actions</i> in and around a protected area (e.g. more effective enforcement and community outreach in outer island protective areas)	- Project reports - Monitoring and site visits - Assessment and progress reports - Community meetings and capacity building	<i>5 projects</i> - Development of community-based management plans and action plans. - Promotion of sustainable resource use and practices. - Establishment of protected areas. - Protection of key species (turtles, forest mule, etc.) - Awareness raising - Training and workshops
SGP BD Outcome 1.2: Benefits generated at the community level from conservation of biodiversity in and around protected areas and indigenous and community conservation areas.	- At least 5 new conservation jobs created in and around protected areas (e.g. enforcement, administration, tour-guiding, recreational activities, etc.) - At least 5% increase in eco-tourism related income into communities.	- Project reports - Monitoring and site visits - Assessment and progress reports - Community meetings and capacity building	<i>5 projects</i> - Piloting alternative income generation vs. destructive methods. - Lessons learned and peer-to-peer learning networks supported - Awareness raising

Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training and workshops
<p>SGP BD Outcome 1.4:</p> <p>Increased understanding and awareness at the Community level of the importance and value of biodiversity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of community participants at community workshops and meetings. - Number of awareness raising exercises and initiatives undertaken. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project reports - Monitoring and site visits - Assessment and progress reports - Community meetings and capacity building 	<p><i>5 projects</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awareness raising (learning by doing approach) - Experience sharing - Training - Community dialogue
<p>SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 2: Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and sectors through community initiatives and actions.</p>			
<p>SGP BD Outcome 2.1:</p> <p>Improved community-level sustainable use of biodiversity in production landscapes /seascapes through community-based initiatives, frameworks and market mechanisms, including recognized environmental standards that incorporate biodiversity considerations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communities will apply sustainable land use practices in at least five different atolls/islands in the RMI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project reports - Monitoring and site visits - Assessment and progress reports - Community meetings and capacity building 	<p><i>5 projects</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Watershed Management - Organic gardening and farming - Riparian ecosystem protection and sustainable use - Business opportunities: (handicraft marketing, lagoon tour, etc.) - Agricultural diversification - Marine protection and management for sustainable use - Reestablish Traditional fishing methods (ekwal, etc) - Establishment of Farmers/Fishers Associations
<p>SGP BD Outcome 2.2:</p> <p>Increased understanding and awareness of sustainable use of biodiversity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communities will apply sustainable land use practices in at least five different atolls/islands throughout RMI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project reports - Monitoring and site visits - Assessment and progress reports - Community meetings and 	<p><i>5 projects</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dissemination of awareness raising materials. - Learning by doing (school farms, school recycling programs, etc.)

Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
		capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Peer learning - Support for environmental clubs and programs (women, youth and schools).
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 3: Promote the demonstration, development and transfer of low carbon technologies at the community level.			
SGP CC Outcome 3.1: Innovative low-GHG technologies deployed and successfully demonstrated at the community level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community application of sustainable land use practices in at least 5 different island/atolls in RMI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project reports - Monitoring and site visits - Assessment and progress reports - Community meetings and capacity building 	<p><i>10 projects</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support renewable energy including household and mini-grid PV system, small and micro-hydro power, bio-gas, wind and other solar energy technologies. - Energy Efficiency (fluorescent bulbs, etc.)
SGP CC Outcome 3.2: GHG emissions avoided.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community application of sustainable land use practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project reports - Monitoring and site visits - Assessment and progress reports - Community meetings and capacity building 	<p><i>10 projects</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy saving technologies (bio-char, briquette, improved charcoal making, promotion)
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 4: Promote and support energy efficient, low carbon transport at the community level			
SGP CC Outcome 4.1: Low-GHG transport options demonstrated at the community level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least one terrestrial sustainable transport option (i.e. bicycle system etc.) put into use as pilot project. - At least one marine sustainable transport option (i.e. canoe, etc.) put into use as pilot project. - At least one new mass-transit or public transportation system implemented, using alternative fuel/power source (eg: coconut powered oil, toboloar pilot project). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project reports - Monitoring and site visits - Assessment and progress reports - Community meetings and capacity building 	<p><i>5 projects</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct appropriate research into technologies and options - Island-wide public transport - Support utilization of electric-powered and copra/biodiesel land and sea transport - Low tech options - bicycling, sailing canoes, etc.

Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 5: Support the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks through sustainable management and climate proofing of land use, land use change and forestry.			
SGP CC Outcome 5.1: Sustainable land use, land use change, and forestry management and climate proofing practices adopted at the community level for forest and non-forest land-use types.			<i>5 projects</i> - Improved agricultural and land use practice: composting, multi-cropping, water technologies) - Organic farming - Afforestation - Composting
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 6: Maintain or improve flow of agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem services to sustain livelihoods of local communities.			
SGP LD Outcome 6.1: Improved community-level actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts on agro and native forest ecosystems and ecosystem services demonstrated to sustain ecosystem functionality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least two (2) new protected landscapes established. - At least three (3) projects supported in existing Pas/MPAs that enhance community livelihoods, enhance ecological function, improve water flow and/or use, or improve health through consumption of locally grown staples and vegetables. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project reports - Monitoring and site visits - Assessment and progress reports - Community meetings and capacity building 	<i>5 projects</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support ridge-to-reef conservation initiatives. - Support sustainable agricultural practices and projects. - Establishment of new protected areas or enlargement of existing ones.
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 7: Reduce pressures at community level from competing land uses (in the wider landscapes).			
SGP LD Outcome 7.1: Improved community level actions and practices, and reduced negative impacts in land use frontiers of agro-ecosystems and forest ecosystems (rural/urban, agriculture/forest)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least two (2) urban agriculture or tree-planting projects are supported. - Establishment of at least one (1) new park or botanical garden within urban area that focuses on cultural/environmental benefits to community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project reports - Monitoring and site visits - Assessment and progress reports - Community meetings and capacity building 	<i>3-5 projects</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building and training - Support sustainable agricultural practices and projects. - Tree planting - Control invasive species - Alternative livelihoods

Outcomes	Indicators	Means of verification	Activities
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 8: Support transboundary water body management with community-based initiatives			
<p>SGP IW Outcome 8.1:</p> <p>Effective and climate resilient community-based actions and practices supporting implementation of SAP regional priority actions demonstrated</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least one (1) fresh water swamp put under protective management - Establishment of at least one (1) forest protected landscape that includes a primary watershed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project reports - Monitoring and site visits - Assessment and progress reports - Community meetings and capacity building 	<p><i>3-5 projects</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building and training - Alternative livelihoods
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 9: Promote and support phase out of POPs and chemicals of global concern at community level			
<p>SGP CH Outcome 9.1:</p> <p>Improved community-level initiatives and actions to prevent, reduce and phase out POPs, harmful chemicals and other pollutants, manage contaminated sites in an environmentally sound manner, and mitigate environmental contamination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One (1) awareness program implemented regarding POPs and/or hazardous chemicals within the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project reports - Monitoring and site visits - Assessment and progress reports - Community meetings and capacity building 	<p><i>3 projects</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public awareness campaign - Community meetings - Workshops
SGP OP5 Immediate Objective 10: Enhance and strengthen capacities of NGOs to engage in consultative processes, apply knowledge management to ensure adequate information flows, implement convention guidelines, and monitor and evaluate environmental impacts and trends.			
<p>SGP CD Outcome 10.2:</p> <p>Improved information flows to/from CBOs and NGOs in SGP countries regarding good practices and lessons learned, and application of such practices.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inclusion of CBOs/NGOs in RMI learning network and learning exchanges. - At least three (3) learning exchanges conducted between RMI SGP grantees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project reports - Monitoring and site visits - Assessment and progress reports - Community meetings and capacity building 	<p><i>3 projects</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building and training - Learning exchanges - Meetings - Workshops
<p>SGP CD Outcome 10.4:</p> <p>Capacity of CBOs and CSOs strengthened to support implementation of global conventions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inclusion of CBOs/NGOs in MIC learning network and learning exchanges. - At least three (3) learning exchanges conducted between FSM SGP grantees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project reports - Monitoring and site visits - Assessment and progress reports - Community meetings and capacity building 	<p><i>3 projects</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building and training - Learning exchanges - Meetings - Workshops

5.1. Monitoring & Evaluation plan for the portfolio of individual SGP projects

Monitoring and evaluation is an essential component of the RMI SGP. In order to both maintain effective oversight and build capacity, conventional and participatory approaches will be attempted at all levels of various projects. This framework will provide the basis for the assessment of impacts and constraints of the GEF-SGP projects on a regular basis. It will address the changes the programme has brought at the level of programme activities (community level) and impact at the national level.

The systematic identification of effects of the intervention on the environment and community members involved in the project is very important. By and large this will be necessary in order to clarify whether the costs for a project are justified, estimate the achievement of key outputs and expected results of the program, enable the project leaders at different levels to draw lessons for improving the design, as well as be a key element for any replication and/or sharing of results. Emphasis will continue to be given to participation of all relevant stakeholders including government staff members as an integral aspect of monitoring and evaluation.

The program implementation should be properly monitored at all levels by taking the following important points into account:

- Establishment of baseline data at project level (as relevant);
- Detailed project level M&E plan with simplified activity indicators;
- Physical and financial performance of projects against their set targets;
- Reasons for outstanding success or failure in performance;
- Problems encountered, their sources, actions taken and recommendations on future actions to be taken;
- Level and type of community participation;
- Lessons learnt/identification of promising or viable approaches to environmental issues that can be scaled up or replicated;
- Allocating resources for M&E activities at the project level during the project design phase.

The general components of monitoring for the project implementation include:

- Field visits by NC/NSC: Each project will ideally be visited and monitored up to four times during the project period. Initial visit will be made before and during project start-up. Budget permitting, the second visit will be made following the reporting on the first tranche transfer, and the remaining third and fourth visits will also follow in the same manner.
- Activity reports by project proponents;
- Evaluation of work by project proponents, NC and NSC members and/or other partners;
- Project mid-term, annual and biannual reviews.

All concerned government and relevant stakeholders will be invited to collaborate in monitoring and evaluating project performance and provide feedback to the programme office. SGP RMI will be

accountable to follow up on the different reports expected from project proponents. To facilitate this, the following reports are expected from grantee NGOs and CBOs:

Project level reporting

- Progress and financial reports as per agreed timelines, reflecting work accomplished, challenges faced, results achieved, short and long term benefits in the preceding quarter and outline of the plan for the next quarter;
- Final Project Report

Programme / Country level reporting

- Progress report at the country level: the NSC, NC and other relevant stakeholders will assess the SGP programme portfolio’s progress and impact;
- Annual report, assessment of the Country Programme performance;
- In all periodic project progress reports the following points shall be given due focus:
 - Project results and achievements,
 - Amount of funds disbursed to grantees;
 - Identification of viable new approaches;
 - Linkages established with partners at different levels;
 - Co-financing availed.

On the completion of each operational phase, an assessment on the overall projects’ implementation/ performance will be carried out with the objective of (i) finding “good practices and innovations”; (ii) draw lessons and provide options for future environment-related development interventions at the RMI national and Micronesia regional levels; and (iii) identifying areas where improvement may be necessary to enhance impact.

5.2. Participation of local stakeholders

Local stakeholders including local government are part and parcel of the project planned through their full support and involvement. This will be done through the provision of technical assistance, co-financing (cash and/or in-kind), community meetings and workshops, and the like.

Involvement of the local stakeholders will be from the planning phase through to the implementation phase, building on a multi-stakeholder process. Progress will be documented in each project according to an agreed timeline through monitoring reports submitted by the local stakeholders.

Table 4. M&E Plan at the Project Level

SGP Individual Project Level		
M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe
Participatory Project Monitoring	Grantees	Duration of project
Baseline Data Collection	Grantees, NC	At project concept planning and proposal stage

Two or Three Project Progress and Financial Reports (<i>depending on agreed disbursement schedule</i>)	Grantees, NC, PA	At each disbursement request
Project Workplans	Grantees, NC, PA	Duration of project
NC Project Proposal Site Visit (<i>as necessary / cost effective²</i>)	NC	Before project approval, as appropriate
NC Project Monitoring Site Visit (<i>as necessary / cost effective</i>)	NC	On average once per year, as appropriate
NC Project Evaluation Site Visit (<i>as necessary / cost effective</i>)	NC	At end of project, as appropriate
Project Final Report	Grantees	Following completion of project activities
Project Evaluation Report (<i>as necessary / cost effective</i>)	NC, NSC, External party	Following completion of project activities
Prepare project description to be incorporated into global project database	PA, NC	At start of project, and ongoing as appropriate

5.3. Aggregating of individual projects

The standardized and comparable list of OP5 indicators for projects envisaged for implementation are listed in Annex 1. Achievements on these targets will be updated during grantees' progress reports which will enable the country programme to have an aggregated data as and when needed.

Target indicators for focal and multi-focal area outcomes are explained in **Section 4**.

Table 5. M&E Plan at the Programme Level

SGP Country Programme Level		
M&E Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe
Country Programme Strategy Review	NSC, NC, CPMT	Start of OP5
Strategic Country Portfolio Review	NSC, NC	Once during OP5
NSC Meetings	NSC, NC, UNDP CO	Minimum twice per year

² To ensure cost-effectiveness, project level M&E activities, including project site visits, will be conducted on a discretionary basis, based on internally assessed criteria including (but not limited to) project size and complexity, potential and realized risks, and security parameters.

Performance and Results Assessment (PRA) of NC Performance	NC, NSC, UNDP CO, CPMT, UNOPS	Once per year
Country Programme Review resulting in Annual Country Report ³	NC presenting to NSC and CPMT	Once per year
Financial 4-in-1 Report	NC/PA, UNOPS	Quarterly

6.1. Capturing, sharing, and disseminating plans

As part of capturing information on projects’ implementation process, each RMI SGP project will be required to provide reports through which they will have the means to capture and share progress of their projects and best practices.

Moreover, documenting of good practices and sharing of lessons learned from SGP projects is and will continue to be done through established networks such as the Micronesians in Island Conservation, the RMI Protected Area Network, and other such national and regional peer-to-peer learning initiatives. Other information can be disseminated through various outreach from the program office, such as brochures, flyers, annual reports, press releases, and so forth.

Finally, where feasible, the provision of digital and video cameras, and other such means to grantees will be done to enable them to document progress, best practices and lessons learned and share them. Leveraged financial resources will be sought to achieve this aim.

6.2. Influencing policy at local, regional and national levels

Successful implementation and various country program progress and annual reports will be shared with policy makers at all levels – municipal, national and regional. Ongoing program activities and opportunities will be communicated at appropriate times and opportunities.

In addition to this, the country programme will share best practices from grantees at various national forums and meetings, such as the RMI Environment Conference, and other environment-related workshops and meetings that present themselves.

6.3. Replicating and up-scaling plans

The RMI SGP country programme will leverage lessons learned from successful projects and disseminate them for replication and up scaling through tailoring of information and knowledge dissemination based on “fit-for-purpose” principle focusing on target group profiles. This includes keeping the information as relevant and concise as possible to enable the recipients apply the processes, methodologies and circumstances as per their specific context. Organization of experience-sharing and field visits can be made among different grantees to enable them to interact and visualize achievements on the ground.

7.1. Diversification of funding sources and co-financing of management costs

³ The annual Country Programme Review exercise should be carried out in consultation with the national Rio Convention focal points and the associated reporting requirements.

GEF SGP interventions in RMI will catalyze the mobilization of local resources that further strengthen the ownership of interventions and contribute to sustainability of achieved results. These resources may come from individuals, formal or non-formal community associations, NGOs, government and other partners.

In light of enhancing sustainability of the country programme, SGP RMI plans to leverage funding from different sources that help address sustainable development concerns to achieve greater impact. The country programme will make an effort to mobilize resources during OP5 from bilateral and multilateral donors, international foundations, local and international NGOs, government, communities and the private sector.

A combination of methods and approaches will be applied. These can include:

- ✓ Establishing direct formal and informal communications with bilateral and multilateral donors, NGOs (e.g. MCT) and other potential sources for additional support;
- ✓ Creating and disseminating promotional materials (brochures, leaflets, booklets, newsletters, posters, videos etc.);
- ✓ Acting as a mediator between communities and potential sources for resources.

In the process of soliciting co-financing from donors, it is a standard practice to allocate a certain percentage of the co-financing obtained for SGP's management and non-grant technical costs (including a percentage of the cost of staff salaries, field monitoring, premises, equipment and transportation). Hence, the country programme will negotiate for a reasonable amount to cover its management costs.

7.2. Possibilities to Develop Strategic Partnerships

Local communities are at the core of the resource mobilization strategy. For communities themselves, their capacity to attract and mobilize resources is one key empowering factor that will also have a crucial impact on sustainability. Therefore, communities will be supported to mobilize financial and non-financial resources from the local level. The SGP country programme and UN Joint Presence Office for RMI will also play an important role in linking communities directly with potential sources of additional support. Currently, the capacity and awareness of communities to mobilize resources is limited, and will thus require supporting interventions. SGP RMI can also support communities by linking them with local or international NGOs and other development partners.

Most importantly, in-kind contributions will be an essential resource to be mobilized. The target communities will be able to contribute in-kind contributions, which will also be requirement critical element to be considered for project approval. In-kind contributions will also enhance participation, empowerment, ownership and sustainability of interventions.

The national and state governments may explore a resource for co-financing GEF-SGP either in-cash or in-kind. In addition, small-scale business enterprises established by grantees will be highly encouraged to take up environment- related activities. Technical support from partners will also be an important part of in-kind contributions that will be highly encouraged by SGP.

Annex 1: GEF SGP OP 5 PROJECT LEVEL INDICATORS

SGP OP5 results indicators	
Biodiversity (BD)	
BD1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hectares of indigenous and community conserved areas (ICCAs) influenced ○ Hectares of protected areas influenced ○ Hectares of significant ecosystems with improved conservation status
BD2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hectares of production landscapes / seascapes applying sustainable use practices ○ Number of significant species with maintained or improved conservation status ○ Total value of biodiversity products/ecosystem services produced (US dollar equivalent)
Climate Change (CC)	
CCM1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tonnes of CO2 avoided by implementing low carbon technologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Renewable energy measures (please specify) ▪ Energy efficiency measures (please specify) ▪ Other (please specify) ○ Number of community members demonstrating or deploying low-GHG technologies ○ Total value of energy or technology services provided (US dollar equivalent)
CCM4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tonnes of CO2 avoided by implementing low carbon technologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Low carbon transport practices (please specify) ○ Total value of transport services provided (US dollar equivalent)
CCM5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hectares of land under improved land use and climate proofing practices ○ Tonnes of CO2 avoided through improved land use and climate proofing practices
Land degradation (LD) & Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)	
LD1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hectares of land applying sustainable forest, agricultural and water management practices ○ Hectares of degraded land restored and rehabilitated
LD3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of communities demonstrating sustainable land and forest management practices
International Waters (IW)	
IW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hectares of river/lake basins applying sustainable management practices and contributing to implementation of SAPs ○ Hectares of marine/coastal areas or fishing grounds managed sustainably ○ Tonnes of land-based pollution avoided
Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)	
POPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Tons of solid waste prevented from burning by alternative disposal ○ Kilograms of obsolete pesticides disposed of appropriately ○ Kilograms of harmful chemicals avoided from utilization or release
Capacity Development, Policy and Innovation (all focal areas)	
CD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of consultative mechanisms established for Rio convention frameworks (please specify) ○ Number of community-based monitoring systems demonstrated (please specify)

SGP OP5 results indicators	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of new technologies developed /applied (please specify) ○ Number of local or regional policies influenced (level of influence 0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5) ○ Number of national policies influenced (level of influence 0 – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5) ○ Number of people trained on: project development, monitoring, evaluation etc. (to be specified according to type of training)
Livelihoods, Sustainable Development, and Empowerment (all focal areas)	
Cross-cutting	<p>Livelihoods & Sustainable Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of participating community members (gender disaggregated) (Note: mandatory for all projects) ○ Number of days of food shortage reduced ○ Number of increased student days participating in schools ○ Number of households who get access to clean drinking water ○ Increase in purchasing power by reduced spending, increased income, and/or other means (US dollar equivalent) ○ Total value of investments (e.g. infrastructure, equipment, supplies) in US Dollars (Note: estimated economic impact of investments to be determined by multiplying infrastructure investments by 5, all others by 3). <p>Empowerment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Number of NGOs/CBOs formed or registered ○ Number of indigenous peoples directly supported ○ Number of women-led projects supported ○ Number of quality standards/labels achieved or innovative financial mechanisms put in place