THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

2017–2022

25 SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme

A resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The RMI National Environment Management Strategy 2017–2022 was developed through the contributions of many people and organisations, listed below. Their assistance is greatly appreciated.

GLOSSARY

ACP	African, Caribbean, Pacific
CFC	Chlorofluorocarbons
CMAC	Coastal Management Advisory Council
CMI	College of the Marshall Islands
HCFC	Hydrochlorofluorocarbons
HPO	Historical Preservation Office
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority
EPPSO	Economic Policy, Planning and Statistics Office
FFA	Forum Fisheries Agency
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MAWC	Majuro Atoll Waste Company
MC	Micronesia Challenge
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MEC	Marshalls Energy Company
MICS	Marshall Islands Conservation Society
MIIST	Marshall Islands Invasive Species Taskforce
MIMRA	Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority
MMA	Marine Managed Areas
MNRD	Ministry of Natural Resource and Development
MOIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MWSC	Majuro Water and Sewer Company
NCD	Non-Communicable Diseases
NEMS	National Environmental Management Strategy
NGO	Non-Government Organization
ODS	Ozone Depleting Substances
OEPPC	Office of Environmental Planning and Policy Coordination
PAN	Protected Area Network
RMI	Republic of the Marshall Islands
SAMOA	Pathway SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SoE	State of Environment
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
T&C	Ministry of Transportation and Communication
UNDP	United Nations Development Fund
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WUTMI	Women United Together Marshall Islands

FOREWORD

The National Environment Management Strategy 2017–2022 is a commitment by the Republic of the Marshall Islands to conserve and improve its environment for current and future generations.

In the RMI State of Environment Report (SoE) 2016 (SPREP), the Office of Environment Protection and Policy Coordination (OEPPC) worked with other sectors and partners to identify its shortfalls. A strategy to address these shortfalls was developed through the National Environment Management Strategy (NEMS) 2017–2022.

The NEMS 2017–2022 promotes sustainable development and integrates environment conservation and the proper governance of development efforts.
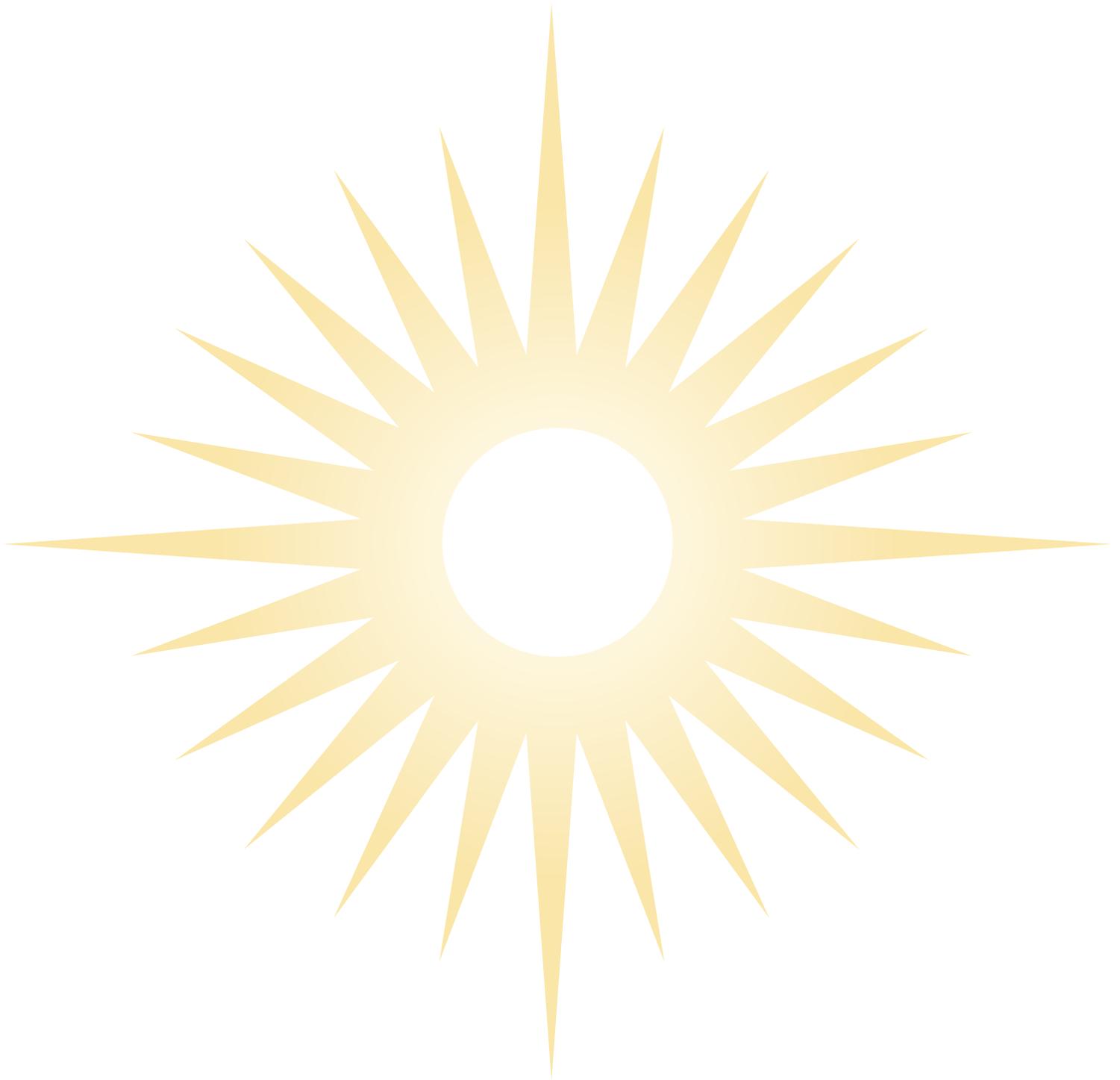
1 INTRODUCTION

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) spreads across 822,779 square miles of the Pacific Ocean, with a total landmass of 70 square miles and a maximum elevation of two metres.

Marshallese life is based on subsistence fishing and agriculture: traditional ways are in harmony with, and sustained by, the natural environment. However, the RMI Guidebook on Environment Law (2013) notes that these traditional practices are in decline. Communities have become more reliant on imported food and goods. The benefits of modern life include better access to education, telecommunications and contact with the outside world. However, the changes have also led to new behaviour that is frequently damaging to the natural environment, such as waste disposal that pollutes the seas[1].

In 2015, SPREP worked with the RMI Government to produce a State of Environment (SoE) report, through its UNEP-ACP/MEA funding. An RMI National Environment Management Strategy (NEMS) was developed to guide RMI's response to issues identified in the SoE.

According to the Coastal Management Framework of RMI 2008, most of the coasts are in pristine natural condition. However, as foreign aid has centralized the economy and urban populations have rapidly increased with little environmental oversight, the urban coasts and environment have become severely degraded. This has made the population more vulnerable, lowered the economic potential for sustainable development and increased human health hazards.[2]

Women's empowerment and gender equality will be taken into account when delivering the strategic actions of the NEMS. The focus on environment conservation is particularly important for women in the outer atolls given the difficulty that communities face in terms of low incomes and a lack of basic services.

1.1 RATIONALE FOR THE RMI NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

According to the RMI State of Environment (SoE) report, the environment quality is rapidly deteriorating. This is due to increases in development and population in the low-lying and limited land area. The key environmental risks are:

- sea level rise as a result of climate change;
- climate variability and disaster;
- rising population density in Majuro;
- decline in traditional resource management;
- unsustainable use of natural resources, and
- poor waste management and pollution control.

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1 Guideline of Environment Law: Republic of Marshall Islands (2013); NSW EDO, Canada Fund for Local Initiatives, SPREP.

2 Coastal Management Framework of RMI (2008); Republic of Marshall Islands.

The development of the NEMS will assist the RMI Government and the OEPPC to restore the deteriorating environment, as revealed in the SoE. The NEMS identifies key stakeholders who will assist in the implementation of its programs – this will allow better coordination of activities within, and outside, the government.

1.2 PROCESS OF RMI NEMS FORMULATION

A national consultation was held in the capital Majuro in 2015, with a second round of consultations in October 2016. The NEMS was developed from the issues identified in each of the thematic areas in the SoE 2016 (see Table 1).

1.3 MANDATE AND SCOPE OF STRATEGY

The NEMS aims to strengthen the international, regional and national coordination of the government's efforts to cope with complex environment needs, as identified in the SoE. The implementation of the NEMS will be coordinated and monitored by the OEPPC.

The National Environmental Protection Act 2016 provides for the functions of the OEPPC.

1.4 POLICY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The strategic plan is based on the thematic areas in the SoE of atmosphere and climate; land; marine; biodiversity; culture and heritage; built environment, and nuclear legacy.

Table 1 sets out the thematic policy goals and strategic objectives. The policy implementation is presented in Section 3.

TABLE 1. THEMATIC POLICY GOALS AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Environment Theme	Strategic Focus Area	Link to SDGs, Aichi Targets, SAMOA Pathway and Framework for Pacific Regionalism
1. Atmosphere and Climate	1 Committed to reduction in greenhouse gases (GHGs) and reduction in fossil fuel purchase. 2 Reduction in use of Ozone Depletion Substances (ODS). 3 Provide enabling environment for the protection and management of the physical environment. 4 Ensure RMI commitment to Climate Change Adaptation.	• SDG 7, SDG 13. • Sustainable Energy and Climate Change. • Improve livelihoods and wellbeing and use the environment sustainably.
2. Land	1 Ensure protection of existing vegetation, coconuts, breadfruit and pandanus. 2 Promote sustainable agricultural practices on cultivated land, with more focus on traditional practices. 3 Committed to protection of wetlands.	• SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 15. • Economic growth and Food security. • Improve livelihoods and wellbeing. • Aichi Targets 4, 6, 7, 9, 12, 18.
3. Marine	1 Control the offshore marine resources exploitation. 2 Proper management of inshore marine environment. 3 Marine mammals and turtles are to be protected.	• SDG 14 • Biodiversity and Oceans management. • Improve livelihoods and wellbeing. • Aichi Targets 4, 6, 7, 9, 12, 18.
4. Biodiversity	1 Protect special ecosystems, sites, tradition, language and species. 2 Foster long term protection and maintenance of biodiversity within RMI.	• SDG 14, SDG 15. • Oceans and Sea. • Improve livelihoods and wellbeing. • Aichi Targets 4, 6, 7, 9, 12, 18.
5. Culture and Heritage	1 To conserve historical sites. 2 To preserve the native Marshallese language. 3 Maintain traditional consumption and production of food and medicine.	• SDG 10. • Social development. • Improve livelihoods and wellbeing.
6. Built Environment	1 To provide efficient, sustainable and accessible energy. 2 To provide proper waste management services. 3 Proper management of hazardous waste. 4 Maintain and provide proper water resources. 5 Deliver sound sewage and sanitation management.	• SDG 1, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12. • Sustainable growth and inclusive and equitable growth with decent work for all; water and sanitation; sustainable energy; consumption and production. • Improve livelihoods and wellbeing; economic growth that is inclusive and equitable.
7. Nuclear Legacy	1 Improve governance support to nuclear affected Marshallese for better livelihoods.	• SDG 1, 2, 9, 11, 15, 16, 17. • Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth; Disaster risk reduction. • Improve livelihoods and wellbeing.

2 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

This implementation plan is guided by four key principles: leadership and good governance; collective responsibility for the environment; indigenous knowledge, practices and innovations; and integration of the environment and development.

2.1 LEADERSHIP AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

The RMI Government will lead efforts to protect, manage and promote the sustainable use of the country's environment and its natural resources. This implies upholding good governing practices of transparency, accountability, shared responsibility and equity in the consideration of environmental requirements in development practices. It respects everyone's right to a clean and healthy environment. It also recognizes key principles for respecting the needs and capacities of the natural environment such as the precautionary, polluter pays and carrying capacity principles.

The *Precautionary Principle* is defined in the UN Agenda 21 Rio Declaration as "*Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation*".

The *Polluter Pays Principle* means that populations are justly responsible for the waste and pollution they generate either directly or through payments for the available mitigation and management services. The principle extends to society's responsibility to pay for the programs that help to replenish, restore and rehabilitate natural resources and the environment that were exploited or degraded through extensive development activities.

The *Carrying Capacity Principle* may be defined as the ability of the environment to sustain the needs of human development and its own natural requirements. Development should respect the limits of the carrying capacities of its hosting environment if it is to achieve a more sustainable pathway.

2.2 COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Protecting, managing and sustainably using the environment and its goods and services are generally accepted as everyone's responsibility. This is carried out at the individual and collective levels. This principle recognizes each individual as holding the key responsibility. It also recognizes the relevant roles and influences that all sectors and institutions of the society have in contributing to the protection and management of the RMI environment and its goods and services.

2.3 INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE, PRACTICES AND INNOVATIONS

The RMI has developed valuable indigenous knowledge and practices. These can contribute positively to the sustainable use and effective management of natural resources and the environment. These traditions and practices are important elements of RMI culture and heritage that form the national identity. They are integrated into the implementation issues identified in the SoE report. The Department of Environment (DoE) has a significant role in protecting, managing and sustainably using island biodiversity, which also supports indigenous knowledge, practices and innovation.

2.4 INTEGRATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

This principle recognizes that the environment underpins development. It recognizes the challenges in balancing the needs of the environment and the development needs of human society in RMI. It is vital that economic and/or physical development must be linked with environmental protection, to facilitate long-term sustainability. This principle emphasizes the importance of credible scientific information to support the integration of the environment into development planning and implementation. It also recognizes appropriate value systems of the people in the RMI that promote the integrity of the environment.

3   OTHER NEMS STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

3.1   THEME ONE: ATMOSPHERE AND CLIMATE – SDG 7, 13.
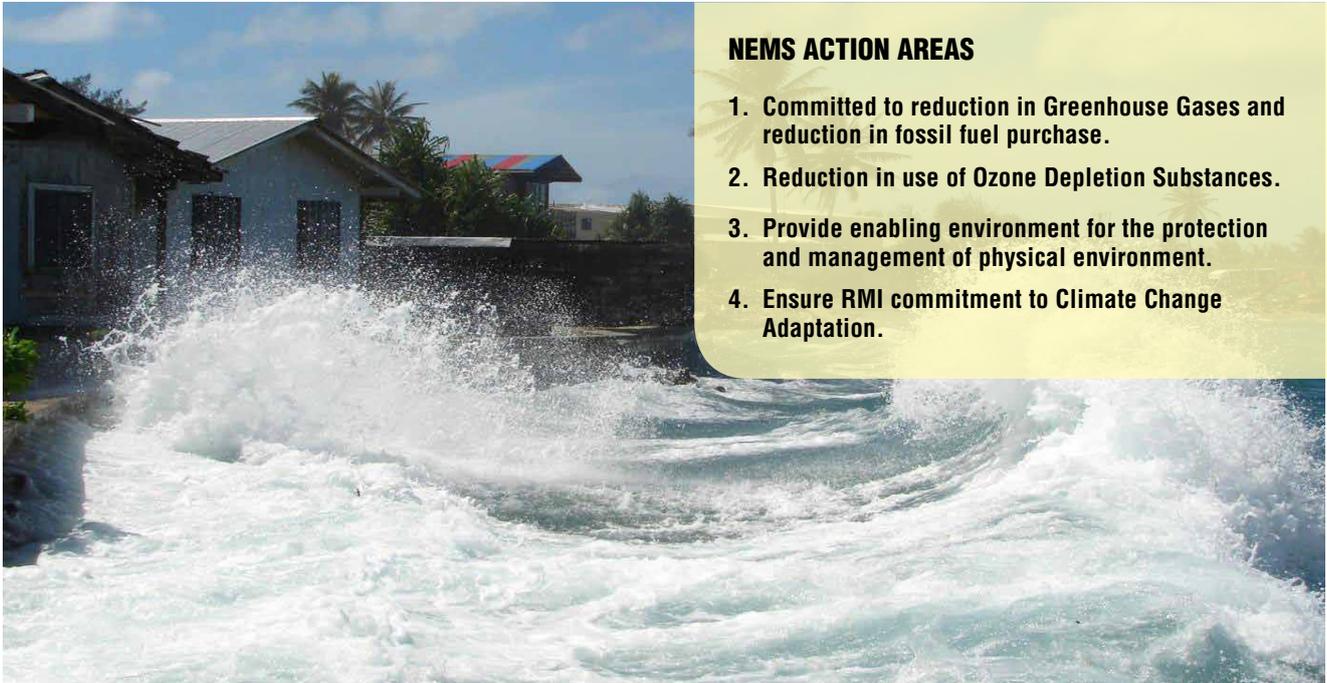
NEMS ACTION AREAS

1. Committed to reduction in Greenhouse Gases and reduction in fossil fuel purchase.

2. Reduction in use of Ozone Depletion Substances.

3. Provide enabling environment for the protection and management of physical environment.

4. Ensure RMI commitment to Climate Change Adaptation.

NEMS Action Area	Strategies	Targets	Performance Indicator	Key Implementing Agencies and Partners
Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Target 7.b Indicator 7.b.1	RMI commits to a quantified economy-wide target to reduce its emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG).	32% below 2010 levels by 2025.	Reduction of GHGs yearly.	OEPPC, EPA, MRD, T&C, EPPSO.
	RMI communicates, as an indicative target, its intention to reduce its emissions of GHGs.	45% below 2010 levels by 2030.	Reports indicating reduction of GHG emissions yearly.	
	Energy Efficiency in households and government.	Businesses 50% energy efficient, and government buildings 75% energy efficient by 2020.	Reports of energy efficiency in households and governments.	
	Efficiency improvement in transport sector fuel.	To achieve a 20% efficiency improvement in transport sector fuel use by 2020.	Improvement in transport sector fuel.	
	To provide power generation through indigenous renewable resources e.g. coconut.	20% of power generation through renewable resources by 2020.	Reports indicating indigenous resources.	

NEMS Action Area	Strategies	Targets	Performance Indicator	Key Implementing Agencies and Partners
Ozone Depleting Substances. Target 7.b Indicator 7.b.1	Monitoring and data collection of ODS imports needs to be improved.	Develop a database for all ODS imports yearly.	Information available on ODS imports.	Ports Authority, OEPPC, EPA, MEC, R&D, MIMRA, Local Government.
	The proposal for all government offices to use HFCs is a positive way forward, regarding the phasing out of the HCFCs.	All government offices to use HFCs – 2019.	HCFCs phasing out and all government offices to use HFCs.	
	Database of ODS Exports.	Records of ODS exports for disposal are kept yearly.	Registers of exports.	
	Regular refresher courses for training technicians.	Yearly Training.	Improved knowledge and compliance with ODS policies and laws.	
	Monitor fishing vessels.	All fishing vessels to use ODS policies.	Record of fishing vessels complying with ODS Polices and guidelines.	
Physical Climate. Target 1.5; 11.5; 13.1; 13.3. Indicator 1.5.3; 11.5.2; 13.1.1; 13.3.1; 13.3.2.	Establish and support an enabling environment for improved coordination of disaster risk management/climate change adaptation in RMI.	Thorough assessment on different thematic areas, i.e. coastal, water, energy, food, infrastructure, health, education, social, governance – 2018.	Assessment report endorsed and adaptation measures adopted.	Office of the Chief Secretary, OEPPC, EPA, CMAC, MICS, HPO, Public Works, Majuro Weather Services.
	Public Education and Awareness on Physical Climate. Low Carbon Future.	Yearly. Improved Energy Security, working towards low carbon future yearly.	Knowledge increased and practiced. Low carbon emission.	
	Enhanced Emergency Preparedness and Response at all levels of Government.	Yearly.	Government response improved.	
	Improve information for storm surge preparedness and implementation of emergency response/action plan.	Yearly.	Information readily available for public information.	
	Mapping and data collection for health related impacts from climate events e.g. dengue.	2019.	Information available for decision makers and communities.	
	Better guidance on the types of development in coastal areas – Landowners Guide to Coastal Protection (UH authored the Guidelines).	Guideline reviewed and awareness raised in 2018.	Controlled coastal development and knowledge improved.	
	Use of climate data for planning and forecasting beyond weather forecasting.	Yearly.	Better integrated use of climate data for planning and forecasting beyond weather forecasting, e.g. for agriculture, environment, health, social welfare planning, etc.	
Climate Change Adaptation. Target 3.2 Indicator 3.2.1	Evaluate the implementation of the 2011 RMI National Climate Change Policy Framework (NCCPF), which sets out RMI's commitments and responsibilities to address climate change (Copied from the *Second National Communication* to the UNFCCC, p. 18).	2017.	Evaluation report submitted for necessary action.	Office of the Chief Secretary, Majuro Weather Services, Public Works, OEPPC, EPA, CMAC, MICS, HPO/Alele, MIMRA, Local Government.
	Evaluation of the Micronesia Challenge Partnership.	2017.	TOR and Report produced and submitted for action.	

3.2 THEME TWO: LAND – SDG 1, 2, 15.
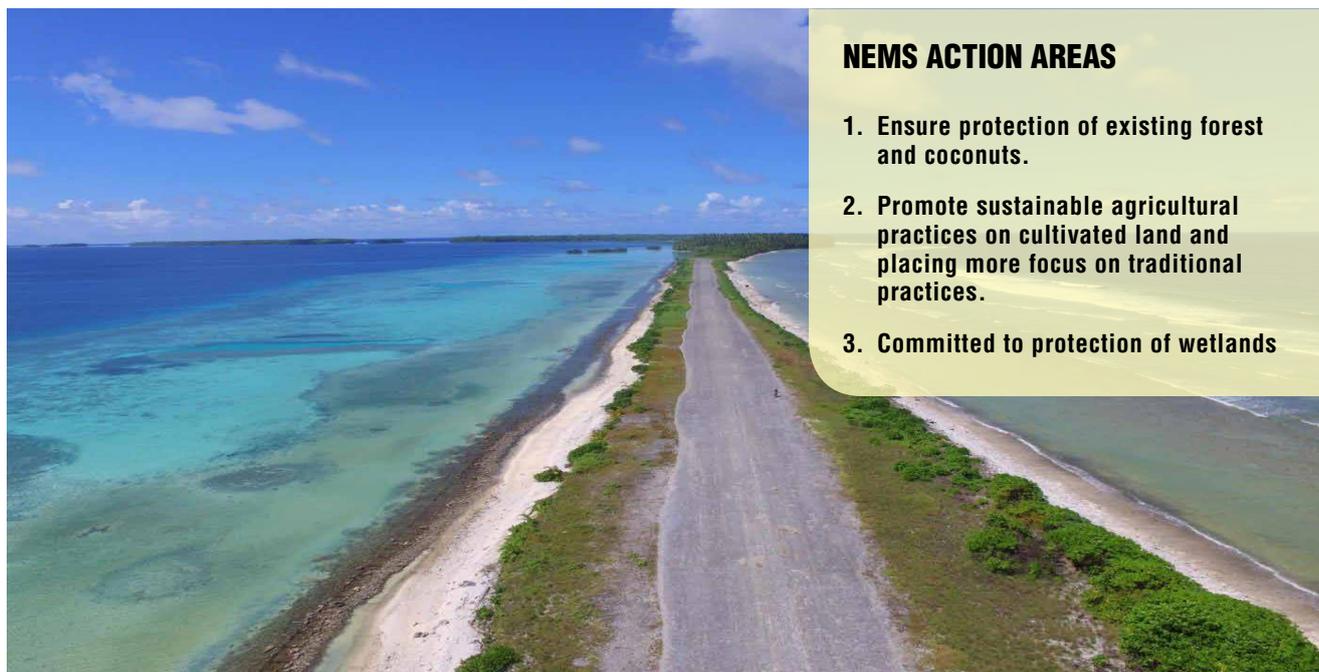
NEMS ACTION AREAS

1. **Ensure protection of existing forest and coconuts.**

2. **Promote sustainable agricultural practices on cultivated land and placing more focus on traditional practices.**

3. **Committed to protection of wetlands**

NEMS Action Area	Strategies	Targets	Performance Indicator	Key Implementing Agencies and Partners
Forest: Natural Forests and Coconut. Target 2.4 Indicator 2.4.1	The botanical surveys of the smaller islands.	2020.	Survey report submitted for actions.	MICS, CMI, R&D, Lands Division, OEPPC, EPA, Taiwan Farm.
	Regular and comprehensive monitoring particularly in urban centers to spot trends in forest growth.	Ongoing.	Mapping report submitted. Copra production statistics. R&D coconut replanting program.	
Agriculture: Land under cultivation. Target 1.4 Indicator 1.4.1	Conduct a nationwide agricultural census.	2023.	Agriculture census produced.	MICS, CMI, R&D, Lands Division, OEPPC, EPA.
	Awareness of traditional agriculture practices and crops.	Yearly.	Knowledge on traditional agricultural practices increased and practiced.	
Wetlands. Target 15.1 Indicator 15.1.2	Establish an additional Ramsar site on Lib Island, which has a significant freshwater wetland that is yet to be managed.	2020.	Lib island as Ramsar site, Namdrik and Mejit Island protection site,	MICS, CMI, R&D, Lands Division, OEPPC, EPA, R2R Program, Local Government.
	Preserve national resources for overall environmental health of RMI.	Yearly.	More wetlands should be conserved and managed.	

3.3 THEME THREE: MARINE – SDG 14
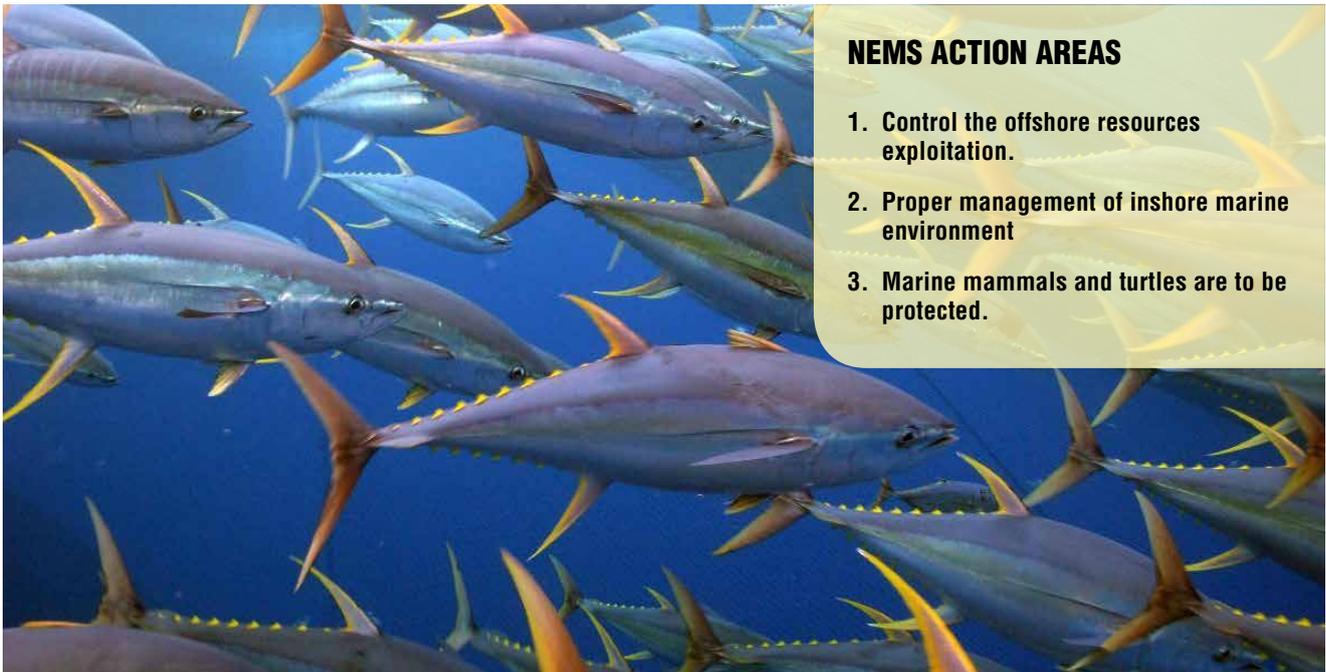
NEMS ACTION AREAS

1. Control the offshore resources exploitation.
2. Proper management of inshore marine environment
3. Marine mammals and turtles are to be protected.

NEMS Action Area	Strategies	Targets	Performance Indicator	Key Implementing Agencies and Partners
Offshore Marine Environment: Tuna, Sharks and by-catch harvested. Target 14.4 Indicator 14.4.1	Enhance the ability of surveillance and enforcement of fisheries plans.	Yearly.	Agencies working together to enforce fisheries laws.	MIMRA, RMI Sea Patrol, OEPPC, MICS, EPA, R2R Project, CMAC, MWSC, Local Government, Internal Affairs, R&D, Ports Authority.
	Develop Management plan for sharks.	2017/18.	Plan developed and endorsed.	
Inshore Marine Environment: Percent live coral cover. Target 14.1; 14.7 Indicator 14.1.1; 4.7.1	Management of coral reefs by continuous monitoring.	Yearly.	Reports submitted yearly.	MIMRA, RMI Sea Patrol, MICS, EPA, R2R Project, CMAC, MWSC, Local Government, Internal Affairs, R&D, Ports Authority, Mal Government. MIMRA and its CMAC partners.
	Integrated management of marine and terrestrial systems through a community-based approach implementing the Reimaanlok (National Framework for Conservation Area Planning).	Yearly.	Principles, processes and guidelines established on conservation areas.	
	Replacement of the sewage outfall.	2019.	Outfall replaced and improved water quality.	
	Develop database for natural resources management.	2018.	Information on resources management obtained.	
	Develop plans for limited fishing of herbivores before, during, and after periods of elevated Sea Surface Temperatures.	2018/19.	Mitigate effects of bleaching on coral reef health.	

NEMS Action Area	Strategies	Targets	Performance Indicator	Key Implementing Agencies and Partners
Inshore Marine Environment: Species Diversity. Target 14.5; 14.c. Indicator 14.5.1; 14.c.1	Monitoring, control and surveillance activities and to be extended to outer island communities through training of local governments.	Yearly.	Monitoring works improved with reports developed and submitted.	MIMRA, RMI Sea Patrol, OEPPC, MICS, EPA, R2R Project, CMAC, MWSC, Local Government, Internal Affairs, R&D, Ports Authority, Mal Government, MIIST.
	Expand the network of locally managed marine protected areas.	2017.	Network extended and capacity of members increased.	
	Regulations and guidelines to be developed in regards to introduction of alien and invasive marine species.	2017/2018.	Regulation endorsed and enforced.	
	Evaluate the regional Invasive Species Strategic Action Plan for Micronesia.	Address gaps in capacity and more awareness yearly.	Awareness delivered and gaps identified addressed.	
	Develop invasive introduced species management plans.	2017.	Plan developed and implemented.	
Inshore Marine Environment: Reef fisheries biomass. Target 14.4; 14.a; 14.7 Indicator 14.4.1; 14.a.1; 4.7.1	Fish Biomass Survey of Kwajalein and Maloelap Atolls with two other small atolls.	2019/2020.	Population effects on fish biomass in RMI.	MIMRA, RMI Sea Patrol, OEPPC, MICS, EPA, R2R Project, CMAC, MWSC, Local Government, Internal Affairs, R&D, Ports Authority, Mal Government.
	Trend of the fish market imports, more data from different years should be included and continuously monitored.	Yearly.	Better insight into how much fish has been transported from the outer islands into the urban centers.	
	Identify species listed as "Near Threatened" on the IUCN Red list due to their susceptibility to overfishing, and spawning aggregations.	Yearly.	Species listed and registered.	
	Monitoring of species of commercial interest, such as sea cucumbers and trochus.	Yearly.	Minimum harvest densities are achieved.	
Inshore marine Environment: Marine Managed Area. Target 14.5 Indicator 14.5.1	Effectiveness of enforcement efforts needs to be document and monitored.	Yearly training.	Enforcement efforts document and compliance improved.	MIMRA, RMI Sea Patrol, OEPPC, MICS, EPA, R2R Project, CMAC, MWSC, Local Government, Internal Affairs, R&D, Ports Authority, Mal Government.
	Develop PAN regulations and other necessary instruments.	2017/2018.	Standardize existing and new protected sites.	

NEMS Action Area	Strategies	Targets	Performance Indicator	Key Implementing Agencies and Partners
Inshore Marine Environment: Lagoon Water Quality. Target 14.1 Indicator 14.2.1	Database for Lagoon Water Quality to be improved.	2017/2018.	Determine trends and the relative proportion of pollution sources to the ambient marine environment (e.g. proportion of human vs animal sewage vs solid and other liquid waste).	OEPPC, MIMRA, RMI Sea Patrol, MICS, EPA, R2R Project, CMAC, MWSC, Local Government, Internal Affairs, R&D, Ports Authority, Mal Government.
	Reticulation of sewage waste may need to be considered for sensitive coastal foreshore areas.	2017/2018.	Sewage system improved.	
	Development of effective waste management systems that will help.	2017/2018.	Control contaminates such as solid waste, human and animal waste, from being discharged into coastal areas.	
Marine mammals and turtles. Target 14.a; 14.b. Indicator 14.a.1; 14.b.1.	Education and awareness are needed to support the conservation and management of all marine resources in general.	Yearly.	MIMRA recognizes the importance of protecting sea turtles and cetaceans and recommends the following actions to address declining species populations.	MIMRA, RMI Sea Patrol, OEPPC, MICS, EPA, R2R Project, CMAC, MWSC, Local Government, Internal Affairs, R&D, Ports Authority, Mal Government.
	Promotion of community-based resource management planning – The Reimaanlok: National Conservation Area Plan.	Yearly.	Increase in awareness and natural resource management.	
	Improving existing legislation – The RMI Marine Turtle Legislation (Review by Kabua. E and Edwards. F. 2010).	2017–2019.	Legislation endorsed by Government and enforced.	
	Conduct research and monitoring on population and harvesting.	Yearly.	Research findings into policy.	
	Monitoring and enforcement. Due to limited resources (both human and finance), there is poor monitoring, compliance, enforcement and surveillance. Capacity building is needed at the institutional level, and with communities.	Yearly.	Registration of enforcement officers and compliance improved.	

3.4 THEME FOUR: BIODIVERSITY – SDG 15; AICHI TARGETS 1, 2, 7, 9, 12, 14, 19

NEMS ACTION AREAS

1. **Protect special ecosystems, sites, tradition, language and species.**

2. **Foster long term protection and maintenance of biodiversity with RMI.**

NEMS Action Area	Strategies	Targets	Performance Indicator	Key Implementing Agencies and Partners
Endemic, Native and Threatened Species. Target 15.5; 15.8 Indicator 15.5.1; 15.8.1	Established legislative laws to protect 19 endangered species: 18 marine and one terrestrial. Other threatened species are protected under each individual atoll's local jurisdiction.	2017–2019	Laws endorsed on protection of native and threatened species.	OEPPC, MIMRA, CMAC, R&D, EPA, Customs Office, Ports Authority, MICS.
	Local governments set all the restrictions on land and near-shore marine resources. MIMRA provides advice and technical adaptive management assistance for local governments.			
	Develop management plans for endangered species eg *Mule* (*Ducula oceanica ratakensis* – Ratak Micronesian Pigeon).	2019/2020.	Management Plan developed and endorsed.	

NEMS Action Area	Strategies	Targets	Performance Indicator	Key Implementing Agencies and Partners
Environment Invasive Species. Target 15.8 Indicator 15.8.1	Border responses are mainly driven by economic pests e.g. African snail, oriental fruit fly (intercepted and eradicated). There is a need to increase support for invasive species that do not have a perceived economic impact.	Yearly.	Border controlled improved reduction in invasive species entry. Regional Biosecurity Strategic Plan. Boarding party data.	OEPPC, CMAC, R&D, EPA, MIMRA, Customs Office, Ports Authority, MICS, MIIST.
	National biodiversity steering committee has been established to coordinate and address national biosecurity issues and concerns.	Yearly.	Biosecurity system well in place.	
	Fruit fly early response plan.	2017/2018.	Fruit fly response plan in place.	
Key species of concern.	Currently, a Mule conservation plan is lacking. More needs to be done with the turtle research and legislations reviews.	Develop a conservation plan in 2017/18.	More research to inform policy making. Appropriate measures are taken to protect these species of concern.	OEPPC, CMAC, R&D, EPA, MIMRA, Customs Office, Ports Authority, MICS.
Protected Areas. Target 15.1 Indicator 15.1.2	Work is progressing with communities to increase ownership of the monitoring and management process to improve continuity beyond funding and project cycles.	Yearly.	Implementation of monitoring programs. Effective management of protected areas.	OEPPC, CMAC, R&D, EPA, MIMRA, Customs Office, Ports Authority, MICS.
	Develop national planning and policies to help coordinate the efforts of implementing management plans and local ordinances to address biodiversity issues in RMI.	Yearly.	Protected area effectively managed.	
	Carry out more research on PA.	Yearly.	Research findings improving policies on PA.	
	Secure funding to help address the lack of understanding and other issues, which affect RMI's natural biodiversity.	Yearly.	Funds accessed and utilized.	

3.5 THEME FIVE: CULTURE AND HERITAGE – SDG 4, 12.

NEMS ACTION AREAS

1. To conserve historical sites.

2. Top maintain preservation of native Marshallese language.

3. Maintain traditional consumption and production of food and medicine.

NEMS Action Area	Strategies	Targets	Performance Indicator	Key Implementing Agencies and Partners
Conservation of Historical Sites. Target 4.7 Indicator 4.7.1	Strengthened the Historical Preservation Act 1991.	2018/2019.	Endorsed by cabinet and enforced.	HPO/Alele, MIVA, MOIA, MIMA, CMI.
	Highly significant historical sites should be prioritized for immediate management planning and action.	2019/2020.	Management plan endorsed with sites prioritized and managed.	
	Strengthen School Education Awareness Programs on Traditional knowledge and Sites.	Yearly.	Mainstreamed in education systems and knowledge increased.	
Preserve Native Marshallese Language. Target 4.7 Indicator 4.7.1	Establish Marshallese study department.	2020 – in progress.	Marshallese study department established.	HPO/Alele, MIVA, MOIA, MIMA, CMI, Language Commission Office, Local Community, Public School System.
	Translation of national documents into local language.	2019/2020.	Translation achieved on documents.	
	Revise and preserve Marshallese Dictionary.	Yearly.	Marshallese dictionary revised and used.	
Traditional Consumption and Production of Food and Medicine. Target 12.8 Indicator 12.8.1	Public health campaign on healthy eating.	Yearly.	Reduction on NCD. Reduction of imported foods.	HPO/Alele, MIVA, MOIA, MIMA, CMI, PSS, MOH, Churches, Youth Groups.
	Food cultural preservation.	Yearly.	Knowledge preserved and practiced.	R&D, MOIA, HPO/Alele, MIVA, Local Government, MOH.

3.6 THEME SIX: BUILT ENVIRONMENT – SDG 1,6,7,11,12

NEMS ACTION AREAS

1. **To provide efficient, sustainable and accessible energy.**

2. **To provide proper waste management services.**

3. **Proper management of hazardous waste.**

4. **Maintain and provide proper water resources.**

5. **Deliver sound sewerage and sanitation management.**

NEMS Action Area	Strategies	Targets	Performance Indicator	Key Implementing Agencies and Partners
Energy: Access, Sustainability and Efficiency. Target 7.1; 7.2 Indicator 7.1.1; 7.2.1.	Review of Energy Policy.	2017/ 2018.	Energy Policy Endorsed by Government.	MEC, MRD, OEPPC, Business Industries.
	Increase renewable into main electricity grid.	2018.	Renewable Energy Input into grid. Volume of fuel imports.	
	General Electricity retrofit.	Yearly.	Number of Retrofits achieved yearly.	
	Revive price monitoring board.	2017.	Electricity Price Monitoring Board functioning.	
	Increase accessibility of Government subsidy to landowners in outer islands.	2017/ 2018.	Subsidy to Landowners increased.	

NEMS Action Area	Strategies	Targets	Performance Indicator	Key Implementing Agencies and Partners
Collection recycling and waste separation of Municipal Solid Waste.\n\nTarget 11.6\n\nIndicator 11.6.1	Preparation of new Majuro Landfill Site.	2018.	Site prepared.	MAWC, EPA, OEPPC, MPW, PSS, Energy Office, CSO, MOH, Local Government.
	Passing of the RMI Solid Waste Management Strategy.	2017/ 2018.	Solid waste management Strategy endorsed and implemented.	
	EPA working with respective Atoll Local Governments, Donor Agencies, MWC, Government Ministries, USP, and communities in Waste awareness and education programs.	Yearly.	Awareness program delivered and waste managed.	
	Training on waste management.	Yearly.	Training delivered.	
	Composting and recycling programs organized for communities.	Yearly.	Compost used in gardening and healthy farm produce.	
	Development of the container deposit system.	2018/ 2019.	Legislation endorsed and enforced.	
Hazardous Waste: Hospital Waste, E-waste, White Goods, Asbestos, Batteries and Household Toxics.\n\nTarget 11.6; 12.4\n\nIndicator 11.6.1; 12.4.1; 12.4.2.	Stronger enforcement of littering.	Yearly.	Notice served and reduction in littering.	EPA, MAWC, Local Government, Waste (Joe Mar), AG, OEPPC, National Oil Taskforce, Chamber of Commerce, MOH, Disaster Office, CSO, R&D Energy, MEC, Kajut, Laura Farm.
	Tracking of hazardous waste streams in the country.	2017.	Tracking system in place e.g. Permits.	
	Training on enforcement of Act.	Yearly.	Number of officers trained.	
	Training on hazardous waste handling and management.	Yearly.	Number of officers trained.	
	Identification of recycling markets abroad to receive recyclable materials stored at the dump.	2017.	Markets identified and shipped.	
	National chemical and waste oil management plan developed.	2018.	Plan endorsed and implemented.	
	Hospital waste management plan.	2018.	Management plan endorsed and implemented.	
Fresh Water Resources.\n\nTarget 6.1; 6.a.\n\nIndicator 6.1.1; 6.a.1	Improve maintenance/capacity services of RO units in the outer islands.	Yearly.	Maintenance delivered yearly.	EPA, MAWC, Local Government, Waste (Joe Mar), AG, OEPPC, National Oil Taskforce, Chamber of Commerce, MOH, Disaster Office, CSO, R&D Energy, MEC, Kajut, Laura Farm.
	Replicate PACC project (solar stills, and liners at the Majuro reservoirs) as rain harvesting and catchment improvement, 186 solar stills, 35 Regular sampling and testing of the parameters, such as metals etc.	2019/ 2020.	Project replicated.	
	Proactive interventions such as community education programs and hygiene programs e.g. WASH, are incorporated into national plans.	Yearly.	Program delivered and incorporated in National Plans.	
	Implementation of water policy and water safety plan, with particular attention to integrated rainwater harvesting, and improved management of the Laura lens.	Yearly.	Improved water system. Quantity and quality.	
	Enhancement of public water supply and sanitation in Ebeye.	Yearly – 2018.	Public Water supply and sanitation improved.	
Sewage and Sanitation.\n\nTarget 14.1\n\nIndicator 14.1.1\n\nAichi Target 8	Replace the Majuro outfall pipe, which has deteriorated.	2017/ 2018.	Outfall pipe replaced.	EPA, MAWC, Local Government, Waste (Joe Mar), AG, OEPPC, National Oil Taskforce, Chamber of Commerce, MOH, Disaster Office, CSO, R&D Energy, MEC, Kajut, Laura Farm.
	Improve the sewer system in Ebeye.		Sewer system improved.	

3.7 THEME SEVEN: NUCLEAR LEGACY – SDG 1, 2, 10.

NEMS ACTION AREA

1. Improve Governance support to nuclear affected Marshallese to better livelihoods.

NEMS Action Area	Strategies	Targets	Performance Indicator	Key Implementing Agencies and Partners
Provide compensation for better livelihoods. Target 1.1; 10.b Indicator 1.1.1; 10.b.1.	Relocate Bikinians, Kili ,Ejit to the United States.	Ongoing.	Avenues identified and work on compensation progressed.	Local Government; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Agriculture, OEPPC, AG/SG Office.
	Increase the nuclear compensation funds to KBE, Enewetak, Rongelap and Utrik to make their islands habitable once more.	Ongoing.	Compensation increased.	
Food security. Target 2.4 Indicator 2.4.1	Use of potassium fertilizer to lower the Caesium-137 in the soil.	Ongoing.	Lowering of the Caesium-137 in soil. Raised soil fertility.	
	Raised-bed gardens using uncontaminated soil, provide other ways of increasing the safety of crops grown.	Ongoing.	Healthy Crops production.	

4   HUMAN RESOURCES AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The OEPPC will plan for more human resources to contribute to the effective implementation of the RMI NEMS. The support of the wider network of partner agencies and stakeholders, whose portfolios overlap with the OEPPC, is vital.

The expansion of human and financial resources to meet the implementation needs of this strategy will be guided by the priorities of the government.

The OEPPC, in consultation with other agencies within government and in partnership with development partners and the private sector, will identify key areas where funding proposals can be made to donor partners and regional agencies. It will also guide donor and regional organisations' contributions to support livelihoods, human health, the economy and sustainable development.

5   IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REVIEWING SCHEDULE

The implementation of the RMI NEMS will take effect when it is approved by government. The NEMS will support the RMI SoE 2016.

Operational performance indicators are to be monitored and reviewed annually by the OEPPC and other lead agencies, based on the thematic areas. This will act as a tracking tool towards their performances in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, targets and indicators, Regional and Global MEAs, the SAMOA Pathway, and the Framework for Pacific Regionalism.