Mid-term Review of UNDP/GEF Project
Managing Coastal Aquifers in Selected Pacific SIDS
(MCAP Project)
(PIMS # 6196)

March 2023

Commissioned by: United Nations Development Program, Pacific Office, Fiji

MTR Team: Jeremy Hills (Team Leader)

Acknowledgements

The MTR consultant wishes to extend special thanks to all organizations/institutions and stakeholders/individuals who made themselves available for discussions and interviews during the MTR and values their continuous cooperation and assistance in completion of the MTR. Special thanks is provided to the volunteer members of the community in outlying islands who had to travel to sites with reliable internet to enable conversations to take place. The MTR consultant also extends his appreciation to the SPC team and UNDP team for their support and cooperation, including arranging discussions and interviews with many project partners.

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Project Title Managing Coastal Aquifers in Selected Pacific SIDS (MCAP Project)		
UNDP Project ID (PIMS #): 6196	PIF Approval Date: 26 Jan. 2018	
GEF Project ID (PMIS #): 10041	CEO Endorsement Date: 9 Jun. 2020	
ATLAS Business Unit Award # 00112065 Project ID# 00110740	Project Document (ProDoc) Signature Date (date project began): 21 Oct. 2020	
Country(ies): Republic of Marshall Islands; Republic of Palau, Tuvalu	Date project manager hired: 21/10/2020	
Region: Asia-Pacific	Inception Workshop date: 17 Mar. 2021	
Focal Area: Multi-focal areas	Midterm Review completion date:	
GEF Focal Area Strategic Objective: LD 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, IW 3.1, 3.2	Planned planed closing date: 21 Oct. 2024	
Trust Fund : GEF TF	If revised, proposed op. closing date: NA	
Executing Agency/ Implementing Partner: Pacific Community (SPC)		
Other execution partners: N/A		
Project Financing	*at CEO endorsement (US$)*	*at Midterm Review (US$)*
1] GEF financing:	5,261,356	*966,498*
[2] UNDP contribution:	60,000	*60,000*
[3] Government:	14,051,360	*12,689,288*
[4] Other partners:	5,440,500	*2,629,288*
[5] Total co-financing [2 + 3+ 4]:	19,604,797	*15,378,576*
PROJECT TOTAL COSTS [1 + 5]	24,866,153	*16,345,074*

Abbreviations

GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEM	Geoscience, Energy and Maritime Division, of SPC
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
IW	International Waters
MCAP	Managing Coastal Aquifer Project
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MTR	Mid-term review
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PIR	Project Implementation Report
PPG	Project Preparation Grant
RMI	The Republic of the Marshall Islands
RSC	Regional Steering Committee
SESP	Social and Environmental Screening Procedure
SPC	Pacific Community
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

1. Executive Summary

Brief Project Description

The development challenge that this project seeks to address is the lack of knowledge and information on the status of coastal aquifers in Pacific Island Countries which hinders the development of aquifer management, protection, and governance mechanisms and their incorporation into applicable national water policies. The Project Objective is to improve the understanding, use, management and protection of coastal aquifers towards enhanced water security in the context of a changing climate. The project has been implemented following UNDP's NGO implementation modality. The Project Implementing Partners is the Pacific Community. The Regional Steering Committee (RSC) is formed from the Resident Representative of the UNDP Pacific office, the Director of GEM (Geoscience, Energy and Maritime Division) within SPC, and beneficiary representatives (RMI-EPA, General Manager; Tuvalu-Disaster & Climate Change Unit (Director); and Palau-Ministry of Natural Resources Environment & Tourism (Minister). Total project financing is in the order of USD 25 Million, including a PPG grant of USD 0.23 Million and a GEF grant amount of USD 5.26 Million.

Project Progress Summary

The approach to project design of MCAP means that the project is aligned to international and national needs, as well as emerging good practice in the region. Involvement of stakeholders in the design process has helped focus the work on national imperatives and ensured broad inclusion, including gender and youth. The project progress has been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The PIR of June 2022, rated the project implementation as "moderately unsatisfactory". Three outcome level indicators have not been achieved as expected by mid-term, and progress in others is less than planned. Expenditure is lagging in planned disbursement. However, many in-island technical tasks have been undertaken, capacity building has happened, and community-based water monitoring has been setup and is operational in the three target countries. There is a urgent need to accelerate progress in the remining timeline with an onus on the Executing Agency/ Implementing Partner - Pacific Community (SPC); a set of recommendations are included in the MTR to achieve this. However, there is always the risk of delays due to external factors, so careful oversight of the critical path of delivery by the Regional Steering Committee is necessary. More regular meetings of the Regional Steering Committee for monitoring progress is recommended to permit rapid reaction to delays. On a broader note, the continued reliance of countries on the technical expertise of SPC, suggest there are still opportunities for substantive in-country institutional- and capacity-building in future water resource initiatives.

The following shows the MTR Ratings & Achievement Summary Table for MCAP:

Measure	MTR Rating	Achievement Description
Project Strategy	N/A	The Project Strategy remains valid and MCAP has progressed its work in line with the Strategy in relation water resource management. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on in-country delivery, although adaptative management has facilitated delivery where possible.
Progress Towards Results	***Objective:*** To improve the understanding, use, management and protection of coastal aquifers. Rating 4/6	The two Mid-Term indicators of the Objective are expected to be unchanged at this stage and thus on track. However, there are delays at the Outcome level which in aggregate do potentially threatened achievement of the indicator level by the end of the project.
	Outcome 1: Enhanced knowledge on the current status of coastal aquifers and aquifer vulnerabilities. Rating 3/6	Vulnerability knowledge is delayed. Aquifer knowledge has nearly achieved its Mid-Term level, with some delay in RMI, but it can be expected to be back on track. Inundation studies are completed at the 5 sites, but land use surveys have not been achieved. In no site have all studies been completed and reported as yet, compared to the Mid-Term target of 5.
	Outcome 2: Improved access to groundwater for enhanced water security. Rating 2/6	Mid-Term indicators are expected to have no change from the start. Plans for constructions are underway in the preparatory or procurement stage, and the work has a trajectory to get back on track; although, there remain are delivery risks.
	Outcome 3: Strengthened capacity and monitoring of climate and water resources at the local and national level. Rating 4/6	Capacity developments are largely on track, in spite of COVID-19 interruptions. MTR consultations with stakeholders demonstrated capacity and community benefits of the training. Land degradation workshops are delayed, but pending suitable data in Tuvalu.
	Outcome 4: Coordinated and inclusive approaches at the island-level for coastal aquifer management. Rating: 2/6	Again indicators suggest no change by MTR stage, although land use zoning has been delivered in Kayangel in Palau. Plans are predicated on above Outcomes for which there are delays, but there is opportunity to achieved delivery within the timeline.

	Outcome 5: Improved and accessible knowledge systems for decision support in place. Rating 3/6	Procurement and work started on water modeling's. Technical notes to be developed and predicted on data collection in above outcomes. Achievement likely within project timeline.
	Outcome 6: M&E templates and communication platforms established. Rating 2/6	No M&E training has been undertaken to date; this need to be rapidly resolved. Communication plan has been developed and implemented at national events, and feasible to be fully delivered by project end.
Project Implementation & Adaptive Management	Rating 3/4	MCAP can complete the project within the timeline; much of this will be related to the capacity of SPC to accelerate progress coupled to external factors constraining progress. Increasing PMU and national staffing supported by underspend, along with forwarding construction procurements should accelerate progress. However, more sensitive critical path planning in each country is needed to flag inadequate progress as early as possible and to implement mitigations.
Sustainability	Rating 3/4	Sustainability of the projects outcomes is likely to be good. Small amounts of financial support will be required for long-term community based water monitoring. Ratification of water plans at island and national level will help institutionalise the water management approach.

In order to accelerate projects in MCAP and complete the project successfully within the timeline, a number of Recommendations are made:

Rec#	Recommendations	Entity responsible
	Outcomes	
A1	***Outcome 1 and 2:*** Procurement processes for all contracted hydrological works need to undertake as soon as technical specifications are obtained. This is necessary to offset delay in equipment shipping and availability of contractors following knock-on effects caused by COVID-19.	SPC

A2	***Outcome 2:*** In the second half of the project when more construction is planned, the minimalization of contamination risks during construction phases (SESP, Risk 7; the project could increase health risks) needs to be heeded. this needs to include both community awareness and good-practice beyond just operational health and safety issues built into construction contracts awarded by SPC. It is recommended that an updated SESP is provided to RSC which identifies construction risks and contractor and community responses.	SPC
A3	***Outcome 3***: Implement gender disaggregated reporting for training and events and report directly on MCAP GESI Action Plan (GAP) in subsequent PIRs.	SPC
A4	***Outcome 6:*** Update SPC GEM MCAP website to provide a set of interim resources on the project, including updating the guide for "Water resources Assessment and Monitoring Guide – a citizen science approach".	SPC
	Project Implementation & Adaptive Management	
B1	***Increase staffing:*** Strengthen SPCs person-power to deliver in-country elements of the project within the remining timeline. This recommendation includes a project implementation officer based within PMU to support in-country delivery, and an engineer to oversee construction activities in Tuvalu. The staff costs can be covered through underspend.	SPC
B2	***Critical path tracking:*** Implement a detailed tracking of critical paths for the flow of necessary hydrological equipment and procured construction. Detail critical path diagram and timeline for the 3 target country for approval by UNDP and monthly tracking responsibility at PMU. Building on existing practice of regular meetings with national coordinators this "technical working group" can review and ensure progress and flag any delay and identify mitigation action to UNDP. If project delivery becomes threatened then the issue for project extension should be raised with RSC.	SPC / UNDP
B3	***Catalyzing with other projects:*** RSC3 includes a dedicated segment on practical and implementable faciliatory mechanisms to accelerate MCAP progress in partnership with other projects, including those managed by UNDP. Mapping of project and benefits would be of value to visualize the connections for RSC and other stakeholders. There are other projects in the region to catalyze with, but stakeholders seem unclear of the benefits and how those benefits can be achieved.	SPC / UNDP

B4	***Strengthen RSC oversight***: The frequency of RSC meetings (presently approximately annual) needs to be increased to 2 a year in the remaining years to oversee accelerated delivery and respond to challenges in a timely fashion. Some or more of those meeting can be online. The next RSC (planned April 2023) should (i) explicitly consider practical and implementable faciliatory mechanisms to accelerate MCAP progress in partnership with other projects, (ii) review an updated SESP to ensure collective consideration of construction risks. The RSC meeting minutes should be produced in a standardized structure and fashion, and final minutes confirm approval by the RSC. Provision should be made for a "extraordinary" meeting of the RSC if circumstances requires, such as significant insolvable delays in major elements of implementation.	SPC / RSC
	Sustainability	
C1	***Monitoring equipment maintenance:*** SPC should make an effort to completed the project with a good supply of test kits, and also try to ensure that the water management plans (of Outcome 3.1) should include an agreement for the Ministry / local administration to ensure water monitoring equipment is operational and available to community-monitoring teams. This permits the ongoing community-based water monitoring activities.	SPC
C2	***Plan institutionalization:*** Efforts should be made to ratify institutionalize the water management plans as much as possible to ensure their relevance and longevity, though ratified approval processes at the island- and national-level.	SPC
C3	***Water management advocacy:*** Opportunities for disseminating the ground water management approach, centered around community-based monitoring, in the region should be vigorously pursued. The model is a sustainable intervention to support a key problem in certain islands in the region. Dissemination of project knowledge and emerging lessons learned at the regional and global scale needs to be improved. A cleared articulation of the project's learning in relation to the Pacific 2050 Strategy for a Blue Pacific Continent and other regional policy instruments would support higher-level advocacy and contribute to implementation of regional aspirations.	SPC / UNDP

2. Introduction

2.1 Purpose of the Mid-Term Review

In accordance with UNDP and GEF M&E policies and procedures, all full sized GEF financed projects are required to undergo a MTR. As outlined in the ToR, the overall purpose of the MTR is to assess progress towards the achievement of the project objectives and outcomes as specified in the Project Document and assess early signs of project success or failure with the goal of identifying the necessary changes to be made in order to set the project on-track to achieve its intended results. The MTR will also review the project's strategy and its risks to sustainability. The MTR will also reflect on lessons learnt on this project to inform and be shared with other Projects in the Pacific.

The MTR is part of the UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji's evaluation plan (2018-2022) and will be facilitated by the Commissioning Unit, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer with support from mid-term evaluation team. The MTR team is expected to follow a collaborative and participatory approach ensuring close engagement with the Project Team, government counterparts (the GEF Operational Focal Point), the UNDP Country Office(s), the Nature, Climate and Energy Regional Technical Advisor, direct beneficiaries, and other key stakeholders. In addition, MTR report must provide evidence-based information that is credible, reliable and useful.

The ToR for the MTR team included two independent consultants (Annex 1): one Team Leader (with experience and exposure to projects and evaluations in other regions globally) and one National Consultant expert, from one country of the project (Palau). However, recruitment of the National Consultant was not forthcoming, and this creates risks. Notwithstanding a reduction of 50% in person inputs into the MTR process and lack of team skill synergies, but especially for the adequacy in flow of national information in the MTR process. To attempt to mitigate this, at the kick-off meeting, on 11th November 2022, it was agreed to mobilize national project members in the target countries, to support engagement with country stakeholders. The national project member's role was limited to arrangement and logistics, and they did not influence / engage or take any active role in the interviews. In addition, it was noted in the case of Tuvalu additional challenges relate to the declaration of a state of emergency for drought and lock-downs due to the first wave of COVID-19 infection.

The lack of a National Consultant as planned in the ToR of this work will affect the depth and quality of the MTR, including impartiality by using national project managers to arrange in-country interviews, however, best efforts are to be made to ensure that key recommendations focus around the need to accelerate progress of MCAP delivery.

2.2 Scope and Methodology

The Mid-term Review was be conducted in line with the guidance, rules and procedures established by UNDP and GEF as reflected in the UNDP Evaluation Guidance for Mid-term Reviews of GEF Financed Projects of 2014) and as promulgated in this MTR ToR (Annex 1).

In view of the objectives, scope, and duration of the MTR of MCAP Project, a mixed method approach was adopted using both qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis methods and tools. In methodological terms the MTR process consisted of the standard steps: 1) Review methodology and design, 2) Data Collection, 3) Data Analysis and 4) Presentation and Reporting.

The evaluation adopted a mix of purposive and convenience sampling strategies. The former is a form of non-probability sampling in which researchers (evaluators and project team) rely on their own judgment when choosing members of the stakeholders to participate in the study. In convenience sampling, researchers leverage individuals that can be identified and approached with as little effort as possible.

A mixed method approach was adopted using both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods and tools. It is important to highlight that most of the data from the stakeholder consultations will be collected in qualitative form. Whereas quantitative data related to project progress and outcome and output targets etc. will be extracted from project related documents, reports, publications, and secondary sources. The main forms of information gathering were (i) desk Review of official records and documents, and (ii) key informants interview.

The stakeholders directly involved in the project were prioritized, being contacted following the MTR kick-off meeting through UNDP / SPC and the national representatives of the target countries. Other stakeholders were contacted as required subsequent to the initial round of consultations. Efforts were also made to consult key persons among women and vulnerable groups during the evaluation process, as far possible. The remote nature of the MTR, coupled to the limited nature of internet access in many of the MCAP sites means that this approach was challenging; often individuals had to travel to centers such as schools where internet was available. Some consultations were not possible and were successfully retried at a later date; one consultation with community members in an island in Tuvalu was re-tried and then postponed due to family bereavement. It is considered that the consultations carried out adequately covered the government entities (national and local administrations), other relevant institutions such as the Red Cross and community members in the volunteer monitoring groups. The list of stakeholders consulted during the MTR is in Annex 2.

To assess gender aspects and results, efforts were made to collect/extract disaggregated data by sex regarding project outcome indicators, for example, from the PIR of 2022. Furthermore, efforts will be made to consult key persons among women beneficiaries to assess their level of involvement.

2.3 Structure of the MTR report

This MTR report provides an overview of the project description, strategy and implementation arrangement in Chapter 3. Chapter 4 has the Findings which are structured in the following order: Project Strategy, Progress Towards Results, Project Implementation and Adaptive Management, and Sustainability. Finally, Chapter 5 provides succinct conclusions on the MCAP MTR and also a

set of recommendations; a personal reflection on the development approach is provided at the end.

3. Project Description and Development Context

3.1 Development Context

SIDS (Small Island Developing States) rely on small coastal aquifers for their water supply needs. These coastal aquifers are fragile thin freshwater lenses that float on the underlying denser seawater and are reliant on rainfall for recharge. These coastal aquifers are at higher risk of impact to water quality deterioration from threats including saltwater contamination from sea level rise, over abstraction, wave overtopping, loss of aquifer area through coastal erosion, and other impacts on water quality from inappropriate land-use activities. Climate change exacerbates these long-running threats to coastal aquifers through increased climate variability and climate extremes. The fragility of coastal fresh groundwater systems necessitates careful management and protection to ensure their long-term integrity and their role in climate change adaptation strategies and improved water security.

Climate and rainfall variability is a direct threat to the population of the PSIDS (Pacific Small Island Developing States): including RMI, Palau and Tuvalu which rely mainly on rainwater harvesting for their potable needs. Surviving droughts requires the identification of alternate and drought-resilient water sources. Fresh groundwater occurs naturally in many of the islands of these three PSIDS, existing as a freshwater lens which floats on top of the denser seawater. These limited but important freshwater sources are very sensitive to external influences requiring informed decision making to manage and maintain their integrity.

Site-specific information on the aquifer locations and extents, the natural and anthropogenic sources of pollution, and the risks from other threats such as wave inundation and over-abstraction, is necessary to achieve sustainable coastal aquifer protection and development. To obtain this knowledge, geophysical and land-use assessments need to be conducted, monitoring networks need to be established and, ultimately, water budget and numerical models need to be developed. The spatial and temporal variability of rainfall needs to be available to ensure reliable model output as a basis for sustainable management, necessitating the collection of daily/monthly rainfall records at the island level.

3.2 Problems that the project sought to address

The development challenge that this project seeks to address is the lack of knowledge and information on the status of coastal aquifers in Pacific Island Countries which hinders the development of aquifer management, protection, and governance mechanisms and their incorporation into applicable national water policies. This project ultimately aims at providing to the project countries, and particularly to the selected project sites, the foundation required to support improved aquifer management/governance including the increased engagement of women in island and community level water planning and decision-making processes. More specifically it aims at 1) identifying the extent, threats and the development potential of groundwater resources, 2) increasing awareness of groundwater as a water security supply source, 3) providing options for improved access to groundwater and 4) and improving aquifer protection and management, within Pacific Small Island Developing States.

3.3 Project description and strategy

The Project Objective is to improve the understanding, use, management and protection of coastal aquifers towards enhanced water security in the context of a changing climate. The project is structured into four Components each associated with one or more Outcomes, as listed below:

Component 1: National demonstrations to support knowledge and use of coastal aquifers for enhanced water security.

> **Outcome 1.1**: Enhanced knowledge on the current status of coastal aquifers and enhanced understanding of aquifer vulnerabilities to climate changes and other factors.
>
> **Outcome 1.2**: Improved access to groundwater for enhanced water security.

Component 2: National-based investments in human capital and tools.

> **Outcome 2.1**: Strengthened capacity and monitoring of climate and water resources at the local and national level.

Component 3: Local-based approaches to support the sustainable management and protection of coastal aquifers in the context of climate change.

> **Outcome 3.1**: Coordinated and inclusive approaches at the island-level for coastal aquifer management in place.
>
> **Outcome 3.2**: Improved and accessible knowledge systems for decision support in place.

Component 4: Knowledge management and M&E

> **Outcome 4.1:** M&E templates and communication platforms established.

3.4 Project implementation arrangements

The MCAP Project Document was submitted on the 27th May 2020, and was approved on 9th June 2020, and the Project Document Signature date and start date was 21st October 2020. The project duration is 48 months with a planned closing date of 21st October 2024. The MTR (Mid-term Review) was planned for delivery on December 23rd 2022. At the time of the MTR, the project was halfway through its planned lifespan.

Total project financing is in the order of USD 25 Million. This includes a PPG grant of USD 0.23 Million and a GEF grant amount of USD 5.26 Million. Project co-financing is USD 19.60 Million which is mainly formed by Government partners totaling USD 14.05 Million. Additional co-financing is from USAID, UNDP, and "Others".

The project has been implemented following UNDP's NGO implementation modality. The Project Implementing Partners is the Pacific Community. The Regional Steering Committee (RSC) is formed from the Resident Representative of the UNDP Pacific office, the Director of GEM (Geoscience, Energy and Maritime Division) within SPC, and beneficiary representatives (RMI-

EPA, General Manager; Tuvalu-Disaster & Climate Change Unit (Director); and Palau-Ministry of Natural Resources Environment & Tourism (Minister).

3.5 Main stakeholders

At the local (island) level, existing governance mechanisms are intended to be involved in decision-making processes relevant for their project sites. Local government administrations form important target groups and collaboration with these groups was valuable in ensuring successful implementation of proposed project interventions. Island communities also have the opportunity to participate in decision-making through meetings and focus-group discussions and through feedback mechanisms. At the national level, participation of relevant ministries and project implementing agencies in the Regional Steering Committee ensures the direct role of these target groups in governing and managing the project. The list of stakeholders consulted is provided in Annex 2.

4. Findings

4.1 Project Strategy

4.1.1. Project design

The approach to project design means that the project is aligned to international and national needs, as well as emerging good practice in the region. Involvement of stakeholders in the design process has helped focus the work on national imperatives and ensured broad inclusion, including gender and youth.

This project builds on the GEF-6 International Waters strategy with regards to balancing competing water uses in groundwater management (GEF-6 IW Objective 2). The MCAP goal is “to improve the understanding, use, management, and protection of coastal aquifers towards enhanced security in the context of a changing climate”. The design uses a range of cross-cutting considerations including gender equality and social inclusion, and participatory planning and decision-making mechanisms to progress goal achievement.

This project builds on findings and lessons learned from previous projects undertaken in the region over the last decade which have been gradually establishing the way towards achieving sustainable aquifer management. The project intent is to replicate good practices that have worked in the past and to integrate monitoring and management approaches towards inclusion of groundwater management into applicable national water policies and Integrated Water Resource Management plans. Other relevant projects in the region are reviewed in the ProDoc, though since the ProDoc additional projects are planned or have started implementation.

A key principle of the project was the need to pay attention to ensuring the active participation and genuine involvement of all groups of people including women, men, young people and those with disabilities throughout implementation. While women do engage in decision-making about water use at household level, they are significantly underrepresented in community, island and national level water management and governance processes in all MCAP countries. As such, the

project will address this development issue by increasing women's knowledge and skills in water management and by providing them with opportunities to fill leadership roles in their communities.

Under the current project, the countries recognize the need to further explore the potential of using groundwater resources to complement their existing water supplies and to offer increased resilience against climate variability. At the same time, they recognize the need to protect their aquifers and improve their existing groundwater supply systems, where available.

The MCAP Theory of Change was developed in close consultation with the three implementing countries during national design phase workshops. Feedback from the countries helped refine the project activities and outputs to ensure that they are aligned to the selected outcomes but also that they are aligned to their countries needs and national priorities.

The Theory of Change articulates 6 outcomes that show change in knowledge (Component 1), change in capacity (Component 2) and changes in attitude, management and governance (Component 3). While the Theory of Change illustrates the change process it is noted that a phased approach will be used to inform further actions. A range of assumptions underpin the logic at each point, which will be explored with stakeholders during the implementation period.

At the Project Objective level, the risk is identified that "Project activities cannot be realized in all project sites due to unforeseen circumstances" which is a valid risk and to some extent may be playing out within MCAP at present. The assumption that "total area of all project sites will benefit by project interventions" in relation to the number of project beneficiaries was not invalidated from stakeholder interviews and maintain permissible in relation to land area with improved aquifer management.

4.1.2 Results Framework

MCAP's Objectives and Components as laid out in the Results Framework are clear, practical, and were feasible within the project timeline at the time of the development of the ProDoc.

The Results Framework can largely be considered to be "SMART" (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound) in terms of indicators and targets. Indicators include and diversity of items for sound reporting, including number of beneficiaries, knowledge status, number of plans and monitoring systems in place.

However, the time dispersion of deliver of targets is heavily biased towards the end of project for some indicators. For example, the mid-term target for mandatory indicators 1 and 2, as well as indicators 5, 6 and 10 – 13 are all planned to be zero (i.e. no change form start of project) by the mid-term; this means that tracking progress is challenging. If this Results Framework was redesigned from the start of the project additional, interim or preparatory indicators which show progress by mid-term, would strengthen its value for project progress monitoring. The consequences of this lack of mid-term targets is discussed in the section below.

GESI considerations are included in the Results Framework in terms of number of direct beneficiaries, intervention surveys and inclusivity of consultations. Under Outcomes 2.1,

Indicator 7, the GESI requirements are that training assessments are gender-disaggregated. However, this outcome was not reported in a gender disaggregated way in the PIR of June 2022. While the Results Framework correctly captures GESI opportunities, additional focus would ensure that this is followed up in all subsequent monitoring and reporting documents.

The Project Framework is rather devoid of indicators linked to broader development aspects of the project; indicators do not go beyond direct project interventions, such as constructions, courses and plans. These indicators would primarily link to the continuous of availability of water for household purposes to all households, in light of the droughts conditions being experienced (especially, Tuvalu). However, due to the relatively slow progression of the project (see section below) it may be that such indicators would not capture these development benefits as these gains are likely to be only accrued right at the end of the project (and drought pressure is ephemeral).

4.2 Progress towards results

An analysis of progress towards outcomes was undertaken on MCAP. The data used for this analysis was based on the PIR of June 2022 as well as updates until January 2023. The Mid-Term Level and Assessment was carried out using Mid-Term targets as identified in the Results Framework of the ProDoc and the Achievement rating followed UNDP-GEF guidance: Highly Satisfactory (HS), Satisfactory (S), Moderately Satisfactory (MS), Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU), Unsatisfactory (U), or Highly Unsatisfactory (HU). The results of the outcomes analysis is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Progress of outcomes as of January 2023, with achievement rating following UNDP-GEF MTR guidance (Highly Satisfactory (HS), Satisfactory (S), Moderately Satisfactory (MS), Moderately Unsatisfactory (MU), Unsatisfactory (U), or Highly Unsatisfactory (HU)).

Objective **To improve the understanding, use, management and protection of coastal aquifers towards enhanced water security in the context of a changing climate.**						
Description of Indicator	**Baseline Level**	**Midterm target level**	**End of project target level**	**Mid-Term Level and Assessment**	**Achievement Rating**	**Justification for rating**
Land area with improved aquifer management and protection (hectares).	0	0	3,615	0	S	The achievement of this is towards the end of the project. Improved aquifer management and protection (for each project site) is expected to be achieved once all data collection is complete (e.g. rainfall, groundwater quality, aquifer characterization), project interventions are in place (e.g. groundwater production infrastructure, monitoring networks), and project products are developed (e.g. technical guidance notes to support groundwater management).
Number of direct project beneficiaries.	0	0	12,953 (6,480 male, 6,473 female,	0	S	As above: communities in the project sites are expected to fully benefit from the project once all project activities (for each site) are complete.

			3,424 children)			
Outcome 1 **Enhanced knowledge on the current status of coastal aquifers and enhanced understanding of aquifer vulnerabilities to climate changes and other factors.**						
Description of Indicator	**Baseline Level**	**Midterm target level**	**End of project target level**	**Mid-Term Level and Assessment**	**Achievement Rating**	**Justification for rating**
Indicator 3: Status of knowledge on the current state of coastal aquifers, measured by the completion of water resources assessment surveys.	0	5	8	*4*	MS	There is a small delay in survey in RMI site Laura, which is presently being progressed and imminently completed. Water resources assessment surveys are complete for all (3) sites in Palau (Peleliu, Angaur, Kayangel) and one site in RMI (Jaluit). The technical reports are currently being developed. Monitoring for Laura is in place and is ongoing
Indicator 4: Status of knowledge on the vulnerability of coastal aquifers, measured by the completion of inundation vulnerability surveys and land use surveys	0	5	8	*0*	U	Inundation studies have been completed in 5 sites, but zero land use surveys are completed to date. Inundation vulnerability studies are complete for all (3) sites in Tuvalu (Vaitupu, Nanumea, Nui) and two sites in RMI (Delap, Laura). The technical reports are currently being developed. Land use surveys have not yet been conducted but planned for 2023
Outcome 2						

Improved access to groundwater for enhanced water security.						
Description of Indicator	**Baseline Level**	**Midterm target level**	**End of project target level**	**Mid-Term Level and Assessment**	**Achievement Rating**	**Justification for rating**
Indicator 5: Total population benefiting from improved access to groundwater through the development of new groundwater production infrastructure.	0	0	1267: 679 male and 588 female. Total children population benefiting: 377	*0*	S	The planned works are in track with preparatory work being undertaken. Communities will benefit from improved access to groundwater once the proposed infrastructure is in place in the two project sites (Wotje, RMI and Nanumea, Tuvalu). Designs for the infrastructure is being finalized. Bill of Quantity has been developed and is to be shared with Countries in coming month. Construction procurement TOR being developed for contracting in Q1/Q2 2023. Construction planned to commence Q3 2023
Indicator 6: Total population benefiting from access to improved quality water through treatment of existing reticulated water and/or through the provision of new, higher quality water.	0	0	471: 247 male and 224 female (Total population of Peleliu island that is connected to reticulated	*0*	S	The work is on track, with preparatory action being taken. Communities will benefit from access to improved quality water once the proposed water treatment interventions are in place in the proposed project sites (Palau). Assessments of the current condition of water treatment infrastructure have been completed. Water treatment unit to address hardness issue in Peleliu, Palau, has been procured and is in country. Awaiting travel to Peleliu for installation, to occur in Jan 2023.

			water supplies). Total children population benefiting: 106			Procurement for rehabilitation works on existing reticulated water supply for Kayangel, Palau is being finalized. Contract for gallery cleaning, pump house rehabilitation and climate resilience measures, fencing for aquifer protection, and water tank rehabilitation for water supply and water conservation expected to be signed in February 2023, work to commence Q1 2023
Outcome 3 **Strengthened capacity and monitoring of climate and water resources at the local and national level.**						
Description of Indicator	**Baseline Level**	**Midterm target level**	**End of project target level**	**Mid-Term Level and Assessment**	**Achievement Rating**	**Justification for rating**
Indicator 7: Number of participants attending water resources monitoring workshops	0	30	90	*34*	S	The number of participants has mildly exceeded the planned mid-term level. A total of 21 participants from different agencies in Tuvalu (Government, Tuvalu Red Cross, Public Health) attended the citizen science training workshop (and a follow-up refresher training) on water resources monitoring. A total of 6 government staff in RMI (EPA, MWSC) were trained on water resources assessment and monitoring techniques through demonstration and participation in project activities under Output 1.1.1. A total of 7 government staff in Palau (MAFE, PPUC, EQPB) were trained on water resources assessment and

						monitoring techniques through demonstration and participation in project activities under Output 1.1.1.
Indicator 8: Number of land degradation workshops conducted at national level in the 3 project countries	0	1	3	*0*	MU	No land degradation workshops have yet been conducted in any of the project countries. Satellite and LiDAR imagery for Tuvalu has been requested from Dept of Lands, -, awaiting confirmation of access and scheduling of workshop
Indicator 9: Status of monitoring systems in place for rainfall and water resources monitoring (number of aquifers with complete monitoring systems in place, including handheld equipment)	0	4	9	*4*	S	Groundwater monitoring systems (automatic and handheld) are in place in all 3 sites in Palau (Peleliu, Angaur, Kayangel) and one site in RMI (Laura). Rain gauge installations have not yet been conducted. Additional loggers at monitoring point being installed Q1 for Laura RMI to strengthen and complete monitoring system
Outcome 4 **Coordinated and inclusive approaches at the island-level for coastal aquifer management in place.**						
Description of Indicator	**Baseline Level**	**Midterm target level**	**End of project target level**	**Mid-Term Level and Assessment**	**Achievement Rating**	**Justification for rating**
Indicator 10: Number of submitted water resources monitoring	0	0	6	0	S	Water resources monitoring plans are expected to be developed once adequate data has been collected and relevant monitoring infrastructure is in place. Monitoring

plans for review/adoption by the local island governance mechanism.						plan for Laura RMI has commenced and will be completed Q1 2023.
Indicator 11: Number of sites/aquifers with appropriate land use zoning and land restoration techniques in place for aquifer protection.	0	0	8	1	S	Land use zoning interventions are currently being implemented in one site in Palau (Kayangel). Procurement for fencing to assist with protection of aquifer and gallery installation for Kayangel water supply is being finalised. Construction expected Q1and Q2 2023
Outcome 5 **Improved and accessible knowledge systems for decision support in place.**						
Description of Indicator	**Baseline Level**	**Midterm target level**	**End of project target level**	**Mid-Term Level and Assessment**	**Achievement Rating**	**Justification for rating**
Indicator 12: Number of groundwater models developed.	0	0	1	0	S	The procurement activity was initiated in November 2022. The contract has been signed and work has commenced. The water modelling will be complete within 12 months.
Indicator 13: Number of technical guidance notes developed supporting aquifer management plans	0	0	6	0	S	Technical guidance notes are expected to be developed once adequate data has been collected and relevant monitoring infrastructure is in place. Work planned to commence 2023

Outcome 6 **M&E templates and communication platforms established.**						
Description of Indicator	**Baseline Level**	**Midterm target level**	**End of project target level**	**Mid-Term Level and Assessment**	**Achievement Rating**	**Justification for rating**
Indicator 14: Frequency of M&E training workshops for the national project managers	0	1	3	*0*	MU	Online training of the narrative and financial reporting requirements undertaken with Tuvalu, and RMI participants in 2023.
Indicator 15: Extent of which communication action plan is established and implemented	0	50%	100%	50%	S	Approved communication plan is established and currently being implemented. A number of communication products have been developed including a citizen science water resources monitoring guide, project banners and tote bags promoting the project during national events (e.g. Tuvalu Climate Change Awareness Week 2021 and 2022).
Indicator 16: Extent of knowledge sharing in international forums	0	50%	100%	50%	S	A short video was developed for IW:LEARN as contribution to World Water Day 2022. Planning for IWC10 will depend on conference announcement date. A 3D physical model of Laura atoll has been completed which shows the extent of inundation under different SLR and storm surge events and impact on the freshwater lens and infrastructure. Intent is to showcase this with IW learn. Online version:

						https://landscapeknowledge.net/majuro-atoll-map/

At the Objective-level, the status of both indicators is as expected based on the ProDoc. However, the status is that no change is expected by mid-term through the project and thus although the achievement can be ranked as satisfactory, it is in fact no change. In this case, this is justifiable as these are Objectives for which the gains are only achieved once all the components of the project are delivered upon. The design of the project is such that no change in the two Objective level indicators is satisfactory.

The same situation occurs in the Outcome level indicators, with some indicators having an expected unchanged status by mid-term of the project, and only change at the end of the project. An indicator which has no change expected by the mid-term of the project can be considered as "satisfactory". But this makes it very difficult to determine the degree of progress until the end of the project, which makes flagging the need for management re-orientation to secure delayed Outcomes insufficient. The design of single Outcome indicators with no expected progress by the end of the project is weak, and further mid-term progress indicators would enhance project progress monitoring.

For Outcome level indicators, thirteen are rated satisfactory in that they have achieved the mid-term status as planned in the ProDoc. Of these thirteen satisfactory indicators, seven demonstrate progress to achieve the satisfactory status. However, the remaining six are rated satisfactory although the status is unchanged from the start of the project (indicators 5, 6, 10, 11, 12 and 13). The justification notes suggest that there is much remaining to be done in these indicators to shift the indicator from zero to the planned final target or put another way the project has much to achieve in the second half of the timeline.

Some indicators have failed to achieve their planned status by mid-term:

> *Indicator 4: Status of knowledge on the vulnerability of coastal aquifers, measured by the completion of inundation vulnerability surveys and land use surveys.* In this case the land use surveys have not been undertaken but are planned for 2023.
>
> *Indicator 8: Number of land degradation workshops conducted at national level in the 3 project countries.* No land degradation workshop have been undertaken so far, although data has been requested to support the Tuvalu workshop.
>
> *Indicator 14: Frequency of M&E training workshops for the national project managers.* As of start January 2023 workshops have not been undertaken. Though they have been implemented in early 2023 covering financial and narrative reporting, and acquittal and asset management. Additional National project staff are enrolled in an accredited project management course at USP to commence January, 2023.

This delay in delivering on mid-term indicators level is creating a further legacy for increased workload in the second half of the project.

The PIR of June 2022, rated the project implementation as "moderately unsatisfactory". The present position of the project is the similar. Travel restrictions due to COVID-19 have meant that PMU have not been able to engage in person with National Coordinators and country staff to build the necessary rapport and provide the necessary support and motivation/direction to assist them with the delivery of the activities. Although there has been some alleviation of constraints

(such as the national coordinator in RMI being in post). But there continues to be a substantial legacy of workload left over from delays associated with COVID-19 disruption.

Although the outcomes progress analysis does not show systematic delivery issues, the weakness in the design mid-term indicators level, coupled to delayed preparatory work for delivery in the second half of the project, the position is that considerable efforts are needed to accelerate progress to achieve the stated Outcomes and Objectives by project end.

Due to the technical nature of MCAP, the constraints for accelerating delivery rest mainly with SPC. All consulted stakeholders considered that progress could be accelerated by them, but this was predicted on a similar acceleration being achieved by SPC. The onus for accelerating progress of MCAP sits squarely with SPC.

The focus of this effort to accelerate should be towards improved remote country support by the PMU, which requires additional dedicated support for project implementation to country counterparts. Specific recommendations are for:

> ***Project implementation officer***: A new role is proposed which supports the Chief Technical Adviser which has a role of a relatively experienced and senior project implementation specialist to work directly with the national coordinators to assist them in the delivery of the project activities. This position could be based in Suva at the PMU to ensure liaison with the Chief Technical Adviser and support staff and cooperate with all three target countries. The role should be for the remainder of the project period. The role should have adequate travel money to allow in-person support to be available as required to target countries; support to RMI may be a priority.
>
> ***Water Engineer***: An additional role is proposed for a water engineer to accelerate design and planning of the gallery infrastructure in Tuvalu. The current drought in Tuvalu is placing additional demand on the skills in Tuvalu and this position will be greatly received for capacity building and project delivery on this activity. While the construction itself will be outsourced it is necessary that construction oversight, logistics, and quality assurance for the implementation of the gallery infrastructure is undertaken by the project. This is not a role that could be directly covered by the in-country national coordinator. Contributory support towards this role from the MFAT funded Water Scarcity project may be explored.

Furthermore, with difficulties in timely supply of engineering services it is required that service procurement is brought as much forward as possible. To accelerated results this should include procurements process for elements including:

- a portable drill rig suitable for drilling in atolls to complete the monitoring bores and investigations planned under MCAP in RMI, this is an innovative application for drilling in atoll settings
- aquifer protection and measures in Palau (fencing, repairs and climate proofing of gallery pump house and water tower repairs)

- repairs to groundwater fed bathing ponds in Palau are proposed to promote protection and awareness/understanding and protection of traditional infrastructure and reliance on groundwater (to be confirmed at RSC and with Palau)
- construction of galleries in Wotje RMI and in Nanumea Tuvalu over 2023/24

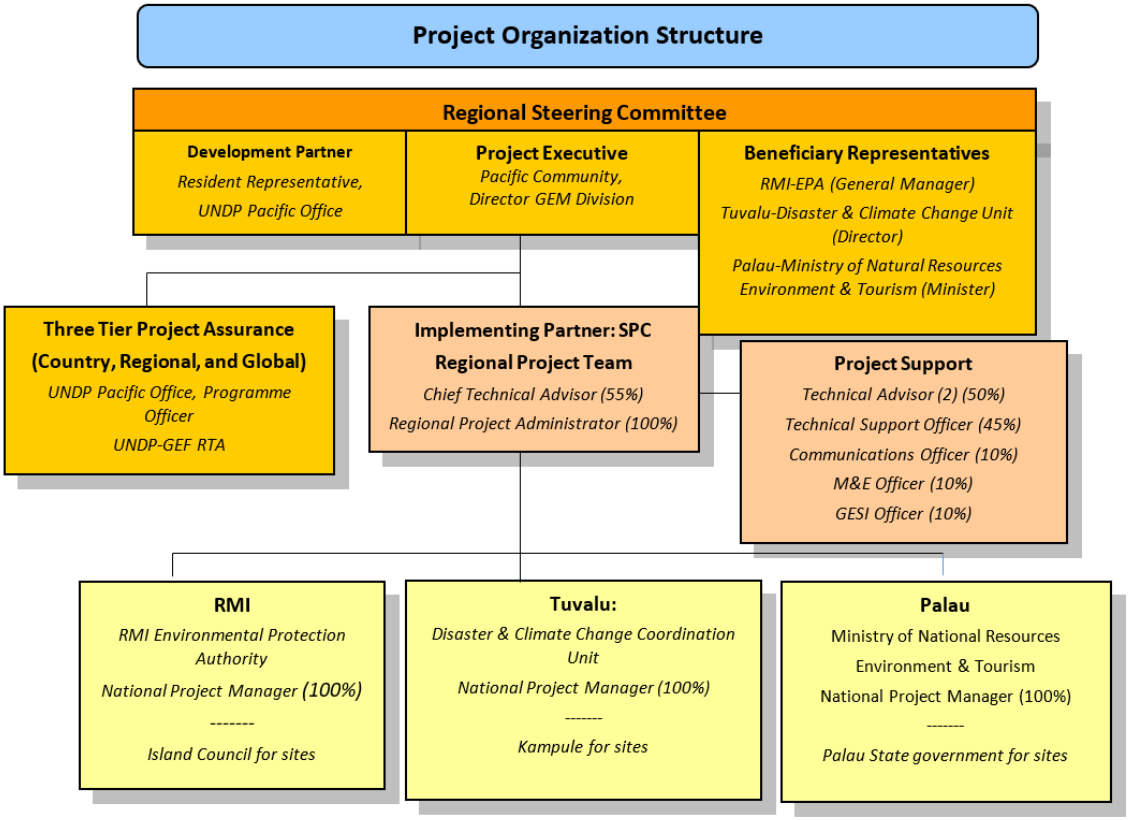
In light of the inadequacy of the Results Framework to measure progress at the monthly or quarterly period, it is proposed that critical path is developed for each target country showing the individual procurement advertisement, contract signing, construction period and sign-off dates for required timelines to achieve on-time project competition. The critical paths diagrams should be approved by RSC. These critical paths should be monitored at PMU in consultation with national coordinators and inform UNDP / RSC when a critical path is delayed. This will provide the maximum time available for mitigation activity to take place, or a revision of project delivery within that country, or a project extension to be required.

It is recommended that country-base critical path tracking is applied to combat the uncertainty due to external factors of successful project achievement. At this stage the project does not require a project extension, but external factors in its remaining timeline might change this. However, detailed tracking of critical paths will flag the need for mitigation at the earliest possible stage. It is proposed that the critical path tracking becomes a responsibility of the implementation officer identified above.

4.3 Project Implementation and Adaptive Management

4.3.1 Management arrangements

Using GEF terminology, UNDP is the Implementing Agency and SPC is the Executing Agency of MCAP. The project organisation is as follows:



The management arrangements have been effective, but the project has experienced considerable pressures due to COVID-19. Adaptive management responses are required to accelerate the MCAP to reach a successful conclusion.

The Executing Agency, SPC, is an inter-governmental, regional organization dedicated to providing services to promote sustainable development and vulnerability reduction in the countries it serves through legal mandate. The project PMU is operationalized within SPC's Geoscience, Energy and Maritime Division (GEM) under the Suva-based campus in Fiji, housed under the Disaster and Community Resilience Programme (DCRP) which provides a coordinated response to member countries in disaster reduction, climate change, water and sanitation, and Ridge to Reef environmental resilience. MCAP national coordinators, supported by SPC, are located in each of the three target countries. SPC has exemplary regional experience and competence in this technical area, and in delivery of projects within the region.

Staff recruitment and retention can be difficult in the region. The pool of technical capacity required to support deliver of the project in the three target countries is limited. Recruitment process can take much time and retention can be an issue. Re-filling of the RMI national coordinator's role after contract termination and departure of the previous incumbent, coupled to travel restrictions necessitated by COVID-19, have meant that RMIs coordinator role was empty for much of 2022. Presently, the project is fully staffed. However, to accelerate progress additional staff will be required, which means that further recruitment will need to be

undertaken; this needs to progressed imminently due to inevitable delays to getting appropriate people in position.

In addition recruitment process, there is a need for multiple procurements for works on the islands, such as aquifer measures in Palau and gallery construction in Wotje (RMI) and in Nanumea (Tuvalu). There is a paucity of suppliers and equipment for such works, including the Cultural Survey for RMI and Tuvalu. Hydrological works present additional difficulties at present related to shipping of equipment to islands. This means that the procurement process needs to be undertaken as soon as technical details have been ceded the site / national planning processes.

MCAP has a Regional Steering Committee (RSC) which is comprised of UNDP Regional Office, SPC and relevant representatives from the three target countries (Palau, Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism; Tuvalu, Climate Change Department; Republic of Marshall Islands Environment Protection Authority). The RSC has met directly after the kick-off meeting (17th March, 2021) and then on 28th March 2022. At the second RSC it was proposed that the RSC would meet potentially up to 3 times per year, due to the delays in the project. It is proposed that the RSC meets at an increased frequency in the remainder of the project of 2 or 3 times per year, subsequent to the expected annual March 2023 meeting.

4.3.2 Work Planning

Operational expenditure grant agreements have been in place with all three countries since Q4 of 2021. Staff recruitment has led to a present full complement of staff. However, to accelerate progress additional staff resources will be needed.

The draft AWP for 2023 has identified additional roles and mechanisms to help secure progress in the project. The AWP has results focus with additional staff resources predicted to specific outcomes of the project. The AWP 2023 should be approved by the Implementing Agency (UNDP) and RSC due to the scale of modifications from the ProDoc to instigate acceleration of delivery.

In future similar projects, the inclusion of indicators in the results framework which were related to key work planning functions, would be useful. This allows interim progress towards outcome delivery to be tracked. Indicators which could be considered for approval include three country coordinator recruitments successful and selected individuals in post, or gallery construction contracts at all sites signed.

4.3.3 Finance and co-finance

The GEF grant component totals USD $5,261,356. In the PIR of June 2022, cumulative expenditure was $377,958 or 7.2% of grant total. Expenditure at the end of 2022 was $966,488 or 18.4% (Annex 3), which shows considerable uptick from June 2020, but also reflects significant underspend to date.

Up-to-date reporting of financial information has been provided for RSC's PIR of June 20202 suggesting that financial management is sufficient. Recruitment and contracting functions have been completed, suggesting that financial processes are operational. The sizeable annual turnover of SPC suggests that upscaling of financial processes required by the end of the project is feasible.

Reasons for the under expenditure were mainly related to: (i) common regional problems of staff capacity, recruitment and retention, and (ii) COVID-19 postponing in-country work and associated travel, workshop costs etc. as well as additional restrictions in Vanuatu around drought national emergency and Dengue outbreak. While reason (ii) has been reduced as many travel routes are open, there are continued issues around (i).

The present financial state does however mean that there are significant further financial resources for the last half of the project which can be used to facilitate additional input and accelerate progress.

The Co-financing situation is identified in the table below:

Source of co-financing	Name of Co-financing	Co-financing type	Co-financing amount at CEO endorsement	Actual Amount Contributed at stage of Midterm Review (US$)	Actual % of Expected Amount	Planned Activities/Outputs
Government	RMI Government	In kind	$192,160	$96,080	50%	Facilities, ICT, salary for government staff, utilities
Government	RMI Government	Grant	$2,075,500	$2,696,128	130%	Non GEF funded projects which support MCAP activities and outcomes
Government	Palau Government	In kind	$192,160	$96,080	50%	Facilities, ICT, salary for government staff, utilities
Government	Tuvalu Government	In kind	163,017	$81,509	50%	Facilities, ICT, salary for government staff, utilities

Government	Tuvalu Government	Grant	$11,428,523	$9,972,250	87%	Non GEF funded projects which support MCAP activities and outcomes
Other partners	USAID	Grant	$52,937	$52,937	100%	Support during project preparation phase
Other partners	Other projects (SPC)	Grant	$5,440,500	$2,576,351	47%	
Other partners	Other projects (UNDP)	In Kind	$60,000			
	TOTAL		**$ 19,604,797**	$15,571,335	79%	
$15,571,335						

4.3.4 Project-level monitoring and evaluation systems

The results framework has been monitored by SPC annually and evaluated periodically during project implementation to review project progress; this has included reporting of progress to RSC and PIR reporting. Indicator monitoring has been allocated an adequate budget (US $25k per year) with oversight from the Chief Technical Adviser.

The UNDP Country Office has ensured arrangements of GEF M&E activities, including the annual GEF PIR and the independent Mid-Term Review. The UNDP Country Office ensures that the standard UNDP and GEF M&E requirements are fulfilled to the highest quality.

4.3.5 Stakeholder Engagement

The project has the operationalized the necessary and appropriate partnerships with direct and tangential stakeholders. This may be partly down to previous work by SPC in some areas which has built awareness and trust among stakeholders. From the consultations caried out during the MTR, the support for the project was positive by all those contacted. Stakeholders were invariably asked about their understanding of the project and in all cases they could clearly articulate their role and the role of other people within the project; this clarity was surprising and beneficial. This finding was especially relevant to the community-based monitoring groups who are key to delivering the project within the project timeline and also expected to continue their work post-project. However, stakeholder noted a limited role in planning or designing the project and the general view was that SPC would design and deliver as required.

It would be inappropriate to apply a globally generic gender frame to the target implementation areas. The societies in which the implementation is taking place are traditional indigenous

communities in which gender does not necessarily follow the global norm. Women are clearly involved in the project as staff, as government representatives and as non-state actors or community members. Consultations included women from target communities who were free and able to express their view of the project. In fact, at a household level a NGO representative noted that water supply was often more directly affecting women as the home-maker. Whilst no recommendations are made with regard to gender for the remaining delivery of the project, gender disaggregated reporting of trainings and events should be pursued by SPC in all cases.

4.3.6 Social and Environmental Safeguards

The Social and Environmental Risk Screening Checklist raises no potential risks in Human Rights (Principle 1) or Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (Principle 2) but does raise risks related to Environmental Sustainability (Principle 3); these are covered in more detail in the SESP.

The Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) for the project identified nine Risks, which include groundwater extraction, land loss, land tenure and physical risk during construction phase. The significance of all risks are Low to Moderate, and the overall project risk categorization is rated as Moderate Risk.

The drought in Tuvalu leading into this MTR reflect the impact rating of 4 and probability of 2, although in future years post-project drought condition may become more extended and severe (as identified under the Checklist in Principle 3 under the Standard for Climate Change and Mitigation).

This impact and probability assessment seems to be appropriate to the project and the identified risks covers all risk areas. Stakeholder consultations at the three target countries did not identify any additional risks to add to the SESP and did not express concern or anxiety over risks identified. Government stakeholders were minimal in their concerns related to risk.

Risk mitigations need to be ensured by review and building into work plans in remaining years for PMU and national coordinators. Most notably in the second half of the project when more construction is planned, the minimalization of contamination risks during construction phases (Risk 7; the project could increase health risks) needs to be heeded; this needs to include both community awareness and good-practice beyond just operational health and safety issues built into construction contracts awarded by SPC. It is recommended that an updated SESP is provided to RSC so risks are collectively addressed and links of risk mitigation in AWPs are provided oversight.

4.3.7 Reporting

The project timeline overlapped with the COVID-19 pandemic, and thus adaptative management has been required to progress MCAP as much as possible within restriction and constraints.

Modifications to project implementation are identified in the PIR report by the project Manager. For example, PIR 2022 identified delays due in recruitment and RFQ response, grant agreement

operationalization, and delays in country deployment by SPC, which had a knock-on effect on the date of the MTR.

The RSC Minutes provide detail to the RSC members of progress, planned activities and modification to the implementation to boost project progress. The Minutes demonstrate that the RSC has been provided with adequate information on which to base guidance. However, the structure of the Minutes differs between RSC1 and 2 and are not fully coherent (RSC2 should note acceptance of RSC 1 Minutes first and consider global financial progress prior to national case studies before); a standard format should be used in future for RSC Minutes.

The PIR of June 2022 and RSC2 of March 2022 have suggestions to accelerate project progress through discussions with other related project operating in the region. However, during the MTR it is clear that discussion were being carried out, and some joint implementation considered, however, a clear picture of facilitative mechanism of other project was not apparent (including at a country level). It is proposed that RSC3 includes a dedicated segment on practical and implementable faciliatory mechanism to accelerate MCAP progress in partnership with other projects.

4.3.8 Communication and knowledge management

A project communication and engagement strategy was developed and endorsed by UNDP as per the project's Knowledge Management approach approved at CEO Endorsement/Approval.

Internal project communications seem to be operating effectively, with internal meetings between PMU and national coordinators taking place at regular and appropriate intervals (monthly). National coordinators appeared to be aware and knowledgeable of many of the dimensions of wider project progress and issues beyond just their own country.

The national coordinators degree of communication and dissemination to national governmental stakeholders appeared to be sound, based on consultation with national government stakeholders (ministries related to work, utilities and climate change). The co-location of coordinators within government operations has a positive facilitatory role; and should be considered as a modality for other UNDP / GEF projects. Knowledge gained through training courses and practical survey work seemed to be held within government officers, and thus within relevant institutions.

In-island agents of the project, most notably local government officers and Red Cross volunteers, were knowledgeable about the role of the project and their role in monitoring water resources for local water security and health benefits, based on consultation undertaken in the MTR. The knowledge gained through the in-island training courses, which seemed to have been enjoyed by participants, was put into practical action. All island-based water monitoring (salinity and coliforms) systems were operational and functioning over the time period since training, subject to COVID-19 restrictions. Red Cross volunteers spoken to were able to express what they were doing in the monitoring and what benefits the community would gain from such activities.

A number of knowledge products have been developed for both public works (national and local govt), technical teams (manuals and guides) and communities in understanding and engaging with community management of groundwater systems (rain gauges, water quality, citizen science).

The publication "Water resources Assessment and Monitoring Guide – a citizen science approach" captures the essence of the community training courses and provides a highly accessible publication to help raises awareness[1]. However, it is not clear if this is a product of MCAP or produced prior to MCAP, and it refrains from use of UNDP and GEF logo; SPC intends to revise the guide to include appropriate designation and also updated with experience from the project if relevant.

Dissemination of project knowledge and emerging lessons learned at the regional and global scale is limited and largely inadequate. The MTR sees that the MCAP project has extremely valuable messaging which can be made regarding the potential for community monitoring of their own water resources, the optimization of safe and secure waters from groundwater sources, especially in climate vulnerable SIDS situations. The perspective that optimization of groundwater resource is a tractable development intervention, and that it can be community-owned in that the community have the capacity to switch between stored water and groundwater, has been inadequately broadcast in relevant fora. The groundwater issue has little penetration or traction in regional climate change discussions, although it is likely to be one of the foremost existential factors for many islands of Pacific nations.

The MCAP website has limited information and links to the IW-LEARN Day website which also provides project documents and the video mentioned below. Beyond the project formalities there is limited information on project outputs of lessons. The GEM website at least needs a page for downloading some of the products and guides.

MCAP has undertaken regional and global dissemination of its knowledge, including a video at IW-LEARN Day[2]. However, there should be a renewed focus on the region and mainstreaming this approach through key regional agencies such as PIFS and SPREP, and in meetings with national government representation. The linkage of the approach through MCAP and its linkage to the recent regional development policy (The 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, of the PIF) needs to have a clear articulation. Synergy and catalyzing messages through other related projects in the region should be discussed, to ensure clear and consistent messaging to national governments on groundwater. A strengthened regional and global knowledge management and communication plan would deepen the impact of the project.

[1] The report seems to have been removed form internet from time of access in December 2022.

[2] https://iwlearn.net/media/videos/33522

4.4 Sustainability

There is coherence to the risks identified in the Project Results Framework and SESP (see section 4.3.5), and the PIR of June 2022 did not revise any risks. However, COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the project and the risk identified for both the two Objectives ("*Project activities cannot be realized in all project sites due to unforeseen circumstances*") is still very much apparent. Although the primary impacts of COVID-19 in the region may be lessening (i.e. health and travel restrictions), secondary impacts may be perpetuated, which could include increased shipping costs for equipment to islands and lack of timely availability of contractors due to lengthened backlogs from COVID-19.

At this time whether the identified risk of full implementation of all activities at all sites, as defined in the ProDoc, will come into play is uncertain. Careful risk observation and possibly risk mitigation will be necessary to manage the project to a successful conclusion.

4.4.1 Financial risks to sustainability

The land management and construction activities are likely to be long-lasting. The works are being carried out in cooperation with the relevant national authorities and island administrations and thus simple repairs and maintenance will be highly likely into the future with negligible or minimal financial burden.

The community monitoring activities are set up as partnerships between the island administrations (such as the Kaupule in Tuvalu) and community members, generally mobilized as volunteers through the Red Cross. The monitoring activity was considered to be of direct benefit to the community and required no direct financial inputs from the volunteers or Red Cross.

Community water monitoring generally required two forms of basic equipment: meters for measuring salinity and internationally-sourced single-use test kits for coliforms. The salinity meters and associated probes are robust and can be expected to last for a number of years. The test kits are single-use and so adequate supply will be required in perpetuity and intermittently as they have a finite shelf-life. Although the cost of meter / probe replacement and topping-up the test kits is relatively small, it is vital and the remote nature of islands means that supply is complicated. SPC should make an effort to complete the project with a good supply of test kits lodged at monitoring sites, and also try to ensure that the water management plans (of Outcome 3.1) should include an agreement for the Ministry / local administration to ensure water monitoring equipment is operational.

4.4.2 Socio-economic risks to sustainability

The main socio-economic risk is the loss of volunteers to undertake water monitoring. The local administration / volunteer training has deemed to be successful and beneficial in relation to those consulted during the MTR. Volunteers were motivated because of the direct benefits of the water monitoring to their own household and community water security. Natural erosion of volunteers may take place, but intake of new individuals may well happen organically.

The mobilizing force of the Red Cross is important in many sites. Red Cross has been a long-term partner in the target countries, and also has a dispersed nature with presence in the islands. The Red Cross do not take financial resources from the MCAP project and maintains that water security is under its institutional mandate. It is unlikely that the monitoring process would lose the mobilization power of the Red Cross.

4.4.3 Institutional Framework and Governance risks to sustainability

The sustainability of much of the technical work revolves around the water resource monitoring plans (Outcome 3.1, indicator 10) and the aquifer management plans (Outcome 3.2, indicator 13). The extent of approval and ratification of these plans is not fully clear. Ideally, the plans should be ratified by the local administration and then submitted for information or approval (as required) to the national mandated authority. For sustainability, the plans need to be beyond technical documents, but embedded within the relevant institutional governance; this is likely to differ between countries. However, efforts should be made to institutionalise the plans as much as possible to ensure their relevance and longevity, through ratified approval processes at island- and national-level.

The approach of MCAP is highly dependent on the technical prowess of SPC. All those consulted, even in relevant national technical roles, look towards SPC for technical input. There appears to be limitation in design for constructing projects that have strong enough technology transfer mechanisms to transfer adequate knowledge to members countries to allow them to progress. This is because of capacity constraints in island countries, but the upshot is that there is perpetual reliance on SPC providing technical support to each ground-water reliant island or atoll. This consequently means that all future interventions are reliant on development partner assistance for suitable finance and scaling-up across the Pacific is constrained by the size of the GEM hydrologist team. Investments in building regional capacity, such as degree training through regional University, and supporting communities-of-practice in water resources management, should not be neglected to achieve the scaling up required for water resources sustainability within the wider region.

4.4.4 Environmental risks to sustainability

The main environmental risk to the project would appear to be related to climate change in terms of greater than projected drought conditions. MCAP is trying to optimize use of water, switching from stored rain to ground water in drought periods to optimize availability, however, this is largely predicated on adequate precipitation to ensure ground water availability. In general projections suggest that increased temperature will increase evaporation and annual precipitation in the Pacific, however extreme events including drought are also expected to

increase but severity is unknown. The degree to which prolonged drought may undermine ground water availability is not clear due to the uncertainty of climate change impacts.

A smaller risk is associated with the development of inappropriate land-use near the water supply wells and galleries. However, the involvement of the island administrations in the project mean that this will be unlikely

5. Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1 Conclusions

The MTR makes the following evidence-based ratings and conclusions (Table 2). Most importantly the conclusions suggest that there are possibilities that the project can be completed in full within the timeline. The need is thus to accelerate actions and much of this is predicated on SPC as the central delivery agent. However, external factors may make full success within the timeline challenging, consequently critical path tracking is proposed to be implemented for outcomes to be achieved by external agents. This process will rapidly flag lags and initiate a mitigatory response.

Table 2. MTR Ratings & Achievement Summary Table for MCAP

Measure	MTR Rating	Achievement Description
Project Strategy		The Project Strategy remains valid and MCAP has progressed its work in line with the Strategy in relation water resource management. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on in-country delivery, although adaptative management has facilitated delivery where possible.
Progress Towards Results	***Objective:*** To improve the understanding, use, management and protection of coastal aquifers. Rating 4/6	The two Mid-Term indicators of the Objective are expected to be unchanged at this stage and thus on track. However, there are delays at the Outcome level which in aggregate do potentially threatened achievement of the indicator level by the end of the project.
	Outcome 1: Enhanced knowledge on the current status of coastal aquifers and aquifer vulnerabilities. Rating 3/6	Vulnerability knowledge is delayed. Aquifer knowledge has nearly achieved its Mid-Term level, with some delay in RMI, but it can be expected to be back on track. Inundation studies are completed at the 5 sites, but land use surveys have not been achieved. In no site have all studies been completed and reported as yet, compared to the Mid-Term target of 5.
	Outcome 2: Improved access to groundwater for enhanced water security. Rating 2/6	Mid-Term indicators are expected to have no change from the start. Plans for constructions are underway in the preparatory or procurement stage, and the work has a trajectory to get back on track; although, there remain are delivery risks.

	Outcome 3: Strengthened capacity and monitoring of climate and water resources at the local and national level. Rating 4/6	Capacity developments are largely on track, in spite of COVID-19 interruptions. MTR consultations with stakeholders demonstrated capacity and community benefits of the training. Lan degradation workshops are delayed, but pending suitable data in Tuvalu.
	Outcome 4: Coordinated and inclusive approaches at the island-level for coastal aquifer management. Rating: 2/6	Again indicators suggest no change by MTR stage, although land use zoning has been delivered in Kayangel in Palau. Plans are predicated on above Outcomes for which there are delays, but there is opportunity to achieved delivery within the timeline.
	Outcome 5: Improved and accessible knowledge systems for decision support in place. Rating 3/6	Procurement and work started on water models. Technical notes to be developed and predicted on data collection in above outcomes. Achievement likely within project timeline.
	Outcome 6: M&E templates and communication platforms established. Rating 2/6	No M&E training has been undertaken to date; this need to be rapidly resolved. Communication plan developed and implemented at national events, and feasible to be fully delivered by project end.
Project Implementation & Adaptive Management	Rating 3/4	MCAP can complete the project within the timeline; much of this will be related to the capacity of SPC to accelerate progress coupled to external factors constraining progress. Increasing PMU and national staffing supported by underspend, along with forwarding construction procurements should accelerate progress. However, more sensitive critical path planning in each country is needed to flag inadequate progress as early as possible and to implement mitigations.
Sustainability	Rating 3/4	Sustainability of the projects outcomes is likely to be good. Small amounts of financial support will be required for long-term community based water monitoring. Ratification of water plans at island and national level will help institutionalise the water management approach.

5.2 Recommendations

The MTR makes the following recommendations required in order to accelerate progress and achieve successful project conclusion in the planned timeline (Table 3). As recognised by stakeholders much of the responsibility for the recommendations falls to SPC, and it is necessary at this juncture that SPC (GEM MCAP PMU) is not too overburdened at this stage with internal project administration and revision but focuses on further implementing in-country delivery now that travel restrictions have been lifted. Alignment of MTR and AWP 2023 and approval by the RSC should be rapid as possible in order to focus effort on delivery.

Table 3. MTR MCAP Recommendations

Rec#	Recommendations	Entity responsible
	Outcomes	
A1	***Outcome 1 and 2:*** Procurement processes for all contracted hydrological works need to undertake as soon as technical specifications are obtained. This is necessary to offset delay in equipment shipping and availability of contractors following knock-on effects caused by COVID-19.	SPC
A2	***Outcome 2:*** In the second half of the project when more construction is planned, the minimalization of contamination risks during construction phases (SESP, Risk 7; the project could increase health risks) needs to be heeded. this needs to include both community awareness and good-practice beyond just operational health and safety issues built into construction contracts awarded by SPC. It is recommended that an updated SESP is provided to RSC which identifies construction risks and contractor and community responses.	SPC
A3	***Outcome 3***: Implement gender disaggregated reporting for training and events and report directly on MCAP GESI Action Plan (GAP) in subsequent PIRs.	SPC
A4	***Outcome 6:*** Update SPC GEM MCAP website to provide a set of interim resources on the project, including updating the guide for "Water resources Assessment and Monitoring Guide – a citizen science approach".	SPC
	Project Implementation & Adaptive Management	

B1	***Increase staffing:*** Strengthen SPCs person-power to deliver in-country elements of the project within the remining timeline. This recommendation includes a project implementation officer based within PMU to support in-country delivery, and an engineer to oversee construction activities in Tuvalu. The staff costs can be covered through underspend.	SPC
B2	***Critical path tracking:*** Implement a detailed tracking of critical paths for the flow of necessary hydrological equipment and procured construction. Detail critical path diagram and timeline for the 3 target country for approval by UNDP and monthly tracking responsibility at PMU. Building on existing practice of regular meetings with national coordinators this "technical working group" can review and ensure progress and flag any delay and identify mitigation action to UNDP. If project delivery becomes threatened then the issue for project extension should be raised with RSC.	SPC / UNDP
B3	***Catalyzing with other projects:*** RSC3 includes a dedicated segment on practical and implementable faciliatory mechanisms to accelerate MCAP progress in partnership with other projects, including those managed by UNDP. Mapping of project and benefits would be of value to visualize the connections for RSC and other stakeholders. There are other projects in the region to catalyze with, but stakeholders seem unclear of the benefits and how those benefits can be achieved.	SPC / UNDP
B4	***Strengthen RSC oversight***: The frequency of RSC meetings (presently approximately annual) needs to be increased to 2 a year in the remaining years to oversee accelerated delivery and respond to challenges in a timely fashion. Some or more of those meeting can be online. The next RSC (planned April 2023) should (i) explicitly consider practical and implementable faciliatory mechanisms to accelerate MCAP progress in partnership with other projects, (ii) review an updated SESP to ensure collective consideration of construction risks. The RSC meeting minutes should be produced in a standardized structure and fashion, and final minutes confirm approval by the RSC. Provision should be made for a "extraordinary" meeting of the RSC if circumstances require, such as significant insolvable delays in major elements of implementation.	SPC / RSC
	Sustainability	
C1	***Monitoring equipment maintenance:*** SPC should make an effort to completed the project with a good supply of test kits, and also try to ensure that the water management plans (of Outcome 3.1) should include an agreement for the Ministry / local administration to ensure water monitoring	SPC

	equipment is operational and available to community-monitoring teams. This permits the ongoing community-based water monitoring activities.	
C2	***Plan institutionalization:*** Efforts should be made to ratify institutionalize the water management plans as much as possible to ensure their relevance and longevity, though ratified approval processes at the island- and national-level.	SPC
C3	***Water management advocacy:*** Opportunities for disseminating the ground water management approach, centered around community-based monitoring, in the region should be vigorously pursued. The model is a sustainable intervention to support a key problem in certain islands in the region. Dissemination of project knowledge and emerging lessons learned at the regional and global scale needs to be improved. A cleared articulation of the project's learning in relation to the Pacific 2050 Strategy for a Blue Pacific Continent and other regional policy instruments would support higher-level advocacy and contribute to implementation of regional aspirations.	SPC / UNDP

5.3 Reflections

Final reflections are reserved for the positioning of the MCAP project within the wider development partner regional architecture of the region; which is somewhat out of scope of the MTR but within the interest area of involved agencies and GEF. The water management model promoted in MCAP is predicated on highly capable technical leadership which involves equipment, techniques and analysis not experienced before by national representatives or local community members. This means that for any site implementation, SPC or a similar technical agency operating in the region, presumably supported by development finance is required for such water-resource interventions. This "projectises" the issue and perpetuates a reliance on development partner assistance for funding for each additional site for which the model is applied. It was striking in the consultations how reliant local administrative officers and communities felt on SPC for delivery of expertise, analysis, equipment etc.

In an ideal world, development finance would pilot and demonstrate an approach which would then be taken on at the national level and scaled-up to all areas of relevance, and tracked in budgets, strategy and policy of national mandates agencies. There is no attempt to make this happen, or really to consider the constraints for this to work. Capacity is clearly an issue, but then this begs alternative ways to invest in water resources, such as embedding water management within engineering degrees in the region or supporting annual cohorts of water managers graduates to emerge from the regional university. In the longer term, investment in capacity in the region may provide a more cost-effective way forward and break the immutable necessity of development assistance to progress water resource management on a site-by-site basis.

Clearly, both site implementation and capacity development could operate hand-in-hand for many years, and further demonstration sites and regional good practice could be advanced. This approach is no different in many areas, such as climate finance, where national governments are being supported in advancing climate finance, but regional capacity is also being advanced in graduates and postgraduates through dedicated education and training. Presently, climate finance is becoming increasingly country-led and institutionalized within countries in the region; this duality of approach may have relevance to ground water resources management.

5.4 Audit trail of revisions

The MTR report went through two revision processes. The first process involved comments provided on the draft MTR by UNDP and SPC. The second stage of revision emerged from a zoom / face-to-face meeting on 23 March 2023 in which revision was agreed as a group following a presentation of the main findings by the MTR consultant. The revision comments, excluding minor grammatical errors, are provided in Annex 4.

Annexes

Annex 1: ToR for MCAP MTR

Terms of Reference for ICs and RLAs through /GPN ExpRes

Services/Work Description: International Consultant

Project/Programme Title: UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji

Consultancy Title: Team Leader, Marine Coastal Aquifer Mid Term Review

Duty Station: Virtual (travel restrictions still applied)

Duration: 30 days over 4 weeks

Expected start date: 25 September 2022

1. BACKGROUND

These are the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Midterm Review (MTR) of the *full* -sized UNDP-supported GEF-financed project titled Managing Coastal Aquifers in Selected Pacific SIDS (PIM6196) implemented through the *UNDP and* Pacific Community which is to be undertaken by *15 December 2022*. The project started on the date 22 October 2020 and is in its *2nd* year of implementation. This ToR sets out the expectations for this MTR. The MTR process must follow the guidance outlined in the document *Guidance For Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects* (*http://web.undp.org/evaluation/guidance.shtml#handbook*).

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The project was designed to address is the lack of knowledge and information on the status of coastal aquifers in Pacific Island Countries which hinders the development of aquifer management, protection, and governance mechanisms and their incorporation into applicable national water policies. This project ultimately aims at providing to the project countries, and particularly to the selected project sites, the foundation required to support improved aquifer management/governance including the increased engagement of women in island and community level water planning and decision-making processes..

Brief project description: The project has been structured into four components with specific outcomes. These include

1. National demonstrations to support knowledge and use of coastal aquifers for enhanced water security.
   - 1.1. Enhanced knowledge on the current status of coastal aquifers and enhanced understanding of aquifer vulnerabilities to climate changes and other factors.
   - 1.2. Improved access to groundwater for enhanced water security.
2. National based investments in human capital and tools
   - 2.1. Strengthened capacity and monitoring of climate and water resources at the local and National level.
3. Local based approaches to support the sustainable management and protection of coastal aquifers in the context of climate change.

3.1. Coordinated and inclusive approaches at the island level for coastal aquifer protection
3.2. Improved and accessible knowledge systems for decision support in place
4. Knowledge Management and M&E
4.1. M&E templates and communication platforms established.

This project aims to improve the understanding, use, management, and protection of coastal aquifers towards enhanced water security in the context of a changing climate

Since the global Covid 19 pandemic in 2020, many countries including Fiji and the project countries Palau, RMI, and Tuvalu responded immediately by implementing strict travel restrictions, which was effective in providing the residents with a mostly covid-free environment. To date only Palau and Fiji have opened their borders to mostly unrestricted travel. RMI and Tuvalu, in 2022, remain with restricted travel conditions.

In March 2021 the Fiji government instituted a nationwide lockdown period, including school closures, which had a negative impact on the project, resulting in extended delays to implementation including procurement, financial, and administrative activities and support. Most affected were women, and families with child care responsibilities during the lockdown within Fiji. Although the lockdown was lifted, several partners remain heavily impacted by safety and economic considerations.

The shift to online Zoom meetings, while ultimately successful, was challenging with steep learning curves for all, as well as hardware and internet issues. Despite the impacts of the border closure and covid risks, the project did continue with adaptive management approaches including online trainings in Citizen Science monitoring and implementation by local based staff.

3. MTR PURPOSE

The MTR will assess progress towards the achievement of the project objectives and outcomes as specified in the Project Document, and assess early signs of project success or failure with the goal of identifying the necessary changes to be made in order to set the project on-track to achieve its intended results. The MTR will also review the project's strategy and its risks to sustainability. The MTR will also reflect on lessons learnt on this project to inform and be shared with other Projects and related projects in the Pacific. The MTR is also part of the UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji's evaluation plan (2018-2022) and will be facilitated by the Commissioning Unit, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer with support from mid term evaluation team.

4. MTR APPROACH & METHODOLOGY

The MTR report must provide evidence-based information that is credible, reliable and useful.

The MTR team will review all relevant sources of information including documents prepared during the preparation phase (i.e. PIF, UNDP Initiation Plan, UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure/SESP), the Project Document, project reports including annual PIRs, project budget revisions, national strategic and legal documents, and any other materials that the team considers useful for this evidence-based review, including the Project website, weekly emailed newsletter, and Social Media channels. The MTR team will review the baseline GEF focal area Core

Indicators/Tracking Tools submitted to the GEF at CEO endorsement, and the midterm GEF focal area Core Indicators/Tracking Tools that must be completed before the MTR field mission begins.

The MTR team is expected to follow a collaborative and participatory approach[3] ensuring close engagement with the Project Team, government counterparts (the GEF Operational Focal Point), the UNDP Country Office(s), the Nature, Climate and Energy (NCE) Regional Technical Advisor, direct beneficiaries, and other key stakeholders.

Engagement of stakeholders is vital to a successful MTR. Stakeholder involvement should include interviews with stakeholders who have defined project responsibilities:

1. Project Board
2. Executing agency representatives (Pacific Community), National Coordinators in project countries, lead agency senior officials and relevant stakeholders
3. State Government Representatives on Palau, Marshall Islands, Tuvalu
4. Agencies and partners with signed MOUs:
    - Environmental Protection Authority Republic Marshall Islands (RMI EPA)
    - Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment (MAFE), Palau
    - Department of Climate Change, Ministry of Finance, Tuvalu

Additional stakeholders and partners to be consulted may include the

- Office of Environment Planning and Policy Coordination (OEPPC)
- Majuro Water and Sewage Company (MWSC)
- Weather Service Office (WSO),
- Marshall Islands Red Cross Society (MIRCS),
- Marshall Islands Conservation Society (MICS)
- Island Council Jaluit (Acting Mayor)
- Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs (MOICA
- Tuvalu Red Cross;
- Public Works Department, Tuvalu
- Tuvalu Meteorological Service
- Palau Public Utilities Corporation (PPUC)
- Palau Environmental Quality Protection Board (EQPB)
- Palau National Weather Service (NWS)
- Peleliu, Angaur, Kayangel State Governments

The MTR Team Leader will participate in virtual and digital meetings as necessary with stakeholders, and will oversee and guide a National Consultant for Palau who will meet with stakeholders in person. The Team Leader will oversee analysis of input information. The National Consultant for Palau will need to conduct team visits to and possibly remote sites , if representatives cannot be visited in sites, and then provide concise information to the Team Leader.

The specific design and methodology for the MTR should emerge from consultations between the MTR team and the above-mentioned parties regarding what is appropriate and feasible for meeting the MTR purpose and objectives and answering the evaluation questions, given limitations of budget, time and data. The MTR team must use gender-responsive methodologies and tools and ensure that gender equality and women's empowerment, as well as other cross-

[3] For ideas on innovative and participatory Monitoring and Evaluation strategies and techniques, see UNDP Discussion Paper: Innovations in Monitoring & Evaluating Results, 05 Nov 2013.

cutting issues and SDGs are incorporated into the MTR report. Many project partners are women who are responsible for families, and child care needs must be considered in the approach.

The final methodological approach including interview schedule, field visits and data to be used in the MTR must be clearly outlined in the Inception Report and be fully discussed and agreed between UNDP, stakeholders and the MTR team.

The final MTR report must describe the full MTR approach taken and the rationale for the approach making explicit the underlying assumptions, challenges, strengths and weaknesses about the methods and approach of the review.

As of 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a global pandemic as the new coronavirus rapidly spread to all regions of the world. Travel to Palau and Fiji has been restricted since 03/2020. It is not possible to travel to RMI and Tuvalu for the MTR mission. Travel within the main archipelago of Palau is open and allowed and safe. Travel to Fiji is open subject to meeting requirements. The MTR team should develop a methodology that takes this into account and conduct the MTR partially virtually and remotely, including the use of remote interview methods and extended desk reviews, data analysis, surveys and evaluation questionnaires, in partnership with a National Consultant who travels within country. This should be detailed in the MTR Inception Report and agreed with the Commissioning Unit.

If all or part of the MTR is to be carried out virtually then consideration should be taken for stakeholder availability, ability or willingness to be interviewed remotely. In addition, their accessibility to the internet/computer may be an issue as many government and national counterparts may be working from home. These limitations must be reflected in the final MTR report. A National Consultant for Palau must be able to travel around Palau and should incorporate these costs into the MTR Inception Report.

Remote interviews may be undertaken through telephone or online (skype, zoom etc.). International consultants can work remotely with national evaluator support in the field. No stakeholders, consultants or UNDP staff should be put in harm's way and safety is the key priority.

2. SCOPE OF WORK, RESPONSIBILITIES AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED WORK

The MTR team will assess the following four categories of project progress. See the *Guidance For Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects* for extended descriptions.

i. Project Strategy

Project design:

- Review the problem addressed by the project and the underlying assumptions. Review the effect of any incorrect assumptions or changes to the context to achieving the project results as outlined in the Project Document.
- Review the relevance of the project strategy and assess whether it provides the most effective route towards expected/intended results. Were lessons from other relevant projects properly incorporated into the project design?
- Review how the project addresses country priorities. Review country ownership. Was the project concept in line with the national sector development priorities and plans of the country (or of participating countries in the case of multi-country projects)?
- Review decision-making processes: were perspectives of those who would be affected by project decisions, those who could affect the outcomes, and those who could contribute information or other resources to the process, taken into account during project design processes?

- Review the extent to which relevant gender issues were raised in the project design. See Annex 9 of *Guidance For Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects* for further guidelines.
    - Were relevant gender issues (e.g. the impact of the project on gender equality in the programme country, involvement of women's groups, engaging women in project activities) raised in the Project Document?
- If there are major areas of concern, recommend areas for improvement.

Results Framework/Logframe:

- Undertake a critical analysis of the project's logframe indicators and targets, assess how "SMART" the midterm and end-of-project targets are (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-bound), and suggest specific amendments/revisions to the targets and indicators as necessary.
- Are the project's objectives and outcomes or components clear, practical, and feasible within its time frame?
- Examine if progress so far has led to, or could in the future catalyse beneficial development effects (i.e. income generation, gender equality and women's empowerment, improved governance etc...) that should be included in the project results framework and monitored on an annual basis.
- Ensure broader development and gender aspects of the project are being monitored effectively. Develop and recommend SMART 'development' indicators, including sex-disaggregated indicators and indicators that capture development benefits.

ii. Progress Towards Results

Progress Towards Outcomes Analysis:

- Review the logframe indicators against progress made towards the end-of-project targets using the Progress Towards Results Matrix and following the *Guidance For Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects*; colour code progress in a "traffic light system" based on the level of progress achieved; assign a rating on progress for each outcome; make recommendations from the areas marked as "Not on target to be achieved" (red).

Table. Progress Towards Results Matrix (Achievement of outcomes against End-of-project Targets)

Project Strategy	Indicator[4]	Baseline Level[5]	Level in 1st PIR (self-reported)	Midterm Target[6]	End-of-project Target	Midterm Level & Assessment[7]	Achievement Rating[8]	J f

[4] Populate with data from the Logframe and scorecards

[5] Populate with data from the Project Document

[6] If available

[7] Colour code this column only

[8] Use the 6 point Progress Towards Results Rating Scale: HS, S, MS, MU, U, HU

Objective:	Indicator (if applicable):									
Outcome 1:	Indicator 1:									
	Indicator 2:									
Outcome 2:	Indicator 3:									
	Indicator 4:									
	Etc.									
Etc.										

Indicator Assessment Key

Green= Achieved	Yellow= On target to be achieved	Red= Not on target to be achieved

In addition to the progress towards outcomes analysis:

- Compare and analyse the GEF Tracking Tool/Core Indicators at the Baseline with the one completed right before the Midterm Review.
- Identify remaining barriers to achieving the project objective in the remainder of the project.
- By reviewing the aspects of the project that have already been successful, identify ways in which the project can further expand these benefits.

iii. Project Implementation and Adaptive Management

Management Arrangements:

- Review overall effectiveness of project management as outlined in the Project Document. Have changes been made and are they effective? Are responsibilities and reporting lines clear? Is decision-making transparent and undertaken in a timely manner? Recommend areas for improvement.
- Review the quality of execution of the Executing Agency/Implementing Partner(s) and recommend areas for improvement.
- Review the quality of support provided by the GEF Partner Agency (UNDP) and recommend areas for improvement.
- Do the Executing Agency/Implementing Partner and/or UNDP and other partners have the capacity to deliver benefits to or involve women? If yes, how?
- What is the gender balance of project staff? What steps have been taken to ensure gender balance in project staff?
- What is the gender balance of the Project Board? What steps have been taken to ensure gender balance in the Project Board?

Work Planning:

- Review any delays in project start-up and implementation, identify the causes and examine if they have been resolved.
- Are work-planning processes results-based? If not, suggest ways to re-orientate work planning to focus on results?
- Examine the use of the project's results framework/ logframe as a management tool and review any changes made to it since project start.

Finance and co-finance:

- Consider the financial management of the project, with specific reference to the cost-effectiveness of interventions.
- Review the changes to fund allocations as a result of budget revisions and assess the appropriateness and relevance of such revisions.
- Does the project have the appropriate financial controls, including reporting and planning, that allow management to make informed decisions regarding the budget and allow for timely flow of funds?
- Informed by the co-financing monitoring table to be filled out by the Commissioning Unit and project team, provide commentary on co-financing: is co-financing being used strategically to help the objectives of the project? Is the Project Team meeting with all co-financing partners regularly in order to align financing priorities and annual work plans?

Sources of Co-financing	**Name of Co-financer**	**Type of Co-financing**	**Co-financing amount confirmed at CEO Endorsement (US$)**	**Actual Amount Contributed at stage of Midterm Review (US$)**	**Actual % of Expected Amount**
		TOTAL			

- Include the separate GEF Co-Financing template (filled out by the Commissioning Unit and project team) which categorizes each co-financing amount as 'investment mobilized' or 'recurrent expenditures'. (This template will be annexed as a separate file.)

Project-level Monitoring and Evaluation Systems:

- Review the monitoring tools currently being used: Do they provide the necessary information? Do they involve key partners? Are they aligned or mainstreamed with national systems? Do they use existing information? Are they efficient? Are they cost-effective? Are additional tools required? How could they be made more participatory and inclusive?
- Examine the financial management of the project monitoring and evaluation budget. Are sufficient resources being allocated to monitoring and evaluation? Are these resources being allocated effectively?
- Review the extent to which relevant gender issues were incorporated in monitoring systems. See Annex 9 of *Guidance For Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects* for further guidelines.

Stakeholder Engagement:

- Project management: Has the project developed and leveraged the necessary and appropriate partnerships with direct and tangential stakeholders?
- Participation and country-driven processes: Do local and national government stakeholders support the objectives of the project? Do they continue to have an active role in project decision-making that supports efficient and effective project implementation?
- Participation and public awareness: To what extent has stakeholder involvement and public awareness contributed to the progress towards achievement of project objectives?
- How does the project engage women and girls? Is the project likely to have the same positive and/or negative effects on women and men, girls and boys? Identify, if possible, legal, cultural, or religious constraints on women's participation in the project. What can the project do to enhance its gender benefits?

Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)

- Validate the risks identified in the project's most current SESP, and those risks' ratings; are any revisions needed?
- Summarize and assess the revisions made since CEO Endorsement/Approval (if any) to:
  - The project's overall safeguards risk categorization.
  - The identified types of risks[9] (in the SESP).
  - The individual risk ratings (in the SESP) .
- Describe and assess progress made in the implementation of the project's social and environmental management measures as outlined in the SESP submitted at CEO Endorsement/Approval (and prepared during implementation, if any), including any revisions to those measures. Such management measures might include Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) or other management plans, though can also include aspects of a project's design; refer to Question 6 in the SESP template for a summary of the identified management measures.

A given project should be assessed against the version of UNDP's safeguards policy that was in effect at the time of the project's approval.

Reporting:

[9] Risks are to be labeled with both the UNDP SES Principles and Standards, and the GEF's "types of risks and potential impacts": Climate Change and Disaster; Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Individuals or Groups; Disability Inclusion; Adverse Gender-Related impact, including Gender-based Violence and Sexual Exploitation; Biodiversity Conservation and the Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources; Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement; Indigenous Peoples; Cultural Heritage; Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention; Labor and Working Conditions; Community Health, Safety and Security.

- Assess how adaptive management changes have been reported by the project management and shared with the Project Board.
- Assess how well the Project Team and partners undertake and fulfil GEF reporting requirements (i.e. how have they addressed poorly-rated PIRs, if applicable?)
- Assess how lessons derived from the adaptive management process have been documented, shared with key partners and internalized by partners.

Communications & Knowledge Management:

- Review internal project communication with stakeholders: Is communication regular and effective? Are there key stakeholders left out of communication? Are there feedback mechanisms when communication is received? Does this communication with stakeholders contribute to their awareness of project outcomes and activities and investment in the sustainability of project results?
- Review external project communication: Are proper means of communication established or being established to express the project progress and intended impact to the public (is there a web presence, for example? Or did the project implement appropriate outreach and public awareness campaigns?)
- For reporting purposes, write one half-page paragraph that summarizes the project's progress towards results in terms of contribution to sustainable development benefits, as well as global environmental benefits.
- List knowledge activities/products developed (based on knowledge management approach approved at CEO Endorsement/Approval).

iv. Sustainability

- Validate whether the risks identified in the Project Document, Annual Project Review/PIRs and the ATLAS Risk Register are the most important and whether the risk ratings applied are appropriate and up to date. If not, explain why.
- In addition, assess the following risks to sustainability:

Financial risks to sustainability:

- What is the likelihood of financial and economic resources not being available once the GEF assistance ends (consider potential resources can be from multiple sources, such as the public and private sectors, income generating activities, and other funding that will be adequate financial resources for sustaining project's outcomes)?

Socio-economic risks to sustainability:

- Are there any social or political risks that may jeopardize sustainability of project outcomes? What is the risk that the level of stakeholder ownership (including ownership by governments and other key stakeholders) will be insufficient to allow for the project outcomes/benefits to be sustained? Do the various key stakeholders see that it is in their interest that the project benefits continue to flow? Is there sufficient public / stakeholder awareness in support of the long-term objectives of the project? Are lessons learned being documented by the Project Team on a continual basis and shared/ transferred to appropriate parties who could learn from the project and potentially replicate and/or scale it in the future?

Institutional Framework and Governance risks to sustainability:

- Do the legal frameworks, policies, governance structures and processes pose risks that may jeopardize sustenance of project benefits? While assessing this parameter, also consider if the required systems/ mechanisms for accountability, transparency, and technical knowledge transfer are in place.

Environmental risks to sustainability:

- Are there any environmental risks that may jeopardize sustenance of project outcomes?

Conclusions & Recommendations

The MTR team will include a section in the MTR report for evidence-based conclusions, in light of the findings.

Additionally, the MTR consultant/team is expected to make recommendations to the Project Team. Recommendations should be succinct suggestions for critical intervention that are specific, measurable, achievable, and relevant. A recommendation table should be put in the report's executive summary. See the *Guidance For Conducting Midterm Reviews of UNDP-Supported, GEF-Financed Projects* for guidance on a recommendation table.

The MTR team should make no more than 15 recommendations total.

Ratings

The MTR team will include its ratings of the project's results and brief descriptions of the associated achievements in a *MTR Ratings & Achievement Summary Table* in the Executive Summary of the MTR report. See Annex E for ratings scales. No rating on Project Strategy and no overall project rating is required.

Table. MTR Ratings & Achievement Summary Table for (*Project Title*)

Measure	MTR Rating	Achievement Description
Project Strategy	N/A	
Progress Towards Results	Objective Achievement Rating: (rate 6 pt. scale)	
	Outcome 1 Achievement Rating: (rate 6 pt. scale)	

	Outcome 2 Achievement Rating: (rate 6 pt. scale)	
	Outcome 3 Achievement Rating: (rate 6 pt. scale)	
	Outcome 4 Achievement Rating: (rate 6 pt. scale)	
Project Implementation & Adaptive Management	(rate 6 pt. scale)	
Sustainability	(rate 4 pt. scale)	

6. TIMEFRAME

The total duration of the MTR will be approximately *(30)* working days over a time period of *(4* weeks, and shall not exceed five months from when the consultant(s) are hired. The tentative MTR timeframe is as follows:

ACTIVITY	**NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS**	**COMPLETION DATE**
Document review and preparing MTR Inception Report	*4 days*	*25 September*
Liaise with, guide, and oversee National Consultant, and review findings from stakeholder meetings and interviews held by National Consultant, feedback to team	*10 days*	*25 September – 1 October*
Presentation of initial findings - within 3 days of the last interview (via Zoom/Skype)	*1 day*	*10 October*
Preparing draft report (due within 3 weeks of completion of National Consultant's interviews)	*10 days*	*15 October*
Finalization of MTR report/ Incorporating audit trail from feedback on draft report (due within 1 week of receiving UNDP comments on the draft)	*5 days*	*25 October*

3. Expected Outputs and deliverables

#	Deliverable	Description	Timing	Responsibilities
1	**MTR Inception Report**	MTR team clarifies objectives and methods of Midterm Review	No later than 2 weeks before National Consultant begins interviews Date: 30 September	MTR team submits to the Commissioning Unit and project management
2	**Presentation**	Initial Findings presented by Team Leader to PMU via Zoom, in collaboration with the National Consultant	No later than 3 days after end of interview period Date: 16 October	MTR Team presents to project management and the Commissioning Unit
3	**Draft MTR Report**	Full draft report (using guidelines on content outlined in Annex B) with annexes	Within 3 weeks of conclusion of National Consultant's interviews Date: 26 October	Sent to the Commissioning Unit, reviewed by RTA, Project Coordinating Unit, GEF OFP
4	**Final Report***	Revised report with audit trail detailing how all received comments have (and have not) been addressed in the final MTR report	Within 1 week of receiving UNDP comments on draft Date: 30 October	Sent to the Commissioning Unit

4. Institutional arrangements/reporting lines

7. MTR ARRANGEMENTS

The principal responsibility for managing this MTR resides with the Commissioning Unit. The Commissioning Unit for this project's MTR is *the Intergrated Results Management Unit, Monitoring and Evaluation of the UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji.*

The Commissioning Unit will contract the consultants and will provide an updated stakeholder list with contact details (phone and email). The Project Team will be responsible for liaising with the MTR team to provide all relevant

documents, conduct virtual meetings, liaise the National Consultant with stakeholder interviewees, and assist the National Consultant with field visits.

Travel:

- Due to the travel limitation, international travel will not be required during the MTR mission;
- The BSAFE training course must be successfully completed prior to commencement of travel; Herewith is the link to access this training: https://training.dss.un.org/courses/login/index.php. These training modules at this secure internet site is accessible to Consultants, which allows for registration with private email.
- Individual Consultants are responsible for ensuring they have vaccinations/inoculations when travelling to certain countries, as designated by the UN Medical Director.
- Consultants are required to comply with the UN security directives set forth under https://dss.un.org/dssweb/
- All related travel expenses will be covered and will be reimbursed as per UNDP rules and regulations upon submission of an F-10 claim form and supporting documents.

8. TEAM COMPOSITION

A team of two independent consultants will conduct the MTR - one team leader (with experience and exposure to projects and evaluations in other regions globally) and one National Consultant expert, usually from the country of the project (Palau). The team leader is responsible for the overall design and writing of the TE report. The National Consultant is expected to work under the leadership of the team leader. The National Consultant will conduct stakeholder meetings and interviews in country and will send data and information to the Team Leader.

The consultants cannot have participated in the project preparation, formulation, and/or implementation (including the writing of the Project Document) and should not have a conflict of interest with project's related activities.

The selection of consultants will be aimed at maximizing the overall "team" qualities in the following areas:

9. ETHICS

The MTR team will be held to the highest ethical standards and is required to sign a code of conduct upon acceptance of the assignment. This MTR will be conducted in accordance with the principles outlined in the UNEG 'Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation'. The MTR team must safeguard the rights and confidentiality of information providers, interviewees and stakeholders through measures to ensure compliance with legal and other relevant codes governing collection of data and reporting on data. The MTR team must also ensure security of collected information before and after the MTR and protocols to ensure anonymity and confidentiality of sources of information where that is expected. The information, knowledge and data gathered in the MTR process must also be solely used for the MTR and not for other uses without the express authorization of UNDP and partners.

10. PAYMENT SCHEDULE

- 20% payment upon satisfactory delivery of the final MTR Inception Report and approval of the Commissioning Unit
- 40% payment upon satisfactory delivery of the draft MTR report to the Commissioning Unit
- 40% payment upon satisfactory delivery of the final MTR report and approval by the Commissioning Unit and RTA (via signatures on the TE Report Clearance Form) and delivery of completed TE Audit Trail

Criteria for issuing the final payment of 40%[10]:

- The final MTR report includes all requirements outlined in the MTR TOR and is in accordance with the MTR guidance.
- The final MTR report is clearly written, logically organized, and is specific for this project (i.e. text has not been cut & pasted from other MTR reports).
- The Audit Trail includes responses to and justification for each comment listed.

5. Experience and qualifications

Education

- A Master's degree in Social Sciences, Environment, Conservation or other closely related field

Experience

- Previous experience with a full-size project's MTR, preferably in a Pacific Island country;
- Relevant experience with result-based management evaluation methodologies;
- Experience applying SMART indicators and reconstructing or validating baseline scenarios;
- Competence in adaptive management, as applied to Biodiversity, Land Degradation and Sustainable Forest Management;
- Experience in evaluating GEF and/or other donor agency funded projects. At least 5 years of experience is necessary
- Experience in relevant technical areas for at least 10 years;
- Demonstrated understanding of issues related to gender, Biodiversity, Land Degradation and Sustainable Forest Management; experience in gender sensitive evaluation and analysis.
- Experience in undertaking consultancies and managing teams of consultants
- Excellent communication skills including the ability to work remotely and use Zoom, Skype, FaceTime, and other digital technologies;
- Ability to outline clear needs from, oversee actions of, and analyze findings from a National Consultant;
- Demonstrable analytical skills;
- Project evaluation/review experiences within United Nations system will be considered an asset.

Language

[10] The Commissioning Unit is obligated to issue payments to the MTR team as soon as the terms under the ToR are fulfilled. If there is an ongoing discussion regarding the quality and completeness of the final deliverables that cannot be resolved between the Commissioning Unit and the MTR team, the Regional M&E Advisor and Vertical Fund Directorate will be consulted. If needed, the Commissioning Unit's senior management, Procurement Services Unit and Legal Support Office will be notified as well so that a decision can be made about whether or not to withhold payment of any amounts that may be due to the evaluator(s), suspend or terminate the contract and/or remove the individual contractor from any applicable rosters. See the UNDP Individual Contract Policy for further details:

https://popp.undp.org/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/UNDP_POPP_DOCUMENT_LIBRARY/Public/PSU_Individual%20Contract_Individual%20Contract%20Policy.docx&action=default

- Fluency in written and spoken English.
- an asset.

Language

- Fluency in written and spoken English.

11. ETHICS

The MTR team will be held to the highest ethical standards and is required to sign a code of conduct upon acceptance of the assignment. This MTR will be conducted in accordance with the principles outlined in the UNEG 'Ethical Guidelines for Evaluation'. The MTR team must safeguard the rights and confidentiality of information providers, interviewees and stakeholders through measures to ensure compliance with legal and other relevant codes governing collection of data and reporting on data. The MTR team must also ensure security of collected information before and after the MTR and protocols to ensure anonymity and confidentiality of sources of information where that is expected. The information, knowledge and data gathered in the MTR process must also be solely used for the MTR and not for other uses without the express authorization of UNDP and partners.

6. Payment Modality

12. PAYMENT SCHEDULE

- 20% payment upon satisfactory delivery of the final MTR Inception Report and approval of the Commissioning Unit
- 40% payment upon satisfactory delivery of the draft MTR report to the Commissioning Unit
- 40% payment upon satisfactory delivery of the final MTR report and approval by the Commissioning Unit and RTA (via signatures on the MTR Report Clearance Form) and delivery of completed MTR Audit Trail by

  Criteria for issuing the final payment of 40%[11]:

  - The final MTR report includes all requirements outlined in the MTR TOR and is in accordance with the MTR guidance.
  - The final MTR report is clearly written, logically organized, and is specific for this project (i.e. text has not been cut & pasted from other MTR reports).
  - The Audit Trail includes responses to and justification for each comment listed.

In line with the UNDP's financial regulations, when determined by the Commissioning Unit and/or the consultant that a deliverable or service cannot be satisfactorily completed due to the impact of COVID-19 and limitations to the MTR, that deliverable or service will not be paid.

Due to the current COVID-19 situation and its implications, a partial payment may be considered if the consultant

[11] The Commissioning Unit is obligated to issue payments to the MTR team as soon as the terms under the ToR are fulfilled. If there is an ongoing discussion regarding the quality and completeness of the final deliverables that cannot be resolved between the Commissioning Unit and the MTR team, the Regional M&E Advisor and Vertical Fund Directorate will be consulted. If needed, the Commissioning Unit's senior management, Procurement Services Unit and Legal Support Office will be notified as well so that a decision can be made about whether or not to withhold payment of any amounts that may be due to the evaluator(s), suspend or terminate the contract and/or remove the individual contractor from any applicable rosters. See the UNDP Individual Contract Policy for further details:

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invested time towards the deliverable but was unable to complete to circumstances beyond his/her control.

Annex 2. Stakeholders consulted during MTR

Date	Country	Person	Role	Contact
18/11/2022	Vanuatu	Lono Leneuoti	Vanuatu - National Project Coordinator	lleneuoti@gmail.com
23/11/2022	Vanuatu	Mr. Junior Kilima and Miss Tauno Galu	Red Cross – Citizen Science - volunteers	jnrlima@gmail.com
25/11/2022	Vanuatu	Mr. Vaipuna Esela	Assistant Secretary, Nanumea Kaupule	klopati85@gmail.com
28/11/2022	Vanuatu	Mrs Tagifoe Taomia	Secretary General – Vanuatu Red Cross	tagifoe@gmail.com
28/11/2022	Vanuatu	Mr. Moti Silo Mr. Tepoutoa Epati	Vaitupu Community – Citizen Science volunteers	Via talomose2@gmail.com
01/12/2022	Palau	Ms Leena M Mesebeluu	Palau – National Project Coordinator	leenamesebeluu@gmail.com
05/12/2022	RMI	Mr Shaun- Kies Ryab	RMI – Project National Coordinator	shaunkr@spc.int
06/12/2022	Fiji	Ms Loraini Sivo Ms Vinaisi Dilikuwai Ms Winifereti Nainoca	UNDP-Fiji/ Programme / project managers	loraini.sivo@undp.org vinaisi.dilikuwai@undp.org winifereti.nainoca@undp.org
06/12/2022	Vanuatu	Ms Talialo Sene - M. Kakua Taimanuga - Ms Tepula Numela -	Nanumea Red Cross volunteer Health Sanitation Officer Red Cross volunteer	klopati85@gmail.com

08/12/2022	Palau	Mr Larry Mamis	Chief, Palau Division of Forest, Land & Water	palaudflw@gmail.com
09/12/2022	Vanuatu	Ms Pepetua Latasi	Director, Climate Change Dept., Min. of Finance.	platasi@gov.tv
21/12/2022	RMI	Ms Moriana Phillip	General manager, EPA	morianaphillip.rmiepa@gmail.com
11/01/2022	RMI	Ms Dora Heine Jekkar	Gender in Development Manager Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs	socialworkrmi@gmail.com

Annex 3 MCAP Expenditures as per January 2023.

Description	2020 - 2021 Expenditure	2022 Expenditure	Total Expenditure
Component 1			
Staff cost	119,858	182,716	302,575
Travel	209	148,934	149,143
Contractual Services-Companies	16	3,884	3,899
IT Equipments	10,178	(6,213)	3,965
Facilities	4,032	4,943	8,975
ICT Costs	5,958	8,446	14,404
Transport, Shipping and handle	680	8,559	9,239
Total Implementation Component 1	**140,932**	**351,268**	**492,200**
Component 2			
Staff cost	36,080	47,777	83,856
Travel	-		-
Contractual Services-Companies	-		-
Equipment and Furniture	58,177	74,860	133,037
IT Equipments	7,218	8,077	15,295
Facilities	3,205	3,489	6,694
ICT Costs	5,077	6,259	11,336
Workshops & Training	103	1,580	1,683
Total Implementation Component 2	**109,860**	**142,042**	**251,902**
Component 3			
Local Consultants			-
Staff cost	29,858	85,807	115,665
Travel		110	110
Contractual Services-Companies		110	110
Facilities	3,205	1,454	4,659
ICT Costs	5,069	5,509	10,578
Workshops & Training	503	2,615	3,118
Total Implementation Component 3	**38,635**	**95,605**	**134,240**
Component 4			
International Consultants	-		-
Staff cost	7,708	399	8,107
Travel	-	11,858	11,858
Contractual Services-Companies	629		629
Facilities	2,239	3,489	5,728
ICT Costs	4,236	8,091	12,327
Miscellaneous Expenses	39	606	645
Workshops & Training	4,852		4,852

Total Implementation Component 4	**19,702**	**24,443**	**44,145**
Component 5			
Staff cost	8,464	20,625	29,089
Travel	-		-
Equipment and Furniture	322	1,339	1,661
Communication & Audio Visual Equip	-		-
Supplies	-	221	221
IT Equipments	-	-	-
Facilities	2,006	1,890	3,896
ICT Costs	1,597	3,228	4,826
Professional Services	1,732		1,732
Transport, Shipping and handle	8	2,570	2,578
Total Implementation Component 5	**14,128**	**29,875**	**44,003**
Total Implementation	**323,256**	**643,232**	**966,488**

ToR ANNEX D: UNEG Code of Conduct for Evaluators/Midterm Review Consultants[1]

Evaluators/Consultants:

1. Must present information that is complete and fair in its assessment of strengths and weaknesses so that decisions or actions taken are well founded.
2. Must disclose the full set of evaluation findings along with information on their limitations and have this accessible to all affected by the evaluation with expressed legal rights to receive results.
3. Should protect the anonymity and confidentiality of individual informants. They should provide maximum notice, minimize demands on time, and respect people's right not to engage. Evaluators must respect people's right to provide information in confidence, and must ensure that sensitive information cannot be traced to its source. Evaluators are not expected to evaluate individuals, and must balance an evaluation of management functions with this general principle.
4. Sometimes uncover evidence of wrongdoing while conducting evaluations. Such cases must be reported discreetly to the appropriate investigative body. Evaluators should consult with other relevant oversight entities when there is any doubt about if and how issues should be reported.
5. Should be sensitive to beliefs, manners and customs and act with integrity and honesty in their relations with all stakeholders. In line with the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, evaluators must be sensitive to and address issues of discrimination and gender equality. They should avoid offending the dignity and self-respect of those persons with whom they come in contact in the course of the evaluation. Knowing that evaluation might negatively affect the interests of some stakeholders, evaluators should conduct the evaluation and communicate its purpose and results in a way that clearly respects the stakeholders' dignity and self-worth.
6. Are responsible for their performance and their product(s). They are responsible for the clear, accurate and fair written and/or oral presentation of study limitations, findings and recommendations.
7. Should reflect sound accounting procedures and be prudent in using the resources of the evaluation.
8. Must ensure that independence of judgement is maintained and that evaluation findings and recommendations are independently presented.
9. Must confirm that they have not been involved in designing, executing or advising on the project being evaluated.

MTR Consultant Agreement Form

Agreement to abide by the Code of Conduct for Evaluation in the UN System:

Name of Consultant: ____JEREMY HILLS_____

Name of Consultancy Organization (where relevant): ___n/a_____

I confirm that I have received and understood and will abide by the United Nations Code of Conduct for Evaluation.

Signed at __*ATHENS, GREECE*_____ *(Place)* on _____*03/11/2022*_____ *(Date)*

Signature: J.M. Hills